

SESSION WEEKLY

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Update

Since 1877, bills have been introduced to reduce the size of the Legislature, shorten the length of time members are in session, or move the Minnesota Legislature to a unicameral system that combines the House with the Senate. Minnesota first became a state almost 139 years ago; elected officials today face some of the same issues.

Often overlooked is the history of the Legislature and why it is so structured. An act by Congress authorized a state government in 1857. The ruling allowed the inhabitants of a portion of the Minnesota Territory "... to form for themselves a constitution and state government. ..." Today, this "citizen" legislature state operates as a part-time body, and the majority of its elected members are educators, farmers, attorneys, homemakers, a few full-time legislators, or business owners. They are citizen legislators who make decisions in a time-consuming manner to improve the state's quality of life. Deliberate use of time is also provided by average citizens who advocate for or against proposed policy. Both demonstrate flexibility in time, commitment, and experience to address over 2,000 bills that will have been introduced this session.

Size, length of sessions, and single governing bodies are not innovations of the U.S. Constitution, nor of Minnesota's constitutional convention delegates in 1857. How the Legislature operates today is based in part on the influence of the English theorist, John Locke, and the French nobleman, Montesquieu. Locke's notion of government by consent, as well as Montesquieu's belief that "The ideal political form was a separation and balance of powers within government" are the ideas that play a key role in how Minnesota governs itself.

According to a 1975 Citizens League report, "The primary objective in structuring the Legislature should be to make it possible for the widest range of able and qualified persons to serve as representatives of the people. ... A government that functions best is composed of a diverse group of individuals."

The report is still worthy of review for the self-governing issues that continue to arise. It states that a reduction in size would not improve the operation of the Legislature, particularly if size is based on the size of other legislatures. While the Minnesota Senate is the largest state senate, all but nine of the state houses of representatives are larger. The comparison should be made on the relevant number of persons in a district.

Even though this Citizens League report is 22 years old, its proposals about the structure of the Legislature are still valid. The Legislature should not change its responsibilities to the citizenry, nor should it increase its costs of operation by reducing its size. "While a smaller legislature might be more efficient, the purpose is not to be efficient, but to [be deliberate, and truly] represent the people." Deliberation of the issues will continue.

— LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: LeKaushia Clark led her classmates from Barbara Stephens' third-grade class at St. Paul's J.J. Hill Montessori School on a search for the baseball that was used for the ceremonial first pitch at the Minnesota Twins home opener April 1. The ball was dropped from a helicopter onto the Capitol mall as part of the "Throw to the Dome" event after being flown to the Twin Cities from the Twins spring training facility in Fort Myers, Fla. U of M Men's Basketball coach Clem Haskins drew the first pitch honors surrounded by some of his NCAA Final Four team members and over 40,000 cheering fans.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Highlights

Reforming the system . . .

Surplus provides incentive for property tax reform

By the time the 80th Legislature convened in St. Paul for the start of the session, most members had publicly acknowledged the need to overhaul the state's convoluted property tax system. Privately, though, many remained skeptical that the job could be done this year.

But when Gov. Arne Carlson, drawing on February's Department of Revenue economic forecast, reported that the size of the state's budget surplus had increased from an estimated \$1.4 billion to more than \$2.3 billion, he also ratcheted up the pressure on the Legislature to actually restructure the system.

Carlson has put forth his own plan, and at last count, the House Taxes Committee had before it no fewer than 10 property tax reform packages, some more radical than others, but all aimed at permanently fixing the system that has spawned some of the nation's highest property tax rates.

Property taxes have existed in Minnesota, in some form or another, since 1849. In that year, the First Territorial Assembly levied a tax on the citizens based on the value of their property "to establish and maintain common schools," according to a March 23 *Minneapolis StarTribune* editorial by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Cook). Since that time, the tax — a combination of state and local levies that is the primary mechanism for funding K-12 education and most city and county services — has seen marked increases. In fact, the Legislature has tried to rein it in at least four times.

Past reform efforts focused on "broadening the tax base," that is, seeking another revenue stream to replace the almost narcotic dependence on property tax dollars. Twice the Legislature created new revenue sources in the

name of broadening the tax base, enacting the individual and corporate income tax in 1933, and the sales tax in 1967. Yet each time, the property tax re-emerged as the preeminent source of government dollars. Today, the property tax is once again the largest source of public revenues in the state, accounting for nearly 30 percent of all funds taken in by Minnesota government.

But today's taxpayer, unlike those of 1933 or 1967, moves through a system bloated by decades worth of patchwork relief measures, a process that has created dozens of property classifications and sub-classifications. Indeed, by all accounts, the system has grown into an overly complex, inefficient and unresponsive anachronism that the state's own revenue department calls the most complicated in the nation.

"In this state, we are far too dependent on property taxes to raise revenues," Long said at a recent House tax meeting where she explained HF1871, the reform bill she has co-sponsored with Sen. Johnson. "Increasing the state share of K-12 spending will solve problems for everybody," by reducing the reliance on local levies.

Of course, the nuts and bolts of the various approaches may differ, but nearly every reformer agrees on the nature of the problems confronting the system. According to a comparison study put together by House fiscal analysts, each of the reform proposals contains a handful of common elements, including:

- a greater measure of accountability where property tax increases are concerned;
- improvements to the system's efficiency, particularly with regard to education funding;
- a simplification of property tax laws;
- enhancing the competitive position of Minnesota businesses, in part, by reducing the property tax burden on commercial/industrial properties, and
- some form of relief to all property tax payers.

Greater accountability is perhaps the most important aspect of reform, said Department of Revenue Commissioner Jim Girard as he outlined HF1617, the governor's proposal, at a March 13 meeting of the House Taxes Committee. Increasing accountability, he said, would go a long way toward reducing the reliance of communities on local property tax levies. Under the governor's plan, local officials would operate under a levy limit.

Levy limits themselves are not a new idea. The Legislature repealed them in 1992, and since then local units of government have been free to increase their property taxes, limited only by



Minnesota legislators are out to reform the state's complex property tax system. At issue: how to provide some relief to business and rental property owners while shielding homeowners from a shift in tax liability.

the state's Truth-in-Taxation laws. (Truth-in-Taxation legislation encourages public participation in the levy-setting process.) Most reform proposals are based on the premise that successful, long-term reform can't occur without ensuring some governmental responsibility for future property tax increases, either in the form of voter approval or outright limits on local property tax levies.

"We need to make sure," Girard said, "that taxpayers know how their money is being spent . . . [and] who is responsible for what part of the levies."

In addition to increased accountability, reformers have across the board expressed a need to streamline the distribution of the state's property tax revenue to communities. Under current law, those dollars are distributed through two programs — Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid (HACA) and Local Government Aid (LGA) — according to a set of complex formulas. The local governments, in turn, use this money, in conjunction with their local levies, to provide tax relief and fund important local services.

All of the reform proposals contain some method of increasing the state's share of education funding, currently 65.8 percent of all K-12 spending. Some proposals, such as HF639, sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope), would require that the state completely fund the cost of K-12 education. Others, such as the governor's plan and HF1103, sponsored by Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth), call for "education homestead credits" designed to reduce the tax burden that would shift onto homes as a result of changes to the system — essentially providing a subsidy to homeowners for the education costs that are now met by state funding.

As the state assumes a greater share, if not all, of education costs, HACA and LGA payments from the state would be reduced or eliminated under many of the reform plans. Thus, the system would be streamlined.

"It's an attempt to break down some of the old warhorses of the past and move the debate forward," said HF1852 sponsor Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) of the effort to restructure the venerable aid-to-local-government programs.

Reformers have also, in the name of simplification, targeted the complex maze of classifications used to assess the value of properties. The simplification efforts — which range from keeping the existing model, as in Rep. Dan McElroy's (R-Burnsville) HF1253, to throwing out the current structure, as advocated by Rep. Andy Dawkins

Cost estimates (in millions) of property tax reform proposals

House File number Sponsor(s)	FY '98-'99	FY '00-'01
HF1871 Long/Johnson D. J.	\$464.1	\$999.1
HF639 Rest/Hottinger	\$31.1	\$425.4
HF1617 Macklin/Olson	\$250.0	\$650.0
HF978 Goodno/Sams	\$288.5	\$526.3
HF1103 Van Dellen	\$381.0	\$2,005.0
HF1292 Dawkins/Novak	N/A	N/A
HF1253 McElroy/Belanger	\$482.9	\$23.0
HF1442 Pelowski/Hottinger	N/A	N/A
HF1852 Abrams	N/A	N/A
HF1643 Bishop	N/A	N/A

Source: House Fiscal Analysis Department

(DFL-St. Paul) in HF1292 — employ three distinct means to achieve the stated end.

Some bills simply reduce the number of property class rates. Others compress the rates; that is, they spread the levies more evenly among the existing classes. Still others would make the state's general education levy an explicit state property tax, assessed according to rates that would be fixed in statute.

Most of the proposals tie the tax more closely to a property's market value. As it now stands, a property's tax is based both on its value and its classification. Properties with lower classification rates — homes and farms — pay less tax than a comparably valued apartment or business property.

Shifting to a system that emphasizes market value over use as a tax base, some reformers say, would create a property tax system that is not only more equitable and efficient, but one that makes Minnesota businesses more competitive in the global economy by providing some much-needed tax relief to businesses and landlords. Currently, businesses and rental properties are subject to some of the highest property taxes in the country.

That relief would be both immediate and long-term, ensuring that business remains competitive for years to come, McElroy said at a March 20 informational tax hearing.

"The overriding theory," McElroy said, "is that if property tax is tied to market value, spending restraint will necessarily follow."

But that relief, said Long, must extend in some fashion to all property tax payers, not just the business community and landlords.

And therein lies the rub: reform almost guarantees shifting tax liability from one class, i.e., business, to another — probably homeowners — which is why most legislators realize that it is now or never for property tax reform.

"It's difficult to protect people from shifts when there's no money," said Long, who chairs the House Taxes Committee. "There has to be a mechanism for protection for the taxpayers."

That protection, she said, is the state's budget surplus.

The surplus provides a window of opportunity for significant reform by giving legislators a financial cushion to phase in restructuring. In fact, most of the plans draw, to some degree, on the surplus.

Property tax reform will get done, Long said, adding that legislators are unanimous on the need for it. The only question is what form it will take.

"The ultimate product will be a synthesis of elements contained in all the proposals," she said.

— F.J. Gallagher



CRIME

Stamping out arson

Arson is now the second leading cause of all fires and the number one cause of property loss in Minnesota, according to a report issued by the state attorney general's arson task force. In the past five years, \$113 million worth of property in Minnesota has been destroyed by arson.

Not only that, 20 Minnesotans have been killed by the work of arsonists since 1989, says the report, the findings of which are part of the reason for HF1586. Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the bill, and the House Judiciary Committee approved it April 2.

Laws covering the crime of arson have not kept up with the crime, said Minnesota Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey, III. "We haven't looked at it comprehensively in



Tom Brace, Minnesota state fire marshal, testified before the House Judiciary Committee April 2 in support of a bill proposing a comprehensive plan to combat the state's growing arson problem.

a long time," he said. "I consider this a very important matter. Too often, we don't realize the impact of arson crimes."

"Everyone in this room pays for arson," said Skoglund. "Arson puts every firefighter's life at risk and puts others' lives at risk."

The report says that nationwide, 700-900 people die annually from arson fires, property damage exceeds \$2 billion, and 20 percent of all fires are caused by arsonists.

Worse, the crime is increasingly being caused by juveniles. Over half of arson arrests are children; 38 percent are under the age of 14, 15 percent are under 10.

In Minnesota, in the past five years, 24 children have died using fire inappropriately. Almost \$17 million in property has been destroyed by young children who had access to fire materials. FBI research indicates that an arsonist's profile often shows a history of juvenile fire setting. Skoglund pointed out that it is increasingly a tool of gang members.

Even so, the report states, arrests, prosecutions, and convictions for arson are rare. Arson is an especially difficult crime to investigate and prosecute and, it says, the public does not understand the seriousness of the crime.

The bill would appropriate \$1.2 million to implement a wide-ranging approach to fighting the problem. It would set up an arson strike force with representatives from the fire marshal's office; the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension; the Office of the Attorney General; county attorneys; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; Minneapolis and St. Paul police; private detectives; and

other arson experts. The strike force would assist local agencies throughout the state in fighting arson.

The bill would also establish an arson training unit for fire fighters, police, and prosecutors, and set up a juvenile fire-starter intervention program. It would also step up enforcement measures. The \$1.2 million would be appropriated as follows:

- \$372,000 would be used to establish an arson training unit and carry out educational programs for fire fighting and related personnel;
- \$265,000 would be used to hire an additional attorney in the attorney general's office to specialize in arson prosecutions and to train law enforcement, fire service, and state fire marshal personnel on legal issues relating to arson crimes. The money also would reimburse strike force members;
- \$240,000 would be used to hire an additional fire investigator to be assigned to northern Minnesota and to provide mechanical, electrical, engineering, or technical experts to assist in determining the cause of fires;
- \$221,000 would be used to hire an additional forensic scientist to process arson evidence, provide laboratory instruments and training needed to process arson evidence, and provide training and equipment for a polygraph specialist; and
- \$110,000 would be used to stop juvenile arson, develop an injury prevention education curriculum, fund an annual training forum on juvenile fire-setting behavior, and help fire departments collect data on juvenile-related fire incidents.

HF1586 next will be heard in the House Judiciary Finance Division.

Crime costs at least \$10

Criminals booked at county jails in Minnesota soon may get another reminder that crime does not pay. Instead, in at least one small way, it costs.

HF234, sponsored by Rep. Bill Macklin (R-Lakeville), was approved by the House Judiciary Committee's Judiciary Finance Division April 1. The bill would permit sheriff's departments in Minnesota to charge people who are booked in county or regional jails a booking fee of up to \$10.

Macklin said the idea for collecting the fees came from Dakota County Sheriff Don Gudmundson, who compared it to the medical co-pay that county jails already collect from inmates. Gudmundson said that at least

one state already allows sheriff's departments to charge a booking fee to cover things like shoes, socks, and other government-issued clothing.

Minnesota counties conduct about 200,000 bookings a year. A \$10 booking fee would result in collections of about \$35,000 for his county, Gudmundson said.

But money, he added, is only part of the issue.

"It's accountability and responsibility. The criminal justice system isn't free. With this, the accountability process starts the minute an offender walks in the door," Gudmundson said.

If a person has no funds at the time of the booking or during the initial incarceration, the sheriff will notify the district court and ask that the fee be included as part of any future sentence.

The fee would apply only to those booked and confined, not to those who are released after booking, and would be returned in the event of an acquittal or dismissal of charges.

HF234 will become part of the Judiciary Finance omnibus bill.



EDUCATION

Preparing young students

New spending proposals to ensure that disadvantaged children are ready to learn in early grades are being considered by a House education panel.

One measure would bolster a program to give at-risk students more time in a kindergarten classroom, and another would provide grants to help those students struggling to learn to read.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), who is sponsoring both bills, said the measures would help to prevent students from falling behind early and help schools "get off the treadmill of remediation, which is not good for students or for taxpayers."

Under a 1996 education funding law, the state now provides grants to certain schools to provide full-day kindergarten or to provide half-day programs for 4-year-olds.

The goal of the program is to make sure at-risk students arrive in first grade prepared to handle academic basics such as reading and math.

This year, the House K-12 Education Finance Division is considering a bill that would infuse more funding into full-day kindergarten programs.

HF819 would expand the full-day kinder-

garten program established in 1996 and would alter the requirements in current law that determine which districts receive funding for the program.

Existing law requires that funding for the program be evenly divided between Minneapolis schools, St. Paul schools, suburban Twin Cities schools and Greater Minnesota schools. Schools in each geographic area are ranked according to the percentage of students on free and reduced-price lunch programs to determine eligibility for full-day kindergarten funding.

The bill would do away with the requirements related to geographic distribution of funds. Instead, the plan would stipulate that a school with 25 percent of its students on free and reduced-price lunch programs would be eligible for a grant. Schools with the highest number of children on such programs would be given top priority.

The proposal would spend about \$60 million a year on the kindergarten program. That's a significant jump from the \$3.5 million appropriated for the current fiscal year.

Schools receiving grant funding can decide whether to use the money for full-day kindergarten or for a half-day program for 4-year-olds, which puts kids in the classroom a year earlier than usual.

HF963 would set up a new grant program to ensure teachers are trained to intervene with students struggling to learn to read and to provide for curriculum improvements to ensure at-risk students are up to speed on reading by the end of second grade. The amount that would be spent on the reading grants is not yet specified.

No action was taken on the bills. Both are expected to be considered for inclusion in this year's omnibus education funding legislation.

1-800 homework help

Stumped students would continue to be able to find help just a phone call away, under a bill being considered by the House K-12 Education Finance Division.

HF607, sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), would provide \$235,000 annually to fund the Minnesota Homework Helpline during fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

No action was taken on the bill. It is expected to be considered for inclusion in the omnibus education funding legislation due later this month.

The Homework Helpline is a statewide service allowing students toll-free access to teachers who can provide assistance on a wide range of academic topics.

The service faced a financial crisis earlier this year and was just days away from shutting down when Target Stores stepped up to provide \$58,000 to keep the help line going through the 1996-97 school year.

In the past, the service has received its main financial support from Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The company provided about \$230,000 per year to pay teachers to staff the help line and to cover other expenses.

But Blue Cross and Blue Shield reduced its contribution to \$150,000 for the current year as part of a shift toward more health-related contributing practices.

The help line reduced services to absorb the funding reduction, but by early March the money was nearly gone.

Davids' bill would guarantee the service could operate at full staff during the next two years. Under the bill, funding would be provided directly to the Southeast Service Cooperative, which manages the help line.

The service has received more than 190,000 calls from students — mostly in grades four through 10 — since 1990. The help line (1-800-657-6787) operates from 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and now gets 300 to 400 calls a night.

Davids said the service is especially helpful to Greater Minnesota students, who account for about 75 percent of the calls to the help line.

No private school tax breaks

A plan to provide increased tax deductions and new tax credits for private school tuition, tutoring, and other education expenses has stalled in the House K-12 Education Finance Division.

Members of the division April 2 voted 9-5 to reject HF308, sponsored by Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayner (R-Princeton).

The bill is the legislative vehicle for Gov. Arne Carlson's proposal to expand school choice for Minnesota parents, and the measure has been listed among the governor's top priorities for the current legislative session.

"This is one way to empower parents to meet the needs of their children," Koppendrayner said.

But the proposal has drawn criticism from some who argue that it would divert funds from public schools, and ultimately, would weaken the public system.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said the bill does not fit with recent legislative efforts — such as graduation standards testing — that aim to increase accountability in public schools.

"Isn't this running counter to the direction that we've been trying to move in education?" Entenza asked.

Carlson's strong support for the bill indicates that the issue most likely is not dead for the session. It could come up again when omnibus education funding legislation is compiled later this month.

The bill would provide tax credits for education of \$1,000 per child to a maximum of \$2,000 per family for households with an annual income under \$39,000. The credit could be used to pay for private school tuition, tutoring, summer school, or other instruction in core academic areas.

Families that home school their children would be eligible for a \$1,000 tax credit regardless of household income.

Koppendrayner's plan also would triple the current tax deduction for education expenses from \$650 to \$1,950 per child in kindergarten through sixth grade and from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for each child in grades seven through 12.

The deduction could be claimed for things such as tutoring, summer school expenses, and computer hardware and software purchases, in addition to school tuition.

The tax credits and expanded deductions would cost the state \$150 million during the next biennium. The Department of Revenue estimates that 64 percent of the benefits from the bill would go to families of public school children.

The vote to reject the proposal came after the division heard testimony from parents, public and private school officials, and others during two days of hearings.

St. Paul resident Cher Chou Vang said the proposal would help to provide educational opportunities that fit the needs of each of his six children. He said he would use funds made available through the plan to buy a computer and to hire a reading tutor for his children.

"The more they get specialized help in tough subjects and the more they are exposed to topics, the more they will enjoy learning," he said.

The bill also received support from Bethel College freshman Vernon Rowland, who grew up in a poor family but received assistance to allow him to attend a private high school. Rowland graduated from De La Salle High School, but his two older siblings did not have such an opportunity. Both dropped out of public high schools.

He told members of the division that his brother and sister would have completed high school if they had the chance to go to a private school.

"The teachers [at De La Salle] didn't just teach us," Rowland said. "They were involved in our lives."

Rowland also said the bill would give low-income parents options now available only to wealthier families.

Critics of the bill argued that tax credits and expanded deductions would only encourage parents to abandon public schools and would not deliver benefits to low-income families.

Former Minneapolis schools superintendent and Macalester College president John Davis, now of Minnesota Friends of Public Education, said the bill would mostly benefit affluent families with children in private schools.

"You improve public schools by assisting them, by requiring them to be accountable, and by declaring them indispensable to a democracy," Davis said.

Koppendrayer said the bill would not weaken efforts to increase accountability in schools.

"The people who earned the money would spend the money as they see fit on their children's education," he said. "I think that is the ultimate in accountability."

Just say no to smokes

Expanded drug and smoking prevention programs in schools would be paid for by an increase in the tax on tobacco products, under a bill being considered by the House Education Committee's K-12 Education Finance Division.

HF792, sponsored by Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), would raise by 10 cents the tax on the sale of a pack of cigarettes and would dedicate the revenue generated by tobacco taxes to tobacco and drug use prevention programs.

The division discussed the bill during an April 2 hearing, but took no action on the proposal. It is expected to be considered for inclusion in omnibus education funding legislation due later this month.

Deb Mosby, a chemical health counselor at Spring Lake Park High School, urged members of the division to support the bill.

Most smokers pick up the habit as teenagers, she said, but new funds for prevention programs would help in the effort to steer children away from tobacco.

"It's really important the we hit these kids early and hit them hard with good, solid education programs," Mosby said.

The state currently taxes cigarettes at a rate of 48 cents per pack. Biernat said the 10-

Head starters



Head Start teachers and students from around the Twin Cities listened to testimony on a bill before the House Education Committee's Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division April 2 that would increase funding for Head Start programs.

cent increase he proposes would bring in an additional \$36 million annually.

The additional revenue would greatly expand state funding for anti-smoking programs in schools from the current \$200,000 the state spends on such initiatives each year.

The bill calls for the proceeds from cigarette tax to be directed to the Department of Children, Families and Learning. The funds could be used for department programs to combat tobacco and drug use or for grants to school districts for similar programs.



ENERGY

Electrical deregulation?

On the heels of the recent deregulation of the natural gas industry, movements are afoot both in Congress and statehouses to deregulate the electrical utility industry. More than 40 states are considering the issue, and most are looking to California, the first state to deregulate with a 1996 law.

Minnesota lawmakers are among those studying the complexities.

"It's a huge, huge, issue, involving billions of dollars and a very big industry. It will affect everyone in Minnesota," said Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) at an April 1 meeting of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee, which he chairs.

The committee approved HF1299, sponsored by Jennings, which would reorganize the state's Electric Energy Task Force and define its functions.

The task force, established by the Legislature in 1994 and charged with examining nuclear waste and energy issues, would examine the potential benefits and risks of competition versus continued regulation of the electrical industry.

"I want it spelled out what the task force would do," Jennings said. "Various interest groups were fearful of being left out." The bill details the task force's membership and functions, and describes the role of various departments and interest groups in the process.

The bill recognizes that the electric industry is undergoing extraordinary and fundamental changes and that increased reliance on competition in the industry must be carefully managed to preserve essential elements such as universal service, affordable access, and environmental protection.

Jennings' bill would increase the task force's membership from 16 to 20 legislators; half representatives and half senators. The members would coordinate with executive branch agencies and conduct public hearings and collect data.

In addition, input from industry and consumer representatives would be included in any future legislation. The Department of

Public Service would conduct technical and economic analyses. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) would convene a consumer resource group made up of large and industrial, small business, residential, and low-income electricity customers. The PUC also would hear from industry participants and other interest groups.

The bill also says that if the task force ultimately decided against state deregulation, the commissioner of public service shall intervene on behalf of the state in federal proceedings on deregulation.

Some committee members expressed doubts about the size and complexity of the task force. "I'm afraid it will never build a consensus," said Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul). "I'm not sure what the product will be, but I'm sure we'll pay a lot for it."

Jennings said the structure reflects the desires of the groups concerned and makes sure they all will have a voice in the process.

The task force will present recommendations to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 1998.

HF1299 next will be heard by the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

Biomass bypass?

How involved should the state be in fueling the biomass energy industry? That was the topic of discussion at an April 1 meeting of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee. The verdict: only in a low-grade capacity.

The committee approved HF1508, which would leave most of the initiative for biomass energy development to the energy industry. It does, however, require the state to study ways to finance renewable energy projects.

As originally presented by bill sponsor Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), HF1508 would have gone much further. The state would have helped fund the Minnesota Agri-power Project, a public-private partnership, which Kubly said would have been the largest biomass energy project in the world. The project would have created a 75-megawatt biomass-powered plant in Granite Falls, Minn. The energy would have been produced by burning alfalfa stems and other biomass products to create a gas for fuel.

Kubly argued that significant state involvement was necessary in order to demonstrate to the energy industry that the state is committed to supporting renewable energy production. The state has an interest in the resource because it is environmentally friendly and would boost rural economies

through construction and operation of the project, Kubly said. Alfalfa is a sustainable resource which would contribute to, rather than extract from, the environment, according to project literature. Further, biomass power production, unlike power from fossil fuels, does not contribute to global warming, it says.

But most committee members weren't sold. Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) said that if biomass energy production made good business sense, businesses would develop it and banks would finance it without the state's encouragement. "If there's an idea out there that can make someone rich, someone will jump on it," he said.

Rep. LeRoy Koppendray (R-Princeton) said that government involvement in setting the price for alfalfa as a way to help the industry get started will simply have a ripple effect on the prices of other crops. "This is the epitome of how to screw things up," Koppendray said. "All we're doing is juggling dollars because it was someone's idea that this is a better way to produce electricity. That has not been proven."

Under current law, Northern States Power Co. is required to construct and operate, purchase, or contract for 125 megawatts of electricity using biomass by Dec. 31, 1998, to be operational by Dec. 31, 2002.

HF1508 next will be taken up on the House floor.



GAME & FISH

A call for calm

Hoping to forestall tensions when Indians in 12 Minnesota counties begin to exercise their fishing rights under an 1837 treaty, the House Judiciary Committee approved a \$6.5 million bill April 2 to fund prevention efforts.

"We don't expect the effort to be a long-term thing," said Ron Nargang, deputy commissioner with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "But it needs to be impressed upon anyone who may interfere with those rights that it's a federal felony." Nargang spoke at an earlier meeting of the House Judiciary Committee's Judiciary Finance Division, which also approved the measure.

In January, a federal court ruled that an 1837 treaty permitted the Indians to hunt, fish, and harvest wild rice off the east-central Minnesota reservations covered in the treaty. The ruling has spurred fears by some that Indians will over-harvest the lakes, or disrupt tourism in those areas based on a perception that the lakes are over-harvested.

The bands have negotiated among themselves to establish limits, and recently announced their quotas on 29 affected lakes. At this point, they do not intend to commercially harvest on Lake Mille Lacs, the largest and most significant lake affected by the ruling.

HF1885 sponsor Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) said the money would be used first to launch an education campaign intended to prevent conflict when the tribes begin to fish the lakes this spring, and if it fails, to fund law enforcement. He said that the DNR and other officials do not expect significant problems. "The education program will let people know that this is not a catastrophe," Nargang said. "But, in the event of trouble, [it will] let them know there will be penalties." The education program will include printed material designed for anglers and hunters, audio-visual pieces for radio and TV spots, videos to be shown at community meetings, general information meetings, and a series of public forums, Nargang said. Gov. Arne Carlson also is scheduled to deliver a television address on the issue.

The bill would appropriate the money from the state's budget reserve. Some would go to the board of tourism to help efforts to maintain a steady level of tourism and mitigate negative publicity. If law enforcement efforts are needed, most of the money will pay for overtime and equipment, such as fencing at boat landings, lighting, power generators, face shields, headgear, and other police equipment. The bill says the money will be appropriated to the commissioner of public safety to reimburse the DNR, the Office of Tourism, the departments of Public Safety, Military Affairs, and Transportation, local units of government, and other state agencies for costs incurred related to the 1837 treaty. Money not used by the end of June will be returned to the budget reserve.

Jim Franklin, of the emergency management division of the Department of Public Safety, said that all or parts of 12 Minnesota counties will be included in the efforts. The counties are Aitkin, Benton, Carlton, Chisago, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Sherburne, and Washington.

The bill now moves to the House floor.

**Send e-mail comments
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We thank you for your input.

The editors

Electronic licensing

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) currently distributes more than 40 types of game and fish licenses and six types of recreational vehicle decals at thousands of bait shops, outfitters, and resorts throughout the state. The system involves reams of paper forms and a network of county auditors, license agents, and deputy registrars.

The DNR would like to eliminate the paperwork and convert to an electronic licensing system. Gov. Carlson's biennial budget already includes appropriations for the technology needed to bring electronic licensing on line in 1999. A bill (HF369) providing legislative authorization for the DNR to make the switch was approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee April 2.

Tom Keefe, of the DNR License Bureau, told the committee that recreational licenses would be available in three different ways with the electronic licensing system. All existing license agents would be provided with point-of-sale equipment allowing them to sell and print any license on site. A toll-free telephone system and Internet connection also would allow customers to purchase their licenses directly from the DNR 24 hours a day.

License agents would be able to run the magnetic strip on Minnesota driver's licenses through their equipment to pull up personal information to print on the buyer's fish or game license, eliminating the need for paper

forms. License fees also could be electronically transferred. The DNR would contract with a private vendor to operate the system, Keefe said. The annual cost of operating the system will be about \$2.5 million, he said, which is the same as the current system.

A pilot project is planned for the summer and fall of 1998 with full implementation planned for March 1999.

"The benefits would be a faster and more efficient system for our customers and less paperwork for everyone. An electronic licensing system also will allow us to improve our database and surveying capability," Keefe said.

"I have to warn you that this bill is not going to help your angling ability," Holsten cautioned the panel.

The bill now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee.



LAW

Repercussions of sexual abuse

A bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee's Civil and Family Law Division April 2 would help ensure that more victims of sexual abuse get their day in court.

HF846, sponsored by Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin), clarifies the period of time victims have to pursue an action for damages after such abuse occurs.

In 1989, the Legislature passed a law giving victims six years to initiate a civil action

after "they knew or had reason to know that [their injuries] were caused by sexual abuse."

However, last year the Minnesota Supreme Court, in *Blackowiak v. Kemp*, ruled that the statute of limitations time clock starts at the time the victim realizes he or she has been abused, regardless of whether the victim understands the nature of the injuries or their cause.

In testifying before the committee, Jackie Barabash said her recent claim for civil damages against her parents was dismissed because of the ruling. Barabash said she didn't understand the extent of her injuries until later in life, when they interfered with intimate relationships and caused her to have suicidal feelings. The ruling, she said, undermines a victim's attempt to deal with the abuse by imposing a stricter time limit. "I went to the system to do the right thing. It was important to me as part of the healing process from abuse," she said. "To not have the support when you try to do so is very hurtful. You feel victimized all over again."

Leighton's bill would clarify and narrow the 1989 law, and make a distinction between victims who are minors and those who are adults.

For minors, the statute of limitations would end six years after a victim knows or has reason to know he or she was sexually abused, was injured, and the injury was caused by the sexual abuse. Adults would have six years from the last incident of abuse to file a claim.

However, the bill also says that a victim under age nine at the time of the last abuse incident may not sue after age 30; a victim between nine and 15 may not sue after age 27; and a victim age 16 or 17 may not sue after age 24.

HF846 next will be heard in the Judiciary Committee.



OUTSTATE

Lower Sioux police

A bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee April 1 gives the Lower Sioux Indian community law enforcement authority over offenses originating on the band's reservation in southwestern Minnesota.

At present, the reservation is policed by the Redwood County sheriff's department. The band has no police force.

HF464, sponsored by Rep. Barb Vickerman (R-Redwood Falls), would authorize the community to have the powers of a law enforcement agency in concurrence



Tom Keefe, of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) License Bureau, showed the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee April 2 a machine that would be used for an electronic licensing system. It would dispense hunting, fishing, and other licenses overseen by the DNR, virtually eliminating the pile of forms before him on the table.

with the Redwood County sheriff's department. The community would enter into an agreement with the sheriff's department to define and regulate services and provide for mutual aid and cooperation.

The bill also provides that reservation officers would be certified by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, as are other police, and that the community carry its own liability insurance.

The agency's jurisdiction would be limited to persons within the geographical boundaries of reservation land, although officers could pursue an offender off the land if necessary in certain cases. People arrested by tribal police would be sent to the Redwood County jail and be prosecuted by the Redwood County attorney.

A similar arrangement has been in operation on the Mille Lacs reservation for about five years.

HF464 next will be heard on the House floor.



SPORTS

Civic Center improvements

On April 3, one day after National Hockey League (NHL) officials visited St. Paul and proclaimed its Civic Center inadequate for professional hockey, the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee approved a bill (HF1176) to renovate the 26-year-old facility.

The Hartford Whalers are currently looking for a new home and St. Paul is on the short list of potential locations for the franchise. St. Paul is also one of six cities courting the NHL for an expansion team. The league is considering adding as many as four expansion teams for the 1998-99 season.

On April 2, NHL officials toured the Civic Center with city officials and later met with Mayor Norm Coleman and Gov. Arne Carlson to discuss the possibility of bringing professional hockey to St. Paul. "I don't think a major league team could function in that building under its current condition," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman announced after the Civic Center tour.

HF1176, sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), proposes to issue \$51 million in state bonds to renovate the Civic Center. Gov. Carlson has already pledged \$5.5 million as a down payment in his budget proposal.

Coleman said the city has already invested \$118 million in the Civic Center construction and renovation, including building a new parking ramp. Even without NHL

hockey, the building will need \$36 million in capital improvements, he said.

Professional hockey in St. Paul will benefit the local and state economies, Coleman added. "Now a group of private individuals are willing to help out," he told the committee. "The business community is stepping up to the table. We would just ask that the state join us at the table [by passing this bill]. This is the kind of public-private partnership that builds strong cities."

According to city documents, planned renovations to the Civic Center include removing existing seats and adding 3,000 retractable seats and 13,800 standard stadium seats in a revised layout. A new video scoreboard would be added as well as hockey dasher boards and nets. The sound, broadcast, and lighting systems would be upgraded. The existing sheet ice meets NHL standards.

A large portion of the exterior would be removed, and replaced. A new entry lobby with escalators, an expanded main concourse, club seating, a club bar and restaurant, and a new suite level with 59 private

suites plus four party suites are all part of the plans. There would be a new press box, and remodeling of the adjacent Roy Wilkins Auditorium into team offices.

Coleman assured committee members that the Civic Center would continue to serve in its traditional role as home to state high school tournaments. In response to a question, he added that none of the bond money would be spent until an NHL team has committed to move to the city.

The bill now moves to the House Capital Investment Committee.

Stadium bill stumbles

A bill to fund a new stadium for the Minnesota Twins failed in a vote by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee April 2. Committee chair and bill sponsor Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) had asked that the much-amended stadium legislation be sent forward without recommendation to the House Taxes Committee. But opposition to the stadium remains strong among legislators and the bill failed on a 10-9 vote.

The version of HF1367 Rest presented contains several funding mechanisms to replace the controversial 10-cents-per-pack cigarette tax dropped last month. The new measures include a 4-percent surcharge on higher player salaries, a 10-percent excise tax on luxury suite rentals, a 9-percent sales tax on all transactions within the stadium, a dedicated Minnesota State Lottery scratch-off game, and a \$1-per-car parking surcharge. The bill retains a 10-percent wholesale tax on all professional sports memorabilia sold in the state. It is estimated that all of these sources would raise about \$25 million per year.

Before rejecting the bill, the panel amended it to up the Twins owner's contribution to the stadium deal from \$15 million to \$50 million. Jim Pohlad, representing the Pohlad family which owns the team, told the panel that requirement could be a "deal-breaker."

Another significant amendment made a possible state buyout of the team an option rather than a requirement if the Pohlads want to sell after five years in the new ballpark. The buyout price was also changed to the appraised value of the team at the time of sale rather than a fixed amount of \$105 million.

Two other amendments lowered the minimum player salary to which a surcharge would be applied from \$200,000 to \$100,000 annually, and removed a ticket tax as a source of state revenue.

Rest said she will continue to work on the

Dutch visitor



Ferd Crone, a member of the Dutch Parliament, was recognized on the House floor April 1. He was introduced to House members by Rep. Alice Hausman, who shares many of his interests concerning environmental issues.

bill to "come up with a proposal that will be acceptable." She plans to bring the bill back to the committee for reconsideration next week. In order to stay alive, the bill must be passed on to either a tax or finance committee by Wednesday, April 9.



TAXES

Taxing the Internet

Minnesota's information highway won't become a toll road — yet.

Under an amended version of HF1628, approved April 3 by the House Taxes Committee's Sales and Income Tax Division, the Legislature would establish a 12-member commission to study the idea of subjecting Internet access and on-line service providers to the state's sales tax. The commission would report back to the Legislature in 1998 with input on how to implement a tax without stifling growth in the fledgling industry.

Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake) who sponsored HF1628, offered an amendment to the bill, striking the tax imposition, after hearing testimony from several industry representatives.

Johnson said that taxing the 'net in some form is an idea whose time has come and one that occurred to her after hearing a speaker at a conference on education finance. It is, she continued, vital to the state's fiscal well-being, given the rapid pace with which our economy has embraced technological means of conducting transactions.

"If there was oil running through those lines instead of information, he told us, we'd tax it in a minute," Johnson said of the speaker. "With that in mind, I decided it was time now to look at different ways of raising revenues."

Many different interests, she explained, had come before the division asking for tax exemptions and those dollars will have to be replaced somehow.

The division referred the bill, to the full Taxes Committee.



TRANSPORTATION

Speed limits increased

The speed limit on rural interstates would rise from 65 to 70 mph and on rural divided highways from 55 to 65 mph under a bill passed by the Minnesota House April 3. The vote was 111-18.

The speed hike was proposed by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) as an amendment to a bill (HF1540) calling for motorists to slow down when passing a stopped emergency vehicle with its emergency lights flashing. The move was adopted on an 87-43 vote.

The amendment not only hikes the speed limit, but would remove the commissioner of transportation's statutory authority to "designate a maximum lawful speed for freeways and expressways" in the state.

Last year, lawmakers also moved to hike the speed limit on rural, divided highways. But Gov. Arne Carlson blocked the increase by ordering the commissioner of transportation to maintain the current 55 mph limit on such roads. Bishop's amendment would specifically void that order, reinstating the speed increase passed by the Legislature last year.

A separate amendment would increase the speed limit from 45 mph to 55 mph on a portion of Interstate 35E in St. Paul, called the "practice freeway" by one House member.

The approximately four-mile stretch of

Assisting disabled anglers



Mark Jacobson, Brooklyn Park, told the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee April 2 that his mother needs assistance baiting her line when she goes fishing. He spoke in support of a bill that would exempt those who assist a disabled resident from having to purchase a state fishing license.

I-35E between Interstate 94 in the north and the Mississippi River on the south has long been the subject of controversy.

For years, the controversy was over whether to build the portion of highway. More recently, the controversy has been over the speed allowed on the stretch, which was completed in the late 1980s and designed as a heavily landscaped "parkway."

Debate of the amendment to increase the speed limit focused on the divergent opinions of lawmakers from St. Paul. The amendment was offered by Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) and Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul). Its strongest opposition came from Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) and Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul), whose districts lie on either side of the controversial stretch of highway.

Osthoff said the 45 mph speed limit is unnecessary and only creates a speed trap. Travelers on an interstate freeway expect a higher speed limit and rightly so, according to Osthoff.

But Mariani said the lower speed limit was a crucial part of the agreement that finally allowed the interstate to be completed in St. Paul. The 45 mph limit keeps down the noise for neighborhood residents who have I-35E "running through their backyards," Mariani said.

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) said the change in the speed limit most likely would not result in an increase in noise because drivers now routinely travel 55 mph or faster on that stretch of I-35E. The only change would be that many of those drivers would no longer run the risk of getting a ticket, according to Tuma.

On a voice vote, the amendment was attached to HF1540, sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown).

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

The Chief Clerk's Office provides copies of bills at no charge, all agendas for House sessions, and the Journal of the House.

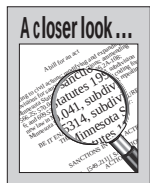
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A closer look . . .

The struggle to find funds to build a better ballpark



purpose, including the stadium,” Day said.

House opponents of HF1300, including Rest, argue that it expands gambling in the state. Indian tribes, who own the state’s existing casinos, also oppose the bill. Day countered that since betting on horse races is already taking place at Canterbury Park, HF1300 would not add new gambling facilities to the state. In addition, the bill would dedicate 2 percent of net profits from the new slot machines to benefit non-reservation Indians, Day said.

Many critics of the stadium deal ask why taxpayers should spend up to \$300 million for a new stadium while the Twins’ billionaire owner Carl Pohlad is only willing to put up \$15 million. A bill (HF1962) sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) would make the state equal partners with the Pohlads and other private investors.

The idea originated in the Senate as SF1727 and is known as the Oliver Plan for its chief sponsor Sen. Ed Oliver (R-Minnetonka). It

calls for the Pohlads, other private sector investors, and the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission (or its successor) to each invest \$80 million in the new stadium. The city of Minneapolis would provide \$30 million to purchase and prepare land for the ballpark.

The sports facilities commission would pay for its investment with state revenues from an existing tax on sports, health, athletic and country club memberships. Additional revenues would come from a ticket tax, rent on the stadium, and sale of naming rights on the facility. The Twins would retain all other stadium-related revenue.

The Oliver Plan is contingent on the Pohlads and other as yet unidentified private investors putting up their share of stadium financing before the sports facilities commission would risk any state funds.

Finally, the most recent proposal, by Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth), is designed to postpone the ballpark debate. He said the current proposals are floundering, and fail

to address the needs of other local sports franchises.

Van Dellen also proposes slots at the horse track, but the goal would be to raise enough revenue to void the escape clause in the Twins’ lease that allows them to leave the Metrodome after the 1998 season. The lease allows the team to leave if operating losses rise and game attendance dips to certain levels.

Slot revenue would be used to buy hundreds of thousands of tickets, which would be donated to charitable organizations. Attendance would rise, as would revenues, thereby forcing the Twins to stay put.

So far none of these ideas have caught hold with lawmakers. Despite setbacks in the House, a stadium bill — without mention of financing — is still in play in the Senate. One or more of these ideas may provide the boost needed to make something happen this session.

— Steve Compton

The Legislature may soon recognize the lifetime of contributions made by one of Minnesota’s most notable activists.

“She’s touched the lives of just about everybody here,” said Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) of labor organizer and civil rights activist Nellie Stone Johnson at the April 2 meeting of the House Governmental Operations Committee’s State Government Finance Division. “She is an example of a person citizens should look up to.”

If Mullery’s bill, HF1583, passes, citizens may soon be looking up to the 92-year-old woman, or at least, her image. The legislation would honor Johnson by placing a bust of her in the State Capitol — the first woman to receive such an accolade.

Johnson, who lives in Minneapolis, has devoted her life to agitating for the causes of labor, civil rights, and Democratic politics.

Do you know?

Born near Lakeville, Minn., in 1905, Johnson’s parents were one of the few black families to own a farm in Minnesota in the early part of the century. Her activism, she told a *City Pages* writer in 1991, stems directly from her father’s influence.

She began her career as an advocate in the early 1930s, when she worked as an elevator operator at the Minneapolis Athletic Club. When the institution slashed her wages from \$15 a week to \$12.50, Johnson began to organize her co-workers in an effort to win back the wage cut. Eventually, she helped to organize the Minneapolis Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, serving as the group’s first female vice president.

From there, Johnson ventured into politics, striking up a friendship with the young Hubert H. Humphrey after meeting him at Duluth State College in

1941. She was the first black elected to citywide office, in 1945, and one of the prime movers behind the merger of the state’s Democratic and Farmer-Labor parties in 1944.

Johnson also led the drive to create the state and local Fair Employment Practices divisions — offices which later became the Minneapolis Civil Rights Commission and the state Human Rights Department — and proved instrumental in winning the desegregation of the armed forces. She also served two terms as a representative on the Democratic National Committee in the early ‘80s.

In fact, Mullery said, Johnson continues to be an activist to this day, and will probably still be agitating even after the bust is installed.

The division approved the bill and will consider it as part of the committee’s omnibus finance legislation.

Minnesota House of Representatives 1997 Members

List as of April 4, 1997

District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-
District/Member/Party	Room*			District/Member/Party	Room*		
45A Abrams, Ron (R)	209	9934		40A Mahon, Mark P. (DFL)	401	7158	
19B Anderson, Bruce (R)	281	5063		55A Mares, Harry (R)	239	5363	
3A Anderson, Irv (DFL)	563	4936		65B Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	403	9714	
6A Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	575	2190		57B Marko, Sharon (DFL)	439	3135	
10B Bettermann, Hilda (R)	243	4317		55B McCollum, Betty (DFL)	501	1188	
59A Biernat, Len (DFL)	429	4219		36B McElroy, Dan (R)	259	4212	
30B Bishop, Dave (R)	343	0573		54A McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	379	4342	
25B Boudreau, Lynda (R)	327	8237		39B Milbert, Bob (DFL)	579	4192	
30A Bradley, Fran (R)	233	9249		35A Molnau, Carol L. (R)	287	8872	
53B Broecker, Sherry (R)	321	7153		21B Mulder, Richard (R)	283	4336	
46B Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	365	4255		58A Mullery, Joe (DFL)	359	4262	
47B Carruthers, Phil (DFL)	463	3709		7A Munger, Willard (DFL)	479	4282	
52A Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	507	4331		8A Murphy, Mary (DFL)	557	2676	
61A Clark, Karen (DFL)	503	0294		20A Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	289	4344	
38A Commers, Tim (R)	217	3533		10A Nornes, Bud (R)	357	4946	
11A Daggett, Roxann (R)	253	4293		2B Olson, Edgar (DFL)	565	4265	
31B Davids, Gregory M. (R)	371	9278		19A Olson, Mark (R)	323	4237	
65A Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	409	5158		16A Opatz, Joe (DFL)	473	6612	
14A Dehler, Steve (R)	203	7808		60B Orfield, Myron (DFL)	521	9281	
51A Delmont, Mike (DFL)	433	4226		29B Osskopp, Mike (R)	329	9236	
29A Dempsey, Jerry (R)	251	8635		66A Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	585	4224	
24A Dorn, John (DFL)	571	3248		11B Otremba, Ken (DFL)	545	3201	
64A Entenza, Matt (DFL)	421	8799		37A Ozment, Dennis (R)	317	4306	
42A Erhardt, Ron (R)	237	4363		42B Paulsen, Erik (R)	221	7449	
52B Evans, Geri (DFL)	413	0141		38B Pawlenty, Tim (R)	231	4128	
67A Farrell, Jim (DFL)	491	4277		64B Paymar, Michael (DFL)	529	4199	
1B Finseth, Tim (R)	377	9918		32A Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	549	8637	
44A Folliard, Betty (DFL)	523	3964		13B Peterson, Doug (DFL)	569	4228	
63B Garcia, Edwina (DFL)	417	5375		39A Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	583	6828	
9A Goodno, Kevin (R)	369	5515		46A Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	485	4176	
62A Greenfield, Lee (DFL)	381	0173		28A Reuter, Doug (R)	241	5368	
54B Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	553	5387		44B Rhodes, Jim (R)	309	9889	
26A Gunther, Bob (R)	337	3240		32B Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	215	1069	
48A Haas, Bill (R)	201	5513		18A Rostberg, Jim (R)	311	5364	
22B Harder, Elaine (R)	277	5373		5A Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	471	0170	
12A Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)	453	4333		17B Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	517	5377	
66B Hausman, Alice (DFL)	449	3824		41A Seagren, Alice (R)	315	7803	
8B Hilty, Bill (DFL)	525	4308		21A Seifert, Marty (R)	213	5374	
56A Holsten, Mark William (R)	345	3018		50A Sekhon, Kathleen (DFL)	451	2439	
6B Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	533	2228		4A Skare, Gail (DFL)	431	5516	
7B Jaros, Mike (DFL)	559	4246		62B Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	477	4330	
58B Jefferson, Richard (DFL)	577	8659		57A Slawik, Nora (DFL)	551	7807	
18B Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	591	0518		34A Smith, Steve (R)	353	9188	
48B Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)	539	5510		3B Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	445	2365	
24B Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	567	7065		33B Stanek, Rich (R)	351	5502	
15A Juhnke, Al (DFL)	531	6206		14B Stang, Doug (R)	223	4373	
59B Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	367	4257		28B Sviggum, Steve (R)	267	2273	
26B Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	543	4240		51B Swenson, Doug (R)	255	4124	
35B Kelso, Becky (DFL)	415	1072		23B Swenson, Howard (R)	331	8634	
20B Kielkucki, Tony (R)	313	1534		43B Sykora, Barb (R)	389	4315	
4B Kinkel, Anthony G. (Tony) (DFL)	537	2451		50B Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	295	5369	
40B Knight, Kevin (R)	229	4218		5B Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	593	0172	
16B Knoblach, Jim (R)	207	6316		36A Tompkins, Eileen (R)	245	5506	
17A Koppendrayner, LeRoy (R)	247	6746		67B Trimble, Steve (DFL)	597	4201	
49B Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	411	4231		25A Tuma, John (R)	301	4229	
27A Kraus, Ron (R)	279	8216		1A Tunheim, Jim (DFL)	509	9635	
53A Krinkie, Philip (R)	303	2907		34B Van Dellen, Todd (R)	291	5511	
15B Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	423	4346		23A Vickerman, Barb (R)	211	9303	
31A Kuisle, William (R)	375	4378		63A Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	437	4200	
56B Larsen, Peg (R)	307	4244		49A Weaver, Charlie (R)	261	1729	
27B Leighton, Rob (DFL)	527	4193		61B Wejcman, Linda (DFL)	407	7152	
45B Leppik, Peggy (R)	393	7026		12B Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	487	4247	
2A Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	515	5091		9B Westfall, Robert L. (Bob) (R)	225	6829	
33A Lindner, Arlon (R)	227	7806		13A Westrom, Torrey (R)	273	4929	
60A Long, Dee (DFL)	443	0171		22A Winter, Ted (DFL)	459	5505	
47A Luther, Darlene (DFL)	581	3751		41B Wolf, Ken (R)	387	5185	
37B Macklin, Bill (R)	349	6926		43A Workman, Tom (R)	335	5066	

*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

New members . . .

Hilty studies Minnesota's place in global economy

First-term Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) may be a small-business man, but as a legislator struggling to define Minnesota's place in the global economy, he refuses to be pigeonholed as just another pro-business representative.



Rep. Bill Hilty

“I think some people just naturally assume that I have the small-business man's perspective, whatever that is,” Hilty said. “But small business isn't really

related to big business. In terms of what's happening to our economy, I have more in common with organized labor.”

The soft-spoken Hilty has been involved with manufacturing on a small-business scale for nearly 25 years now. With his wife, the 58-year-old father of five owns and operates a furniture manufacturing business in Finlayson, although now that he's a legislator, he's less involved with the actual day-to-day operation. Yet over the years, he said, he's had ample opportunity to study the direction of the free market and government policy decisions.

Given the trend in commerce toward consolidation, Hilty said small-business owners — the traditional backbone of the American economy — might soon take a back seat to big business interests, just as organized labor has lost clout in the political process because of declining membership. Indeed, the pro-

cess is already well under way, he said. Obviously, the North American Free Trade Agreement and the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade weren't drawn up with small business in mind.

“Corporations,” he said, “are putting themselves beyond the reach of any one government. It's not by accident that businesses are making these global arrangements.”

Yet Hilty remains realistic about the limits of his ability as a state representative to significantly alter the course of U.S. economic policy. In the House, he said, he needs to be mindful of the legislative bailiwick.

Toward that end, Hilty, with his presence on the Governmental Operations Committee and its State Government Finance Division, the Labor-Management Relations Committee, and the Regulated Industry and Energy Committee, said he wants to broaden the scope of debate within the Legislature.

“The Legislature,” he said, “has a very strong tendency to be myopic on whatever issues come before it. I'm afraid there's too little concern for the big picture.”

Hilty is no stranger to legislative politics, either. He managed former Rep. Becky Lourey's three House campaigns, and decided to run for her District 8B seat when she declared her intention to challenge former Sen. Florian Chmielewski in the DFL primary. Lourey went on to win the District 8 Senate spot.

Beyond merely broadening the scope of debate, Hilty also has some concrete goals

he'd like to accomplish during his tenure in the Legislature, including some sort of significant property tax reform and a restructuring of the education finance mechanism. Of course, property tax reform implies a change in education funding, he said, adding that he vehemently opposes Gov. Arne Carlson's voucher proposal.

Another of his top concerns is the move toward utility deregulation. Policymakers, he said, should not get caught up in the deregulation frenzy, but rather, exercise caution and carefully consider the ramifications of their actions. There exists, he said, the potential to create a public policy imbroglio to rival the Savings and Loan crisis of the '80s.

“I think the whole question of utility deregulation is that huge,” he said. “There's really the potential for bad things to happen for the average consumer. We don't want to find that we've indiscriminately committed ourselves to a path we may not want to go down.”

— F.J. Gallagher

District 8B

1996 population: 35,094

Largest city: Moose Lake

Counties: Aitkin, Carlton, Pine

Location: east central Minnesota

Top concern: “We need significant property tax reform that would actually change the way schools are financed.”

— Rep. Bill Hilty

A Capitol Dairy Queen?

During an April 3 meeting of the House Governmental Operations Committee, members were sharply divided about funding for renovations to the State Capitol cafeteria. A bill sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) would appropriate \$2.2 million to restore the cafeteria's original German rathskeller design and decor. About \$1.2 million was approved in the 1996 bonding bill for the project.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), said, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, that he'd learned from Perkins and Dairy Queen restaurant representatives that either restaurant could be built in that

space for considerably less money. “That covers land, the building, and the franchise fee,” he added.

Paul Mandell, senior planner for the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, explained that zoning regulations do not permit fast food restaurants in the space.

“Perkins isn't fast food,” Osskopp responded, adding that he appreciated the historic considerations of the project, but “\$2.2 million? I guarantee that won't play in Wabasha,” he said.

Kahn suggested he issue a press release to test taxpayer opinion about

putting a fast food restaurant in the historic space.

“For the quality of food [in the Capitol complex] cafeterias, vending machines would suffice,” said Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview). “Whether we're talking \$1.9 million or \$2.2 million, something here is amiss in terms of the cost.”

The measure was approved by the committee on a 10-7 party-line vote. It was later discussed, but not voted on, by the House Capital Investment Committee.

Slawik delivers on education finance, crime issues

On Feb. 6, Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood) was on the House floor listening to debate on a bill to reduce teen smoking. Four hours later, she gave birth to her own future teenager, Victoria Anne, a healthy, 7-pound, 9-ounce baby girl. Two weeks after that blessed event, Slawik was back on the job at the Capitol, devising a study of ambulance rates in Woodbury and working on a bill to create a statewide immunization registry for children.



Rep. Nora Slawik

Taking her child's birth in stride is just another way the 34-year-old Slawik reflects District 57A's busy working-parent constituency. In addition to the new baby, she and her husband, Brien, have a 5-year-old son, Sean. "My perspective is much the same as the people I represent," she said.

Slawik's family has roots deep in Minnesota's public life. Her grandparents lived in Benson, Minn., where her grandfather published the local newspaper, *The Swift County Monitor*. Slawik, however, was born in Tucson, Ariz., where her parents had settled.

After graduating from Arizona State University with a degree in recreation administration, Slawik took a management training position with United Way. She worked for the organization in Fort Worth, Texas, and Boulder, Colo., before accepting a fund-raising position in Minnesota. Here, in addition to working for United Way, she has helped raise money for Northwestern College, United Hospital, and St. Louis Church.

After moving to Minnesota, she married Brien Slawik, vice president of Slawik Enterprises, a property development and management firm. Brien's grandparents, Harold and Marie, developed Roseville's Har-Mar Mall.

Slawik's interest in public service grew out of her work in the nonprofit sector. "As a professional fundraiser, I've been involved in the community and helping organizations to maximize public resources. When you look at the Legislature, it is a similar process."

She also has been active in a number of community groups, including a charter board membership with the Southeast Area YMCA in Woodbury, the League of Women Voters, and the District 622 Educational Foundation.

When former Rep. Walter Perlt decided not to run for re-election last year, another former DFL House member, Pamela Neary, asked Slawik to run. Perlt agreed to chair Slawik's campaign committee.

Education financing was a big issue for the district during the fall campaign. Woodbury is the fastest growing municipality in the state and Washington County is the fastest growing county, Slawik said. "We don't have a lot of commercial property in the South Washington County School District, and we haven't been able to pass a school bonding referendum."

Slawik was one of many co-sponsors of HF1, already signed into law by the governor, which repealed the cap on state funding for K-12 public education. Her position on the Education Committee's Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division also has put her in a good position to keep tabs on

education financing issues that may affect her district. She recently introduced a bill (HF1977) to help the South Washington County School District secure more dollars for local schools.

"Crime is also a growing concern in the district," Slawik said. "We are a first-ring suburban area, and crime is coming out of the city toward us."

Slawik's approach to crime issues is to focus on prevention programs. She has signed onto a number of anti-crime bills as a co-sponsor.

In addition to serving on the Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs and Ways and Means committees, Slawik, as vice chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, has helped shape the state's response to federal welfare reform legislation. "It's a good fit with my background in nonprofit work," she said. "I am pleased to have an opportunity to work on welfare reform. It has been the committee's biggest challenge."

— Steve Compton

District 57A

1996 population: 43,221
Largest city: Maplewood
Counties: Ramsey, Washington
Location: eastern suburbs of St. Paul
Top concern: "My district is big and it is growing. We have the urban sprawl issue, working parents, schools bursting at the seams. Woodbury is one of the fastest growing cities in the area. A lot of people are concerned about the continuous development of the countryside around them."

— Rep. Nora Slawik

Frequently called numbers

Secretary of the Senate
 231 Capitol 296-0271
 Voice mail/order bills 296-2343
 Chief Clerk of the House
 211 Capitol 296-2314
 Index, Senate
 110 Capitol 296-2887
 Index, House
 211 Capitol 296-6646
 Information, Senate
 231 Capitol 296-0504
 Information, House
 175 State Office Building 296-2146
 Committee Hotline, Senate ... 296-8088

Committee Hotline, House 296-9283
 Sergeant at Arms, Senate
 Senate Chamber 296-7159/6-1119
 Sergeant at Arms, House
 45 State Office Building 296-4860
 Counsel and Research, Senate
 G-17 Capitol 296-4791
 Research, House
 600 State Office Building 296-6753
 Legislative Reference Library
 645 State Office Building 296-3398
 Revisor of Statutes
 700 State Office Building 296-2868

Governor's Office
 130 Capitol 296-3391
 Attorney General's Office
 102 Capitol 296-6196
 Secretary of State's Office
 180 State Office Building 296-9208
 Capitol Security
 B-4 Capitol 296-6741
 Emergency 296-2100
 TYY*, Senate 296-0250
 Toll free 1-888-234-1216
 TYY*, House 296-9896
 Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Bill Introductions

HF2029-HF2088

Tuesday, April 1

HF2029—Workman (R)

Taxes

SCORE; solid waste management services tax provisions modified, and SCORE tax and solid waste generator assessment fee repealed.

HF2030—Huntley (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Sault Ste. Marie Narrows Poe Lock funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF2031—Mariani (DFL)

Governmental Operations

State agencies, educational institutions, and businesses required to include a multiracial classification on all forms requesting racial identification information.

HF2032—Koppendrayner (R)

Economic Development & International Trade

Resort owners reimbursed for economic hardship due to enforcement of the Mille Lacs fishing rights treaty, and money appropriated.

HF2033—Gunther (R)

Labor-Management Relations

State fund mutual insurance company board of directors provisions modified.

HF2034—Winter (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Legislative committee and commission statutory provisions modified.

HF2035—Wenzel (DFL)

Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance

Lake Alexander Woods acquisition provided, and scientific and natural areas fund appropriated money.

HF2036—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Education

School district and library system telecommunications access grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF2037—Van Dellen (R)

Transportation & Transit

Cities authorized to establish maximum speed limits below 30 miles per hour on streets.

HF2038—Wenzel (DFL)

Education

State colleges and universities base budget increase provided, and money appropriated.

HF2039—Entenza (DFL)

Education

Collaborative urban educator program funded, and money appropriated.

HF2040—Huntley (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Game fish health and river residue level assessment provided, and money appropriated.

HF2041—Ozment (R)

Governmental Operations

Police and firefighter retirement investment reporting requirements and penalty provisions modified.

HF2042—Delmont (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Pharmacy technician defined and use allowed.

HF2043—Pugh (DFL)

Governmental Operations

State agency regulatory rule and program policy established.

HF2044—McCollum (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Home health care service medical assistance provisions modified, case management services qualification requirements modified, and definitions modified.

HF2045—Anderson, B. (R)

Education

School district election procedures modified.

HF2046—Nornes (R)

Education

Independent School District No. 544, Fergus Falls, appropriated money for early childhood programs.

HF2047—Winter (DFL)

Education

GED high school diploma program televised, and money appropriated.

HF2048—Rostberg (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Cambridge Tax Increment Financing district expenditure provisions modified.

HF2049—Anderson, B. (R)

Education

School district election procedures modified.

HF2050—Anderson, B. (R)

Education

School district election procedures modified.

HF2051—Anderson, B. (R)

Education

School district election procedures modified.

HF2052—Rifenberg (R)

Taxes

Personal and dependent income tax credit provided.

HF2053—McGuire (DFL)

Judiciary

Sauk Centre Corrections Facility state operation discontinued, juvenile out-of-state placement discouraged, and money appropriated.

HF2054—Johnson, R. (DFL)

Education

College work-study students placed in elementary and secondary schools, and money appropriated.

HF2055—Stanek (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

St. Paul and Minneapolis public employee residency requirements repealed.

HF2056—Osthoff (DFL)

Judiciary

St. Paul police storefront and youth activity center joint use funded, and money appropriated.

HF2057—Skoglund (DFL)

No Committee Reference

Landlord and tenant law recodified, clarified and relocated.

HF2058—Greenfield (DFL)

Taxes

Insurance company premium tax exemption provided for premiums for Medicare-related coverage.

Wednesday, April 2

HF2059—McCollum (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Health promotion and education material sales permitted, and money appropriated.

HF2060—Davids (R)

Education

Rural school pilot program developed, and money appropriated.

HF2061—Leighton (DFL)

Education

Minnesota career information system established, youth program eligibility requirements modified, secondary vocational education provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF2062—Hasskamp (DFL)

Taxes

Business property tax lower class rate extension provided.

HF2063—Knoblach (R)**Taxes**

Individual income tax brackets modified, and alternative minimum tax exemption amount provisions modified.

HF2064—Winter (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Invention board state fund use prohibition removed, and money appropriated.

HF2065—Winter (DFL)**Agriculture**

Veterinarians allowed to dock horses, equine animal care requirements repealed, dog house specifications modified, and clipped animal restrictions repealed.

HF2066—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Sales Tax Advisory Council recommendations adopted, sales tax payment provisions modified, and rule adoption provided.

HF2067—Bakk (DFL)**Taxes**

Corrections facility construction material sales tax exemption provided.

HF2068—Tunheim (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Regional management information centers appropriated money.

HF2069—Solberg (DFL)**Labor-Management Relations**

Retired employee benefit modification restricted.

HF2070—Lindner (R)**Education**

Locally controlled graduation rule aid and district assistance provided, locally controlled graduation rule offered, and money appropriated.

HF2071—Bakk (DFL)**Taxes**

Tax relief area sales and use tax imposed, and proceed deposit provided.

HF2072—Hasskamp (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Road assessment landowner notice required, and petition right established.

HF2073—Hausman (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Stillwater St. Croix River bridge fund expenditure legislative approval required.

HF2074—Jaros (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Duluth Hartley Nature Center improvements provided, and money appropriated.

HF2075—Munger (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Duluth Lake Superior Zoo improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Thursday, April 3**HF2076—Orfield (DFL)****Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Consumer report rights and duties provided.

HF2077—Macklin (R)**Taxes**

Marriage dissolution decree deed tax exemption provided.

HF2078—Solberg (DFL)**Taxes**

Itasca County jail and courthouse construction material sales tax exemption provided.

HF2079—Solberg (DFL)**Ways & Means**

Finance department expenditure forecast duties clarified.

HF2080—Knoblach (R)**Health & Human Services**

Sherburne or Stearns County intermediate care facility appropriated money.

HF2081—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Omnibus property tax and education financing reform provided, and money appropriated.

HF2082—Murphy (DFL)**Judiciary**

Carlton County reimbursed for criminal prosecution expenses, and money appropriated.

HF2083—Leighton (DFL)**Education**

Minnesota career information system established, secondary vocational education provisions modified, lifework development plan provided, and money appropriated.

HF2084—Mariani (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Migrant farm worker health initiative established, advisory committee established, and money appropriated.

HF2085—Mullery (DFL)**Financial Institutions & Insurance**

ATM; automated teller machine use fees limited.

HF2086—Westrom (R)**Health & Human Services**

Hearing instrument dispensers permitted to perform audiologic evaluations under medical assistance, general assistance medical care, and MinnesotaCare programs.

HF2087—Westrom (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Stevens County Tax Increment Financing district duration extended.

HF2088—Jennings (DFL)**Taxes**

Ski area machinery and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

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Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
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MONDAY, April 7

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Continuation of April 3 agenda.
HF1169 (Carlson) Brooklyn Center; Brookdale
regional center redevelopment provided, and
money appropriated.
HF2017 (Mariani) Opportunities
Industrialization Centers funded, and money
appropriated.
HF1529 (Jefferson) Minneapolis Convention
Center expansion authorized, bond issuance
authorized, and money appropriated.
Additional bills may be added.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Riders and other language items for
the omnibus bill.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF604 (Lieder) Education debt service
aid sparsity determination provisions modified.
HF979 (Swenson, D.) School district lease
purchase or installment buy definitions
modified.
HF1217 (Larsen) School district referendum
allowance reduction discontinued.
HF1272 (Kelso) Professional teaching
standards promotion established, grants
provided, and money appropriated.
HF1366 (Winter) Small school viability pilot
project implemented, and money appropriated.
HF1407 (Dorn) Mankato model school for
truants appropriated money.
HF1408 (Peterson) School district fundraising
foundations established, professional staff
assistance provided, and money appropriated.

HF1746 (Ness) Cooperative educational unit
direct aid payment authorized.
HF1969 (Ness) Summer school funding
provided for elementary pupils.
HF1970 (Ness) School district Title I
replacement aid provided, and money
appropriated.
HF1428 (Dehler) Central Minnesota area
learning center established, and money
appropriated.
HF1454 (Jennings) Open enrollment
technology project established, and money
appropriated.
HF2002 (Harder) Independent School District
Nos. 178, Storden-Jeffers, 633, Lamberton, and
638, Sanborn, appropriated money for a high
school remote access program.
HF60 (Greiling) Hazing; civil cause of action
provided against student organizations for
damages relating to hazing.
HF575 (Weaver) Pornography-blocking
computer software required for schools.
HF1515 (Carlson) Cooperative school district
state aid pilot program provided.
HF1527 (Westrom) Independent School
District No. 264, Herman-Norcross, revenue
restoration provided.
HF1660 (Evans) School districts provided anti-
discrimination law compliance assistance, and
money appropriated.
HF1669 (Wenzel) Mid-state Education District
No. 6979, job shadowing and internship
program funded, and money appropriated.
HF1762 (Solberg) Nashwauk public and school
libraries operated jointly, and library board
established.
HF1817 (Rostberg) Year-round school/
extended week or day pilot program expanded,
and money appropriated.
HF1977 (Slawik) School district referendum
subtraction eliminated, technology
improvement discretionary levy authorized,
additional state aid provided to districts with
low revenues, and money appropriated.
HF2021 (Carlson) Homework hotline funding
provided, and money appropriated.
HF1998 (Mulder) Border state enrollment
options program tuition payment negotiation
provided.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF1089 (Garcia) Metropolitan
areawide tax base homestead property inclusion
provided.
HF419 (Tunheim) Watershed district project
cost payment through tax levy authorized.
HF799 (Winter) Wind energy conversion
system property tax provisions modified.
HF809 (Winter) Regional economic devel-
opment commissions regulated.
HF1890 (McElroy) Homestead property tax
treatment provided to part-time residents.
HF1544 (Dawkins) Municipal truth-in-
taxation notice modification permitted related
to mergers of services.
HF812 (Dawkins) Municipal and school district

local performance aid eligibility requirements
modified.

HF685 (Rest) Local government innovation
and efficiency program established, and money
appropriated.

HF637 (Abrams) Minnetonka housing devel-
opment account established and expenditures
authorized.

HF1232 (Lieder) Wild Rice Watershed District
levy extended.

Additional bills may be added.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF1082 (Osthoff) Hunting and fishing
license fees modified, aquatic farming fees and
requirements modified, and commercial
fishing and netting provisions modified.
HF1398 (Munger) Taconite Harbor project
appropriated money.
HF1579 (Hausman) Game and fish license
subagent sale commission retention allowed.
HF1646 (Trimble) Milk marketing competition
and economic fairness provided, and milk and
milk product retail price flexibility allowed.
Additional bills may be added.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Budget hearing; Minnesota House of
Representatives. Allocation process. Bills may
be added.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: HF1381 (Juhnke) Veterinary services
lien provisions modified.
HF535 (Juhnke) Bison designated as livestock,
and federal food rule conformity provided.
HF1444 (Wejcman) Minnesota-grown food
coupon program established in conjunction
with the temporary hunger prevention and
community development initiative program,
and money appropriated.
HF1792 (Tunheim) Rural small business loan
program established, and money appropriated.
HF2065 (Winter) Veterinarians allowed to
dock horses, equine animal care requirements
repealed, dog house specifications modified,
and clipped animal restrictions repealed.
HF1639 (Harder) University of Minnesota farm
safety outreach program funded, and money
appropriated.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF276 (Pelowski) Floating structure public waters work permit issuance restricted. SF413 (Frederickson); HF1118 (Sekhon) Municipal water use permit established. HF503 (Olson, E.) Beaver Damage Control Board established, and money appropriated. HF771 (Long) Contamination cleanup grant program requirements modified, redevelopment and job creation grants provided, and money appropriated.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: SF145 (Runbeck); HF312 (Jefferson) Reemployment insurance technical and administrative modifications provided. HF296 (Wejcman) Father registry created and adoption notice and consent provisions modified. HF844 (Rest) Birth defects information system established, criminal penalties provided, and money appropriated. HF713 (Koskinen) Wastewater treatment facility privatization ownership restrictions modified. HF1207 (Paymar) Private corrections treatment facility liability limits provided. HF846 (Leighton) Sexual abuse statute of limitations delayed discovery rule provisions clarified. HF606 (Stanek) Law enforcement agencies required to perform background investigations on applicants for employment as peace officers. HF1283 (McGuire) Fire fighter background investigations authorized, employment information disclosure required, employer immunity provided, and civil and criminal penalties proscribed. HF814 (Koskinen) Unfair employment discriminatory practice reprisal provisions modified. HF832 (Pugh) Professional malpractice action expert review certification required. HF908 (Pugh) Prison inmate lawsuit provisions modified and clarified. HF1150 (Greenfield) HIV/Hepatitis B; corrections guards and peace officers provided testing for HIV and hepatitis B under certain circumstances, hypodermic needle sales permitted without prescription, and money appropriated. HF58 (McElroy) Birth parent adoption or placement notification required, grand-parent visitation provided, and adoption record privacy provisions modified. HF1109 (Farrell) Criminal trial final argument prosecution rebuttal provided. HF1029 (Mares) Teacher background check working group recommendations adopted. HF340 (Harder) Cigarette and tobacco sales taxes recodified, criminal and civil penalties provided, and money appropriated. HF341 (Daggett) Liquor taxes recodified, civil and criminal penalties provided, and money appropriated. HF185 (Sykora) Child welfare and children's mental health collaborative provisions modified, privatization of adoption services for children under state guardianship provided, pilot projects established, and money appropriated. HF209 (Vickerman) Human services child

placement heritage or background provisions modified.

HF176 (Vickerman) Distressed food donor injury liability limited.

HF626 (Luther) Designated parent agreement execution and consent requirements modified. HF741 (McGuire) Legislative information policy task force established, and money appropriated.

HF1941 (Mahon) Public safety inspectors authorized to stop motor vehicles under certain circumstances (Informational hearing). Rereferrals from other committees. Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Omnibus bill: Child care policy.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

Agenda: SF1684 (Spear); HF1914 (Biernat) Minneapolis school board elections held at the same time as state elections.

SF296 (Frederickson); HF232 (Finseth) Soil and water conservation district supervisors provided four-year terms of office.

SF703 (Scheid); HF168 (Tunheim) Mail balloting in certain elections expanded to include additional cities and towns.

SF1356 (Langseth); HF1884 (Westfall) Legislative district boundaries modified.

SF80 (Johnson, D.J.); HF1007 (Pelowski) Presidential primary elections conducted by mail.

Additional bills may be added. (Committee will meet after session, if necessary.)

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: SF399 (Lesewski); HF745 (Wejcman) Workforce service areas designated, and local workforce councils established and duties specified.

SF1519 (Kiscaden); HF1880 (Jennings) Employer reemployment compensation payment schedule provisions modified.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: HF342 (Farrell) Impounded vehicle sales authorized 15 days after impoundment notification.

HF1295 (Hausman) Counties authorized to sell county state-aid highway bonds to fund maintenance building construction.

HF1541 (Chaudhary) Youth-oriented driver improvement clinics established, graduated licensing system provided, motorcycle driver instruction permit provisions modified, and technical modifications provided.

HF385 (Swenson, H.) Trunk Highway No. 19 designated as Augie Mueller Memorial Highway.

HF1223 (Rest) Impounded vehicle notice period provisions modified.

HF1032 (Entenza) Commerce department powers and duties specified, regulatory provisions modified, and technical corrections provided.

HF1066 (Greenfield) Seat belt use failure violation provided primary offense designation. HF723 (Marko) Trunk highway revolving loan account and transportation revolving loan fund created, and money appropriated.

HF1243 (Tingelstad) Snow plowing vehicle annual overwidth permit issuance authorized by local road authorities.

WAYS & MEANS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: HF297 (Jennings) National Guard member tuition and textbook reimbursement grant program provisions modified.

HF864 (McGuire) Social work board provisions modified, and civil penalties provided. Additional bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Continuation of 8 a.m. meeting agenda. Additional bills may be added.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting agenda.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Continuation of 8 a.m. meeting agenda.

6 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Omnibus bill: Early childhood accounts-Learning Readiness; ECFE; Infant Development Grants; Early Childhood Screening; Way to Grow; Child Care Assistance; Child Care Development; Extended Day; and Part H.

TUESDAY, April 8

8 a.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Omnibus bill: Prevention accounts-Community Education; Adults with Disabilities; Hearing Impaired Adults; Family Services Collaboratives; Violence Prevention Grants; Male Responsibility; Abused Children Program; Drug Policy and Violence; Children's Trust Fund; and After School Enrichment.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Agenda will continue Tuesday evening at an announced time. Additional bills may be added and the order is flexible.

HF749 (Farrell) St. Paul Police Department communications and surveillance equipment purchase provided, and money appropriated.
HF1594 (Farrell) Metropolitan State University law enforcement library developed, and money appropriated.

HF1566 (Winter) Fire fighter training program planning provided, and money appropriated.
HF552 (Entenza) Rental housing discrimination studied by Human Rights Commission, and money appropriated.
HF1656 (Entenza) DWI; suspected drug-impaired drivers required to submit to drug recognition evaluation, implied consent law expanded, peace officer training provided, and money appropriated.

HF1882 (Murphy) Real estate document filing and recording fees modified.

HF1935 (Murphy) Homicide and child fatality case interactive multimedia courtroom presentation equipment grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF500 (Pugh) Public defender document copying fee imposed by government agencies.
HF1902 (Stanek) Minneapolis Police Department appropriated money for transporting and housing detainees.

HF1004 (Entenza) DWI; alcohol presence determination test requirements modified, implied consent hearing process modified, accident injury reports required, and penalties provided.

HF163 (Skoglund) Criminal gang council and strike force established, grants authorized, and money appropriated.

**K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF1159 (Greenfield) HIV/AIDS prevention education demonstration project established, grants provided to school districts, and money appropriated.

HF1206 (Murphy) Independent School District No. 99, Esko, community health and physical fitness center funded, and money appropriated.
HF1289 (Clark) Public library staff skill improvement program authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1466 (Leppik) Public library and school media center data access program established, and money appropriated.

HF1498 (Leighton) Summer food service replacement aid provided, school breakfast outreach programs established, and money appropriated.

HF1107 (Tuma) Options Plus teacher support pilot program extended, and money appropriated.

**Sales and Income Tax Division/
TAXES**

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF210 (Daggett) Long-term health care insurance premium income tax credit provided.

HF413 (Rest) Job training income tax credit provided.

HF689 (Kubly) Alfalfa processing facility construction material sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF728 (Juhnke) Farmers exempted from tax on gasoline and special fuel received in on-farm bulk storage tanks.

HF1079 (Garcia) Low- and moderate-income housing construction material sales and use tax exemption provided, and money appropriated.

HF1336 (Long) Metropolitan public safety radio communication system sales tax exemption provided.

HF1475 (Erhardt) Personal and dependent nonrefundable income tax credit provided.

HF1502 (Carruthers) Use tax de minimis exemption expanded.

HF1788 (Olson, E.) Fosston sales and use tax imposition authorized.

HF2067 (Bakk) Corrections facility construction material sales tax exemption provided.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: HF217 (Opatz) Land use mandatory comprehensive planning provided, capital improvement program established, and money appropriated.

HF1000 (Long) Community-based planning act adopted providing sustainable metropolitan development, Metropolitan Council requirements specified, advisory council established, and money appropriated.

Additional bills may be added.

**Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: HF738 (Wagenius) Metropolitan Council urban service area extension moratorium imposed.

HF1578 (Mullery) Veteran service organization members provided special motor vehicle license plate stickers.

HF1722 (Larsen) Motor vehicle drivers required to maintain vehicle control when approaching or passing an authorized emergency vehicle, and violation surcharge imposed.

HF1644 (Molnau) Municipal state-aid street fund apportionment provisions modified.

HF1164 (Juhnke) Bus definition expanded to include special transportation service vehicles.
HF1472 (Juhnke) Air Transportation Service marketing program established.

HF1453 (Ness) Highway access management policy study provided.

Omnibus bill.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES
& AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF1397 (Osthoff) Petroleum-contaminated site cleanup provided, and money appropriated.

HF1179 (Winter) Petroleum tank upgrade assistance program established.

HF435 (Long) Environmental response and

liability act provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1901 (Finseth) Red Lake River and Thief River dredging grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF2035 (Wenzel) Lake Alexander woods acquisition provided, and scientific and natural areas fund appropriated money.

HF1585 (Holsten) Natural resources department account interest disposition specified, and unrefunded gasoline tax computation provisions modified.

HF1851 (Sekhon) Prairie inventory conducted along railroad rights-of-way, pesticide application limited, and money appropriated. Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room,
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Continuation of April 3 agenda.

HF844 (Rest) Birth defects information system established, criminal penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF829 (Solberg) Government meetings permitted via electronic means, and criteria established.

HF436 (Wagenius) Reduction and recycling advisory council established, duties specified, and duration provided.

HF718 (Folliard) Conservation Corps Youth Corps Advisory Committee provisions modified.

HF635 (Entenza) North Star government on-line service and information initiative provided, information and telecommunications technology community resource development initiative established, MNcard projects implemented, and money appropriated.

HF1186 (Tunheim) Bakeries in retail food stores provided equipment and ventilation requirements.

Additional bills referred under Rule 5.10 may be added.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: To be announced.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Budget allocation.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: To be announced.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HF317 (Huntley) Municipal wastewater infrastructure eminent domain action authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

SF1136 (Solon); HF1380 (Huntley) Duluth Family Practice Residency Program Authority transferred to the Duluth Economic Development Authority.

SF421 (Ranum); HF797 (Clark) Early childhood learning and protection facility grant limitations clarified.
HF1161 (Trimble) Public facilities authority revenue bonding authority increased.
Recommendations from finance divisions.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: Continuation of April 3 agenda.
HF997 (Pugh) Rental-purchase agreements regulated, cost-of-lease charges limited, cash price evidence provided, and definitions modified.
Additional bills may be added.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: HF816 (Finseth) East Grand Forks Tax Increment Financing district duration extended.
HF1265 (Swenson, H.) Gaylord Tax Increment Financing district enlargement and duration extension authorized.
HF1469 (Rukavina) White Tax Increment Financing district duration extension and expansion provided.
HF1546 (Jefferson) Minneapolis housing transition Tax Increment Financing district established.
HF1655 (Workman) Chanhassen housing Tax Increment Financing district establishment authorized.
HF1663 (Bakk) Lake County redevelopment project area and Tax Increment Financing district established.
HF1732 (Evans) New Brighton Tax Increment Financing district establishment authorized.
HF1739 (Schumacher) Foley Tax Increment Financing district revenue expenditure authorized outside of tax increment financing district.
HF1779 (Kahn) St. Paul and Minneapolis Tax Increment Financing district establishment authorized.
HF2009 (Bakk) Federal payment in lieu of taxes on entitlement land distribution provided.
HF2027 (Paymar) St. Paul sanitary sewer connection repair provided, rainleaders disconnected, and assessments provided.
HF2028 (Mariani) Charter city computer software and training financing authorized, and bond issuance provided.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HF1925 (Peterson) Farm wind energy conversion system loan pilot program established.
HF1879 (Trimble) Nuclear waste; public service commissioner required to hold in escrow funds for high-level radioactive waste disposal.
HF1287 (Delmont) Utility deposit interest payments regulated.
HF967 (Tomassoni) Horse racing licensee allowed to conduct card club activities.
Additional bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: Continuation of 12:30 p.m. meeting agenda.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Allocations.

6 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE Anti-Stalking Bill/HF5/SF32

300S State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire,
Sen. Ember Reichgott Junge

WEDNESDAY, April 9

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Continuation of April 7 agenda.
Additional bills may be added.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Allocations for omnibus bill.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

Room To Be Announced
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Continuation of April 8 agenda.
Agenda will continue Wednesday evening at an announced time. Additional bills may be added and the order is flexible.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: To be announced.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Allocations. Bills may be added.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF148 (Tunheim) Turfgrass research and development support continued, and money appropriated.

HF162 (Tunheim) Seed potato inspection fund appropriated money.

HF463 (Kubly) Passing on the Farm Center services expanded, and money appropriated.

HF1421 (Wenzel) Dairy technology services grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF748 (Tunheim) University of Minnesota appropriated money for wheat and barley scab research.

HF1823 (Westfall) Pelican Rapids-to-Maplewood State Park Trail developed, and money appropriated.

Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF255 (Johnson, R.) Environmental Quality Board membership modified.

HF1750 (Bakk) Timber sale permit extension provided.

HF1692 (Munger) Earth Day; Congress memorialized to recognize Earth Day as a national day of service and education.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF1441 (Greenfield) Health insurance loss ratios limited, health care commission repealed, health technology advisory committee modified, MinnesotaCare program eligibility expanded, and Medicare assignment provisions modified.

Additional bills may be added.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Continuation of April 8 agenda.

HFXXXX (Kahn) Omnibus pension bill.

HF647 (Jefferson) Public pension benefit accrual rates increased, defined contribution early retirement options authorized, homestead and agricultural credit aid modified, and money appropriated (Bill will be heard if approved by Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement).

HF369 (Holsten) Hunting and fishing license and stamp identification and validation provisions modified.

HF694 (Koppendrayer) Employee relations department technical and administrative changes provided, and state employment provisions modified.

HF244 (Bishop) Individual sewage system requirements modified, and Pollution Control Agency rule compliance authority granted.

HF977 (Mullery) State agency construction contract design-build requirement provided.
Additional bills referred under rule 5.10 may be added.

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Finalize omnibus bill. (Committee will meet in evening, if necessary.)

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: Continuation of April 7 agenda.

1 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: Economic Development - Past, Present and Future, Carl Kroening. Bills and division reports may be added.

3:30 p.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Continuation of April 7 agenda. Additional bills may be added.

7 p.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: To be announced.

THURSDAY, April 10

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Continuation of April 7 agenda. Additional bills may be added.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: To be announced. Agenda will continue Thursday evening at an announced time. Additional bills may be added and the order is flexible. (Committee will meet on Friday, April 11, if necessary.)

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Omnibus K-12 Finance Bill mark-up.

Sales and Income Tax Division/ TAXES

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF288 (Jaros) Duluth Lake Superior center authority construction material sales tax exemption provided.

HF712 (Lieder) Aggregate material production tax increase provided.

HF1606 (Seagren) Military pay income tax subtraction allowed.

HF1635 (Haas) Personal and dependent income tax refund provided.

HF1803 (Bakk) Well-drilling machine gasoline and fuel sales tax exemption provided.

HF1804 (Bakk) Cook County jail and courthouse construction material sales tax exemption provided.

HF1802 (Bakk) Cook County sales tax revenue use authorized for hospital improvements.

HF1881 (Koppendrayer) Counties with Indian casinos provided payments under tribal tax agreements, and money appropriated.

HF1942 (Huntley) Hospital purchases exempted from sales tax.

HF1976 (Dawkins) AmeriCorp and Youth Works Program stipends exempted from individual income tax.

8:30 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

400N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Allocations. Bills may be added.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Allocations. Bills may be added.

10 a.m.

Housing & Housing Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: To be announced.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: To be announced.

12 Noon

Joint Ramsey County Legislative Delegation/ Hennepin County Legislative Delegation

500N State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Alice Hausman,

Sen. Charles Wiger, Rep. Linda Wejcman, Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: Property taxes. Welfare reform. Transportation issues.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: To be announced.

FRIDAY, April 11

8 a.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Omnibus bill.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division/ TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Omnibus bill.

8:30 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Allocations.

10 a.m.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: To be announced.

SATURDAY, April 12

8:30 a.m.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

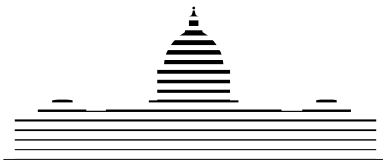
500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: To be announced.

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MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota fires and arson

Value of Minnesota property destroyed by arson in the last five years, in millions	\$113
Minnesotans killed due to arson since 1989	20
Arson fires, per day, in Minnesota	6.5
Property damage due to those fires, each day	\$50,000
Minnesota children who have died using fire inappropriately in the last five years	24
Additional injuries to civilians and firefighters due to those fires	176
Nationwide, fires due to arson	1 in 5
Structure fires in Minnesota, 1995	6,900
Arson fires in Minnesota, 1995	2,578
in 1991	1,861
Minnesota fires set by minors, 1995	580
in 1994	687
Minnesotans arrested for arson, 1994	344
Number of those who were juveniles	243
Forest and grasslands fires attributed to arson, according to the Department of Natural Resources	3 in 10
Nationwide, percent of those arrested for arson who are under age 18	52
Who are under age 25	68
Rank of insurance fraud among motives for arson, according to a 1996 study by the state fire marshal	1
Rank of revenge or domestic violence	2
Rank of vandalism	3
Nationwide, number of every 100 people who are under age 5	8
Nationwide, number of every 100 people who die in fires who are under age 5 ...	17
Maximum imprisonment under Minnesota law for arson in the first degree, in years	20
Maximum fine that may be levied for the same crime	\$20,000

Source: *Report of the Attorney General's Arson Task Force, Feb. 1997,*
Office of the Attorney General.

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