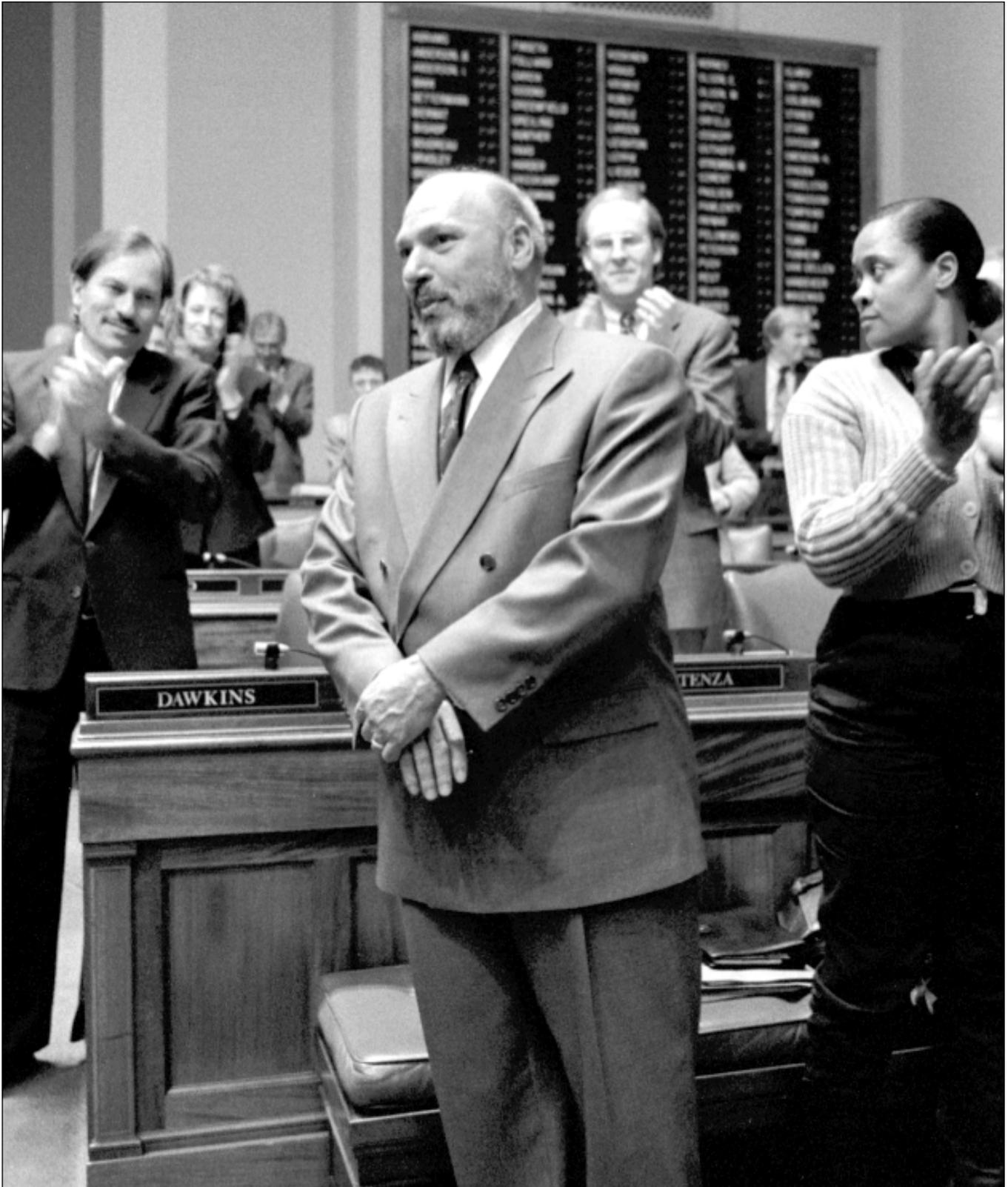


SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ February 13, 1998 ♦ Volume 15, Number 4



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Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1997-98 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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Reflections



August Wilson

Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner August Wilson came to the Capitol on Feb. 9 to garner financial support for a new African-American theater and music complex. He is the accomplished creator of the nationally known plays "Fences," "The Piano Lesson," and other successful productions on Broadway and across the country.

Wilson's first play was produced in 1981 at St. Paul's Penumbra Theatre, which is now seeking funding to expand. He touted the theater as the most outstanding African-American theater in the country. He told legislators that Penumbra's role could be expanded with the creation of an arts center that would help to interpret the African-American experience.

Legislators greet hundreds of important individuals and groups who come as guests or to support an important issue. These visitors are received in the House chamber and its private retiring room. Wilson's visit may have broken the record for the number of individuals who requested to meet the famous guest in the private area behind the chamber.

Surrounded by the room's quiet grandeur, Wilson stood before the ornate fireplace and graciously greeted the many people who wanted to take a photograph with him.

So many members, staff, and guests lined up that the number equaled the receptions held for the 1990 U.S. presidential hopefuls who breezed through, and the 1991 formal visit by then-Czechoslovakia President Vaclav Havel.

Historical records do not indicate how many people greeted Teddy Roosevelt in 1909 when he came to honor the establishment of the Superior National Forest. But it is noted that others with national affiliation were also visitors. These included Vice President Hubert Humphrey; Vice President Walter Mondale; Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Warren Burger; presidential candidate Harold Stassen; presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy; and civil rights activist and former Georgia State Sen. Julian Bond.

Like Wilson and recent visitor Minnesota Orchestra's Eiji Oue, other well-known members of the arts have come to the House members' sanctum. Visiting artists in the past included opera contralto Marion Anderson, Minnesota author and Nobel Peace Prize winner Sinclair Lewis, and Hollywood producer Otto Preminger, Sister Kenny, Joe Louis, James J. Hill, and Will Rogers are just a few other well-known figures who have come to meet House members.

With all of its formal decor, the retiring room on a late session night can be totally different from the site where a prominent playwright like August Wilson was received. In the last days of a legislative session, it is not uncommon to see pizza sharing in progress, or a wide assortment of oriental food being passed around. One might also see a couple of members resting on the original leather benches as they wait to vote on some long and intricate bill.

Obviously, a visit to the House retiring room is a public, yet private "behind the scenes" adventure.

— LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: Playwright August Wilson, two-time Pulitzer Prize recipient and Tony Award winner, is greeted by legislators and guests in the House chamber. Wilson came to the Capitol Feb. 9 to support funding for a proposed African-American arts complex.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

First Reading

When the wind blows . . .

Lawmakers develop three plans to tackle feedlot woes

By Matt Wetzel

Julie Jensen, her husband, and her six children live on a piece of land near Olivia in Renville County.

Sometimes, family members wake up with headaches, nausea, and upper respiratory problems. Jensen's daughter sometimes has trouble keeping her balance. When the wind changes, Jensen said it smells almost like a septic tank or rotten eggs.

Lisa Davies also lives in Renville County, and her residential problem is flies, which she said swarm around her home in great numbers. The children can't play on the swings, the family can't use the grill, they can't entertain guests, and they have to be very careful about opening the door, Davies said.

And what do Jensen and Davies have in common? They both live near feedlots — very large ones. Both Renville County residents testified on feedlot legislation in recent days before House committees.

Renville County is home to the cooperative pork producer ValAdco and the liquid egg producer Golden Oval Egg. And what those producers have in common is that both operate large feedlots.

A feedlot is a lot or building or combination of lots and buildings used to feed, breed, raise, and hold animals. Feedlots are designed as a confinement area. Manure can accumulate, so underneath the feedlots are manure basins, often made of clay or earth. There are an estimated 45,000 feedlots in Minnesota.

An increasing number of feedlots are found on agricultural operations that are not simply small family farms where the hogs and cattle graze and the soybean and cornfields stretch out forever.

Competition and consolidation has cut down the number of family farms and increased the number of so-called factory farms, which also increases the number and size of feedlots and the number of complaints from people who live near them.

But some in rural Minnesota believe that the larger farms are needed to keep agriculture alive, that the smaller farms can no longer compete, and that agriculture has to change with the times. They say they are fighting to keep their families in farming.

Responding to the complaints about feedlots, legislators have introduced bills trying to



Feedlots, such as the one these hogs occupy, are fast becoming the most controversial topic in rural Minnesota, and legislators are struggling to come up with a solution.

address the problems, and three significant feedlot proposals are advancing in the House.

The bills include a measure that would place a moratorium on feedlots while a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) is done, a bill that would provide for training and licensing of animal waste technicians, and a bill that would ban earthen or clay-lined manure storage facilities and establish a livestock industry and environmental steering committee.

Also, Gov. Arne Carlson's supplemental



Testimony comes from both sides of the fence concerning a bill that would limit the size of feedlots and require farmers to pay for environmental impact statements before gaining state permits to expand the size of a feedlot. Rex Oberheim, *left*, a Martin County farmer, testified in favor of the proposal and Jim Quakenbush, *right*, a Stevens County farmer, testified against the measure before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 10.

budget calls for a GEIS to be conducted on feedlots.

Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison), himself a farmer, has introduced two bills (**HF3441** and **HF3320**) related to the issue.

HF3441 is called the "Living with Live-stock" feedlot bill. The bill would require that after March 1, 2000, those who manage and apply animal wastes hold valid animal waste technician licenses issued by the Department of Agriculture. Most family farmers would be exempted.

Peterson's bill also would prohibit the issuance of a permit for clay, earthen, or plastic-lined animal waste lagoons. And no permit would be issued for a feedlot with a design capacity of 1,000 animal units or more, unless the applicant has a federal permit under the Clean Water Act. (An animal unit is a measurement of waste produced by a specific species. One animal unit is equal to one slaughter steer or heifer, 2.5 hogs over 55 pounds, or 100 chickens.)

Peterson's bill also would establish a state-wide contingency plan to contain and clean up animal waste spills, a county-by-county inventory of feedlots, and an option for counties to adopt and update new feedlot ordinances. It also calls for a GEIS.

HF3320 would place a moratorium on any new permits for construction of feedlots of 750 animal units or more or the expansion of

open-air manure storage structures until July 1, 2000, or after the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) has given to the Legislature a timeline and cost for doing a GEIS.

A third bill (**HF3421**) comes from House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), also a farmer.

Winter's bill would forbid permits to increase or establish feedlot capacities greater than 1,875 hogs, 15,000 calves, 533 dairy cows, or 750 feeder cattle, unless the applicant gets an environmental impact statement. That can cost between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

His bill would also ban open-air, below-ground earthen or clay-lined manure storage facilities after July 1, 1998. Existing structures would have to be replaced by June 30, 2001, under the bill.

Winter's bill also creates a livestock industry environmental steering committee made up of legislators, farmers, and environmentalists to perform a GEIS, which would examine long-term effects of the livestock industry and its effects on the state, including the effects on environment, the family farm, and the roles of local government.

Jeff Gresser, who is a construction supervisor from Martin County, said Winter's bill would hurt.

He said he has been busy helping construct feedlots and his business has been successful. He testified against the bill Feb. 10 before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

"If that would shut off, people would be laid off and people wouldn't have jobs. That would certainly be devastating if that happened," he said.

Linda King, an Olmsted County farmer, agreed, testifying against Peterson's moratorium bill, **HF3320**, which also was heard Feb. 10 by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. She said any farmer in business today has to expand and has to invest a lot of money.

"Minnesota's agriculture economy does affect every citizen," she said. "The Minnesota farmer will not go back to the back-breaking operation of the past. Minnesota farmers and their profits are Minnesota's greatest treasure."

Both **HF3320** and Winter's **HF3421** bill were approved by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Both bills moved to the House Agriculture Committee.

Peterson was very passionate in his presentation of **HF3441**, the "Living with Livestock" bill, which was approved by the Agriculture Committee Feb. 9 and the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 11.

"I believe the middle ground is still being worked," Peterson said. "I think I've worked

hard on [the bill], and I've got some soul in this thing. If we lose the ability to keep working toward a middle ground by defeating this tonight, in my heart of hearts, I believe rural Minnesota will never be the same. You will be owned by the corporations.

"I want my kids to own agriculture. I don't want them working for the country store. I don't believe it does any good in rural Minnesota," he said.

Rep. Ron Kraus (R-Albert Lea) said Peterson's "Living With Livestock" bill would go too far.

"It's a really important issue to my district too," Kraus said. "With so many good people on each side of the issue, why couldn't we have had more middle ground?"

HF3441 now moves the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. 🐾



Ogren enjoys private sector, recalls 'passion' of lawmaking

By Sandy Donovan

Former Rep. Paul Ogren, a DFLer who served an Aitkin-area district, says there's no job in the world like being a legislator.

"It was utterly fascinating," he said. "Your job is to champion people's needs and concerns. That's a rare privilege and it's very exciting."

During his 12 years in the House (1980-1992), Ogren championed the health-care needs of Minnesotans as an architect of MinnesotaCare, the comprehensive reform package passed by the 1992 Legislature.

Today, he continues to work in that field at Health Strategies Group, a private health-care consulting firm, and said he hopes to see the state further improve access to care for low-income citizens.

"There are far too many people who don't go to the doctor simply because they can't afford it," he said. "Today, MinnesotaCare helps over 100,000 people a year, and I think that's marvelous. But I regret that so much of the money raised in 1992 under the MinnesotaCare Act went to pay for prior and other objectives."

Although Ogren is perhaps best remembered for his work on health-care reform, he says he is equally proud of his efforts in creating the Fond du Lac Community College in 1990. While in the House, he also chaired the powerful Taxes Committee.

And although he said he would not have missed his years in the House, he also

said he is enjoying life in the private sector.

"It's terrific having a private, unlisted telephone number," he said. "And having a personal private life that cannot be intruded on at the whim of constituents is something to enjoy."

After retiring from the Legislature, Ogren campaigned for the DFL gubernatorial nomination for the first few months of 1993. He pulled out of the race in May of that year, citing the potential that his candidacy would have jeopardized the career of his wife, Associate Justice Sandra Gardebring of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Judges are prohibited by state code from participating in partisan politics.



Former Rep. Paul Ogren, the architect of the MinnesotaCare program, is in the private sector now, but he's still working on health issues.

Ogren then spent several years as executive director of the St. Paul-based Center for Health Care Access and Reform, a national nonprofit group that gathered health-care information and assisted with policy crafting.

Today, he said, he's happy in the "for-profit sector," occasionally thinking back to the "raw vitality of legislating, the opportunity to advocate with absolute and exuberant passion." 🐾

Highlights



BANKING

A student-run bank

Accounting students at St. Peter High School in southern Minnesota may have a chance to see what things are like in a real bank. Legislation advancing in the House would allow their school district to sponsor a student-run bank.

A bill (**HF2582**) sponsored by Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter) would establish a school bank as part of an educational program. The bill was approved Feb. 11 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

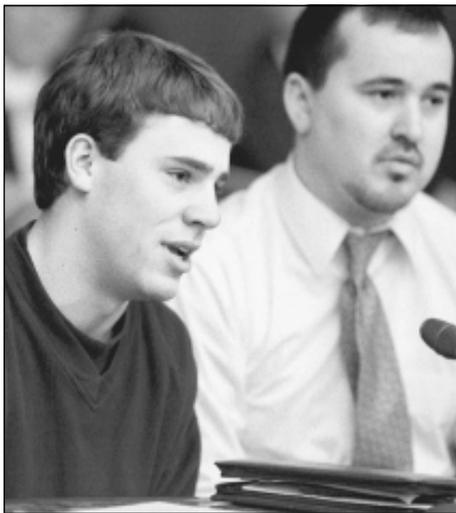
Besides the classroom instruction, students would operate a student bank, perhaps working with four St. Peter banks that have shown interest in lending a hand.

The students would handle savings accounts for other students at the high school and make small loans, according to the high school's plans.

Students would have to do many things that folks at city banks must do: maintain accurate records, establish positive customer relations, and make tough decisions.

The aim is that upon completion of the course, students would have a better understanding of saving, establishing credit, and other personal finance responsibilities.

The bank would be run by students in grades 11 and 12.



Jon Kautt, left, a senior at St. Peter High School, and George Shoenborn, an instructor in business, accounting, and banking at the school, testify in support of a bill that would establish an educational bank project in their school.

Mark Haukoos, a student who will be taking the banking course, told committee members he is eager for the chance to be part of the student-run bank.

"It teaches [students] about how financial institutions work; it puts them in real positions. It gives them experience in making loan payments and taking out loans," he said.

Lawmakers approved a similar measure in 1997 that allows students at Bemidji High School to operate a bank serving other students and employees of the school.

Johnson's bill now moves to the House floor.

Bank service charges

A bill that would limit certain bank service charges has stalled in a House committee.

The bill (**HF1278**), sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), was rejected Feb. 10 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

The proposal would limit checking account service charges at state-chartered banks and would try to persuade federally chartered financial institutions to limit their checking account service charges.

The state can't directly regulate federally chartered financial institutions, but the bill would use state and local deposits and loan programs as incentives to get them to comply with fee limits. In other words, the federally chartered banks could not be depositories for state money if they didn't follow the limits on fees.

The committee rejected a heavily amended version of Clark's bill. Earlier versions of the legislation would have placed a limit on the charges for money orders and penalties for checking account overdrafts. Clark's initial proposal also would have encouraged banks to establish low-fee checking accounts and prevented banks from clearing the largest check first when a customer is overdrawn.

The latest version of the bill has only the limit on service charges.

Some committee members tried to breathe life back into the bill the day after the proposal was rejected by the committee. But that effort — led by Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport) — came up short. A quorum was not present to vote on Marko's motion to reconsider the bill.

Women and credit history

A bill advancing in the House would address concerns of divorced women and widows who are denied loans or credit cards because they don't have an individual credit history.

The problem often arises after a divorce or a death because, in many cases, loans and credit cards were in the husband's name. Women who may have been dutiful borrowers suddenly find themselves unable to get a credit card or take out a loan.

A bill (**HF2309**) sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) would attempt to rectify that by requiring that creditors consider a credit history in the name of the applicant's spouse and that creditors report a credit history in the name of both spouses. The bill was approved Feb. 11 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Don Banks, a staff attorney with Dayton Hudson, argued that the bill would duplicate much of what is already in federal law.

When a woman applies for credit and is turned down, the creditor must tell her why, and then the woman has a chance to appeal, he said. If there's something wrong on the report, she can see about getting it changed.

Banks also said the bill would go too far in some areas.

"It would require creditors to give equal weight to a spouse's credit history as much as their own," Banks said. "The science of how to grant credit is very difficult. We pay actuaries to do that."

How to grant credit is best left to the industry, Banks said.

Jim Farnham, a credit bureau lobbyist, said he does not think getting credit is a common problem for women.

"We don't see this kind of issue coming up in consumer interviews," he said.

Leppik said the need for her bill remains. "We've heard them say the system should work, and in all probability, that is the way it does work. Then there are times when an applicant finds she has no credit history," she said. "This [bill] would give that person recourse to state court and small claims court. The applicant still has to establish her own credit-worthiness."

The bill now goes to the House floor.



CHILDREN

Gang intervention, prevention

In many cases, there are only two ways out for gang members — death or incarceration.

That's according to Denise Sjoberg, manager of the Weed and Seed Initiative, a program that assists targeted neighborhoods in eradicating violent crime and illegal drug and gang activity.

Sjoberg testified before the Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Feb. 11 in support of a gang prevention and intervention bill sponsored by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights). The committee took no action on the bill.

HF3125 would provide funding to local organizations to reach children and young adults who are either at risk for criminal gang involvement or who have expressed interest in terminating their gang affiliation.

After-school activities, job skill training, and counseling are among the services that would be offered to the young people.

Sjoberg said the bill is necessary to ensure that "kids who want out will have options."

Anthony Carter, coordinator for the Summit-University Weed and Seed program, told the panel that children as young as seven are recruited to act as lookouts during drug deals.

"Gangs recruit like colleges," he said.

The kids who are most easily lured into gangs are lacking in family and peer relationships and spiritual balance, Carter said.

Rep. Arlon Lindner (R-Corcoran) questioned the need for another gang-focused program.

There are "hundreds" of programs already in place, he said. "We can't hold somebody's hand for 24 hours a day."

Most programs are not saving the people who are already in gangs, Carter said, and there is also a need to heighten awareness about existing programs.

It's better to spend money on gang prevention and intervention, Carter said, before it has to be spent on the criminal justice system.

"We need to learn how to save lives instead of condemning lives," he said.

The issue likely will be considered again later this session.

Endowment fund for children

The latest brain research shows that the road map for successful learning develops long before a child heads off to kindergarten.

A bill (**HF3167**) that would create a permanent endowment fund to improve the physi-

cal, intellectual, and emotional development of Minnesota's youngest citizens was approved Feb. 10 by the Early Childhood Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood), the bill would submit the following constitutional amendment to voters in the 1998 general election: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to create a permanent endowment fund to enhance the development of young children through the age of four?"

Research indicates the portions of the brain that control language, emotions, and logical reasoning develop before the age of five, Slawik said.

Placing the endowment in the constitution, she said, would create a long-term funding source for early childhood education and heighten awareness of the importance of early brain development.

"The science is there; the proof is there," Jim Koppel, of the Children's Defense Fund, told the panel. "If there's any chance of us saving money in the future on social programs, we have to make this investment."

Possible sources for initial funds for the endowment include surplus dollars in state coffers, a portion of any proceeds from the state's tobacco lawsuit, or a temporary tobacco tax increase.

Additional funding could come from tax-deductible contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Glenn Dorfman, of the Minnesota Association of Realtors, pledged his organization's

support in fundraising and recruiting other donors.

"Part of the reason we haven't seen much in the way of returns [on social spending] is because we haven't spent the money in the right place," he said.

HF3167 was later approved by the full Education Committee and now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee.



CONSUMERS

Help for health care consumers

When consumers want resolutions to their health care complaints or questions, many don't know where to turn. Under **HF2649**, an office of health care consumer assistance would be created, possibly providing a one-stop center for consumer needs.

"This is not regulatory; it's advocacy," bill sponsor Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) told the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 10. "It's about navigating the system."

The committee approved the bill, which now moves to the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

The bill emerged from the Patient Protection Act of 1997. In part, that act sought to prevent health plans from interfering with the doctor-patient association and to provide consumers with accurate information regarding relationships between health care providers and health plan companies.

Head starters



Marilyn Bell, 9, and her brother Aaron, 4, play on the floor of the Capitol rotunda as their mother, Sharon, rests after a long day of promoting continued funding for Head Start programs before lawmakers. The family also attended a rally Feb. 11 as part of Minnesota Head Start/State Parent Organization Legislative Day on the Hill.

Wejcman said each health plan has its own internal process for consumer issues, and the process can be complicated. Among the bill's supporters was Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie), whose husband died of liver cancer in 1997. She agreed the system is "difficult to solve."

The proposed office would help patients and enrollees understand and assert their legal rights, get appropriate health care referrals, access the services of other agencies, help enrollees resolve complaints, and make recommendations to health plan companies on ways to streamline their consumer complaint process.

Rep. Eileen Tompkins (R-Apple Valley) said the office might be just a "Band-Aid" on a messy health care system, and asked who could possibly answer the broad range of questions the office would likely receive.

Wejcman said the governor would appoint a nonpartisan director with broad consumer advocacy knowledge, and who is qualified to address legal, administrative, and public policy issues. The director would have at least nine staff members, under the bill.

Rep. Arlon Lindner (R-Corcoran) said consumers are already confused over who to call with health care questions. Wejcman said with proper public relations, consumers would become aware of the office and its intent to provide one main stop to handle and direct all manner of complaints.

Lindner also said the office might relieve health care companies of paying someone to do the job.

Wejcman said the new office would require an initial budget of about \$700,000.

Telemarketing fraud

Telemarketing fraud is a \$40 billion industry that preys on senior citizens, according to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

A bill (**HF2794**) that would establish an outreach and advocacy network to educate senior citizens about the dangers of telephone scams was approved Feb. 10 by the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee.

The network would be facilitated by the attorney general's office working in conjunction with private organizations such as AARP and the Minnesota Senior Federation.

"Education is probably the most important thing we can do for our senior citizens," Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), the bill's sponsor, said.

Doug Davis, an AARP representative, said seniors are particularly vulnerable to phony

lotteries and "can't-miss" investment schemes.

Many senior victims are well-educated, he said, and it's a mistake to think that "unsophisticated, sweet old ladies and gentlemen" are the only ones being conned out of their savings.

Rep. Doug Reuter (R-Owatonna) questioned the need for the state to fund such a program. He said he tells his elderly father to "just hang up the phone."

Cass Welsh, a consumer fraud investigator with the attorney general's office, said victims do not know how to get off the phone.

"That generation is particularly courteous," Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) said. "It goes against the way they were raised to just hang up."

Ted Robb, president of the Minnesota Telemarketing Manager's Association, said the industry does not support the bill.

"As geographically remote as we are in Minnesota," he said, "it would work to our disadvantage to discourage sales over the telephone."

Proponents said that honest telemarketers have nothing to worry about.

"This bill will do nothing to hamper legitimate telephone solicitations, such as carpet cleaners or siding salesmen," Davis said.

"What we are talking about," Welsh said, "is the dark side of the marketplace."

The bill now moves to the State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee.

Debt collectors using aliases

Collection agents may give a name when they call to demand payment from debtors, but it isn't necessarily the agent's real name.

Under a bill (**HF2510**) sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), collection agents would no longer be allowed to operate under assumed names.

The bill was approved by the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee Feb. 10.

"The state of Minnesota currently regulates, certifies, or licenses 100 professions," McElroy said. "Debt collectors are the only professionals allowed to use an alias."

Carol Trebelhorn, president of the Minnesota Association of Collectors, said the right to use an assumed name was negotiated with the Department of Commerce 10 years ago.

Currently, debt collectors must register their given and assumed names with the department.

Collectors are required to identify themselves when they telephone someone, she said, and if there is a complaint, the real name is easily traced through those records.

Aliases are a matter of safety, Trebelhorn said. Two-thirds of the collectors are women who make between 65 and 100 calls a day.

"Telephone collectors are frequently placed in hostile situations," Trebelhorn said.

Although he is sympathetic to their potential vulnerability, McElroy said, other risky professions, such as social work or law enforcement, are not granted the same anonymity.

"I think it's a matter of consistency," McElroy said. "The essence of fairness is consistency."

The bill is headed for the House floor.



CRIME

Curbing repeated violence

A bill that would make "three strikes and you're out" the law in Minnesota was debated Feb. 9 by the House Judiciary Committee.

The bill (**HF24**) would require life imprisonment for criminals convicted of three violent felony-level crimes.

Bill sponsor Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka) said that these measures are needed to curb the rise in repeat violent offenders.

"It doesn't take a brain surgeon to know that someone who is in prison cannot commit a crime," Weaver said, whose bill is expected to come up again later this session.

A St. Paul business owner whose family has been affected by violent crime testified in support for the bill.

The man told the committee that his daughter was kidnapped and raped by a man who had nine previous felony convictions. The father asked that his name be withheld to protect the identity of his daughter.

"A woman is no longer safe when repeat felony offenders are allowed to return to the streets," the man said.

The man told the committee that his daughter was abducted outside her apartment complex in Edina and held captive for 10 hours until she finally escaped. During that time, she was beaten with a tire iron and repeatedly raped.

The man said that his daughter's life has been completely changed since the abduction. She has had to undergo reconstructive surgery and has to be tested frequently for the HIV virus because the offender has tested positive. She had to get rid of her apartment and car because of the painful memories associated with the crime, her father said.

"He took our most precious possession and destroyed her," he said. "If she must live with this her whole life, why shouldn't he? Rape,

murder, sexual assault — sentence them to life, not just a few years.”

Weaver attempted to address the concerns of the members of the committee. He said that his bill was not aimed at petty offenders. He said that it is an attempt to get violent repeat offenders off the streets.

“I want to emphasize to members that this bill does not count as a third strike shoplifting,” Weaver said. “We are talking about someone who is willing to do and is convicted of three violent crimes.”

Corrections officials have not released cost projections for the increased sentences. But Weaver said that keeping violent offenders in prison would save money in the long run.

“When you figure the cost of this bill, you cannot think about it in a vacuum,” Weaver said. “You need to consider it in the perspective of total costs saved by society.”

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) is also sponsoring a separate bill that also would address repeat violent offenders. **HF2286** would restructure current law that requires tougher penalties for “career criminals” and would reduce the number of violent crimes required to receive these harsher sentences.

Both bills were laid over for consideration at a later date.

Dealing with false allegations

In July of 1997, two Richfield police officers were accused of raping a woman during their patrol. The charge was found to be false, but, the officers said, the allegations alone were very damaging.

Both officers were cleared of any wrongdoing after a two-week investigation by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension concluded that the woman had made up the story.

The officers, who asked that their names not be used, testified before the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 6 in support of a bill (**HF3035**) that would provide new penalties for making such false accusations.

The officers told the committee that the ordeal was something that they never want to experience again.

“Some people made the comment that it’s just part of my job. Obviously, it’s not,” one of the officers said. “After 24 years, I was questioning whether I should remain in the profession.”

The bill would make it a criminal violation to harass police officers because of the performance of official duties. The bill also would add police officers to a list of judicial officials who are covered from retaliatory harassment under current law.

The committee approved the bill, which is sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls).

Dennis Flaherty, executive director of the Minnesota Police Officers Association, said that police departments are forced to deal with such false allegations as part of the job.

“All law enforcement agencies at one time or another have individuals level charges at police officers,” Flaherty said. “They do it for a wide number of reasons. They’re vindictive. They’re mad at the cop. They’re possibly using it as a bargaining chip.”

One of the Richfield police officers told the committee that he had only been on the force for 14 months when the incident took place. He said he was shocked when he arrived at work and his commanding officer escorted him out of the station.

“Here I am a brand new officer and I’m calling a defense attorney. It was really overwhelming,” he said. “To this day, I don’t think I’m as effective a police officer as I was before this incident.”

Skoglund told the committee that such false allegations impede the criminal justice process and wreak havoc on the lives and the

families of the officers involved.

“Sex charges seem to last forever,” Skoglund said. “You can’t seem to wash them off yourself.”

One of the Richfield officers told the committee that he doubted that he would ever recover from the stigma associated with the allegations.

“Professionally, my reputation means more to me than anything, and that reputation is tarnished,” he said.

HF3035 is set to be included in this year’s omnibus crime bill.

Increase in juvenile crime

The rise of juvenile crime was a major concern expressed to legislators during the October 1997 House Mini-Session in Willmar, Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) told members of the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 6.

Now Juhnke is pushing legislation that would change the way juvenile crimes are handled in the courts.

“We’re seeing a dramatic increase in juvenile crime,” Juhnke said. “The ones that concern us the most are the repeat offenders — the ones who are doing it over and over again.”

Juhnke’s bill (**HF3059**) would attempt to address such concerns by opening some juvenile court records and proceedings to the public.

For juveniles under 14 years of age, the bill would make court records available to the public if the juvenile is found guilty of a third felony or gross misdemeanor level offense.

For juveniles who are 14 years old or older, the bill would open all court hearings to the public, regardless of the offense. The records would be closed to the public when the juvenile turns 21.

The bill was approved by the committee and is set to be included in this year’s omnibus crime bill.

Drive-by shooting penalty

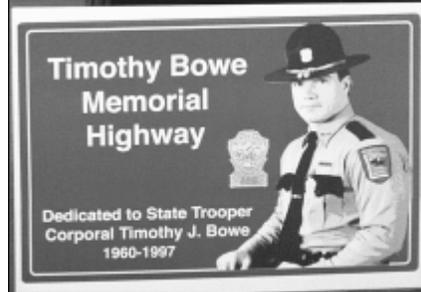
A bill that would increase the penalty for committing a drive-by shooting was approved by the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 6.

Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington), sponsor of **HF2505**, told the committee that the idea was brought to him by a constituent whose husband was shot at while driving on Interstate 35W in August 1997.

The Roseville teenager who fired the shots was initially charged with a felony level drive-by shooting charge, but eventually pleaded down to a second-degree assault offense.

Delmont told the committee that the constituent felt that the severity level of the crime

Highway memorial



Minnesota State Patrol Sergeant Russell Wicklund remembers his former colleague Timothy Bowe, the first Minnesota State Patrol officer killed in the line of duty since 1978. Bowe was shot to death last year in rural Chisago County while answering a residential shooting call. Wicklund testified Feb. 6 in favor of a bill that would designate a 14-mile stretch of Trunk Highway 95 as State Trooper Timothy Bowe Memorial Highway. The bill was approved by the finance division of the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

justified an increased penalty. Delmont's bill would raise the maximum penalty for firing into an occupied vehicle from a five-year prison term to a 20-year term.

HF2505 is scheduled to be included in the omnibus crime bill.

Convicted felons with guns

Society needs to send the strong message that if you're a convicted felon who is illegally in possession of a gun, you're going away for a long time, according to Minnesota Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III.

Humphrey told the House Judiciary Committee on Feb. 6 that stronger measures are necessary to keep the streets safe from gun violence.

Humphrey testified before the committee in support of **HF2285**, sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls).

The bill would increase the mandatory minimum prison sentence from 18 months to five years for convicted felons illegally possessing a firearm.

"This measure will send a strong message that gun violence is unacceptable here," Humphrey said.

The bill was approved by the committee and is set to be included in this year's omnibus crime bill.



DEVELOPMENT

Convention center expansion

A new proposal to finance the Minneapolis Convention Center expansion was debated Feb. 12 by the Economic Development Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.

The bill (**HF1529**) was laid over and could possibly be included in this year's omnibus economic development bill.

Last year, a different expansion proposal passed the full Economic Development and International Trade Committee, but the measure stalled on the House floor.

Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton told the full committee last year that the proposal represented a completion of the project.

The original plans, which called for nearly 500,000 square feet of floor space, were scaled back to the existing 280,000 after then-Gov. Rudy Perpich vetoed the proposed project in the 1980s. After state funds were vetoed, the city paid for the convention center with \$350 million in bonds, imposing a half-cent sales tax to service the debt.

Last year's proposal called for the state to

Visiting media



House leaders field questions Feb. 12 from about 60 visiting journalists during the annual Media Day on the Hill. Minority Leader Steve Sviggum, *left*, House Speaker Phil Carruthers, *center*, and Majority Leader Ted Winter participated in the event, which is designed to help journalists who don't normally cover the Capitol learn about the workings of the Legislature and the issues before it.

appropriate approximately \$37 million to begin construction with the understanding that a future bonding plan would include the remaining portion of the estimated \$147.5 million expansion.

The new proposal, which was included the governor's 1998 bonding plan, would allow the city of Minneapolis to issue \$175 million in bonds to cover the design and construction of the convention center expansion. The state would issue its own bonds in the amount of \$87 million and use those funds to provide a grant to the city of Minneapolis to assist with the payment on the city bonds.

The effect of this arrangement is that there would be no increase in the city's debt service costs, thereby protecting its AAA bond rating. The city would be solely responsible for cost overruns or cost savings on the project.

The governor's office projects that the \$175 million expansion will produce 4,000 new jobs and will generate \$4 million annually in new sales tax receipts.

Sayles Belton testified this year that the convention center is a statewide economic development tool because the facility showcases Minnesota businesses.

"It provides a competitive advantage for Minnesota businesses, not just in the metro area but all over the state," she said.

Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of the bill, told the committee that action would have to be taken by the Legislature this year for the city to be able to issue bonds for the project.

The Economic Development Finance Division also heard testimony on convention cen-

ter improvement projects in Duluth, Fergus Falls, Hutchinson, and Rochester. These projects also will be considered for inclusion in the omnibus economic development bill.



EDUCATION

All-day kindergarten

Children who attend all-day kindergarten do better throughout their school career than those who don't, according to supporters of a bill that would phase in a full day of school for all Minnesota kindergartners.

HF2763, sponsored by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), was discussed by the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Feb. 6. The panel took no action on the bill.

The proposal would provide money to certain schools to implement all-day kindergarten programs. Schools would qualify based on the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, and the number of eligible schools would increase annually until 2004, when all schools would receive the funding.

The bill would stipulate that in 1999, schools in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Greater Minnesota would have to have more than 50 percent of their students eligible for the lunch program to receive the kindergarten funds. Suburban schools in the seven-county metro area would have to have more than 25 percent of students eligible for the lunch program to qualify.

In 2000, the eligibility cutoff for the two groups would go down to 40 percent and 20 percent, respectively. By 2004, all schools in Minnesota would qualify for the all-day kindergarten revenue.

Qualifying schools would have the option of implementing a full-day kindergarten, and the schools could offer families a choice between full- or half-day programs. Kindergarten attendance would remain optional.

Wagenius said the bill is aimed at increasing first-grade preparedness.

"Successful young kids become successful older kids, and they don't end up in the criminal justice system," she said.

Cheryl Furrer of the Minnesota Education Association said it's appropriate to use some of the forecast budget surplus to develop all-day kindergarten, which several studies have shown to benefit children.

"It seems like the time is right to make an investment in kids," she said. "Kids represent 25 percent of the population, and I ask you, are they worth 25 percent of the budget surplus?"

But some lawmakers criticized the plan's differing levels of qualifications for the two groups of schools.

"My kids are not going to benefit from this," Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings) said. "In our district, we have poor families and we have minorities, but we don't have enough. So we're going to exclude them, and I don't think that's fair."

Wagenius said she also would prefer to see every child in the state have the opportunity to go to full-day kindergarten right away, "but we have to recognize that that's not fiscally possible."

The division will consider the bill for inclusion in this year's omnibus K-12 finance bill.

Graduation rule funding

Minnesota schools have just about eight months before the state's new graduation requirements kick in, and lawmakers are working on plans to get them additional funding to help make the new standards effective.

House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) brought his proposal (**HF3610**) before the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Feb. 11.

Carruthers' plan would give schools about \$13 million in fiscal year 1999 and about \$45 million in fiscal 2000 and in years thereafter. The money would go directly to schools for staff development and implementation of the new requirements. The division took no action on the bill.

"The purpose is to help all the people involved in our education system to implement the graduation standards," he said.

Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), the division's chair, said providing schools with money to implement the standards is her top priority this year.

"I believe this year is a critical year," she said. "If we want this major effort to go ahead, I think we have to put some money out there."

Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton), a co-sponsor of Carruthers' bill, is also sponsoring a separate bill (**HF3263**) that would provide one-time funding of \$50 million for standards implementation.

"I certainly think the ongoing funding is necessary," she said. "I'm only disappointed I didn't combine my bill with this earlier."

Carruthers agreed that ongoing funding is an integral piece of his plan.

"The theory is that the grad rule is a major change that will continue to evolve," he said. "Students and teachers will continue to work to improve the standards."

The division will consider the bills for inclusion in an omnibus K-12 funding bill.

Reducing class sizes

Reducing class sizes in public schools is on the minds of many lawmakers this year. A House panel heard three separate proposals Feb. 11 to provide funds to keep classes smaller.

All three plans target second- and third-grade classrooms, and all would provide money to schools that keep those classes to 20 students or fewer. Current law provides funding for schools to reduce the size of their kindergarten and first-grade classrooms to 17 students or fewer.

Ian Keith, who teaches sixth grade at St. Paul Longfellow Magnet School, testified about the burden of overcrowded classrooms before the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee.

He said that of the 28 children in his class, five are reading on a second-grade level.

"Three of them are learning disabled, and there they are all day, struggling with me, while at the other end I have three or four kids reading at a high-school level," he said. "It's an incredible challenge, no one is getting the attention they need, and then to those academics you add the behavior piece."

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), who is sponsoring one of the class-size reduction bills (**HF3017**), said that current class sizes are "making teaching an endurance race."

Other lawmakers — including Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), a teacher who once had a classroom of 42 students — agreed

that reducing class size is an important part of improving the quality of education.

But Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) cautioned that while "our ideal goal would be to have 15 students in each class, I think we have to set more realistic numbers. As much as we want to do that, we also have a limited amount of resources."

In addition to Entenza's bill, the division discussed **HF3233**, sponsored by Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood), and **HF3154**, sponsored by Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley).

The division took no action on the bills, but will consider them later this session for inclusion in the omnibus K-12 finance bill.

Schools, public transportation

Although some parents say they don't want their children riding public buses to and from school, a bill that would allow the St. Paul and Minneapolis school districts to seek agreements to use public transportation was approved by the House Education Committee Feb. 10.

In fact, several thousand students from those districts already ride Metro Transit buses, especially for after-school activities. But Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of **HF2919**, said current law sets some barriers to districts entering into certain kinds of agreements with transit companies.

"This bill is a way of allowing for continued dialogue," he said. "Any issue would still have to be approved by the local school board and the Metropolitan Council."

Judy Miller, a parent living in St. Paul, testified against the proposal, citing safety concerns that include longer ride times, bus stops located further from home, and the potential danger to children having to transfer buses downtown.

She also said the plan may hurt the city's program of voluntary desegregation because many parents will not want their children to ride public buses to schools across town. Three other St. Paul mothers also testified against the bill.

Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) agreed and urged lawmakers to take "a stand that the House is in favor of safety on school buses."

But Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) said the bill would not necessarily put money in front of safety — and that school districts should be trusted to look out for children's safety.

"When transportation continues to take a larger bite out of the education budget, then education suffers," she said. "We have to be

looking at other models and discussing how we can do a better job for kids.”

In the end, lawmakers determined by vote that it would be appropriate to let the districts deal with the issues individually.

“I think the testimony was appropriate, but this was the wrong venue,” Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka) said. “That testimony should be made in front of the school board who will make the ultimate decision.”

The bill now moves to the House floor.

Driver education program

Three high school students brought their proposal for a pilot driver education program to the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Feb. 9.

“We learned that there’s a public concern about teenage driving, and we wanted to connect the increased dropout rate and students not doing well in school with that,” said David Nieman, a senior at Minneapolis Southwest High School and a member of the citywide student council.

Nieman worked with seven other members of the council’s subcommittee on driving to develop a plan that they felt would provide affordable quality driver education while encouraging students to perform well in school.

The result is in **HF2483**, sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), which would provide \$2.5 million to establish three two-year pilot programs across the state.

Students would be required to have passed 80 percent of classes taken the previous year to

be eligible for the program. State funds would pay 80 percent of driver education costs (about \$210 per student) and students would pay the remaining 20 percent.

“If it was state funded, that means it could also be state regulated,” Nieman said, suggesting the state could mandate extra training for nighttime driving or other areas where teens historically have problems.

The proposal also calls for suspending the licenses of teens who drop out of school after completing the program.

David Sodenberg, of the Association for Professional Driving Instructors, said the bill would make it difficult for private instructors to compete for students. He reminded the division that a 1997 law already provides tax credits to some families for driver education expenses.

And some lawmakers said they were concerned by what they see as the discriminatory nature of the bill.

“We have a lot of students who need jobs,” Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) said. “If we pass this law, we put them in a tough place: Do they go to school and use this program, or do they continue to work for supplemental income?”

Nieman said the student council had hoped the bill would encourage teens to do well in school. He suggested the bill could be rewritten to allow principals to exempt certain students from the qualifications.

The bill is similar to current laws in Illinois and North Carolina. The division will consider the proposal for inclusion in this year’s omnibus K-12 education finance bill.

More funding for scholarships

It’s been 10 years since the state has increased funding for scholarships for American Indians, but a bill discussed Feb. 9 in the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee would change that.

HF2611, sponsored by Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), proposes \$1.5 million in increased funding over two years to three separate programs: American Indian Scholarships, American Indian Post-Secondary Preparation Grants, and American Indian Language and Culture Programs.

All three programs are aimed at increasing high school graduation rates and college attendance rates for members of Minnesota’s 11 federally recognized tribes.

Kelso said the bill was one of several recommended by an interim task force headed by Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) and concerned with finding solutions for minority and at-risk students.

“We’ve increased scholarships for students of color recently, but did not increase those for American Indians,” Kelso said.

Under the bill, each of the three programs would get funding increases of \$250,000 per year in 1998 and 1999.

Of the three, American Indian Scholarships receives the most state money, with an appropriation of \$1.85 million per year. The need-based scholarships fill the unfulfilled needs in students’ financial aid packages, which most likely include federal grants, loans, parent contributions, and student contributions.

Undergraduates are eligible for up to \$3,000 per year from the state scholarship program, and their tribes are expected to match the amount received.

That program has been around since 1955, a year when not one American Indian graduated from high school in Minnesota. In its first year, scholarships helped five American Indian students attend college, and today the program helps about 900 a year, according to Joseph Day, executive director of the state’s Indian Affairs Council.

The division set aside the bill for possible inclusion in its omnibus K-12 funding bill later this session.

Student art



Genevieve Hanson, a junior at Hinckley-Finlayson High School, takes a closer look at some student art work from around the state. The exhibit, in the north wing of the Capitol Feb. 9, was sponsored by the Minnesota Alliance for Arts in Education to promote awareness of arts education.

ENVIRONMENT

Bonding for the environment

While debate swirls over the future of Minnesota’s rebounding timber wolf population, a House committee has approved a proposal to improve a popular destination designed to introduce humans to the species.



Nancy Gibson, co-founder of the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minn., presents a bonding request for improvements at the center during a hearing at the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee Feb. 9.

Under a \$270 million bonding proposal approved by the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee Feb. 12, the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minn., would receive \$336,000 in state bond proceeds for a variety of improvements.

“Our role and mission is public education about wolves,” said Nancy Gibson, co-founder of the center, during Feb. 10 testimony before the committee.

Home to four wolves — MacKenzie, Lucas, Lakota, and Kiana — the nonprofit center is supported mainly by membership contributions, endowments, and merchandise sales from its mail order catalog.

Mary Ortiz, the center’s executive director, said the organization has more than 8,500 members from all 50 states and 38 nations.

The center estimates that over 250,000 visitors have passed through its doors since it opened in 1993. A similar number is estimated to have visited the U.S. Forest Service’s Boundary Waters permit station within the wolf center’s building.

Gibson said that with all of the traffic through the facility, improvements to the driveway and the heating and ventilation system are high priorities.

The center also intends to add exterior lighting for evening programs, build a garage, replace the lecture hall seating, repair the wolf

enclosure, and create an interactive children’s exhibit.

Noticeably absent from the bonding bill is funding for the governor’s proposed \$14 million Veterans Memorial State Park in Duluth, Minn.

Here’s a look at some of the provisions in the bonding proposal:

- The Department of Natural Resources would receive nearly \$207 million for a myriad of projects, including \$28.8 million for grants to local governments to prevent or control flood damages, \$24.6 million to improve trails in the Metropolitan area park system and connect them with existing state and regional trails, \$20.0 million to establish and maintain metropolitan-area greenways and natural areas, and \$8.3 million for safe harbors on Lake Superior.
- The Board of Soil and Water Resources would receive \$27.1 million. Of that figure, \$16.8 million would target wetlands for protection under the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program. Under RIM, landowners are paid to retire certain lands from agricultural production or place wetlands into conservation.
- The city of St. Paul would receive \$14.0 million to develop the Como Park Education Resource Center at the Como Zoo. The center would focus on fostering children’s appreciation of animals and the environment.
- The Minnesota Zoological Gardens would receive \$3.2 million for roadway and parking lot improvements. The Apple Valley zoo also has requested \$1.5 million in supplemental funding for 1998 to make up for a serious shortfall in gate receipts last summer.

The bonding proposal now moves to the House Capital Investment Committee.

Living snow fences

Minnesota lawmakers spent \$20 million last year to help cities and counties recoup some of their weather-related costs from record-breaking snowfalls during the previous winter.

Of that money, a total of \$11 million was distributed to local governments for snow removal expenses.

A bill that aims to reduce the need for such spending in the future was approved Feb. 9 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

HF1561, sponsored by Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), would fund a voluntary program for landowners to plant and maintain trees, shrubs, and grass strips alongside roads in an effort to control drifting and blowing snow.

“I think last winter was a good testament as to why we need this bill,” Finseth said.

The bill would provide \$500,000 for grants to soil and water conservation districts to enter into cost-sharing contracts with landowners. The contracts could provide for annual payments to the landowners to cover land and maintenance costs.

North Dakota has a similar new program, Finseth said, and the initial results are promising.

“Franklin Roosevelt promoted living snow fences during the Dust Bowl days,” Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) said. “They were very effective.”

The bill now moves to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

GAMBLING

State lottery advertising

The Minnesota State Lottery needs a bigger advertising budget and would benefit from promotions tied to holidays, according to George Anderson, director of the Minnesota State Lottery.

Anderson testified in support of **HF3104** before the House Regulated Industries Committee, which approved the bill Feb. 10. The proposal now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee.

The bill, sponsored by Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington), would allow the state lottery to have holiday themes in its advertising and game strategies. State law currently prohibits lottery advertising from “exploiting” a religious holiday.

Legislators said they did not want to see religious symbols used by the state lottery, but amended the wording of the bill to allow depiction of figures such as Santa Claus or a Christmas tree. Anderson estimated the state loses \$5 million to \$10 million dollars per year under that prohibition.

That estimate is on his knowledge of holiday-themed promotions in the gambling industry, “which are very popular,” Anderson said.

The bill would also increase from 2.75 percent to 4 percent the maximum amount of annual gross revenues that the lottery can spend on advertising. Anderson said the change wouldn’t necessarily mean more advertising, but would help maintain an adequate level of advertising.

Anderson said advertising rates on Twin Cities television stations have risen 64 percent in the past five years, and Twin Cities’ radio advertising rates have risen 20 percent. In

Duluth, radio advertising rates are up more than 30 percent in the past five years, he said.

"This would add about three or four million dollars to our advertising budget," Anderson said.

He said retail signage, which involves wiring for lights in the signs, has also aged and needs to be replaced. In Minnesota, state lottery retailers receive signage free of charge, so some of the new advertising dollars would be used for new signs.

The bill also would allow the state lottery to pay a bonus of not more than 10 percent to lottery retailers if lottery sales rise over the previous year. The bonus would be distributed among retailers in proportion to their sales.



GAME & FISH

More time for ice fishing

Resort owners and anglers who have been disappointed by an unusually mild winter may get a lift from a bill heading for the governor's desk.

The bill, which would extend the 1998 ice fishing season until March 1, passed the House Feb. 11 on a 125-0 vote.

The season is normally closed the third Sunday in February. The additional two-week window this year would give resorts an opportunity to capture some lost revenue and anglers a chance to make up for lost time.

The Department of Natural Resources supports the extension; however, the department would have the authority to close the season in the event of an early thaw.

Another provision in the bill would extend the deadline for ice fishing houses to be removed from lakes.

State law mandates that the ice fishing houses be removed from lakes by the end of February. The bill stipulates that if the last day of February falls on a Saturday, the deadline should be extended by one day.

That's the case this year, so the deadline to get ice fishing houses off lakes would be March 1.

The bill (**HF2492/SF2111***) is sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls). The Senate approved the proposal Feb. 12 on a 47-0 vote.

Moose odds increase

Ten-time losers in the Minnesota moose hunting license lottery might get lucky this year under a bill (**HF3275**) the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee approved Feb. 9.

Sponsored by Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm), the bill calls for 5 percent of the moose licenses issued each year to come from a pool of applicants who have applied at least 10 times to no avail.

Roger Holmes, director of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Natural Resources, said there were 198 permits issued out of 16,899 applications last year.

Holmes said the moose harvest was 152, which means those fortunate few who win the license lottery have good odds for success.

The bill now moves to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.



GOVERNMENT

Unicameral legislature bill

Supporters of the switch to a unicameral legislature in Minnesota had their chance Feb. 9 in the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee, but they were unsuccessful.

A bill (**HF581**) sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) that would have placed the constitutional question on the ballot in November was defeated on an 11-5 vote in the committee.

However, there are several other unicameral proposals that the committee did not act on, and those measures could be considered later this session.

Hausman's bill would create a unicameral (one-house) legislature called the senate with 135 members, each of whom would serve four-year terms.

If voters were to approve the constitutional amendment, the new model of legislature would begin in January 2003.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) said she likes the idea.

"With a bicameral legislature, too much power is concentrated in the hands of the conferees. With a unicameral legislature, we wouldn't have a conference committee, therefore, everything could always be amended," she said.

When similar bills are approved in the House and Senate, conference committees convene to reconcile any differences. Once agreement is reached in the conference committee, a bill is sent back to each body for final approval, and that bill cannot be amended. Lawmakers must accept or reject the conference committee report as is.

During the meeting, Sen. Dave Kleis (R-St. Cloud) told committee members that he visited Nebraska, the only state that has a uni-

cameral legislature, and liked what he saw.

"They've never had a serious effort to go back to a bicameral legislature," he said.

Nebraska's constitution was amended in 1934, and the first unicameral legislature there convened in 1937. Nebraska's Legislature is nonpartisan and has 49 senators. The move was made during the Depression to save money.

"Ninety-nine percent of city councils are unicameral," Kleis said, and some cities are bigger than some states. Canada has a unicameral legislature, as do the governing boards of most businesses.

"They don't have two boards of directors," Kleis said.

But Kleis had a hard time selling some members of the committee, including Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope).

"Comparing city councils with legislative bodies in my mind is a silly comparison and one you best not make," she said.

Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona) said conference committees are not as undesirable as critics have said.

"The conference committees are open to the public, they resolve the difference in two bills, then it goes back to both chambers. I would think you would open yourself up to less public input [with a unicameral legislature]," he said.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) also had concerns about the one-house legislature.

"Speeding up the process at a time when people have less access to government because of events in their lives holds some concerns for me. This might work well in Nebraska, but I just have a great deal of difficulty [with it]. It's apples to oranges," she said.

Kleis said the goal of the unicameral system is greater efficiency, not greater speed.

"When it works in Nebraska, it's a very deliberative process. If you do it once, it's a very deliberate process," he said. "You have better responsiveness to the people that send you here in a unicameral legislature."

Asked what might be different in a Minnesota with a unicameral legislature, Kleis responded, "Maybe there wouldn't be as much cynicism in government."

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), chair of the committee, said a "fatal flaw" in the bill is the proposed four-year terms, which he considers too long.

"If you want to get rid of accountability in government, I can't think of a better way to do that," he said.

Funding request defended

With charts and graphs in hand, representatives of the Office of the Attorney General appeared before a House committee Feb. 9 to defend their 1999 funding request.

Gov. Arne Carlson used his line-item veto authority to strike the office's entire 1999 budget of \$24.4 million last year, citing "unnecessary, imprudent, and unacceptable" growth in the department.

"The governor's veto was unprecedented," Lee Sheehy, chief deputy attorney general, told the State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee.

Carlson reinstated \$22.5 million for the office in his supplemental budget proposal this year, but Sheehy and Deputy Attorney General Margaret Chutich said they need about \$3 million more to operate effectively in 1999.

Chutich, who heads the office's law enforcement division, said the office has had to turn down counties' requests for help on tasks including homicide prosecutions, drug investigations, and white-collar crime investigations.

"If the rate of referral in homicide cases and the rate of growth in criminal cases continues without more funding, there will be more declinations," she said.

The pair also defended their office against Carlson's charges of spendthrift practices.

"Our services are a bargain," Sheehy said. "Our rates are substantially lower than in the private sector . . . [and] our attorneys are not even at 85 percent of the compensation levels of other public service attorneys."

Sheehy also noted that through the office's efforts, millions of dollars are reclaimed for the state, including, for fiscal years 1996 and 1997: \$23 million to the state treasury, \$27 million to Minnesota consumers, and more than \$200 million in defeated claims against the state.

The office's 1999 proposed budget is divided into three categories: \$13.6 million for law enforcement, \$2.2 million for agency representation, and \$8.7 million for defense and prosecution of civil claims.

The division will consider the request for inclusion in its omnibus state government finance bill.

Youth empowerment

Saying he doesn't often make such promises, Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) assured two young people Feb. 11 that his committee would approve their funding request or he would "personally hold everything else up."

Becky Jarvis, 16, and Tangene Hayslett, 20, appeared before the State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee to support the Minnesota Alliance with Youth.

The youth-empowerment movement grew out of the Presidents' Summit for America, an April 1997 national gathering in Philadelphia to promote community volunteerism.

"We have youth and adults at the table together and a lot of our goals turn out to be similar," Jarvis said. "Youth needs to be empowered to talk about problems and to take responsibility for them."

Both Jarvis and Hayslett spoke about their own experiences dealing with disenfranchised youth.

"Just having someone who you know is interested, someone who says 'good job' makes the difference," Hayslett said.

Donna Gillen, the alliance's director, said the organization works throughout the state developing resources, such as relationships with mentors, aimed at helping "young people to fulfill their promise."

She said the organization relies heavily on existing institutions — schools, churches, businesses — to build partnerships between youth and the rest of the community.

The alliance is asking the state for \$1.5 million. The bulk of the group's budget comes from private sector donors including Dayton Hudson, General Mills Inc., Lutheran Brotherhood, and Pillsbury.

The group has also received \$49 million from various state agencies.

The division will consider the request for inclusion in its omnibus state government finance bill.



HUMAN SERVICES

Child protective services

Minnesota is one of 10 states in which child protective services are provided by county rather than state employees. A study by the legislative auditor reveals child protection investigations vary widely among counties, partly because counties do not uniformly interpret maltreatment definitions in Minnesota law.

A bill sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) proposes to appropriate money for pilot projects that would create more uniformity statewide. The bill (**HF2985**) also would focus on prevention for abused and neglected children.

The House Health and Human Services Committee approved the policy part of the bill Feb. 12. The appropriations part of the bill was

sent to the committee's finance division.

Gov. Arne Carlson has called for \$10 million for child welfare services in his current budget. Entenza's bill requests \$30 million. Some of that would go to three metropolitan and three rural counties for a pilot project aimed at improved child protection oversight.

The bill would provide \$3,500 for each of 2,100 assessments in the pilot project during each of the next four years. Entenza said that figure would include the salary of the case worker, services provided, counseling, parental support, and other related services.

Entenza said the cost of removing a child from a home runs from \$11,000 to \$34,000. In 1996, \$164 million was spent on out-home placements in Minnesota. Only \$31 million was spent on prevention through family preservation services.



INDUSTRY

Telephone companies pay

The dynamics of telecommunications have brought numerous players into the industry, but when the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) allocates costs incurred during its investigations, telephone companies pay the charge.

That would change under a bill (**HF3123**), sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris). The bill would charge the costs incurred by the PUC to all parties involved in a proceeding that comes before the commission.

The House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee approved the bill Feb. 5.

The bill was prompted, in part, by a case that involved the reselling of a service provided by a utility.

Jerry Knickerbocker, of the Minnesota Telephone Association, told of a case in which a local phone company claimed that a service user was improperly reselling the service provided by the phone company. The phone company argued this before the PUC and was found to be correct.

"And lo and behold the telephone company gets the bill for the cost of this proceeding," Knickerbocker said. "The company pays for being proven right. The commission has no ability at the present time to assess anyone other than telephone companies."

Knickerbocker said the changing nature of the industry is likely to mean similar cases will multiply, not diminish. He said the effect of the current arrangement means telephone customers ultimately and unfairly foot the entire bill.

The committee made a change to the bill

after hearing from citizens concerned that the proposal would deter individuals from bringing a case before the PUC.

Alvin Huff, who represented the American Association of Retired Persons, told the committee that telecommunications issues are too complex already, and "the end result of this bill will have a chilling effect on dialogue" between citizens and the PUC.

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) asked, "Why would an individual come before the PUC if the individual has to pay part of the cost?"

The bill was amended to exclude citizens and certain "end-users" of telephone services from footing a portion of the bill for PUC actions. The altered bill now moves to the House floor.



LAW

Omnibus family law bill

The omnibus family law bill (**HF2784**) was approved by the Civil and Family Law Division of the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 11.

The most ambitious portion of the bill is a somewhat altered version of the parenting plan proposal backed by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul).

The parenting plan proposal (originally introduced as **HF1323**) would restructure state law to focus on joint decision-making between the two divorced parents.

Under current law, the courts establish custody in situations where the placement of the child is an issue after marriage dissolution. Courts designate a custodial parent, and all decisions concerning the child are made by that parent.

Under the new language, parents involved in marriage dissolution proceedings would be provided the option to compose a plan that would ensure significant participation by both parents in all decision-making. The document would outline visitation and custody issues for the child. Courts would then approve the parenting plan.

Initially, the bill required that this option be instituted by the courts statewide. The latest version of the bill creates a pilot project and gives each judicial district the power to decide whether or not to participate in the pilot.

The omnibus family law bill, sponsored by Dawkins, now goes to the full Judiciary Committee.

Creepy crawler



Minnesota Zoo volunteer Maryce Carl shows off a giant African millipede to 3-year-old Jeffrey Wieters, of Big Lake, Minn., as his sister Joy, 5, looks on. Minnesota Zoo staff were at the Capitol rotunda Feb. 10 for a rally to highlight the zoo's mission and goals.



METRO AFFAIRS

Met Council members elected?

Under a proposal headed for the House floor, members of the Metropolitan Council would be elected and some would serve on both the council and the board of commissioners in their home county.

Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring a bill (**HF2588**) that would change the way members of the Metropolitan Council are selected.

"A significant government entity with this kind of taxing power should be elected," Orfield said, during Feb. 11 testimony before the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Orfield has introduced several bills calling for an elected Metropolitan Council in recent years, including one last year that passed the Legislature but was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

The Metropolitan Council was created in 1967 and is responsible for regional planning in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. It's one of the largest regional governments in the country and oversees the regional bus system, wastewater treatment facilities, and Metro Mobility, a transit operation that serves disabled people.

Its annual budget is \$360 million, partially paid by property taxes. It has approximately 3,500 employees. The council is governed by a

board of directors appointed by the governor. There are 16 members, each representing a different portion of the region, and a chair.

Orfield's latest bill drew much debate during committee hearings on the matter.

Under the proposal, the Legislature would redistrict the metropolitan area after the 2000 census into equal-sized council districts.

When a council district is wholly within a county, the district would be the same as the county commission district. Thus, the person elected in that district would serve on both panels.

For Metropolitan Council districts not within a single county, only candidates for a county board could file (separately) for election to the Metropolitan Council. If elected to both offices, they would serve in both offices.

So it would have the effect of making county commissioners in each county members of the Metropolitan Council.

"I think the main thing the bill addresses is the aspect of accountability," said Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland), a co-sponsor of the bill.

Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt testified in support of the bill.

"We feel there is a disconnection between the constituency and the Metropolitan Council members," she said.

But Rep. Ron Kraus (R-Albert Lea) had some concerns about the proposal.

"One of the pluses of having the governor appoint [the Metropolitan Council] is that there is some turnover from time to time," he said. "What happens if they're elected forever

and ever? Do you worry that someone will get on and then be on it forever and a day?"

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) said she does not like the idea of county commissioners serving on the council.

"A lot of the decision-making is dependent on the council serving as a regional group. I think there would really, truly be a conflict," she said. "I have some real problems with those people maintaining their neutrality to the people that elected them."

The bill was approved Feb. 11 by the metropolitan affairs committee and Feb. 12 by the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.



MILITARY

NATO expansion resolution

A bill calling for a resolution to ask President Clinton and Congress to support the admission of Poland, the Czech Republic, and the Republic of Hungary to NATO passed the House Feb. 9.

A NATO expansion to include those three countries is anticipated in April 1999, pending U.S. Senate approval. That body is expected to vote on ratifying the necessary treaty within the next two months.

HF2417, sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), passed on a vote of 117-2.

Jaros spent about two months translating for NATO troops in northeastern Bosnia last summer.

"My idea is that every country should join NATO, and then once everybody is joined in support of peace, we won't need any more armies," he said.



TAXES

Dependent care tax credit

A measure that expands the eligibility for the dependent care tax credit — particularly for parents with children in day care — was approved Feb. 12 by the House Taxes Committee.

The bill (**HF2804**) is sponsored by Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood).

The state currently allows a child care tax credit equal to a percentage of child care costs, up to a maximum of \$720 for one child or \$1,140 for two or more children. That credit begins to decrease for parents making \$17,340 per year and is completely phased out for parents making \$31,080.

Slawik's bill would decrease the rate in which the credit is phased out and increase the in-

come at which the credit would be completely phased out to \$45,080 a year.

"What the tax credit really is about is children, and young children," Slawik told the committee.

She said with seven of 10 mothers in the workforce and five of six mothers with children under six working, there is a need for that help. The cost for having two children in child care can be \$9,500 per year, she said.

Claudia Grant, owner-administrator of Capitol Child Care, said the bill is important for young families.

"Early entry career people really struggle to pay for child care. It's a good attempt at helping their families be self-sufficient," she said.

The bill is set to be included in this year's omnibus tax bill.



TRANSPORTATION

New transportation fund?

Minnesota has averaged one proposed constitutional amendment a year since 1980, and a bill that would create a new state transportation fund would maintain that pace.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport), proposes that voters decide whether there should be a constitutional amendment to establish a new transportation fund for highways and public transit.

The fund would receive all revenues from state motor vehicle license taxes (about \$485 million) and 20 percent of the revenue from the motor vehicle sales tax (about \$80 million), and the money would be reserved for highway and transit purposes.

The bill (**HF3265**) was approved by the House Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 9 and sent to its finance division, which has yet to take action on the bill.

The bill also requires that funding for State Highway Patrol enforcement on state trunk highways, other than commercial vehicle enforcement, come from the general fund, rather than the trunk highway fund. The bill also would forbid the use of highway dollars to construct buildings.

The new transportation fund — which would be dubbed the intermodal surface transportation trust fund — would provide revenue for highway, bridge, and transit projects. The intent is to create a fund that can be used to match federal transportation funds, including dollars for options such as light rail transit.

"We don't have the dollars to match every one of these funds," Marko said, "and we need some flexibility for optional transportation methods."

Specifically, she would like to see Minnesota in a better position to secure funds available under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).

In 1991, ISTEA was considered revolutionary federal transportation policy. Federal allocations were to be tied to state funds with an emphasis on preserving, or making more efficient use of, current transportation systems. ISTEA was also to encourage innovative transportation solutions.

ISTEA also allowed funding to be "flexed" from one program to another. Giving state and local decision-makers funding flexibility enabled inter-city rail to continue or expand operations, for instance.

Part of the intent of **HF3265** is to provide the state with funding to solve its transit, traffic, and parking problems in the Twin Cities area. In that region, construction for new highway projects is estimated to exceed \$55 million a mile. And while roughly 250 miles of new highway was laid in the Twin Cities area in the past 20 years, only 20 miles of additional highway is planned in the next decade.

Rural areas of Minnesota, where the cost of highway construction is considerably lower, also would be eligible for matching federal funds under **HF3265**.

Marko's bill calls for the proposed amendment to the state constitution to be placed on the November 1998 ballot.

Since 1980 there have been 18 proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot, of which 13 were adopted. Amendments to the constitution may be proposed by a majority vote of both the state House and Senate. A majority vote of the total number of persons voting in the next state general election is required to ratify proposed amendments.

Graduated licensing for teens

In an attempt to diminish the number of accidents involving younger drivers, 26 states have enacted graduated licensing for teenage drivers. The concept requires younger drivers to meet minimum requirements en route to attaining full driving status.

Minnesota would join those states under a bill (**HF2532**) sponsored by Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley). No Minnesota teen below the age of 17 would be eligible for a full driver's license under the bill. Currently, Minnesota teens can earn full driving privileges at age 16.

The House Transportation and Transit Committee approved the bill Feb. 11; it now moves to the committee's finance division.

Under the bill, drivers in Minnesota would

have to be 16 years old and possess a learner's permit for at least six months to be eligible for a provisional license. The applicant would have to be free of traffic violations or convictions in the six months before application. Applicants also would have to complete an approved driver education course.

The provisional license would allow unsupervised driving between 5 a.m. and midnight. Exceptions would be made for trips related to employment, education, or religion. Drivers under 18 applying for an adult license would need to hold the provisional driver's license for at least a year and incur no driving convictions or violations.

During the 1997 session, bills for teen graduated licensing were introduced in both the House and Senate. The House bill stalled in the Transportation Committee. Its companion bill in the Senate reached the floor but never came up for a vote.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 35 percent of deaths in the 15 to 19 age group result from motor vehicle crashes. In 1996, 6,319 traffic deaths occurred in the 16 to 20 age group.

In a graduated licensing system, full driving privileges are phased in, with the teen gradually accumulating driving experience. The first such model was developed 20 years ago by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The bill also would create youth-oriented driver improvement clinics for young and novice drivers with a history of improper driving practices. The clinics would require up to nine hours of training at a cost of no more than \$50.

Light rail transit

The prospect of a light rail transit (LRT) system in the Twin Cities moved closer to reality Feb. 9 when the House Transportation Committee approved a bonding proposal that would provide \$106 million toward LRT development.

The LRT funds would provide \$99 million to build a transportation line from downtown Minneapolis to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and Mall of America. The line is being called the Hiawatha Avenue Corridor.

The state's \$99 million would be matched with \$200 million in federal transit capital funds.

The remaining \$7 million for LRT in the bonding proposal would be used to study expansion of the LRT into St. Paul and other corridors and to study commuter rail development.

LRT typically serves urban-suburban mar-

Harriet Island plan



Errol Fernandez-Edwards, *right*, coordinator and design team member of West Side Riverfront Planning and Development, speaks about the cooperation his group has had with the city of St. Paul on plans to redevelop Harriet Island. Tim Agness, *left*, of the St. Paul Parks Division also testified Feb. 6 before the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

kets with short distances between stations. Commuter rail primarily serves the urban market, and is characterized by station-to-station distances of about 2.5 miles. It uses existing rail lines.

The bill calls for \$24 million to be available in fiscal year 1999 for the Hiawatha Corridor project and \$25 million for the project in each of the subsequent three fiscal years.

An earlier Hiawatha Corridor plan called for \$100 million for the project and \$6 million in studies for future expansion. However, an

additional \$1 million was shifted to fund commuter rail studies for the Young America rail line from Carver County to Minneapolis and the Bethel rail line linking Cambridge with the Northstar Corridor of the LRT system in Anoka County.

The bonding proposal also calls for \$34 million for local bridge replacement and rehabilitation.

The bill (**HF2373**), sponsored by Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston), now moves to the House Capital Investment Committee.



Rep. Eileen Tompkins (R-Apple Valley) indicated she was having a difficult time hearing testimony from Ralph McQuarter, of the Department of Human Services, during a meeting of the finance division of the House Health and Human Services Committee.

"I'm a soft-spoken person," McQuarter said, which prompted committee chair Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) to say: "We'll have to change that. It doesn't work well around the Legislature."

Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters) had a point to make while the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee finalized its bonding recommendations Feb. 12.

During a flurry of last-minute amendments and requests for even more money, he spoke up.

"I've been voting 'no' on all of these amendments, and I don't want any of the members to take it personally," Kalis said. "I'm just practicing."

Kalis chairs the House Capital Investment Committee, through which all requests for bonding dollars must pass before going to the House floor.

A bill that would license naturopathic physicians (**HF396**) was removed from the House Health and Human Services Committee agenda Feb. 12 after it became apparent it would not be heard in the Senate this session.

Sponsored by Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls), the bill is the fourth of its kind since 1986.

Before Wejcman pulled the bill from consideration, she said, "I don't normally support a unicameral legislature, but I'd favor it this morning if it means we could get rid of the Senate."

New member . . .

Ray Vandever to focus on taxes, education, crime

By Grant Martin

Recently elected Rep. Ray Vandever (R-Forest Lake) likes to put his money where his mouth is.

"I firmly believe we have a strong and good form of government," he said. "But it's also very delicate, and it depends on one thing and that's citizens being involved at some level or another to make it work."



Rep. Ray Vandever

And he has been involved.

Vandever served on the Mounds View Charter Commission. He is a member of the Forest Lake Planning Commission and a former member of the government affairs committee of the Suburban Area Chamber of Commerce. He also has served as a volunteer probation officer in Anoka County.

He said that his experience in local government will help him better serve the people of his legislative district, especially because he is familiar with the current local issues.

"It gives me an idea of what the local problems are in the district I represent," Vandever said. "There are some issues with the proposed merger of Forest Lake and Forest Lake Township that really shine the light on local problems."

Vandever lives in Forest Lake with his wife, Camille, and their four children, Paul, Phillip, Cara, and Alana. He owns a real estate appraisal firm that has been in business since 1981.

He made his first attempt at elected office in

1996 when he challenged incumbent state Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township) and lost. But Vandever said he was very proud of how the vote turned out, considering the fact that he was running against an incumbent.

"I was pretty convinced that the voters liked and approved of my message to do that well," he said.

Vandever said his numbers were particularly good in the half of that Senate district that comprises his current House district.

So when Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake) resigned to take a new job as a judge in the 10th Judicial District Court, Vandever felt that he was the right person for the job.

"I did not expect that to happen when it did and it was clearly an opportunity coming out of the Senate race and doing well on our side of the district against an incumbent," he said. "I thought it was a good fit."

Vandever said that he plans to focus on taxes, crime, and education as a member of the House. He said that taxes are too high in Minnesota, and he will focus on providing tax relief for families.

"My priorities will be lower taxes and reduced state spending. I want to work very hard to see that we reduce that level of taxation for hard-working families," he said.

Vandever said that the state also has to protect its population against violent crime.

"We want a clear signal that this is the wrong place, the wrong state to come and commit violent crime," he said.

When it comes to violent crime, the state must be concerned with safety first — more than rehabilitation — but the state should also work on developing prevention programs to

keep youth out of crime, Vandever said.

"I served as a volunteer probation officer a number of years ago in Anoka County, and I do think that those kinds of programs that work with youth are the probably the most likely to be successful," he said. "Getting to kids, I think this is where we have the best chance of success."

Vandever says that he wants to ensure the quality of education in his district.

"I think equitable funding for education is a big issue in a lot of suburban districts, and ours is no exception. That is important to me," he said.

Vandever won the special election on Jan. 27 and he was sworn in to office on Feb. 5. He said that after a week on the job, he has been impressed by the speed at which things move in the Legislature and with the commitment of the members.

"There are people I have met on both sides, from both parties who are passionate about their views and representing their constituents," he said. "It really confirms my appreciation for our system of government."

District 51B

1995 population: 40,179

Largest city: Lino Lakes

Counties: Anoka, Washington

Location: Northeastern suburban metro

Top concern: "Reducing the level of taxation. I think clearly in Minnesota we're overtaxed. I want to work very hard to see that we reduce that level of taxation for hard-working families. That's very important to me."

—Rep. Ray Vandever

Frequently called numbers

Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol 296-0271

Voice mail/order bills 296-2343

Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, Senate

110 Capitol 296-2887

Index, House

211 Capitol 296-6646

Information, Senate

231 Capitol 296-0504

Information, House

175 State Office Building 296-2146

Committee Hotline, Senate ... 296-8088

Committee Hotline, House 296-9283

Sergeant at Arms, Senate

Senate Chamber 296-7159/6-1119

Sergeant at Arms, House

45 State Office Building 296-4860

Counsel and Research, Senate

G-17 Capitol 296-4791

Research, House

600 State Office Building 296-6753

Legislative Reference Library

645 State Office Building 296-3398

Revisor of Statutes

700 State Office Building 296-2868

Governor's Office

130 Capitol 296-3391

Attorney General's Office

102 Capitol 296-6196

Secretary of State's Office

180 State Office Building 296-9208

Capitol Security

B-4 Capitol 296-6741

Emergency 296-2100

TTY*, Senate 296-0250

Toll free 1-888-234-1116

TTY*, House 296-9896

Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Bill Introductions

HF3252-HF3338, HF3449-HF3703

HF3252-HF3338 were inadvertently left out of last week's *Session Weekly*.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

HF3252—Clark, K. (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Municipalities assisted in implementing preferred economic development practices, businesses receiving public subsidies wage and job reporting requirements modified, inducing businesses to relocate penalized, and money appropriated.

HF3253—Clark, K. (DFL)
Judiciary
Nonprofit drug-and-alcohol-free rental housing agreement immediate termination permitted.

HF3254—Kahn (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
County recorder and registrar functions provided additional methods.

HF3255—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Three strikes; mandatory life sentence without parole imposed for persons convicted of a third violent felony offense, and mandatory life sentence imposed for second violent felony offense.

HF3256—Leppik (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Heritage Lakes initiative created to improve lake and ecosystem quality, and advisory council provided.

HF3257—Larsen (R)
Judiciary
Sauk Centre and Thistledeew correctional facilities considered special education residential care and treatment programs.

HF3258—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medicaid; Congress memorialized to remove Medicaid policy barriers to employment for people with disabilities.

HF3259—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Food stamp benefits extended for noncitizens, public housing residents' MFIP-S grant reductions delayed, al-

cohol and drug dependent persons' benefits continued, TANF funds transferred to federal Title XX allocation, and money appropriated.

HF3260—Jefferson (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Suburban Hennepin Regional Park district employee authorized to change coverage from the Public Employees Retirement Association coordinated plan to the public employees defined contribution plan.

HF3261—Mariani (DFL)
Education
Basic sliding fee child care program funding for elimination of county waiting lists provided, and money appropriated.

HF3262—Mariani (DFL)
Education
Basic sliding fee child care program assistance eligibility income upper limit raised, and money appropriated.

HF3263—Schumacher (DFL)
Education
Graduation standards teacher training funding enhanced, and money appropriated.

HF3264—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Counterfeited trademark possession, manufacture, or distribution prohibited, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3265—Marko (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk highway fund expenditures required, road or highway defined, transportation spending goals established, transportation trust fund created and tax revenue dedicated, state patrol funded, local bridge grants provided, and bonds issued.

HF3266—Kelso (DFL)
Education
Charter school contractual agreements for teaching and administrative services clarified, and exemption created for existing arrangements.

HF3267—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
CODEFOR; Computer Optimized Development-Focus On Results law enforcement strategy demonstration

grant program established in Hennepin County, and money appropriated.

HF3268—Dawkins (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties government affirmative action plan requirements for contractors modified.

HF3269—Milbert (DFL)
Education
Inver Hills Community College reimbursed for campus entrance construction costs, and money appropriated.

HF3270—Milbert (DFL)
Education
Inver Hills Community College campus entrance constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3271—Pugh (DFL)
Education
Special School District No. 6, South St. Paul, lease levy for instructional space authorized.

HF3272—Tomassoni (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Township mutual fire insurance company farm risks regulated.

HF3273—Seifert (R)
Taxes
New farm equipment and aquaculture production equipment sales tax exemption provided.

HF3274—Kubly (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
McLeod County; Stewart storm sewer project design funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3275—Tomassoni (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Percentage of moose licenses to be selected from previously unsuccessful applicants.

HF3276—Skare (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Beaver damage control grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF3277—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Deliberating grand jury provided interpreter assistance for jurors who are communication handicapped.

HF3278—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Firearm permit penalty enhancement clarified relating to prior convictions.

HF3279—Chaudhary (DFL)
Judiciary
Landlords prohibited from accepting earnest collateral as a condition to refuse consideration of other prospective tenants, and civil penalties provided.

HF3280—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medical assistance special transportation services reimbursement modified.

HF3281—Murphy (DFL)
Capital Investment
Corrections and Public Safety departments capital improvement finance bill.

HF3282—Murphy (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 700, Hermantown, sports/physical education complex provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3283—Tunheim (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Kittson County Board of Commissioners authorized to establish an economic development authority.

HF3284—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Minnesota free flow of information act; witness information disclosure conditions fixed.

HF3285—Rukavina (DFL)
Governmental Operations
St. Louis County Sheriff's Department employee authorized a prior service credit purchase in the Public Employees Relief Association police and fire fund.

HF3286—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education
Hibbing Community and Technical College technical education facility constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3287—Seifert (R)
Health & Human Services
Mortuary science lifetime, limited license issued for volunteer or emergency practice applicants.

HF3288—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Weed and seed; crime, drug, and illegal activity eradication program grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF3289—Kielkucki (R)
Education
University of Minnesota Board of Regents prohibited from requiring 4-H chapters to comply with human rights provisions and refrain from sexual orientation discrimination.

HF3290—Daggett (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Perham Area Technology Center renovation provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3291—Dorn (DFL)
Education
Mankato State University student athletic facilities remodeling and construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3292—Greenfield (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Winchell Trail in Minneapolis restoration and construction provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF3293—Kraus (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Albert Lea authorized to issue additional on-sale liquor licenses.

HF3294—Ness (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Hutchinson Community Center constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3295—Rifenberg (R)
Transportation & Transit
Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3296—Long (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Advertisements, public art, and informational signs allowed on highway rights-of-way bicycle racks and storage facilities.

HF3297—Long (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
MERLA; statute of limitations provided for filing of actions under the Minnesota Environmental Response and Liability Act.

HF3298—Dempsey (R)
Governmental Operations
Independent School District No. 200, Hastings, teacher provided retirement association extended leave deadline extension.

HF3299—Ness (R)
Labor-Management Relations
Prevailing wage determinations to include certain government employees.

HF3300—Finseth (R)
Transportation & Transit
Implements of husbandry trailer combinations size and weight exemption provided for dealers.

HF3301—Finseth (R)
General Legislation,
Veterans Affairs & Elections
Southwest Asia veterans bonus payments provided to merchant marines serving on active duty during the time of eligibility.

HF3302—Dorn (DFL)
Education
School district training and experience revenue restored, special education revenue base year adjustment modified, and school boards provided additional compensatory revenue allocation flexibility.

HF3303—Mulder (R)
Education
Child development provider registry established, and money appropriated.

HF3304—Garcia (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Telephone solicitations by use of predictive dialing devices prohibited.

HF3305—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education
School district declining pupil aid created.

HF3306—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Short-barreled rifle possession or operation provided criminal penalties.

HF3307—Biernat (DFL)
Education
Minnesota learning resource center established to treat children with learning problems, and money appropriated.

HF3308—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
Public accommodation access discrimination based upon clothing insignia or mode of transportation prohibited, and civil and criminal penalties provided.

HF3309—Garcia (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Richfield authorized to establish tax increment financing districts subject to special rules relating to the airport and noise mitigation.

HF3310—Long (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Licensed boarding care home capacity increased for Medical Assistance reimbursement.

HF3311—Mares (R)
Governmental Operations
State departments supplemental appropriations bill.

HF3312—Finseth (R)
Judiciary
Adult offender restitution grant program established.

HF3313—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Witnesses subpoenaed by the legislature provided limited liability, and legislative disclosure provided.

HF3314—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Ways & Means
Tobacco litigation proceeds deposited in the general fund and subject to appropriation.

HF3315—Orfield (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Minneapolis City Council provided appointment authority for the Civilian Police Review Authority executive director.

HF3316—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Minnesota canola production center research and production techniques demonstration funded, and appropriated money.

HF3317—Tuma (R)
Governmental Operations
State classified position noncompetitive promotion of incumbents restricted if the position has been reallocated to a different bargaining unit.

HF3318—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture
Southwest State University regional studies center established, and money appropriated.

HF3319—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture
Animal waste technician training and licensing provided, feedlot expansion permits limited, animal waste spill liability account created and funded, generic environmental impact statements required, and money appropriated.

HF3320—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Animal feedlot construction moratorium established.

HF3321—Peterson (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Ethanol production goals and producer payments modified.

HF3322—Dempsey (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Small gasoline retailer petroleum fund reimbursement modified.

HF3323—Anderson, B. (R)
Judiciary
Private property rights protection act adopted.

HF3324—Ozment (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Excavation notification system regulated, pipeline safety committee appointed, and civil penalties increased.

HF3325—Macklin (R)
Judiciary
Capital intensive public service proposals and negotiation documents provided nonpublic data classification until final offers are received.

HF3326—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Home Care Bill of Rights modified relating to the Office of the Ombudsman for Older Minnesotans.

HF3327—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Reimbursement rate exemption extended for a certain nursing facility.

HF3328—Entenza (DFL)
Education
Learn and earn graduation achievement program grant award timeline modified.

HF3329—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education
Charter school No. 4011 New Vision's program replicated, remote-site consulting services funded, and money appropriated.

HF3330—Wenzel (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Little Falls conference center and retreat site developed, and money appropriated.

HF3331—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Mentally ill inmates required to be separated from other inmates.

HF3332—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Open adoption agreements modified.

HF3333—Paymar (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Tobacco manufacturers required to report hazardous substances to assist in local ordinance enforcement.

HF3334—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Firearm possession by a nonresident alien provided felony criminal penalties.

HF3335—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
Guardian and conservator background checks and data access authorized, informational statements required, optional competency and training requirements established, volunteer review pilot project created, and money appropriated.

HF3336—Biernat (DFL)
Education
Alternative program and area learning center graduation standards grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF3337—Stang (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Stearns County tax-forfeited land bordering public water sale authorized.

HF3338—Mulder (R)
Education
At-Home Infant care Program eligibility provisions modified.

Monday, Feb. 9

HF3449—Wejcman (DFL)
Agriculture
Minnesota grown coupon program eligibility requirements expanded, expansion pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF3450—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Council of State Governments provided funding for meetings with the Manitoba and Ontario parliaments, and money appropriated.

HF3451—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Fillmore, Mower, Olmsted, and Dodge counties smallmouth bass regulations modified.

HF3452—Davids (R)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Eyota to Chatfield Blufflands Trail funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3453—Paulsen (R)
Taxes
Income tax brackets and alternative minimum tax exemption amounts modified to reduce marriage penalties.

HF3454—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
St. Louis County authorized to sell school trust land bordering public waters.

HF3455—Delmont (DFL)
Education
School district equalization aid funded through Education Trust Fund revenue, and money appropriated.

HF3456—Davids (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Chatfield brass band music lending library funded, and money appropriated.

HF3457—Paymar (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Outdoor tobacco advertising prohibited near schools, child care centers, and playgrounds, retail exception provided, and penalties imposed.

HF3458—Sykora (R)
Education
State Board of Education eliminated and duties transferred to the department of Children, Families and Learning, Faribault Academies Board created, and racial segregation prohibited.

HF3459—Greiling (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Employers required to accommodate nursing mothers, and unpaid break time provided.

HF3460—Westfall (R)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Hawley sewer lagoon repair and update funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3461—Holsten (R)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Washington County; Brown's Creek restoration and Brown's Creek watershed district flood control measures funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3462—Greiling (DFL)
Taxes
Property tax refund formula alternative based on household income provided.

HF3463—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Exempt capital equipment sales payment and refund requirements repealed.

HF3464—Hilty (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Construction codes advisory council established.

HF3465—Tomassoni (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
St. Louis County; additional reemployment insurance benefits provided to Hibbing Taconite Company claimants, and requirement exemption authorized.

HF3466—Milbert (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Election conduit fund associations required to have a treasurer, register

with the Board of Campaign Finance and public disclosure, and commingling of funds prohibited.

HF3467—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
Shared parenting in residence provided relating to child custody, and training program established.

HF3468—Entenza (DFL)
Education
Collaborative urban educator program funding increased, and money appropriated.

HF3469—Murphy (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 704, Proctor, teacher contract late settlement penalty reimbursement provided, and money appropriated.

HF3470—Kubly (DFL)
Agriculture
Farmer-lender mediation director modified, and farmer-lender mediation act made permanent.

HF3471—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Northern Leopard Frog designated as the state amphibian and the Blanding's Turtle designated as the state reptile.

HF3472—Jennings (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Chisago County authorized to sale tax-forfeited land bordering public waters.

HF3473—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Junior golf programs certified by the Amateur Sports Commission, and golf facilities provided partial sales tax refund for qualifying junior programs.

HF3474—Hausman (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Science Museum of Minnesota provided exhibition funding, and money appropriated.

HF3475—Smith (R)
Health & Human Services
Tobacco manufacturers required to report hazardous substances to assist in local ordinance enforcement.

HF3476—Schumacher (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Metropolitan regular route and Greater Minnesota transit operating assistance funded, fixed local shares calculation formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF3477—Schumacher (DFL) Transportation & Transit Metropolitan and Greater Minnesota transit vehicle replacement funded, and money appropriated.	HF3488—McGuire (DFL) Judiciary Pedestrian right-of-way provisions modified, peace officer arrest authority expanded, and motor vehicle owner or lessee penalty imposed.	HF3498—Evans (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Seven-city coalition redevelopment tax increment financing district restrictions modified, and money appropriated.	HF3509—Evans (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Small minority- and women-owned businesses statewide database created, and money appropriated.
HF3478—Greenfield (DFL) Health & Human Services Medical Assistance covered home services expanded to include nurse assessments.	HF3489—McGuire (DFL) Judiciary Parking space leasing data definition expanded to include location of the space.	HF3499—Evans (DFL) Taxes Homestead rehabilitation expenditure income tax credit provided for homesteads that present a health hazard to occupants.	HF3510—Holsten (R) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Pollution control agency and departments of natural resources and agriculture lakes initiative funded, and appropriated money.
HF3479—Koskinen (DFL) Health & Human Services Nutritional supplement program outreach study funded, and money appropriated.	HF3490—Erhardt (R) Financial Institutions & Insurance Banking institution reverse stock split authorized, and retail motor vehicle installment contract complaint notice provided.	HF3500—Evans (DFL) Transportation & Transit Counties authorized to establish county state-aid highway minimum standards.	HF3511—Leppik (R) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Cigarette displays accessible to the public limited to cartons of ten units or more.
HF3480—Greenfield (DFL) Health & Human Services MinnesotaCare income limit increased for certain child care workers.	HF3491—Erhardt (R) Taxes Homestead property exceeding \$75,000 provided reduced property class rate.	HF3501—Carlson (DFL) Capital Investment Omnibus education bonding bill providing public improvements of a capital nature, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.	HF3512—Bakk (DFL) Transportation & Transit Lake County Forest Highway 11 project completed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF3481—Farrell (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Stroh Brewery area redevelopment assistance and manufacturing job creation assistance provided, and money appropriated.	HF3492—Erhardt (R) Taxes Capital gains tax exclusion provided for the sale of property used as a principal residence.	HF3502—Dawkins (DFL) Judiciary State research grant recipients provided nonpublic data access.	HF3513—Haas (R) Health & Human Services Children ineligible for MinnesotaCare provided payments for employee share of employer-subsidized insurance under the state children's health insurance program, and funding plan required.
HF3482—Knoblach (R) Regulated Industries & Energy State lottery advertising prohibited.	HF3493—Erhardt (R) Taxes Student loan interest and education savings account income tax deduction provided.	HF3503—Greiling (DFL) Education Basic revenue pupil unit determination to include students graduating early.	HF3514—Evans (DFL) Education Facility maintenance projects provided review and comment exemption, total operating capital revenue use, youth initiative grants, and debt service equalization expanded, maintenance levy and technology aid created, and money appropriated.
HF3483—Jaros (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Welfare-to-work extended employment partnership program continued, and money appropriated.	HF3494—Rukavina (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Grocery item pricing regulated, and remedies provided.	HF3504—McCollum (DFL) Education Children's endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.	HF3515—McGuire (DFL) Judiciary Ramsey County family court combined jurisdiction pilot project sunset extended.
HF3484—Jaros (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Earl C. Buck operating center in Duluth restored, bonds issued, and money appropriated.	HF3495—Pugh (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs West St. Paul and Dakota County housing and redevelopment authority provided exemption from tax increment financing district requirements.	HF3505—Johnson, R. (DFL) Agriculture Manure digester farm demonstration projects funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.	HF3516—Wenzel (DFL) Judiciary Drive-by-shooting penalties increased.
HF3485—Olson, E. (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Red Lake County authorized to privately sell surplus land bordering public water.	HF3496—Reuter (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Owatonna authorized to impose additional excise and use taxes to fund the Owatonna economic development 2000 operating facilities.	HF3506—Wenzel (DFL) Judiciary Drive-by-shooting penalties increased.	HF3517—Reuter (R) Economic Development & International Trade Owatonna Heritage Halls Museum project funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF3486—Anderson, B. (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Minnesota Municipal Board sunset repealed.	HF3497—Rukavina (DFL) Governmental Operations Blind or visually impaired persons provided access to information technology, and nonvisual access standards established.	HF3507—McCollum (DFL) Education Metropolitan magnet school grant provision modified, capital improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.	
HF3487—Pawlenty (R) Transportation & Transit Drivers over age 70 required to renew license every two years, and fees modified.		HF3508—Carlson (DFL) Financial Institutions & Insurance Health plan companies required to notify enrollees of subrogation claims and recoveries.	

HF3518—Reuter (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Owatonna heritage halls museum project grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3519—Mullery (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health maintenance organizations required to designate a medical director, and health treatment decision and policy liability established.

HF3520—Mullery (DFL)
Education
Girls and women encouraged to enter nontraditional careers, organization grant eligibility provided, and money appropriated.

HF3521—Rukavina (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Employer contribution for employee housing tax credit provided.

HF3522—Hilty (DFL)
Education
School district special education assessments modified.

HF3523—Biernat (DFL)
Education
School district operating capital revenue use restriction on building acquisition or construction removed.

HF3524—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Qualified landfills authorized to accept materials from closed dumps.

HF3525—Skare (DFL)
Taxes
Agricultural homestead land subject to a reduced property class rate provided increased valuation.

HF3526—Kubly (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Stewart storm sewer project funded, and money appropriated.

HF3527—Hasskamp (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Combat wounded veterans honorary plaque placed in the court of honor on the Capitol grounds.

HF3528—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
State lottery retailer study task force established.

HF3529—Rukavina (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Equity take-out loan availability extended, low-income housing tax credit allocation procedures modified, federally assisted rental housing program provisions modified, tenant relocation assistance permitted, and money appropriated.

HF3530—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Snowmobile and personal watercraft titling and licensing required, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3531—McCollum (DFL)
Taxes
Farm machinery definition modified to include equipment used to produce flowering or ornamental plants including nursery stock relating to sales and use tax.

HF3532—Bettermann (R)
Labor-Management Relations
Workers' compensation reporting requirements modified, certain reimbursement requirements eliminated, and Daedalus imaging project appropriation error corrected.

HF3533—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Non-gambling prize awards considered purchases for resale and exempt from sales tax.

HF3534—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Property tax abatements exempt from levy limits, and abatement bonds exempt from election requirements.

HF3535—Kinkel (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing homes owned by political subdivisions exempt from wage increases.

HF3536—McCollum (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
St. Paul flood mitigation in the Hoyt Avenue area funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3537—Gunther (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Department of Economic Security school to work transition assistance pilot project developed, report required, and money appropriated.

HF3538—Osthoff (DFL)
Education
Education income tax credit extended to include private driver's education instruction.

HF3539—Bakk (DFL)
Taxes
Taconite tax law updated.

HF3540—Boudreau (R)
Education
Faribault residential academies improvements funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3541—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Tracheostomy suctioning reimbursed by medical assistance when performed by personal care assistants.

HF3542—Van Dellen (R)
Ways & Means
Tobacco litigation proceeds deposited in a special account in the general fund and used only for attorney fees and tax relief.

HF3543—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Parliamentary system of government provided, governor selected by a unicameral legislature, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3544—Rukavina (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
United States Hockey Hall of Fame in Eveleth grant provided for boys and girls amateur and high school hockey displays, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3545—Winter (DFL)
Agriculture
Southwestern Minnesota soybean oilseed processing and refining facility established, and money appropriated.

HF3546—Opatz (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, Waite Park, and St. Joseph authorized to impose additional sales tax to fund the central Minnesota events center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3547—Hausman (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Renewable development account created and renewable energy development assistance provided.

HF3548—McCollum (DFL)
Taxes
Massage sales tax abolished, and massage therapists subject to the MinnesotaCare provider tax.

HF3549—Pugh (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Ephedrine provided prescription status, sale, marketing, and possession restricted, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3550—Skoglund (DFL)
Education
Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, national inner city center provided additional funding, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

HF3551—Westfall (R)
Health & Human Services
Living-at-home/block nurse program expanded, and money appropriated.

HF3552—Mullery (DFL)
Education
Woman graduates in nontraditional occupations increase goals established, low-income student training provided, and money appropriated.

HF3553—Olson, M. (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund percentage based on lottery sales allocated to a county environmental account for county projects.

HF3554—Olson, M. (R)
Education
Graduation rule contents required to ensure requirement completion, task force established to study social promotion, and money appropriated.

HF3555—Olson, M. (R)
Education
School district declining pupil unit aid for fiscal year 1998 modified.

HF3556—Hausman (DFL)
Taxes
St. Paul RiverCentre Arena construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3557—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Victims of torture provided General Assistance Medical Care coverage.

HF3558—Ness (R)
Education
Ridgewater College, Hutchinson campus, employees provided retirement benefits protection.

HF3559—Otremba, M. (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Sauk River watershed district dam renovation funded, and money appropriated.

HF3560—Clark, K. (DFL)
Judiciary
Names of elected officials registering property complaints made public.

HF3561—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary
Commissioner of corrections authorized to contract with counties for placement of juveniles in the serious/chronic program, PREPARE.

HF3562—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary
State witness compensation and expenses to be paid from the budget of the prosecuting authority.

HF3563—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary
District court administrator law updated relating to salary.

HF3564—Finseth (R)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk highway fund expenditures restricted, road or highway defined, transportation spending goals established, transportation trust fund created and revenue dedicated, state patrol funded, local bridge grants provided, and bonds issued.

HF3565—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Housing finance agency equity take-out loans provided to assist owners of federally assisted rental property, affordable rental housing provided, and money appropriated.

HF3566—Trimble (DFL)
Governmental Operations
St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association closed to new members, and Teachers Retirement Association coverage provided.

HF3567—Kubly (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Renville wastewater treatment facility funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3568—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare coverage of interpreter services provided.

HF3569—Van Dellen (R)
Education
School boards required to allow equal extracurricular activity participation of home school students, and equal fees charged.

HF3570—Mullery (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Job counselors for the blind trained, and money appropriated.

HF3571—Schumacher (DFL)
Education
School district reimbursement for mandated additional instruction days provided, and money appropriated.

HF3572—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Timber permit extension provisions modified.

HF3573—Tunheim (DFL)
Education
Three additional days of student instruction mandate repealed.

HF3574—Tomassoni (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Giants Ridge and Ironworld discovery center on-sale liquor licenses authorized.

HF3575—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Taxes
Ready-mixed concrete trucks considered capital equipment, motor vehicle sales tax exemption provided, and sales price definition expanded.

HF3576—Hasskamp (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Combat wounded veterans honorary plaque placed in the court of honor on the Capitol grounds.

HF3577—Delmont (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medical assistance rehabilitative and therapeutic services coverage clarified.

HF3578—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
State working family income tax credit provided.

HF3579—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Solid waste management services tax collection moratorium clarified relating to sales tax.

HF3580—Greenfield (DFL)
Education
Children's endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3581—Solberg (DFL)
Health & Human Services
People with disabilities coordinated service delivery system demonstration project established in Itasca County.

HF3582—Gunther (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Martin County auditor/treasurer appointment permitted.

HF3583—Bakk (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Minnesota forest resources council provided a grant to implement timber harvesting guidelines and recommendations, and money appropriated.

HF3584—Erickson (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Milaca authorized tax increment financing district expenditures outside the district.

HF3585—Hasskamp (DFL)
Taxes
Senior citizens' property tax deferral program modified.

HF3586—Chaudhary (DFL)
Judiciary
Bodybuilding and weightlifting equipment prohibited in state correctional facilities.

HF3587—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Advocating Change Together, Inc. provided a grant to train people with disabilities, and money appropriated.

HF3588—Schumacher (DFL)
Education
General education formula allowance increased, operating referenda offset provided, operating referenda equalization aid increased, and money appropriated.

HF3589—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Deaf Blind Services Minnesota, Inc. grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3590—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Sentencing guideline commission report proposal approved.

HF3591—Tuma (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Department of Natural Resources prohibited from acquiring property by prescriptive easement.

HF3592—Kraus (R)
Taxes
Sales and use tax and motor vehicle sales tax rate reduced.

HF3593—Larsen (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Housing finance agency meetings by telephone or electronic means sunset removed.

HF3594—Long (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Gifts to local officials prohibition extended to include school district officials.

HF3595—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Rent constituting property taxes calculation modified.

HF3596—Long (DFL)
Education
Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, and money appropriated.

HF3597—Gunther (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Persons under age 28 required to show proof of age prior to purchasing tobacco, and retail compliance check criteria provided.

HF3598—Kinkel (DFL)
Taxes
Commercial seasonal residential recreational property class requirements eliminated relating to business conducted between Memorial Day and Labor Day and bookings.

HF3599—Erickson (R)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Onamia permitted an extension for commencement of tax increment financing district activities.

HF3600—Harder (R)
Education
Independent School District No. 2862, Jackson County Central, referendum authority modified.

HF3601—Solberg (DFL)
Ways & Means
State government operations and budget preparation provisions modified.

HF3602—Long (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Minneapolis phased redevelopment district for the Sears project established.

HF3603—Dempsey (R)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Red Wing levy limit adjustment for payments in lieu of taxes allowed.

HF3604—Schumacher (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Benton County required to apportion environmental response liability reimbursement among local units of government.

HF3605—Anderson, B. (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Drainage system access easements transferred to storm sewer improvement districts.

HF3606—Evans (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Equity take-out loan availability extended, low-income housing tax credit allocation procedures modified, federally assisted rental housing program provisions modified, tenant relocation assistance permitted, and money appropriated.

HF3607—Seifert (R)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Southwest Minnesota regional performance center in Marshall funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3608—Biernat (DFL)
Taxes
Education Finance Act of 1992 repealed.

HF3609—Long (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Community-based planning goals modified, notification provided, and money appropriated.

HF3610—Carruthers (DFL)
Education
Graduation standards and graduation rule implementation funded, and money appropriated.

HF3611—Lieder (DFL)
Taxes
Wild rice watershed district levy proceed use for flood mitigation projects authorized.

HF3612—McGuire (DFL)
General Legislation,
Veterans Affairs & Elections
Army school; President and Congress memorialized to support the closure of the United States Army School of the Americas.

HF3613—Mahon (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
NATO; Congress memorialized to support the admission of the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to the North Atlantic Treaty.

HF3614—Holsten (R)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
County official removal law expanded to include city officials

HF3615—Ozment (R)
Taxes
Sales and use tax and motor vehicle sales tax rate reduced.

HF3616—Kubly (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Granite Falls multipurpose community recreation and education center funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3617—Leighton (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Mower County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public waters.

HF3618—Kinkel (DFL)
Judiciary
Hubbard County sheriff authorized additional part-time peace officers.

HF3619—Rest (DFL)
Taxes
Job training program franchise tax credit provisions modified.

HF3620—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Judicial office retention provided for judges reaching age 65 six months or less after their term is to expire.

HF3621—Wenzel (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Little Falls; Mississippi River east bank sediment cleanup state share funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF3622—Delmont (DFL)
Education
Children's endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3623—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
Cities of the first class authorized to establish city courts, jurisdiction and judge qualifications prescribed, and appeals to district court provided.

HF3624—Biernat (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal interim licensing ordinances authorized.

HF3625—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Day training and habilitation programs' capital improvement needs study required, and money appropriated.

HF3626—Koskinen (DFL)
Education
Anoka-Ramsey Community College ADA compliance and improvements funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3627—Harder (R)
Education
Southwest telecommunications cooperative Jackson to Marshall telecommunications network established, and money appropriated.

HF3628—Carlson (DFL)
Education
Children's endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3629—Wagenius (DFL)
Education
Children's endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3630—Farrell (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Office of technology biometrics utilization study required.

HF3631—Ozment (R)
Taxes
Political subdivision sales tax exemption provided.

HF3632—Seagren (R)
Education
Intermediate school district program student educational opportunities enhanced, and money appropriated.

HF3633—Wenzel (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Morrison, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, and Crow Wing counties provided funding for state forest land repair, and money appropriated.

HF3634—Chaudhary (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Local social services agencies and department of human services required to collect information on United States armed forces members or veterans receiving food stamps.

HF3635—Schumacher (DFL)
Agriculture
Manure storage requirements expanded and applicator training report required, feedlot environmental impact statements provided, voluntary rural dispute resolution procedure established, and money appropriated.

HF3636—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Home and community-based waiver for persons with mental retardation and related conditions amended for greater service delivery flexibility.

HF3637—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Sentence to work program modified.

HF3638—Larsen (R)
Judiciary
Sex offenders required to successfully complete treatment prior to release, and money appropriated.

HF3639—Anderson, B. (R)
Health & Human Services
Social worker licensure requirements modified.

HF3640—Bettermann (R)
Education
Minnesota state college and university employees authorized to donate accrued sick time.

HF3641—Trimble (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicles involved in accidents provided license plate impoundment for failure to maintain insurance, and penalties imposed.

HF3642—Entenza (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Indian family preservation act primary support funded, and money appropriated.

HF3643—Schumacher (DFL)
Taxes
Vegetative filter strips assessed land value reduced.

HF3644—Sviggum (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Combined school districts extended telephone area service voting requirements modified.

HF3645—Chaudhary (DFL)
Judiciary
Health professional reporting requirements expanded relating to injuries resulting from alcohol- or controlled substance-related accidents, and civil and criminal immunity expanded.

HF3646—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education
School restructuring grant provided, and money appropriated.

Thursday, Feb. 12

HF3647—Kraus (R)
Labor-Management Relations
High pressure boiler plant rules modified.

HF3648—Otremba, M. (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Browerville tax increment financing district authorized expenditures outside the district.

HF3649—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Used motor oil and filter collector income tax credit provided.

HF3650—Wenzel (DFL)
Agriculture
Farmer-lender mediation director modified, and farmer-lender mediation act made permanent.

HF3651—Larsen (R)
Health & Human Services
Minnesota family investment program statewide payment method modified.

HF3652—Entenza (DFL)
Education
School districts required to provide community outreach coordinators and guidance counselors, textbooks provided for each student, lifework and staff development plans modified, and student assessment and pre-school studies required.

HF3653—Entenza (DFL)
Education
Board of teaching membership requirements modified to include teachers currently teaching in a public school.

HF3654—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Electric restructuring technical advisory committee established, public utilities commission and department of public services duties specified, and reports required.

HF3655—Skare (DFL)
Education
Graduation standards and graduation rule implementation funded, and money appropriated.

HF3656—Smith (R)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Delano authorized to elect local contributions for a tax increment financing district.

HF3657—Rest (DFL)
Taxes
Renter property tax refund increased.

HF3658—Vandevier (R)
Education
School district basic formula allowance increased, and compensatory education revenue reallocated.

HF3659—Murphy (DFL)
Taxes
Homestead and agricultural aid payments increased to certain statutory cities.

HF3660—Anderson, B. (R)
General Legislation,
Veterans Affairs & Elections
Incumbent designation removed from judicial ballots.

HF3661—Dawkins (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Council on Black Minnesotans Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance activities planning and coordination provided, and money appropriated.

HF3662—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Criminal gang investigative data system parental notification required.

HF3663—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Bias motivated assault provided felony penalties.

HF3664—Dawkins (DFL)
Education
In-school suspension program revenue increased, and money appropriated.

HF3665—Dawkins (DFL)
Education
School districts encouraged to accept academically at-risk students under open enrollment, and money appropriated.

HF3666—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Board of Inventions appropriated money.

HF3667—Wenzel (DFL)
Taxes
Agricultural loans mortgage registry tax exemption provided.

HF3668—Finseth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Soil and water conservation districts authorized to determine mileage rate for supervisor reimbursement.

HF3669—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3670—Clark, K. (DFL)
Judiciary
Hennepin County; substance abuse intervention neighborhood program grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3671—McElroy (R)
Taxes
Property class rates and the education homestead credit modified, general education levy reduced, and money appropriated.

HF3672—Kelso (DFL)
Taxes
Property class rates and the education homestead credit modified, general education levy reduced, and money appropriated.

HF3673—Trimble (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, compensatory revenue report required.

HF3674—Trimble (DFL)
Education
School district reimbursement for mandated additional instruction days provided, and money appropriated.

HF3675—Kahn (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Mississippi River urban heritage act adopted, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3676—Winter (DFL)
Taxes
Property tax simplification and reform provided, rebate specified, and money appropriated.

HF3677—Leighton (DFL)
Judiciary
Hospitals required to report personnel assaults, hospital violence work group established, and increased criminal penalties provided.

HF3678—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Uniform property tax class rate provided for all residential property containing single dwelling unit.

HF3679—Davids (R)
Education
School districts authorized to levy for extracurricular activities.

HF3680—Davids (R)
Education
School district building construction down payment program modified.

HF3681—Ozment (R)
Education
Graduation rule teacher training program created, and money appropriated.

HF3682—Westfall (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Clay County flood hazard mitigation grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3683—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
One-time individual income tax rebate of additional revenue surplus provided.

HF3684—Carlson (DFL)
Education
Model technology program developed by school districts, and levy authorized.

HF3685—Tompkins (R)
Education
School districts required to provide instruction in the United States Constitution.

HF3686—Mulder (R)
Agriculture
Southwestern Minnesota soybean oilseed processing and refining facility established, and money appropriated.

HF3687—Bishop (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Individual sewage treatment system inspection criteria modified.

HF3688—Davids (R)
Health and Human Services
Abortion data reporting provisions modified, and criminal penalties provided.

HF3689—Seifert (R)
General Legislation,
Veterans Affairs & Elections
Out-of-state campaign contributions to candidates for governor limited.

HF3690—Wenzel (DFL)
Judiciary
Drive-by shooting penalties increased.

HF3691—Carlson (DFL)
Education
Years of education provided by the state extended to 13, and income tax credit allowed.

HF3692—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Volunteer firefighter pension association and retirement fund created, reports required, and money appropriated.

HF3693—Kahn (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Tobacco tax increased and hospital and provider tax reduced, tobacco advertisements prohibited in areas frequented by youth, smoking in workplaces and cigarette littering prohibited, and civil and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3694—Olson, M. (R)
Taxes
Motor vehicle insurance income tax credit provided.

HF3695—Bishop (R)
Judiciary
Repeat assault offense enhanced penalty application to offenders who have prior assault delinquency adjudications provided.

HF3696—Long (DFL)
Education
Children's endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3697—Hausman (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Road authority changes to roads over natural areas restricted.

HF3698—Jennings (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Rush City easements authorized.

HF3699—Otremba, M. (DFL)
Agriculture
Federal milk market order system reform appropriated money.

HF3700—Larsen (R)
Education
Cimarron community county services coordination and integration funded, and money appropriated.

HF3701—Kalis (DFL)
Capital Investment
Debt capacity forecasting, budget preparation, and reporting bond proceeds expenditures, bond sales, and capital improvements provisions modified.

HF3702—Solberg (DFL)
Taxes
Local fiscal impact notes, local mandate cost reporting requirements, and revenue target requirements modified.

HF3703—Carruthers (DFL)
Judiciary
Hennepin County district court administrator fees modified, and fourth judicial district fine distribution studied.

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

Public safety commission brandished sweeping powers



There were constant rumors of unpatriotic activity circulating in Minnesota during World

War I, and the state took seriously the talk about one resident of the southeastern Minnesota village of Wykoff.

The Minnesota commission in charge of "public safety" during that period dispensed one of its half-dozen Pinkerton agents to uncover an alleged campaign led by one man to block draft registration.

Soon the operative reported that the alleged dissident, a hotel proprietor, "was inclined to enlarge on matters a great deal, as he uses liquor to excess." The agent found no draft resistance, and questioned whether the trip was worth the expense.

That episode aside, wasting state money was not the major criticism of the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety. Of the \$1 million the 1917 Legislature appropriated for the commission, most was spent on military men and their families.

The problem with the commission was it had carte blanche to harass and intimidate Minnesota citizens and elected officials. Its 20-month reign was eventually categorized as a "blatant



Judge John F. McGee

Minnesota example of legalized discrimination."

The Legislature was in session when World War I was declared. Shortly before adjournment in 1917, lawmakers created the safety commission.

The seven-member commission had sweeping powers and fell under the dominating influence of Judge John F. McGee, a conservative, anti-labor member.

The commission, which first

met April 2, 1917, was allowed to lease or seize property if "necessary or proper" for public safety or protection of life. The commission could call citizens to give testimony under oath. It controlled the sale of liquor. It questioned public officials. It removed public officials from office.

German-Americans were the state's largest ethnic group at the time, but anti-German sentiment still ran strong during the war, especially among commission members, who used their power to topple the mayor and city attorney of New Ulm, Minn., a town with strong German roots.

The commission's more grievous affronts include its battle against the national administration's labor policy, and its interference in the 1918 elections, which brought the reelection of commission-backed Gov. J.A.A. Burnquist.

The commission, which had its last formal meeting in December 1918, is credited with

having some positive impact. It promoted food production and conservation, and eradicated the barberry bush, the nemesis of wheat. It was responsible for farm labor and crop censuses and the recruitment of labor for farms and factories.

And the bulk of the money appropriated for the commission went for the welfare of military men and their families. Of the \$767,000 spent by the commission, roughly \$488,000 went to "soldiers' pay and sustenance." Much of the remainder financed the commission's less honorable pursuits.

Photo from *Men of Minnesota*, R. L. Polk & Co.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

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MONDAY, Feb. 16

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF2580 (Carlson) Brooklyn Center Earle Brown Heritage Center debt assumption provided by the state, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2571 (Kelso) Scott County workforce center construction in Valley Green industrial park provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2637 (Hasskamp) Crosby provided funding for the Hallet Community Center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2385 (Lieder) Crookston; Valley Technology Park capital development funded, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2339 (Clark, K.) Circulator vehicle pilot project and grant developed to connect the Minneapolis Convention Center with other locations, and money appropriated.

HF2340 (Clark, K.) Circulator vehicle pilot project in Minneapolis provided funding, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: HF2652 (Opatz) Full year equivalent student funding increased for colleges and universities receiving below the average, and money appropriated.

HF3251 (Pelowski) University of Minnesota law clinics program provided funding for low-income legal assistance expansion, and money appropriated.

HF3394 (Trimble) St. Paul Technical College worker information resource center funded, and money appropriated.

HF3558 (Ness) Ridgewater College, Hutchinson campus, employees provided retirement benefits protection.

HF3691 (Carlson) Years of education provided

by the state extended to 13, and income tax credit allowed.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF3302 (Dorn) School district training and experience revenue restored, special education revenue base year adjustment modified, and school boards provided additional compensatory revenue allocation flexibility.

HF3307 (Biernat) Minnesota learning resource center established to treat children with learning problems, and money appropriated.

HF3329 (Johnson, A.) Charter School No. 4011 new vision's program replicated, remote-site consulting services funded, and money appropriated.

HF3227 (Murphy) Independent School District No. 93, Carlton, district building and services coordination developed, and money appropriated.

HF3469 (Murphy) Independent School District No. 704, Proctor, teacher contract late settlement penalty reimbursement provided, and money appropriated.

HF3305 (Tomassoni) School district declining pupil aid created.

HF3328 (Entenza) Learn and earn graduation achievement program grant award timeline modified.

HF3374 (Solberg) Retired health benefits expenses school district levy authority made permanent.

HF3425 (Anderson, I.) Independent School Districts nos. 593, Crookston, 361, International Falls, 706, Virginia, and 2154, Eveleth-Gilbert, supplemental revenue modified.

8:30 a.m.

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

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF3118 (Olson, E.) Counties provided unorganized town road maintenance funding through natural resources land payments in lieu of taxes.

HF2322 (Sviggum) Income tax reserve account established, income tax and general education tax rates reduced, property tax rebate provided for taxes assessed in 1997, and money appropriated.

HF2325 (Van Dellen) Income tax reserve account established, income tax and general education tax rates reduced, property tax rebate provided for taxes assessed in 1997, and money appropriated.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: HF3449 (Wejcmn) Minnesota grown coupon program eligibility requirements expanded, expansion pilot project established, and money appropriated.

Overview by the Department of Agriculture of

University of Minnesota ag-related capital budget requests.

Additional bills may be added.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF2724 (Milbert) Commercial netting provisions, minnow retailer provisions, and turtle license provisions modified, critical aquatic habitat acquisition provided, and catfish removal in certain waters authorized.

HF1883 (Kahn) Natural resources trust fund distribution provisions modified, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3524 (Bakk) Qualified landfills authorized to accept materials from closed dumps.

HF3572 (Bakk) Timber permit extension provisions modified.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: To be announced.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HF1626 (McGuire) Government data classification and access provided.

HF3332 (Skoglund) Open adoption agreements modified.

HF2901 (Murphy) CHIPS; children in need of protective services definition expanded to include certain juvenile petty offenders.

HF2390 (Pugh) Real and personal property conveyances and transactions regulated, and technical changes provided to the uniform partnership act.

SF1006 (Junge); HF1283 (McGuire) Firefighter background investigations authorized, employment information disclosure required, employer immunity provided, and civil and criminal penalties prescribed.

HF2654 (Mahon) Personalized license plates authorized for vehicles resembling pickup trucks, juvenile age provisions clarified relating to DWI-related driver's license revocation, and license reinstatement provisions modified.

Additional bills may be added.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Department of Employee Relations, supplemental budget request.

HF3075 (Anderson, I.) Public employee insurance trust fund appropriated money.

HF2444 (Larsen) State hiring practices studied relating to disabled individuals, and money appropriated.

HF2814 (Tomassoni) Durable medical equipment minimum definition established, and health plan companies required to disclose covered medical equipment and supplies.

Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

**Family & Early Childhood Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Review infant development grant program.

HF2726 (Slawik) Family and community services assistance grant program authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2748 (Tomassoni) Minnesota family asset initiative established for education, housing, and economic development purposes, and money appropriated.

HF2962 (Clark, K.) Lead abatement program appropriated money.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: HF3459 (Greiling) Employers required to accommodate nursing mothers, and unpaid break time provided.

Additional bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Division/EDUCATION**

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: HF2780 (Evans) Basic sliding fee child care self-employment exception eligibility modified.

HF2803 (Kinkel) Child care program transition year families definition clarified, employment and training assistance eligibility expanded, human services order review provisions modified, program costs funded, and money appropriated.

HF2867 (McGuire) Transition year families child care assistance requirements modified, and extensions provided.

HF3396 (McGuire) Child care assistance and child care programs modified, provider rate bonus for reading programs and school-age child care program grants established, and money appropriated.

HF3422 (Sykora) Direct child care assistance payments modified.

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: HF3601 (Solberg) State government operations and budget preparation provisions modified.

Additional bills may be added.

1/2 Hour After Session

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF2633 (Jennings) Historical Society North West Company Fur Post Interpretive Center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2948 (Jennings) Seaway Port Authority of Duluth warehouse construction provided, bonds

issued, and money appropriated.

HF2974 (Huntley) Glensheen Mansion in Duluth improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3274 (Kubly) McLeod County; Stewart storm sewer project design funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3364 (Rukavina) Three direct reduction iron processing facilities constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

4 p.m.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF820 (Dehler) Public school guidance and counseling services provided at nonpublic schools.

HF2214 (Murphy) High school pupils enrolled in post-secondary courses allowed to participate in high school activities, and post-secondary course grades excluded from pupil's grade point average.

HF2836 (Opatz) Home school defined relating extracurricular activities, and school boards required to allow full participation of all students.

HF1678 (Biernat) Pre-K-12 governance structure task force established.

HF3170 (Larsen) School year length set at 175 days of instruction.

HF3520 (Mullery) Girls and women encouraged to enter nontraditional careers, organization grant eligibility provided, and money appropriated.

HF3199 (Leighton) Charter school employment and operating provisions modified.

HF3468 (Entenza) Collaborative urban educator program funding increased, and money appropriated.

HF2874 (Kelso) Education Finance Act of 1992 repealed.

HFXXXX (Biernat) Grant for a demonstration athletic program.

HF3600 (Harder) Independent School District No. 2862, Jackson County Central, referendum authority modified.

HF3627 (Harder) Southwest telecommunications cooperative Jackson to Marshall telecommunications network established, and money appropriated.

HF3397 (Bradley) Independent School District No. 535, Rochester, special education services loan provided, and money appropriated.

TUESDAY, Feb. 17

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF2710 (Kalis) FarmAmerica visitor's center at the Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center provided funding, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3247 (Jennings) St. Croix Valley heritage center designed, prior bond proceeds canceled, and money appropriated.

HF2731 (Harder) Windom area multi-purpose center bond issuance provided, and money appropriated.

HF3424 (Molnau) Independent School District No. 112, Chaska, eastern Carver community collaborative project funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2440 (Trimble) Redevelopment account created in the general fund for local development application review and grant making costs, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3446 (Trimble) St. Paul provided a grant to acquire right-of-way in the Phalen corridor, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF2507 (Macklin) Limited partnership withdrawals regulated, favorable federal estate tax valuation treatment changes provided.

HF2599 (Tunheim) Fund raising event time period extended for sales tax exemption purposes.

HF2689 (Huntley) Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF2858 (Munger) Wastewater treatment facilities biosolid processing equipment sales tax exemption provided.

HF2911 (Seifert) School buses exempted from motor vehicle sales tax.

HF3024 (Milbert) Pull-tab and tipboard tax rates reduced.

HF3107 (Daggett) Pull-tab and tipboard tax rates reduced.

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

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: HF2638 (Luther) School bus passive restraint system installation grants authorized, study required, and money appropriated.

HF2532 (Chaudhary) Youth-oriented driver improvement clinics and graduated licensing system established, driving privileges restricted for permit and provisional license holders, and violation-free period required prior to advancement to next license stage.

HF2564 (McCollum) Municipal state-aid street system mileage determination modified.

Bills that were not heard from the agenda on Feb. 13.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES &
AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Pollution Control Agency supplemental budget. Department of Agriculture and Department of Natural Resources supplemental budgets.

10 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: To be announced.

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

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: HF3393 (Trimble) Housing trust fund grant provided to Metro State University for a student housing pilot program, and money appropriated.

HF3565 (Trimble) Housing finance agency equity take-out loans provided to assist owners of federally assisted rental property, affordable rental housing provided, and money appropriated.

Omnibus funding discussion.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HF2373 (Lieder) Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HFXXXX (Greenfield) Health and Human Services Finance Division bonding recommendations.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
& METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

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

Agenda: HF2055 (Stanek) St. Paul and Minneapolis public employee residency requirements repealed.

HF2595 (Jennings) Municipalities authorized to provide contract bid specifications, design, and construction standards.

HF2774 (Kuisle) County referendums conducted by county auditors clarified.

HF3609 (Long) Community-based planning goals modified, notification provided, and money appropriated.

**REGULATED INDUSTRIES
& ENERGY**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: HF2794 (Tunheim) Telecommunications commerce regulated, telemarketing fraud outreach advocacy network established, and money appropriated.

HF2970 (Kahn) Salary increase provided for judges, and employee and employer contribution rates for certain judges' retirement plans modified.

HF2627 (Winter) Regional Development Commission grants provided to assist local governments with land use planning preparation, and money appropriated.

Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning, supplemental budget request, generic environmental impact statement for animal feedlots.

Department of Finance, supplemental budget request, city of Cambridge loan.

HF3137 (Rukavina) Modifying the debt collections act.

Additional bills may be added.

3 p.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF2959 (Kahn) Fort Snelling international hostel improvements and hazardous material abatement provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3330 (Wenzel) Little Falls conference center and retreat site developed, and money appropriated.

HF3481 (Farrell) Stroh Brewery area redevelopment assistance and manufacturing job creation assistance provided, and money appropriated.

HF3544 (Rukavina) United States Hockey Hall of Fame in Eveleth grant provided for boys and girls amateur and high school hockey displays, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3484 (Jaros) Earl C. Buck operating center in Duluth restored, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3537 (Gunther) Department of Economic Security school to work transition assistance pilot project developed, report required, and money appropriated.

HF3456 (Davids) Chatfield brass band music lending library funded, and money appropriated.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 18

8 a.m.

**Economic Development
Finance Division/
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: To be announced.

**Higher Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Supplemental appropriations bill.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF3632 (Seagren) Intermediate school district program student educational opportunities enhanced, and money appropriated.

HF2501 (Kraus) Independent School District No. 241, Albert Lea, year-round school/extended week or day pilot program examined, evaluation required, and money appropriated.

HF2252 (Olson, M.) Statewide educational testing grant program established, and money appropriated.

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

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF1912 (Hasskamp) Unimproved real estate bordering public water property tax rate reduced.

HF2516 (Pawlenty) Deferral of property taxes and special assessment provided for property dedicated to the arts.

HF2728 (Goodno) Border city development zones established, and enterprise zone incentive recapture modified.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Additional bills from Feb. 17 agenda. HF3450 (Anderson, I.) Council of State Governments provided funding for meetings with the Manitoba and Ontario parliaments, and money appropriated.

Department of Administration, remaining budget requests, Year 2000, and governor's portrait.

HF2958 (Otremba, M.) Ottertail County; pioneer public television grant provided for construction of a noncommercial television translator tower, and money appropriated.

HF2908 (Kahn) Grants provided for noncommercial television stations, and money appropriated.

HF2705 (Kahn) Electronic state agency guidebooks and Internet availability of the State Register required, and money appropriated.

HF2643 (Farrell) Settlement division established in the office of administrative hearings, transfer of judges, small claims court, duties, and funds provided.

HF3497 (Rukavina) Blind or visually impaired persons provided access to information technology, and nonvisual access standards established.

Additional bills may be added.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES
& AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF326 (Holsten) Hunting and fishing rights affirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT
& NATURAL RESOURCES**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: To be announced.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: SF349 (Hottinger) Insurance companies and agents regulated.

HF2893 (Tunheim) Small gasoline retailer petroleum fund reimbursement modified.

HF2649 (Wejzman) Office of health care consumer assistance, advocacy, and information created, health maintenance organization enrollee complaint system modified, informal complaint resolution process establishment date extended, and money appropriated.

Additional bills may be added.

**Health & Human Services
Finance Division/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: To be announced.

JUDICIARY

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

Agenda: HF2469 (Clark, K.) Clarifying liability for the crime of burglary.

HF3360 (Paymar) Recognition of domestic abuse protection orders from other states clarified, and mutual orders not entitled to full faith and credit in certain cases.

HF2993 (Paymar) Order for protection and minor respondent violations provided criminal penalties, firearm possession prohibited, and harassment restraining order service of notice clarified.

HF2433 (Stanek) Conditional release data system established by the bureau of criminal apprehension.

Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: HF2535 (Stanek) Innocent third parties whose property is damaged by law enforcement officers provided compensation responsibility clarification, state compensation and local government reimbursement process established, and money appropriated.

HF2861 (Entenza) Child support orders or maintenance enforcement administrative hearing procedures modified, and terminology modified to agree with court rules.

HF3279 (Chaudhary) Landlords prohibited from accepting earnest collateral as a condition to refuse consideration of other prospective tenants, and civil penalties provided.

Additional bills may be added.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: Division report from Economic Development Finance Division on omnibus capital investment provisions.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Omnibus division bill mark up.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session

After Session

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Finalize omnibus bill.

3:30 p. m. or After DFL Caucus

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Supplemental appropriations bill.

THURSDAY, Feb. 19

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

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

Agenda: HF1690 (Hasskamp) Personal watercraft operation requirements modified. Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: To be announced.

Housing & Housing Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Omnibus funding bill.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HF3501 (Carlson) Article I, Pelowski, higher education bonding recommendations. (This meeting will continue after session in the same room.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

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

Agenda: HF2790 (Jennings) Chisago County recorder appointment permitted.

HF2824 (Pugh) Dakota County; housing and redevelopment authority employees not deemed county employees without county board consent. HF2894 (Jennings) Wyoming and Chisago City orderly annexed property reimbursement duration limit exemption provided.

HF2927 (McCullum) Ramsey County authorized to purchase from or through health care cooperatives on behalf of Ramsey Nursing Home. HF3080 (Wejcman) Minneapolis allowed to exceed bonding limit for water supply capital improvement projects.

HF3119 (Olson, E.) Officer of a local unit of government authorized to contract with the unit to provide construction services and materials under certain circumstances.

HF3268 (Dawkins) Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties government affirmative action plan requirements for contractors modified.

HF3315 (Orfield) Minneapolis city council provided appointment authority for the civilian police review authority executive director.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

FRIDAY, Feb. 20

8 a.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Supplemental appropriations bill, final action.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Mark-up omnibus bill.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division/ TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Continuation of agenda from Feb. 17.

8:30 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: To be announced.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: SF1480 (Cohen);

HF1668 (Entenza) Minnesota free flow of information act disclosure conditions provided. SF330 (Spear); HF1207 (Paymar) Private corrections treatment facility liability limits provided.

SF154 (Frederickson);

HF176 (Harder) Distressed food donor injury liability limited.

HF2779 (Chaudhary) Housing for the elderly definition modified relating to human rights. Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Supplemental appropriations bill, final action.

Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota livestock and feedlots

Estimated amount of manure generated annually by pigs in Minnesota, in tons	11,000,000
Daily manure production per boar, in pounds	11.5
Estimated number of animal feedlots in Minnesota	45,000
Feedlots operated under permits from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)	16,000
Feedlot permits issued by the MPCA in 1990	248
in 1996 (eight-year high)	841
in 1997	694
MPCA civil and criminal enforcement cases for feedlot violations	
in 1997	36
in 1992	2
MPCA permits issued for beef cattle feedlots, 1990-1997	1,959
for dairy feedlots	1,484
for swine feedlots	2,434
Number of slaughter steer or heifers in one "animal unit"	1
swine over 55 pounds	2.5
chickens	100
Percent of livestock in feedlots with fewer than 300 animal units	
in 1997	40
in 1989	85
MPCA permits issued for feedlots with 500 to 999 animal units	
in 1997	42
in 1990	1
MPCA permits issued for feedlots with 1,000 to 1,999 animal units	
in 1997	13
in 1990	0
Minnesota's rank among states for total hog population, 1995	3
North Carolina's rank	2
Iowa's rank	1
Minnesota's rank for turkeys raised, 1995	2
North Carolina's rank	1
People necessary to produce an amount of human waste equal to the animal waste produced by Minnesota's livestock and poultry	40,000,000
Population of Minnesota, 1997	4,685,549

Sources: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; *Minnesota Agricultural Statistics 1996*, Minnesota Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Agriculture; *Manure Management: Practices for the Minnesota Pork Industry, 1994*, University of Minnesota Extension Service; Minnesota Planning.

For more information



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