



# SESSION WEEKLY

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One of the most exciting events experienced by some 2,000 Minnesotans earlier this week was the inauguration of the president of the United States in Washington, D.C. Attended by Minnesota Democrats and Republicans alike, an overall patriotic feeling prevailed throughout the city, as 500,000 people from across the country came to observe, show their support, and to share in this historic 53rd inaugural celebration; the last inaugural of the 20th century.

On Martin Luther King's Holiday, Jan. 20, from the U.S. Capitol Building steps, down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House and beyond, buildings, street lights, and people were arrayed with the colors of red, white, and blue. Some individuals, like a six-foot plus gentleman from Arkansas, or the Minnesota Ojibwe Indians added flair and class to the occasion. The Arkansan was a spectator who had about the same height and facial features of Abraham Lincoln, and he caused quite a positive stir as he moved through the throng adorned with top hat, morning coat, and beard.

The Mille Lacs Reservation band of dancers and drummers were featured near the front of the inauguration parade and were dressed in Ojibwe ceremonial wear. They and representatives of the Mille Lacs tribal council served as the official Minnesota entry in the parade.

The most impressive part of the three days was the somber tone and pomp of the inaugural ceremonies. Participants on the program represented U.S. citizens from all ethnic and religious groups. With a positive look toward the future, the president reflected on the hopes and dreams of Dr. King and committed himself to the task of bringing about unity in a land of new promise for all Americans.

The pre-inauguration festivities on the Mall and other areas of the city generated a prevailing feeling of celebration, high energy, and even thought-provoking reflection in seminars at the Holocaust Museum.

And Minnesota legislators and ordinary citizens played their part as well. Later at the Midwest Inaugural Ball in the Air and Space Museum, they were in abundance. Between separate visits to the Ball by the president and vice president, Minnesotans schmoozed, danced, and sang along with REO Speedwagon, Stevie Wonder, and other entertainers beneath Minnesota hero Charles Lindbergh's airplane, "The Spirit of Saint Louis," and the first airplane flown by the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk — both hanging from the museum's ceiling.

Another group of Minnesotans who represented the state during the inaugural ceremonies were 95 seventh-graders from West St. Paul's Frances M. Grass Junior High School. Sixty-one of the students, their chaperones, and three other Minnesotans were part of an unscheduled airline landing at the Madison, Wis., airport.

Eleven hours into trying to get home from the nation's capital, maybe the most memorable observation of the historic inaugural event was made in Madison by one of the seventh-graders who said: "I may be tired, but I still am really excited that I was a part of history. Now I know why it is important to learn about our state government. We need to know more about the people that get elected, and somehow get more involved."

-LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: Opponents of legalized abortion gathered at the Capitol Jan. 22 to mark the 24th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on *Roe v. Wade*, which gave women the legal right to abortion.

— Photo by Andrew Von Bank

# Highlights

Stopping harassment . . .

## House moves to strengthen unclear anti-stalking law

After an hour of debate, the House of Representatives passed a revised anti-stalking proposal Jan. 23 on a 124-3 vote. This time, the Legislature wants to make sure its intentions are clear and understood.

HF5 is a revision of the state's first and only anti-stalking law, passed in 1993. The effectiveness of that law was called into question by a Minnesota Supreme Court ruling in September 1996. A number of legislators, including the new bill's sponsor, Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights), expressed concern over the apparent lack of protection stalking victims may face in light of that ruling. For that reason, supporters sought quick legislative action.

statute has centered on whether it must be proven that an alleged stalker intended to harm or intimidate the victim.

Specifically, the Minnesota Supreme Court in *State of Minnesota v. Orcello* concluded that, as written, the law leaves prosecutors with the burden of proving a defendant had criminal intent when stalking a victim. That can be difficult because stalkers often claim affectionate or benign motives for their behavior.

To clear up the confusion, HF5 specifically states that the prosecution "... is not required to prove that the actor intended to cause the victim to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted, or intimidated . . ."

how the victim was made to feel, rather than how the perpetrator meant or intended the actions.

Anti-stalking legislation has swept through legislatures nationwide since 1990, when California passed the nation's first state-level statute on stalking. Since then, 47 other states and the District of Columbia have passed versions of their own, according to a June 1996 report from the U.S. Department of Justice. Maine is the only state without a specific law, but uses a terrorizing statute to address stalking, the report states. Last September, President Bill Clinton signed legislation making interstate stalking and harassment a federal crime "regardless of whether the stalker has committed an act of violence or is the spouse or an intimate of the victim, and regardless of whether the victim had a court order of protection," according to the *New York Times*. It sets penalties from up to five years in prison for harassment to life in prison for bodily injury, the *Times* report said.

Perhaps because the laws are so new, statistics on stalking incidents are hard to come by. However, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension reports that in 1995 there were 495 stalking incidents reported by law enforcement agencies in the state. In 1996, there were 535. According to evidence compiled by U.S. Senator Bill Cohen (R-Maine) as many as 90 percent of women killed by their husbands or boyfriends were stalked before the attack, news reports have said.

Anti-stalking legislation has been challenged in many states on constitutional and other grounds. Some of the behaviors common to stalking, are, on their face, legal or seemingly harmless — such as sending letters, flowers, or sitting in one's car on a public street. That makes it difficult to prevent the law from being overly broad or violating the First Amendment right to free speech. The law also must avoid violating the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment, which requires that individuals receive fair notice of the types of conduct that are prohibited. Other issues regard freedom of



The House Jan. 23 passed a bill that tightens Minnesota's 1993 anti-stalking law. The Minnesota Supreme Court recently ruled that the 1993 law leaves prosecutors with the burden of proving a defendant had criminal intent when stalking a victim. To clear up the confusion, the new bill states that the prosecution "... is not required to prove that the actor intended to cause the victim to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted, or intimidated . . ."

The new anti-stalking proposal is meant to clarify and remedy ambiguities in the 1993 law. It is also one of the first pieces of legislation to move through the 1997 Legislative Session.

"This is a very important piece of legislation," Rep. McGuire said, noting that many people have either been victims of or have known victims of stalkers.

The debate surrounding the Minnesota

The bill also would change the definition of "harass" under current law which focuses on whether a "reasonable person" would feel intimidated.

"Harass" would mean engaging in intentional conduct "which the actor knows or should know would cause the victim under the circumstances to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted or intimidated." In other words, the bill switches the focus to

movement, an implied right under the Constitution, and vagueness.

If HF5 becomes law, Minnesota would be one of 16 states in which the law focuses on the effect the stalker's actions have on the victim, regardless of whether the actor's intentions can be proven.

Currently, the maximum penalty in Minnesota for the first stalking conviction, a gross misdemeanor, is up to a year imprisonment and a fine of \$3,000. Subsequent convictions are felonies that can result in up to 10 years in prison and fines of up to \$10,000. If a pattern of terror is established against a single person or household, a prison term of up to 10 years and a \$20,000 fine is possible. Nationwide, a stalking conviction typically results in a jail sentence of up to a year. Penalties of three to five years are common for felony convictions, the Justice Department report said.

After pointed debate on the broadness of the law, and its subsequent potential to be abused, McGuire successfully defended its ability to pass constitutional muster.

HF5 now moves to the Senate.

— Celeste Riley



## BONDING

### Better bond rating

Minnesota has a good chance of receiving a money-saving upgrade in its bond rating, according to the head of the Department of Finance.

Appearing before the House Capital Investment Committee Jan. 21, Commissioner Wayne Simoneau said the state is on track to be restored to the top rating by the last of the three major bond rating firms.

Simoneau and Gov. Arne Carlson recently met with officials from Standard & Poor's Ratings Group in hopes of seeing the state's AAA bond rating restored.

The state currently has a AA-plus rating from Standard & Poor's. The other major rating firms, Fitch Investors Service and Moody's Investor Service, both give Minnesota the AAA rating.

A better rating means lower interest on the general obligation bonds Minnesota sells to finance building projects throughout the state. Last year, the governor signed a bill authorizing \$485.3 million in public building and repair projects to be paid for with bond revenues.

Minnesota lost its AAA rating from Standard & Poor's in March 1982 and lost its top rating from Moody's in April 1982. Both

rating firms downgraded Minnesota to AA.

The state was not rated by Fitch until the late 1980s, when the firm gave Minnesota the AA-plus rating. Fitch upgraded Minnesota to AAA in 1993.

Moody's boosted the state's rating to AAA in May 1996. Carlson now lists restoration of the AAA rating from Standard & Poor's among his top priorities for the 1998-99 biennium.

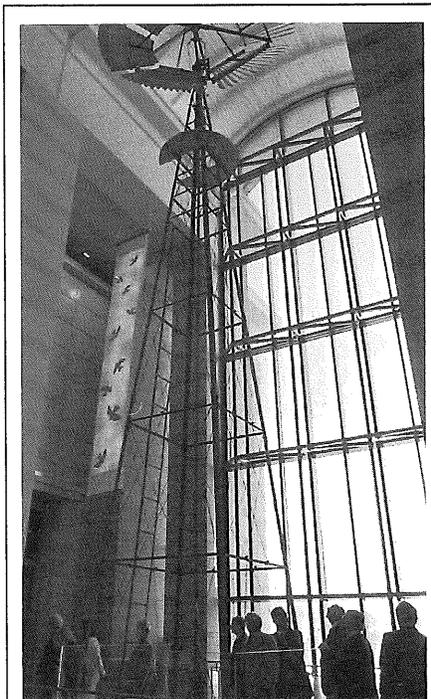
Simoneau said the Standard & Poor's upgrade could come as soon as this summer, as long as the Legislature "does not stray too far from [Carlson's] budget."

The governor's budget proposal will include measures that should please analysts at Standard & Poor's, according to Simoneau.

For instance, the governor's budget recommendations will call for an increase in the state budget reserve from the current \$260 million to about \$500 million, Simoneau said.

Peter Sausen, assistant commissioner of finance, told committee members that the rating firm will consider the overall financial management of the state and the state's economy, which has been flourishing.

Any new, open-ended spending requirements the Legislature creates will count against Minnesota in the effort to receive a bond rating upgrade, Sausen said.



Members of the Economic Development Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee stopped to look at a windmill during a tour of the Minnesota History Center Jan. 23.



## CRIME

### Prison problems

House members getting their first look at revamped plans for a new prison in Rush City, Minn., are concerned that the proposal runs far afield of the 1996 law authorizing construction of the facility.

Most inmates would share a cell at a new prison, under the revised plan for the facility presented at a joint meeting of the House Judiciary Finance Division and the Capital Investment Committee Jan. 23.

The Department of Corrections originally sought \$100 million to build a close-custody facility with six residential sections of 136 cells, providing space for 816 beds. The 1996 Legislature approved a plan to spend \$89 million for the new prison.

Subsequent cost estimates that predicted a significant overrun prompted the corrections department go back to the drawing board.

To stick with plans for six residential sections would have produced a price tag of roughly \$10 million more than was appropriated by the Legislature, according to Sally Grans, Rush City project manager.

The department is now pitching a plan that calls for four housing sections, with three of them double-bunked. The new plan would provide 952 beds.

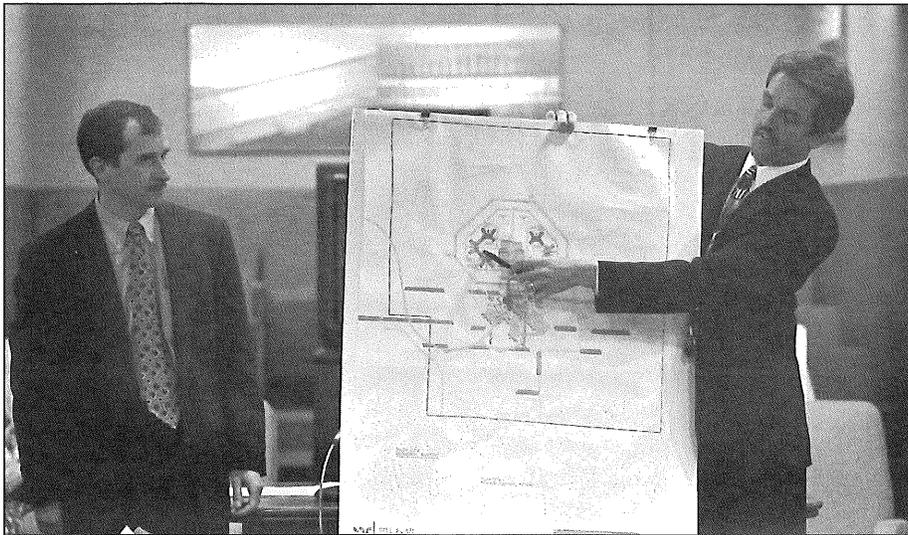
"We are trying to be responsive to the pressure I think we're all feeling to try to do more with less," said Dennis Benson, deputy commissioner for the department. "... We're here today with our hat in our hand to try to get this thing built to deal with our [inmate] population problem."

Proponents of double-bunkings succeeded in getting a provision into the 1996 law authorizing the development of an alternate plan including double-bunking in one of the so-called pods, or sections, where inmates will be housed.

But concerns are surfacing now about the extent of double-bunking called for in the revamped prison plan.

"It doesn't say, 'at least one pod.'" It says 'one,'" said Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey). "Clearly the law has to be changed before this can go ahead."

Benson tried to allay concerns about the large number of inmates who would be sharing cells. He described the state's experience with double-bunking at medium-security facilities and detailed the factors considered when selecting inmates for shared cells.



David Crist, *left*, and Dennis Benson, both from the Department of Corrections, present revamped design plans for a new state prison to be built in Rush City, Minn. The officials met with members of the House Capital Investment Committee and the Judiciary Finance Division Jan. 23.

Double-bunking is opposed by some who contend that it poses an increased risk to the safety of staff and inmates.

"This is a calculated risk business," Benson said. "We have a program that we think will address those kinds of concerns, and we're prepared to move ahead with it."

The Department of Corrections also is seeking a change in state law to allow double-bunking in the higher security prisons. Currently, double-bunking is allowed for up to half the population at medium-security facilities, such as Faribault, Lino Lakes, and Moose Lake.

The department wants to create a six-level custody system that uses numbers to indicate the level of security, one being the minimum and six being the maximum. Double-bunking would be allowed at level four and under.

Oak Park Heights, now considered maximum-security, would be level six. Stillwater and St. Cloud, both classified as close-custody facilities, would be level five. Rush City would be level 4.

Double-bunking would not be allowed at Oak Park Heights, Stillwater, and St. Cloud because of the age of those facilities and the size of the cells. Cells at Rush City are planned at 84.2 square feet. St. Cloud's cells are only 48 square feet, and Stillwater's are 60 square feet.

Benson said the new Rush City proposal has improved recreational and industrial space, providing for more programs important to controlling the inmate population.

"Virtually the only time we're going to have two people in the same cell is during sleeping hours," Benson said.

Still, not all members of the joint panel seemed ready to endorse the department's

plan.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) argued that Minnesota should not join other states in "a mood that is dangerous," whereby inmates are treated "like animals."

"I am concerned about double-bunking, and, frankly, I don't give a damn what other states are doing," he said.

Further discussion on the prison is expected at a later date this session.



## EDUCATION

### Removing the caps

The House Taxes Committee unanimously approved legislation Jan. 23 that would remove statutory caps now in place on K-12 education funding.

The caps, passed during a special session in 1995 and effective with the start of the 1998-99 biennium, would effectively cut education funding by \$337 million, primarily by reducing the per-pupil amount each school district receives from the state. Other reductions would alter the formula used by the state to calculate funding levels for secondary students.

Much — at times heated — discussion focused not on the removal of the caps, a move which has broad bipartisan support, but on an amendment to **HF1** to alter the complex formula that determines how much money each school district receives. The goal of the amendment, offered by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), was to hold the line on property taxes in those districts with excess levy referendums or high property taxes in place as a result of the caps. It was rejected on an 18-5 vote.

Many committee members agreed with Abrams' idea in principle, but said **HF1** was not the place to put it.

"I believe this [amendment] will endanger the passage of this legislation," bill sponsor Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) said. "The leadership has called for a clean bill."

Others said such tinkering could lead to similar tactics in the Senate, which could ultimately derail the legislation. It would be better to wait for the House's omnibus K-12 education or tax bills to make such a change, Johnson said.

Abrams, though, remained adamant that his amendment be adopted, and said that the future funding-formula changes might "slip through the cracks."

House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) reminded the committee that any changes to the bill would violate the letter, if not the spirit, of the House leadership's vow to present the governor with an unadorned **HF1**, and could make it harder to pass future legislation, such as welfare or property tax reform.

"Let's vote it down and move on," Winter said, calling for a roll-call vote on the amendment.

The committee referred **HF1** to the House Ways and Means Committee.



## GOVERNMENT

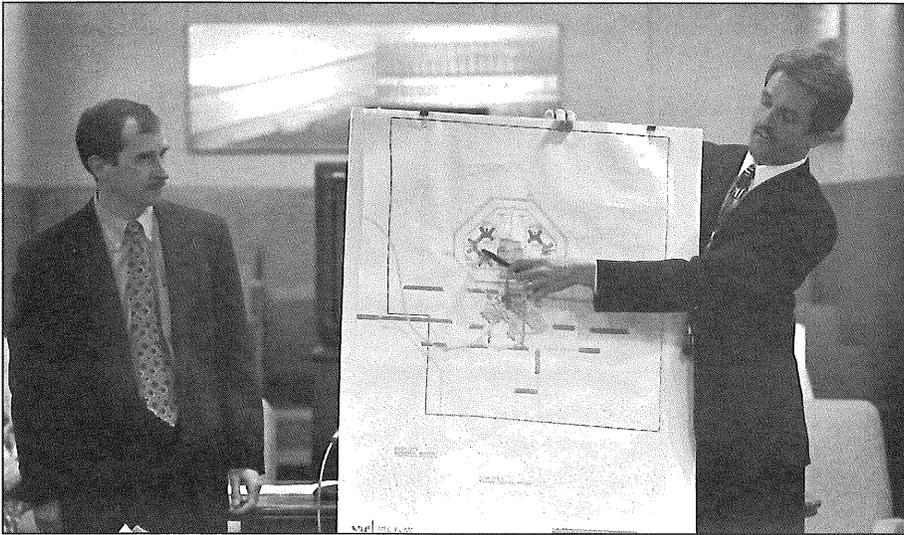
### Emergency snow removal

This winter's severe weather has many Minnesota communities piling up record spending on snow plowing. Especially hard hit is southwestern Minnesota, where most counties and townships have already exhausted their 1997 snow removal budgets.

A proposal (**HF100**) sponsored by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) would appropriate \$20 million for those local governments most affected by winter storms and their aftermath. The bill was approved Jan. 21 by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Gov. Arne Carlson expressed support for such a bill in his State of the State address. **HF100** originally asked for \$25 million but was amended to match Carlson's \$20 million proposal and a similar measure (**SF87**) introduced in the Senate.

The House bill provides that grants can be made to local units of government for: "snowplowing for emergencies because the snowplowing budget or other resources are



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The House bill provides that grants can be made to local units of government for: "snowplowing for emergencies because the snowplowing budget or other resources are

depleted; emergencies due to severe weather and its aftermath, which may include flooding, and which affects or threatens public safety; and required matching funds under 1997 federal weather-related disaster declarations."

Grants are divided into three categories by the bill. The commissioner of public safety would be authorized to make grants up to \$5,000 to counties, cities, and towns for severe weather-related matters. Grants of up to \$10,000 would require the approval of the governor. And for grants of more than \$10,000, the governor would have to consult with a legislative advisory commission. State agencies also would be eligible to apply for grants of more than \$10,000.

"The winter storm situation has been fast moving and accumulating," said Jim Franklin, director of the Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management. He told committee members that there have been seven Presidential declarations of emergency related to weather this winter. "The bill will allow us to evaluate the emergency requests we receive from local governments, take into account the federal aid available, and supplement that where appropriate."

Wenzel told the committee that Marshall, Minn., has experienced 10 major snow storms in five weeks. "The size of this problem puts us ahead of 1993 in precipitation," he said, referring to the year Minnesota experienced extensive spring flooding. "We are trying to get ahead of this and do some preventive measures."

Others admitted that the full effects of the storm have not yet been discovered.

"We don't have any hard data on the impact of the storms yet," said Joel Jamnik of the League of Minnesota Cities. "But we are hearing stories daily. There are constant reports of people digging out after being snowed in for several days. We had to issue warnings for snowmobilers to watch out for power lines. And those were not downed lines — they were in snow drifts up to the lines."

Jim Mulder of the Association of Minnesota Counties told the committee that there may be significant long-term damage from the severe winter weather that won't show up right away. "Continuous snow plowing is really hard on our roads," he said. "And we may see floods this spring like we've never seen before."

Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview) argued that HF100 should be tabled until a state-sponsored survey determines the exact extent of the need. His motion was defeated 14-2.

HF100 now moves to the House Judiciary Committee.

Snowmobiles . . .

## Lawmakers react to snowmobile tragedies

A recent string of deadly snowmobile accidents has lawmakers looking for ways to improve safety without diminishing a popular and profitable winter sport.

The Jan. 18-19 weekend saw five snowmobilers and one pedestrian die in snowmobile accidents. The death toll is 24 so far this season, fast approaching last year's 26 snowmobiling fatalities.

Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison) plans to introduce a bill that would set new requirements for snowmobile safety training and provide funds for increased enforcement and trail improvements.

"I want to make this sport safe," Peterson said. "It's a very big industry, and it's something that wasn't there for tourism 10 years ago. That's great for northern Minnesota, but they still want a safe experience."

Peterson's proposal would require snowmobilers to complete safety training and receive a special driver's license endorsement, similar to requirements now in place for motorcycle riders.

The measure also would impose a \$10 annual surcharge on registration fees for snowmobiles with engines of 335 cubic centimeters or larger. Proceeds from that surcharge, which Peterson estimates would be about \$2 million per year, would be used to boost enforcement of safety laws, to improve snowmobile trails, and to support safety training.

Peterson also wants a requirement that snowmobilers carry liability insurance. (Current law does not require that snowmobiles be insured, nor does it require insurance for boats, personal water craft or all-terrain vehicles.)

"I recognize that it's a small minority who causes most of the accidents," Peterson said. "But we cannot permit unsafe conditions and unsafe operation to continue when the toll in human life is so high."

Many of the recent snowmobiling deaths are being attributed to high speeds or alcohol or a mix of both. Most notably, a 20-year-old Coon Rapids man now faces charges that on Jan. 18 he was driving his snowmobile drunk when it struck and killed 10-year-old Josh Renken as the boy walked along a road near his Big Lake, Minn., home.

"The bad actors — the ones drinking

and traveling at high speeds — need to know that's over," Peterson said. "We're not going to tolerate that recklessness."

Another lawmaker is taking a different approach to reducing alcohol-related fatalities involving snowmobiles, boats, or automobiles.

Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake) is sponsoring a bill (HF62) that would reduce the legal blood-alcohol limit from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent for drivers of all vehicles.

"I'm doing this for the purpose of trying to save some lives," Swenson said. "Deaths on the road and through the use of recreational vehicles have been a problem for a long time."

Swenson said his bill, which was introduced Jan. 16, is part of a Mothers Against Drunk Driving effort on the state and national level to enact tougher drunk driving laws.

"The [snowmobile] fatalities of last weekend are not a new phenomena," Swenson said. "I am not pleased that these tragedies have occurred, but I am pleased that they have increased public awareness and legislative interest in this issue."

There are currently more than 250,000 snowmobiles registered in Minnesota. Restrictions on who can operate a snowmobile are mostly limited to children under age 18.

Current law allows a child of any age to drive a snowmobile on private land as long as they are accompanied by an adult. Children 12 to 14 who complete a safety course can operate a snowmobile alone on private land. Children 14 and up who complete a safety course are unrestricted in their snowmobile travels.

State law sets a 50 mph speed limit for snowmobilers on public lands or lakes. Snowmobilers traveling in ditches on county roads must adhere to the speed limit on the adjacent road.

"If you're driving 55 to 65 on the highway and you can't keep up with the snowmobiles in the ditch, then you've got a problem," Peterson said.

— Nick Healy

## Governor focuses on tax cuts, education spending

Gov. Arne Carlson doesn't promise a chicken in every pot in his biennial budget proposal, but he does want a computer in every classroom. That provision is a small part of the \$20.3 billion in state spending the governor is asking for in the 1998-99 spending cycle, a \$1.5 billion increase over the current biennium. Carlson said that his budget proposal will allow the state to achieve long-term fiscal stability, restore its AAA bond rating, and hold down the growth in state spending.

"A budget is usually seen as being about spending. But it is about much more than that," Carlson told a roomful of reporters, legislators, and onlookers Jan. 23 at the St. Paul World Trade Center. "We've worked over the last six years to bring Minnesota from a \$1.8 billion budget deficit to a \$1.4 billion surplus. This budget builds on that and reflects our priorities for bringing Minnesota into the 21st century."

In response to the governor's budget proposal, House Speaker Phil Carruthers and Majority Leader Ted Winter said there are many items that DFLers can support, although his proposals on education and property taxes are a cause for concern.

Carlson's administration forecasts a budget surplus of \$1.4 billion for the coming biennium. Based on this prediction, the governor wants to give taxpayers a one-time income tax rebate of \$261 million. Individual taxpayers would receive rebates of \$50 to \$248. He also proposes \$180 million in education tax credits and savings incentives, and \$94 million in business and other tax reductions to come out of the surplus.

Department of Finance Commissioner Wayne Simoneau noted that for the first time in 20 years, this budget achieves a structural balance. Spending for 1998-99 is projected to be less than the rate of growth in Minnesota's personal income. "In layman's terms, government should not grow at a rate faster than the taxpayer's ability to pay," he said.

The governor also wants to use \$261 mil-



House Speaker Phil Carruthers, right, took notes as Majority Leader Ted Winter, center, and Minority Leader Steve Sviggum, left, listened to Gov. Arne Carlson's state budget address Jan. 23 at the World Trade Center in St. Paul.

lion of the remaining unallocated surplus to double the state's budget reserve to an amount equal to 5 percent of the total budget. The reserve is used to prevent disruption of services or forced tax increases as a result of unanticipated revenue shortfalls. (The proposal currently pending in the Legislature (HF100) for \$20 million in emergency relief to communities impacted by this winter's severe storms would come from this fund.)

Carlson said that Standard & Poor's, a major financial rating agency, will upgrade Minnesota's bond rating if the Legislature adopts his budget parameters. (See related story, page 4.) In 1982, Minnesota's AAA credit rating was downgraded as a result of the state's fiscal difficulties. Since then, restoration of the state's financial condition has led two major rating agencies, Fitch Investors Service and Moody's Investor Service, to restore Minnesota's AAA bond rating.

The largest single item in the budget proposal is education. The governor calls for an increase of \$673 million, or 11.5 percent, in total education spending over the previous biennium.

Several of the governor's education reform ideas appear as budget initiatives. He asks for \$5 million to establish statewide testing for students in third, fifth, and eighth grade so that parents, school districts, and state officials could judge how well individual schools are performing. The governor proposes expanding the state's current education expense tax deduction by \$150 million to allow parents to receive tax credits for private school tuition, tutoring, summer school enrichment programs, home schooling expenses, and computer hardware and software purchases. A \$30 million initiative called EdVest would also allow families to establish tax-free savings accounts for higher education.

The budget seeks \$216 million for technology development including a specific initiative to link every public school to the Internet and increase the num-

ber of computers in classrooms. "We want every child to have access to computers and technology, just as we had access to textbooks," Carlson said.

Higher education also comes in for a substantial \$215 million increase in funding. \$132 million would go to the University of Minnesota and \$83 million to the Minnesota State Colleges and University system.

Other highlights of the governor's 1998-99 budget proposal include:

- A comprehensive restructuring of state welfare programs in response to the federal government's elimination of Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The major element in the governor's plan is the statewide implementation of the Minnesota Family Investment Program, a pilot program which ensures that work is rewarded. The budget also calls for a \$90 million increase in child care services, considered a key element in

allowing parents currently receiving AFDC to go to work. (See related story, page XX.)

- \$3.4 billion for transportation including the largest road construction program in state history. \$890 million would go for state highway construction, \$10 million for metropolitan transit, and \$3 million for outstate Minnesota transit.
- \$880 million, a 13 percent increase, is proposed for environmental and recreation programs including \$25 million to double ethanol fuel production subsidies, \$2.1 million for grooming and maintenance of local and state snowmobile trails and \$7.8 million for continuation of the Motor Vehicle Transfer fee for Superfund cleanup activities.
- A mere \$26,942 increase in state aids and credits to local government. "I'll be blunt," Carlson said. "The formula for local aid is not equitable. Some local governments are getting 70-90 percent of their budgets from the state. That's like going to a restaurant, ordering a meal and sending the bill to another table."

The DFL leadership in the House of Representative agreed with some of the governor's proposals. "We strongly support welfare reform with an orientation on work," said House Speaker Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center). "We also applaud his increase in higher education funding and efforts to control growth in spending by state agencies."

Carruthers expressed concern that the governor's budget "offers little real increase for K-12 education and virtually freezes property tax relief. There is almost no increase in the general school aid formula."

Much of the governor's proposed increase in education funding really represents restoration of \$337 million in cuts in state aid, Carruthers noted. Another \$180 million is taken up by the Governor's proposed tax credits and deductions for private schools, summer camps and private computers, he added.

"It's a mixed message," Carruthers said. "We support a lot of what he's doing — but we want to strongly support education and job training. The best place we can put education dollars is the general per-pupil aid formula. At the same time, we recognize problems in schools cannot be addressed by dollars alone, but also requires accountability for the use of the tax dollar."

Winter (DFL-Fulda) said rural residents will likely be disappointed that the governor continues to stress income tax relief when rising property taxes are a much more urgent problem.

"He's proposing a one-time income tax giveaway when we really need property tax relief," Winter said.

Carruthers said House DFLers look forward to getting more precise details on the governor's budget next week. That will start the legislative budget making process, including multiple public hearings.

"I look forward to working with the governor on the budget," Carruthers said. "That will be the key to a successful and smooth legislative session."

— Steve Compton



Administrator for the House Judiciary Committee Greg Bergstrom, left, and Rep. Geri Evans look over the reference collection of guns at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Jan. 17 as part of a committee tour of the bureau.

## It's a fact!

In Mexico, the press is notorious for its cozy relationship with politicians at all levels of government. The situation is so bad that in February 1996, President Ernesto Zedillo ordered all his ministers to stop paying journalists for favorable coverage.

Such practices fly in the face of Minnesota's proud reputation as a good government state. But history shows that not all local scribes were committed to reporting all the news from the statehouse that was fit to print. At least one appears to have received state dollars to color his prose.

In 1907, H. E. Samuelson was hired to serve as the House press gallery sergeant for the 1907 and 1909 legislative sessions. For his services, he drew a modest paycheck of \$5 per day. In current dollars, that's more than a \$24,000 annual salary.

Trouble was no press gallery existed, "and Mr. Samuelson did no work of any kind in connection with that position, except draw his salary," an outraged Carl J. Buell wrote in his text *The Minnesota Legislature of 1909*.

In fact, Samuelson was employed as a political reporter for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and specifically covered House activities for the newspaper during his tenure as press gallery sergeant.

"I think it is only fair to infer that he was given about a thousand dollars of the people's money to color his legislative correspondence," Buell wrote.

There is no mention of other newspapers or reporters who might have been entangled in a similar kickback scheme, but the problem certainly never grew to be of modern-day Mexican proportions. According to *Forbes* magazine, a highly placed Mexican source said that if the payment-for-coverage scam were to stop, "this loss of revenue may bankrupt some of the local newspapers."

Welfare changes . . .

## State braces for law ending 'welfare as we know it'



Cindy Selmon of Minneapolis knows of people who use their monthly welfare check to buy crack and booze instead of feeding their children.

Kathy Munt of Rush City, Minn., knows of schoolmates who got pregnant so they could qualify for welfare and not have to work.

And Charles Lickteig of Stacy, Minn., knows of a family encouraging a tradition of welfare with each new generation.

These attitudes anger all three Minnesotans. It's because of abuses like these that the federal government scrapped the longstanding welfare system in August 1996. They, too, are on welfare and may soon lose their safety net.

Each will watch the 1997 Minnesota Legislature carefully as lawmakers grapple with a new federal law that "ends welfare as we know it" — just as President Bill Clinton promised. Welfare recipients know it will affect them; they're just not sure how and when.

For now, no one knows.

The only certainty is that lawmakers must react to major policy changes and limited dollars coming from the federal government. Debate on legislation outlining Minnesota's response to the tougher welfare restrictions is expected later this month.

The federal law does away with monthly welfare checks and food stamps for many legal immigrants and eliminates disability cash assistance for people with drug and alcohol addictions. It also eliminates cash assistance for children with certain behavioral disabilities and requires able-bodied adults, ages 18-50, who receive food stamps to work.

Perhaps the most significant change involves poor families with children. The law requires these parents to get a job and sets a five-year-lifetime limit on their welfare benefits. States that do not get these parents to work

will be penalized by the federal government.

While the federal law prescribes much of what states are required to do, it leaves each state to decide how to design its own welfare system.

For their part, states will decide who qualifies for welfare, what the income limits will be, how much cash assistance to dole out, and whether to spend state dollars to help legal immigrants and others whose benefits have been cut off by the federal law.

Minnesota, like all states, faces several challenges, most of which will cost money:

- creating jobs that pay a livable wage and match the skills of people on welfare;
- expanding job training programs;

- locating and paying for child care for all those welfare families now required to work; and
- creating a safety net for children in families whose parents refuse or can't find work, or whose welfare benefits run out.

### The welfare alphabet

Unlike the old system, poor families no longer have a guarantee or entitlement to welfare.

Specifically, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) has been eliminated and replaced with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), which will send a block grant to each state.

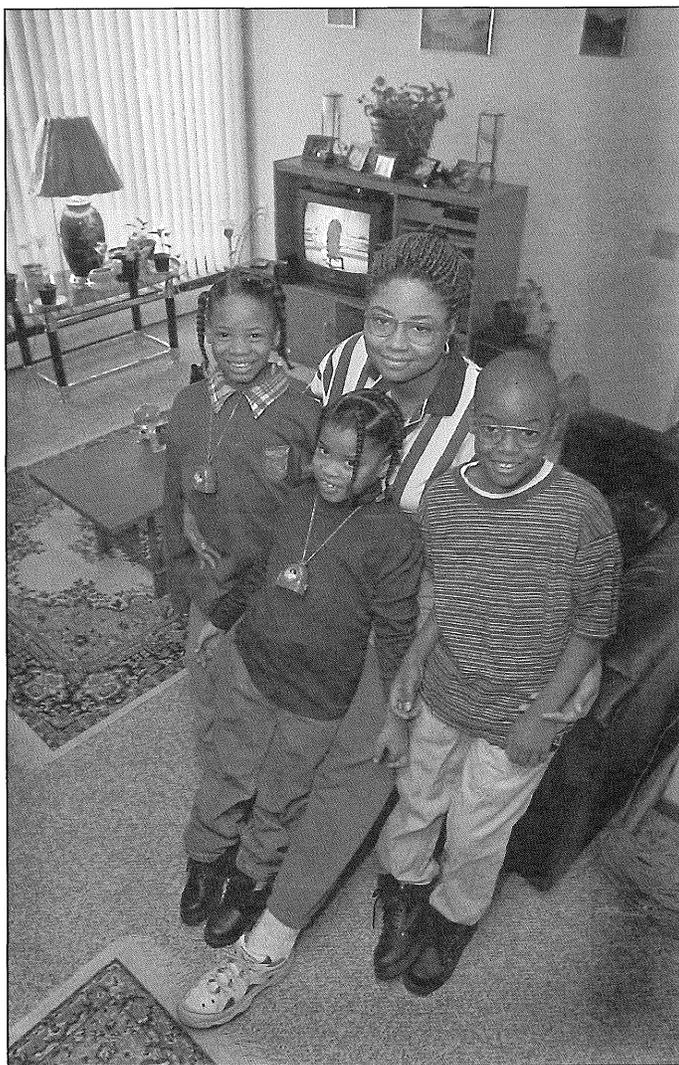
In all, the federal government will spend more than \$16 billion annually over the next six years. Minnesota expects to receive about \$268 million each year, which is about \$44 million more per year than it currently receives.

The federal money, however, comes with tough restrictions on who can receive the cash and for how long. Under the new rules, families receiving monthly welfare checks must find work within two years and there is a five-year lifetime limit on receiving help. States have the option of paying for more assistance after five years, but the dollars must come out of the state's own coffers.

States also have the option of limiting public assistance to fewer than five years and could deny benefits to children born or conceived while the parent is on welfare. It is unclear what Minnesota lawmakers will do.

Currently, a typical AFDC family in Minnesota — a mother with one child — receives \$437 per month on AFDC. A mother with two children receives \$532 per month. The monthly benefit has not changed since 1986. An estimated 160,000 people (108,000 of whom are children) receive AFDC benefits each month.

It's important to note,



Cindy Selmon, a Minneapolis mother on welfare worries that a new federal welfare law may force her to work instead of finish her nursing degree. Pictured from left to right are Selmon's three children: Brandy, 7; Jennifer, 5; and Johnathan, 8.

however, that more than 50 percent of the families who receive AFDC leave the program on their own in two years and do not return, according to Deborah Huskins, an assistant commissioner with the Department of Human Services.

The clock on the new federal five-year limit begins ticking when the state submits its plan to the federal government detailing how it will meet the new welfare restrictions and move folks into the job market. States have until July 1, 1997, to submit their plans. There are stiff cash penalties — in the form of reductions to a state's block grant — for failing to meet the deadline.

Currently, 13 percent of Minnesota's 52,000 AFDC families have been on welfare steadily for the past five years, according to the Department of Human Services.

States are under a great deal of pressure to move people off the welfare rolls. Beginning with fiscal year 1997, each state must show that 25 percent of families on welfare are working at least 20 hours per week. By fiscal year 2002, the requirement jumps to 50 percent working at least 30 hours per week. There are cash penalties for states that do not meet the percentages.

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*"People think everyone on welfare is just sitting at home and watching soaps, but we're not. . . I know I'm going to get off this stuff."*

*—Cindy Selmon, welfare recipient*

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In Minnesota's case, however, state officials may get a break. Instead of moving 25 percent off the welfare rolls to work in the first year, officials here may only need to worry about 20 percent. That's because the state has seen a drop in welfare cases in recent years, and the federal government is willing to reward Minnesota for it.

Currently, about 13 percent of Minnesota AFDC families (6,800 cases) work but it is unclear if they work enough hours to meet the first-year, 20-hours-per-week requirement. Assuming they all do — which, officials warn is unlikely — another 6,200 cases would need to find work in the first year.

#### **Reality check**

The new work requirements have caused anxiety in some and disbelief in others. Some AFDC families are frantic, especially those who can't afford child care and those in school studying for a career. Others don't think the federal law is real.

"Some of the women just don't believe its going to happen. They don't believe the cuts are real. They figure the federal government will step in when the five-year limit hits," said Lynn Shellenberger who runs a Twin Cities project called Sister to Sister, a mentoring program that brings together AFDC mothers and those previously on welfare.

If the new law is to work, said Shellenberger, a former welfare mom herself, government and the private sector need to come up with several million more dollars for job training and child care.

According to the Minnesota Department of Economic Security, the state has plenty of jobs available for welfare families joining the ranks of the employed. But, that news makes social workers shake their heads. The availability of jobs is only part of the problem. People on welfare need to be trained to take those jobs and too many of them don't pay a livable wage to support a family.

Currently, Minnesota pays about \$28 million per year specifically to train and find work for people on welfare, according to the Department of Human Services. It is unclear if, or by how much, that will increase under

the 1998-1999 budget. Gov. Arne Carlson has called for a new \$4 million program to provide an educational "pathway" to help people move from welfare to work.

In addition to job training, child care presents a big obstacle for many welfare families trying to find work. Ninety percent of Minnesota's welfare recipients are single parents.

Minnesota is expected to spend \$82 million during the 1996-1997 budgeting period on subsidized child care for both welfare parents and the working poor. Waiting lists for subsidized child care slots are long and will grow as thousands of families move into the job market.

Some estimates suggest Minnesota will need to double the amount it spends on subsidized child care. The governor has proposed a \$90 million increase over the next two years.

Minnesota currently subsidizes child care for 15,300 welfare children and some 17,000

children whose parents are considered working poor — low-income but not on public assistance, said Barbara Yates, an assistant commissioner with the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The bottom line on child care, Yates said, is "we have some and we need more."

She stressed that child care slots must be created in the evenings, on weekends, and during odd night shifts because that is when some welfare parents will find work.

Another unanswered question is whether the state will continue to provide child care to welfare parents who attend school instead of work. It is unclear if they will be able to continue their education or be forced to work.

"Child care is a main concern," said Tabitha Carlson, a 25-year-old mother of two who relies on welfare to pay for child care while she studies social work at the University of St. Thomas.

"Under the new law, there could be a penalty for choosing to stay in school rather than going to work right away," she said. That penalty could be no more subsidized child care.

But, Carlson said, she's got to find a way to finish no matter what obstacles the federal law throws at her. "I have a vision for myself and this (new law) is not going to stop me."

Cindy Selmon, a welfare mom from Minneapolis, is studying to be a nurse at Minneapolis Community College and is juggling her three kids with her classes and a work study job. With a year of study remaining before graduation, she's worried the state will make her quit school and find a job.

"I gotta finish school or my family has little hope. . . The more I try, it seems the harder they make it for me," she said, wishing the welfare system would judge cases on an individual basis.

"People think everyone on welfare is just sitting at home and watching soaps, but we're not. . . I know I'm going to get off this stuff," she said.

Selmon, like many on welfare, wishes she just knew what was going to happen. "I need to know something. I need to know how to prepare."

#### **Immigrants**

In all, the federal welfare law is expected to save the United States more than \$50 billion over the next six years and much of that savings — \$25 billion — targets one group of people.

Nationwide, more than two million legal immigrants use one of several welfare programs. Under the law, however, virtually all

public assistance is eliminated. Again, states are free to extend welfare to those legal immigrants scheduled to be cut off, but the state must use its own money.

Minnesota is home to immigrants from all over the globe. The top five countries of origin are: Laos, Vietnam, Korea, the former Soviet Union, and Mexico. Currently, 34,000 of the roughly 100,000 legal immigrants in Minnesota receive benefits from one program or another.

The food stamp program tops the list of federal welfare programs that are now off limits to many legal immigrants. In Minnesota, an estimated 16,000 noncitizens will lose their food stamps in 1997. The average person receives \$63 per month in food coupons.

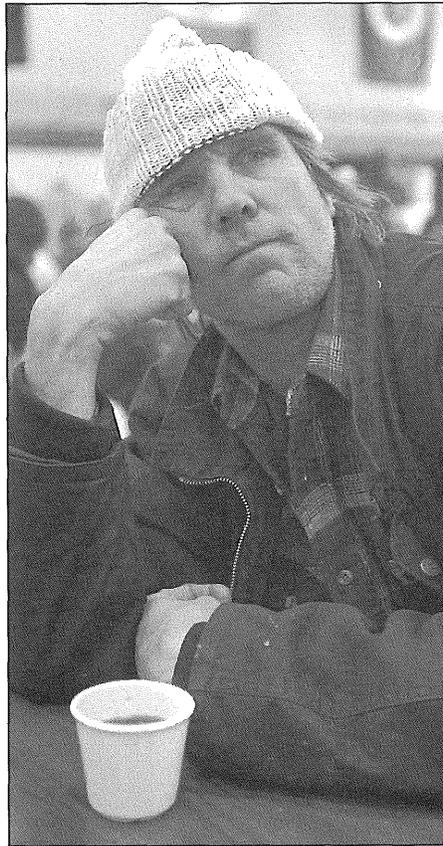
Also, many elderly and disabled immigrants will lose their Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a federal program begun in 1974 that provides cash help (an average of \$378 a month) to the needy who are aged, blind, or disabled. In Minnesota, 5,400 immigrants are expected to lose their SSI in August 1997.

There are some exceptions to the food stamp and SSI bans. For instance, legal immigrants who have worked 10 years in the United States will keep their benefits. New refugees also will be eligible for food stamps and SSI, but only for their first five years in the U.S. In contrast, refugees who have lived in this country for five years or more will lose the benefits.

In terms of the federal block grant that replaces AFDC, immigrant families with children who arrived after Aug. 22, 1996, (the day the federal law was signed), are now barred for five years from receiving any cash help. It is up to each state to determine whether immigrants already on U.S. soil at the time the law was signed should receive the benefit. If Minnesota decides they should, the law requires that the income of the immigrant's American sponsor be considered when determining eligibility.

The law also gives states the option of denying Medicaid coverage (known as Medical Assistance in Minnesota) to legal noncitizens even if they were in the country prior to the federal law being signed. Medical Assistance is a joint federal and state program that helps people who can't afford health care. New immigrants will automatically be barred from receiving Medical Assistance for five years after entry into the United States.

Certain emergency help will remain available for all immigrants — legal or otherwise — such as emergency hospital care, disaster relief, the national school lunch program, public health immunizations, soup kitchen,



Steve Jacobson of St. Paul has a cup of coffee as he waits for lunch at the Dorothy Jacobson Center soup kitchen in downtown St. Paul. Jacobson, who says he has been in and out of mental institutions, wonders how he'll survive without his monthly public assistance check.

ens, higher education, and Head Start for disadvantaged pre-schoolers.

Despite the fact that federal benefits are being taken from immigrants, there's no "mad rush" to become a U.S. citizen, said John Borden, a casework supervisor with the International Institute of Minnesota, a St. Paul center that offers U.S. citizenship classes.

The institute has scheduled additional citizenship classes anticipating a demand. But the expected rush hasn't materialized. "They aren't going to start coming until they start seeing that the pinches are real," Borden said.

He expects the state to soften the cuts somewhat but not nearly enough to replace the federal dollars. "There's going to be an awful lot of suffering for some people."

#### Program hopping

Folks cut off from federal welfare may now qualify for one of several state programs, but the state must find ways to pay for the increased demand.

In Minnesota, two state programs offer help to those in poverty who do not qualify for Medical Assistance or Supplemental Security Income.

General Assistance offers about \$203 a month to those who are ineligible for other welfare programs. General Assistance Medical Care pays for necessary health care for those who are ineligible for other medical assistance programs.

The state has no program to replace the cuts in food stamps but has the option of creating one.

"I hope the state will step in or I don't know what these people are going to do," said William Yang of the Hmong-American Partnership in St. Paul.

Yang worries about his parents, who now receive public assistance. His family came to this country 16 years ago and although he became a citizen, his parents did not. His father is 85-years-old and his mother is 72-years-old. They don't understand the English language well enough to pass the citizenship test.

"Many people are like my mom and dad. It's impossible to teach the elderly the language so they can become citizens. It's easier to teach a water buffalo the flute," Yang said. "It's unfair. This is their home now. Their bones will be buried here."

But not everyone sympathizes with Minnesota's immigrants.

The cuts to legal immigrants are a fine start according to Jim Culotta, a government relations associate with the Federation for American Immigration Reform. The Washington, D.C.-based group seeks to limit immigration into the United States.

Immigrants, Culotta said, are using welfare disproportionately. "Why would we want to bring more people here when they can't support themselves? We can continue to take in the world's poor, but it is only going to work against our own country," he said. "We have plenty of poor Americans here already and we're not doing an adequate enough job of supporting them."

Those who sponsor immigrants to come to the United States, Culotta said, should be responsible for assuming the costs of all of their needs.

#### Other SSI changes

Legal immigrants aren't the only people facing the loss of their SSI checks. Until Jan. 1, 1997, some 2,800 Minnesotans with drug and alcohol addictions also were considered to have a "disability" and qualified for a monthly \$470 check.

The federal law cut them off and some cities and counties are bracing for an increase in homelessness, crime, and emergency room visits.

"These are the people who are going to turn the streets of downtown Minneapolis

## MFIP pilot program

For several years Minnesota has experimented with a welfare pilot program in eight counties that requires poor families to work if they want public assistance.

If Gov. Arne Carlson and many state officials have their way, that experiment will become permanent and spread to all 87 Minnesota counties.

The Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP) is expected to become the state's answer to a tough new federal welfare law.

MFIP allows families to accept lower paying jobs while receiving some public assistance, such as extra monthly cash and subsidized child and health care. In theory, allowing someone to work while still receiving benefits helps a low-skilled parent gain work experience and eventually obtain a better job.

Under the proposal, two-parent families statewide would be required to work immediately to receive welfare benefits. Single-parent families would be required to work within six months of receiving assistance. Parents who don't work will have their welfare benefits cut by 25 to 35 percent.

Also, in keeping with the federal law, there will be a five-year lifetime limit on receiving benefits.

Under the MFIP plan parents would leave welfare when their income reaches 120 percent of the poverty level which, for a family of three, is about \$15,600.

Under Minnesota's traditional welfare program, a family leaves welfare when its income reaches 85 percent of the poverty level. That, agency officials say, too often has discouraged people on welfare from even bothering to get a job. Families who worked typically lost income because earnings were deducted from their welfare check.

Under MFIP, going to work increases a family's income. For example, a parent with one child who would receive a combined cash-food stamp grant of \$638 per month without working, could earn

\$500 a month at a job and still receive a grant of \$456 a month.

MFIP began in 1994 as a pilot project in seven counties — Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Sherburne and Todd. Ramsey County was added in July 1996.

About 4,500 families receive welfare under MFIP and preliminary study results suggest that those people are more likely to work than those under the old welfare system.



Some 300 legislators, welfare recipients, case workers, and state agency officials met together Jan. 22 at the Radisson Hotel St. Paul to figure out how to reshape Minnesota's welfare program in light of a new federal welfare law that cuts benefits to many and requires most others to work. State Demographer Tom Gillaspay presented a statistical breakdown of Minnesotans on welfare.

and St. Paul into the streets of downtown Los Angeles," said Allison Boisvert of Catholic Charities Exodus Division.

"These people are mentally ill, not just chemically dependent. . . . These are not people who will advocate for themselves," Boisvert said, adding she knows of none who can hold down a job.

"They aren't handling it. . . . This is a crowd that doesn't handle anything."

Many children with behavioral disorders and mild mental retardation also are among

the group cut off from SSI benefits. Some 3,200 children with behavioral disorders are expected to lose their checks after July 1997 due to a more narrow definition of "disability." Their average monthly benefit is \$406.

### Food stamps

The federal food stamp program was also changed by Congress. Able-bodied adults ages 18 to 50 with no children will no longer receive food stamps unless they are working. This provision could affect some 3,400

Minnesotans who currently receive about \$65 in food coupons per month.

Under the federal law, adults without children can only receive food stamps for three months in a three-year period unless they are working. "Work" can include participating in a government work program 20 hours or more per week.

"I realize they had to do something about welfare fraud, but this law is blanket coverage and people are going to get buried under it," said Charles Lickteig of Stacy, Minn., who has been on food stamps for about two months.

"If you look three years down the road, there's no telling what can happen to a person," said Lickteig, who was hospitalized last fall after an accident.

He doesn't plan on being on food stamps long. He's studying to become a certified welder and hopes he can soon pass out of his program at Southwestern Technical College before his food stamps run out.

"Sure, there are people happy sitting on welfare and they do nothing to get off, but there are lots of people who use it only when they need it, when there's trouble," he said.

"I just want to go back to a regular life. . . . Just the [food stamp] paperwork alone kills me."

The welfare debate in Minnesota is expected to heat up quickly during the 1997 Legislative Session. Officials with the Department of Human Services say they need a state welfare law signed by March 31, 1997 or they run the risk of missing the federal summer deadline to submit state plans.

Missing the deadline means cash penalties. And, with as many poor families expecting the state to pitch in where federal dollars leave off, Minnesota can't afford to be fined.

—K. Darcy Hanzlik



At precisely 11:36 a.m. in a Jan. 23 meeting of the House Taxes Committee, Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) pointed out that in the heavens above, four planets had just come into alignment with a full moon — a situation that occurs only once every 200 years or so. If one makes a wish under such a circumstance, McElroy said, supposedly that wish will be granted, although he was quick to add that he professes no great belief in the pseudoscience of astrology.

"You may wish for whatever you want," McElroy told the committee, "but I'm wishing for property tax reform."

## Sviggum: Lawmaking one of 'best things' he's done

Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) makes the transitions between meetings, interviews, and major press conferences look effortless. Maybe that's because the 1997 session is his 19th as a legislator and his fifth as House minority leader. While serving in office is nothing new to him, he's still enamored with the job. "Outside of my family, being a member of the Legislature is the best thing I've ever done in my life," he said.

In addition, he said, he still feels challenged by the start of a new session. "Working with people means always being in a state of learning. Each session means beginning anew. It means dealing with peoples' attitudes and feelings and with new relationships. I always work to stay aware and keep doors open."

The start of the 1997 legislative session is unique in several ways. The Republican party was disappointed in its effort to gain a House majority despite Sviggum's best efforts and surest predictions. He attributes it, in part, to weakness at the top of the Republican ticket during the 1996 presidential election with Bob Dole and U.S. Senate candidate Rudy Boschwitz losing to Democrats. "If it hadn't been a presidential election year, the Republicans would be the majority in the House," he said. Still, he added, while the loss came as a blow, the final numbers also reveal a Republican victory. "We're a very close minority at 64-70. It means we'll be real players, especially when you factor in a Republican governor. Many of our initiatives will be looked upon favorably," he said. "The outcome speaks well to the candidates and the issues. We have 10 new freshmen, and they'll be good, solid legislators."

Also new is the apparent goodwill between political parties. "I genuinely feel that there is going to be a bipartisan effort to attend to the peoples' business. Hopefully, we'll focus on policy rather than power politics," Sviggum said.

Still, he's a pragmatist. "Maybe it's just

natural for there to be optimism at the beginning of the session. As the session goes forward, maybe some optimism will give way to reality," he said.

If Sviggum's outlook is tempered, it may be due to his unbending political philosophy. "I'm conservative. I'm not a moderate," he said. "I'm very traditional in my feelings and values." He believes a more conservative viewpoint is a natural outgrowth of maturity. "Maybe you've heard the idea that at 20,



House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum in his 19th session as a lawmaker is still enamored with the job.

one's politics should come from the heart, but at 40, they should come from the head."

At age 20, whether from the heart or head, Sviggum's politics took on a considerably different tone. He cast his first presidential vote for Democrat George McGovern, and joined thousands of others in protesting the Vietnam War. But his immersion in liberal

politics was never very deep. "My farming background influenced me tremendously. It gave me my values and principles; namely hard work, honesty, self-reliance, and individual responsibility." Sviggum and his two brothers farm the same 1,000 acres near Kenyon, Minn., that his family has cultivated for 100 years. Today, they grow soybeans and corn and raise beef cattle.

"One of my favorite pastimes is riding the tractor through the fields. It's very calming,"

he said. "I also enjoy heading out to the basketball court at night with the kids, just the four of us." Sviggum has three children: Hans, 16; Eric, 14; and Marit, 12. "The biggest accomplishment of my life is having three lovely, good children, with good values and principals." How did he do that? "I have a good wife," he said with a grin. Debbie Sviggum teaches high school in Cannon Falls, Minn. Sviggum also continues his long-standing activities as a basketball coach and referee.

He counts among his greatest legislative victories the bipartisan passage of a workers' compensation bill in 1995. "It helped Minnesota become competitive for jobs," he said. His biggest disappointment? "Not gathering a majority this session." That rates with another one: the failure thus far to pass an equitable funding formula for education in which the state would pick up a greater share of the tab, he said.

At least there will always be lutefisk. Sviggum, who said he's proud of his traditionalism, is also proud to be a connoisseur of lutefisk — cod soaked in lye. "I like it — love it," he said.

"The church [Vang Lutheran] puts on a big lutefisk dinner every year, and we also eat it at home. But you have to develop a taste for it." Do the kids eat it? "No. I didn't at their age either. But they will — that's tradition!"

— Celeste Riley

# Committee Information

## 1997-98 Minnesota House of Representatives

### Agriculture

487 State Office Building ..... 296-4247

**Meets:** Mon., 10 a.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 18

**Chair:** Wenzel-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Peterson-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Harder-R

Gunther-R	Otremba-DFL
Jaros-DFL	Rifenberg-R
Juhnke-DFL	Schumacher-DFL
Kielkucki-R	Skare-DFL
Kraus-R	Trimble-DFL
Kubly-DFL	Westrom-R
Kuistle-R	Winter-DFL
Molnau-R	

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Patrick J. Plonski ..... 296-4172

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Vacant ..... 296-5526

### Capital Investment

543 State Office Building ..... 296-4240

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 12:30 p.m. in Room 500S\*

**Members:** 21

**Chair:** Kalis-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Luther-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Dempsey-R

Bettermann-R	Murphy-DFL
Bishop-R	Opatz-DFL
Clark-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Davids-R	Rhodes-R
Jefferson-DFL	Rostberg-R
Knoblach-R	Smith-R
Kubly-DFL	Trimble-DFL
Lindner-R	
Mariani-DFL	Carlson-DFL
Munger-DFL	- ex officio**

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Patricia Lindgren ..... 296-5398

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathleen K. Bruss ..... 296-4271

##### Fiscal Analyst

John Walz ..... 296-8236

### Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

509 State Office Building ..... 296-9635

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 12:30 p.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 26

**Chair:** Tunheim-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Hasskamp-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Commers-R

Boudreau-R	Milbert-DFL
Bradley-R	Nornes-R
Daggett-R	Paymar-DFL
Dorn-DFL	Peterson-DFL
Entenza-DFL	Pugh-DFL
Erhardt-R	Reuter-R
Farrell-DFL	Rifenberg-R
Gunther-R	Seifert-R
Juhnke-DFL	Sekhon-DFL
Kinkel-DFL	Slawik-DFL
Leppik-R	Tomassoni-DFL
McElroy-R	

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Lois J. Knutson ..... 296-8893

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Barbara Moehrle ..... 296-4171

### Economic Development & International Trade

559 State Office Building ..... 296-4246

**Meets:** Wed., 12:30 p.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 24

**Chair:** Jaros-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Wejcman-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Van Dellen-R

Clark-DFL	Ness-R
Dempsey-R	Osskopp-R
Evans-DFL	Otremba-DFL
Gunther-R	Paymar-DFL
Harder-R	Reuter-R
Huntley-DFL	Rifenberg-R
Kahn-DFL	Rostberg-R
Krinkie-R	Rukavina-DFL
Kubly-DFL	Swenson, D.-R
Mariani-DFL	Trimble-DFL
Mullery-DFL	

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Joseph H. Dodge ..... 296-4283

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Nanette Moloney ..... 296-5402

### Economic Development Finance Division

597 State Office Building ..... 296-4201

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 500S\*

**Members:** 11

**Chair:** Trimble-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Mullery-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Gunther-R

Clark-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Jaros-DFL	Workman-R
Otremba-DFL	
Reuter-R	Kalis-DFL
Rifenberg-R	- ex officio**

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Laura K. Fenstermaker ..... 296-5069

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Mary Pat Speltz ..... 296-4178

##### Fiscal Analyst

William E. Connors ..... 296-5813

### Housing & Housing Finance Division

503 State Office Building ..... 296-0294

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 10 a.m. in Room 500S\*

**Members:** 12

**Chair:** Clark-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Kubly-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Rhodes-R

Dempsey-R	Trimble-DFL
Evans-DFL	
Jaros-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Mariani-DFL	- ex officio**
Olson, M.-R	Solberg-DFL
Sykora-R	- ex officio**

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Cathy A. Strobel ..... 296-1540

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathleen C. Regalado ..... 296-6586

##### Fiscal Analyst

Cynthia Coronado ..... 296-5384

## Education

365 State Office Building ..... 296-4255

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 34

**Chair:** Carlson-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Greiling-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Seagren-R

Anderson, B.-R	Luther-DFL
Bettermann-R	Mares-R
Biernat-DFL	Ness-R
Chaudhary-DFL	Nornes-R
Dehler-R	Olson, M.-R
Entenza-DFL	Opatz-DFL
Evans-DFL	Paulsen-R
Folliard-DFL	Pelowski-DFL
Johnson, A.-DFL	Schumacher-DFL
Johnson, R.-DFL	Sykora-R
Kelso-DFL	Tomassoni-DFL
Kielkucki-R	Tunheim-DFL
Kinkel-DFL	Tuma-R
Koppendraye-R	Weaver-R
Leighton-DFL	Wolf-R
Leppik-R	

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Nancy K. Conley ..... 296-4374

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Dori Vaughan ..... 296-3367

## Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division

537 State Office Building ..... 296-2451

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., 12:30 p.m. in Room 5\*

**Members:** 14

**Chair:** Kinkel-DFL

**Vice Chair:** McGuire-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Sykora-R

Boudreau-R	Nornes-R
Carlson-DFL	Slawik-DFL
Delmont-DFL	
Lindner-R	Kalis-DFL
Luther-DFL	- ex officio**
Mariani-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Mulder-R	- ex officio**

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Dave Green ..... 296-5318

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Karen J. Herrera ..... 296-9194

#### Fiscal Analyst

Cynthia Coronado ..... 296-5384

## Higher Education

### Finance Division

549 State Office Building ..... 296-8637

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 a.m. in Room 500N\*

**Members:** 14

**Chair:** Pelowski-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Johnson R.-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Bettermann-R

Carlson-DFL	Paulsen-R
Chaudhary-DFL	Tuma-R
Dehler-R	
Folliard-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Huntley-DFL	- ex officio**
Leppik-R	Solberg-DFL
Opatz-DFL	- ex officio**

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Susan M. Burns ..... 296-4091

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathy L. Anderson ..... 296-3806

#### Fiscal Analyst

Doug E. Berg ..... 296-5346

## K-12 Education

### Finance Division

415 State Office Building ..... 296-1072

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 a.m. in Room 5\*

**Members:** 19

**Chair:** Kelso-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Schumacher-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Koppendraye-R

Biernat-DFL	Tunheim-DFL
Carlson-DFL	Weaver-R
Entenza-DFL	Wolf-R
Greiling-DFL	
Johnson, A.-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Kielkucki-R	- ex officio**
Leighton-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Mares-R	- ex officio**
Ness-R	
Seagren-R	
Tomassoni-DFL	

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

P. Joshua Downham ..... 296-8875

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Urszula M. Gryska ..... 296-5492

#### Fiscal Analyst

Greg O. Crowe ..... 296-7165

## Environment & Natural Resources

479 State Office Building ..... 296-4282

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., 10 a.m. in Room 5\*

**Members:** 24

**Chair:** Munger-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Hausman-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Leppik-R

Bakk-DFL	Orfield-DFL
Delmont-DFL	Osthoff-DFL
Dempsey-R	Rostberg-R
Finseth-R	Sekhon-DFL
Folliard-DFL	Stang-R
Holsten-R	Swenson, H.-R
Johnson, R.-DFL	Tingelstad-R
Kinkel-DFL	Wagenius-DFL
McCullum-DFL	Westfall-R
Milbert-DFL	Workman-R
Nornes-R	

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Elizabeth R. Goihl ..... 296-8879

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Norma S. Christensen ..... 296-7175

## Environment & Natural Resources Finance

585 State Office Building ..... 296-4224

**Meets:** Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m. in  
Basement Hearing Room\*

**Members:** 15

**Chair:** Osthoff-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Sekhon-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Holsten-R

Bakk-DFL	Swenson, H.-R
Davids-R	Tingelstad-R
Finseth-R	Wenzel-DFL
Kalis-DFL	Westfall-R
McCullum-DFL	
Munger-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Peterson-DFL	- ex officio**

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Liz Anderson ..... 296-2909

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Kristine M. Henry ..... 296-5342

#### Fiscal Analyst

Jim Reinholdz ..... 296-4119

## Financial Institutions & Insurance

563 State Office Building ..... 296-4936

**Meets:** Wed., 10 a.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 18

**Chair:** Anderson, I.-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Mariani-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Davids-R

Abrams-R	Mulder-R
Boudreau-R	Ness-R
Carlson-DFL	Tomassoni-DFL
Clark-DFL	Tunheim-DFL
Knoblach-R	Van Dellen-R
Lieder-DFL	Wenzel-DFL
Mahon-DFL	Westrom-R
Marko-DFL	

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Maureen Novak ..... 296-4179

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Joan I. Harrison ..... 296-7881

## General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

579 State Office Building ..... 296-4192

**Meets:** Mon., 12:30 p.m. in Room 300N\*

**Members:** 18

**Chair:** Milbert-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Folliard-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Vickerman-R

Anderson, B.-R	Pawlenty-R
Commers-R	Pelowski-DFL
Greiling-DFL	Rest-DFL
Hasskamp-DFL	Rostberg-R
Haas-R	Skoglund-DFL
Knoblach-R	Wejcman-DFL
McCollum-DFL	Westfall-R
Osthoff-DFL	

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Laura Offerdahl ..... 296-6860

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Marree A. Boland ..... 296-4388

## Governmental Operations

367 State Office Building ..... 296-4257

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 10 a.m. in  
Basement Hearing Room\*

**Members:** 20

**Chair:** Kahn-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Hilty-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Knight-R

Anderson, B.-R	Mares-R
Farrell-DFL	McGuire-DFL
Greiling-DFL	Mullery-DFL
Jefferson-DFL	Osskopp-R
Kinkel-DFL	Osthoff-DFL
Koppendrayer-R	Reuter-R
Krinkie-R	Rukavina-DFL
Larsen-R	Tuma-R
Luther-DFL	

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Jacquelyn B. Rosholt ..... 296-4112

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Krysta Niedernhofer ..... 296-7173

## State Government

### Finance Division

471 State Office Building ..... 296-0170

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., 10 a.m. in Room 400S\*

**Members:** 12

**Chair:** Rukavina-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Farrell-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Krinkie-R

Anderson, B.-R	Osskopp-R
Hilty-DFL	
Jefferson-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Kahn-DFL	- ex officio**
Knight-R	Solberg-DFL
Luther-DFL	- ex officio**

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Brad Lehto ..... 296-5367

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Robert Humphrey ..... 296-6937

#### Fiscal Analyst

Helen Roberts ..... 296-4117

## Health & Human Services

571 State Office Building ..... 296-3248

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 10 a.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 22

**Chair:** Dorn-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Slawik-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Tompkins-R

Boudreau-R	Koskinen-DFL
Bradley-R	Lindner-R
Delmont-DFL	McCollum-DFL
Goodno-R	Mulder-R
Greenfield-DFL	Opatz-DFL
Haas-R	Otremba-DFL
Huntley-DFL	Tingelstad-R
Jennings-DFL	Vickerman-R
Johnson, R.-DFL	Wejcman-DFL
Knoblach-R	

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

M. T. Johnson ..... 296-7185

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Beth Nelson ..... 296-5494

## Health & Human Services

### Finance Division

381 State Office Building ..... 296-0173

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Fri., 10 a.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 14

**Chair:** Greenfield-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Otremba-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Goodno-R

Bradley-R	Vickerman-R
Dorn-DFL	Wejcman-DFL
Haas-R	
Huntley-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Jennings-DFL	- ex officio**
Koskinen-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Tompkins-R	- ex officio**

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Victor A. Thorstenson ..... 296-2317

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Don Jorovsky ..... 297-7202

#### Fiscal Analyst

Joe Flores ..... 296-5483

## Judiciary

477 State Office Building ..... 296-4330

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Fri., 10 a.m. in  
Basement Hearing Room\*

**Members:** 24

**Chair:** Skoglund-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Biernat-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Bishop-R

Broecker-R	Olson, M.-R
Chaudhary-DFL	Pawlenty-R
Dawkins-DFL	Paymar-DFL
Entenza-DFL	Pugh-DFL
Evans-DFL	Seagren-R
Larsen-R	Smith-R
Leighton-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Macklin-R	Stanek-R
McGuire-DFL	Swenson, D.-R
Mullery-DFL	Weaver-R
Murphy-DFL	

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Greg. W. Bergstrom ..... 296-5396

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Laurie M. Nistl ..... 296-5497

## Civil & Family Law Division

409 State Office Building ..... 296-5158

**Meets:** Wed., 12:30 p.m. in Room 400S\*

**Members:** 12

**Chair:** Dawkins-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Chaudhary-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Smith-R

Biernat-DFL	Murphy-DFL
Bishop-R	Pawlenty-R
Entenza-DFL	Skoglund-DFL
Larsen-R	Weaver-R
Leighton-DFL	

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Chris Crutchfield ..... 296-4329

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Nancy K. Anderson ..... 296-1544

## Judiciary Finance Division

557 State Office Building ..... 296-2676

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 500N\*

**Members:** 12

**Chair:** Murphy-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Paymar-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Swenson, D.-R

Broecker-R	Stanek-R
Dawkins-DFL	
Larsen-R	Kalis-DFL
McGuire-DFL	- ex officio**
Pugh-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Skoglund-DFL	- ex officio**

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Tanja Bjork ..... 296-5533

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathleen Kerr ..... 296-7191

#### Fiscal Analyst

Gary G. Karger ..... 296-4181

## Labor-Management Relations

577 State Office Building ..... 296-8659

**Meets:** Mon., 12:30 p.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 20

**Chair:** Jefferson-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Koskinen-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Wolf-R

Bakk-DFL	Murphy-DFL
Bettermann-R	Olson, M.-R
Daggett-R	Osskopp-R
Garcia-DFL	Paymar-DFL
Goodno-R	Rifenberg-R
Hilty-DFL	Rukavina-DFL
Kielkucki-R	Sekhon-DFL
Leighton-DFL	Svigum-R
Mullery-DFL	

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Susan J. Maher ..... 296-4180

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Laura M. DeRose ..... 296-2955

## Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

485 State Office Building ..... 296-4176

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 12:30 p.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 22

**Chair:** Rest-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Opatz-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Dehler-R

Chaudhary-DFL	Mulder-R
Garcia-DFL	Olson, E.-DFL
Knight-R	Orfield-DFL
Koskinen-DFL	Paulsen-R
Kraus-R	Schumacher-DFL
Krinkie-R	Skare-DFL
Kuile-R	Stanek-R
Mahon-DFL	Tompkins-R
Marko-DFL	Wenzel-DFL
Molnau-R	

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Robert D. DeBoer ..... 296-5376

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Lillian A. Pohlkamp ..... 296-9552

## Regulated Industries & Energy

591 State Office Building ..... 296-0518

**Meets:** Tues., 12:30 p.m. in Room 5\*

**Members:** 20

**Chair:** Jennings-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Delmont-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Ozment-R

Anderson, I.-DFL	Kahn-DFL
Anderson, B.-R	Kelso-DFL
Greiling-DFL	Koppendrayner-R
Hausman-DFL	Olson, E.-DFL
Hilty-DFL	Olson, M.-R
Holsten-R	Osskopp-R

Pelowski-DFL	Wolf-R
Vickerman-R	Workman-R
Wagenius-DFL	

### Staff

#### Committee Administrator

Carol Kummer ..... 296-4281

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Dianne L. Ruppert ..... 296-4279

## Rules & Legislative Administration

459 State Office Building ..... 296-5505

**Meets:** Call of the chair

**Members:** 17

**Chair:** Winter-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Pawlenty-R

Abrams-R	Munger-DFL
Carruthers-DFL	Ozment-R
Goodno-R	Pelowski-DFL
Greenfield-DFL	Peterson-DFL
Kelso-DFL	Svigum-R
Leighton-DFL	Sykora-R
Long-DFL	Van Dellen-R
McCollum-DFL	

### Staff

#### Administrative Assistant to Majority Leader

Mary E. Faust ..... 297-8168

#### Committee Legislative Assistant

Teri T. Remke ..... 296-7171

## Taxes

443 State Office Building ..... 296-0171

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10 a.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 27

**Chair:** Long-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Bakk-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Macklin-R

Abrams-R	Milbert-DFL
Anderson, I.-DFL	Olson, E.-DFL
Carruthers-DFL	Orfield-DFL
Commers-R	Ozment-R
Daggett-R	Rest-DFL
Dawkins-DFL	Seifert-R
Erhardt-R	Skare-DFL
Garcia-DFL	Van Dellen-R
Harder-R	Winter-DFL
Hasskamp-DFL	
Johnson, A.-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Kraus-R	- ex officio**
McElroy-R	Solberg-DFL
	- ex officio**

**Staff**

**Committee Administrator**

John D. Skare ..... 296-8880

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Gerrie Boice ..... 296-5388

**Fiscal Analysts**

William E. Connors ..... 296-5813

Mary Jane Hedstrom ..... 296-1237

Matthew S. Shands ..... 296-4162

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division**

565 State Office Building ..... 296-4265

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., 8 a.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 18

**Chair:** Olson, E.-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Garcia-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Abrams-R

Anderson, I.-DFL	Ozment-R
Daggett-R	Rest-DFL
Dawkins-DFL	Seifert-R
Hasskamp-DFL	Winter-DFL
Kraus-R	
Long-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Macklin-R	- ex officio**
McElroy-R	Solberg-DFL
Orfield-DFL	- ex officio**

**Staff**

**Committee Administrator**

Dorothy M. Sawyer ..... 296-7427

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Lu Finnegan ..... 296-9463

**Sales & Income Tax Division**

539 State Office Building ..... 296-5510

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 300S\*

**Members:** 12

**Chair:** Johnson, A.-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Skare-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Erhardt-R

Bakk-DFL	Van Dellen-R
Commers-R	
Garcia-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Harder-R	- ex officio**
Long-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Milbert-DFL	- ex officio**

**Staff**

**Committee Administrator**

Ray Frost ..... 296-5508

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Nancy Haas ..... 296-8857

**Transportation & Transit**

437 State Office Building ..... 296-4200

**Meets:** Mon., Wed, 12:30 p.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 22

**Chair:** Wagenius-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Juhnke-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Workman-R

Anderson, I.-DFL	Mahon-DFL
Broecker-R	Marko-DFL
Finseth-R	Molnau-R
Greenfield-DFL	Peterson-DFL
Hausman-DFL	Rhodes-R
Johnson, A.-DFL	Schumacher-DFL
Kelso-DFL	Stang-R
Knight-R	Swenson, H.-R
Kuisle-R	Westrom-R
Lieder-DFL	

**Staff**

**Committee Administrator**

Andre P. Colaiace ..... 297-5600

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Mary M. Hale ..... 296-5486

**Transportation & Transit Finance Division**

515 State Office Building ..... 296-5091

**Meets:** Tues., Fri., 8 a.m. in Room 500S\*

**Members:** 12

**Chair:** Lieder-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Mahon-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Molnau-R

Hausman-DFL	Westrom-R
Juhnke-DFL	
Kuisle-R	Kalis-DFL
Marko-DFL	- ex officio**
Stang-R	Solberg-DFL
Wagenius-DFL	- ex officio**

**Staff**

**Committee Administrator**

Todd Iverson ..... 296-5528

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Shannon Pfarr ..... 296-4230

**Fiscal Analyst**

John Walz ..... 296-8236

**Ways & Means**

445 State Office Building ..... 296-2365

**Meets:** : Call of the chair

**Members:** 25

**Chair:** Solberg-DFL

**Vice Chair:** Evans-DFL

**Lead Republican:** Finseth-R

Bettermann-R	Macklin-R
Bishop-R	Molnau-R
Carlson-DFL	Pugh-DFL
Carruthers-DFL	Rukavina-DFL
Dorn-DFL	Skoglund-DFL
Goodno-R	Slawik-DFL
Jennings-DFL	Stang-R
Kahn-DFL	Sviggum-R
Kalis-DFL	Swenson, D.-R
Koppendraye-R	Winter-DFL
Krinkie-R	
Long-DFL	

**Staff**

**Committee Administrator**

Dan Kane ..... 296-6970

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Maxine J. Wiech ..... 296-4371

**Fiscal Analyst**

William F. Marx ..... 296-7176



Even those audited by the state come away as satisfied customers, members of the House Governmental Operations Committee's State Government Finance Division were told at a meeting in mid-January. There, the Department of Revenue's Deputy Commissioner Mathew Smith reported that of the 500 or so taxpayers who had been audited during 1996 and responded to a customer-satisfaction survey, 92 percent had been "satisfied with the audit process."

Smith then told the committee it costs the state a mere 60 cents or so to collect \$100 worth of sales tax — far less than the cost to collect the same amount of either individual or corporate franchise levies.

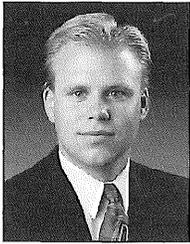
"As a small-business owner who is currently undergoing a sales-tax audit, I can tell you why it costs you less," Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview), the division's lead Republican, said sternly. "Because the business owners collect it for you."

"Well, 92 percent of you should be satisfied with that," piped up Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls).

New members . . .

## Stang stays close to constituents, rural concerns

Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring) is used to questions about his age. He heard them on the campaign trail, and he's hearing them in his early days as a member of the House.



Rep. Doug Stang

The 22-year-old is the youngest member of the 1997 Legislature, but it's a distinction he seems to pay little mind.

"Someone has to be youngest, and I guess I'm that person," he said. "In my district, this is really nothing un-

usual. Our area has a history of sending young legislators down here to St. Paul."

In fact, the region around Stang's hometown has elected several relatively youthful state lawmakers. District 14B also claims the youngest member of the Minnesota Senate, Sen. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville), 31.

A recent graduate of St. John's University, Stang's political education got a boost in 1995 when he served as a clerk for the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, then chaired by Sen. Joe Bertram of Paynesville.

"Working in the Senate in 1995 gave me an idea of what exactly it takes to be a legislator and what you need to do," Stang said. "At that point, my interest in running for office grew."

Stang once stood up at a party for Bertram staffers and joked that he wasn't sure who he might someday unseat, Joe Bertram or his brother Jeff Bertram, then a member of the House.

Within a short period of time, Stang made a bid for each of the seats once held by the Bertrams.

After Joe Bertram resigned in 1995, Stang declared his candidacy for the Senate seat, but lost in the Republican primary to Fischbach.

Stang got another chance at the Legislature when Jeff Betram announced that he would not seek re-election in 1996. This time Stang had better luck. He defeated Paynesville Mayor Joe Voss in the November general election.

Stang built his campaign around his promise to better mirror his district's values. Those values, according to Stang, center on a strong work ethic and a commitment to family.

He also plans to support a fiscally conservative agenda focusing on issues such as continued reform of the welfare system and cautious use of the forecast budget surplus.

Stang sees a golden opportunity for the state to make effective welfare system changes in the wake of last year's federal overhaul.

"There's such a strong public uproar against the current system," Stang said. "Now more than ever we have the public support to make the changes and to shift toward getting people back into the workplace."

He is taking a cautious approach to any proposal that calls for dipping into the surplus in state funds, which is forecast to reach \$1.4 billion.

"I don't like the idea of spending that money," Stang said. "If the additional revenue is there, I would like to see it spent on education if we're going to spend it on anything."

Improving public education was another theme of Stang's campaign and it is something he intends to concentrate on as a legislator.

He would like to see the state pick up a

larger share of the education spending tab to reduce the current reliance on local property taxes. And Stang has joined a chorus of legislators calling for repeal of education spending caps enacted in 1995 that would result in significant cutbacks over the next two years.

He also is among the many lawmakers who are opposed to public funding for a new baseball stadium.

"People love the Twins out in rural areas, but those people understand what their priorities are and the Legislature needs to understand those priorities as well," Stang said.

Those down-home priorities seem to be Stang's guiding force in his early days in the House, and he promises that age will not hold him back.

"The main thing is you have to earn the respect of your colleagues," Stang said. "The way you do that is by respecting them and respecting the experience that they have. That's what I've been doing, and that's what I will continue to do."

— Nick Healy

### District 14B

**1996 population:** 36,096

**Largest city:** Cold Spring

**Counties:** Stearns, Pope

**Location:** central Minnesota

**Top concern:** "The people who live in my district have a very strong work ethic and they're very family oriented. They want to see those values incorporated into the work we do in the Legislature. I want to carry those values forward, and I want to give my district honest, open-minded representation."

—Rep. Doug Stang

Lawmakers discussed streaking and got a firsthand look at their subject matter during one unusual day in 1974.

The *Rochester Post-Bulletin*, on March 14, 1974, reported that lawmakers debated a "streaking amendment" to an unrelated bill the previous day and that "nude male streakers" made their Capitol complex debut.

The tongue-in-cheek amendment, offered by Rep. Neil Haugerud (DFL-Preston), defined a streaker as "one who moves at a high speed, but not to

## Do you know?

exceed 55 miles an hour" — a sarcastic reference to the freshly established 55 mph speed limit.

The amendment also called for a \$2 registration fee for streakers and a special tax on ski masks and sneakers. And the proposal included a requirement that "night streakers" be equipped with a light on the front and a red reflector on the rear, according to the *Post-Bulletin*.

Lawmakers had some fun with the proposed amendment. One suggested that streakers in the Senate be required to wear a coat and necktie — a jab at the upper body's dress code.

The amendment never came up for a vote, but events that followed left some wondering if it should have. Moments after the proposal was dropped, three streakers scurried past the House chamber entrance.

# Bill Introductions

HF118-HF159

## Thursday, Jan. 23

**HF118—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.

**HF119—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Judges reduction of minimum mandatory fines, surcharges, and penalty assessments restricted.

**HF120—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations**

Office of technology established as a state agency, North Star information access account created, and money appropriated.

**HF121—Jefferson (DFL)**  
**Education**

Youth initiative grant neighborhood substitution provided.

**HF122—Jefferson (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**

Radio and stereo use restricted in motor vehicles.

**HF123—Long (DFL)**  
**Transportation & Transit**

Trunk Highway No. 55 in Minneapolis railroad access reduced.

**HF124—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Sentencing hearing defendant information presentation limited.

**HF125—Sviggum (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Kenyon tax levy recertification authorized.

**HF126—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

Commercial industrial property market value increased when subject to a reduced property tax class rate.

**HF127—Folliard (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

State election law modified and clarified related to voter requirements and election procedure.

**HF128—Luther (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Merchant physical search of suspected shoplifters prohibited.

**HF129—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Education**

Educational accountability and enhanced achievement provided through uniform statewide testing, improvement plans for schools in crisis, and designating distinguished teachers, school improvement fund established, and money appropriated.

**HF130—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Education**

Gopher state bonds; college savings bond program established, marketing plan development required, and bond sale authorized.

**HF131—Luther (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Tenant notification of apartment manager criminal background check compliance required.

**HF132—Luther (DFL)**  
**Economic Development & International Trade**

Housing and redevelopment authorities occupancy standard determination provisions modified.

**HF133—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Dangerous offender sentencing law violent crime definition to include felony-level domestic assault.

**HF134—Sviggum (R)**  
**Education**

Independent School District No. 763, Medford, fund transfer provided.

**HF135—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Community crime cost study by Legislative Audit Commission requested.

**HF136—Leppik (R)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Physicians allowed to prescribe and administer controlled substances in cases of intractable pain.

**HF137—Haas (R)**  
**Taxes**

Permanent and total disability homestead property tax classification requirements modified.

**HF138—Haas (R)**  
**Health & Human Services**

MinnesotaCare provider tax rate reduced.

**HF139—Ness (R)**  
**Education**

Minnesota learning academy established to provide educators and administrators technology-use training, learning resources network established, site-based grants and library site grant program provided, and money appropriated.

**HF140—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Automobile insurance card rule adoption required.

**HF141—Seifert (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Emergency snow removal funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF142—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan Airports Commission name changed to Minnesota Airports Commission.

**HF143—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Emergency snow removal funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF144—Nornes (R)**  
**Governmental Operations**

Licorice adopted as the official candy of the state of Minnesota.

**HF145—Sviggum (R)**  
**Governmental Operations**

Term limits imposed on legislative and executive offices, biennial legislative sessions and unicameral legislature provided, legislative procedures modified, state primary election date changed, and constitutional amendments proposed.

**HF146—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Stolen vehicle impoundment charges prohibited.

**HF147—Weaver (R)**  
**Judiciary**

Juvenile crime data release authorized to crime victims, terroristic threat, crime offender, child custody or visitation right provisions modified, and crime victim notification required when sentence modification occurs.

**HF148—Tunheim (DFL)**  
**Agriculture**

Turf grass research and development support continued, and money appropriated.

**HF149—Rifenberg (R)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Abortion; constitutional standard established relating to abortion, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF150—Rifenberg (R)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.

**HF151—Seifert (R)**  
**Judiciary**

Firearms; right to keep and bear arms for certain purposes not abridged; and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF152—Seifert (R)**  
**Taxes**

Used farm machinery sales tax exemption extended permanently.

**HF153—Osskopp (R)**  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Nuclear waste; radioactive waste management facility dry cask storage alternative site requirement eliminated.

**HF154—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Judiciary**

Livestock activity liability provisions modified.

**HF155—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Labor-Management Relations**

Temporary employee use restricted, and civil penalty provided.

**HF156—Slawik (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**

Secretary of State filing fees and procedures regulated.

**HF157—Rifenberg (R)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Term limits imposed on legislative and executive offices and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF158—Greiling (DFL)**  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Unicameral legislature provided with 99 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF159—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services**

Welfare reform; human services and public assistance programs and eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.

# Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.  
For information updates, call  
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## MONDAY, Jan. 27

8 a.m.

**Economic Development  
Finance Division/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**  
Tour  
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble  
**Agenda:** Site visit and briefing by the Minnesota  
Humanities Commission.

**Higher Education  
Finance Division/EDUCATION**  
500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski  
**Agenda:** Presentation by the Higher Education  
Services Office.

**K-12 Education Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso  
**Agenda:** "Minnesota Educational  
Accountability Reporting System - Feasibility  
and Design Study, Bob Bruininks, College of  
Education and Human Development,  
University of Minnesota.

**Regent Candidate Advisory Council**  
Room to be announced.  
Chr. Mary McLeod  
**Agenda:** Regent candidate interviews.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**  
Basement Hearing Room,  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff  
**Agenda:** Snowmobile report. Reports from the  
Safety Task Force; Minnesota United  
Snowmobile Association; and the Sheriff's  
Association.

10 a.m.

**AGRICULTURE**  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel  
**Agenda:** Presentations and introductions of  
major agricultural organizations and their  
representatives, including: Minnesota Farmer's  
Union; Minnesota Farm Bureau; National  
Farmer's Organization; Farmer's Legal Action  
Group (FLAG); Farm Credit Services;  
Minnesota Agrigrowth Council; Dairies  
Federation of Minnesota; Ethanol producers'  
organizations; Minnesota Pork Producers'  
Association; Minnesota Wheat Growers'  
Association; and Northwest Agri-Dealers'  
Association.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Tour  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger  
**Agenda:** Site visits and briefings by the  
Department of Health, Environmental Health  
Division.

**Health & Human Services  
Finance Division/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield  
**Agenda:** Performance report presentation:  
Minnesota Department of Human Services.

**JUDICIARY**  
Basement Hearing Room,  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund  
**Agenda:** Statistical overview of crime in  
Minnesota, Ray Lewis, Lonnie Erickson, Carol  
Weber; Minnesota Statistical Crime Analysis  
Center, Minnesota Planning.

12:30 p.m.

**Working Group on  
De-Welfarizing Daycare/  
Family & Early Childhood  
Education Finance Division/EDUCATION**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance  
Division/EDUCATION**  
Tour  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel  
**Agenda:** Tour of Ronald H. Hubbs Center for  
Lifelong Learning in St. Paul.

**GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS  
AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS**  
300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert  
**Agenda:** HF74 (Osthoff) Absentee voting.  
HFXXXX (Folliard) Change of address voter  
registration.

**LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS**  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson  
**Agenda:** Overviews of Workers' Compensation  
Reinsurance Association and Department of  
Labor.

**TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius  
**Agenda:** Global warming and transportation  
policy, Dean Abrahamson and Margaret Davis,  
University of Minnesota.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

## TUESDAY, Jan. 28

8 a.m.

**EDUCATION**  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson  
**Agenda:** HF84 (Carlson) Labor Day school  
start.  
Overview of Governor's budget  
recommendations by the Department of  
Finance.

**Judiciary Finance Division/  
JUDICIARY**  
500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy  
**Agenda:** Brief overviews of new initiatives that  
need funding by the committee: committee  
members, noncommittee members with bills  
or ideas; agencies; and public. Past  
appropriations: juvenile bonding reports from  
each judicial district; correction officer  
positions allocated in 1994, probation officer  
caseload reduction money; Violence  
Prevention Education Grants; Youth  
Intervention Program; Auto Theft Prevention  
Board; Hennepin County Chemical  
Dependency Pilot Program; African American  
Violence Prevention Program; DWI; and Public  
Safety Aid to Minneapolis.

**Regent Candidate Advisory Council**  
400S State Office Building  
Chr. Mary McLeod  
**Agenda:** Regent candidate interviews.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**  
Basement Hearing Room,  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff  
**Agenda:** Waste prevention and management.  
Waste remediation presentations by the  
Pollution Control Agency; Department of  
Agriculture; and the Office of Environmental  
Assistance.

**Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**  
300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson  
**Agenda:** Review of the Department of Revenue's technical bill.

10 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**  
Basement Hearing Room,  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn  
**Agenda:** Review of administrative rules processes.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Dorn  
**Agenda:** Welfare overview. No public testimony.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**  
500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark  
**Agenda:** Agency income limits and housing plans, Housing Finance Agency. Welfare reform proposal to deduct \$100 from families receiving rental assistance, Department of Human Services. Minnesota Housing Partnership.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)  
Division/TAXES**  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson  
**Agenda:** Presentations by House Research and Fiscal Analysts regarding the implications of K-12 funding on property tax.

11:45 a.m.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM &  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
Tour  
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim  
**Agenda:** Member tour of the Explore Minnesota Store in the Mall of America. Department of Tourism presentation.

12:30 p.m.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**  
500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis  
**Agenda:** Overview of the Department of Administration, Commissioner Elaine Hansen. Capital budget process, Assistant Commissioner Dennis Spalla.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**  
Basement Hearing Room,  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest  
**Agenda:** Presentation of Legislative Agendas: Association of Minnesota Counties; Minnesota Association of Townships; Metropolitan Inter-County Association; and Minnesota Municipal Board.

**REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings  
**Agenda:** Continuation of Jan. 21 agenda: Minnesota Telephone Association, Jerry Knickerbocker; MCI, Barry Tilley; AT&T,

JoAnne Anderson; U.S. West Communications, Phyllis Harvin.  
HFXXXX (Jennings) Utility right-of-way (discussion only).

1:30 p.m.

**WAYS & MEANS**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg  
**Agenda:** Presentation by Wayne Simoneau, commissioner Department of Finance.

4:30 p.m.

**Capitol Forum Series 1997**  
3M Auditorium,  
Minnesota History Center  
**Agenda:** How population trends will affect Minnesota's workforce, Hazel Reinhart, former State Demographer.

## WEDNESDAY, Jan. 29

8 a.m.

**Economic Development  
Finance Division/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**  
500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble  
**Agenda:** Briefings from Asian-Pacific Americans Council; Black Minnesotans Council; Chicano Latino Affairs Council; and Indian Affairs Council.

**Higher Education  
Finance Division/EDUCATION**  
500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski  
**Agenda:** Budget overview, Lisa Dereme, Department of Finance.

**K-12 Education Finance Division/  
EDUCATION**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso  
**Agenda:** Overview of Governor Carlson's K-12 budget recommendations.

**Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF)  
Division/TAXES**  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson  
**Agenda:** Property tax overview.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**  
Basement Hearing Room,  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff  
**Agenda:** Water management and water issues. Presentations from the Department of Natural Resources; Pollution Control Agency; BWSR; Department of Agriculture; Department of Health; Metropolitan Council; and Minnesota Planning.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger  
**Agenda:** HF113 (Munger) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund; Constitutional Amendment.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS &  
INSURANCE**  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson  
**Agenda:** Continuation of Department of Commerce overview.

**Health & Human Services  
Finance Division/  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield  
**Agenda:** Performance report presentation: Department of Health.

**JUDICIARY**  
Basement Hearing Room,  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund  
**Agenda:** Presentation by the Department of Corrections on prison population projections. Update on plans for meeting prison space needs. Overview of sentencing guidelines by Deb Dailey, director, Sentencing Guidelines Commission.

12:30 p.m.

**Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY**  
400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins  
**Agenda:** Presentation by the Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force on Visitation and Child Support, Julie Brunner, county administrator, St. Louis County and Peter Parilla, former chair, Sociology Department, University of St. Thomas.

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance  
Division/EDUCATION**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel  
**Agenda:** Testimony by University of Minnesota experts on factors that lead to well-developed children.

**TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius  
**Agenda:** Department of Transportation budget presentation.

1 p.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**  
Tour  
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros  
**Agenda:** Tour and site briefing by Minnesota Trade Office, George Crolick, executive director. Discussion of Office of Tourism and its efforts to promote international tourism, Steve Markuson, executive director. Discussion of the goals and operation of the Minnesota World Trade Association, D'Ann Brosnahan, executive director. (Directions and transportation information will be sent to members' offices.)

2:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Gaming/  
REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY**  
500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont

**Agenda:** Overview of Allied Charities, King Wilson.  
HFXXXX Charitable Gambling Omnibus (discussion only).  
Overviews of Minnesota Racing Commission, Richard Krueger, executive director; Canterbury Park Holding Corporation, Randy Sampson, president; Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association, Cort Holten.

**THURSDAY, Jan. 30**

8 a.m.

**Economic Development  
Finance Division/  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**  
500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

**Agenda:** Briefings from the Board of Electricity; Employment Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing; and Centers for Independent Living.

**Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/  
EDUCATION**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza

**Agenda:** Discussion of statewide testing.

**Subcommittee on School Facilities/  
EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Geri Evans

**Agenda:** Presentation and discussion of air quality in schools.

**Judiciary Finance Division/  
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Continuation of Jan. 28 agenda.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &  
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

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

**Agenda:** Land stewardship. Conservation issues: Department of Natural Resources; Department of Agriculture; and BWSR.

**Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** Review of the Department of Revenue's technical bill.

10 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

Basement Hearing Room,  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

**Agenda:** Review of public pensions, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

**Agenda:** Welfare overview. No public testimony.

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

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

**Agenda:** Discussion on guiding principles. HF97 (Clark) Emergency Services Grant.

12 Noon

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

Tour

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Tour of Lino Lakes Correctional Facility.

12:30 p.m.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM &  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Slawik) Secretary of State housekeeping.

HF117 (Rest) Requiring local units of government to license the retail sale of tobacco.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** Continuation of Jan. 21 agenda. Presentations from Association of Metropolitan Municipalities; Association of Small Cities; Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities; and League of Minnesota Cities.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

3:30 p.m.

**Subcommittee on  
Transportation Operations/  
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Sharon Marko

**Agenda:** Welfare reform and transportation.

7 p.m.

Joint

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES/  
Senate**

**HEALTH & FAMILY SECURITY**

Christ Lutheran Church,

105 University Avenue West

St. Paul, Minnesota

Chrs. Rep. John Dorn, Sen. John Hottinger

**Agenda:** Welfare reform bills: immigrant focus.

**FRIDAY, Jan. 31**

8 a.m.

**Higher Education**

**Finance Division/EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

**Agenda:** Budget overview, Lisa Dereme, Department of Finance.

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

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** Budget overview: Department of Public Safety, Donald E. Davis, commissioner and Frank Ahrens, finance director. Pipeline Safety, Charles Kenow, director. Traffic Safety, Thomas Boerner, director. Technical support services, Steve Patchet, assistant director. Driver and Vehicle Services, Kathy Burke Moore, director.

10:30 a.m.

**JUDICIARY**

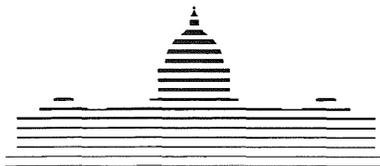
Tour

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

**Agenda:** Tour of Minnesota Teen Challenge. Tour of Harriet Tubman Battered Women's Shelter.



Rep. Fran Bradley talked to high school pages about the legislative process Jan. 23.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
175 STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1298

Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers  
Majority Leader: Ted Winter  
Minority Leader: Steven A. Sviggum

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Welfare in Minnesota

Average number of Minnesotans receiving monthly AFDC benefits, 1996 ..	174,000
As a percent of all Minnesotans .....	3.7
AFDC families headed by a single parent .....	9 in 10
Average number of people in an AFDC household .....	2.94
Percent of new AFDC families who are off the program in six months or less .....	23
Percent of state and county general fund budget devoted to AFDC, 1986 .....	2.8
in 1996 .....	1.4
Adjusted for inflation, change in the amount Minnesota spent on AFDC, in percent, 1986-1996 .....	-32
Adjusted for inflation, change in the amount Minnesota spent on Medical Assistance, in percent, 1986-1996 .....	+87
Increase in the dollar amount of monthly AFDC benefits since 1986 .....	0
Able-bodied childless Minnesotans ages 18 to 50 receiving food stamps, 1996 .....	3,400
Statewide, change in AFDC recipients, 1986-1994 .....	+33,600
Change from 1994 to 1996 .....	-18,200
Number of Minnesota's 87 counties in which the number of AFDC recipients decreased between 1986 and 1996 .....	67
Counties in which AFDC recipients make up more than 5 percent of the population .....	10
Number of those counties in northern Minnesota .....	8
Beltrami County residents receiving AFDC, highest in Minnesota .....	1 in 10
Number of expected new job openings requiring a high school education or less for every welfare recipient required to work .....	8
Number of applicants competing for every new job opening .....	3.6
Child support cases in which the state assisted with collections, 1996 .....	204,000
AFDC payments to child support clients repaid from child support collections, in millions, 1995 .....	\$55
Percent of U.S. population composed of legal immigrants .....	4.7
Minnesota population .....	1.4
Percent of federal savings from welfare reform that will come from cuts in aid to legal immigrants .....	46

Source: *Work in Progress: Federal Welfare Reform in Minnesota*, February 1997, Minnesota Planning.

### For more information



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