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# SESSION Weekly

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In this issue:

THE 2001 LEGISLATURE CONVENES

STATE OF THE STATE, STATE FAIR POLL, AND MORE

HF1-HF43

# Session Weekly

**Session Weekly** is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2000-2001 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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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Crime • 5

Education • 5

Ethics • 6

### FEATURES

**Policy** — An economics editor and reporter emphasized the need for education to ensure future economic growth at a policy-making conference for legislators. • 7

**Policy** — Gov. Jesse Ventura's State of the State speech announced an aggressive plan of tax reform, economic development and change to the structure of government. But his plan met mixed reviews from House leaders. • 8

**People** — The 2000 election resulted in the split between the Republican and DFL members of the House narrowing by one and the first African American woman being voted into the House of Representatives. • 10

**People** — Newly elected members of the House of Representatives received first-hand training in the legislative process and effective legislating. • 12

**People** — Rep. Connie Bernardy plans to focus on education, health care, and tax relief in her first term. • 15

**People** — Freshman Rep. Jim Davnie combines a teaching career with community activism upon election to the House. • 16

**People** — New Rep. Rob Eastlund aims to stay connected with the people of his community and their concerns. • 17

**Process** — More than 7,000 fairgoers participate in the House state fair poll while interacting with legislators. • 18

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Even in Minnesota	4	Bill Introductions (HF1-HF43)	23
Resources: 2001 House Membership	20	Committee Schedule (Jan. 8-12)	25
Resources: 2001 Senate Membership	21	Minnesota Index: Elections 2000	28
Resources:			
House Standing Committee Schedule	22		

On the cover: Rep. Steve Sviggum is sworn in as Speaker of the House on the first day of the 82nd Session of the Minnesota Legislature, Jan. 3.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank



# A ceremonial start

House members re-elect Sviggum as speaker and conduct routine business on the first day of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Session

BY DAVID MAEDA

**W**ith another large budget surplus to look forward to, the House launched its 2001 session Jan. 3.

With a Republican majority in the House, a DFL majority in the Senate and an Independence Party governor, the ability to work in a tripartisan manner will once again play a large part in determining what gets accomplished.

The first day of session was devoted to ceremonial and administrative procedures. After Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer banged the gavel calling the body to order shortly after noon, members were sworn in by Justice Edward C. Stringer of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

"Congratulations and good wishes on a full productive session," Stringer said after administering the oath to 133 of the 134 lawmakers. Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth) was absent during day one activities.

Family and friends surrounded many of the

members proudly taking in the prestigious ceremony — many with cameras to snap a keepsake photo. At times the sounds of young children rang above the buzz of the chamber.

Members then proceeded to elect Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) as the Speaker of the House, the position Sviggum has held since the Republicans regained control of the House following the 1998 election.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-Inver Grove Heights) nominated Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) for the same position, but the present members voted party line to give Sviggum the top spot 69-64.

After thanking members for the honor "and humbling experience" of being chosen speaker once again, Sviggum urged members to "seize the opportunity in front of us."

Sviggum said he would work with members from both sides of the aisle for the good of the state.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Jim Davnie, center, Mpls., holds his daughter Rose Letofsky as members are sworn in to begin the 2001 legislative session, Jan. 3 in the House Chamber. Other pictured members are, from left, Paul Marquart, Henry Kalis, Nora Slawik, next to Davnie, Rod Skoe, and Bernie Liedler, far right.

## To our readers:

Welcome to the 82nd Legislative Session of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

The award-winning Session Weekly begins its 18th year of publication with this issue. During the 2000 publication year, we built upon past accomplishments, winning one national and three local awards for content and photography.

Also, we are pleased to recognize three individuals who took on important roles with our permanent staff. Michelle Kibiger, who came on board in late-1999 as assistant editor, is now the assistant director/editor.

Our new assistant editor is Mike Cook, a former staffer at Channel 4000.

And Andrew Von Bank, our session-only photographer for almost 10 years, completes the full-time photography staff.

Rounding out the new staff are five session-only personnel: writers Theresa Stahl, Jonas Walker, and Mary Kay Watson, photographer Sara Kirk, and information assistant Michelle Sorvari.

While they and the rest of the permanent staff are already hard at work on our plans to provide you with more in-depth coverage of the legislative session, we wish good luck to two dedicated individuals who have moved on to other pursuits. We greatly appreciate the hard work and commitment former staff editor Nick Healy and photographer Laura Phillips gave us for many years.

Although you may notice a few minor changes to the publication, we will continue to provide you with non-partisan, in-depth coverage of legislative actions — from initial reporting on committee hearings, to the more important issues that reach the House floor.

You will be able to use the publication for ready comprehension of all issues. The magazine will always be easy to read, informative, and educational. For example, we encourage you to read the Highlights section each week to acquire a quick understanding of topics being debated by lawmakers. Also, take the time to peruse the in-depth At Issue subjects as well.

We have improved our Contents section so that you may have quick access to other sections such as Bill Introductions, Committee Schedules, Reflections, state government statistics (Minnesota Index), historical features, and other topics to hone your legislative interests.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please call us at 651-296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550 if you need answers to general questions or assistance in following the legislative session.

-LeClair Grier Lambert



## Even in Minnesota

### 1984 state primary plagued by punch card problems

Believe it or not, the punch card voting system that stirred so much controversy in the recent presidential election began as a technologically advanced method of tabulating census results.

But about 100 years after it began, the punch card caused enough controversy in a Minnesota election to prompt officials to develop other advanced technology to overcome the punch card system flaws.

The next generation of voting systems, based on optical scanning devices, moved into the forefront in Minnesota during the 1980s.

Unlike the 2000 presidential election, the 1984 Minnesota state primary and general election problems didn't have much to do with pregnant or dimpled chads (the now famous term for the punched out piece of paper) but rather with the computer programming aspects and human errors related to the system.

Those problems prompted officials to commission a study of the system the following year.

Herman Hollerith, a U.S. Census Bureau statistician, created the first punch card tabulating system in the 1880s in an effort to find a better way to collect, sort and analyze census data than the hand-counting methods provided.

Later that decade, Hollerith developed the technology to store data on cards while a mechanical engineering teacher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The ideas came to him while examining how a weaving loom worked using a distinctly designed paper card that mapped out its maneuvers. Then he coupled that knowledge with his observation of a train ticket collector punching tickets.

Hollerith's invention, a tabulating system of collecting information via "punch cards" was first used to collect mortality statistics in New Jersey and New York. It was implemented in time for the 1890 census saving the country an estimated \$5 million.

In 1896, Hollerith formed a company to sell his tabulating system. That company eventually became International Business Machines Corporation (IBM).

In the 1960s, a variation of Hollerith's system was introduced for use in tabulat-

ing votes in elections. That system is still the most commonly used voting system in the United States. In 1998, 31 percent of voters cast their ballots via a punch card.

But problems in several Minnesota precincts during the 1984 primary prompted officials to re-examine punch card use.

Several precincts around the state encountered problems during both the primary and the general election. In Fridley, candidates were listed in a different order than the tabulation program was set for. In Maple Grove, programming problems required manual recounts.

These and similar problems with punch card voting systems in Washington and Watonwan counties convinced former Secretary of State Joan Growe to convene a task force to "determine how the (punch card voting) system could be improved for the benefit of the voters of Minnesota." The task force contained members of the Legislature, as well as county and city election officials, including current U.S. Rep. Bill Luther and State Sen. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park).

The task force recommended better testing of the equipment and programming prior to the election, more thorough training of election judges and voters in using the equipment, and more specific rules on how the design of punch card ballots could decrease confusion and voter error. Many of the recommendations eventually were adopted and became part of the state's election rules and laws.

Although not specifically mentioned among the recommendations, the movement toward the next generation of voting equipment soon began in Minnesota. With the ability to allow the voter to correct mistakes on the ballot before leaving the polling place, optical scan systems soon became the technology of choice in the state.

In the 1994 state general election, the city of Babbitt became the last jurisdiction in the state to use a punch card system. The laws authorizing the use of punch card systems (and lever voting machines) were repealed by the Legislature in 1997.

**(D. MAEDA)**

He extended welcoming wishes to the 18 new members who are serving their first term in the House.

"We are more alike than unlike," he said. "Republicans, Democrats, and yes, independents, Gov. Ventura, what lies within us is the opportunity to succeed for all Minnesotans."

The first year of the session is devoted in large part to setting the state budget.

The state's November forecast projected an optimistic picture of the economy. The \$924 million surplus is the amount leftover from the 2000-2001 session. The Department of Finance is further forecasting that the state is likely to accumulate a \$2.1 billion surplus for the 2002-2003 biennium.

Under current law, the \$924 million figure is the amount available for the rebate, as required by law, after the books have been balanced. Whether there will be a rebate, and what type and size it will be, is one of the issues facing the Legislature this year.

House Republican leaders have said their top priority, as it has been for the past few sessions, is to reduce taxes. They plan to focus on those taxes where the state ranks among the 10 highest in the nation.

Although the last two sessions have produced reductions in all three income tax brackets, Minnesota still ranks sixth highest in income taxes.

Pugh said House DFLers will strive for a balanced approach, focusing on tax relief with possible increases in spending for education, health care, and transportation.

Things between the two House caucuses got off to a tense start, even before the gavel summoned members to the chamber. In a press briefing early in the day, Pugh expressed displeasure with the way committee assignments were distributed to DFL members. He said many of the members were not assigned to the committees of their choice.

Traditionally, the House speaker takes into consideration requests from the minority leader about the committee preferences expressed by members of the minority party. However, the speaker has the final say in determining the makeup of the committees, usually trying to balance members' preferences with gender, philosophical, and geographic considerations so that each committee has a mixed representation.

Pugh said that because Sviggum did not have direct contact with DFL members on their preferences, in many cases committee assignments were therefore made without knowledge of those preferences.

He said that because of the close split between the parties in the House, 69 Republicans to 65 DFLers, bipartisan support will be

Continued on page 24

**Editor's Note:** As of Jan. 4, no House committees from the 2001 Legislature had held any meetings. However, several committees and working groups continued to meet throughout the months following the Legislature's adjournment in May 2000. Several ongoing issues popped up during the interim, and although the Legislature could take no action on these items, the hearings provided valuable background. Those issues will likely reappear during 2001.

## ★ CRIME

### Felony DWI issue explored

Punishment alone will not stop multiple drunken driving offenses, according to a draft report of a working group commissioned to study instituting a felony driving while intoxicated penalty.

The group, established by the 2000 Legislature, spent last summer and fall studying the legal impact of a felony DWI penalty and exploring the effects of and alternatives to jail and prison sentences.

One theme that emerged from the meetings was the need for long-term supervision and treatment for DWI offenders — not incarceration alone.

"The working group found that a get-tough, punitive effort wasn't going to work," said Paul Scoggins, assistant county attorney for Hennepin County, at an Oct. 3 meeting. "It has to be treatment, coupled with long-term supervision."

Scoggins helped the group draft the report.

During the 2000 session, legislators debated a plan that would have made a fourth drunken driving offense within a 10-year period a felony. That plan was amended during the session to make the fifth offense within 10 years a felony.

However, before the end of the 2000 session, members determined that they did not have enough information regarding the cost impact that felony penalties would have on local jails and probationary systems. As a result, the House and Senate voted to study the issue further and have the Corrections Department report back to the Legislature. Officials expect the report to be presented this month.

During its meetings, the group discussed several key aspects of the issue, including:

- determining the number of offenses within a 10-year period before a felony-level penalty is appropriate;

- what circumstances make a stayed sentence for felony-level offenses appropriate;
- establishing how felony drunken driving offenses should factor into state sentencing guidelines;
- deciding if mandatory prison sentences for felony drunken driving offenses are ever appropriate, and if so, what the sentence lengths should be; and
- what the effect on jails, prisons and community corrections agencies would be for each alternative.

Much of the discussion involved evaluating many of the existing proposals, and what effects they would have in the long term.

According to the draft report, estimates accompanying the initial felony DWI proposal suggested an impact between 260 and 1,200 beds the first year, based on 1998 statistics. In addition, fiscal impacts ranged into the tens of millions of dollars.

Though subsequent amendments to the plan virtually eliminated local costs, local corrections officials were concerned not only about direct incarceration costs, but also the fact that felons require closer supervision and different conditions for probation.

Making the fifth DWI in 10 years a felony, rather than a fourth, cuts the number of offenders in half, based on 1998 statistics. How-

ever, the draft report does say it is difficult to measure exactly how many offenders will actually end up serving prison time.

One proposal providing for early, supervised release of offenders who complete a state treatment program also reduced the numbers who would be sent to jails and prisons, the report said.

Along those lines, the group agreed there must be a sufficient balance in determining sentence length, circumstances for mandatory penalties and factoring a felony DWI into the state's sentencing guidelines. Officials should consider the felony DWI option carefully, since felonies weigh more heavily on the guidelines, the draft says.

Furthermore, sentence length must be flexible enough to provide an incentive for offenders to choose treatment, while still providing adequate punishment for the offense, according to the group's draft.

## ★ EDUCATION

### Test scoring error explained

Had it not been for the resolve of one parent, thousands of Minnesota students would have gone through life thinking they failed a test they had actually passed.

Marty Swaden told the House Education

### First day rally



PHOTO BY JENNY DEAN

During a demonstration by the Minnesota Welfare Rights Coalition on Jan. 3, protesters drop 5,000 cut-outs of children from the second floor of the rotunda. According to the group, the cut-outs are representative of one-third of the children that will become homeless in 18 months if the five-year limit on welfare for families in poverty is not changed.

Policy Committee Aug. 15 that after his daughter, Sydney, a sophomore at Henry Sibley High School, received a failing score on the state's Basic Standards math test, he decided one way he could help was to go over the test with his daughter.

The Mendota Heights man said he contacted the Department of Children, Families and Learning to get a copy of the test with the correct answers, but became frustrated when the department was slow to respond to his request. Current state law does not allow students and parents to receive their corrected tests back, but people are allowed to look at a blank exam and its answers.

Once Swaden began to go over the test with a member of the department, it became apparent something was amiss. The scoring of the test by National Computer Systems (NCS) was faulty as six questions on the test key contained the wrong "right" answer.

Those errors meant more than 45,000 tests were incorrectly scored. As a result, 7,935 students were told they had failed, even though they had passed the test. On top of that, officials told the committee that 48 high school seniors were kept from participating in their graduation ceremonies during the spring of 2000.

Members of the committee wondered if there were that many students who passed when they thought they had failed, did the same number of students think they passed when they actually failed.

Christine Jax, commissioner of the department, said that could not be possible statistically. She explained that the staff of the department had checked the results and determined that it didn't work both ways.

Jax also said she was "outraged" by the mistakes made by NCS. As a result, she met with NCS President David Smith and required the company to cover all costs resulting from the error, including reimbursement to all Minnesota school districts for their additional costs, such as additional staff time and notifying students of the mistake.

Furthermore, NCS agreed to cover the costs of an Oct. 11 graduation ceremony held at the State Capitol for those seniors unable to participate in regular commencement exercises with other members of the Class of 2000. Sixteen students participated in that ceremony.

Jax said that the state would withhold further payment of the \$2.9 million contract until the matter was sufficiently resolved.

NCS agreed to Jax's requirements. "It is an incredibly embarrassing mistake for people in our business," Smith said.

## ★ ETHICS

### Governor's job status questioned

When Gov. Jesse Ventura gets behind the microphone for Xtreme Football League games beginning in February, legislators wonder if he will be violating the state employee code of ethics.

The House State Government Finance Committee met Dec. 20 to hear testimony on whether or not the governor qualifies as a state employee and is therefore subject to state ethics laws.

During the 2000 session, the House approved a bill (HF2699) that clearly defined the state's constitutional officers, including Ventura, as employees of the state. But the chair of the State Government Finance Committee, Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), said the House provision was not included in the final conference committee version of that bill.

Krinkie said the issue wasn't only about Ventura, but about the office of governor.

In a Nov. 28 response to an inquiry by Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine), Alan Gilbert, chief deputy and solicitor general from the Attorney General's Office, said that Attorney General Mike Hatch determined the governor is an employee of the state and thus is bound by the state code of ethics.

The code of ethics includes a provision that prohibits state employees from using their position for personal gain.



Former State Ethics Officer Sandra Hyllengren testifies before the State Government Finance Committee Dec. 20, 2000.

Sandra Hyllengren, a former state ethics officer in the Department of Employee Relations, agreed with Gilbert. She said that while serving in the position she issued a memo to the governor's staff informing them of that opinion.

As state ethics officer Hyllengren said she often had to respond to questions about the code of ethics. As an example, a state trooper once asked her whether he could teach a driver's safety class for reimbursement while wearing his uniform. She told him that would be a violation of the code because it was a privilege not available to the general public.

"State employees have the privilege of being keepers of the public trust," she said. "Every citizen signs your paycheck."

Julien Carter, the Ventura-appointed commissioner of the Department of Employee Relations, ruled Dec. 11 that the governor's new job is not a conflict of interest with his state duties.

Carter said the statute is confusing because it contains ambiguous language. He said portions of the statute clearly differentiate between constitutional officers and employees. However, the formal definition of employee should not use the word employee because it's not clear enough. Furthermore, it leaves the governor's status in question. Carter said he would support legislation clarifying the statute.

Krinkie said he plans to introduce such legislation this session in hopes of stating that the position of governor is subject to the same rules and regulations of other state employees.



## NOTES

**The opening day** of the 2001 legislative session was again a monumental one for Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka).

When the session began Jan. 3, Abeler stood to remind members he actually missed his swearing in ceremony on Jan. 5, 1999 because his wife was giving birth to their son Judson, the youngest of the Abeler's six boys.

And this year, Abeler announced that he and his wife Barb were celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Jan. 3.



# Economic ABCs

Reporter and editor alerts legislators that education is key to future economic success in Minnesota

By DAVID MAEDA

The states that focus their attention on developing a well-trained workforce will be the most successful in the upcoming decade, a notable economics reporter told Minnesota legislators.

"Education and economic development in the new economy are two sides of the same coin," said Chris Farrell, Minnesota Public Radio's chief economics correspondent.

Speaking as part of the Jan. 4 Minnesota Political Leadership program, sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute, Farrell said the state might have an edge because of its traditionally strong education system.

"Minnesota is well positioned to take advantage of the new economy," he said.

Farrell, who is also a contributing economics editor at Business Week magazine and hosts a public television personal finance show, said increasingly that government's most important role will be to ensure a good education system is in place.

But he warned that as the new economy shifts more towards a global economy, the state will need to find ways not only to provide a good education system, but to develop a system that produces a better-trained workforce and find ways to retain those skilled workers.

Farrell said that throughout history technological advances have changed the nature of the economy. The transition from the telegraph and railroad age in the late 1800s to the development of electric power and mass production in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century is one example of a major change in the economy. Now, as we shift into an information-based society, Farrell said, traditional ways of business are no longer effective.

Unlike the past, Farrell said companies with the most capital aren't necessarily the ones that will succeed long term in the new economy.

"Capital is no longer a scarce commodity," he said. "Companies are finding out their size and past success is no guarantee of future success."

More and more, finding and retaining



PHOTOS BY ANDREW VON BANK  
Chris Farrell, chief economics correspondent for Minnesota Public Radio, speaks at the Minnesota Horizons 2001 Forum at the Science Museum of Minnesota Jan. 4.

skilled workers is key to a company's success, he said. Three-fourths of all businesses now provide performance bonuses, one-half have a profit sharing system in place, and one-third provide employee stock options.

Farrell said government needs to re-focus its past economic development strategies to conform with the changing economy. He said

the days of an economy based on industry and service is shifting to one based on knowledge and information.

He said that since the 1930s economic development has been focused on programs that create employment opportunities. "It used to be about 'jobs, jobs, jobs' but we have moved to a world where there is a labor shortage."

Now with a global pool of workers, he said the problem is no longer high unemployment, but rather finding qualified workers to fill jobs. Yet finding educated workers is not necessarily the same thing as producing a well-trained workforce.

"The percentage of the adult population with their high school diploma is 83 percent, the highest ever," Farrell said. "One in four have their bachelor's degree, and two-thirds immediately went to college after high school."

Because of the historic rate of educated people, Minnesota is no longer as far ahead when compared to other states.

Farrell said in order to succeed in the new economy the state will need to foster policies that trust people to create new ideas because entrepreneurship and risk taking are at the heart of the new economy.

But it's not just government that will determine how states do in the upcoming years. Minnesota's strong non-profit sector

gives it a competitive advantage, he said. That sector is taking on more responsibilities that the government used to provide. He cited the growth of church groups dealing with social related issues as an example.

"Risk taking goes hand-in-hand with risk sharing," he said. 🐼

# The 'Big Plan' unveiled

State of the State reveals tax relief, education funding and government reform among Ventura's top legislative priorities

BY JONAS M. WALKER

In his second state-of-the-state address, Gov. Jesse Ventura laid out an aggressive agenda for the coming year.

And he was adamant that with the help of the Legislature it could be done in one year.

The speech, delivered in the House chamber Jan. 4, was heavy with reforms to the state's property, income and sales taxes. But Ventura also emphasized the need to bring the state up to speed with regard to the changing economy.

one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation."

During his 70-minute speech, Ventura discussed tax structure, education, and concluded by discussing campaign finance reform.

"Let us begin with bold, responsible tax reform," said the governor. "We are poised to provide Minnesota citizens with a reformed tax system that not only lightens their load, but also makes the tax system more fair, simple, and accountable to taxpayers."



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Senate President Don Samuelson, *left*, and House Speaker Steve Sviggum, *right*, listen as Gov. Jesse Ventura gives his State of the State address Jan. 4.

And before concluding his remarks, he revisited his favored proposals for a unicameral legislature that meets once every other year.

Ventura said the people of Minnesota inspired his plan.

He referred to his travels from the past year and the observations he made.

"In Becker, Belgrade, Big Lake and Bemidji, I saw hard-working young people chipping in as part of the best workforce in the world. A workforce that for the last two years has had

The governor cited ongoing shifts in the tenuous balance of agricultural economics, the expansion of e-commerce, and projected property tax increases from Apple Valley to Morris.

"Today I am bringing you the Ventura Administration's agenda for that change," he said.

He first discussed property tax, which he described as "a complicated shell game that frustrates citizen involvement, and lets both

state and local governments evade responsibility for their spending and taxing decisions."

He then emphasized the originally local nature of property tax, endorsing efforts to make it "smaller, simpler, fairer."

Ventura sought to demonstrate the unfairness of property taxes, rhetorically asking those assembled, "How much does the value of a property really have to do with how much it costs government to serve it, or the ability of the owner to pay the tax?"

Ventura went on to suggest that "businesses and cabins that have no local vote [on voter-approved levies] will pay tax at a uniform statewide rate."

He specifically said that he would advocate a double-digit tax break for businesses, homes, apartments, farms, and cabins.

Although the two party caucuses received his proposals with differing degrees of approval, the audience seemed to be unified in support of Ventura's proposal to shift funding of juvenile protection costs back on the state and away from the counties and property tax rolls.

The governor garnered a chuckle when he said that the income tax has "given our state more notoriety than our 10,000 lakes." He went on to propose an across-the-board reduction in state income tax rates of 0.5 percent in all three brackets.

As to the third of the "big three" taxes, the governor proposed expanding the sales tax so that some services, in addition to goods, would be taxable.

Hoping to support Minnesota's burgeoning e-commerce sector while still updating the tax code, Ventura promised to work with other governors to have a more unified sales tax system among states.

The governor said that about 60 percent of Minnesota purchases are for services — for things such as haircuts, piano tuning, boat docking and car washes. These items are not currently taxable, but would be under the plan he intends to propose.

Ventura enjoyed the bipartisan applause in response to his telecommunications reform plan. "Our goal is simple: Minnesota will make the transition from a non-competitive regulatory environment to a consumer-oriented telecommunications marketplace, he said."

As an example he cited phone companies competing on a level playing field. "New competitors will bring choice and improved

service to consumers currently served by a monopoly.”

Like a teacher, Ventura gave the elected officials a lesson in recent educational spending, and offered lawmakers a challenge.

“This last biennium, with tripartisan support, we increased K-12 spending by \$1.3 billion,” he said. Ventura expressed his disapproval for additional spending in this session, saying he believes that most districts have not shown taxpayers the benefit of the last budget increase.

The governor then endorsed changes in teacher-pay schemes, proposing that “when a teacher is a superior performer that teacher [should] be paid accordingly.”

Ventura also signaled his approval of programs which improve education while not requiring additional funds.

Looking to the future, Ventura offered a new plan that would aid in the “future workforce being prepared and our current workforce being re-educated.”

One way he proposed to accomplish this is by potentially reorganizing the Departments of Economic Security and Trade and Economic Development. Ventura explained that “the primary purpose of a reorganization is to integrate economic and workforce development policy decision-making.”

Ventura had three additional challenges for legislators.

First, he was greeted with applause when he challenged lawmakers to “spend time reviewing and repealing obsolete laws and rules in the first weeks of session before” taking up new proposals.

Even more applause greeted his proposal to “give each legislator the opportunity to introduce a priority bill that will be guaranteed committee consideration and floor vote.”

He saved the most popular challenge for last. “I challenge you to open up the process by ensuring that committees do not meet after 10 p.m. and that meetings are announced at least one week in advance.”

Ventura then revisited the unicameral issue, saying it is the only solution to open, accountable government.

He also said that holding legislative sessions every year merely increases the number of bills and political wrangling and doesn’t force legislators to conduct meaningful debate.

“I see no reason why we can’t complete the people’s business with one legislative session every other year,” Ventura said.

He also said that he will attempt to meet that goal this session by providing both budget and bonding requests in 2001.

Finally, Ventura made a point of campaign finance reform. For example, he insisted that candidates receive state funds sooner than they do now and that so-called “soft-money” donations be restricted.

Ventura dedicated the address to his Aunt Betty, who recently passed away. After the dedication, he wiped sweat from his brow, and confidently strode toward the back exit amidst the standing ovation of all assembled. 🙏

## House leaders voice approval, concern after governor’s speech

BY THERESA STAHL AND MARY KAY WATSON

Applause during Gov. Jesse Ventura’s State of the State speech was decidedly one-sided, characterizing the reaction of House members to the governor’s address.

When House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) was asked why DFL members didn’t seem to be clapping much, he said he thought the applause was adequate from where he sat.

House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) joked that the amount of hand-clapping on the DFL side was “almost deafening.”

But either way it’s clear the governor’s plan is a challenging one to both caucuses.

Pugh said the governor’s plan, which he characterized as “bold,” was heavy on tax reform but offered little in terms of balancing needs.

“There were no references to the elderly or health care and very little on education,” Pugh said. “For a speech that was more than an hour long, he spent less than two minutes on education.”

From the other side of the aisle, Sviggum said he was more than pleased with the Ventura’s message.

“(He) brought forward a very balanced proposal,” he said.

Historically, Sviggum said, legislatures have

approved most of what a governor proposes, and he doesn’t expect this biennium to be any different. “Almost everything the governor proposed has a shot in the legislative session.”

He admitted, however, that the Legislature might not be prepared to make big changes in taxes this year. “We’re going to give it an effort,” he added.

Pugh said the DFL is willing to work on reforming the property tax, but tax relief has to be balanced with meeting the needs of people.

Ventura’s proposal to reduce the state sales tax rate to 6 percent was well-received by the

Continued on page 27



Offering the Republican caucus response to the governor’s speech are House Speaker Steve Sviggum and Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty, left.



Minority Leader Tom Pugh responds to the governor’s State of the State address Jan. 4.

# 2001 House Profile

Party split narrows by one, first African American woman is elected to the House, and three former members return

By MIKE COOK

**M**any familiar faces again called the House home when the gavel fell at noon Jan. 3.

About 84 percent (113) of the 134 legislators from last session are back, leaving 21 new members. By comparison, the 1999 Legislature featured 20 new faces, 1997 saw 22, 1995 had 26, and 1993 had 33 freshman legislators.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Voters cast their ballots at the Denmark Town Hall in Washington County during the Nov. 7, 2000 general election.

Of the 21 new members in 2001, three are returning to their old stomping grounds — Rep. Geri Evans (DFL–New Brighton), Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL–St. Peter) and Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL–Maplewood). This will be the third term for Evans, who was also elected in 1992 and 1996, and the second for Johnson and Slawik, both of whom were originally elected in 1996.

Evans was defeated in 1998 by former Rep. Barb Haake (R–Mounds View). Haake decided not to seek re-election in 2000. Slawik was defeated in 1998 by former Rep. Jim Seifert (R–Woodbury), whom she defeated by 79 votes in November.

Johnson left her seat in 1998 after being asked by DFL gubernatorial candidate Mike Freeman to be his running mate for lieutenant governor. Freeman lost the primary bid to Hubert H. “Skip” Humphrey III. Johnson defeated incumbent Julie Storm (R–St. Peter) in November 2000.

When legislators left St. Paul last May, there were 70 Republican members, 63 DFLers, and one independent. But Minnesota voters reduced that gap between Republicans and Democrats to four, 69-65, during the November election. No independent candidates were elected to the House in 2000.

Three Republicans lost their seat to DFLers

(Johnson in 24B, Rep. Paul Marquart in 9B and Slawik in 57A) while Republican Reps. Maxine Penas (1A) and Dale Walz (12A) won seats from DFLers. There were 16 open seats and 14 uncontested House races.

Of the new members, 12 are men and nine are women, keeping men in the majority by a 99-35 count, the same number as the previous session. Women held a record 40 seats in 1998.

The number of African-Americans in the House has doubled for 2001. Joining second term Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL–Mpls) is Neva Walker (DFL–Mpls) who was elected in District 61B. She is the first African-American woman ever elected to the House.

In terms of age, the House is getting younger — by a trimester. The average age dropped from a 10-year high of 48.7 years in 1999 to 48.4 years today. One decade ago the average age was 47, while it was 40.8 in 1975.

Three legislators are past the age of 70 — Irv Anderson (DFL–Int’l Falls), Dave Bishop (R–Rochester) and Bernie Lieder (DFL–Crookston). Five members are in their 20s, with Tony Sertich (DFL–Chisholm) being the youngest of the group at age 25.

Representatives Irv Anderson, Lyndon R. Carlson (DFL–Crystal), Phyllis Kahn (DFL–Mpls) and Steve Wenzel (DFL–Little Falls) share seniority as each begins a 15<sup>th</sup> term, while 18 “rookies” have seats in the House and 20 begin their sophomore term.

As for leadership, Rep. Steve Sviggum (R–Kenyon) has retained his position as Speaker of the House, and Rep. Tim Pawlenty (R–Eagan) remains majority leader. The minority leader is Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL–South St. Paul).

Being a legislator is a part-time job for many of the 134 members of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

When away from St. Paul, more members (23) work in the business profession than any other field. This is the second straight biennium in which that is the case.

As for schooling, House members have more education than ever, as 118 of 134 have graduated from a post-secondary institution, including a record 50 with a graduate degree. Thirteen members are working on a graduate degree, and another 13 have taken some college classes. 🐼



# 2001 House Profile

Membership					
	2001	1999	1997	1995	1993*
DFL	65	63	70	71	86
R	69	71	64	63	47
Men	99	99	95	102	101
Women	35	35	39	32	32

Age					
	2001 <sup>†</sup>	1999	1997	1995	1993*
21-30	5	6	5	6	5
31-40	27	23	27	24	28
41-50	42	51	45	51	50
51-60	41	38	43	34	34
61-70	12	13	11	16	15
over 71	3	3	3	3	1
Average age	48.4	48.7	48.3	47.9	47.7
† Ages not available for 4 members					

Education					
	2001	1999	1997	1995	1993*
High School	3	4	5	5	6
Some College	13	17	19	24	20
4-yr. Undergraduate Degree	44	39	40	41	47
Some Graduate Work	13	13	16	14	16
Graduate Degree	50	49	43	37	32
Technical College	5	6	10	11	6
2-yr. Undergraduate Degree	6	6	1	—	—
No listing	—	—	—	2	6

Current Term					
	2001	1999	1997	1995	1993*
1	18	20	22	26	33
2	20	24	29	29	16
3	22	25	25	16	11
4	22	20	14	11	25
5	17	10	7	20	8
6	8	5	14	7	13
7	4	10	6	4	3
8	7	4	3	2	6
9	3	3	1	3	6
10	2	1	3	5	3
11	1	2	3	3	7
12	1	3	2	6	1
13	3	2	4	1	—
14	2	4	—	—	—
Other	4 (15)	1 (22)	1 (21)	1 (20)	1 (19)

Occupation					
	2001	1999	1997	1995	1993*
Business	23	24	21	20	14
Educator	20	19	22	20	20
Attorney	15	17	17	18	16
Legislator	15	14	18	19	17
Farming	8	9	11	14	16
Consultant	6	6	6	6	8
Homemaker	4	5	5	3	3
Communications	3	4	4	3	—
Insurance	2	4	3	3	3
Retired	4	4	3	3	3
Real Estate	3	3	2	2	2
Trades	3	3	2	4	3
Government	2	2	3	3	—
Other	26	20	17	16	29

\* the 1993 session began with 133 members due to one resignation.

# A fresh start

21 new House members get hands-on training about the legislative process at freshman orientation retreat

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

Preparing for the Legislature can be a daunting task, especially when you only have a few weeks to do it.

But a biennial orientation program for new members aims to make the transition from private citizen to public official as smooth as possible.

The primary focus of the retreat is to give new members the basic tools they need to be effective legislators. Much of that involves connecting them to the key staff members who will be integral to performing their jobs successfully.

But another key aspect of the retreat was to cross party lines and make connections.

"Why is freshman orientation a good idea?" asked Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls), who hosted the event with Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover). "We get to meet people on the other side of the aisle."

This year's version of the retreat focused specifically on the legislative process. Tingelstad, a freshman in 1996, and Kelliher, now in her second term as a representative, took a look at their own experiences as first-term legislators and wanted to make the 2000 retreat more hands-on.

"I just remember there was this big fog," said Tingelstad of her own orientation. "We wanted

to provide some real world scenarios by bringing in legislators and having them share."

But before the new legislators could start brainstorming about ways to make an idea become a law, they had to know where to go for help in drafting legislation and making sure it is heard.

Presentations were given by Michelle Timmons, chief revisor from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes; Tom Todd, director of House Research; Bill Marx, House chief fiscal analyst and Fiscal Analyst Gary Karger; Tom Hanson, legislative director for House Speaker Steve Sviggum; and Al Mathiowetz and Gail Romanowski from the Chief Clerk's Office.

Members also broke up into small groups to discuss several ways to generate ideas for new laws. They also heard tips from other legislators regarding time management, being an effective legislator and other items.

Continued on page 24



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

New members of the House moved from room to room during round table discussions on a variety of topics during the New Member Orientation at the Riverwood Convention Center near Monticello Nov. 27-29, 2000.

## Meet the newly elected 2001 House members



**Bernardy, Connie (DFL)** 48B  
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**Home:** Fridley  
\*6840 Siverts Lane N.E. 55432-4625 ..... (763) 571-0015  
**Business:** same  
**Born:** 2/2/63. **Married:** spouse Dan, 3 children. **Occupation:** Community Volunteer/Consultant. **Education:** BA, speech communications, University of Minnesota; certification, government acquisitions and contract management, University of St. Thomas. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



**Davnie, Jim (DFL)** 62A  
\*335 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-0173  
**E-mail:** rep.jim.davnie@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** Minneapolis  
2517 30th Ave. S. 55406 ..... (612) 724-5163  
**Business:** Buffalo  
1300 N. Highway 25 55313 ..... (763) 682-8313  
**Married:** spouse Cara Letofsky, 1 child. **Occupation:** Teacher. **Education:** BS, psychology/social work, University of Minnesota; MEd, Education, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.

\*prefers interim mail at this address



**Dibble, Scott (DFL)** 60B  
 \*369 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-9281  
**E-mail:** rep.scott.dibble@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** Minneapolis  
 4207 Blaisdell Ave. 55409 ..... (612) 824-3823  
**Business:** Minneapolis  
 430 Oak Grove St., Suite 117 55403 ..... (612) 874-9002  
**Born:** 8/27/65. **Partner:** David Maier. **Occupation:** Community Organizer. **Education:** German/political science, University of Minnesota and University of St. Thomas.  
**Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



**Jacobson, Carl (R)** 53B  
 429 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-7153  
**E-mail:** rep.carl.jacobson@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** Vadnais Heights  
 \*3300 Belmar Drive 55127 ..... (651) 787-0775  
**Business:** Shoreview  
**Born:** 7/27/69. **Married:** spouse Joyce. **Occupation:** Public Accountant. **Education:** BS, accounting, Minnesota State University, Mankato. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



**Eastlund, Rob (R)** 18A  
 449 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-5364  
**E-mail:** rep.rob.eastlund@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** Isanti  
 \*2123-305th Ave. N.E. 55040 ..... (763) 689-1746  
**Business:** Cambridge  
 355 S. Garfield St. 55008 ..... (763) 689-0349  
**Born:** 6/19/49. **Married:** spouse Janis, 3 children. **Occupation:** Property Manager. **Education:** BS, math, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



**Johnson, Jeff (R)** 34B  
 487 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-5511  
**E-mail:** rep.jeff.johnson@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** Plymouth  
 \*4620 Minnesota Lane 55446 ..... (763) 550-7904  
**Business:** Minneapolis  
 Cargill Inc., Law Department  
 MS 9, P.O. Box 5624 55440 ..... (952) 742-2848  
**Born:** 11/11/66. **Married:** spouse Sonni, 1 child. **Occupation:** Attorney. **Education:** BA, economics, Concordia College, Moorhead; JD, Law, Georgetown University Law School.  
**Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



**Evans, Geri (DFL)** 52B  
 211 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-0141  
**E-mail:** rep.geri.evans@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** New Brighton  
 \*52 Windsor Ct. 55112 ..... (651) 633-6542  
**Family:** 2 children. **Occupation:** Educator/Teacher. **Education:** BA, education, Gustavus Adolphus College; graduate work, education administration, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 1992. **Term:** 3rd (non-consecutive).



**Johnson, Ruth (DFL)** 24B  
 241 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-7065  
**E-mail:** rep.ruth.johnson@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** St. Peter  
 \*417 N. 7th St. 56082 ..... (507) 931-2075  
**Business:** same  
**Born:** 5/23/47. **Single.** **Occupation:** Legislator. **Education:** BA, religion, Gustavus Adolphus College; MSED, college student personnel administration, Indiana University-Bloomington. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 2nd (non-consecutive).



**Goodwin, Barbara (DFL)** 52A  
 353 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-4331  
**E-mail:** rep.barbara.goodwin@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** Columbia Heights  
 \*650 Sullivan Lane N.E. 55421 ..... (763) 574-1716  
**Business:** Minneapolis  
 301-4th Avenue S. 55415 ..... (612) 348-0297  
**Born:** 1/25/49. **Married:** spouse David, 2 children. **Occupation:** Principal Planner specializing in communications. **Education:** AA, Liberal Arts, North Hennepin Community College; BA, Political Science, Sociology, Hamline University. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



**Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)** 67B  
 229 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-4201  
**E-mail:** rep.sheldon.johnson@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** St. Paul  
 \*2031 Howard St. S. 55119 ..... (651) 730-4917  
**Business:** Maplewood  
 297 S. Century Ave. 55119 ..... (651) 298-5571  
**Born:** 3/25/54. **Married:** spouse Elaine, 2 children. **Occupation:** Corrections. **Education:** BA, social work, Bethel College, St. Paul; MA, psychology, University of St. Thomas. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



**Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)** 47B  
 \*227 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-3709  
**E-mail:** rep.debra.hilstrom@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** Brooklyn Center  
 3509-66th Ave. N. 55429 ..... (763) 561-6487  
**Business:** same  
**Born:** 6/21/68. **Married:** spouse Joel, 2 children. **Occupation:** Small Business Owner. **Education:** BA, sociology, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



**Lipman, Eric (R)** 56B  
 567 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-4244  
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**Home:** Lake Elmo  
 \*8249 Deer Pond Court N. 55042 ..... (651) 773-1985  
**Business:** Lake Elmo  
 P.O. Box 82 55402 ..... (651) 773-1985  
**Born:** 6/27/64. **Married:** spouse Kimberly, 1 child. **Occupation:** Attorney. **Education:** BA, political science, Union College; JD, law, George Washington University. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



**Marquart, Paul (DFL)** **9B**  
 311 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-6829  
**E-mail:** rep.paul.marquart@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** Dilworth  
 \*605 First St. N.E. 56529 ..... (218) 233-9200  
**Business:** Glyndon  
 DGF School 513 Parke Ave. 56547 ..... (218) 498-2263  
**Born:** 1/9/57. **Married:** spouse Colleen, 2 children.  
**Occupation:** Educator/Teacher. **Education:** BS, education-social studies, University of North Dakota; MS, education administration, Tri-College University.  
**Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



**Thompson, Mark (DFL)** **46A**  
 223 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-4176  
**E-mail:** rep.mark.thompson@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** New Hope  
 \*3749 Hillsboro Ave. N. 55427 ..... (763) 593-0871  
**Business:** Excelsior  
 Minnetonka Middle School-West  
 6421 Hazeltine Boulevard 55331 ..... (952) 401-5300  
**Born:** 2/4/60. **Married:** spouse Patricia. **Occupation:** Educator. **Education:** BA, political science, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



**Penas, Maxine (R)** **1A**  
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**E-mail:** rep.maxine.penas@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** Badger  
 \*23588-310th Ave. 56714 ..... (218) 528-3278  
**Born:** 10/6/46. **Married:** spouse Albert, 3 children.  
**Occupation:** Retired Teacher/Farmer. **Education:** BA, biology/chemistry, College of St. Benedict. **Elected:** 2000.  
**Term:** 1st.



**Walker, Neva (DFL)** **61B**  
 213 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-7152  
**E-mail:** rep.neva.walker@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** Minneapolis  
 \*P.O. Box 80224 55408 ..... (612) 824-4262  
**Born:** 12/71. **Single,** 1 child. **Occupation:** Community Organizer. **Education:** sociology, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



**Ruth, Connie (R)** **28A**  
 415 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-5368  
**E-mail:** rep.connie.ruth@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** Owatonna  
 \*689 Woodhill Place 55060 ..... (507) 451-1144  
**Married:** spouse Douglas, 3 children. **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** BA, organization management/communications, Concordia University; MA, organizational management, Concordia University. **Elected:** 2000.  
**Term:** 1st.



**Walz, Dale (R)** **12A**  
 527 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-4333  
**E-mail:** rep.dale.walz@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** Brainerd  
 \*1901 Oakridge Road S.E. 56401 ..... (218) 828-4187  
**Born:** 9/16/64. **Single,** 3 children. **Occupation:** Police Officer. **Education:** AAS, criminal justice, Central Lakes College. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st



**Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL)** **5B**  
 \*233 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-0172  
**E-mail:** rep.tony.sertich@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** Chisholm  
 P.O. Box 3 55719 ..... (218) 254-1936  
**Born:** 1/2/76. **Single.** **Occupation:** Legislator. **Education:** BA, theatre arts/political science, Hamline University. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



**Wasiluk, Scott (DFL)** **55B**  
 225 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-1188  
**E-mail:** rep.scott.wasiluk@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** Maplewood  
 \*1747 Frank St. 55109 ..... (651) 776-2633  
**Business:** Maple Grove  
 2 Scimed Place 55311  
**Born:** 5/1/58. **Married:** spouse Julie, 2 children. **Occupation:** Microbiologist. **Education:** BA, chemistry, University of St. Thomas. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



**Slawik, Nora (DFL)** **57A**  
 356 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-7807  
**E-mail:** rep.nora.slawik@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Home:** Maplewood  
 \*1142 Marnie Court 55119 ..... (651) 738-7099  
**Business:** same  
**Born:** 11/23/62. **Married:** spouse Brien, 2 children.  
**Occupation:** Consultant. **Education:** BS, recreation administration, Arizona State University. **Elected:** 1996.  
**Term:** 2nd (non-consecutive).

\*prefers interim mail at this addresss



# Citizen lobbyist takes her seat

Education, health care and tax relief top list of concerns for District 48B's newest addition to the Legislature

By MIKE COOK

During her campaign, one of Connie Bernardy's campaign slogans was "One of us...Working for us!"



Rep. Connie Bernardy

Bernardy (DFL-Fridley) has lived and been involved in District 48B for her entire life. "I grew up in the community, I've lived here for 37 years. I know a lot of people and I'm one of us."

Now she also represents them.

"The people of the district encouraged me to run," she said.

That familiarity with her community was one pleasing part of the campaign because of her connections throughout the area, be they through former classmates, her former babysitters, parents she volunteers with at her children's school, fellow church-goers, and others.

Bernardy replaces fellow DFLer Alice Johnson, who spent seven terms in St. Paul.

"When I talked to Alice about running she told me 'Connie, if you get endorsed you will win because you are one of us,'" Bernardy said.

It was Christmas 1999 when Bernardy said she began to seriously think about pursuing a seat.

"I did some research on how it would fit with my family, and thought it would be a great fit," she said. "Plus, I get to work on issues that are important to myself, my family and my community."

Her husband, Dan, and daughters Lisa, 18, Brielle, 10, and Kyla, 7, see mom's new adventure as a team effort. "They've all been involved from the beginning in any way they wanted, and they just had a lot of fun with it," Bernardy said.

Now that she has been elected to serve constituents in Fridley, Blaine, Coon Rapids, and Spring Lake Park, Bernardy says she is ready for business.

"I look forward to getting work done," she

said shortly before Christmas 2000. "I've been getting oriented at the Capitol and talking to constituents about things I'll be working on."

Her top priority is education.

As a classroom volunteer, Bernardy has seen firsthand the problems faced by many schools.

"We have very good schools in our district and a strong tradition of supporting those schools," she said. But, like many other dis-

tricts, the schools have been forced to make unwanted program cuts for a number of years. She supports lowering class sizes, ensuring all schools are smoke- and drug-free, reforming the property tax system, and ensuring schools receive stable and adequate funding.

She says she doesn't believe more money is the only answer, but that it does play a role.

"We just need to make sure we have the systems in place and financial backing that is needed for those services for our young people," Bernardy said, "but we must also think outside-the-box for solutions."

*"When we have the opportunity for tax relief I want to see that it benefits all people of our district."*

—Rep. Connie Bernardy

Although she has never held an elected office, Bernardy has experience in education funding at the Capitol.

Two years ago she was part of a grassroots, non-partisan task force of parents, teachers and school administrators that helped attain more state funding than was originally planned. "The governor proposed \$88 per pupil unit for our district, but we needed \$400 to break even after several years of drastic cuts," she said. "We ended up getting about \$300 per pupil unit."

She advocates fully funding special education, be it at the state or federal level.

Health care is Bernardy's second major issue.

"Prescription drug prices is a concern of

people in our district, as is access to quality, affordable health care," Bernardy said. Others have expressed worry about how people can get coverage to pay for mental and chemical health services. "Hopefully we can find a solution to prevent some of those problems up front, so we're not paying for it the long run," she said.

She further supports making prescription drugs more affordable for seniors and ensuring privacy of medical records.

Tax relief is also a concern for those in District 48B. "When we have the opportunity for tax relief I want to see that it benefits all people of our district." Like many people in her district, she advocates rebate checks for constitu-

ents, but at the same time wants to make sure necessary education funding is in place.

Bernardy is a strong advocate of intergenerational dialogue. In addition to promoting a program at her church where youngsters and seniors get together, her campaign featured folks of all ages, including one door-knocking volunteer who just turned 74.

"Our youngest door knocker was 3 years old," Bernardy said. "She had to pedal her bicycle with training wheels on it up to the doorstep, get off and ring the doorbell. I couldn't do it because that was her job."

## DISTRICT 48B

**1998 population (estimate):** 34,382

**Largest city:** Fridley

**County:** Anoka

**Location:** Northern Twin Cities suburbs

**Top concern:** "We need to make sure our school districts are not in crisis and that they can provide the programs students need."

—Rep. Connie Bernardy

# Lesson plans

Davnie turns teaching career and role as community activist into pursuit of improved education policies

BY DAVID MAEDA

When Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls) told his eighth-grade students that he was running for a seat in the Legislature they told him that they thought it was "cool."



Rep. Jim Davnie

"They asked me if I was going to meet the governor and 'Are you going to be on TV?'" Davnie recalls.

Davnie, a middle school teacher in the Buffalo School District, said that after years of encouraging his colleagues and students to be active in the legislative process, he decided to take the ultimate action to back his own words — to run for office.

"I tried to show what happens (at the Capitol) has an impact on what is going on in the classroom," he said. "People are as powerful as they choose to be. It doesn't take a whole lot of people to get an issue on the radar screen."

Having both started his life and spent the past 20 years living in Minneapolis, Davnie has called the city's Seward neighborhood — just south of the University of Minnesota's west bank campus — home for the past seven years. He has been an active member of the Seward Neighborhood Group, a citizen participation group that addresses community needs such as crime, housing, and other community-building activities.

Davnie received his bachelor's degree in psychology and social work from the University of Minnesota. Early in his studies, he took some occupational tests to determine which jobs his skills and interests might best be suited. When one of the results indicated a social studies teacher was a good fit, Davnie disagreed and decided to continue his studies.

But he would find that a second look at those test scores made him think that a social

studies teacher was exactly what he should be.

As a result, he found himself returning to the 'U' to get his master's degree in education. Among the topics he has taught during the past 10 years is social studies.

Rather than teaching civics lessons via a textbook last year, Davnie taught the basics of lobbying techniques in order to help engage his class in the lawmaking process. He said it

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*"Everybody cares about kids and the environment. I'm sure we'll find some common ground."*

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—Rep. Jim Davnie

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was a rewarding exercise for not only his students, who wrote a petition about the Profile of Learning, but also for himself.

"It was a great way to meld my community activism with my teaching," he said.

One of the main reasons Davnie decided to run for a House seat was to give teachers a voice in shaping the state's education policies.

He said that many times well-intentioned education laws are passed with unrealistic deadlines. He points to last year's modification of the state's Profile of Learning which required, among other things, teachers to complete detailed reports just as the summer was beginning.

Davnie succeeds Rep. Lee Greenfield, who decided not to seek another term after having served 22 years in the House. Davnie said that Greenfield encouraged him in his campaign in the district, which also includes the Longfellow and Cooper neighborhoods, and part of the U of M west bank campus.

"Everybody who knows Lee has the utmost respect for him. His knowledge and experience are unmatched," Davnie said.

Along with education issues, Davnie said he hopes to help address local government, environment, and transportation issues. He said

being an effective legislator not only means trying to put forth his own idea but also, "letting the Legislature act on me — See what issues come up, and see what I can learn from them."

Being a freshman member of the minority party, he said he is anxious to experience how the bipartisan process works.

"Everybody cares about kids and the environment. I'm sure we'll find some common ground," he said.

Being a legislator isn't the only new role Davnie recently assumed. Last summer his wife, Cara Leftofsky, gave birth to the couple's first child. Davnie spent the last five months at home taking care of the baby.

## DISTRICT 62A

**1998 population (estimate):** 31,780

**Largest city:** Minneapolis

**County:** Hennepin

**Location:** south Minneapolis

**Top concern:** "Our quality of life overall is good but clearly we have to keep working. I'm interested in the role the state plays in public education."

— Rep. Jim Davnie

# From the farm to the city

Eastlund brings agrarian heritage from rapidly developing greater Minnesota district to the Capitol

BY MICHELLE KIBIGER

For more than a century, Rep. Rob Eastlund's (R-Isanti) family has worked and lived on the land where he now lives in Isanti County.



Rep. Rob Eastlund

But today it is a different community than it was when his great-grandfather made his original land purchase. Now it struggles to balance the forces of development with its traditional agrarian roots.

And as a newly elected representative to the area, Eastlund says he will be mindful of those issues.

"The area is growing. ... That's just dramatic compared to the feelings of attachment to the way things were," Eastlund said. "Everybody was in town and all the farmers were there.

His goal is to stay connected to that community despite making daily trips from home to the State Capitol.

"I want to introduce programs so that it makes life better for future generations," he said.

The 2000 election was not Eastlund's first taste of politics. He was a member of the Cambridge/Isanti School Board for 12 years — beginning with his oldest daughter's year in kindergarten. In addition, Eastlund ran for the House of Representatives two previous times, in 1988 and 1990.

When former Rep. Jim Rostberg decided that he wouldn't run again, Eastlund decided it was time to try another House run. It seemed to be the right time for the father of three, whose youngest child is now a senior in high school.

"My whole family is looking forward to it and they're all at a place where they can appreciate it," Eastlund said.

*"I think this is just a great opportunity. I think it's a great challenge to be a part, to learn how the system works."*

—Rep. Rob Eastlund

You knew everybody. You waved at everybody. You knew their dog's name. And that's gone."

Eastlund, 51, a former center on the University of Minnesota football team, stayed in the area and ran a dairy and corn farm on his father's land for 15 years. He currently manages commercial property in the area, so the nature of the rapidly growing and developing community greet him every day.

Eastlund expects his job as a legislator to be challenging, but he's pretty sure nothing can compare to the difficulties of running a successful campaign. He says that listening to the concerns of his community during the campaign has prepared him for that job.

"I think this is just a great opportunity," Eastlund said. "I think it's a great challenge to be a part, to learn how the system works."

Eastlund plans to make the 52-mile trek to the Capitol every day during the session, even though he qualifies as an outstate legislator and can receive a housing allowance. He says that will help him have more regular contact with his constituents.

"I want to go to basketball games (his son plays), and I want to be visible in the community," he said.

Eastlund believes several issues will be big during the 2000 session, many of which have a direct effect on his community. Among them are K-12 funding issues, health care issues, such as funding for long-term and senior care, and tax issues, including the changing nature of property taxes and other ways communities can fund development.

Lingering amid all these issues are the rural/urban struggles, such as longer commutes, sprawl, and evolving education needs from K-12 to higher education. Eastlund said he plans to keep a watchful eye on how those issues develop during the session.

"It's a city meets country kind of thing," Eastlund said. "It creates tensions."

## DISTRICT 18A

**1998 population (estimate):** 36,449

**Largest city:** Cambridge

**Counties:** Isanti, Kanabec

**Location:** About 50 miles north of St. Paul

**Top concern:** "I think my top priority is to learn. What I want to do is understand how the process works before (I) jump in and make a big splash. I want to be sensitive to the issues the people in my community bring."

— Rep. Rob Eastlund

## Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

### Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol ..... 296-2343  
Voice mail/order bills ..... 296-2343

### Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol ..... 296-2314

### Index, Senate

110 Capitol ..... 296-5560

### Index, House

211 Capitol ..... 296-6646

### Information, Senate

231 Capitol ..... 296-0504

### Information, House

175 State Office Building ..... 296-2146

TTY, Senate ..... 296-0250

Toll free ..... 1-888-234-1112

TTY, House ..... 296-9896

Toll free ..... 1-800-657-3550

# Pronto pups and politicians

Legislators connect with constituents, concerns and cheese curds at the annual Great Minnesota Get-Together

By DAVID MAEDA

Attending the 141-year-old Minnesota State Fair has become an annual tradition for many folks in the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

From sampling a tasty bag of cheese curds to trying to win a prize on the Midway, each year Minnesotans circle the 360-acre site making sure to stop by their favorite places.

The hot, humid, end of summer air in the Education Building can be a tad stifling. Built in 1963, air conditioning in the facility only comes from Mother Nature. Still, it hardly prevents throngs of people from visiting the House of Representatives exhibit.

Adjacent to its Senate counterpart, both booths provide information designed to help

And before venturing off, dressed in their spiffy Capitol dome hats (as featured in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*), and on to other booths, more than 7,000 guests took an unofficial opinion poll tabulated on state-of-the-art voting equipment supplied by Hennepin County.

Poll participants cast their ballots on the brand new optical scan tabulation system that is much more modern than the punch card voting system that made the news during the fall. The results of the poll were available minutes, not months, after the voting was finished. (See results on the adjacent page).

In addition to taking a quiz about Minnesota history, visitors could talk about their

"It's loads of fun," former Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) said. "It's a great way to meet people with different views from all around the state."

Wejcman worked at the booth every year she served as a member. She said the booth provides important information to people who generally don't know, or don't understand how the lawmaking process works.

"I was surprised how little people know about the process," she said. Wejcman said a lot of fairgoers seemed a bit apprehensive about actually talking to legislators thinking that they might be unapproachable.

She said that many people told her this year that they appreciated being able to watch the Legislature in action live on television.

Former Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) agreed with Wejcman that one of the enjoyable parts of being a legislator was the opportunity to talk to people from throughout the state at the booth. He chose to work at the fair this past year for nostalgic reasons and that

he had enjoyed the experience for many years.

"There's great interaction," Greenfield said. "I think it's very important for elected members to work at the booth."

Greenfield heard no driving issue from people that stopped to talk. He said most people had general questions about the process and issues.

"That might be an indication that the population is pretty happy with the way things are going," he said.

Current members of the House also enjoyed their experience at the fair.

Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan) said that the opportunity gives members and their constituents a chance for a "limited but meaningful give and take."

Buesgens said his time working at the booth reminded him of an old American adage.

"Whether it's the state fair or a county fair, fairs and politicians go together like peanut butter and jelly. They belong together." 🐻



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Thousands of fairgoers stopped by the House of Representatives Booth during the 2000 Minnesota State Fair to pick up informational materials, sign up for *Session Weekly* and talk with House members.

make the processes of state government a bit more understandable.

Many of the thousands of booth visitors during the 12 days of the fair picked up publications and educational materials about the House and the legislative process, and signed up for *Session Weekly*.

concerns with the 49 representatives who volunteered to spend some time at the exhibit.

As if to emphasize the nonpartisan nature of the booth, three representatives who had already announced that they were not going to run for another term, volunteered their time.



# More than 7,000 people 'vote' at House booth



**1. Should cities be allowed to install "photocop" cameras to snap photographs of vehicles that pass through an intersection after the stoplight has turned red? (Citations would be issued automatically to the owner of the vehicle.)**

Yes	56.9%	(3,989)
No	35.8%	(2,509)
Undecided/No Opinion	6.7%	(471)

**2. Would you support a constitutional amendment that would eliminate the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives and replace them with a unicameral (one-house) legislature?**

Yes	27.5%	(1,926)
No	59.3%	(4,158)
Undecided/ No Opinion	12.9%	(905)

**3. Should minors be restricted from purchasing video games that portray violence, specifically those with adults only (AO) or mature (M) ratings from the Entertainment Software Rating Board?**

Yes	74.3%	(5,209)
No	18.8%	(1,317)
Undecided/No Opinion	6.4%	(447)

**4. Should repeat DWI offenders face felony charges?**

Yes	88.6%	(6,216)
No	6.4%	(446)
Undecided/No opinion	4.4%	(309)

**5. Do you support state law requiring public school students to pass basic skills tests in reading, math, and writing before they can be eligible for a high school diploma?**

Yes	76.3%	(5,353)
No	16.6%	(1,167)
Undecided/No Opinion	6.4%	(447)

**6. Should judicial candidates such as those running for seats on the Minnesota Supreme Court be endorsed by political parties and have a party affiliation listed on the ballot?**

Yes	23.9%	(1,679)
No	61.6%	(4,318)
Undecided/No Opinion	13.8%	(967)



Some of the more than 7,000 people who cast a ballot at the Minnesota State Fair received help from future voters.

**7. Should the state lower the legal voting age from 18 to 16?**

Yes	9.3%	(654)
No	88.3%	(6,195)
Undecided/ No Opinion	1.9%	(131)

**8. Should police officers be able to pull over a vehicle if one or more of its occupants is not wearing a seat belt (making seat belt violations a primary offense)?**

Yes	40.9%	(2,870)
No	51.5%	(3,612)
Undecided/ No Opinion	7.2%	(502)

**9. Should the state offer a discount on the cost of a marriage license for couples who fulfill certain requirements for premarital education?**

Yes	48.4%	(3,397)
No	41.1%	(2,879)
Undecided/ No Opinion	10.0%	(699)

**10. Should state agencies be barred from selling data about individuals (such as fishing license information) to companies that use the data for marketing purposes?**

Yes	90.1%	(6,322)
No	7.0%	(489)
Undecided/ No Opinion	2.3%	(161)

(All percentages are rounded off to the nearest one-tenth.)

**Note:** The Minnesota House of Representatives' survey is informal and unscientific. It is simply a measurement of the opinions expressed by those who took the time to complete the poll while visiting our booth at the fair.

## House members who appeared at the fair

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka)  
 Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township)  
 Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault)  
 Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester)  
 Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan)  
 Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson (DFL-Crystal)  
 Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center)  
 Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria)  
 Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley)  
 Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph)  
 Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato)  
 Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton)  
 Rep. Chris Gerlach (R-Apple Valley)  
 Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Minneapolis)  
 Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Minneapolis)  
 Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville)  
 Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont)  
 Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson)  
 Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville)  
 Rep. Loren Geo Jennings (DFL-Harris)  
 Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar)  
 Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Minneapolis)  
 Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters)  
 Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids)  
 Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls)  
 Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley)  
 Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights)  
 Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Minneapolis)  
 Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake)  
 Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie)  
 Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount)  
 Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie)  
 Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul)  
 Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope)  
 Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park)  
 Rep. Jim Rostberg (R-Isanti)  
 Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton)  
 Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington)  
 Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall)  
 Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Minneapolis)  
 Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey)  
 Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring)  
 Rep. Julie Storm (R-St. Peter)  
 Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet)  
 Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior)  
 Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Minneapolis)  
 Rep. Andrew Westerberg (R-Blaine)  
 Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda)  
 Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen)

# Minnesota House of Representatives 2001 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
District/Member/Party	Room*			District/Member/Party	Room*		
49A	Abeler, Jim (R)	581	1729	40B	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	337	4218
45A	Abrams, Ron (R)	585	9934	45B	Leppik, Peggy (R)	485	7026
19B	Anderson, Bruce (R)	411	5063	2A	Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	323	5091
3A	Anderson, Irv (DFL)	343	4936	33A	Lindner, Arlon (R)	417	7806
6A	Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	345	2190	56B	Lipman, Eric (R)	567	4244
48B	Bernardy, Connie (DFL)	329	5510	47A	Luther, Darlene (DFL)	349	3751
59A	Biernat, Len (DFL)	303	4219	67A	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	377	4277
30B	Bishop, Dave (R)	453	0573	55A	Mares, Harry (R)	401	5363
25B	Boudreau, Lynda (R)	473	8237	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	203	9714
30A	Bradley, Fran (R)	559	9249	57B	Marko, Sharon (DFL)	279	3135
35B	Buesgens, Mark (R)	445	1072	9B	Marquart, Paul (DFL)	311	6829
46B	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	283	4255	36B	McElroy, Dan (R)	437	4212
10B	Cassell, George (R)	421	4317	54A	McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	259	4342
23A	Clark, James T. (R)	551	9303	39B	Milbert, Bob (DFL)	243	4192
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	307	0294	35A	Molnau, Carol L. (R)	443	8872
11A	Daggett, Roxann (R)	439	4293	21B	Mulder, Richard (R)	515	4336
31B	Davids, Gregory M. (R)	549	9278	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	387	4262
62A	Davnie, Jim (DFL)	335	0173	8A	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	357	2676
65A	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	215	5158	20A	Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	509	4344
14A	Dehler, Steve (R)	491	7808	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946
29A	Dempsey, Jerry (R)	575	8635	19A	Olson, Mark (R)	501	4237
60B	Dibble, Scott (DFL)	369	9281	16A	Opatz, Joe (DFL)	277	6612
27A	Dorman, Dan (R)	579	8216	29B	Osskopp, Mike (R)	521	9236
24A	Dorn, John (DFL)	201	3248	66A	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	273	4224
18A	Eastlund, Rob (R)	449	5364	11B	Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	393	3201
64A	Entenza, Matt (DFL)	261	8799	37A	Ozment, Dennis (R)	479	4306
42A	Erhardt, Ron (R)	591	4363	42B	Paulsen, Erik (R)	545	7449
17A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	407	6746	38B	Pawlenty, Tim (R)	459	4128
52B	Evans, Geri (DFL)	211	0141	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	209	4199
1B	Finseth, Tim (R)	517	9918	32A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	295	8637
44A	Folliard, Betty (DFL)	281	3964	1A	Penas, Maxine (R)	553	9635
4A	Fuller, Doug (R)	525	5516	13B	Peterson, Doug (DFL)	287	4228
36A	Gerlach, Chris (R)	531	5506	39A	Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	267	6828
63B	Gleason, Mark S. (DFL)	313	5375	44B	Rhodes, Jim (R)	409	9889
9A	Goodno, Kevin (R)	563	5515	32B	Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	423	1069
52A	Goodwin, Barbara (DFL)	353	4331	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	375	0170
58B	Gray, Gregory (DFL)	327	8659	28A	Ruth, Connie (R)	415	5368
54B	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	253	5387	17B	Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	217	5377
26A	Gunther, Bob (R)	379	3240	41A	Seagren, Alice (R)	477	7803
48A	Haas, Bill (R)	569	5513	21A	Seifert, Marty (R)	593	5374
50A	Hackbarth, Tom (R)	577	2439	5B	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL)	233	0172
22B	Harder, Elaine (R)	583	5373	2B	Skoe, Rod (DFL)	321	4265
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	245	3824	62B	Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	251	4330
47B	Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	227	3709	57A	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	356	7807
8B	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	207	4308	34A	Smith, Steve (R)	503	9188
37B	Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	433	6926	3B	Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	309	2365
56A	Holsten, Mark William (R)	381	3018	33B	Stanek, Rich (R)	543	5502
4B	Howes, Larry (R)	431	2451	14B	Stang, Doug (R)	597	4373
6B	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	351	2228	28B	Sviggum, Steve (R)	463	2273
53B	Jacobson, Carl (R)	429	7153	7A	Swapinski, Dale (DFL)	331	4282
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	291	4246	23B	Swenson, Howard (R)	539	8634
18B	Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	237	0518	43B	Sykora, Barb (R)	403	4315
34B	Johnson, Jeff (R)	487	5511	46A	Thompson, Mark (DFL)	223	4176
24B	Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	241	7065	50B	Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	507	5369
67B	Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	229	4201	25A	Tuma, John (R)	533	4229
15A	Juhnke, Al (DFL)	371	6206	51B	Vandeveer, Ray (R)	529	4124
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	255	4257	63A	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	239	4200
26B	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	317	4240	61B	Walker, Neva (DFL)	213	7152
60A	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)	231	0171	12A	Walz, Dale (R)	527	4333
20B	Kielkucki, Tony (R)	367	1534	55B	Wasiluk, Scott (DFL)	225	1188
16B	Knoblach, Jim (R)	451	6316	12B	Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	389	4247
49B	Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	301	4231	51A	Westerberg, Andrew (R)	523	4226
53A	Krinkie, Philip (R)	365	2907	13A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	557	4929
15B	Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	315	4346	38A	Wilkin, Tim (R)	413	3533
31A	Kuisle, William (R)	565	4378	22A	Winter, Ted (DFL)	247	5505
40A	Larson, Dan (DFL)	221	7158	41B	Wolf, Ken (R)	571	5185
27B	Leighton, Rob (DFL)	289	4193	43A	Workman, Tom (R)	537	5066

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

List as of January 2, 2001

\*All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted,  
St. Paul, MN 55155

# Minnesota Senate 2001 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
District/Member/Party	Room*			District/Member/Party	Room*		
66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	120 Cap.	5537		54 Marty, John (DFL)	325 Cap.	5645	
56 Bachman, Michele M. (R)	125 SOB	4351		39 Metzen, James P. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4370	
41 Belanger Jr., William V. (R)	113 SOB	5975		2 Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577	
13 Berg, Charles A. (R)	G-25 SOB	5094		29 Murphy, Steve (DFL)	306 Cap.	4264	
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261		25 Neuville, Thomas M. (R)	123 SOB	1279	
48 Betzold, Don (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	2556		43 Oliver, Edward C. (R)	117 SOB	4837	
52 Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	325 Cap.	4334		34 Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282	
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931		60 Orfield, Myron (DFL)	227 Cap.	4191	
28 Day, Dick (R)	147 SOB	9457		19 Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981	
20 Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131		65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802	
14 Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	G-15 SOB	2084		37 Pariseau, Pat (R)	109 SOB	5252	
49 Foley, Leo T. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	4154		59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809	
26 Fowler, Chuck (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5713		57 Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7-8060	
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	139 SOB	8138		63 Ranum, Jane B. (DFL)	120 Cap.	7-8061	
58 Higgins, Linda I. (DFL)	328 Cap.	9246		53 Reiter, Mady (Madelyn) E. (R)	155 SOB	1253	
24 Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	205 Cap.	6153		46 Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	2889	
40 Johnson, David H. (DFL)	124 Cap.	9261		18 Ring, Twyla (DFL)	306 Cap.	5419	
15 Johnson, Dean E. (DFL)	124B Cap.	3826		45 Robertson, Martha R. (R)	141 SOB	4314	
50 Johnson, Debbie J. (R)	149 SOB	3219		35 Robling, Claire A. (R)	143 SOB	4123	
6 Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881		62 Sabo, Julie A. (DFL)	317 Cap.	4274	
44 Kelley, Steve (DFL)	321 Cap.	7-8065		11 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	328 Cap.	7-8063	
67 Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	323 Cap.	5285		12 Samuelson, Don (DFL)	120 Cap.	4875	
32 Kierlin, Bob (R)	127 SOB	5649		31 Scheevel, Kenric J. (R)	129 SOB	3903	
4 Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4913		47 Scheid, Linda (DFL)	303 Cap.	8869	
30 Kiscaden, Sheila M. (R)	135 SOB	4848		27 Schwab, Grace (R)	151 SOB	9248	
16 Kleis, Dave (R)	107 SOB	6455		7 Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188	
36 Knutson, David L. (R)	133 SOB	4120		17 Stevens, Dan (R)	105 SOB	8075	
51 Krentz, Jane (DFL)	111 Cap.	7061		1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660	
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205		42 Terwilliger, Roy (R)	115 SOB	6238	
10 Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655		5 Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	111 Cap.	8017	
21 Lesewski, Arlene J. (R)	131 SOB	4125		22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650	
3 Lessard, Bob (IND)	G-51 SOB	4136		38 Wiener, Deanna L. (DFL)	303 Cap.	7-8073	
33 Limmer, Warren (R)	121 SOB	2159		55 Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	301 Cap.	6820	
8 Lourey, Becky (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	0293					

\*Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

## Minnesota House and Senate Membership

<b>1</b> A • Rep. Maxine Penas-(R) B • Rep. Tim Finseth-(R) Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-(DFL)	<b>15</b> A • Rep. Al Juhnke-(DFL) B • Rep. Gary W. Kubly-(DFL) Sen. Dean E. Johnson-(DFL)	<b>29</b> A • Rep. Jerry Dempsey-(R) B • Rep. Mike Osskopp-(R) Sen. Steve Murphy-(DFL)	<b>43</b> A • Rep. Tom Workman-(R) B • Rep. Barb Sykora-(R) Sen. Edward C. Oliver-(R)	<b>57</b> A • Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL) B • Rep. Sharon Marko-(DFL) Sen. Leonard R. Price-(DFL)
<b>2</b> A • Rep. Bernie L. Lieder-(DFL) B • Rep. Rod Skoe-(DFL) Sen. Roger D. Moe-(DFL)	<b>16</b> A • Rep. Joe Opatz-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Knobloch-(R) Sen. Dave Kleis-(R)	<b>30</b> A • Rep. Fran Bradley-(R) B • Rep. Dave Bishop-(R) Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-(R)	<b>44</b> A • Rep. Betty Foliard-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Rhodes-(R) Sen. Steve Kelley-(DFL)	<b>58</b> A • Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL) B • Rep. Gregory Gray-(DFL) Sen. Linda Higgins-(DFL)
<b>3</b> A • Rep. Irv Anderson-(DFL) B • Rep. Loren A. Solberg-(DFL) Sen. Bob Lessard-(IND)	<b>17</b> A • Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R) B • Rep. Leslie J. Schumacher-(DFL) Sen. Dan Stevens-(R)	<b>31</b> A • Rep. William Kuisle-(R) B • Rep. Gregory M. Davids-(R) Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-(R)	<b>45</b> A • Rep. Ron Abrams-(R) B • Rep. Peggy Leppik-(R) Sen. Martha R. Robertson-(R)	<b>59</b> A • Rep. Len Biernat-(DFL) B • Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL) Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-(DFL)
<b>4</b> A • Rep. Doug Fuller-(R) B • Rep. Howard-(R) Sen. Anthony G. "Tony" Kinkel-(DFL)	<b>18</b> A • Rep. Rob Eastlund-(R) B • Rep. Loren Geo Jennings-(DFL) Sen. Twyla Ring-(DFL)	<b>32</b> A • Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL) B • Rep. Michelle Rifenberg-(R) Sen. Bob Kierlin-(R)	<b>46</b> A • Rep. Mark Thompson-(DFL) B • Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson-(DFL) Sen. Ann H. Rest-(DFL)	<b>60</b> A • Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher-(DFL) B • Rep. Scott Dibble-(DFL) Sen. Myron Orfield-(DFL)
<b>5</b> A • Rep. Tom Rukavina-(DFL) B • Rep. Anthony "Tony" Sertich-(DFL) Sen. David J. Tomassoni-(DFL)	<b>19</b> A • Rep. Mark Olson-(R) B • Rep. Bruce Anderson-(R) Sen. Mark Ourada-(R)	<b>33</b> A • Rep. Arlon Lindner-(R) B • Rep. Rich Stanek-(R) Sen. Warren Limmer-(R)	<b>47</b> A • Rep. Darlene Luther-(DFL) B • Rep. Debra Hilstrom-(DFL) Sen. Linda Scheid-(DFL)	<b>61</b> A • Rep. Karen Clark-(DFL) B • Rep. Neva Walker-(DFL) Sen. Linda Berglin-(DFL)
<b>6</b> A • Rep. Thomas (Tom) Bakke-(DFL) B • Rep. Thomas Huntley-(DFL) Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-(DFL)	<b>20</b> A • Rep. Robert "Bob" Ness-(R) B • Rep. Tony Kielucki-(R) Sen. Steve Dille-(R)	<b>34</b> A • Rep. Steve Smith-(R) B • Rep. Jeff Johnson-(R) Sen. Gen Olson-(R)	<b>48</b> A • Rep. Bill Haas-(R) B • Rep. Connie Bernady-(DFL) Sen. Don Betzold-(DFL)	<b>62</b> A • Rep. Jim Davnie-(DFL) B • Rep. Wes Skoglund-(DFL) Sen. Julie A. Sabo-(DFL)
<b>7</b> A • Rep. Dale Swapinski-(DFL) B • Rep. Mike Jaros-(DFL) Sen. Sam G. Solon-(DFL)	<b>21</b> A • Rep. Marty Seifert-(R) B • Rep. Richard Mulder-(R) Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-(R)	<b>35</b> A • Rep. Carol L. Molnau-(R) B • Rep. Mark Bugens-(R) Sen. Claire A. Robling-(R)	<b>49</b> A • Rep. Jim Abeler-(R) B • Rep. Luanne Koskinen-(DFL) Sen. Leo Foley-(DFL)	<b>63</b> A • Rep. Jean Wagenius-(DFL) B • Rep. Mark S. Gleason-(DFL) Sen. Jane B. Ranum-(DFL)
<b>8</b> A • Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL) B • Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL) Sen. Becky Lourey-(DFL)	<b>22</b> A • Rep. Ted Winter-(DFL) B • Rep. Elaine Harder-(R) Sen. Jim Vickerman-(DFL)	<b>36</b> A • Rep. Chris Gerlach-(R) B • Rep. Dan McElroy-(R) Sen. David L. Knutson-(R)	<b>50</b> A • Rep. Tom Hackbarth-(R) B • Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-(R) Sen. Debbie J. Johnson-(R)	<b>64</b> A • Rep. Matt Entenza-(DFL) B • Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL) Sen. Richard J. Cohen-(DFL)
<b>9</b> A • Rep. Kevin Goodno-(R) B • Rep. Paul Marquart-(DFL) Sen. Keith Langseth-(DFL)	<b>23</b> A • Rep. James T. Clark-(R) B • Rep. Howard Swenson-(R) Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-(R)	<b>37</b> A • Rep. Dennis Ozment-(R) B • Rep. Mary Liz Holberg-(R) Sen. Pat Pariseau-(R)	<b>51</b> A • Rep. Andrew Westberg-(R) B • Rep. Ray Vandever-(R) Sen. Jane Krentz-(DFL)	<b>65</b> A • Rep. Andy Dawkins-(DFL) B • Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL) Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-(DFL)
<b>10</b> A • Rep. Bud Nornes-(R) B • Rep. George Cassell-(R) Sen. Cal Larson-(R)	<b>24</b> A • Rep. John Dorn-(DFL) B • Rep. Ruth Johnson-(DFL) Sen. John C. Hottinger-(DFL)	<b>38</b> A • Rep. Tim Wilkin-(R) B • Rep. Tim Pawlenty-(R) Sen. Deanna L. Wiener-(DFL)	<b>52</b> A • Rep. Barbara Goodwin-(DFL) B • Rep. Geri Evans-(DFL) Sen. Satveer Chaudhary-(DFL)	<b>66</b> A • Rep. Tom Osthoff-(DFL) B • Rep. Alice Hausman-(DFL) Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-(DFL)
<b>11</b> A • Rep. Roxann Daggett-(R) B • Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba-(DFL) Sen. Dallas C. Sams-(DFL)	<b>25</b> A • Rep. John Tuma-(R) B • Rep. Lynda Boudreau-(R) Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-(R)	<b>39</b> A • Rep. Thomas W. Pugh-(DFL) B • Rep. Mark Wilbert-(DFL) Sen. James P. Metzen-(DFL)	<b>53</b> A • Rep. Phillip Krinkie-(R) B • Rep. Carl Jacobson-(R) Sen. Mady Reiter-(R)	<b>67</b> A • Rep. Tim Mahoney-(DFL) B • Rep. Sheldon Johnson-(DFL) Sen. Randy C. Kelly-(DFL)
<b>12</b> A • Rep. Dale Walz-(R) B • Rep. Stephen G. Wenzel-(DFL) Sen. Don Samuelson-(DFL)	<b>26</b> A • Rep. Bob Gunther-(R) B • Rep. Henry J. Kalis-(DFL) Sen. Chuck Fowler-(DFL)	<b>40</b> A • Rep. Dan Larson-(DFL) B • Rep. Ann Lenczewski-(DFL) Sen. David H. Johnson-(DFL)	<b>54</b> A • Rep. Mary Jo McGuire-(DFL) B • Rep. Mindy Greiling-(DFL) Sen. John Marty-(DFL)	
<b>13</b> A • Rep. Torrey Westrom-(R) B • Rep. Doug Peterson-(DFL) Sen. Charles A. Berg-(R)	<b>27</b> A • Rep. Dan Dorman-(R) B • Rep. Rob Leighton-(DFL) Sen. Grace S. Schwab-(R)	<b>41</b> A • Rep. Alice Seagren-(R) B • Rep. Ken Wolf-(R) Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-(R)	<b>55</b> A • Rep. Harry Mares-(R) B • Rep. Scott Wasiluk-(DFL) Sen. Charles W. Wiger-(DFL)	
<b>14</b> A • Rep. Steve Dehler-(R) B • Rep. Doug Stang-(R) Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-(R)	<b>28</b> A • Rep. Connie Ruth-(R) B • Rep. Steve Sviggum-(R) Sen. Dick Day-(R)	<b>42</b> A • Rep. Ron Erhardt-(R) B • Rep. Erik Paulsen-(R) Sen. Roy Terwilliger-(R)	<b>56</b> A • Rep. Mark William Holsten-(R) B • Rep. Eric Lipman-(R) Sen. Michele Bachman-(R)	

# 2001 House Standing Committee Schedule

## Committee

Chair ..... Phone  
 Meeting Day ..... Room ..... Time  
 (All Rooms are in the State Office Building)

### Agriculture Policy

Finseth ..... 296-9918  
 Wed. .... 10 ..... 12:30 p.m.

### Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

Ness ..... 296-4344  
 Tues., Thurs. .... 10 ..... 12:30 p.m.

### Capital Investment

Knobloch ..... 296-6316  
 Tues., Thurs. .... 5 ..... 12:30 p.m.

### Civil Law

Smith ..... 296-9188  
 Mon., Wed. .... 10 ..... 10:15 a.m.

### Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy

Davids ..... 296-9278  
 Tues., Thurs. .... 200 ..... 12:30 p.m.  
 Wed. .... B ..... 12:30 p.m.

### Economic Development & Tourism Division

Lindner ..... 296-7806  
 To be announced

### Crime Prevention

Tuma ..... 296-4229  
 Tues., Thurs., Fri. .... B ..... 10:15 a.m.

### Education Policy

Mares ..... 296-5363  
 Tues., Thurs. .... 200 ..... 8:15 a.m.

### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Holsten ..... 296-3018  
 Mon., Wed., Fri. .... 10 ..... 10:15 a.m.

### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Ozment ..... 296-4306  
 Tues., Thurs. .... 10 ..... 10:15 a.m.

## Ethics

Daggett ..... 296-4293  
 Call of the Chair

### Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Sykora ..... 296-4315  
 Mon., Wed. .... 5 ..... 12:30 p.m.

### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Rhodes ..... 296-9889  
 Mon., Wed., Fri. .... B ..... 8:15 a.m.

## Health &

### Human Services Finance

Goodno ..... 296-5515  
 Mon., Wed., Fri. .... 10 ..... 8:15 a.m.

### Health & Human Services Policy

Bradley ..... 296-9249  
 Tues., Thurs. .... 10 ..... 8:15 a.m.

### Higher Education Finance

Leppik ..... 296-7026  
 Mon., Wed., Fri. .... 300S ..... 10:15 a.m.

## Jobs &

### Economic Development Finance

McElroy ..... 296-4212  
 Mon., Wed., Fri. .... 200 ..... 8:15 a.m.

### Judiciary Finance

Stanek ..... 296-5502  
 Tues., Thurs. .... B ..... 8:15 a.m.

### K-12 Education Finance

Seagren ..... 296-7803  
 Mon., Wed., Fri. .... 5 ..... 10:15 a.m.

### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Dempsey ..... 296-8635  
 Mon., Wed. .... 200 ..... 12:30 p.m.

### Redistricting

Paulsen ..... 296-7449  
 Call of the Chair

## Regulated Industries

Wolf ..... 296-5185  
 Mon. .... 10 ..... 12:30 p.m.

## Rules &

### Legislative Administration

Pawlenty ..... 296-4128  
 Call of the Chair

## State Government Finance

Krinkie ..... 296-2907  
 Tues., Thurs. .... 300N ..... 10:15 a.m.  
 Fri. .... B ..... 8:15 a.m.

## Taxes

Abrams ..... 296-9934  
 Mon. - Fri. .... 200 ..... 10:15 a.m.

### Property Tax Division

Erhardt ..... 296-4363  
 To be announced .... 200 ..... 10:15 a.m.

### Sales Tax Division

Harder ..... 296-5373  
 To be announced .... 200 ..... 10:15 a.m.

## Transportation Finance

Molnau ..... 296-8872  
 Mon., Wed. .... 5 ..... 8:15 a.m.

## Transportation Policy

Workman ..... 296-5066  
 Tues., Thurs. .... 5 ..... 8:15 a.m.

## Ways & Means

Bishop ..... 296-0573  
 Call of the Chair

\*All rooms are in the state Office Building.

## Thursday, Jan. 4

### HF1—Jacobson (R)

#### Taxes

Individual income tax and alternative minimum tax rates reduced, and conforming changes provided.

### HF2—Walz (R)

#### Taxes

Automatic tax rebate provisions modified, sales tax rebate provided, and money appropriated.

### HF3—Penas (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

School district equity revenue requirements modified and money appropriated.

### HF4—Abrams (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

MinnesotaCare premium and provider taxes repealed, pass-through consumer savings required, tobacco settlement proceeds allocated, and contingent penalties provided.

### HF5—Penas (R)

#### Taxes

Education agricultural tax credit increased.

### HF6—Howes (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Prescription drug program income limit raised, enrollees required to satisfy monthly deductibles, and money appropriated.

### HF7—Eastlund (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation and related conditions (ICF/MR), and direct care provider rate adjustments provided.

### HF8—Ruth (R)

#### K-12 Education Policy

School district career and technical aid restored and money appropriated.

### HF9—Ruth (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Motor vehicle sales tax revenue dedicated to Highway User Tax Distribution Fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF10—Johnson, J. (R)

#### Taxes

Capital gains income tax exclusion provided.

### HF11—Westerberg (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Portion of motor vehicle sales tax dedicated to highway user tax distribution fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF12—Lipman (R)

#### Taxes

Constitutional amendment proposed requiring three-fifths vote to enact laws imposing or increasing taxes, fees, or surcharges.

### HF13—Abeler (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Prescription drug program income limit raised, enrollees required to satisfy monthly deductibles, and money appropriated.

### HF14—Bradley (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Tobacco settlement revenues credited to health care access fund, MinnesotaCare provider taxes eliminated on contingent basis, and pass-through of savings required.

### HF15—Pawlenty (R)

#### Taxes

Charitable contributions income tax subtraction modified.

### HF16—Pelowski, Jr. (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Local governments authorized to transfer personal property to nonprofit corporations.

### HF17—Pelowski, Jr. (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Chemical dependency funds allocated to counties.

### HF18—Mares (R)

#### State Government Finance

Amateur Sports Commission new soccer field grants authorized, criteria established, and money appropriated.

### HF19—Mullery (DFL)

#### Transportation Policy

Limited driver's licenses authorized without waiting period under specific conditions, and limited driver's license waiting provisions modified and reorganized.

### HF20—Mullery (DFL)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Youth intervention program grants authorized and money appropriated.

### HF21—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Regulated Industries

Intrastate long distance telephone toll charges prohibited.

### HF22—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Youth programs in community education revenue defined, levy authorized, aid provided, and money appropriated.

### HF23—Mullery (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Work first; nontraditional career assistance training programs TANF block grant funding authorized, and programs required to make available information about nontraditional women's opportunities.

### HF24—Mullery (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

MinnesotaCare eligibility requirements modified for persons with continuation coverage.

### HF25—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Ways & Means

Fiscal biennium modified to begin with even-numbered years, and legislative approval required of state agency federal fund expenditures.

### HF26—Pawlenty (R)

#### Taxes

Income tax; financial account location not to be used in determining residency.

### HF27—Haas (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Outdoor noise standards task force created.

### HF28—Mullery (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Health maintenance organizations medical director designated, liability established for treatment decisions and policies, utilization review requirements and disclosure established, and practice of medicine definition modified.

### HF29—Mullery (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Lifeline checking accounts fees and charges regulated.

### HF30—Mullery (DFL)

#### Crime Prevention

Contributing to delinquency of a minor felony penalty provided, city attorneys authorized to prosecute delinquency of a minor, and minors' involvement in a crime designated an aggravating sentencing factor.

### HF31—Mullery (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Medically necessary care definition established for health plans.

### HF32—Wenzel (DFL)

#### Taxes

Sales tax rate reduction provided.

### HF33—Gleason (DFL)

#### Transportation Policy

Use of public funds prohibited for airline tickets for flights landing or taking off during nighttime hours.

**HF34—Seifert (R)****Education Policy**

Currently enrolled teacher candidates allowed to obtain licensure under current rules.

**HF35—Wasiluk (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Minimum wage increase provided for large and small employers.

**HF36—Mullery (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Parenting leave of absence requirement extended.

**HF37—McElroy (R)****Transportation Policy**

Traffic regulations; abolishing statutes defining trackless trolley car, regulating driving through rough country, and prohibiting carrier employment by persons addicted to liquor.

**HF38—Haas (R)****Transportation Finance**

Osseo municipal state-aid street funding appropriated.

**HF39—Haas (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Retired state employees authorized to purchase long-term care insurance.

**HF40—Mullery (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Financial intermediary's service charge on overdrawn checks limited in certain circumstances.

**HF41—Mullery (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Nonprofit organization grants provided to encourage women to enter nontraditional careers, and money appropriated.

**HF42—Wenzel (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Partial-birth abortion prohibited, and criminal and civil penalties provided.

**HF43—Abrams (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

School district operating referendum revenue inflationary increase granted.

**Continued from page 4**

necessary for the success of many pending issues.


"It's a bad start to a session that can be divisive," Pugh said.

Svigum did not address the committee assignments on the first day.

Meanwhile, Gov. Ventura is proposing an overhaul of the state's tax system, focusing on reform of the property tax. The governor's proposal is expected to involve separating state-mandated education expenditures from local property taxes, meaning the state would take on nearly the entire responsibility for funding K-12 education. That amount comes to nearly \$900 million.

Currently, that funding comes in large part from the state, requiring counties to collect a certain amount in property taxes. Much of that funding supports state-mandated activities.

The governor has proposed shifting the funding from the property tax to another tax source such as the sales tax. His proposal is expected to lower the state's current 6.5 percent rate, but broaden the tax to include services as well as goods.

Both House and Senate leaders have said they will carefully consider the governor's proposal once it is formally proposed during the next few months. 

**Continued from page 12**

Members agreed the retreat was a helpful introduction to the tasks that they will face for at least the next two years.

"It's a process," said Rep. Rob Eastlund (R-Isanti). "Over time it makes more sense."

Other members said it's important to know that as new members, all freshmen are in the same situation.

"Everyone's in the dark," said Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls). "It'll be a learning curve for all of us. But I know I'm not alone."

For those who are not new to the Legislature, the seminar was still a good learning experience.

"The most important theme is really that you build relationships," said Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo), who was previously a session-only employee with the House. "That connection of (us) coming in together ... we'll stay with them throughout (our) entire career."

In addition, three new members for 2001 previously served in the Legislature — Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton), Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter) and Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood). They also said the retreat was a good way to be reacquainted with the legislative process.

House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) also addressed the freshman representatives about how to be successful legislators.


Pawlenty encouraged the new members to

set attainable goals for themselves and communicate them clearly to the members on both sides of the aisle.

He reminded them that every other member will be doing the same thing and not to be discouraged by that.

"When you first get here, we're all like the class president. And you've got the idea that you're going to change the world," Pawlenty said. "The other 200 class presidents don't think it's such a great idea or want to change it. It can be disheartening."

Above all, the hosts wanted to make sure the new members made those connections with their fellow 2001 classmates.

"We're helping people feel welcomed to the institution and helping them connect," said Kelliher. "It's a special thing to be in the same class." 

## Where to find information

### House Index Department

211 State Capitol (651) 296-6646

The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized index available for public use. House Index lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories. The office can also give you the current status of legislation.



## MONDAY, January 8

8:15 a.m.

**Joint HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE**  
10 State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Fran Bradley, Rep. Kevin Goodno  
**Agenda:** Orientation to House staff and Minnesota Department of Health.

**JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy  
**Agenda:** Overview presentations by the Department of Labor and Industry and Minnesota Technology, Inc.

**TRANSPORTATION FINANCE**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau  
**Agenda:** Department of Transportation Commissioner Elwyn Tinklenberg.

9 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**  
Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes  
**Agenda:** Introduction of committee members. Overview of governmental operations, Mark Shepard, House Research. Review of elections, Deb McKnight, House Research.

10:15 a.m.

**HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**  
300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** University of Minnesota overview.

**K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** K-12 education basics. Tim Strom, Legislative Analyst, House Research. Greg Crowe, Fiscal Analyst, House Fiscal Analysis Department.

12:30 p.m.

**FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora  
**Agenda:** Introduction of members and staff. Overview of committee history, purpose, and jurisdiction.

Overview by Assistant Commissioner Karen Carlson of the Department of Children, Families and Learning's history, structure, and oversight of committee accounts.

**REGULATED INDUSTRIES**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf  
**Agenda:** Department of Commerce presentation on telecommunications issues and organization and structure of the department relating to telecommunications/energy issues.

3 p.m.

The House meets in session.

Immediately following session

**RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tim Pawlenty  
**Agenda:** Approval of Nov. 16, 2000 minutes. Calendar for Jan. 11. House resolutions. Policy on service award program. Miscellaneous personnel report. Harassment and discrimination policy.

## TUESDAY, January 9

8:15 a.m.

**EDUCATION POLICY**  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares  
**Agenda:** Discussion with the Department of Children, Families and Learning regarding Title I and accountability.

**Joint HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE**  
10 State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Fran Bradley, Rep. Kevin Goodno  
**Agenda:** Orientation to the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

10:15 a.m.

**CRIME PREVENTION**  
Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Tuma  
**Agenda:** Presentation by Millie Webb, national president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). Overview of DWI Work Group report to the Legislature. Preliminary discussion of correctional plan for felony DWI offenders. Overview of House Research updated Minnesota DWI Laws and Practices.

**Joint House ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY/ Senate ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**  
123 State Capitol  
Chrs. Rep. Dennis Ozment, Sen. Jane Krentz  
**Agenda:** Overview of children's environmental health issues. Department of Health.

**STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**  
300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie  
**Agenda:** Committee organization. Introductions. Overview of accounts.

**TAXES**  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** Minnesota tax system overview by House Research.

2:30 p.m.

**REDISTRICTING**  
500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Erik Paulsen  
**Agenda:** Overview and introduction of committee members.

4 p.m.

**Rules Reform Task Force**  
300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr.  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## WEDNESDAY, January 10

7:30 a.m.

\*\*\*NOTE TIME\*\*\*  
**TRANSPORTATION FINANCE**  
Tour departing from south entrance of State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau  
**Agenda:** Tour of Midway Driver License Exam Station at 1472 University Ave., St. Paul. Tour of Driver and Vehicle Services at 445 Minnesota St., St. Paul.

8:15 a.m.

**Joint HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE**  
10 State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Fran Bradley, Rep. Kevin Goodno  
**Agenda:** Orientation to health care costs and related topics.

## **JOBS & ECONOMIC**

### **DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Overview presentations by:  
Council on Black Minnesotans;  
Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans;  
Indian Affairs Council; and  
Council on Chicano-Latino Affairs.  
Presentation on the Department of Economic  
Security Report - Changes in Low-Income  
Heating & Energy Assistance Program.

**8:30 a.m.**

## **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &**

### **VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** Informal discussion on HFXXXX  
(Seifert) Allowing certain candidates to complete  
their teacher preparation program under current  
licensure rules.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **ENVIRONMENT &**

### **NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Introduction of committee members.  
Introduction of committee staff.  
Committee operation and organizational details.

### **HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** Minnesota State Colleges and  
Universities overview.

## **TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** Department of Revenue bills.  
Details to be announced.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

**Agenda:** Overview of and current issues facing  
the Department of Agriculture, Commissioner  
Gene Hugoson.

## **FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD**

### **EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** Libraries - Joyce Swonger, Manager,  
Library Development and Services, Department  
of Children, Families and Learning.  
Adult Basic Education - Barry Shaffer, Director,  
Department of Children, Families and Learning.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT &**

### **METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** Introduction of members and staff.  
Committee rules and procedures.

## **THURSDAY, January 11**

**8 a.m.**

\*\*\*NOTE TIME\*\*\*

## **Joint HEALTH & HUMAN**

### **SERVICES POLICY/**

### **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Fran Bradley, Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** Orientation to public assistance  
programs.

**8:15 a.m.**

## **EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** Minnesota's lock and dam system.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** Overview of Department of Corrections  
issues:  
Boot Camp - Challenge Incarceration Program;  
Proposed standards for Minnesota probation  
cases; and Bed space statistics and inmate profiles.

## **ENVIRONMENT &**

### **NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** Overview by the Department of Natural  
Resources.

HFXXXX (Haas) Gross overlimits (game and  
fish).

## **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** Department of Administration: Update  
on status of Connect Minnesota.

Update on Capitol Complex projects.

## **TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE &**

### **RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** Overview of the current dairy industry.  
Testimony from the Department of Agriculture,  
producers, city officials, and others.

## **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** House Research presentations.  
Department of Commerce overview.

**3 p.m.**

The House meets in session.

## **FRIDAY, January 12**

**8:15 a.m.**

## **Joint HEALTH & HUMAN**

### **SERVICES POLICY/**

### **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Fran Bradley, Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** Orientation to Long Term Care  
programs.

## **JOBS & ECONOMIC**

### **DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Overview presentation by the  
Department of Commerce.

**12 noon**

## **Legislative Audit Commission**

316 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Release and review of program  
evaluation report on Early Childhood Education.

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Continued from page 9

DFL, but Pugh expressed concern that broadening the sales tax to cover services may have the result of making the tax "less progressive."

Ventura said in his speech that school districts could make better use of current funding to improve student learning. Pugh replied that the governor's emphasis on school districts making do with what they have over-looks real shortages and problems.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), House Majority Whip, said Ventura addressed issues important to his district in southwestern Min-

nesota. He was pleased to hear a proposal for "taking farmland off of excess levies and school referendums because they are really nailed in rural districts right now."


Pugh said the governor outlined some good ideas in his challenge to lawmakers to continue their work to reform the legislative process. Ventura's tongue-in-cheek threat that the unicameral proposal would return "may have rankled some people," said Pugh, but it didn't bother him.

The House and Senate do work together, he said, but they could do so more frequently.

Overall, Pugh said Ventura's speech focused on what is going well in Minnesota but gave little attention to what is not going so well. He added that the speech was directed at those who are succeeding in this economy.

"People who are doing best do the best under his plan," Pugh said.

Seifert said the address gave a fairly positive message. Sviggum said he thought the message was taken well, and presented solid goals for the Legislature.

"I think he was challenging us," Sviggum said. 



## 'Holiday' shopping

### Sales tax holidays give consumers targeted breaks

It's not a holiday that will have people trading greeting cards — at least not for a while. But several states have adopted what's known as a "sales tax holiday," a period of time where shoppers don't have to pay the states' every day sales taxes.

New York was the first to adopt the idea — exempting all clothing and footwear priced under \$500 from the state's sales tax for the first week in 1997. Local governments were given the choice of whether to opt in or out of the holiday. Most municipalities opted in.

Eventually the state chose to permanently exempt clothing and footwear priced under \$110.

In 1998, Florida became the second state to approve a sales tax holiday. Aimed at

back-to-school shoppers, that holiday exempted clothing under \$50 for one week in August. The state followed up the next two years with similar holidays but raised the threshold to \$100.

Texas also approved legislation exempting clothing and shoes under \$100 for the first weekend in August. That state's holiday is an annual event.

Last year, Pennsylvania and South Carolina were among five states to adopt sales tax holidays. Both those states however, took slightly different approaches.

Two separate holidays in the Keystone State, one in August 2000 and one in February 2001, exempt consumers from paying sales tax on the purchase of personal computers. The idea in targeting PCs was

to enhance the state's technological reputation. For those holidays consumers are also allowed to purchase their computers via the Internet.

South Carolina's sales tax holiday exempts all back-to-school items including supplies, computers and clothing for the first weekend in August. There is no price limit on the exemptions. That holiday is scheduled to be an annual occurrence.

Opponents of sales tax holidays argue that they favor those with higher disposable incomes and that people with less income cannot afford to go on a buying spree to get much benefit from the targeted tax relief.

(D. MAEDA)

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

# MINNESOTA INDEX

## Minnesota House of Representatives: Election 2000

Republican Members .....	69
DFL members .....	65
Number of men .....	99
DFL men .....	43
Republican men .....	56
Number of women .....	35
DFL women .....	22
Republican women .....	13
Women serving at the end of the 1998 session (record high) .....	40
Percent of current first-termers who are women .....	42.9
Percent of all members who are women .....	26.1
Percent of House members who did not serve last session .....	15.7
Number of newly elected members .....	21
Newly elected DFL members .....	14
Newly elected Republican members .....	7
Percent of incumbents re-elected .....	95.8
Number of incumbents who lost .....	5
Number of those who were Republican .....	3
Open seats .....	16
Open seats previously held by a DFLer, now held by a Republican .....	0
Open seats previously held by a Republican, now held by a DFLer .....	1
Uncontested House races, 2000 .....	14
Number of those in DFL-held districts .....	2
Republican Caucus' cumulative loss of legislative experience since the end of the 2000 session, in years .....	40
DFL Caucus' loss, in years .....	150
Votes cast in Minnesota for the 2000 general election .....	2,458,303
As a percent of all eligible voters .....	69.4
Districts with a Reform Party candidate, 1998 .....	14
Districts with an Independence Party candidate*, 2000 .....	24
Greatest percentage of votes garnered by an Independence Party candidate, District 65A .....	23.1
By a Constitutional Party candidate, 20A .....	20.4
By a Green Party candidate, 62B .....	16.5
By a Reform Party candidate, 60B .....	9.2
By a Libertarian Party candidate, 18A .....	3.6

\* Gov. Jesse Ventura formed the Independence Party upon breaking with the Reform Party in 2000.

Sources: Office of the Secretary of State and the House Public Information Office.

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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

JANUARY 12, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 2

In this issue:

THE .08 DEBATE, FELONY DWI

NEW MAJORITY WHIP, COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT HISTORY

# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2000-2001 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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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5  
Business • 5  
Children • 5  
Crime • 6  
Education • 6

Elections • 7  
Family • 7  
Game & Fish • 7  
Health • 7

Higher Education • 8  
Human Services • 9  
Industry • 9  
Taxes • 10  
Transportation • 23

### FEATURES

**At Issue: Education** — Student accountability assessments for federal Title I program draw criticism from House members. • 11

**Process** — House Speaker Steve Sviggum's 2001-2002 committee assignments prompt criticism from DFL members, but it's not the first time such a controversy has occurred in the House • 12

**People** — The House has a new Majority Whip, the first time the position has ever been assigned in the body's history. • 13

**People** — Rep. Carl Jacobson turns his once-shy demeanor and accounting background to his advantage as a new member of the House. • 14

**People** — Rep. Tony Sertich, currently the youngest member of the House, hopes to bring new economic opportunity to his district on the Iron Range. • 15

**People** — Rep. Nora Slawik returns to the House after a two-year absence, ready to tackle education and health care issue, but not without a three-day election recount. • 16

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Sign of the Times	4	Bill Introductions (HF44 -HF124)	25
Resources: 2001		Reflections: 50 years ago	27
Committee Membership	17	Minnesota Index:	
Committee Schedule (Jan. 8-12)	21	Gauging Water Quality	28

On the cover: A combination of sun cast glittering shadows and wispy cirrus clouds made for a nice view from the Capitol Jan. 4. Temperatures the whole week rose into the mid-30s.

—Photo by Sara Kirk

# The .08 debate

## Legislators mull the prospect of lowering the legal limit for blood alcohol concentration

BY JONAS M. WALKER

**T**he Minnesota Legislature may increase penalties this session for what many consider the most common crime in the state: drunken driving.

Among the top two issues for likely debate are lowering the legal blood-alcohol level from .10 percent to .08 percent and instituting a felony-level penalty for multiple drunken driving offenses.

The House Crime Prevention Committee heard testimony Jan. 9 from government officials and advocates on the issue of Minnesota's legal response to people who drive under the influence of alcohol.

Millie Webb, national president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), testified in favor of Minnesota changing the legally drunk blood-alcohol concentration from .10 percent to .08 percent.

"If all states were at .08 percent, we could prevent 500 deaths and thousands of injuries each year," she said. "Time lost in doing so equals lives lost."

Though Webb's primary focus was the .08 issue, she also addressed felony-level drunken driving penalties. The two issues are inextricably intertwined, since lowering the blood-alcohol level may increase the number of offenders in Minnesota jails — even before a felony penalty would.

Lowering the blood-alcohol limit would also change the current debate regarding felony DWI because it creates a new variable to factor into jail and prison impact projections.

MADD supports the actions of the 38 other states that have felony penalties for DWI. Under existing law in Minnesota, a drunken driver faces no more than a gross misdemeanor, no matter how many prior convictions that person has.

A further proposal supported by MADD would mandate that liquor stores register beer kegs to aid in tracking and prosecution of alcohol-related crimes. Some states have already instituted these conditions.

"You have got to have incarceration, restitu-

tion and rehabilitation," Webb said. "We need to be consistent across America to see a decrease."

Additionally, the state risks losing federal transportation money by 2004 if it does not adopt the .08 limit.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) asked the MADD representatives their opinions regarding placing convicted drunken drivers in minimum security facilities equipped with enhanced treatment options. Minnesota MADD Legislative Chair Lynne Goughler responded favorably to the idea, saying that the first priority for MADD is to "take away the bottle and the car."

felony level penalty is appropriate.

Scoggin recalled that the House passed a bill last year making the commission of four DWIs in 10 years a felony. That provision went to conference committee, but before the bill became law, it was changed to require the working group to study the issue. The move to study the issue further was due in large part to concerns that the state court and corrections systems would be overwhelmed by the increased number of felons.

According to Scoggin, the cost to Minnesota taxpayers would depend upon the ratio of two numbers that define a felony: the number of prior convictions and time frame in which those convictions could have occurred, known as the "look-back" period.

For example, if the number of prior convictions were set at four and the look-back period were 10 years, Scoggin's report indicates that



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

**Millie Webb, national president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, shows members of the House Crime Prevention Committee a picture of her daughter, Lori, who was killed, along with her 19-month-old nephew Mitch Pewitt, by a drunken driver in 1971. Webb urged members to lower the blood-alcohol level to .08 percent during her testimony Jan. 9.**

Paul Scoggin, representing the Minnesota County Attorney's Association, discussed a report prepared by the House DWI working group that addressed specific legal issues such as the number of prior offenses within a 10-year time period that should occur before a

1,317 Minnesota drivers would have been felons by 1998. Increasing the number of convictions to five within the same time period would have affected only 511 drunken drivers.

Scoggin commented that laws creating new felonies can be misleading because judges retain



discretionary sentencing power regardless of the Legislature's apparent intent. In Minnesota, convictions lead to two-part sentences: a length of time, and a ruling as to whether the sentence will be executed or stayed.

For instance, a DWI felon could be sentenced to a number of months in prison, but may be required to receive treatment and perform community service in lieu of actually serving time. Scoggin told the committee that all forms of felony DWI now under consideration by the Legislature would favor a stayed sentence.

The DWI working group reports that it was told that long-term supervision, both before and after treatment, increases the likelihood for successful management of chronic offenders.

Scoggin made a point of emphasizing two messages from law-enforcement officials: that there are some chronic offenders who must be kept off the roads and that sheriffs urge the Legislature to fund the local costs associated with felony DWI.

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), committee chair, agreed, saying, "We don't want (local officials) to be burdened by the state."

Dennis Benson, deputy commissioner with the state Department of Corrections, testified that although jails and workhouses are now filled above capacity, his department was prepared to meet the additional burden of incarcerating DWI felons.

Although Tuma said that most legislators don't think drunken drivers require extensive state oversight, Benson's testimony indicated that DWI felons would likely be housed in the state's medium security prisons at Faribault or Moose Lake. Benson further noted that those who would need to be incarcerated likely would have some sort of prior criminal background.

Responding to some members who said they felt lower-security prisons and treatment options were more appropriate than full-scale secure incarceration, Benson said the department has a wide spectrum of treatment options at its facilities.

Such options would likely meet the approval of MADD members and other advocates of the plan to create a felony DWI penalty. "These people don't know they have a problem with alcohol," commented Webb during her testimony.

Kenn Rockler, executive director of the Wine, Beer, & Spirits Federation of Minnesota, opposes the move to .08 BAC limit.

"If I believed that .08 would save lives, I couldn't in good faith oppose it," he said.

Rockler discussed briefly the difference between presumptive and *per se* blood-alcohol concentration limits; the first assumes that someone with a certain BAC level is too intoxicated to drive. He said that Minnesota law already allows an impaired driver to be prosecuted under the presumptive standard at a .04 percent concentration.



## Sign of the times

**Pro sports pumped millions into metro economy, says 1964 report**

In 1964, Minnesotans were experiencing a relatively new phenomenon in the state's economic structure — the professional sports team.

The early 1960s brought two professional sports teams to the state that are still here today — the Minnesota Twins and the Minnesota Vikings.

While the history of professional sports in the state was still new in 1964, officials with the Metropolitan Sports Area Commission, which oversaw the day-to-day operations of Metropolitan Stadium, prepared a report to evaluate how much money fans were spending in the Twin Cities area.

The report, entitled "The Economic Impact of Major League Sports on the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area," used personal interviews with Twins fans, a random survey of season ticket holders, and an economic analysis of expenditures in the Twin Cities related to the two professional sports teams.

It showed the teams made a significant impact on the area. But it also indicated that the world of professional sports has changed tremendously over the past 35 years.

Take a look at the Twins and Vikings of 1964. That year, Twins outfielder Tony Oliva was named American League Rookie of the Year, leading the league in several batting categories. That same year, teammate Harmon Killebrew led the league with 49 home runs.

One year later, the team would capture the pennant and make its first World Series appearance.

The Vikings would tie for second in the National Football League's Western Conference in 1964, the team's first winning season. Later, under the leadership of head coach Bud Grant, the team would head to four Super Bowl appearances.

According to the report, those teams drew fans that added millions of the dollars to the Twin Cities economy.

The survey indicated that the average fan residing in the Twin Cities area in 1964

expected to attend 10.5 Twins games. Out-of-town Twins fans made the trip for an average 3.7 games. The Twins were among the league leaders for overall attendance that year at 1.2 million fans.

Out-of-town fans spent an average of \$15.90 each for hotel accommodations, \$6.98 for food and beverages, and \$7.37 for gas and oil while in the Twin Cities.

In 1964, the Twins' payroll was around \$1.2 million, which was comparable to the other nine teams in the league. The 2000 Twins had the lowest payroll in all of Major

League Baseball with \$17 million.

The report concluded that the total identifiable expenditures surrounding the Twins and Vikings in 1964 was around \$14.5 million. Further, the report said that the figure was the beginning of a process that "creates a long spending chain which may make the total local effect at least \$29 million in terms of incomes and \$72.5 million in sales volume."

In addition, the report determined that there might be truth to the claim that people would spend their money elsewhere in the Twin Cities without the two teams, but there was no solid proof.

The report also claimed that the teams brought psychological benefits, as well. The metropolitan area and the state gain in confidence and standing, and the Twin Cities are identified as "big league." The teams marked the city as a major metropolitan center, attractive to business and industry.

Since then, both the Twins and the Vikings moved from the old Met and play their games in the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in downtown Minneapolis. In recent years, both the Twins and the Vikings have requested public financing for a new stadium, saying they cannot compete over the long term with the Metrodome's limitations.

(D. MAEDA)



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**The Twins and Vikings called Met Stadium home from 1961-1981.**



## ★ AGRICULTURE

### Field trip possibilities

With no legislation before it on Jan. 10, members of the House Agriculture Policy Committee set forth its plan for the 2001-2002 session, including a list of places members may visit.

Among those places members mentioned the Minneapolis Grain Exchange, the Pillsbury Company, stockyards in South St. Paul, and one of Minnesota's still-operating breweries.

In other action, Department of Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson took a few minutes to introduce key members of his staff and to invite members to visit his department.

Committee Chair Tim Finseth (R-Angus) welcomed committee members by complimenting them on their previous work together. "We did a pretty good job of keeping partisan politics out of this room. I hope very much to continue that," he said.

Then Finseth held his gavel upright for dramatic effect and reminded members of their august responsibility. "You may not respect me, but we all have to respect this," he said. "We need to preserve and respect this."

Finally, a number of members suggested the committee meet with its Senate counterpart to head off the need for any conference committees that may likely arise before the session concludes.

## ★ BUSINESS

### Progress for minority groups

Sending a message of hope for better times, while expressing confidence of progress in their communities, Minnesota minority group leaders presented overviews and updates about their organizations to House Jobs & Economic Development Finance Committee Jan. 10.

The leaders specifically addressed sustaining businesses, providing insurance options and development of business loan programs.

Ilean Her, executive director of the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, said the group attempts to create an environment of success for their community.

"Many Asian-Pacific's are willing to take the risk of starting a business," she said, and the council looks for solutions on how to sustain businesses and get them to grow.

Employment concerns in the Chicano-

Latino community, says Ytmar Santiago, director of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, lie in finding full-time jobs so they will be eligible for medical insurance.

"Chicano Latinos come into the state and take lower-end jobs, which are usually part-time, so they work two or three of them and have no health care," Santiago said.

According to the organization's most recent biennial report, the number of Hispanic children without health insurance in 1995 was 26.8 percent, close to twice the amount of white children (13.4) and black children (15.3) not covered.

Santiago also said his group is making an effort to better businesses in greater Minnesota, but progress lags because there is only one greater Minnesota liaison on the council.

With one-half the Indian population in Minnesota living in poverty, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council has established a large business loan program, which the council is working to market.

"We need Indian citizens to become business people," said Joseph Day, executive director of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council. The program has awarded 95 loans totaling more than \$2 million since 1981, according to the group's 2000 annual report.

Day added that he has been pleased to see the state Department of Health "aggressively" working with tribes in the state during the past 12 months.

Minority leaders talked about the value of validating people in their communities.

Lester Collins, director of the Council on Black Minnesotans, said part of his organization's mission is "making citizens of this state know how important it is to be counted."

Referring to several

black leaders in the Twin Cities, Collins said that despite poverty and difficult circumstances, "an individual can make a significant contribution to their community."

Her, of the Asian-Pacific council, echoed Collins' words.

"Our goals are to strengthen our communities, strengthen the state of Minnesota," Her said. "But before you can get people involved, you have to empower them."

## ★ CHILDREN

### Environmental health study

The House and Senate Environment & Natural Resources Policy committees met

## Danger sign



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Catharine Reid, St. Paul, holds her 4-year-old son Charlie Rich during a rally in the Rotunda for the reduction of dangerous air pollution in Minnesota. The rally was sponsored by the Sierra Club and a coalition of 12 other local environmental groups that released a 16-page package, "Danger in the Air," making several recommendations to clean up Minnesota's air.

together Jan. 9 to learn more about children's environmental health issues.

At the meeting, Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), chair of the House committee, announced the formation of a joint task force on children's environmental health.

The area of environmental health, which primarily examines the links between chronic illnesses and environmental factors, is one of the most important emerging issues in public health today, said Jan Malcolm, commissioner of the state Department of Health.

Amid growing concern that children may be at higher risk for certain illnesses than adults, the department is seeking to intensify its research and policy efforts in issues of children's environmental health.

"We recognize that children may have different susceptibilities to environmental hazards," said Pat Bloomgren, director of the department's Environmental Health Division.

Children's rapidly growing bodies are physiologically different from adults, and their behaviors expose them to more environmental hazards than adults, she said. For example, it has been known for some time that neurotoxins such as lead and mercury damage children's developing nervous systems.

There is a need for better tracking of chronic illnesses to determine which ones have environmental triggers, said Bloomgren, citing the Pew Environmental Health Commission Report released during the fall of 2000. The report charged that America faces an "environmental health gap." Scientists need tracking data to identify sources of chronic illnesses before they can prevent them.

Asthma is one of the priority illnesses the state Health Department wants to track. Especially prevalent in core cities, asthma causes 30 percent of all school absenteeism, said Bloomgren.

"The area of environmental health is one that compels us to work well together across agencies," Malcolm said. This collaboration may at times make for strange bedfellows.

As an example, said Bloomgren, "The Department of Health seeks to protect the public from the hazards of the environment, whereas the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) seeks to protect the environment from the actions of the public."

## CRIME



### Preparing offenders for the outside

Boot camp is not just for the military in Minnesota.

The Challenge Incarceration Program gives nonviolent adult inmates an opportunity to prepare themselves for successful reintegration into

## Faces of the homeless



PHOTO BY JENNY J. DEAN

Amy Gavel of St. Paul and Nicole Fernley from Australia view an exhibit in the State Capitol of children's faces, representative of the 3,000 children that sleep in homeless shelters every night in Minnesota. The exhibit was organized by the Affordable Housing Initiative of St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Minneapolis and was displayed from Jan. 3-10.

society and reduce the risk of re-offending.

Beatrice Hawkins was one of two former inmates who completed the program, and shared their experience with the House Crime Prevention Committee Jan. 11.

"I'd been to prison three times and didn't get the message to be a law-abiding citizen," she said. "At boot camp I learned discipline." Sentenced for a controlled substance crime, Hawkins also got treatment during her time at the camp, something she was not getting behind bars.

The program, which serves a maximum of 90 offenders at one time, including up to 15 women, is often referred to as boot camp because of its rigorous agenda.

An inmate must have 48 months or less remaining on their sentence to be eligible. The type of crime committed may prohibit an inmate from participating. Eighty percent of those in the program committed drug offenses.

Divided into three phases of at least six months each, offenders take treatment-oriented classes, participate in restorative justice work crews, and later take part in a community-supervised release program.

Lou Stender, warden at the Moose Lake/Willow River facility, said the program is a gamble for inmates. Those who fail to complete all three phases receive no credit for time spent in the program, and are returned to incarceration to complete their original sentence.

At the meeting, concerns were raised about the program by Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner and Dakota County Attorney Jim Backstrom.

While both say they like the program, they are concerned about a number of things, including notification measures of an inmate's possible enrollment, having no veto power over the Department of Corrections decision to allow an inmate into the program, and that this program can run amok of the truth in sentencing guidelines.

"When I get a sentence for someone, I expect them to serve it," Gaertner said.

John Tuma (R-Northfield), committee chair, asked Sheryl Ramstad Hvass, state Department of Corrections commissioner, to put together a proposal to address issues raised by Backstrom and Gaertner. That plan could be addressed at a meeting in the next few weeks.

"I want this resolved because this is a good program," he said.

## EDUCATION



### Teacher licensure examined

A plan that would allow certain teacher candidates to forgo new licensure requirements that affect graduates beginning in 2001 passed the House by a unanimous 131-0 vote Jan. 11.

The first bill to pass the House in the 2001 session, HF34/SF28\* was initially approved by the House Education Policy Committee Jan. 5.

Members suspended the rules on the floor Jan. 11 and passed the Senate version, which is identical to the House version, upon its first reading in the House.

Under the bill, sponsored by Rep. Marty

Seifert (R-Marshall), people who were enrolled in accredited teacher coursework by Jan. 1, 2000 would be eligible to complete the program under old licensure rules with a deadline of Sept. 1, 2003 to apply for licensure.

Seifert said the Legislature had directed the Minnesota Board of Teaching to revise teacher licensure requirements in Minnesota, but the new requirements did not include permission for certain students to be grandfathered in under old rules.

Michael Tillman, executive director of the Board of Teaching, appeared at the committee meeting to tell representatives that the board unanimously endorsed the proposal.

"The last thing we want to do is place obstacles in the paths of students who are preparing to be teachers for our schools," Tillman said.

The Education Policy committee also received written testimony from a Southwest State University student who, if the bill does not pass, may have to take additional courses, costing him thousands of dollars more in tuition and delaying his graduation.

Seifert said students who would qualify under the bill to graduate with the old requirements attend school part-time or have taken time off. He believes that most students are halfway through their teacher prep programs.

The 2003 deadline gives them three years to complete one to two years of work, Seifert said, and he pointed out that some courses required aren't offered on a regular basis.

Officials estimate an additional \$9,000 in extra tuition costs per student at a public institution if the bill does not pass, and close to \$20,000 at a private institution.

## ELECTIONS



### Quartet recommended to board

The House Government Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee voted Jan. 10 to recommend confirmation of four nominees to the state's Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

The board is responsible for administering registration, disclosure, and enforcement programs to ensure that the state's government ethics laws are met. The board also provides financial information about public officials to the public.

Three of the nominees, Shirley Chase, Wilbur Fluegel, and Donald Roggenbauer have previously served on the board. Their confirmation is to affirm reappointment to the board. Gov. Jesse Ventura nominated the fourth, former state Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls), to fill a seat vacated by former congressman Tim Penny.

State law requires that two former legislators be board members, but they must support different political parties.

Spear, who served in the Senate from 1972 until December 2000, including the past eight years as president, said he didn't have technical expertise on the board's responsibilities, but that as a former legislator he would bring some practical experience.

Although as a lawmaker Spear did not author any campaign finance bills, he was involved in the process of passing those bills. And as a candidate, he knew firsthand some of the frustrations of the complex filing requirements that he and his campaign treasurer struggled with.

Chase, an attorney from Little Canada, said she brings the perspective of a concerned citizen to the board. She has never been a member of a political party nor has she ever served as a lobbyist.

Roggenbauer is a private investigator and security consultant from Maple Grove. Fluegel, who has chaired the board since 1998, is an attorney based in Minneapolis.

The nominees need the "advice and consent" approval from three-fifths of the members in both the House and Senate before their confirmations are complete.

## FAMILY



### Web site offers information

Members of the House Family and Early Childhood Education Committee heard presentations about a number of resources available to families at its meeting Jan. 8.

Among those resources is a Web site, specifically designed for family and early childhood issues, maintained by the state Department of Children, Families & Learning.

Available on the Web site is information regarding:

- Childcare providers
- Early childhood educators
- Early childhood family education coordinators
- Early childhood screening coordinators
- Early childhood special education coordinators
- Interagency early intervention committee chairs
- School readiness coordinators
- Parent educators
- Parents, and
- Others interested in the health and development of young children and their families.

To view the site, point your browser to <http://cfl.state.mn.us/ecfi>

## GAME & FISH



### Greedy anglers beware

A current of outrage surged through the Jan. 11 meeting of the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee as members heard a presentation on gross game and fish violations in Minnesota.

"I'm so mad about this thing," said Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), who plans to sponsor a bill that would increase penalties for overlimit violations. "People are out there hunting and fishing — and stealing from the people of Minnesota."

Graphic evidence of fish violations was presented by Tom Chapin, a Department of Natural Resources conservation officer with 29 years of experience in the field. He showed photos of "wanton" disregard for state law, including 186 walleye taken by one angler and 360 sunfish taken by another.

Overlimit violations are among the most difficult and time consuming for conservation officers to detect and enforce, according to the DNR. They can have drastic effects on at-risk wildlife populations and are disabling to fish and wildlife management efforts.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) said he believed some people may innocently keep too many fish, and an education program for anglers might be useful.

"We don't want to go after gross offenders and end up getting grandma and grandpa," agreed Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), committee chair.

"There is no ignorance of the law in these cases. They know exactly what they're doing," said Chapin, whose 800 square mile conservation district includes 60 lakes. "In every case of gross overlimits the intent was there."

The first question those apprehended ask after paying their fine, Chapin said is "Can I fish again tomorrow?" and, regrettably, I have to say 'yes.'"

Haas said he wants to put some teeth in the law, increasing penalties for gross violations. Suggested penalties include license revocation, restitution of resources, confiscation of equipment, seizure of motorboats and motor vehicles, and custodial arrest.

"The message we want to get out is, 'We have an excellent resource for you to enjoy but don't abuse it,'" Haas said.

## HEALTH



### Back to class

School was in session for members of the House Health & Human Services Policy and Finance committees Jan. 10 as they received a quick course in "Insurance 101" from

John Gross, director of health care policy at the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

The complexities of the health insurance marketplace became apparent as Gross detailed an individual's options ranging from private coverage (either individual or employer funded) to no coverage at all.

Regardless of the health care vehicle, Gross said a loss of health insurance coverage need not be a fiasco because state law has provided "stepping stones" to extend that coverage. "People always have an option," Gross said. "The problem is sticker-shock, because terminated employees have to pay for their share as well as their former employer's share."

In addition to protecting people from a sudden loss of insurance coverage, Minnesota offers a variety of government-sponsored health care coverage options. Currently, about 23 percent of the state population is covered under these public programs and about 5 percent has no health insurance. The likelihood of being uninsured is higher for people of color, low-income people, and rural people, according to department statistics.

Despite escalating health care costs and premiums, health care spending in Minnesota is 12 percent lower than in the United States as a whole. There are a number of reasons for this, according to Scott Leitz, director of the Health Economics Program of the Department of Health, including the fact that the population of Minnesota tends to be much healthier than that of other states.

While health care costs have increased across the board, they have risen fastest in the areas of prescription drugs, which rose by 15.8 percent from 1997 to 1999, and outpatient care, which rose by 12.5 percent during the same period. On average, health care costs during that period rose by 8.5 percent.

It is these rising costs together with past losses that have driven the increases in premiums over the past few years, Leitz said.

Overall health care spending in Minnesota has stabilized at approximately 13 percent of the state's economy, which is a smaller share of the economy than in other states.

### Public health disparities

A joint meeting of the House Health & Human Services Finance and Policy committees Jan. 8 focused on the health needs of the public.

"I believe public health is one of the best bargains of government. It is government's 'silent success,'" said Jan Malcolm, commissioner of the state Department of Health.

Since 1900, life expectancy in Minnesota has increased by almost 30 years. Twenty-five of those years have been gained due to public

health efforts, not medical technology, according to Malcolm.

Public health is not the same as health care, she explained. It is not health care for the poor or the indigent. In fact, it is not about individual health care at all, but about the health of a population.

Minnesota has been at the top of the chart — consistently first or second — in any analysis of public health. The state is especially distinguished in the area of preparedness to respond to emerging health threats, according to Malcolm.

An example is the rapid identification of, and response to, the recent E. coli outbreak. "We will never know the number of deaths and serious illnesses that were prevented," she said.

Despite Minnesota's strong reputation, the state has serious disparities based on racial, ethnic, gender, and rural-urban differences, she said. For example, Minnesota has the nation's worst disparity in infant mortality when comparing its white residents with African-American and American Indian populations.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), chair of the Health & Human Services Finance Committee, asked why these disparities exist. Among the reasons Malcolm cited are differences in access to health care, health behaviors, and concentrations of poverty. Goodno said he hoped "we'll do more than talk" about the issues this session.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), chair of the House Health & Human Services Policy Committee, agreed. "This is a blight on an

otherwise strong record for Minnesota," he said "We need to address it."

Malcolm pointed out that eliminating disparities in health outcomes is one of the department's primary goals. The Minnesota Department of Health is "committed to being part of the solution for the future," she said.

## HIGHER EDUCATION



### MnSCU at a crossroads

The 35 institutions in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities are at a crossroads and where they go all depends on the financial support the system gets from the Legislature.

Such was the message from MnSCU Chancellor Morris Anderson at the Jan. 10 meeting of the Higher Education Finance Committee.

He said leaders within the MnSCU system have spent "a lot of time" in the past six months determining what higher education costs will be and deciding if the system should be status quo or be a leader.

Anderson said the MnSCU budget request, expected to be presented early next month, will enable the system to be competitive with any in the nation. "We want to be a leader," he said as he told committee members it is up to them to allocate funds so the system can move in that direction.

Anderson spent much of his presentation speaking about what was done with bonding funds from the past year and other positives

### Former speaker

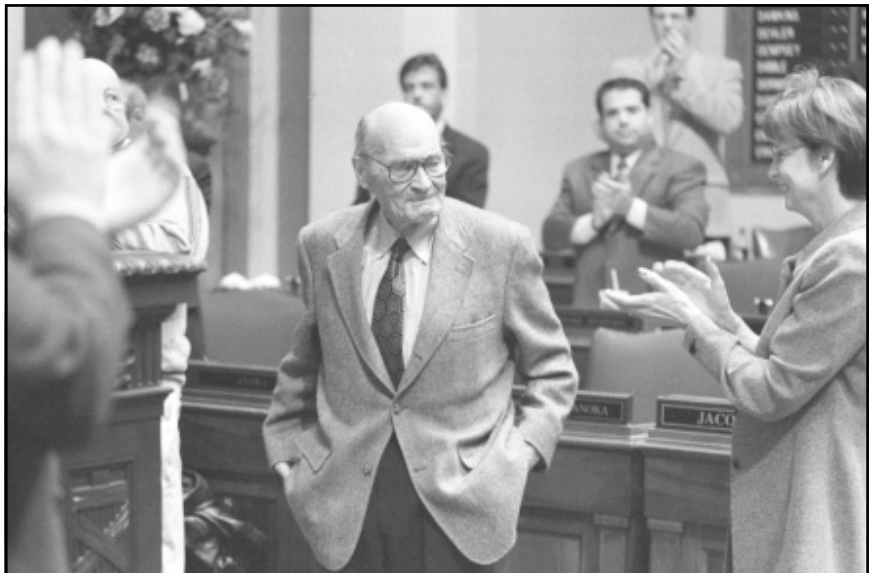


PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

House members and staff welcome former House Speaker Lloyd "Dux" Duxbury to the House floor Jan. 11. First elected to the House in 1950, he was elected speaker in 1963 and was re-elected in 1965, 1967, and 1969. Duxbury was a very colorful presiding officer and is still quoted by colleagues.



about the MnSCU system.

Of the \$131 million in the 2000 bonding bill, Anderson said new libraries have opened at Winona State University, Bemidji State University and St. Cloud State University, a library is under construction at the Minneapolis Community & Technical College, and new buildings and major remodeling are taking place on 20 campuses.

Anderson said having top facilities is important because it attracts top students, who in turn benefit the state. "For every \$1 in net state spending, MnSCU generates a return of \$5.75 to the state's economy," he said.

He said that enrollment is now at a six-year high, with more than 117,000 students 2000-2001 year. "One of every two students attending college in Minnesota attends an MnSCU institution," Anderson said.

### Stadium not U of M priority

University of Minnesota president Mark Yudof told the House Higher Education Finance Committee Jan. 8 that an on-campus stadium will not be part of the university's capital campaign request.

The response came after Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring) asked Yudof about what some believe could become a hot topic in the 2001 session, especially if the university and Minnesota Vikings team together.

Yudof said the issue frustrates him because, as much as he enjoys on-campus football, other areas have priority. "The idea of putting a stadium ahead of students is something I do not buy into," he said. "No part of our capital campaign is for a stadium."

"If you somehow came up with an extra \$100 million, I'd probably put it in the academic health center or the medical school," Yudof added. He said the university would oppose money coming off the university's budget request and going towards a stadium.

The stadium issue was the highlight of a one-hour informational meeting that focused on accomplishments and needs at the university's four campuses (Crookston, Duluth, Morris and the Twin Cities). University representatives are expected to present a formal budget request of more than \$200 million later this month.

On the positive, Yudof said that 2000 was a record year for sponsored research when more than \$455 million in grants were received, a 25 percent increase from 1999. He further noted that faculty requests for research funding totaled \$1.18 billion, the first time that mark has topped \$1 billion. Expenses also reached a record-high of \$376 million.

The problem, he said, is that the departments need to grow to keep those numbers growing. For example, he would like to see an

increase in medical school staffing of 80 people. Noting that two-thirds of physicians in the state were trained at the university, Yudof said, "What is done on our campuses benefits the state as a whole."

Yudof said he believes if the Legislature continues to approve money for the university, others will as well. Yudof noted that the 'U' ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in private support in 1999 with \$162 million, but expects that number to increase because of a capital fund-raising campaign, that has seen almost 64,000 gifts. "People think this is a good place to invest," he said.

## HUMAN SERVICES



### Individuals come first

Department of Human Services Commissioner Michael O'Keefe told members of the House Health & Human Service Finance and Policy committees at their joint Jan. 9 meeting that despite its size and complexity the department is dedicated to serving the individual client.

"We focus on people, not programs," O'Keefe said.

The state's largest agency, with a \$6 billion budget for the year 2000, the Department of Human Services provided the following services last year:

- Health coverage for 500,000 people;
- Income support for 41,000 families a month;
- Food stamps for 95,000 households, an average of 211,000 individuals per month;
- Child support for more than 270,000 children;
- Out-of-home care, including foster care, emergency shelters, group homes, and residential treatment facilities for almost 19,000 children; and
- Mental health services for 3,300 persons in communities and 600 in state facilities.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), chair of the committee, called the array of services "mind-boggling."

Among the areas that fall within the domain of the department is long-term care.

The agency plans to release a report on Jan. 18 about long-term care in Minnesota. The results of that report will be on the agenda for the committee this session.

O'Keefe said the department is successful not only because it has a dedicated work force, but also because it makes use of an array of technology. He said the current challenge facing the agency is that its technological systems are often incompatible.

To effectively deal with its goal of moving

more services to the local level, O'Keefe testified, "We need to upgrade technology so our systems talk to each other."

## INDUSTRY



### Web access for all

Delivering high-speed Internet access to areas of Greater Minnesota will be a major issue for the House Regulated Industries Committee this session.

Legislators had many questions for Minnesota Department of Commerce representatives during their Jan. 8 presentation of a plan likely to be introduced as a bill this week.

Despite making much progress in telecommunications at the state level, Commerce Commissioner Jim Bernstein stressed the importance of the Legislature taking more action in 2001.

"If the Legislature does nothing this year, Minnesota will fall further behind," he said.

Committee Chair Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville) agreed and asked representatives to seriously think about the future of the state.

"We should consider what will happen if we pass no bill this year," he said.

Setbacks in Internet service access put rural Minnesotans at risk of not keeping up with today's markets and retaining a competitive edge in business, therefore possibly worsening the decreasing population problem in those areas of the state.

Bernstein said he believes getting services to greater Minnesota is an imperative initiative. "We're looking at a market-based approach for high-speed access where communities desire it," he said.

As of now, high-speed Internet access is generally not available in greater Minnesota.

Department officials talked about introducing wireless services to rural areas, a technology that could possibly skip the cable modem step, going from phone lines to no lines.

"Wireless may be a good solution for less populated areas," said Jack Reis, Commerce Department project manager.

State officials favor wireless and cable solutions because the industries are not regulated.

"There are some things at the state level we can do to encourage wireless competitions," said Anthony Mendoza, telecommunications division deputy for the department.

This year's budget recommendation has not yet been released, but Mendoza said the numbers will be lower than the previous request. Wolf said he and the chair for the corresponding committee in the Senate have been working together since last session on finding ways to expand the revenue base.

Bernstein said the Legislature will soon have

to reach a conclusion regarding the next step in telecommunications for Minnesota.

"There's no question about it — it's going to be part of the future."

## TAXES



### Taxing Internet purchases

Minnesota will lose an estimated \$219 million in sales tax revenues in 2003 because of sales made over the Internet, the House Taxes Committee was told in a Jan. 9 hearing.

In a presentation made by the non-partisan House Research Department, committee members were told that the growth of sales over the Internet is causing a number of sales tax related issues as Minnesota and other states attempt to grapple with that growing component of the economy.

Because of precedents established in several court cases, the state currently cannot require businesses to collect sales tax unless the business has a physical presence in the state. Thus, a retailer with a store in Minnesota charges 6.5 percent more on the same product than an online store with no physical presence in the state.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) pointed to a recent personal shopping experience that showed there are inconsistencies regarding what sales tax certain businesses are collecting from their customers.

McElroy purchased a computer for his business and was charged sales tax on the item, but a personal computer for his home use purchased from the same out-of-state online company was not charged sales tax.

There have been several national attempts to address the issue.

In 1998 Congress passed the Internet Tax Freedom Act that imposed a three-year moratorium on new Internet taxation. As part of the act, Congress established an Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce to address the issues related to Internet taxation.

However, the act did not include a moratorium on taxing Internet sales as has widely been reported, only on taxing sales to Internet access. This has led to a number of problems as Internet providers, cable, satellite, and telephone companies merge their services.

Jennifer Engh, an assistant commissioner with the Department of Revenue, said that the department is working on the issue. Recently, the department has received a number of inquiries about what taxes are to be collected when a buyer purchases an integrated package that includes Internet access bundled with cable and telephone services.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), committee chair, said the issues involved will be among many the committee will hold further hearings on this session.

### Apologies offered for mix-up

During the summer of 2000, tens of thousands of Minnesotans received rebate checks from the state. But errors made by the Department of Revenue meant that checks were sent to many who were not eligible.

Department of Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith told the House Taxes Committee Jan. 11 that his department takes full responsibility for the mistakes that were made and decisions that were made afterward to rectify the problems.

Smith said more than 33,000 Minnesotans who were not eligible for the 2000 sales tax rebate received checks totaling more than \$2.9 million. Of that amount, more than \$1 million is yet to be recollected.

In order for the rebate to be automatic so taxpayers would not have to file additional forms in order to qualify, the department used information provided by the United States Social Security Administration. Smith said that some of the records received did not include the person's date of birth. He said the department then used outside sources in an attempt to determine which of those people should be sent a check.

That led to a programming error within the department that resulted in more than 22,000 minors receiving a rebate check they were not entitled to. The department also erred in sending out checks to children whose parents have died or are disabled and to people whose spouse died that otherwise would have been eligible for the rebate.

Smith said the department then decided to send out letters to those who had received rebates in error.

"We felt we had little choice," Smith said. "The law is very clear about eligibility requirements."

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), committee chair, was critical of Smith's decision to try and re-collect the money without first consulting with lawmakers to determine the best way to deal with the situation.

Abrams said there now is no good solution to the problem of the 11,000 minors who, through no fault of their own, will find out when they get a job or apply for a future rebate or refund that they owe the state money.

"In retrospect it was a big mistake and I'd like to offer a public apology," Smith said.

### A tab tax tussle

Last spring the Legislature broke a deadlock by agreeing to an arrangement between the House, the Senate, and the governor to divide the \$525 million state surplus three ways — thus allowing each side to determine how to use one-third of the money.

At a Jan. 11 hearing, members of the House Taxes Committee expressed concern that one side of that three-way arrangement turned out to be larger than the rest.

The governor used his portion of the surplus to fund a reduction in the state's motor vehicle license registration fees and, ultimately, to help fund a high speed busway linking downtown St. Paul and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

But confusion caused by the way the law was written meant that the cost of reducing license registration fees was more than expected.

The effective date of the law change was July 1, 2000. However, existing state law allows drivers a 10-day grace period into the following month to display their new tabs. The department sends out renewal notices six weeks before the expiration date.

The confusing and overlapping dates led to a class action lawsuit filed against Department of Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver last summer as those with tabs that expire in June thought they should also be eligible for the reduced rates.

The state decided to settle the suit, agreeing to send out 124,000 refunds to drivers at a cost of \$11.7 million. Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), chair of the committee, said because of the situation, the arrangement reached last session now means that the deal is now "One-third, one-third, one-third plus \$11.7 million."

Department of Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith said that an opinion issued by the state Attorney General Mike Hatch indicated that although the intent of the law was clear, the language of the law was not, lending credence to the belief that the state could not prevail in court.

Abrams was critical of the decision to settle the lawsuit without seeking another legal opinion. He also said it should be the governor, and not the Legislature, that should address the resulting hole caused in the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund caused by the settlement. (Money from that fund was used to pay for the settlement.)

Smith said the governor's proposed budget this session will likely include \$11.7 million to cover the settlement's costs.

Abrams said the unanticipated additional cost was another reason that the one-third, one-third, one-third arrangement did not establish a good precedent for future sessions.

"This was a mistake brought about by a unilateral legislature," he said.

Highlights continued on page 23

# Testing fairness

Student accountability assessments for Title I draw criticism from House members

BY THERESA STAHL

**L**egislators questioned officials from the state Department of Children, Families and Learning (CFL) and school administrators about assessing students and schools during the Jan. 9 and 11 meetings of the Education Policy Committee.

Some representatives were skeptical of the methods by which students were evaluated.

"I'm concerned that we only rely on a test and not other methods," said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville).

The tests, the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs), are being used to meet accountability requirements under Title I, a federally funded program that provides additional funds to schools with children who need assistance in meeting reading and math standards.

The assessments currently test only third- and fifth-grade students, and legislators wondered if the tests are providing accurate information of students' progress.

"It seems to me we're dealing with flawed system standards," said Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton). "If you really look at it, MCAs are not measuring achievement. This is unfair to children of Minnesota and unfair to teachers."

"I have serious questions about the program," said Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake). "We should be looking at what happened in first and second grade just to see if (the test results are) accurate or could be more refined."

Dr. Mark Davison, from the Office of Education Accountability at the University of Minnesota, recommended testing students from one year to the next using two forms of a test, one of which includes "anchor items" that are of the same level of difficulty.

"A system should have multiple indicators" of students' achievement, Davison said. Tests, he said, should provide a step-by-step look at student performance and progress instead of an overall assessment that combines informa-



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Mark Davison, with the Office of Educational Accountability at the University of Minnesota, testifies at the House Education Policy Committee Jan. 11 during a discussion regarding Title I and accountability.**

tion gathered from different testing methods.

Marianne Johnson of the Children, Families and Learning Department defended the use of the test.

"We're looking to evaluate a school program, not students' progress through the years," she said.

Jessie Mantano, assistant commissioner at the department, said the federal education department, which requires the test, isn't dictating to the state.

"They say we must use standards, but not which," Mantano said. "We have set the score at a reasonable level. The MCAs are designed to measure standards that correspond to certain skills."

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said he doesn't blame the department for an evaluation he says is inadequate and misleading.

"(The MCAs are) pretty close to useless as a measure for most districts because of turnover rates in different classes," he said. "The Federal government has put CFL in a box, and made them come up with tests."

Some school officials who testified before the committee reported they use several methods of testing in addition to the MCAs to evaluate their students.

"Our use of the MCA state accountability system is limited," said David Heistad, director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment at Minneapolis Public Schools. It indicates progress, he said, but he leans more on another test.

Margo Baines, from the Office of Accountability at St. Paul Public Schools, said they look at several indicators of progress, including the MCAs as well as other tests and additional factors such as attendance.

"We know that MCAs only test to a benchmark rate," she said, then pointed out a positive result of the test. "We have noticed through the tests that many students have made progress, especially those students of color and at poverty levels."


Baines confidently praised her school district's testing methods.

"We believe our accountability system is working," she said.

Baines said St. Paul schools look at one student at a time, and some schools ask to test first-grade students. Comparatively, Heistad said that Minneapolis schools use tests to evaluate kindergartners.

"The tests give a background of students for parents who want to know specifics of how their child is doing," Baines said.

Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington) said she's heard it's hard to test students so young, but Heistad said it is necessary to assess students to determine areas of strength and weakness.

"We use a test appropriate to abilities," Heistad said. "This provides valuable information towards progress of standards." 

# History repeats itself

Dispute over speaker's committee assignments mirrors similar disagreements from the Houses past

By JONAS M. WALKER

**T**his legislative session was off to a rocky start Jan. 3, as uncommonly apparent bickering intruded upon the normally routine process of appointing members to committees.

However, it's not the first time the caucuses have clashed over committee assignments. A similar situation faced the body nearly 20 years ago.

House rules endow the speaker with the responsibility of "attaining proportionate representation on the committees for the minority members."

However, DFL House members are charging that House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) violated both the letter and spirit of that rule in making committee assignments for the 2001-2002 biennium.

The issue first made itself apparent on opening day Jan. 3 with comments prior to the opening session by House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) but reappeared Jan. 8 on the House floor.

Shortly after the conclusion of the opening prayer, Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) rose to a point of order to protest the assignment of a bill to the

K-12 Education Finance Committee. She asserted that the bill could not be considered as legitimate because that committee had not been properly introduced in accordance with House Rules.

In particular, Folliard argued that Sviggum violated Rule 6.02, which provides the speaker with the authority to assign members to committees. The rule allows the speaker to balance

members' requested assignments with "the purpose of attaining proportionate representation on the committees for the minority caucus."

History shows that House speakers have tended to honor the committee preferences of minority members while making only a handful of modifications. However, current minority leaders have said Speaker Sviggum made more than 60 such changes.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), who assisted Sviggum in making committee assignments, argued against Folliard's point of order, noting that his caucus had weighed a number of factors.

Among those factors, Goodno said, were geographic and ideological representation, as well as gender balance. Previous speakers had used the same factors in their committee assignments, Goodno said.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

House members 2001-2002 assignments to various committees, such as the House Education Policy Committee pictured here, caused controversy on the House floor Jan. 8.

Back in 1995, Republican members of the House proposed a rule change that would have required the speaker to honor the minority's committee preferences, said House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) during the exchange. However, the then-DFL majority voted down the change, he said.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) still stands by her opposition to that plan. "You don't want

## Rule 6.02 reads, in part:

If the minority leader submits to the Speaker-designate, at least 15 days before the start of the session, a list of proposed committee assignments for the minority caucus that complies with the numbers and guidelines provided, the Speaker must make the proposed assignments with the purpose of attaining proportionate representation on the committees for the minority caucus.

A committee of the House must not have exclusive membership from one profession, occupation or vocation.

to tie the hands of the speaker. (Before the 1995 proposed rule change), there never had been any abuse" of the speaker's discretionary authority, she said.

As to the Republican claim that gender and geographic considerations should come into play, Kahn said that "proportionality should only be interpreted in terms of (caucus membership)." Asked to comment on the assignments themselves, Kahn said simply, "It makes no sense."

This year's wrangling bears significant similarity to past sessions. In 1983, for example, DFL House Speaker Harry Sieben considered more than just a member's party affiliation when making appointments.

According to a 1985 University of Minnesota report, Sieben said "that the understanding between the parties was that minority requests would be taken into consideration along with geographical and philosophical balance among other things." He only changed a few minority assignments, the report said.

Two years later, Republicans took control of the House and elected David Jennings as speaker. He changed 23 of the 193 minority requests, something which, according to the U of M report, "caused much grumbling in the DFL camp because of the number of changes in minority recommendations." He later allowed a minority leader to protest, albeit unsuccessfully.

Like Sviggum this year, Jennings argued that committee assignments balanced members' views and backgrounds. However, the 1985 study showed that DFLers were generally moved to less-requested committees. Fiscally conservative DFLers were moved to committees on which Republicans "needed more votes," in the words

Continued on page 27



# Majority Whip

Goal of new House position is better communication within the Republican caucus

By DAVID MAEDA

**T**he lawmaking process is full of colorful terms. To the uninitiated, somewhat cryptic words and phrases like “engrossed,” “lay on the table,” and “germane” sound strange as they are thrown about the chamber throughout the session. Now for the first time in recent memory, the term “whip” will be used in the House.

In December, Republican members approved the appointment of Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) as the majority whip.

The newly created position will assist Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) in floor debate, motions, and parliamentary procedures. Seifert will also help coordinate floor activity including amendments, speeches, the order of speakers, and defending caucus policies. The whip also is responsible for determining if enough votes are present on priority bills.

“It was a reaching out by leadership to the caucus for better communication,” Seifert said.

He said with the slimming majority, the leadership of the party thought the new position would help provide better organization within the caucus.

Seifert will be assisted by six assistant majority whips, Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka), Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville), and Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring).

In government terms “whip” was first used in the English Parliament. The term comes from the sport of fox hunting where the “whipper-in” is the person responsible for keeping the hounds together and working as a team. Thus, legislatively, the position traditionally has been the member or members responsible for keeping others in the same party together in voting on specific key issues as well as other coordinating duties.

House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said that he agreed to the idea of creating the new position, an idea that initially came from Pawlenty. He said the six assistant whips will be responsible for meeting with 10 caucus members individually for at least 15 minutes each week.

“It will create a better informed majority and a majority that feels more ownership to the final product,” Sviggum said.

He said not only will the new structure lead to better commu-

nication between leadership and members but also from members to leadership. He said that in the past some members have felt they were not involved enough in the decision making process within the caucus and that the new positions will spread out responsibility and allow for more input.

The DFL caucus has not announced plans for a comparable position.

Traditionally in the House, the caucuses have appointed a majority leader, a minority leader, and assistant majority and minority leaders. One exception to this was in 1979 when the House was split evenly with 67 Republican and 67 DFL members.

That year a compromise between the two parties was reached, and Rep. Rod Searle (R-Waseca) was named Speaker of the House. Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int’l Falls) was named as DFL House Leader, Rep. Harry Sieben Jr. (DFL-Hastings) was named House Floor Leader, and Rep. Gerald Knickerbocker (R-Minnetonka) was named Independent Republican Caucus Leader.

This year Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville), Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester), and Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) are the assistant majority leaders. Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) has four assistant minority leaders—Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar), Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls), and Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie).


The position of whip has been used more frequently in the Senate. This session the Senate DFL has six whips — Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls), Sen. David H. Johnson (DFL-Bloomington), Sen. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing), Sen. David L. Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm), and Sen. Deanna L. Wiener (DFL-Eagan). 



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Majority Whip Marty Seifert talks with Rep. Ken Wolf and Rep. Elaine Harder during the Jan. 8 House floor session.

If you have Internet access, visit the  
Legislature’s web page at:  
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>



# Time to shine

Once-shy Jacobson steps out, hoping to shape policy and reform the tax system

By DAVID MAEDA

Rep. Carl Jacobson (R-Vadnais Heights) began his career as an accountant working for a corporation — a factory in Iowa that made filing cabinets.



Rep. Carl Jacobson

Quiet and introverted by nature, Jacobson said that corporate accounting appealed to him because it focused on working with numbers and didn't require a lot of direct contact with others.

But he eventually switched over to public accounting precisely because it required talking with people and that was what he ended up finding most enjoyable about his work.

As a member of the Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants, Jacobson came to the Capitol on a day last year for MnCPA Lobby Day. He met with his representative, former Rep. Sherry Broecker, who mentioned to him that she was considering not running for another term.

He had previously worked with Broecker and former state Sen. Linda Runbeck (R-Circle Pines) when he served as the party treasurer to his House district. Both encouraged him to run for Broecker's open seat.

"It's something I always wanted to do but always thought that I would do later on," Jacobson said. "I've always believed we need good people with common sense, which is sometimes lacking."

Born in Hibbing and schooled at Minnesota State University, Mankato, Jacobson has spent most of his life in Minnesota. He worked for awhile in Iowa as his wife, Joyce, completed her post-graduate education in chemistry.

Once he decided to run, the most difficult part was getting out and knocking on doors — something that again challenged his shy nature.

"It was something I was not looking forward to but ended up enjoying the most," he said.

Jacobson said his accounting background will lend itself well as he serves as a member of the House Taxes Committee, and House Sales Tax Division.

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*"I'm more likely to sit back and help shape how things are going rather than come in with my own long agenda."*

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—Rep. Carl Jacobson

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As a CPA, he worked with a broad spectrum of clients — from large and small corporations, to single person businesses. He said that wide range of experience gives him a broader perspective on various tax issues.

In addition to reducing the tax rates in the state, Jacobson thinks the system itself needs to be simplified.

He supports reform with two specific goals. The first is decreasing the number of people required to file. And the ultimate goal would be to reduce the form for those who do file to a postcard size.

Jacobson had the privilege of being the author of this session's first bill (HF1), a bill that would reduce the income tax rates for a third consecutive year.

Along with his interest in taxes, Jacobson will also serve on the House Health & Human Services Policy Committee. Although it is an area he doesn't have a lot of experience in, he thinks the committee will deal with some

extremely important issues.

"From talking to the state agency people they tell me that the people on welfare are really the ones that need to be there," he said.

He said that while that is good, it also raises issues of how best to take care of those who most need the help.

Jacobson said his personality and work background will help shape the type of legislator he is likely to be.

"I'm more likely to sit back and help shape how things are going rather than come in with my own long agenda," he said.

He learned a lot while campaigning — from talking to people and his own self-reflection. And he had plenty of help along the way as his wife helped door knock and another

family member, the couple's dog Rocky, was a star in the parades they attended.

"We learned Rocky is highly intuitive," Jacobson said. "He would go right up to the children. He was a big hit."

## DISTRICT 53B

**1998 population (estimate):** 37,307

**Largest city:** Vadnais Heights

**County:** Ramsey

**Location:** Northern suburbs of St. Paul

**Top concern:** "Our (tax) system is better than some but I think we could do better. Not only reducing rates but simplifying the system."

— Rep. Carl Jacobson

# A new generation

Sertich relies on his youth and perspective to bring new prosperity and opportunity to the Iron Range

By JONAS M. WALKER

Barely moved into his new office, freshman Rep. Anthony “Tony” Sertich (DFL-Chisholm) mused early this month on being one of the youngest representatives ever elected to the Minnesota Legislature.



Rep. Tony Sertich

“It’s pretty neat,” said the 25-year-old. “It’s getting a new generation, some new blood into public policy discussion.”

Sertich takes over the District 5B seat vacated by David Tomassoni, who moved on to the Senate.

Though he is new to the Legislature, Sertich is no stranger to the DFL caucus at the Capitol, having worked on the staff of former state Sen. Jerry Janezich. Sertich’s first exposure to the world of politics came while interning with Janezich, whom Sertich now credits as a mentor and benefactor.

“He was thoughtful,” Sertich says of Janezich. “He took the time to listen, no matter the issue.”

While learning the art of politics, Sertich never broke contact with another passion, the politics of art. A longtime thespian, Sertich credits Laurel and Hardy among his original theatrical inspirations.

Today, film actor Kevin Spacey can count Sertich among his most loyal fans. As for the stage, Sertich favors the likes of Shakespeare, mentioning “The Merchant of Venice” as his favorite piece.

“It has everything,” he said. “Love, politics, religion, money.”

Hailing from the same town as Tomassoni and Janezich, Sertich spoke knowingly of the politics of that DFL stronghold.

“If you don’t bring jobs, people are going to leave,” he said. Sertich explained the difficult position many of his Generation-X Iron Range companions find themselves in. “Many

of us came down to the Twin Cities for college and would like to return to the region, but can’t.”

Sertich said he plans to follow the tradition of other Iron Rangers at the Capitol and try to find ways to provide some of the state’s wealth to his marginalized constituents.

“The state’s had an economic boom in the last few years, but we really haven’t felt it up there,” he said.

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*“If you don’t bring jobs, people are going to leave. Many of us came down to the Twin Cities for college and would like to return to the region, but can’t.”*

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—Rep. Tony Sertich

However, Sertich anticipates that accomplishing this goal will be no easy task. One obstacle, he said, is convincing the majority of state residents that parts of Greater Minnesota are suffering.

“It’s kind of hard to convince the rest of the state when they see low unemployment” and other positive economic conditions, he said.

The Iron Range has suffered some economic decline in recent years. Sertich said he hopes to address the trends that have become characteristic to the region: a declining school enrollment, the relative scarcity of high-paying new jobs, and the inability of native college graduates to return.

To that end, Sertich is pleased with his appointment to the House Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Committee.

Sertich hopes to both steer public resources toward his district and use his position to lobby the private sector on the strengths of the area, which he listed as “tourism, taconite, timber,” before adding “technology” to that list. In that particular sector, Sertich’s youth may be a distinct advantage. Given his generation’s comfort with computing, he said, he looks forward to making a strong case for

high-tech investment in northeastern Minnesota.

He would also like to develop a plan that would gather a list of skilled workers who would pledge to return to the Iron Range if employers will provide desirable jobs.

“It worked in Georgia,” Sertich said. Such a plan has never been applied on a regional level, he said, but he’s interested in exploring whether the idea could work in Minnesota.

As to the matter of trade, Sertich sketches himself as a “fair-trade” moderate. Having seen firsthand some negative localized effects of global trade, he describes himself as “passionately” committed to the unique problems pressing his district.

Ultimately, Sertich sees himself teaching in

some capacity. Both his parents work in education, and he considers the edification of the masses to be among the most noble of endeavors in a democratic society.

Until then, Sertich will draw on his previous experience in the Legislature to give him a bit of a head start as a first-time representative. “I know where my desk is,” he said. “I don’t have to run around asking how to do this, or who to talk to about finding that out.”

## DISTRICT 5B

**1998 population (estimate):** 31,445

**Largest city:** Hibbing

**County:** St. Louis

**Location:** Northeastern Minnesota Iron Range

**Top concern:** “I am hoping to find a voice for our generation; to put a new face on public service. If you don’t bring jobs, people are going to leave.”

—Rep. Tony Sertich

# Close enough to count

Slawik returns to Legislature, still favoring issues of education and health care after two-year absence

BY MARY KAY WATSON

In an election year dominated by a contentious presidential recount, Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood) understands firsthand the stresses that a recount imposes upon the candidates.



Rep. Nora Slawik

A veteran of close elections, Slawik saw two of her three runs for the Legislature capped by recounts — both against Republican attorney Jim Seifert of Woodbury.

After winning her first bid for election in District 57A in 1996, Slawik lost to Seifert by 298 votes in 1998. Last November, when more than 22,000 ballots were cast, she won by 79 votes after a recount.

It was like living through election night all over again during the three days of the recount and the weeks that preceded it, she said.

"It confirmed that we have a really good process in Minnesota," Slawik said. "I am thrilled and humbled at the same time."

As a freshman legislator and member of the majority party during the 1997-98 session, Slawik served as vice-chair of the Health & Human Services Committee. At that time, her interest in education and early childhood issues led her to sponsor a bill that would have created an endowment fund for early childhood education.

That bill died in conference committee, though it brought the importance of early childhood issues to the forefront, she said.

After a two-year hiatus from the Legislature, and with the hard work of campaigning behind her, Slawik says of losing and coming back that she has a "new appreciation for all of it."

The issues important to her remain the same as before: education, health care, and tax reform. She is serving on the House Health & Human Services Policy and Family & Early Childhood Education Finance committees.

The key issue for Slawik is education, specifically early childhood issues. Solving the problems of overcrowded classrooms, too few teachers, and outmoded buildings are a top priority for her tenure, she says.

In addition, Slawik said she believes that increasing funding to reduce class sizes will lead to children learning better. "Education is the beginning of everything," she said. "If you educate children well, you will have the educated work force Minnesota needs."

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*"I see myself as a true public servant. I'd like to serve my constituents well."*

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—Rep. Nora Slawik

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Slawik, 38, said she feels qualified to voice the needs of young families in the Legislature. She and her husband, Brien, have a fourth-grade son, Sean, and a daughter, Victoria, in preschool. Victoria was born during Slawik's first legislative tenure in 1997.

Born and raised in Tucson, Ariz., Slawik was selected for a training program for the United Way of America after graduating from Arizona State University. She worked in Texas and Colorado, then moved to Minnesota to work as a campaign manager for the United Way of the Saint Paul Area.

Eventually she formed her own consulting business, which provides services to non-profit organizations in fund raising and resource development.

Slawik has also been active in her community in roles as varied as president of the Woodbury-Cottage Grove League of Women Voters, founding board member of the Southeast Area YMCA, and volunteer coordinator for the Ramsey County book drive.

She also has family roots in Minnesota. Her grandfather published a newspaper in Benson, Minn., and served on the Democratic National Committee. Her husband Brien's family, also from Minnesota, developed the Har Mar Mall in Roseville.

In addition to education, top concerns of Slawik's constituents are prescription drug costs and long-term care issues — issues she also hopes to address.

"I see myself as a true public servant," she said. "I'd like to serve my constituents well." However, she pointed out that legislators "have hundreds of things on our plate and only a few we can bring back."

Like many other areas throughout the state, a property tax cut is another high priority for constituents of District 57A, the fastest growing district in the state. Along with this rapid growth have come climbing property values and subsequent tax increases that present a problem for both seniors and young families.

Slawik said she hopes the Legislature will strike a balance in dealing with the surplus

with a combination of tax cuts and rebates.

Redistricting will undoubtedly have a profound effect on the political makeup of Slawik's district. Already the most populated district in the state, District 57A has grown especially rapidly in swing areas, such as Woodbury, which tends to vote Republican.

"We have to lose 11,000 people in redistricting," she said.

Slawik said she refuses to dwell on the potential vulnerability of her seat when redistricting is complete. "Right now I'm here to serve my constituents," she said.

## DISTRICT 57A

**1998 population (estimate):** 49,822

**Largest city:** Woodbury

**Counties:** Ramsey, Washington

**Location:** east and south of St. Paul

**Top concern:** "When it comes to education, you can pay now and invest in kids, or you can pay later in higher crime rates and associated costs."

—Rep. Nora Slawik

# Committee Information

## 2001 Minnesota House of Representatives

### Agriculture Policy

517 State Office Building ..... 296-9918

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

**Members:** 18

**Chair:** Finseth-R

**Vice Chair:** Westrom-R

**Lead Democrat:** Wenzel-DFL

Cassell-R	Otremba-DFL
Dorman-R	Penas-R
Harder-R	Peterson-DFL
Johnson, R.-DFL	Rifenberg-R
Juhnke-DFL	Schumacher-DFL
Kubly-DFL	Skoe-DFL
Ness-R	Swenson-R
Osskopp-R	

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Brad Biers ..... 296-4172

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Rebecca Lowden ..... 296-4230

### Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

509 State Office Building ..... 296-4344

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

**Members:** 10

**Chair:** Ness-R

**Vice Chair:** Swenson-R

**Lead Democrat:** Peterson-DFL

Dorman-R	Kubly-DFL
Finseth-R	Wenzel-DFL
Harder-R	Westrom-R
Johnson, R.-DFL	Bishop-R**

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Craig Clark ..... 296-1540

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

David Easterday ..... 296-9463

### Capital Investment

451 State Office Building ..... 296-6316

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

**Members:** 22

**Chair:** Knoblach-R

**Vice Chair:** Fuller-R

**Lead Democrat:** Kalis-DFL

Bishop-R	Evans-DFL
Clark, J.-R	Greiling-DFL
Daggett-R	Holsten-R
Dempsey-R	Jaros-DFL

Kahn-DFL	Murphy-DFL
Leppik-R	Osthoft-DFL
Lipman-R	Rhodes-R
Luther-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Mariani-DFL	Tingelstad-R
Molnau-R	

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Matthew J. Hughes ..... 296-2585

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Barbara Thomas ..... 296-7191

### Civil Law

503 State Office Building ..... 296-9188

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., 10:15 a.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 12

**Chair:** Smith-R

**Vice Chair:** Holberg-R

**Lead Democrat:** Luther-DFL

Boudreau-R	Murphy-DFL
Clark, J.-R	Skoglund-DFL
Lindner-R	Stanek-R
Lipman-R	Swapinski-DFL
Mahoney-DFL	

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Dennis Virden ..... 296-6860

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Scott Wiggins ..... 296-5356

### Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy

549 State Office Building ..... 296-9278

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

**Members:** 27

**Chair:** Davids-R

**Vice Chair:** Stang-R

**Lead Democrat:** Rukavina-DFL

Bakk-DFL	Lindner-R
Bradley-R	Mahoney-DFL
Clark, K.-DFL	Marquart-DFL
Entenza-DFL	McElroy-R
Erhardt-R	Mullery-DFL
Gerlach-R	Opatz-DFL
Gunther-R	Paymar-DFL
Haas-R	Ruth-R
Hackbarth-R	Sertich-DFL
Johnson, J.-R	Sykora-R
Larson-DFL	Walz-R
Leighton-DFL	Westerberg-R

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Brian McDaniel ..... 296-4283

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Cristina Wohlford ..... 297-8139

### Economic Development & Tourism Division

417 State Office Building ..... 296-7806

**Meets:** to be announced \*

**Members:** 10

**Chair:** Lindner-R

**Vice Chair:** Walz-R

**Lead Democrat:** Mullery-DFL

Davids-R	
Gunther-R	Mahoney-DFL
Hackbarth-R	Ruth-R
Larson-DFL	Sertich-DFL

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Erik Aamoth ..... 296-3108

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Kelly J. Tungland ..... 296-5355

### Crime Prevention

533 State Office Building ..... 296-4229

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 10:15 a.m. in Room B\*

**Members:** 18

**Chair:** Tuma-R

**Vice Chair:** Penas-R

**Lead Democrat:** Skoglund-DFL

Bishop-R	Paymar-DFL
Fuller-R	Smith-R
Gunther-R	Stanek-R
Hilstrom-DFL	Swapinski-DFL
Johnson, S.-DFL	Sykora-R
McGuire-DFL	Walz-R
Murphy-DFL	Wenzel-DFL
Olson-R	

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Charles Noerenberg ..... 296-5533

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Denise Berger ..... 296-8857

## Education Policy

401 State Office Building ..... 296-5363

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 8:15 a.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 32

**Chair:** Mares-R

**Vice Chair:** Olson-R

**Lead Democrat:** Dorn-DFL

Anderson, B.-R	Leppik-R
Biernat-DFL	Mariani-DFL
Buesgens-R	Marquart-DFL
Carlson-DFL	McGuire-DFL
Cassell-R	Ness-R
Davnie-DFL	Opatz-DFL
Dehler-R	Pelowski, Jr.-DFL
Eastlund-R	Penas-R
Entenza-DFL	Seagren-R
Erickson-R	Schumacher-DFL
Goodwin-DFL	Seifert-R
Gray-DFL	Skoe-DFL
Greiling-DFL	Sykora-R
Johnson, J.-R	Wolf-R
Kielkucki-R	

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Rebecca J. Pryse ..... 296-9469

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Rory Koch ..... 296-5394

## Environment & Natural Resources Finance

381 State Office Building ..... 296-3018

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Fri., 10:15 a.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 14

**Chair:** Holsten-R

**Vice Chair:** Hackbarth-R

**Lead Democrat:** Osthoff-DFL

Bakk-DFL	Swenson-R
Finseth-R	Tingelstad-R
Howes-R	Wagenius-DFL
Jennings-DFL	Wasiluk-DFL
Kelliher-DFL	Workman-R
Ozment-R	Bishop-R**

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

David Chura ..... 297-5723

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Kathleen S. Anderson ..... 296-8871

## Environment & Natural Resources Policy

479 State Office Building ..... 296-4306

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 10:15 a.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 22

**Chair:** Ozment-R

**Vice Chair:** Tingelstad-R

**Lead Democrat:** Wagenius-DFL

Bakk-DFL	Kelliher-DFL
Cassell-R	Nornes-R
Finseth-R	Osthoff-DFL
Hass-R	Peterson-DFL
Hackbarth-R	Skoe-DFL
Hausman-DFL	Swenson-R
Holsten-R	Vandever-R
Howes-R	Wasiluk-DFL
Jennings-DFL	Workman-R
Johnson, R.-DFL	

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Marilyn Brick ..... 296-8893

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Mary Lee Telega ..... 296-5994

## Ethics

439 State Office Building ..... 296-4293

**Meets:** Call of the Chair

**Members:** 6

**Chair:** Daggett-R

**Vice Chair:** Milbert-DFL

Dauids-R	†Kubly-DFL
Murphy-DFL	†Rhodes-R
†-Alternate	

## Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

403 State Office Building ..... 296-4315

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

**Members:** 10

**Chair:** Sykora-R

**Vice Chair:** Nornes-R

**Lead Democrat:** McGuire-DFL

Eastlund-R	Mulder-R
Gray-DFL	Slawik-DFL
Haas-R	Swapinski-DFL
Leppik-R	Bishop-R**

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Jared Jordal ..... 296-5318

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Michele Timp-Pilon ..... 296-7167

## Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

409 State Office Building ..... 296-9889

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Fri., 8:15 a.m. in Room B\*

**Members:** 20

**Chair:** Rhodes-R

**Vice Chair:** Osskopp-R

**Lead Democrat:** Jaros-DFL

Anderson, B.-R	Kielkucki-R
Biernat-DFL	Krinkie-R
Dehler-R	Kubly-DFL
Dibble-DFL	Lipman-R
Eastlund-R	Mares-R
Erickson-R	Seifert-DFL
Evans-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Gleason-DFL	Thompson-DFL
Hilty-DFL	

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Laurie Esau ..... 296-4112

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Lisa Frenette ..... 296-9194

## Health & Human Services Finance

563 State Office Building ..... 296-5515

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Fri., 8:15 a.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 10

**Chair:** Goodno-R

**Vice Chair:** Mulder-R

**Lead Democrat:** Huntley-DFL

Abeler-R	Koskinen-DFL
Boudreau-R	Otremba-DFL
Bradley-R	Wilkin-R
Folliard-DFL	Bishop-R**

### Staff

**Committee Administrator**

Christine Eilertson ..... 296-5065

**Committee Legislative Assistant**

Holly Iverson Hayden ..... 296-4295

## Health & Human Services Policy

559 State Office Building ..... 296-9249

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 8:15 a.m. in Room 10\*

**Members:** 16

**Chair:** Bradley-R

**Vice Chair:** Boudreau-R

**Lead Democrat:** Koskinen-DFL

Abeler-R	Huntley-DFL
Folliard-DFL	Jacobson-R
Goodno-R	Kubly-DFL
Haas-R	Mulder-R



Nornes-R Walker-DFL  
 Otremba-DFL Wilkin-R  
 Slawik-DFL

**Staff**  
**Committee Administrator**  
 Heidi M. Holste ..... 296-7185  
**Committee Legislative Assistant**  
 Cheryl A. Burke ..... 296-4375

**Higher Education Finance**  
 485 State Office Building ..... 296-7026

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Fri., 10:15 a.m. in Room 300S\*

**Members:** 10  
**Chair:** Leppik-R  
**Vice Chair:** Dehler-R  
**Lead Democrat:** Carlson-DFL

Cassell-R Seifert-R  
 Marquart-DFL Stang-R  
 Opatz-DFL Tuma-R  
 Pelowski, Jr.-DFL Bishop-R\*\*

**Staff**  
**Committee Administrator**  
 Bret Walsh ..... 296-4091  
**Committee Legislative Assistant**  
 Sarah Berkowitz ..... 296-7168

**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
 437 State Office Building ..... 296-4212

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Fri., 8:15 a.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 10  
**Chair:** McElroy-R  
**Vice Chair:** Gunther-R  
**Lead Democrat:** Clark, K.-DFL

Davids-R Paymar-DFL  
 Gerlach-R Sertich-DFL  
 Lindner-R Walz-R  
 Mahoney-DFL Bishop-R\*\*

**Staff**  
**Committee Administrator**  
 Andy Gildea ..... 296-5069  
**Committee Legislative Assistant**  
 Ann Matuella ..... 296-5999

**Judiciary Finance**  
 543 State Office Building ..... 296-5502

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 8:15 a.m. in Room B\*

**Members:** 10  
**Chair:** Stanek-R  
**Vice Chair:** Lipman-R  
**Lead Democrat:** Murphy-DFL

Bishop-R Hilstrom-DFL  
 Fuller-R Johnson, S.-DFL

Skoglund-DFL Tuma-R  
 Smith-R

**Staff**  
**Committee Administrator**  
 Jeff Davidman ..... To be assigned  
**Committee Legislative Assistant**  
 Dana Gotz ..... 296-4119

**K-12 Education Finance**  
 477 State Office Building ..... 296-7803

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., Fri., 10:15 a.m. in Room 5\*

**Members:** 19  
**Chair:** Seagren-R  
**Vice Chair:** Kielkucki-R  
**Lead Democrat:** Greiling-DFL

Abeler-R Mares-R  
 Biernat-DFL Ness-R  
 Buesgens-R Olson-R  
 Davnie-DFL Penas-R  
 Dorn-DFL Schumacher-DFL  
 Entenza-DFL Skoe-DFL  
 Erickson-R Wolf-R  
 Goodwin-DFL Bishop-R\*\*  
 Johnson, J.-R

**Staff**  
**Committee Administrator**  
 Gregory L. Marcus ..... 296-9468  
**Committee Legislative Assistant**  
 Kitty Musty ..... 296-3316

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
 575 State Office Building ..... 296-8635

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

**Members:** 18  
**Chair:** Dempsey-R  
**Vice Chair:** Howes-R  
**Lead Democrat:** Marko-DFL

Abrams-R Koskinen-DFL  
 Bernardy-DFL Krinkie-R  
 Buesgens-R Lenczewski-DFL  
 Davnie-DFL Osskopp-R  
 Dibble-DFL Ozment-R  
 Folliard-DFL Seagren-R  
 Hilstrom-DFL Vandever-R  
 Holberg-R

**Staff**  
**Committee Administrator**  
 Blair Tremere ..... 296-5376  
**Committee Legislative Assistant**  
 Clayton J. Helmer ..... 296-5998

**Redistricting**  
 445 State Office Building ..... 296-7449

**Meets:** Call of the Chair

**Members:** 12  
**Chair:** Paulsen-R  
**Vice Chair:** Rifenberg-R  
**Lead Democrat:** Pelowski, Jr.-DFL

Abrams-R Luther-DFL  
 Anderson, I.-DFL Mariani-DFL  
 Boudreau-R Seifert-R  
 Gray-DFL Tingelstad-R  
 Knoblach-R

**Staff**  
**Redistricting Analyst**  
 Gregg Peppin ..... 296-5508  
**Committee Legislative Assistant**  
 Erik Holmstrom ..... 297-8404

**Regulated Industries**  
 571 State Office Building ..... 296-5185

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

**Members:** 18  
**Chair:** Wolf-R  
**Vice Chair:** Gerlach-R  
**Lead Democrat:** Jennings-DFL

Davids-R Lieder-DFL  
 Gleason-DFL Paulsen-R  
 Gunther-R Pelowski, Jr.-DFL  
 Hilty-DFL Rifenberg-R  
 Holsten-R Stang-R  
 Johnson, S.-DFL Westrom-R  
 Kahn-DFL Workman-R  
 Kalis-DFL

**Staff**  
**Committee Administrator**  
 Brian S. Fahey ..... 296-9302  
**Committee Legislative Assistant**  
 Cassandra J. Holmstrom ..... 296-5489

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
 459 State Office Building ..... 296-4128

**Meets:** Call of the Chair

**Members:** 21  
**Chair:** Pawlenty-R  
**Vice Chair:** Seifert-R  
**Lead Democrat:** Pugh-DFL

Abrams-R Molnau-R  
 Dorn-DFL Olson-R  
 Gerlach-R Ozment-R  
 Huntley-DFL Paulsen-R  
 Knoblach-R Peterson-DFL  
 Mares-R Solberg-DFL  
 McGuire-DFL Sviggum-R  
 Milbert-DFL Tuma-R

Wagenius-DFL Winter-DFL

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Georgie Hilker ..... 296-4276

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Lesley Hinz ..... 296-9183

## State Government Finance

365 State Office Building ..... 296-2907

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 10:15 a.m. in Room 300N\*; Fri., 8:15 in Room B\*

**Members:** 12

**Chair:** Krinkie-R

**Vice Chair:** Anderson, B.-R

**Lead Democrat:** Hilty-DFL

Dibble-DFL	Kielkucki-R
Eastlund-R	Mares-R
Erickson-R	Rhodes-R
Evans-DFL	Thompson-DFL
Jaros-DFL	Bishop-R**

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Craig Stone ..... 296-5367

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathy Heibel ..... 296-3367

## Taxes

585 State Office Building ..... 296-9934

**Meets:** Mon. - Fri. 10:15 a.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 25

**Chair:** Abrams-R

**Vice Chair:** Daggett-R

**Lead Democrat:** Anderson, I.-DFL

Bernardy-DFL	Leighton-DFL
Dawkins-DFL	Lenczewski-DFL
Dempsey-R	McElroy-R
Dorman-R	Milbert-DFL
Erhardt-R	Mullery-DFL
Gleason-DFL	Paulsen-R
Harder-R	Rifenberg-R
Jacobson-R	Rukavina-DFL
Knoblach-R	Walker-DFL
Krinkie-R	Wilkin-R
Kuisle-R	Winter-DFL

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Jason Rohloff ..... 296-8880

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathleen M. Kieffer ..... 296-5991

## Property Tax Division

591 State Office Building ..... 296-4363

**Meets:** 10:15 a.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 14

**Chair:** Erhardt-R

**Vice Chair:** Kuisle-R

**Lead Democrat:** Milbert-DFL

Abrams-R	McElroy-R
Daggett-R	Mullery-DFL
Dempsey-R	Rifenberg-R
Gleason-DFL	Rukavina-DFL
Knoblach-R	Winter-DFL
Lenczewski-DFL	

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Margaret Amundson ..... 296-7427

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Adrienne Buske ..... 296-2955

## Sales Tax Division

583 State Office Building ..... 296-5373

**Meets:** 10:15 a.m. in Room 200\*

**Members:** 12

**Chair:** Harder-R

**Vice Chair:** Dorman-R

**Lead Democrat:** Dawkins-DFL

Abrams-R	Leighton-DFL
Anderson, I.-DFL	Paulsen-R
Bernardy-DFL	Walker-DFL
Daggett-R	Wilkin-R
Jacobson-R	

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Open

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Shelley Peterson ..... 296-3641

## Transportation Finance

443 State Office Building ..... 296-8872

**Meets:** Mon., Wed., 8:15 a.m. in Room 5\*

**Members:** 14

**Chair:** Molnau-R

**Vice Chair:** Vandever-R

**Lead Democrat:** Lieder-DFL

Clark, J.-R	Marko-DFL
Hausman-DFL	Ruth-R
Holberg-R	Westerberg-R
Juhnke-DFL	Workman-R
Kalis-DFL	Bishop-R**
Kuisle-R	
Larson-DFL	

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Erik Rudeen ..... 296-5528

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

JoAnn Overgaaup ..... 296-5336

## Transportation Policy

537 State Office Building ..... 296-5066

**Meets:** Tues., Thurs., 8:15 a.m. in Room 5\*

**Members:** 18

**Chair:** Workman-R

**Vice Chair:** Clark, J.-R

**Lead Democrat:** Hausman-DFL

Holberg-R	Marko-DFL
Howes-R	Molnau-R
Juhnke-DFL	Ruth-R
Kahn-DFL	Vandever-R
Kalis-DFL	Westerberg-R
Kuisle-R	Westrom-R
Larson-DFL	Winter-DFL
Lieder-DFL	

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Mary K. Cummins ..... 296-3244

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Rebecca S. Reiners ..... 297-5603

## Ways & Means

453 State Office Building ..... 296-0573

**Meets:** Call of the Chair

**Members:** 29

**Chair:** Bishop-R

**Vice Chair:** Haas-R

**Lead Democrat:** Solberg-DFL

Abrams-R	Molnau-R
Anderson, I.-DFL	Mulder-R
Carlson-DFL	Osthoff-DFL
Clark, K.-DFL	Otremba-DFL
Dawkins-DFL	Rukavina-DFL
Dehler-R	Seagren-R
Erhardt-R	Stanek-R
Jaros-DFL	Stang-R
Kahn-DFL	Sviggum-R
Kalis-DFL	Swenson-R
Kelliher-DFL	Sykora-R
Krinkie-R	Wenzel-DFL
McElroy-R	Wilkin-R

#### Staff

##### Committee Administrator

Chas Anderson ..... 296-8875

##### Committee Legislative Assistant

Shirley Koderick ..... 296-4999

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## MONDAY, January 15

House offices closed.

## TUESDAY, January 16

8:15 a.m.

### Joint House HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY/ Senate HEALTH & FAMILY SECURITY

10 State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Fran Bradley, Sen. Dallas Sams

**Agenda:** Presentation on Legislative Long Term Care Task Force.

### TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** A resolution memorializing the benefits of a modernized waterway transportation delivery system; ports; and HF37 traffic regulations; abolishing statutes defining trackless trolley car, regulating driving through rough country, and prohibiting carrier employment by persons addicted to liquor.

10:15 a.m.

### CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** Overview of sentencing guidelines. Sentencing Guidelines Commission 2001 Report to the Legislature. Sentencing trends and statistics. Overview of DWI laws. DWI trends and statistics.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** Karen Studders, MPCA Commissioner, global/state environmental issues.

Tom Koehler, co-chair of the Minnesota Environmental Coalition of Labor and Industry (MECLI).

Bill Cunningham, Unions for Jobs and Environment (UJAE), climate policy issues.

### STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** Department of Administration update on Capitol area projects.

Budget presentation, State Treasurer.

Budget presentation, Attorney General.

### TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Daggett) Department of Revenue technical bill (continued from Jan. 11 tax committee meeting).

Utility taxation study.

Forestry taxation study.

12:30 p.m.

### AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** Overview of the dairy industry from processors' economic and financial perspectives.

### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** Overview of building processes in Minnesota, CAPRA and ADA by Kath Ouska, Dept. of Administration.

### COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** Department of Economic Security agency overview.

3 p.m.

The House meets in session.

4 p.m. or immediately following session

### REDISTRICTING

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Erik Paulsen

**Agenda:** Historical overview of the redistricting process.

Professor Charles Umbanhower, Department of Political Science, St. Olaf College.

Professor Joe Kunkel, Department of Political Science, Minnesota State University-Mankato.

## WEDNESDAY, January 17

8 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Bus trip

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** Tour and overview of the Minneapolis Veterans Home.

8:15 a.m.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** Discussion of Interim Federal Funding and other LAC requests.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Presentation from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

Testimony will include advocates for more affordable housing and advocates for more homeless shelters.

### TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** Demonstration of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technology.

10:15 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) overview of selection process and LCMR recommendations.

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** Higher Education Services Office overview, Dr. Robert Poch, director. State Grant Program overview, Dr. Robert Poch, director.

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** Department of Children, Families and Learning review of federal programs:

Title I;

Professional development;

Charter schools; and

Secondary vocational programs.

### TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** To be announced.

12:30 p.m.

**Economic Development & Tourism  
Division/COMMERCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

**Agenda:** Introduction of new members and staff.  
Overview presentation by the Department of Trade and Economic Development.  
Overview presentation by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

**FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** Adult Basic Education (ABE) overview, Barry Shaffer and Greg Sogaard, Department of Children, Families and Learning.  
ABE Policy Task Force recommendations.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** Overview presentations (municipalities):

League of Minnesota Cities; Association of Metropolitan Municipalities; Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities; Minnesota Association of Small Cities; Municipal Legislative Commission; and other.

Committee rules.

Organizational items.

**REGULATED INDUSTRIES**

107 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

**Agenda:** Presentation by the Department of Commerce on energy issues.

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**THURSDAY, January 18**

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8:15 a.m.

**EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** Overview of School Trust Fund Lands.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF4 (Abrams) MinnesotaCare premium and provider taxes repealed, pass-through consumer savings required, tobacco settlement proceeds allocated, and contingent penalties provided.

HF14 (Bradley) Tobacco settlement revenues credited to health care access fund, MinnesotaCare provider taxes eliminated on contingent basis, and pass-through of savings required.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** Design-build.

10:15 a.m.

**Joint CRIME PREVENTION/  
JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. John Tuma, Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** Overview of Criminal Justice Information Policy Group and integrating Minnesota's Criminal Justice Information System (CrimNet).

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL  
RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** Continuation of HF94 (Haas) Fish and game law gross overlimit violations criminal penalties established, and restitution values determined.

**STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** Budget presentation, State Auditor.

Budget presentation, Secretary of State.

12:30 p.m.

**AGRICULTURE & RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** Dairy producers' perspective of environmental feedlot rules.  
Testimony from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** Update on the State Office Building repairs from Kath Ouska, Department of Administration.

Overview of HEAPR - University of Minnesota.

**COMMERCE, JOBS &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** Presentation by Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB).

HRXXXX (Bakk) Relating to the extension of unemployment benefits to LTV mine workers.

3 p.m.

The House meets in session.

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**FRIDAY, January 19**

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8:15 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &  
VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Krinkie) Clarifying that executive branch constitutional officers are subject to the code of ethics; prohibiting executive branch constitutional officers from engaging in outside work.

\*\*\*Tentative\*\*\*

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** If necessary, this meeting is a continuation of the discussion on:

HF4 (Abrams) MinnesotaCare premium and provider taxes repealed, pass-through consumer savings required, tobacco settlement proceeds allocated, and contingent penalties provided.

HF14 (Bradley) Tobacco settlement revenues credited to health care access fund, MinnesotaCare provider taxes eliminated on contingent basis, and pass-through of savings required.

**JOBS & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Presentation from the Department of Trade and Economic Development.

10:15 a.m.

**HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** Private colleges overview - David Laird, president, Minnesota Private College Council.  
Metro Alliance overview.

**K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** Department of Children, Families and Learning review of federal programs:  
Completion of Wed., Jan. 17, agenda;  
Special education;  
Food and nutrition;  
Class size reduction; and  
Discretionary funds.

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## TRANSPORTATION

### Tinklenberg talks transit

At the Jan. 8 meeting of the House Transportation Finance Committee, the Transportation Department's top gun gave members a peek into the future — or at least what they can expect from his department in the next two years.

Referring to Gov. Jesse Ventura's comprehensive transportation plan, "Moving Minnesota," Elwyn Tinklenberg, commissioner of the state Department of Transportation, emphasized that "we want to be a multi-modal transportation department."

He explained that transportation system components, such as highways or airports, are best understood as collections of interdependent units, which function best when designed with other elements in mind. For example, highways are useful only when they are not overburdened by excessive truck traffic, and ports function only when trains are readily available to move goods overland.

Tinklenberg touched on the plan's alphabetic priorities: "A, advantages for transit; B, bottleneck removal; and C, connecting inter-regional corridors." Tinklenberg said that both Greater Minnesota and the Twin Cities areas would likely benefit under Ventura's proposals.

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) inquired about the department's ability to deal with the rising cost of real estate in the

metropolitan area, which can make purchasing land for transportation projects very expensive.

Tinklenberg responded that the department lamented the cost increase, but was prepared to meet the challenges.

Hausman further expressed appreciation for the governor's leadership on transit, remarking that Ventura is the first state leader in many years to offer a comprehensive transportation plan. However, she also expressed her confusion at "the absence of transit in (Ventura's recent) State of the State address."

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) asked if the commissioner believed there was a relationship between housing development, "Smart-Growth" initiatives, and transportation policy. Tinklenberg said there is.

Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester) questioned the commissioner on the length of time the department takes to secure and execute construction and other contracts. Noting that his department requires up to eight months, Tinklenberg said his staff is working aggressively to reduce that time.

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska), committee chair, asked about the department's use of funds the committee had previously designated to repair highways to underwrite the operating cost of a suburban commuter bus.

Tinklenberg explained that the department had secured additional federal funding by commencing with the bus project, and if they had not, Minnesota would have lost the funding.



**After introducing herself** at the Jan. 11 meeting of the House Capital Investment Committee, Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), tongue firmly in cheek, said, "To anyone who read that I was 'miffed' to be on this committee, that was a slip of the tongue. In fact, I'm delighted to be here and especially to be working with Rep. Knobloch."

To which Rep. Jim Knobloch (R-St. Cloud), committee chair, quipped, "Rep. Greiling, members — whether you planned to be here or not, you're all welcome."

**In its presentation** to a joint meeting of the House Health and Human Services Finance and Policy committees Jan. 8, representatives of the state Department of Health discussed recent achievements in health-related ventures and presented the following Top 10 list of public health accomplishments of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century:

- Vaccinations
- Motor vehicle safety
- Safer workplaces
- Control of infectious diseases
- Decline in deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke
- Safer and healthier foods
- Healthier mothers and babies
- Family planning
- Fluoridation of drinking water
- Recognition of tobacco use as a health hazard

**In light of the potential stadium** talk between the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Vikings, one educational group is definitely out of the picture.

"No pro sports team has asked us to build them a sports stadium on their behalf," said Morris Anderson, chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. His comments came Jan. 10 at the House Higher Education Finance Committee meeting, two days after University of Minnesota President Mark Yudof said his institution would not seek stadium funds.

Continuing the lightheartedness of the moment, committee chair Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) noted there were no television cameras in the room, unlike when Yudof spoke. Anderson replied, "They never showed up."

### Safety quiz



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Members of the House Transportation Finance Committee test their knowledge of driver safety during a tour of the Midway Driver License Exam Station in St. Paul Jan. 10.



## U.S. Senators

### Senator

#### Mark Dayton (DFL)

818A Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-3244  
Fax: (202) 228-2186

Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building  
1 Federal Drive, Suite 298  
St. Paul, MN 55111  
(612) 727-5220  
Fax: (612) 727-5223

### Senator

#### Paul Wellstone (DFL)

136 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-5641  
Fax: (202) 224-8438

Suite 100 North  
2550 University Ave. W.  
St. Paul, MN 55114  
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Willmar, MN 56201  
(320) 231-0001  
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Virginia, MN 55792  
(218) 741-1074  
Fax: (218) 741-8544  
E-mail:  
senator@wellstone.senate.gov  
Web site: <http://www.senate.gov/~wellstone>

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### Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (651) 296-2314  
The Chief Clerk's Office provides copies of bills at no charge, all agendas for House sessions, and the Journal of the House.

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## Monday, Jan. 8

### HF44—Rifenberg (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 857, Lewiston, fund transfer authorized.

### HF45—Erickson (R)

#### Taxes

Kanabec County aggregate materials production tax imposed.

### HF46—Lipman (R)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Comprehensive local planning local control re-established, metropolitan land use planning and metropolitan council review of local comprehensive plans repealed, and conforming changes provided.

### HF47—Rukavina (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Iron mining; Closed iron mines and facilities required to be maintained for two years.

### HF48—Abrams (R)

#### Taxes

Sales tax rebate provided and money appropriated.

### HF49—Seifert (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Special veterans of Grenada military action license plates authorized.

### HF50—Pelowski (DFL)

#### Higher Education Finance

Winona State University science building construction and renovation bonds issued and money appropriated.

### HF51—Goodno (R)

#### Crime Prevention

DWI; maximum blood-alcohol level lowered for impairment offenses involving driving motor vehicles, recreational vehicles or watercraft, hunting, handling explosives, or operating military vehicles.

### HF52—Rifenberg (R)

#### Taxes

Agricultural loans exempted from mortgage registry tax.

### HF53—Seifert (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Fair campaign practices act; use of name, image, or voice of certain candidates prohibited from public service messages or state agency advertising.

### HF54—Kielkucki (R)

#### Health & Human Services Finance

Abortion standard conformity with United States constitution required, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF55—Jaros (DFL)

#### Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Family definition provided.

### HF56—Lipman (R)

#### Civil Law

Covenant marriages option provided.

### HF57—Molnau (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Drivers' licenses; certain crimes against children included as disqualifying offenses for purposes of school bus driver endorsements.

### HF58—McGuire (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Standards prescribed for identification of beer kegs, retailers required to maintain records of keg sales, and penalties provided.

### HF59—Luther (DFL)

#### Transportation Policy

World War II license plates with symbols showing highest decoration awarded authorized.

### HF60—Workman (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Teachers retirement association service credit purchase authorized for a specified individual.

### HF61—Jaros (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Simulated elections for minors provided.

### HF62—Kubly (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Yellow Medicine and Chippewa counties disaster relief provided for July 25, 2000 tornado, and money appropriated.

### HF63—Ness (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

School district career and technical aid restored, and money appropriated.

### HF64—McElroy (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Itinerant carnival prohibition repealed.

### HF65—Folliard (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Toxic air contaminants reduction required and reports required.

### HF66—Folliard (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Licensed K-12 teachers additional staff development and additional salary option authorized.

## Thursday, Jan. 11

### HF67—Abrams (R)

#### Taxes

S corporation federal tax conformity provided.

### HF68—Buesgens (R)

#### Taxes

Military pay income tax subtraction provided.

### HF69—Howes (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Portion of motor vehicle sales tax dedicated to highway user tax distribution fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF70—Seifert (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Presidential electors designated and duties specified.

### HF71—Pawlenty (R)

#### Education Policy

School Districts' financial and academic performance evaluated, and money appropriated.

### HF72—Mares (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Washington County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

### HF73—Abrams (R)

#### Taxes

Long-term capital gain income tax exclusion allowed.

### HF74—Erhardt (R)

#### Taxes

Individual income tax rate reduction provided.

### HF75—Hackbarth (R)

#### Transportation Finance

Minneapolis to Anoka County highway No. 22 express transit bus service appropriation provided.

### HF76—Davids (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Diesel fuel oil minimum biodiesel content required.

### HF77—Peterson (DFL)

#### Taxes

Motor fuel retailer grants and tax incentives provided for installing E85 pumps and equipment, state required to purchase and operate E85 vehicles, and money appropriated.

### HF78—Rifenberg (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Winona County highways natural preservation route designation partially removed.

### HF79—Stanek (R)

#### Taxes

Nursery stock production farm machinery sales tax exemption provided.

### HF80—Hackbarth (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Anoka County; Coon Lake water level control installation required.

### HF81—Solberg (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Itasca County additional part-time peace officers authorized.

### HF82—Seagren (R)

#### Education Policy

Staff development reserved revenue dedicated to induction and mentorship activities for new teachers.

### HF83—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Deer River fire station addition design appropriation provided.

### HF84—Daggett (R)

#### Taxes

Income, property, sales and use, cigarette and tobacco, liquor, MinnesotaCare and other taxes technical corrections bill.

**HF85—Jennings (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Wyoming and Chisago City orderly annexed property reimbursement duration limitation exemption provided.

**HF86—Jennings (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Taylor's Falls fire and rescue operations grant provided in support of Interstate park, and money appropriated.

**HF87—Koskinen (DFL)****Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minneapolis teacher retirement fund association service credit purchase authorized for specified individual.

**HF88—Juhnke (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Drug task force education measures federal Byrne grant matching funds appropriations provided.

**HF89—Greiling (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 623, Roseville, fund transfer authorized.

**HF90—Mulder (R)****Taxes**

Nonprofit dance club admissions and sales tax exemption provided.

**HF91—Mulder (R)****Taxes**

Military pension income tax subtraction provided.

**HF92—Daggett (R)****Taxes**

Long-term care insurance income tax credit maximum increased.

**HF93—Entenza (DFL)****Education Policy**

Guidance counselor to student ratio established.

**HF94—Haas (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Fish and game law gross overlimit violations criminal penalties established, and restitution values determined.

**HF95—Opatz (DFL)****Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

St. Cloud city employee retroactive bounce-back annuity payment provided.

**HF96—Entenza (DFL)****Education Policy**

Criminal background check required of nonlicensed individuals paid to provide classroom instruction.

**HF97—Greiling (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Revisors instructed to replace phrase concerning mental illness.

**HF98—Greiling (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Como Park natural science education coordinator provided, and money appropriated.

**HF99—Westerberg (R)****State Government Finance**

National Sports Center conference center construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF100—Seifert (R)****Education Policy**

Higher education grant stipends calculation modified relating to Pell grants.

**HF101—Dempsey (R)****Transportation Finance**

Port development assistance appropriation provided.

**HF102—Seifert (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 418, Russell, fund transfer authorized.

**HF103—Jennings (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 578, Pine City, fund transfer authorized.

**HF104—Stang (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 750, Rocori, fund transfer authorized.

**HF105—Jennings (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 578, Pine City, disabled access levy extended.

**HF106—Ness (R)****Agriculture Policy**

Minnesota agricultural education leadership council permanent or temporary replacement members authorized for specified ex-officio seats.

**HF107—McElroy (R)****Taxes**

Qualified low-income housing projects construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

**HF108—Cassell (R)****Taxes**

Sales to political subdivisions tax exemption provided.

**HF109—Kuisle (R)****Taxes**

Correctional facilities construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

**HF110—Wagenius (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Water quality standards risk evaluation and report required.

**HF111—Krinkie (R)****Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Ethics code applied to executive branch constitutional officers, officers prohibited from engaging in outside work, and malfeasance definition expanded for purposes of recall.

**HF112—Murphy (DFL)****Taxes**

Hermantown local sales tax uses expanded to include construction projects and bond issuance authorized.

**HF113—Murphy (DFL)****Taxes**

Cloquet authorized to impose local sales tax and bond issuance authorized.

**HF114—McElroy (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Internet access catalyst grants in rural Minnesota provided, and money appropriated.

**HF115—Luther (DFL)****Taxes**

Nonprofit animal shelters sale of pets sales tax exemption provided.

**HF116—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Respiratory care practitioner advisory council sunset delayed, and athletic trainer registration cancelled for nonrenewal after two years.

**HF117—Anderson, I. (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Superior National Forest connecting road construction authorized, money appropriated, and report required.

**HF118—Kielkucki (R)****Regulated Industries**

Resolution memorializing television networks to reduce violent and sexually explicit material and produce material that promotes wholesome family values.

**HF119—Harder (R)****Taxes**

S corporation federal tax conformity provided.

**HF120—Bakk (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Fishing; imported leeches from Canada authorized as fishing bait.

**HF121—Erhardt (R)****Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Presidential electors designated and duties specified.

**HF122—Skoglund (DFL)****Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Purchase of service credit authorized for parental or family leaves of absence or breaks in service.

**HF123—Juhnke (DFL)****Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

National Guard eligible members tuition and textbook reimbursement level increased, and money appropriated.

**HF124—Folliard (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Home care providers required to provide notice of service termination, and state health care program reimbursement rates increased for home care providers.

## Where to find information

### House Public Information Office

175 State Office Building

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of a Republican member at the time.

No such assertions have been made regarding Speaker Sviggum's motives this session.

Until 1973, House rules favored the majority caucus; no provision was made for the minority leader's requests. With conservative Republicans holding tight control over the body at that time, minority influence was minimal.

When DFLers won a majority in 1973 after campaigning on a platform of reform, they "adopted the changes which the conservatives previously had refused," according to the 1985 U of M report.

In part because of their reformist leanings, DFLers were unable to continue the rules against which they had campaigned. In short, they had little choice other than to honor Republican committee requests.

By the time Republicans had regained a majority in 1985, House rules included a bevy of language meant to protect minority requests; that language remains today.

In an interview after the session Jan. 8, Goodno explained that the speaker had acted in good faith and well within the bounds of the rules. "There is a certain portionality balance that the rules require us to meet," he said. "Not specific rules, but generally, it states that (committee membership) should be proportional. I think we followed those rules."


According to Goodno, a group of Republican legislators and staff suggested assignments to Sviggum, which he then modified and published. "I don't know how the DFLers (make assignments when they are in the majority)," he said.

Goodno said the speaker was concerned that each member had a comparable number of assignments. And though they anticipated the DFL members would object to some assignments, Goodno said, they needed to complete the rosters in a timely manner.

Assistant Minority Leader Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) was denied membership to a committee he had selected. "If we look at [the rule]," he said, "as long as certain dates and time limits are followed, really the speaker must appoint based on the minority leader's recommendations."

He said he was especially troubled by the use of "ideological" characteristics and reiterated that the specific provisions of Rule 6.02 were not followed.

Juhnke also said the conflict over committee assignments has brought the caucus together and sets them on a path to work together throughout the session.

Now, the tumult seems to have subsided, and both caucuses are gearing up for legislating. "At this point," said Goodno, "the committees have been assigned, the speaker has made those assignments under the rules of the House, and it's time to move forward and start doing the people's will." 

# Reflections

Many "firsts" and coincidences show up when the 82nd Legislative Session and 2001 governorship are compared to the 57th Legislative Session 50 years ago.

When the Legislature convened on Jan. 2, 1951, 40 new House members took their seats in the 131-member representative body. Over in the 67-member Senate chamber, 21 became new lawmakers.

On Jan. 3, 2001, the 82nd Legislative Session convened, with 21 newly elected members joining the 134-member House.

At the first day of the 2001 Legislative Session, southern Minnesota's Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) was elected as House Speaker for a second time. So was southern Minnesota's John A. Hartle (Conservative-Owatonna) in 1951.

Gov. Luther W. Youngdahl was sworn in for his third, two-year term on Jan. 2, 1951. He made his state address one day later.

Jesse Ventura gave this year's State of the State Address as the 38th governor on Jan. 4, also one day after the start of session.

Critics said both governors' requests went too far on their respective issues: Youngdahl in law enforcement programs, namely those that related to anti-gambling, and Ventura on license tab fees. Both got what they wanted.

As they served, both governors' programs may not have always received high favor, but both held a 70 percent or greater approval rating in polls conducted in 1951 in the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune* and in 2001 by the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*.

Youngdahl first became head of the state based on the strength of many Minnesotans who transcended party lines when they voted. So did Ventura.

Both governors were born in south Minneapolis — Ventura, in 1951.

Like Ventura, Youngdahl was over 6'2" tall and athletic.

Ventura ended his wrestling career for

health reasons. Youngdahl ended his governorship for a similar matter. He was a victim of very high blood pressure. Thus, the 27th governor of the state was told by his Mayo Clinic physician to "Quit the governorship — forthwith!"

U.S. Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey heard about it from Ray Ewald, a mutual friend. Humphrey asked then-President Harry Truman to nominate the governor for a U.S. District Court judgeship in the District of Columbia, a job that would be less stressful.

A long-distance call via public pay phone from Humphrey to Youngdahl sealed the plan. The latter resigned.

On Sept. 28, 1951 Lt. Gov. C. Elmer Anderson became the 28th governor, having been appointed to complete the term, some 50 years and two months ago, about the same time as the birth of Minnesota's 38th governor, Ventura. He ultimately beat two opponents — one of whom was Hubert H. Humphrey III—to become the head of state.

Anderson was already known as the only lieutenant governor to serve six governors in 11 non-consecutive years — longer than anyone else.

Already popular, it also helped Anderson that when he became governor the state was experiencing technological growth and a major state fund surplus. So did Ventura.

Anderson was later elected to the governor's office in 1953, and served to 1955. After leaving St. Paul, Anderson served two terms as mayor of Nisswa, and later as mayor of Brainerd. Before he became governor, Ventura was the mayor of Brooklyn Park.

Likely, the similarities may further increase as the Legislature becomes more involved with the issues of the day.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Gauging water quality

Number of major river basins into which Minnesota land drains .....	10
Number of miles of streams in Minnesota .....	92,000
Percentage of studied* stream miles fit for swimming, 1998 .....	68
Percentage fit for aquatic life .....	65
Number of public access sites on lakes, rivers and streams, 1999 .....	3,180
Public access sites, 1990 .....	3,000
Ratio of people to boats in Minnesota, 2000 .....	6:1
National rank for recreational watercraft per capita .....	1
Number of water bodies in Minnesota with surface water use regulations, 2000.....	300
Number of lakes with fish harvest regulations, 2000.....	100
Number of rivers .....	30
Minnesota streams designated as trout waters .....	600
Percentage of Minnesotans who rely on groundwater for drinking water .....	75
Percentage of Minnesota community water systems fed by groundwater .....	98
Percentage of monitor stations showing a decrease in phosphorus pollutant levels ...	78
Percent that showed an increase.....	1
Percentage of water bodies negatively affected by increase in nitrogen levels .....	75
Percent showing a decrease in nitrogen .....	1
Monitoring stations showing a decrease in ammonia levels, as percent .....	83
Percent showing an increase .....	4
Square miles drained into the Lake Superior basin .....	6,150
In the Minnesota, Missouri and Des Moines River basins	
(southwestern Minnesota) .....	18,259
The Red River basin (northwestern Minnesota).....	17,743
Upper Mississippi basin (central Minnesota) .....	20,089
Combined wind and water erosion of cropland, above tolerance levels,	
as percent, Lake Superior Basin, 1992 .....	0
Minnesota, Missouri and Des Moines River basins .....	51.3
Red River basin .....	86.5
Upper Mississippi River basin .....	50.1

\* The report assessed about 5 percent of streams as a jump-off point for setting goals.

Source: *Minnesota Watermarks: Gauging the flow of progress 2000-2010*, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, September 2000.

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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

JANUARY 19, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 3

**In this issue:**

**2001 REDISTRICTING PLANS**

**ADDRESSING DAIRY CRISIS, LONG-TERM CARE**

HF125-HF251

# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Budget • 5	Employment • 7	Health • 8
Children • 5	Energy • 7	Higher Education • 9
Crime • 6	Environment • 7	Housing • 9
Education • 6	Game & Fish • 8	Transportation • 10

### FEATURES

**At Issue:** Agriculture — Minnesota's dairy farmers search for solutions to draw more milk producers to the state and alleviate the existing crisis. • 12

**At Issue:** Government — Years beyond its expected completion, a project to provide Internet access to Greater Minnesota still awaits private sector financing. • 13

**At Issue:** Human Services — Long-term care needs in Minnesota are changing, and officials are trying to prepare for a more aging state population. • 14

**Process** — The 47<sup>th</sup> annual YMCA Youth In Government program brought high school students face-to-face with the legislative process. • 15

**People** — Rep. Debra Hilstrom plans to focus on crime prevention and education issues in her first term as a member of the House. • 16

**People** — Rep. Eric Lipman brings experience as a session-only staff member to the House of Representatives, as well as experience with the Minnesota Secretary of State's office. • 17

**People** — Rep. Mark Thompson plans to take his practical experience as a classroom teacher and focus on education in his first term in the House. • 18

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: A sticky state regulation	4	Bill Introductions (HF125 -HF251)	21
The 50 States: Restricting "spam"	11	Committee Schedule (Jan. 22-26)	24
What's on the Web: Session Daily	11	Reflections: The Capitol's aura	27
Resources: 2001 House Standing		Minnesota Index:	
Committee Schedule	19	Early childhood programs	28
Resources: 2001 House			
Pronunciation Guide	20		

**On the cover:** Administrator Alan C. Saatkamp (pointing) escorts members of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee around a renovated pavilion during a Jan. 17 tour of the Minneapolis Veterans Home.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank



# Balancing act

House members discuss methods to keep redistricting out of the courts, but history shows that will likely not be easy

BY DAVID MAEDA

**R**educed to its simplest essence, redistricting is a matter of drawing lines on a map dividing the state into equal districts by population to ensure all citizens have a voice in the lawmaking process.

Even though it comes along just once every 10 years, the process is one of the most emotionally charged issues the Legislature has to deal with. Politics is an inherent part of redistricting with elected officials trying to agree to a plan to determine which households they will represent.

This year the House is attempting an

Paulsen, the committee chair, pledged to work together with all members to create a fair and open process “even though it seems inevitable that the courts eventually get involved.”

Joe Mansky, Gov. Jesse Ventura’s redistricting project manager, said that the governor sees his role as bringing all sides together to make sure a fair plan is developed. He said the competitiveness of districts is a key issue.

Ventura’s office is finalizing membership of an advisory redistricting panel that will be composed of members from all the state’s four

One only needs to look back 10 years when the courts played a prominent role in Minnesota’s redistricting process. And with the current unique arrangement of a Republican controlled House, a DFL-led Senate, and an Independence Party governor, agreement on how to map out districts might be more difficult than ever.

Yet Charles Umbanhower, a political science professor who teaches constitutional law at St. Olaf College, told the committee Jan. 16 the courts generally have been reluctant to get involved in the process.

“As any of you recall what happened last fall,” he said referring to the Florida election difficulties, “anytime a court gets close to partisan politics, its image gets tarnished.”

The first time the courts became active in the redistricting process was in 1962 when the U.S. Supreme Court heard a redistricting case because the justices were concerned state legislatures were not performing their duty in creating equally proportioned election districts.

Umbanhower said the case involved a redistricting plan in Tennessee where there was a legislative district with a population of 42,000 people while another district contained only 2,000 people. He said such discrepancies were common throughout the country.

The court was concerned that such large population districts were unconstitutional under the equal protection clause of the United States Constitution because voters’ voices in those districts were “diluted.” The court ultimately ruled congressional and state legislative districts had to be roughly the same size in population. By the mid-1970s, most states had achieved that equality.

Umbanhower said the court deliberately tried to stay away from more politically charged redistricting issues involving race and “gerrymandering,” the process of drawing districts for political advantage.

Speaking at the Jan. 16 hearing, Joseph Kunkel, a political science professor at Minnesota State University, Mankato, told committee members that even though he believes lawmakers have the interests of their constituents at heart, the process itself involves conflicting values.

“Redistricting is classic nuts and bolts American politics. It is quintessentially a political action,” he said.

He said the way Minnesota ended up



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Members and staff gathered around newly drawn redistricting maps in the retiring room off the House Chamber in May 1991.

approach that’s never been tried before — creating a bipartisan committee to develop a plan.

“I was told that this is the first time members of opposite parties have sat at the redistricting table at the same time,” Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie) said Jan. 9.

major political parties, members of Common Cause Minnesota and the League of Women Voters, as well as four citizen panelists.

History shows Paulsen’s prediction of the matter ending up in the courts indeed may be inescapable.

having its legislative and congressional maps drawn up a decade ago points to the increasing complexity and unpredictability of the process.

In May 1991 the DFL-controlled House and Senate passed a redistricting plan for the state's legislative districts that was vetoed by Republican Gov. Arne Carlson. Due to an administrative error that involved not complying with a three-day deadline for vetoes, 14 bills that Carlson thought he vetoed — including the redistricting bill — became law.

But because the bill contained errors, such as misspelled street names and inaccurate address ranges, a three-judge state panel began modifying the approved legislative plan to correct the technical errors. In December 1991 a federal district court stopped the state court from proceeding. The federal court's decision was then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Meanwhile the 1992 Legislature passed a bill defining the state's eight congressional districts. Again Carlson vetoed the bill, but this time all deadlines were met and the veto stuck.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled the state court could proceed with the state legislative redistricting plan. However, a panel of federal judges ruled the legislative plan violated the interests of minority voters. That panel began drawing up its own redistricting plans.

Once again the cases ended up before the nation's high court. This time the court ruled federal courts should in most instances try to defer to the state in drawing up its own political boundaries.

So for the past eight years the state's legislative map has in large part been based on what the 1991 Legislature approved while the congressional plan was mostly drawn up in federal court.

Kunkel said the changing political landscape may make this year's redistricting process even more difficult nationwide.

In 1990 Republicans controlled both houses of state legislatures and the governor's office in only two states. Now, that party has full control in 12 states. California is the only state where Democrats control all three.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**St. Olaf College political science professor Charles Umbanhower, right, gives a historical overview of the redistricting process Jan. 16. Also participating in the presentation is political science professor Joe Kunkel from Minnesota State University, Mankato.**

IT'S A FACT



## A sticky state regulation

Butter substitute taxed and monitored over time

Health officials have flip-flopped over the benefits and drawbacks of butter vs. margarine for decades.

But there was a time when Minnesota and other states favored butter for economic reasons, rather than the health issues.

In fact, the state has a whole chapter in the statutes devoted to controlling the sale and use of butter substitutes. And the existence of this chapter of laws has a storied history.

The first successful butter substitute, oleomargarine, was developed in the 1860's by French chemist Hippolyte Mege-Mouries in a contest commissioned by Napoleon III to find an inexpensive alternative to the dairy-based product. Mege-Mouries' substitute mixed milk with processed beef fat, known as oleo oil — hence the name of the new product.

Like many other farming states in the early 1900s, Minnesota closely watched the introduction of oleomargarine into the marketplace. There was concern that the new product, now made mostly from nut and vegetable fats, would hurt the state's dairy industry. Many legislators at the time were farmers, and they pushed for legislation regulating its use.

In 1886 the U.S. Congress imposed a national tax of 0.25 percent on oleomargarine not artificially colored any shade of yellow to make it look like butter, and 10 cents per pound if the product was colored to resemble butter.

During World War I, butter prices soared and the state began using butter substitutes in some of its prisons, insane asylums, and other state institutions.

This prompted the 1919 Minnesota legislature to pass a bill prohibiting that practice by requiring that only butter be used in all state facilities.

Gov. J.A.A. Burnquist vetoed the bill fearing that it would limit the powers of the state's Board of Control, which had regulatory power over the use of butter substitutes in the state.

The bill's author, Rep. A.C. Welch from Glencoe, had introduced a bill two years earlier that would have put fees on all

manufacturers that made or sold butter substitutes. That bill did not pass as opponents said the issue was a matter of people having the right to select their own food.

In 1921 the legislature again considered and this time passed Welch's bill, along with a law restricting the use of the words "butter" and "buttered" unless the food item was made of at least 51 percent dairy-based butter.

Exceptions were made for plum, vegetable, and peanut butter.

The 1931 Legislature went a step further by prohibiting the sale of colored oleomargarine and making it unlawful for public establishments serving food to use the substitute unless it was "plainly printed in English upon every bill of fare, if one be used, and in letters not smaller than 8-point bold-faced Gothic capitals, the words 'oleomargarine used in place of butter.'" Further, the law required whoever was in charge of the establishment to post a sign on each side of the room stating the oleomargarine was used in the place of butter.

In 1933 the state established its own tax on the sale of oleomargarine — an addition to the already existing federal tax.

With the country's entry into World War II, dairy products again became scarce and rations more expensive. There were several attempts on both the state and federal level to eliminate the tax on oleomargarine making it more affordable for the general public.

In 1950 President Harry Truman signed a bill that eliminated the federal tax on oleomargarine.

Margarine sales outpaced butter sales nationwide for the first time in 1960. By 1970 margarine outsold butter by a two-to-one margin.

In 1961 Minnesota began lifting its restrictions on the sale of margarine by allowing the sale of colored oleomargarine within the state and lifting the state tax on all non-artificially colored margarine. In 1978 the tax on all oleomargarine was lifted.

(D. MAEDA)

Continued on page 27

## ★ BUDGET

**State financial outlook dims**

The February budget forecast will likely paint a less hearty picture of the state's economy than the November 2000 forecast did, State Economist Tom Stinson told the House Ways and Means Committee Jan. 12.

Two months ago the Department of Finance released a revenue forecast that projected a \$924 million budget surplus left over from the 2000-2001 biennium. The forecast further projected the state is likely to accumulate a \$2.1 billion surplus in the 2002-2003 biennium.

Stinson said those numbers may now be overly optimistic. Data Resources Inc., the consultant that prepares the state's budget forecasts, has revised its numbers and is projecting a lower economic growth rate than previously expected.

In the numbers used for the November forecast, the consultant expected the state's economy to grow at a rate of 3.6 percent. Now the growth rate is estimated to be 2.5 percent.

According to the department's figures, the November forecast estimated that the state's revenues would be \$43.1 million more than it turned out to be. That forecast estimated that the state would collect \$19.8 million more in sales taxes and \$31.2 million in corporate income taxes than it actually did. That amount does not include the December portion of the holiday shopping season, which will be included in determining the February forecast.

Stinson said most economists believe a recession is unlikely but the chances for one occurring have increased since the last budget forecast. He said many outside factors will play a role in how the state's economy performs over the next year.

"The growth will depend largely short term on what happens in the national economy," he said.

But Stinson said the state is better protected than most states against a downturn in the national economy because of its tight job market. He says even if a recession were to occur the result would most likely be fewer job opportunities rather than workers actually losing existing jobs.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) said the healthy job market does not apply to all of Minnesota, particularly the Iron Range where industries such as taconite and timber



**State Economist Tom Stinson reviews the December Economic Summary Report and Data Resources, Inc. forecast numbers during a Jan. 12 hearing of the House Ways and Means Committee.**

production continue to struggle. Solberg also said rising natural gas prices also may have an impact on the health of the economy.

Stinson agreed with Solberg and said many economists work under the assumption that if the price of crude oil decreases, as it has over the past month, the price of natural gas and automobile fuel will necessarily follow suit and go down. He said often that is not the case.

## ★ CHILDREN

**ECFE programs evaluated**

The jury is still out on whether early childhood education programs in Minnesota accomplish their goals, according to a report presented to the Legislative Audit Commission Jan. 12.

The report, requested in April 2000 by the commission, focuses on Head Start, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), and School Readiness programs. It includes reviews of data on services, participation, and finances.

The three programs together account for about \$50 million in state funding for Fiscal Year 2001.

Minnesota is generous in its funding of Head Start programs, but the report questions whether those who need the services are getting them. In contrast, state funding for the School Readiness program, which subsidizes programs for children not covered by Head Start, is quite modest by national standards.

The report found that early childhood education programs in Minnesota "often differ considerably in the intensity and scope of services they provide," according to Roger Brooks, deputy legislative auditor.

Evaluation processes also vary considerably, making it difficult to know how programs compare in effectiveness.

In addition, there is no definitive evidence as to how well early childhood education participants do in grades K-12.

"It's disconcerting that after all the years we've had these programs, we haven't learned much about how well they work," said Sen. Tom Neuville (R-Northfield).

Especially bothersome to the auditing team and the commission was the finding that many school districts have accumulated large ECFE fund balances while receiving limited monitoring from the Department of Children, Families and Learning.



**Project Manager Joel Alter speaks about the program evaluation report on Early Childhood Education at the Jan. 12 Legislative Audit Commission meeting.**



Department guidelines suggest that districts maintain 8 percent to 17 percent of annual ECFE revenue in reserve funds. In 1999 two-thirds of the districts had more than 17 percent in reserve, putting the total amount in reserve at more than \$12 million.

"Twelve million dollars is a lot," said Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls), to murmurs of assent from other lawmakers.

The audit report recommends that the Legislature review these and other funding practices. It also urges lawmakers to base more Head Start allocations on unmet needs.

Among the report's recommendations to the department are:

- track the subsequent school performance of children who participate in state-funded early childhood education programs;
- hire additional staff to oversee ECFE and School Readiness programs; and
- monitor ECFE and School Readiness expenditures and fund balances.

## ★ CRIME

### State seeks uniform sentences

Felony convictions continue to rise in Minnesota, despite an overall decline in violent crime over the past 20 years, according to testimony delivered to the House Crime Prevention Committee Jan. 16.

According to Sentencing Guidelines Commission Executive Director Deb Dailey, "We are becoming more efficient at prosecuting and sentencing felons."

Sheryl Ramstad Hvass, commissioner of the state Department of Corrections, explained the work of the 20-year-old Sentencing Guidelines Commission, which she chairs. "Our first goal is public safety," she said.

To accomplish that, she said her committee seeks to make sentences uniform across state jurisdictions. Prior to the commission's existence, she said, "We would have different sentences under different judges" for the same crimes.

A uniform sentencing policy allows the state to coordinate policy with correctional resources. For example, the commission tracks the reasoning behind placing juvenile offenders in a Minnesota facility or one located outside the state. It can then make recommendations to the Legislature as to appropriate amendments in criminal law.

For example, Dailey pointed out that Minnesota has adopted a "three strikes" law, obligating judges to sentence people convicted of three felonies to prison terms.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) asked about differing sentences for drug dealers and for drug users. Hvass assured him statewide

guidelines efficiently differentiate between dealers and users, and thereby make possible treatment options to the latter. The commission's 2001 data shows that Minnesota felons are 50 percent more likely to have been convicted of drug offenses than in 1980.

Before the meeting concluded, Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), committee chair, asked the nonpartisan House Research staff to discuss the current condition of DWI laws in Minnesota. According to House Research, Minnesota is unique because the state pursues both administrative and criminal measures against drunken driving convictees.

For example, administrative sanctions may include drivers' license revocation, license impoundment, and vehicle forfeiture. These measures are independent of criminal prosecution, which carries penalties such as fines, jail sentences, treatment, probation, and electronic alcohol monitoring, where convicts regularly submit to sobriety tests using electronic devices in their homes.

## ★ EDUCATION

### ABE continues to grow

Enrollment in Minnesota's Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs has increased by 50 percent since 1998, according to Barry Schaffer, state director of adult education.

"Every time money has gone into this program, we have had a huge increase in participation," Schaffer told the Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee at its Jan. 10 and Jan. 17 meetings.

In a two-part overview of adult education, Schaffer referred to ABE as an umbrella term that covers an increasingly broad array of programs, including:

- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- General Educational Development Certificate (GED)
- Adult Diploma
- Basic Skills Enhancement
- Family Literacy
- Workplace Education
- Citizenship Education

More than 73,000 people participated in these programs in fiscal year 2000, Schaffer said. To qualify, participants must be at least age 16, not enrolled in secondary school, and functioning below the 12<sup>th</sup> grade level in skills such as math, reading, writing, and speaking English.

Many of these are short-term students brushing up on basic skills. Others are new to this country and need to learn English quickly so they can overcome language barriers, get jobs, and become self-sufficient.

The Family Literacy program is unique in

that it includes educational and developmental services for children, as well as literacy and parenting classes for parents. Public schools have reported they are seeing more parents whose lack of basic skills impede their children's learning progress. This program tries to meet that need.

Minnesota has been ranked second in the nation in the quality of its ESL program, according to Schaffer. With continued growth in the state's immigrant and refugee populations, an estimated 200,000 people need tutoring in English.

In addition to professional teachers, more than 3,000 literacy tutors volunteer annually to assist in ABE programs. Teachers in public school programs must be licensed to teach K-12.

The state currently funds 60 adult basic education consortia at more than 500 sites throughout the state. People meet to learn in public schools, libraries, workforce and learning centers, tribal centers, community colleges, and even prisons and jails.

### First law of session allows soon-to-be teachers to graduate under old rules

Teacher candidates who enrolled in course work by Jan. 1, 2000 will be able to graduate under old teacher certification rules, as provided in a new law signed Jan. 16 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

It is the first new law of the 2001 Legislative session.

The new law, sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), will allow students who are close to completing their degrees to save time and money in additional courses. According to the law, qualifying students must be enrolled in an accredited teacher preparation program.

Seifert said the Legislature had directed the Minnesota Board of Teaching to revise teacher licensure requirements in Minnesota, but the new requirements did not include permission for certain students to be grandfathered in under old rules.

Students who now qualify to graduate with the old requirements have attended school part-time or have taken time off, Seifert said. The law allows students to apply for licensure under the old rules by Sept. 1, 2003.

The law became effective Jan. 17.

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF34/SF28\*/CH1

## ★ EMPLOYMENT

### Benefits for LTV miners

More than 200 laid-off miners from the LTV iron plant in Hoyt Lakes were at the Jan. 18 House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Committee meeting to support a bill (HF157) that would increase unemployment benefits for its former workers.

"We need to keep these skilled workers in the region," said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), chief sponsor of the bill. He said he wants to keep the plant's assets together, including workers.

The bill would allow former workers of the plant to collect up to two years of unemployment, giving them either resources to live until the facility could be re-opened or time to receive job training for other opportunities in the area. The plant employed nearly 1,400 workers in the region.

Marlene Pospeck, mayor of the northeastern-Minnesota town, said the situation is critical.

"All 2,300 people in my town have a connection to the plant," she told committee members. "Our people had little time to prepare for such devastation."

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), who represents the area where the mine is located, said he's worried for the people and the economic future of the area.

"We have always had a boom-and-bust industry, but I am afraid of what is going to happen," he said.

Bakk said he would like to see the bill move quickly, because some of the miners' benefits, those who were laid off first, will run out in February.

Several of the former LTV workers met with

Gov. Jesse Ventura the same day. Members of the governor's administration reported they are evaluating the proposal, and there are some concerns over the length, but they have taken no position yet.

The committee forwarded the bill, without recommendation, to the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee.

## ★ ENERGY

### Energy concerns discussed

Awaiting the introduction of several bills to aid Minnesota's energy crisis, members of the Regulated Industries Committee received an energy overview from the Energy Division of the Department of Commerce Jan. 17.

Committee Chair Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville) said he anticipates three major bills on energy this session. One is the governor's plan, which Wolf said he will sponsor. He also expects one from the Chamber of Commerce, who will vie for wholesale competition, and another from environmental groups.

Of the three energy expenditures, in 1998 Minnesotans spent the most on petroleum products (\$4.6 billion), followed by electricity (\$3.2 billion) and natural gas (\$1.3 billion).

The prosperous economy, said Linda Taylor, deputy commissioner of energy, has much to do with increased consumption. She said electrical use has more than tripled since 1970.

Electric demand is rising at least 2 percent annually, and consumer prices will rise, Taylor said. "For many years we enjoyed flat prices. Now we don't," she said, adding capital investment will be necessary.

Natural gas prices have recently skyrocketed. In January 2000 the price per cubic foot average was \$3.64, compared to \$11.11 this month.

"Recent natural gas wholesale price increases may turn out to be the energy shock of the century in Minnesota," Taylor said. Tight national supplies do not seem to explain the entire size of the price increase, she added. Because the natural gas supply is deregulated the government has no control over prices.

Taylor pointed out that new buildings use substantially less gas to heat than those constructed a few decades ago.

Committee members raised questions regarding other states setting an example for how to deal with the spreading energy crisis. Taylor said soon there will be a state-by-state review of energy situations. So far there have been only "fairly inconclusive reports," and plans that have not yet been implemented. "We don't have a good model," she said.

"There is more opportunity for energy conservation," Taylor said. However, she admitted she is concerned about conflicting messages to consumers, as some promote conservation and some promote consumption.

"We need to identify what works and what doesn't — push what does and forget what doesn't," she said.

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### Habitat corridor planned

A recommendation to fund 56 natural resource and environmental projects at a cost of \$49 million was presented by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee at its Jan. 17 meeting.

Notable among the commission's recommendations is the funding of nearly \$11.75 million for a project to "restore and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants."

This is the largest amount ever recommended on one project in the commission's history.

These funds would be augmented by \$8.34 million from a collaborative of 14 public and nonprofit organizations, including such diverse groups as the Minnesota Waterfowl Association, The Nature Conservancy, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Forest Service.

"This is a watershed in terms of fish and wildlife acquisition," said John Velin, staff director of the commission. The project will



Scott Collins, a former millwright technician at the LTV Iron Mine in Hoyt Lakes, listens as the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Committee hears a bill Jan. 18 that would extend unemployment benefits to LTV employees and employees of vendors that serviced the mine.

directly affect more than two-thirds of the state when it's completed, he said.

Most of the funding — \$34.62 million — for this and other commission recommendations comes from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The Minnesota Future Resources Fund provides another \$14.64 million. Funding priorities are revised every two years.

Proposals for projects came from state, federal, private, and nonprofit agencies, as well as from the University of Minnesota.

The commission receives recommendations on trust fund expenditures from the Citizen Advisory Committee, whose 11 members are appointed by the governor.

"It's important to understand how unique (the trust fund) truly is," Committee Chair Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) said. "It could not be done under the regular budget process."

Other recommendations include funding for recreation, water resources, agriculture, energy, environmental education, and other fish and wildlife habitat projects.

"The commission tried to act in a non-partisan manner, to set aside parochial interests and think about the state as a whole," said Sen. Len Price (DFL-Woodbury), LCMR chair, in his testimony. "I think it's a very balanced proposal."

### More protection planned

Minnesota is in the "second wave of environmental protection," state Pollution Control Agency (PCA) Commissioner Karen Studders told the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee Jan. 16.

According to Studders, the first wave focused on regulation of industrial polluters. Today the agency is building on that by looking at non-point sources of contamination, which requires new tools such as "communication, alliance building, and public education," she said.

The commissioner focused her comments on Minnesota's role in national environmental issues.

"Strategies of response must be developed at the state level" to deal not only with local issues but also with global issues such as hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico, water quality in the Great Lakes, and global climate, Studders said. These and other issues are covered in the agency's recent report, *Minnesota Environment 2000*.

The federal Clean Air Act has not been amended since 1990 and needs comprehensive, integrative changes to reflect today's problems, according to the commissioner.

Evidence shows major strides have been made in the reduction of particulate matter

in the air. "The air looks cleaner. Now we are concerned with toxins that are not visible," Studders said, adding that there has been a dramatic increase in the incidence of asthma among children.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) agreed that Minnesota must take a leadership role. "If protection is going to be done, we have to do it ourselves," she said.

The state is also involved in a national task force to develop a plan to halt hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. Hypoxia, a condition of low oxygen levels deadly to aquatic life, is caused by excess nutrients from activities such as agriculture. The sources of nutrients affecting the gulf are in the Mississippi River basin. It is estimated that Minnesota contributes approximately 7 percent of these pollutants, Studders said.

Global climate change is also expected to have a large impact on Minnesota's forestry, agriculture, and tourism industries. The state needs to develop a "well-thought out plan of response" to this "politically significant" problem, Studders said.

## ★ GAME & FISH

### Overlimit bill advances

A bill to establish penalties for gross overlimit violations of Minnesota's fish and game laws was presented to the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee Jan. 18.

The intent of HF94, according to its sponsor, Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), is to provide a strong deterrent to those who intentionally defy current fish and game laws.

"Ninety-five percent of the people behave responsibly," Haas said. "It's the other 5 percent who screw it up for everybody."

The bill would set restitution values for fish, wildlife, and plants taken in violation of state law. It would allow enforcement officers to arrest offenders and to seize licenses and property used in committing the violation, including boats, motors, and trailers. In addition, it would put teeth into the law by providing three degrees of criminal penalties for those who commit violations.

Major Chuck Schwartz of the Department of Natural Resources said the impetus for the bill came out of a January 2000 "fishing roundtable" meeting in St. Cloud where Minnesota Conservation Officer Tom Chapin described some of the "egregious" violations of fish and game laws he has witnessed.

According to Schwartz, comments from other states confirmed that "revocation and suspension of license privileges was by far the

most effective penalty" in deterring violation of fish and wildlife laws.

Committee members had a number of concerns about the criminal penalties described in the bill. There was agreement that they did not want to penalize people who may have a few extra fish in the freezer.

"I'd like to see the (House) Crime Prevention Committee give it a going over," said Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), environment committee chair. "I think we need to see if current laws, on which this is based, need to be reworked."

The committee voted to refer the bill to that committee for advisement with the request that it be returned to the environment committee.

Ozment asked members whether they wanted to examine current laws on possession limits or whether they wanted to let "sleeping fish lie." The consensus was to look at current law.

## ★ HEALTH

### Eliminating the 'Sick Tax'

Wearing a button that read "Sick Tax" with a slash through it, Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) presented a bill to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee Jan. 18 that would repeal MinnesotaCare premium and provider taxes.

"This is the most regressive tax in the state of Minnesota. Whether you're a millionaire or living in poverty you pay the same amount," said Bradley, committee chair. "It's evil."

In addition to eliminating the so-called "sick tax," the bill (HF14) would require health plan companies to reduce premiums to reflect the savings that result. Bradley said it would provide about \$250 million in relief to taxpayers annually.

To cover the resulting shortfall in the Health Care Access Fund, the bill would require both one-time tobacco and ongoing tobacco settlements to be credited to the fund.

Established in 1992 to provide low-cost health care, the fund pays for MinnesotaCare and other health care access initiatives.

People representing a wide constituency spoke in support of the bill. The consensus among speakers was they supported MinnesotaCare but opposed the way it is currently funded.

Not only are health care taxes regressive, they are also invisible, Dan Salomone, executive director of the Minnesota Taxpayers Association, told the committee. "When you look at who actually pays (provider and premium) taxes, it all flows downstream to consumers," he said.



Mary Klimp from International Falls Hospital tells the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee Jan. 18 of the difficulty maintaining hospitals in Greater Minnesota unless the health care provider tax is eliminated. She is joined at by Bruce Rueben, president of the Minnesota Hospital and Healthcare Partnership. Representatives of other medical associations are seated behind them.

Dr. Blanton Bessinger, president of the Minnesota Medical Association, agreed. "The current health care tax system is so complicated most citizens don't realize they're paying it."

Bessinger said there is a perception among physicians that Minnesota is a hostile place to practice medicine.

Dr. Scott Lingle, speaking on behalf of the Minnesota Dental Association, agreed. "My concern is whether we'll have too few health care providers in this state," he said. "We're making it harder to recruit new doctors to Minnesota."

The shortage already exists in rural areas.

Mary Klimp, administrator of the International Falls Hospital, said they have lost one-third of their staff in the past year and closed three departments in the past three years. She said provider taxes put them "in grave jeopardy of closing; they make the difference between a bottom line that is red or black."

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) presented a similar bill (HF4) to the committee. His bill would also repeal the provider and premium taxes, require health plan companies to pass savings on to consumers, and require that the annual tobacco settlement payments be deposited into the Health Care Access Fund.

The question was raised as to the difference between the two bills. Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), acting chair of the committee, summed it up by saying that Bradley's bill was a "kinder, gentler" version of Abrams' bill.

Both bills were referred to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee and are expected to be taken up at the Jan. 22 meeting.

## ★ HIGHER EDUCATION

### Funding financial aid

Its budget request may be a couple of weeks away, but representatives from the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office laid some groundwork Jan. 17.

Speaking before the House Higher Education Finance Committee, Director Robert Poch gave an overview of what his office does.

He said the goal of the office is to provide high quality statewide higher education service to Minnesota citizens. The organization has five goals it works toward, including: achieving student financial access to post-secondary education; producing independent, statewide information on post-secondary education; and facilitating interaction among, and collaborate with, organizations that share responsibility for education in Minnesota.

Poch said the office continues to invest in future achievement by building on successful programs of the past 30 years including the state grant program, state work-study program, and interstate tuition reciprocity programs.

Regarding the forthcoming budget proposal, scheduled to be heard Feb. 5 and 7, Poch said, "We won't be bringing forward a slate of new programs. Rather we want to build on current successful ones." As an example, he mentioned leveraging state funds and better utilizing partnerships and collaborations.

Of greater concern to many parents and post-secondary students is financial aid.

Gerald Setter, of the office's research and program services, gave a brief overview of the program.

He said that "undergraduate students

attending Minnesota post-secondary institutions received \$1.1 billion in financial assistance in fiscal year 1999." Of that total, \$525 million was in student and parent loans, \$470 million was in grants, and \$87 million was in earnings through campus jobs and work-study.

Setter spent much of his presentation speaking about state grants, the purpose of which is, "To enable Minnesotans of all backgrounds to attend Minnesota post-secondary institutions of their choice by maintaining an appropriate and reasonable distribution of the price of post-secondary education among students, families, and taxpayers."

Following questioning from committee members about formulas used, Setter said the goal of the state grant program is to pick up the difference between what the student and their family are able to pay and what the student receives in a federal grant.

## ★ HOUSING

### Housing needs grow

One year ago, Kelly, a 19-year-old from Grand Rapids, lost her job and was evicted from her apartment because she couldn't pay rent.

Through the LIFE (Living Independent For Experience) program she earned her high school diploma, received job skills training, found another apartment, and is now employed and paying rent on her own.

"I'm a lot more stable and I have confidence to stay on my own," she told legislators at a Jan. 17 House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee meeting.

Kelly (whose last name was withheld) testified as a success story from a state-funded program, joining representatives from several housing agencies who presented overviews at two different economic development committees.

Leaders of the organizations repeatedly told legislators that they are turning away people from shelters and transitional housing facilities. They revealed there are thousands of homeless people in Minnesota.

"There is literally not enough housing," said Kit Hadley, head of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. She said rental costs have gone up 34 percent in the last three years.

Tonja Orr, director of government relations at the agency, said she wants legislators to build on a concept from two years ago, when private sector companies contributed to low-income housing projects, and pursue that more aggressively. Hadley added that without



private support, a proposal wouldn't receive as high of a priority.

Leaders of the housing organizations emphasized the importance of looking to the future. Hadley said her agency must be accountable for "achieving housing developments that will be sustainable over time."

Michael Dahl, executive director of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, agreed, calling for increased resources from the state, and public and private sectors.

"We need to fund options that will benefit in long run," he said.

About 35 percent of homeless people are in Greater Minnesota, Dahl said. "The waiting lists aren't as long, but quality (of housing) is low."

Dahl said the cost is about \$5 million per biennium to stop turning away people from shelters and about \$6 million to stop turning away people from transitional housing. He estimated that 80,000 people are competing for 40,000 low-income rental places.

Tom Fulton, president of the Family Housing Fund, called for interest from all sectors of society.

"We need a balance between the public and private sector, and we need the state to continue to play a leadership role to resolve these problems," he said.

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### Repealing obsolete laws

Imagine embarking on a leisurely drive through one of Minnesota's hilly river valleys and having your afternoon reverie rudely interrupted by people who won't stop honking their horns.

Sound crazy? To not honk would be breaking the law.

But that would change under a bill approved by the House Transportation Finance Committee Jan. 16.

The bill (HF37), sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), would repeal three archaic laws. Among them is a 1937 statute "requiring drivers to honk their horns within 200 feet of a curve when the driving is in 'defiles (narrow valleys) or canyons or on mountain highways.'"

Another law from 1913 prohibited "hiring a person addicted to the excessive use of intoxicating liquors to drive a motor coach." According to McElroy, the rule is obsolete in part because there is no legal definition of such a person.

The third would be abolishing statutes that define a "trackless trolley" as a vehicle that draws power from overhead wires but does not run on rails.

The committee approved the bill and sent it to the House floor. Initially, Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) proposed moving the bill to the consent calendar, which is typically the place where routine, non-controversial bills are sent.

However, Republican members of the committee objected and the committee voted to place the bill on the General Register, a place where bills await consideration for the main Calendar for the Day.

Placing a bill on the Consent Calendar allows for a faster progression through the process, typically saving one day. Consent Calendar bills can still be debated and amended. Typically a bill must have its second and third readings on different days.

House rules also allow for 10 members to object to placing a bill on the Consent Calendar if they deem it to be controversial.

### Ports to seek more funding

Port authority officials emphasized the importance of a modern waterway transportation system at the House Transportation Finance Committee meeting Jan. 16.

The officials did not have a specific request at the meeting, but were asked to provide an overview of their programs and needs. However, when the Legislature receives the budget requests for the port authorities, they will likely include more funds for emergencies and infrastructure.

Lorrie Louder, director of industrial development for the St. Paul Port Authority underscored the importance of previous state funding. She gave the example of how state monies funded emergency repairs to one of the roofs at the port, necessary to protect goods as they are being brought in.

She stressed the need to keep port infrastructure from falling into disrepair.

Her testimony was supported by Steve King, manager for ports and waterways at the state Department of Transportation, who emphasized the importance of Minnesota's ports to the state and national economies.

"A full 5 percent of the nation's grain moves through the Port of Savage," he said, referring to the Twin Cities suburb on the Minnesota River.

According to the National Corn Growers Association, the upper Midwest benefits from more than \$12 billion added to the region's economy as a result of river transportation.

The state's waterways are primarily used to ship agricultural products currently, officials said, but that is changing. For example, all of the state's road salt, used to reduce the build up of ice and snow in the winter months, is moved on the rivers.

### Transportation gadget showcase

It was a little chilly at the Jan. 17 House Transportation Finance Committee meeting as members experienced firsthand the next generation of transportation technology.

In 15-degree weather outside the State Office Building, state agencies and businesses assembled a collection of technologically advanced transportation aids.

John Scharffbillig, from the state Department of Transportation, invited representatives to join him in the cab of a snowplow outfitted with the latest navigation, communication, and safety technology designed at the University of Minnesota. With the help of a global positioning system, a transparent "heads-up" display screen depicted road markings in front of the windshield, allowing drivers to plow roads even in white-out conditions.

Scharffbillig admitted the plow received mixed reviews from Minnesota snowplow drivers, some of whom were put off by the high-tech presence.

"All our drivers say there is some use for it," he said. In tests, drivers were able to safely navigate the huge plow in zero-visibility conditions.

Despite the mild misgivings of some drivers, Minnesota's transportation technology is



John Scharffbillig, field project manager for the state Department of Transportation, demonstrates to Rep. Connie Ruth the capabilities of a system being tested that allows snowplow drivers to see obstacles, even during white-out conditions.



the envy of transportation experts the world over, according to Lisa Drumke, vice-president of business development at Addco. Her St. Paul business produces cutting-edge transportation tools in use around the world.

She demonstrated a Smart Zone portable traffic management system, which includes a digital camera for monitoring traffic and an display screen for communicating with drivers, all mounted on a movable platform.

"Not even California has this," she said, adding that Minnesota's technological advancements in transportation are well-respected worldwide.

Another show-and-tell device was a souped-up traffic camera system, which can automatically count cars and measure their speeds.

During the meeting, Col. Anne Beers, chief of the Minnesota State Patrol, testified that her officers enjoy both economic and safety benefits of increased technological investment. As an example, she discussed the benefits of computer-aided dispatching, which can make dispatching in the Twin Cities metropolitan area more efficient, as well as maximize the effectiveness of existing emergency-response resources in Greater Minnesota.

Rep. Dan Larson (DFL-Bloomington) asked about systems that might automatically alert emergency responders to an accident. Beers answered that such systems are becoming increasingly common in passenger vehicles.



Image Sensing Systems Inc. demonstrates a program to Rep. Henry Kalis that allows a camera to track the speed at which cars are traveling. The system also can be used to catch those who run red lights.

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at:  
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>



## Restricting 'spam'

18 states regulate junk e-mail

Anyone who has a commercial e-mail account knows the nuisance of receiving numerous unsolicited messages, commonly referred to as "spam."

As a result, many states are moving quickly to regulate unwanted cyber junk mail. In 2000 Colorado, Idaho, Missouri and Pennsylvania joined the growing list of states that have passed laws restricting the sending of unsolicited bulk commercial e-mails. Currently 18 states have some type of law dealing with spam.

Proponents of the laws say that the onslaught of unwanted e-mail costs recipients time in deleting the e-mails and takes up computer memory.

Part of the problem lies in the technology that allows an e-mail sender to disguise their own account's address thus making it difficult to track down, and sometimes communicate with, the person or company responsible for the mailing.

Of the four states that passed such laws in 2000, Colorado's is the most far reaching. That state's legislature passed a law prohibiting the sending of e-mail that uses a third party's Internet address or contains false or missing routing information. Furthermore, the law requires those e-mails to contain an advertising label in the subject line and must include the sender's e-mail address and opt-out instructions.

However, the move toward restricting spam may have run into a roadblock with a judicial ruling in Washington state last March. The case revolved around an Oregon man who was accused of violating Washington's anti-spam law. The state's superior court judge dismissed the case saying the law violated the interstate commerce clause of the United States Constitution.

The state's attorney general filed a request with the state supreme court to review the ruling, saying that the First Amendment does not protect misleading commercial speech. No action has been taken on that request.

(D. Maeda)

## What's on the Web

Session Daily is the online companion to *Session Weekly* magazine, which is published by the nonpartisan House Public Information Office.

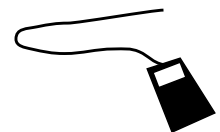
As the name suggests, the Web page offers news from the House on a daily basis, so you can stay on top of the major events at the Capitol. Brief but informative updates about daily committee and floor action are posted before 8 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Now in its second year, Session Daily has been redesigned to be organized and archived by topic. That way, if you are following a particular issue or topic, you can go right to that link and view all the stories dealing with that topic from the entire session.

Session Daily offers links to useful resources, such as bill introductions and reports or documents from state government. Each day's version is also archived by date.

Be sure to bookmark Session Daily and check back regularly. To find the page, just go to the main Minnesota House of Representatives site ([www.house.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us)), then click on the link labeled "Session Daily."

Also, you can be notified via email when the page has been posted for the day. Go to <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/listserv.htm> to sign up.



# Industry in crisis

Need for infrastructure and a more fair competitive market contributes to crisis among Minnesota dairy producers

BY JONAS M. WALKER

**M**innesota dairy producers are losing their share of an increasingly competitive market and they're asking for help from the Legislature.

Statewide, producers' earnings per cow are growing slower than the cost of production.

Traditionally it has been important for milk producers to be close to their consumers, but various technological and shipping advances have changed that.

In fact, many states in other regions of the country can produce and ship milk more cheaply, and some of that product is even being consumed in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

According to Jim Haun of Land O' Lakes, "The cost of producing milk in Minnesota exceeds the cost of western production and transportation."

Haun testified before the House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee, which heard two days of testimony on what is described as a "crisis" in the dairy industry.

He said higher costs are due in part to the state property tax system and environmental regulations, which generally disfavor agricultural growth, such as larger herd sizes, which would otherwise lead to increased efficiency.

Another cause is that Minnesota milk producers increasingly rely on cheese manufacturers, who pay less for milk than processors who prepare milk as a beverage. According to both small farmers and industry representatives, investors have shied away from investing in more efficient beverage-style production in Minnesota because they fear that the state's milk supply itself is in jeopardy.

Because Minnesota farmers have met with opposition to increasing the size of their farms, those farms have become inefficient in comparison to relatively unregulated peers. Large-scale processors see the comparatively high cost of Minnesota milk as a liability, and tend to favor larger producers prospering in other states.

As a result, many Minnesota dairy farmers have not been able to take advantage of increased milk consumption nationally, better

transportation methods, and less expensive production costs.

The committee heard that Minnesota dairy farms suffer from outdated, inefficient equipment. According to Land O' Lakes' Haun, milk producers have avoided Minnesota's "unfriendly business environment. There is an animosity towards animal agriculture."

On average two Minnesota dairy farmers quit the business each day, officials say. But at the same time, the industry, which employs more than 22,000 people statewide, still makes a significant impact on the state's economy.

In fact, the dairy industry employs more people than 3M, Target, and Northwest Airlines combined, according to a Department of Agriculture report. Thus the existing "crisis" in the dairy industry is cause for some alarm.

Committee members asked witnesses what Minnesota could do to help maintain the viability

of the state's dairy farms, now in decline.

Dennis Barnes, a dairy farmer from Harmony, said government subsidies for grain growers and federal free-trade initiatives hurt his 400-cow farm. In his view, the dairy industry should enjoy protection from what he deemed "unfair trade" on the part of foreign dairy and grain producers.

Subsidizing one sector of the farm economy has the unanticipated effect of hurting other sectors, according to Barnes. For example, because he grows his own feed, Barnes does not benefit from low grain prices other farmers enjoy.

Like Barnes, Rushford dairy farmer Eugene Hansen was doubtful that the Minnesota Legislature would be capable of acting alone. He blamed federal policies, which he said concentrate wealth in the hands of multi-national corporations at the expense of small farmers.

Wyman Spano, a lobbyist for Dairy Federation of Minnesota, opposes additional farm subsidies. "I recall visiting a chopstick factory," he said, referring to a state-funded factory startup. "They didn't sit around trying to make chopsticks popular. They didn't try to increase the cost of chopsticks. They focused on making and selling the best chopsticks they could."

Grove City dairy farmer Greg Jans also expressed confidence in letting markets operate unchecked. He said rural cooperatives could be efficient if held to competitive standards. "We all grumble, but none of us (really) want to get out of dairying."

The assembled farmers and dairy industry lobbyists agreed that reinvestment in Minnesota dairy infrastructure, such as vast milking parlors and the latest processing facilities, would make the difference between a vibrant, globally competitive industry and a struggling, increasingly outdated one.

But there are other perceived barriers. According to the department report, Minnesota has become a hostile environment for the dairy industry. "In comparison to neighboring states, Minnesota has some of the most restrictive requirements for animal agriculture and has a perception of being a challenging place to dairy," the report said.

But the social and political discord between urban and rural dwellers also contributes to the crisis.

"We aren't from Minneapolis, St. Paul, or the suburbs. We live with our rural folks," Committee Chair Rep. Robert Ness (R-Dassel) said. 🗽



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Morris farmer Brad Fahr, who milks 1,500 cows on the family dairy farm, tells the Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee his concerns as a milk producer during a Jan. 11 hearing.

# Connecting Minnesota

Funding and litigation may derail plan to bring high-speed Internet access to Greater Minnesota

BY THERESA STAHL

**T**he future of a \$100 million to \$150 million project to bring high-speed Internet access to Greater Minnesota rests in the hope of securing private sector financing by Feb. 1.

Department of Administration Commissioner David Fisher appeared before the House State Government Finance Committee Jan. 11 to explain the latest developments of a project that has been subject to controversy since it began in 1996.

Among those developments was the revelation that both the state and the department are named in a lawsuit pending against the company awarded the contract for the project.

"Connecting Minnesota," now years behind its original schedule, would route 2,200 miles of fiber-optics cable along state highway right-of-way, providing every business and residence in the state access to the network.

A private contractor would have access to sell 80 percent of the line to carriers for use or resale.

State and local governments would receive 20 percent use of the network in exchange for allowing the wire to be installed on public land. Therefore, because the agreement required no finances from the state, the contract was never brought before the Legislature for approval.

Minnesota and other states building this type of network are considered "in the forefront" of the technology, Fisher said, adding that other states are also considering a shared-use aspect between public-private entities.

The network, which he called "state-of-the-art," would benefit "citizens of the state as a whole," Fisher said it fits Minnesota's needs.

"The state wanted a backbone for other lines to feed into and use," he said. In addition to servicing Greater Minnesota, the state would be able to use its share of the line to serve establishments such as schools, libraries, and police departments.

The bid for the public-private collaboration, which began in 1997 under former Gov. Arne

Carlson, was awarded to a Denver-based company called ICS/UCN, or UCN. The private contractor was responsible for obtaining capital, as well as building and operating the network.

Weeks after the Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the Department of Administration signed the contract with UCN, the Federal Communications Commission was notified, requesting approval. Two years later they responded, criticizing the agreement for its capability to monopolize telecommunications servicers and asking for more information. Last fall the contract was amended to address those and other providers' concerns.

The fiber-optic telecommunication lines would run through a conduit alongside Minnesota's freeways. As the amended contract states, UCN must notify telephone companies in the state of the option to lay their own wire alongside UCN, and that they could do so when the trench is open for the Connecting Minnesota project. The trench could also be re-opened at later times.

"MnDOT intends to do a safety study as to how shared use works in a freeway row," said Fisher, adding that the fiber optics have not yet been completely built.

Several issues came to light at the meeting. Most notably, Fisher told legislators not all terms of the contract were being followed.

"A condition of the contract was that financing must be in place before construction was to start," Fisher said. Yet financing was

never finalized and work on two sections of the line have already begun.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), the committee chair, asked Fisher what happened.

"We wanted to try to see our way through this rather than pull a plug," Fisher said.

Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton) asked what will happen if the project cannot be financed.

"If financing is not done by Feb. 1, there will be no more contract," Fisher replied. And if the state opts to cancel the project, which it legally can if permanent financing is not secured by the deadline, the conduit in the ground would become property of the state, he said.

Fisher stated the departments will work with the private sector to finance the project.

When questioned by Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) if he was feeling any anxiety from the pressure of the project, Fisher responded that "any good deal sometimes turns sour."

"It will not destroy us," he added.


But upon hearing news that there may be litigation involving the prime contractor, Krinkie asked a series of questions to test the veracity of that statement.

A sub-contractor for the project has sued UCN for non-payment. Fisher said he wasn't sure if the state was named in the contract and that he didn't see any cause for concern.

Five days later at the Jan. 16 committee meeting, Krinkie said he was "rather shocked" upon discovering the state and the Department of Administration were named in the lawsuit. Fisher said at the previous meeting the litigation against the state had ended and that "does not jeopardize the contract."

In an interview, Krinkie said many legislators had concerns about the project from the start.

"I hope (Fisher) and the commissioner of MnDOT will see that the project was ill-conceived and not well managed," he said.

Krinkie said he will ask Fisher to come back before the committee after a decision is made following the Feb. 1 deadline to explain whether MnDOT and the Department of Administration decide to proceed or not proceed with the project. 

# Changing with the times

Policy makers watch significant shifts in long-term care needs as they prepare the state for an aging population

By MARY KAY WATSON

**M**innesota is on the cusp of a “senior boom,” according to Department of Human Services’ statistics. By 2030, one out of four Minnesotans will be over 65, compared to one out of eight today.

A demographic shift of this magnitude has enormous implications for long-term care and the policies that shape it.

Last year the Legislature formed the Minnesota Long-Term Care Task Force to learn about needs and issues of long-term care, to reach agreement on strategies for addressing them, and to recommend proposals for the 2001 session.

“Long-term care has both policy and personal aspects,” said LaRhae Knatterud, Department of Human Services planning director for the Aging Initiative. “It touches each of us, personally and through our families.”

The department defines long-term care as “assistance given over a sustained period of time to people who are experiencing long-term disabilities or difficulties in functioning because of a disability.”

People who need long-term care include those with major chronic diseases, cognitive problems, and significant functional impairments. Sixty percent of this population is elderly, though there are people of all ages needing such care.

Long-term care does not necessarily mean nursing home care. Most of the assistance needed by the “frail elderly” is currently provided by families in the person’s home, Knatterud said.

But demographic changes are putting severe stresses on the current system. As the state’s population ages and with the dramatic family changes in size, work patterns, and mobility that are already occurring, officials say public policy will have to change, too.

The task force presented its findings and recommendations to a joint meeting of the Senate Health and Family Security Committee and the House Health and Human Services committees Jan. 16.

“The system Minnesota has now — heavily invested in nursing homes — is not what most Minnesotans want,” Department of Human Services Commissioner Michael O’Keefe said.

The task force, comprised of six senators, six representatives, O’Keefe, and the commissioners of the Housing Finance Agency and the Department of Health, took questions about the needs and issues in long-term care to Minnesota’s citizens. They received “a wealth of input from both consumers and providers,” according to Knatterud.

They heard people talk about their needs, which included better information, help for family caregivers, a greater variety of options, and easier access to services. Some other issues included isolation of the elderly, cost of



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

LaRhae Knatterud, from the Department of Human Services, presents a report by the Legislative Long-Term Care Task Force during a Jan. 16 joint hearing of the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee and the Senate Health and Family Security Committee.

services, and availability of qualified health care workers.

That testimony clearly shows people’s needs and preferences regarding long-term care are changing, and the state’s current health-care system no longer meets those needs, officials said.

Minnesota’s long-term care system relies on nursing homes more than most states; however, the actual use of nursing homes has declined rapidly since 1993. At the same time, the use of home health care has grown.

A “severe” shortage in long-term care workers will continue to worsen just as the need for these workers “skyrockets,” according to the report. This shortage is due to a combination of factors, including low unemployment, an aging workforce, low wages, and a perception of the work as being unattractive.

Knatterud pointed out that people who may have once chosen “high-touch” jobs are opting for high-tech jobs.

The task force concluded that:

- Minnesota’s reliance on institutions should be reduced in favor of more community-based options — both in home care and housing.
- Communities, families, and individuals need help meeting their long-term care needs, and the state can be an empowering institution in this area.
- The state must devise new approaches to regulation and reimbursement to support this new system.

“We should move with caution,” said Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), voicing his concern about reducing a reliance on nursing homes just as the population is aging at a higher rate.

Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Minneapolis) observed that much of the current infrastructure is old and approaching obsolescence.

“Our ability to take care of people in their homes has changed dramatically with technology,” Knatterud said. “As our tools change, how we provide care will continue to change.”

The task force report concluded by recommending six “policy directions” for “reshaping” long-term care in Minnesota:

- Maximize people’s ability to meet their own long-term care needs.
- Expand the capacity of community options.
- Reduce reliance on an institutional model.
- Achieve quality and good outcomes.

Continued on page 26



# Capitol youth

47<sup>th</sup> annual YMCA Youth In Government mock session teaches high school students about running the Legislature

BY NATALIE ELSE

It wasn't a Minnesota Wild hockey game or an Eminem concert that drew more than 1,400 students to St. Paul Jan. 11-14. Instead, the students, from across the state, were busy inside the State Capitol creating agendas of their own at the YMCA's 47<sup>th</sup> annual Youth In Government mock session.

Directed by Orville Lindquist, the program gave students an opportunity to experience things in the governmental process that they might not have the chance to do otherwise. During the four-day session, students in grades 8 to 12 had the opportunity to participate in committee hearings and become members of the media, House, Senate, and Supreme Court.

"I want them to see how the processes of government fit together," Lindquist said. "I want them to see that government isn't just one institution. Rather, it is many interlocking groups that work together. We have the opportunity to be a civics lesson disguised."

Youth Speaker of the House Trevre Andrews stated the program not only provides students with a better understanding of the political system, but it also gives them insights on what goes on during the Legislative session.

Andrews, a senior from White Bear Lake, believes the program allows students to see what happens in the political system by taking an active role. It also educated him on the impact one person can have.

"It has taught me what a difference anyone can make in government if they go out and pursue it a little bit," he said.

Not only has the program created a better understanding of government for Andrews, it also has created an interest in a future career as he is considering a run for a political office. "I've thought about running for president," he said. "If not president, Congress. Any way that I can get involved, I'll do it."

Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer addressed the members of the mock House of Representatives on opening day, encouraging them to use this opportunity as a steppingstone to their futures and their roles as citizens.

"We hope you'll all be involved citizens in the process," she said. "If you're not involved, it just doesn't work."

Kiffmeyer further encouraged students to be aware of the possibilities, as well as the people, around them during the weekend. "You will find in the political realm, getting to know each other is an important part," she said. "What you do today may take you to very interesting places."

The model assembly session's youth governor, Joan M. Bennett, reverberated Kiffmeyer's beliefs about the significance of the mock session. Bennett said that the mock session illustrates how important the process is, even though it might not carry the same weight that the actual Legislature does.

"It does not mean that what we do here is a game," she said. "Soon it will be our turn. The weight of the world will soon be on our shoulders. We will have an impact on society."

Bennett, the ninth female governor in the history of the program, set the tone for the issues of concern at this year's mock session by addressing drug rehabilitation, homosexual rights, affordable housing, and child care, among other things in her State of the State address.

A senior from Woodbury, Bennett further proposed a challenge for her fellow legislators: "When our economy is as strong as it is, it is sick that people still suffer. It is time to stop placing blame and start looking for solutions."

Seeking answers is exactly what they did, as mock legislators proposed a wide variety of

issues during the session ranging from proposals creating restrictions on times of the day that a telemarketer can call households to proposals calling for the legalization of same-sex marriages.

According to Lindquist, serious issues such as these are nothing new. "Social issues are very big," he said. "The students are interested in things bigger than themselves. They're seeing government and service as vehicles for achieving that."

Not only does the program provide students with the chance to learn about the governmental process firsthand, it also allows them to experience it in the place where it actually happens. "There's an immediacy to being in the Capitol," Lindquist said. "It's important and appreciated on our end that we have such great support. It's invaluable to the experience the students get."

Students now have the chance to further



PHOTO BY SARA KIRK

**Speaker of the House Trevre Andrews conducts the Youth in Government Session in the House Chamber Jan. 12.**

their governmental knowledge by participating in the YMCA's Model United Nations program where they may learn about the culture and government of a country they adopt. The program takes place March 8-10 in Bloomington. 🐼

**Editor's Note:** Natalie Else is an intern in the House Public Information Office during the month of January. She is a senior at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, majoring in English, with a minor in political science.



# Crime fighter

Hilstrom focuses on crime prevention and supports tools for local law enforcement to track criminals

BY THERESA STAHL

Rep. Debra Hilstrom (DFL-Brooklyn Center) says her foremost goal as a legislator is providing good communication for her district. And being close to her home community is something she's used to — she has lived within the same three-block area since she was a child.



Rep. Debra Hilstrom

She's also focused on making her community stronger over the long term.

"The message will be developing sustainable communities," she said.

Before her election to the House, Hilstrom spent six years on the Brooklyn Center City Council and served on the planning commission for the city.

Although new to state government, Hilstrom says she feels comfortable coming into the House because the committees on which she's serving — Crime Prevention and Judiciary Finance — are areas she was involved in as a city council member.

During her time with the city, Hilstrom worked with Brooklyn Center's police department. She says as a state representative she wants to work on crime prevention.

Brooklyn Center City Manager Mike McCauley recently recalled Hilstrom's extensive involvement with a bond referendum to build a police station and fire station. In addition, he said she had a strong emphasis on code enforcement.

Hilstrom says her involvement and good working relationship with the police department has prepared her to ask good questions and make educated decisions about law enforcement. She said she fully supports the developing CriMNet information system that would reduce crime.

"Working with the local police department in my community, I understand the need for a database that tracks predatory criminals," she said. "We need to give our officers the tools to keep

dangerous and repeat criminals off the street."

Beyond crime prevention, Hilstrom cites education and health care as her top concerns of the legislative session. McCauley said Hilstrom is active in public issues and has great interest in statewide issues.

"She's been very involved with the city and has done a great deal of work in the community," said McCauley, who has worked with Hilstrom the past five years. "She meets with people in the community and responds to questions and concerns" from her constituents.

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*"Working with the local police department in my community, I understand the need for a database that tracks predatory criminals. We need to give our officers the tools to keep dangerous and repeat criminals off the street."*

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—Rep. Debra Hilstrom

Hilstrom, who has a sociology degree with a minor in speech communications from the University of Minnesota, also is a member of the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee. She has long lists of major issues she plans to support this session.

"The DFL metro caucus will be fighting to have transportation funding, including roads, equity in transit investment, and commuter rail," she said. DFLers will be working for "affordable housing, which would include funding for maintenance and improvement to current housing, and the environment, (such as) brownfield cleanup, water quality and regional park funding."

Hilstrom ran for the Legislature when former Rep. Phil Carruthers decided not to seek re-election and people in the community urged her to run for the seat. (Carruthers who served as speaker of the House during the 1997-98 sessions — the last time DFLers held the majority in the House — accepted a position with the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.)

The campaign process for the Legislature

became a family affair for the Hilstroms. Her husband, Joel, was campaign chair, her mother was treasurer, and her father-in-law helped put up lawn signs.

Hilstrom's children, Stephanie and Jeremy, are excited for their mom to be in office. One of them appears to have already gotten the hang of running a campaign; having a lost pet, Stephanie put up signs and knocked on doors in the neighborhood.

For her children and others in her district, Hilstrom said she will concentrate on education issues: enduring equitable funding, funding special education, acquiring additional revenue on the formula, and aiding schools that suffer from teacher shortages. In her community, Hilstrom has been a part of a modern idea to improve education. She has fully supported a "virtual school district," where

school districts can come together in low-income/high need areas for the betterment of students.

Hilstrom said she will also work hard to help health care situations — prescription drugs as well as nursing homes for seniors.

McCauley, who supported much of Hilstrom's work on the city council, praised her service to her community, as well as her commitment to standing by her word.

"Debra is interested in putting citizen's concerns and welfare to the forefront and she's working very hard to address those issues," he said.

## DISTRICT 47B

**1998 population (estimate):** 33,639

**Largest city:** Brooklyn Center

**County:** Hennepin

**Location:** north of Minneapolis

**Top concern:** "Crime prevention and education funding, as well as taking care of funding for senior's prescription expenses."

—Rep. Debra Hilstrom

# Experience pays off

Former session-only House staffer returns to Capitol in a new role as citizen legislator

By MIKE COOK

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) has spent a large part of the last five years at the State Capitol complex.



Rep. Eric Lipman

He began in 1996 as a session-only floating legislative assistant, before working with former U.S. Sen. Rod Grams. In June 1997, he returned to spend 18 months as a member of the House Republican research staff, and after a six-

month leave to help Department of Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver in his unsuccessful bid for attorney general, Lipman was named deputy secretary of state in January 1999. He remained there until June 2000.

From those humbler beginnings, Lipman has ascended to a seat in the House chambers.

He says he wants legislative employees to know that if they're in the job for the experience, it'll be worth it in the long run.

"There is an open path to folks who are willing to train and work hard, stay late, volunteer and help," he said while sitting at his desk on the House floor waiting for a recent floor session to begin. One of Lipman's committee assignments is the House Capital Investment Committee. "That's a neat homecoming, as I was previously a staff person (for that committee)," he said of his activities during the 1998 session.

Among the communities served by District 56B are Lake Elmo, Woodbury, Afton, Oakdale, and Denmark Township. Lipman describes his district as a mix of bedroom communities and places where farmers still work and live off the land. "That is something we want to preserve."

Sixty percent of all people in the district have a college degree or better, Lipman said. But he is troubled that Washington County has one of the largest percentages of two-income families of any county in the nation.

"From my own perspective that is because we take too much out of the family budget that both spouses are in the workplace to make ends meet," he said.

One of Lipman's primary goals in the 2001 session is reducing taxation on citizens. His goal is to make what he calls the traditional, single-income family an option for more couples.

Speaking from personal experience, Lipman and his wife, Kimberly, would like to be able to have one of them stay at home to care for their 18-month-old daughter Jenna.

"If we had the choice we would rather have

power over local comprehensive plans," Lipman said. He introduced a bill earlier this month that would limit that power. While not a full abolition of the Met Council, it would permit more joint powers agreements and allow local governments a greater role in regional planning decisions.

As for schooling, he would like to see all districts treated the same for purposes of the state formula, unlike the 2000 session when he said some legislators were willing to "monkey" with the student aid formula to benefit their district.

"The effect of favoring some districts over others will short growing districts like mine. We should treat every child the same," he said. "Maintaining a different local formula will allow variations as needs may be."

An attorney by profession, Lipman believes his experience will be an asset in the lawmaking process.

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*"The effect of favoring some districts over others will short growing districts like mine. We should treat every child the same. Maintaining a different local formula will allow variations as needs may be."*

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—Rep. Eric Lipman

a simpler lifestyle and be able to spend more time with Jenna," he said. "Frankly too many of my neighbors and people I represent don't feel that is a legitimate option for them.

"My wife is an enormously capable person, who has a great career with many possibilities, but we're trying to work it where she can stay home because that's where her priorities are. It's not about a sexist view of who should stay home, it's giving people the choices of what to do."

In addition to tax cuts and lowering spending, Lipman's other priorities are strengthening schools by making sure they have a stable funding formula to meet their needs, and letting local communities have more control in planning decisions.

Regarding the latter, Lipman, who served on the Lake Elmo Planning Commission for 19 months, says the Metropolitan Council has "too great a role in planning decisions for communities like ours.

"They have a dramatic review and veto

"I hope it makes me interested in how detailed draftsmanship is important — that words really do matter," he said referring to bills and the question of legislative intent. "Attorneys fight, squabble, argue and negotiate over the meaning of words. If we spend more time and care in our writing up front, perhaps we'd have less arduous work later."

## DISTRICT 56B

**1998 population (estimate):** 45,002

**Largest city:** Woodbury

**County:** Washington

**Location:** south and east of St. Paul

**Top concern:** "I'd be interested in reducing income tax."

—Rep. Eric Lipman

# Inside scoop

## Thompson brings a combination of government knowledge and teaching experience to the Legislature

BY THERESA STAHL

Rep. Mark Thompson (DFL-New Hope) says public education is his top priority, and that his teaching experience will help him



Rep. Mark Thompson

make important decisions in that area because he knows the ins and outs of the education system in Minnesota.

"As a teacher I'm well aware of the good and the bad things going on in public education," said Thompson, who

teaches eighth grade government at Minnetonka Middle School West.

Fellow teacher Kerry Hoeschen cites another reason Thompson's experience as an educator may be valuable to being a State legislator: "He lets students' voices be heard."

Instead of lecturing, Hoeschen says Thompson, who is in his ninth year of teaching, holds more class discussions and makes his best effort to be impartial toward the issues.

"He's very good at looking at both sides of an issue," said Hoeschen, a colleague and friend of Thompson's for four years. "He considers the pros and cons."

"I try to keep my political biases separate from my teaching," Thompson said.

Thompson won't be teaching the second half of the school year when the Legislature is in session, but said he plans to teach in the fall because he would miss it too much. "I won't give it up," he said.

Thompson grew up in south Minneapolis and St. Louis Park and has lived in Minnesota all of his life, except the time he served in the Army, and when he spent a year studying in Nigeria.

The 2000 election was Thompson's first run for legislative office, and he won District 46A, which was an open seat, by only 65 votes

(after a recount). In 1998 he won a seat on the New Hope City Council, where he served for two years. He said that campaigning for the Legislature was a lot of work, but at the same time it was fascinating.

By his side during his run for office was Thompson's wife Patty.

"She's a good political advisor and a very good friend," he said. "She loves campaigning. Actually, after the campaign was over she said, 'I kind of miss door-knocking.'"

Having always had strong political interests, Thompson said he's wanted to be in politics for the past 20 years. "I've always been

he has supported previously — when a city makes a purchase they should not have to pay a sales tax.

"That seems to be inefficient when government taxes itself," he said. "I support anything that would not require cities to pay sales taxes on their own purchases."

Thompson's tax interests fall right in line with his predecessor, Sen. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) who left the House in 2000 to pursue the Senate seat. Rest was formerly the chair of the House Taxes Committee and served as the DFL lead on that committee during 1999 and 2000.

In education, Thompson's main concerns lie in funding. "There has been a funding shortfall and class sizes are high," he said.

As a teacher, he knows the importance of keeping class sizes small.

"The difference between 27 kids and 32 kids in a classroom is huge. The amount of time

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*"As a teacher I'm well aware of the good and the bad things going on in public education,"*

*—Rep. Mark Thompson*

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interested in public service, helping people and solving problems."

Reading many newspapers from different countries on the Internet and being a longtime "news junkie," Thompson said he has learned much about government systems around the world. He has brought his knowledge of political processes into teaching and all of that information also transfers into what he's doing now as a legislator. Thompson realizes that the Minnesota Legislature has some distinctive features that he will learn as he goes, "but overall I understand the process."

Hoeschen said Thompson has a thorough political background. "He's so knowledgeable," he said. "He knows so much about government and international issues."

Besides education, Thompson is concerned about the rising cost of health care and prescription drugs. Transportation gridlock is also an important issue for him. "Getting stuck in traffic is not a pleasant experience," he said.

Thompson said Gov. Jesse Ventura has interesting ideas on taxes, one in particular that

spent just getting them quiet is almost doubled." He added that teachers could give more attention to each student if there are fewer students in the class.

Thompson said K-12 education funding has not kept up with the rate of inflation in the past 10 years. And knowing teachers throughout the state, he said he understands the financial crunches they all face, while still accomplishing a great deal.

"I think that in general, schools are doing a very good job with the limited resources they have," he said. "I'm proud to be a teacher."

### DISTRICT 46A

**1998 population (estimate):** 32,325

**Largest city:** Crystal

**County:** Hennepin

**Location:** northwest of Minneapolis

**Top concern:** "Public education — We have to improve K-12 schools."

**— Rep. Mark Thompson**

# Minnesota House of Representatives

## 2001 Standing Committee Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:15 to 10 a.m.	Jobs & Economic Developmental Operations & Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Health & Human Services Finance Transportation Finance	Education Policy Health & Human Services Policy Judiciary Finance Transportation Policy	Jobs & Economic Developmental Operations & Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Health & Human Services Finance Transportation Finance	Education Policy Health & Human Services Policy Judiciary Finance Transportation Policy	Jobs & Economic Developmental Operations & Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy/ State Government Finance Health & Human Services Finance
10:15 a.m. to 12 noon	Civil Law Environment & Natural Resources Finance Higher Education Finance K-12 Education Finance Taxes	Crime Prevention Environment & Natural Resources Policy State Government Finance Taxes	Civil Law Environment & Natural Resources Finance Higher Education Finance K-12 Education Finance Taxes	Crime Prevention Environment & Natural Resources Policy State Government Finance Taxes	Environment & Natural Resources Finance Higher Education Finance K-12 Education Finance Taxes
12:30 to 2:15 p.m.	Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Regulated Industries	Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Capital Investment Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development	Agriculture Policy Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development	Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Capital Investment Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development	
3:00 to 4:15 p.m.	HOUSE IN SESSION			HOUSE IN SESSION	

**Ways & Means, Rules & Legislative Administration, Redistricting and Ethics meet at the call of the chair.**

1/12/01

B - Basement Hearing Room  
All rooms in State Office Building

# Name Pronunciation Guide

## 2001 Minnesota House of Representatives

Abeler, Jim ..... ABE-ler  
 Abrams, Ron  
 Anderson, Bruce  
 Anderson, Irv  
 Bakk, Thomas (Tom) ..... BOCK  
 Bernardy, Connie  
 Biernat, Len ..... BE-AIR-nat  
 Bishop, Dave  
 Boudreau, Lynda ..... boo-DROH  
 Bradley, Fran  
 Buesgens, Mark ..... BISK-ens  
 Carlson, Lyndon R.  
 Cassell, George ..... CASTLE  
 Clark, James T.  
 Clark, Karen  
 Daggett, Roxann ..... DAG-et  
 Davids, Gregory M.  
 Davnie, Jim ..... DAV-nee  
 Dawkins, Andy  
 Dehler, Steve ..... DAY-ler  
 Dempsey, Jerry  
 Dibble, Scott  
 Dorman, Dan  
 Dorn, John  
 Eastlund, Rob  
 Entenza, Matt  
 Erhardt, Ron ..... AIR-hart  
 Erickson, Sondra  
 Evans, Geri  
 Finseth, Tim  
 Folliard, Betty ..... FOLLY-ard  
 Fuller, Doug  
 Gerlach, Chris ..... GER-lock  
 Gleason, Mark S.  
 Goodno, Kevin  
 Goodwin, Barbara  
 Gray, Gregory  
 Greiling, Mindy ..... GRY-ling  
 Gunther, Bob  
 Haas, Bill ..... HAHZ  
 Hackbarth, Tom  
 Harder, Elaine  
 Hausman, Alice  
 Hilstrom, Debra ..... HILL-strum  
 Hilty, Bill

Holberg, Mary Liz  
 Holsten, Mark William  
 Howes, Larry  
 Huntley, Thomas  
 Jacobson, Carl  
 Jaros, Mike ..... YAHR-ohs  
 Jennings, Loren Geo  
 Johnson, Jeff  
 Johnson, Ruth  
 Johnson, Sheldon  
 Juhnke, Al ..... JUNK-ee  
 Kahn, Phyllis  
 Kalis, Henry J. .... KAH-liss  
 Kelliher, Margaret Anderson ..... KELL-a-her  
 Kielkucki, Tony ..... keel-COO-ski  
 Knoblach, Jim ..... NOB-lock  
 Koskinen, Luanne  
 Krinkie, Philip  
 Kubly, Gary W. .... KOO-blee  
 Kuisle, William ..... KWEEZ-lee  
 Larson, Dan  
 Leighton, Rob ..... LAY-ton  
 Lenczewski, Ann ..... len-CHESS-key  
 Leppik, Peggy  
 Lieder, Bernie L. .... LEED-er  
 Lindner, Arlon  
 Lipman, Eric  
 Luther, Darlene  
 Mahoney, Tim  
 Mares, Harry ..... MAIRS  
 Mariani, Carlos ..... ma-ree-AH-nee  
 Marko, Sharon  
 Marquart, Paul ..... MAR-qwort  
 McElroy, Dan ..... MACK-el-roy  
 McGuire, Mary Jo  
 Milbert, Bob  
 Molnau, Carol L. .... MOLE-now  
 Mulder, Richard  
 Mullery, Joe  
 Murphy, Mary  
 Ness, Robert "Bob"  
 Nornes, Bud ..... NOR-ness  
 Olson, Mark  
 Opatz, Joe ..... OH-patz  
 Osskopp, Mike ..... AHZ-cop

Osthoff, Tom ..... AHST-hoff  
 Otremba, Mary Ellen ..... oh-TREM-ba  
 Ozment, Dennis ..... AHZ-ment  
 Paulsen, Erik  
 Pawlenty, Tim ..... paw-LENTY  
 Paymar, Michael  
 Pelowski Jr., Gene  
 Penas, Maxine ..... PEN-nas  
 Peterson, Doug  
 Pugh, Thomas W. .... PEW  
 Rhodes, Jim  
 Rifenberg, Michelle ..... RIFF-en-berg  
 Rukavina, Tom ..... roo-ka-VEEN-a  
 Ruth, Connie  
 Schumacher, Leslie J. .... SHOE-mocker  
 Seagren, Alice  
 Seifert, Marty ..... SY-fert  
 Sertich, Anthony "Tony" ..... SIR-tich  
 Skoe, Rod ..... SKOY  
 Skoglund, Wes ..... SKOHG-lund  
 Slawik, Nora ..... SLAH-wick  
 Smith, Steve  
 Solberg, Loren A.  
 Stanek, Rich  
 Stang, Doug  
 Sviggum, Steve ..... SWIG-um  
 Swapinski, Dale  
 Swenson, Howard  
 Sykora, Barb ..... sick-OR-ah  
 Thompson, Mark  
 Tingelstad, Kathy  
 Tuma, John ..... TOO-ma  
 Vandever, Ray  
 Wagenius, Jean ..... wa-GHEEN-yus  
 Walker, Neva  
 Walz, Dale ..... WALLZ  
 Wasiluk, Scott ..... WAH-zlick  
 Wenzel, Stephen G. .... WEN-zel  
 Westerberg, Andrew  
 Westrom, Torrey  
 Wilkin, Tim  
 Winter, Ted  
 Wolf, Ken  
 Workman, Tom



## Tuesday, Jan. 16

### HF125—Nornes (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Dentist licensure requirements modified for applicant's trained in a foreign country.

### HF126—Wenzel (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Finance

Morrison County nursing home rate increase provided, and money appropriated.

### HF127—Mulder (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Nursing assistants with prior records expunged exempted from disqualification.

### HF128—Nornes (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Nursing facility technology room grant program established, and money appropriated.

### HF129—Nornes (R)

#### Taxes

Fergus Falls lodging tax authorized.

### HF130—Dawkins (DFL)

#### Civil Law

Dangerous dog definitions and regulations modified, animal control officers duties expanded, evidence preservation provided, and criminal penalties imposed.

### HF131—Erhardt (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

MinnesotaCare provider tax repealed, tobacco settlement funds credited to health care access fund, pass-through of savings required, and financial management of MinnesotaCare provided.

### HF132—Haas (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Traffic-impacted metropolitan city street account created in county state-aid highway fund, and allocation provided.

### HF133—Haas (R)

#### Taxes

City aid base and maximum aid increased for specified cities.

### HF134—Tingelstad (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Service credit purchase authorized for prior state highway department employee.

### HF135—Wagenius (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Drinking water standards risk evaluation required and report required.

### HF136—Fuller (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Fire protection industry licensing fees deposited in state fire marshal account, and money appropriated.

### HF137—Erhardt (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Commuter rail corridor plans physical design component local approval required.

### HF138—Abeler (R)

#### Higher Education Finance

Anoka-Hennepin Technical College capital improvements clarified.

### HF139—Seagren (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Intermediate School District Nos. 287, 916, and 917, best practices grant authorized to train teachers of special needs students.

### HF140—Molnau (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF141—Mulder (R)

#### Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) aid appropriation provided.

### HF142—Boudreau (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Prior service credit purchase authorized for specified corrections employee.

### HF143—Carlson (DFL)

#### Education Policy

Voluntary full-day kindergarten funding established, and money appropriated.

### HF144—Koskinen (DFL)

#### Crime Prevention

Background checks required periodically on managers of rental property.

### HF145—Abrams (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Lake Minnetonka multi-use water access site preparation and construction appropriation provided.

### HF146—Abrams (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Lake Minnetonka multi-use water access site preparation and construction bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF147—Carlson (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

General education basic formula allowance increased.

### HF148—Paulsen (R)

#### Taxes

Income tax subtraction provided for social security income.

### HF149—Pawlenty (R)

#### Agriculture Policy

Halaal food product serving, selling, and labeling regulated.

### HF150—Kahn (DFL)

#### Agriculture Policy

Agriculture; genetically modified organisms use regulated.

### HF151—Juhnke (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Counties allowed to authorize payment up to statewide maximum rate for alternative care and specified home and community-based waived service programs.

### HF152—Lieder (DFL)

#### Transportation Policy

Local bridges grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF153—Anderson, B. (R)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Elk River additional on-sale liquor licenses authorized.

### HF154—Ness (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Meeker County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

### HF155—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Education Policy

Elementary and secondary school system school district operating funds provided through state aids.

### HF156—Seifert (R)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Barber shop registration fee exception provided for sole operators of multiple shops.

### HF157—Bakk (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

LTV mining specified employees and suppliers extra unemployment compensation benefits provided.

### HF158—Gleason (DFL)

#### Taxes

Property tax refund; percentage of rent constituting property taxes increased.

### HF159—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

State employee health coverage required to permit unrestricted choice of health care provider.

### HF160—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Constitutional amendment proposing veto override sessions of the legislature after *sine die*.

### HF161—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Legislature; organization of House of Representatives provided in case of tie vote for a house officer.

### HF162—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Counties authorized to conduct advisory elections.

### HF163—Seagren (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Minneapolis Teacher Retirement Association member service credit provided.

### HF164—Wasiluk (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Employee invention agreements regulated.

### HF165—Wasiluk (DFL)

#### Crime Prevention

Killing or harming animals trained to assist persons with disabilities criminal penalties imposed and restitution required.

### HF166—Wasiluk (DFL)

#### Taxes

Sales to political subdivisions tax exemption provided.

**HF167—Luther (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Class size reduction funding increased for upper elementary and secondary grades, and maximum class size ratios adjusted.

**HF168—Folliard (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Education finance; growth factor included in referendum revenue cap, and original cap percentage restored.

**HF169—Kubly (DFL)****Education Policy**

Independent School District No. 2534, Bird Island-Olivia-Lake Lillian, grant authorized for contract deadline penalty, and money appropriated.

**HF170—Leighton (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Stay of adjudication permitted for specified driving after suspension, revocation and cancellation cases on condition that driver obtain reinstatement of privileges.

**HF171—Mulder (R)****Education Policy**

Disabled access levy extended.

**HF172—Mares (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Mahtomedi authorized to provide housing assistance to get local daytime paramedic service.

**HF173—Anderson, I. (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Compensation provisions revised governing boards and advisory groups.

**HF174—Nornes (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Partition fences cost responsibility clarified.

**HF175—Ozment (R)****Crime Prevention**

Cigarette fire retardant standards required.

**Thursday, Jan. 18****HF176—Pawlenty (R)****Taxes**

Vitamins and mineral supplements sales tax exemption provided.

**HF177—Molnau (R)****Transportation Policy**

Recreational motor vehicle tort immunity provided for use on a highway right-of-way.

**HF178—Howes (R)****Crime Prevention**

Firearms; right to bear arms for specified purposes shall not be abridged, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF179—Abrams (R)****Taxes**

Foreign insurance company corporation franchise tax exemption extended to all insurance companies.

**HF180—Ruth (R)****Taxes**

Medford economic development district fund uses authorized.

**HF181—Wenzel (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Adult foster care license capacity age requirements and variances lowered.

**HF182—Paymar (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Neighborhood Development Center, Inc., entrepreneur training and staffing grant provided, and money appropriated.

**HF183—Abrams (R)****Taxes**

Capital equipment sales and use tax collection and refund repealed.

**HF184—Abrams (R)****Taxes**

June accelerated payments of sales taxes eliminated.

**HF185—Marko (DFL)****Transportation Finance**

Newport; Wakota Bridge right-of-way acquisition and construction costs appropriation.

**HF186—Hackbarth (R)****Taxes**

Social security individual income tax subtraction provided.

**HF187—Abrams (R)****Taxes**

Specified tax increment financing districts modifications prohibited and expenditures limited.

**HF188—Stanek (R)****Taxes**

Sales to political subdivisions tax exemption provided.

**HF189—Luther (DFL)****Taxes**

Organ donation; anatomical gift education account income tax checkoff provided.

**HF190—Pelowski (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Post-secondary student access and choice programs, technology, intervention, and other post-secondary programs funding provided; and money appropriated.

**HF191—Erickson (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 473, Isle, fund transfer authorized.

**HF192—Goodno (R)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Emergency medical services special taxing districts and property tax levies authorized.

**HF193—Paulsen (R)****Taxes**

Property taxes; areawide tax base contributions limited.

**HF194—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Ambulance services excluded from MinnesotaCare provider tax.

**HF195—Huntley (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

University of Minnesota academic initiatives and investments funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF196—Carlson (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities academic initiatives and investments funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF197—Bishop (R)****State Government Finance**

Noncommercial television grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF198—McElroy (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Legislature required to adopt specified procedural rules relating to joint standing committees and conference committees.

**HF199—Rukavina (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

St. Louis County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

**HF200—Jaros (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Cellular telephone operation prohibited when driving a motor vehicle.

**HF201—McElroy (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Legislature size reduced incrementally.

**HF202—Jennings (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Hunting; taking of white deer prohibited.

**HF203—Howes (R)****Education Policy**

Minnesota high school league classifications exceptions provided.

**HF204—Molnau (R)****Transportation Policy**

Bridges; payment of engineering costs authorized from town bridge account.

**HF205—Nornes (R)****Crime Prevention**

Driver's license minimum suspension imposed for theft of gasoline.

**HF206—Opatz (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

St. Cloud area low-income youth after-school educational enhancement pilot program grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF207—Rifenberg (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Volunteer firefighter maximum supplemental retirement benefit increased.

**HF208—Workman (R)****Transportation Policy**

Resolution urging authorization of funding for modernization of waterways.

**HF209—Hackbarth (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Shooting ranges preserved, net losses limited, and relocation costs provided.

**HF210—Peterson (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Drainage system cleaning permit requirements clarified.

**HF211—Ozment (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Fire departments reimbursed for extinguishing specified motor vehicle fires, municipalities authorized to collect unpaid emergency services bills from nonresidents, and money appropriated.

**HF212—Gleason (DFL)****Taxes**

Minneapolis-St. Paul international airport territory attached to special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, and St. Paul intermediate airport property tax exemption repealed.

**HF213—Mulder (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Physician assistants infectious disease education requirement repealed.

**HF214—Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
National guard member allowable tuition reimbursement increased, and money appropriated.

**HF215—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
State driver examination stations retained, and money appropriated.

**HF216—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Gifted and talented program permanent funding established.

**HF217—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
LQP-25/Lazarus Creek floodwater retention project construction grant provided, and money appropriated.

**HF218—Krinkie (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
State government omnibus finance bill.

**HF219—Sertich (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Resolution requesting a ban on the importation of certain steel products.

**HF220—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Motor fuel retailer grants and tax incentives provided for installing E85 pumps and equipment, state required to purchase and operate E85 vehicles when available, and money appropriated.

**HF221—Koskinen (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Eyeglasses and hearing aids insurance coverage required under specific conditions.

**HF222—Koskinen (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Prescription drug program income limit increased, timeline for enrollment of disabled individuals shortened, and higher burial exclusion provided.

**HF223—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Major political party name exclusive use limitation modified.

**HF224—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Koochiching County; big bear country education center construction appropriation provided.

**HF225—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent school district swimming pool levies authorized.

**HF226—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Staff development transportation revenue provided.

**HF227—Ness (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Education transportation; categorical transportation funding reinstated, nonpublic transportation aid modified, bus purchase and excess fuel cost adjustment aid authorized, sparsity formula modified, and money appropriated.

**HF228—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Remedial instruction revenue provided for students not passing Minnesota basic skills tests.

**HF229—Gray (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Teen pregnancy prevention program appropriation.

**HF230—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Armed forces income tax exemption provided for specified service.

**HF231—Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Midtown greenway bridge over Hiawatha Avenue corridor feasibility study provided, and money appropriated.

**HF232—Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Restorative justice program crime prevention grants provided, and money appropriated.

**HF233—Fuller (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Ambulance services exempted from motor fuel taxation, and technical corrections provided.

**HF234—Goodwin (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Legislative day definition modified.

**HF235—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Minnesota investment fund targeted funding provided for specified areas, and money appropriated.

**HF236—Mulder (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Lewis and Clark rural water project bond proceeds funding canceled, and general fund money appropriated.

**HF237—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
DNA analysis law scope expanded.

**HF238—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Criminal sexual conduct in the second degree presumptive penalty increased.

**HF239—Lipman (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Real property ownership and application clarifications provided, Minnesota common interest ownership act modified, and torrens proceedings representation provided.

**HF240—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Mesabi station on Mesabi Trail construction completion provided, and money appropriated.

**HF241—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Portable fish houses exempted from licensing requirements.

**HF242—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Fishing; use of two angling lines permitted.

**HF243—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Trusts; uniform principal and income act modified, and antilapse law clarified.

**HF244—Solberg (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
MinnesotaCare provider taxes repealed, pass-through consumers savings required, tobacco settlement proceeds allocated, contingent repeal of health care access fund, and civil penalties imposed.

**HF245—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Licensed peace officers authorized to determine necessity of patient restraints.

**HF246—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Precinct caucuses eliminated.

**HF247—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
All-day kindergarten funding provided.

**HF248—Marko (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Newport provided grant for right-of-way and construction costs of Wakota bridge reconstruction.

**HF249—Marko (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Municipal state-aid street fund loan repayment provided relating to Newport Wakota bridge project, and money appropriated.

**HF250—Marko (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Newport; previous transportation revolving loan fund modified to include grant for use in Wakota bridge project.

**HF251—Mulder (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Luverne border development zone tax incentives authorized, state tax reductions provided, and money appropriated.

To find out who  
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Call the House  
Public Information  
Office at (651) 296-2146  
1-800-657-3550

## MONDAY, January 22

8:15 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes  
**Agenda:** Minnesota lottery, George Anderson.  
Power Point presentation.  
Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer, overview.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno  
**Agenda:** HF4 (Abrams) MinnesotaCare premium and provider taxes repealed, pass-through consumer savings required, tobacco settlement proceeds allocated, and contingent penalties provided.  
HF14 (Bradley) Tobacco settlement revenues credited to health care access fund, MinnesotaCare provider taxes eliminated on contingent basis, and pass-through of savings required.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy  
**Agenda:** Continuation of Department of Commerce presentation from the Friday, Jan. 12, committee hearing.  
Department of Economic Security presentation.

### TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau  
**Agenda:** Overview by John Williams, House Research, and John Walz, fiscal analyst.

10:15 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten  
**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources: trail funding overview and trail development.

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** MnSCU allocation model overview, Laura King, vice chancellor and chief financial officer, MnSCU;  
Judy Borgen, associate vice chancellor for budget and negotiations, MnSCU.

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** Department of Children, Families and Learning review of federal programs: secondary vocational programs, special education.

### Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt  
**Agenda:** Presentation of assessment practices: Tom May, Hennepin County assessor; Steve Kuha, Cass County assessor; Wayne Haerer, Department of Revenue.  
HF45 (Erickson) Relating to Kanabec County; providing for the imposition of the production tax on aggregate materials.  
David Ulstrom, Kanabec County commissioner, and Alan Peterson, county coordinator for Kanabec County.  
HF52 (Rifenberg) Exempting agricultural loans from the mortgage registry tax.  
Neil Fruechte, Roundbank in Waseca, and Jim Ziegler, Bremer Bank in Redwood Falls.

12:30 p.m.

### FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora  
**Agenda:** Legislative Auditor's report on Early Childhood Education Programs, Joel Alter, Legislative Auditor's Office.  
Response to Auditor's report, Karen Carlson and Cherie Kotilinek, Department of Children, Families and Learning.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey  
**Agenda:** Overview presentations: Association of Minnesota Counties; Metropolitan Inter-County Association; Minnesota Association of Townships; Minnesota School Boards Association; and others pending.  
Other business.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf  
**Agenda:** Presentations by the Departments of Commerce and Economic Security on wholesale gas costs and fuel assistance programs.

3 p.m.

The House meets in session.

## TUESDAY, January 23

8:15 a.m.

### Joint EDUCATION POLICY/ HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

\*\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\*\*  
5 State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Harry Mares, Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** "Minnesota and TIMMS" Report Overview, Witness: Bill Lender-Scholer, Director, Sci-Math Minnesota.  
College Expectations of Incoming Students' Math Skills, Witnesses: Linda Baer, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, MnSCU; Robert Bruininks, Executive Vice President and Provost, University of Minnesota.  
High School Expectations of Graduating Students' Math Skills, Witnesses: Christine Jax, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning; Mary Morreira, High School Math Teacher, Robbinsdale School District.  
Achieve Report on Math.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley  
**Agenda:** Overview of program integrity in state programs: licensing programs, ombudsman's offices, public assistance programs, and program evaluation techniques.

### JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek  
**Agenda:** Committee introductions. Committee rules.  
Overview from House Research on agency reports due to the committee.  
Overview with House fiscal analyst on accounts the committee works with.

### TRANSPORTATION POLICY

\*\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\*\*  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

10:15 a.m.

### Joint House ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY/ Senate ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

\*\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\*\*  
123 State Capitol  
Chrs. Rep. Dennis Ozment, Sen. Jane Krentz  
**Agenda:** Office of Environmental Assistance - 2001 Biennial Report. Department of Administration - procurement and recycling issues. Minnesota Soft Drink Association & Recycling Association of Minnesota - statewide recycling campaign.

### STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie  
**Agenda:** Budget presentation, State Auditor's Office.  
HFXXXX (Krinkie) State Government Finance bill.

## **TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF4 (Abrams) MinnesotaCare premium and provider taxes repealed, pass-through consumer savings required, tobacco settlement proceeds allocated, and contingent penalties provided.  
HF14 (Bradley) Tobacco settlement revenues credited to health care access fund, MinnesotaCare provider taxes eliminated on contingent basis, and pass-through of savings required.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** Dairy producers' perspective of environmental feedlot rules.  
Testimony from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

## **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** Presentation of the governor's 2001 capital budget, Lee Mehrkens, capital budget coordinator, Department of Finance.

## **COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** Department of Labor and Industry agency overview.  
Minnesota Technologies, Inc. agency overview.

**2:30 p.m.**

## **REDISTRICTING**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Erik Paulsen

**Agenda:** Historical and legal overview of redistricting.  
Presentations by Peter Wattson, Senate Counsel, and Tom Pender, House Research.

## **WEDNESDAY, January 24**

**8:15 a.m.**

## **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** Overview of the Department of Veterans Affairs (one hour), Jeff Olson, commissioner.  
Presentation of Hastings Veterans Home, Charles Cox, administrator.

## **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Overview presentations from: Board of Accountancy; Board of Architecture, Design, et al.; Board of Barber Examiners.  
Presentation by the Department of Health's proposals on the regulation of boxing.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **CIVIL LAW**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF58 (McGuire) Standards prescribed for identification of beer kegs, retailers required to maintain records of keg sales, and penalties provided.  
HF56 (Lipman) Covenant marriages option provided.

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources: lottery in lieu of monies and license fee increases; 2001 budget allocations.

## **K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** Governor's K-12 Education Finance budget presented by the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

## **TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF2 (Walz) Modifying the automatic rebate mechanism; providing for payment of a sales tax rebate; appropriating money.  
HF48 (Abrams) Providing for payment of a sales tax rebate.  
HF12 (Lipman) Proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution by adding a section to article IV; requiring a three-fifths vote to enact a law imposing or increasing taxes, fees, or surcharges.

## **WAYS & MEANS**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dave Bishop

**Agenda:** Presentation of Gov. Ventura's biennial budget, Commissioner Pamela Wheelock, Department of Finance; Assistant Commissioner Peggy Ingison, Department of Finance; and Commissioner Matt Smith, Department of Revenue.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

**Agenda:** Wind energy: how it is now working in rural Minnesota and the further potential it has to help ease the looming energy crisis.  
Greg Jaunich, president and CEO, Navitas and Northern Alternative Energy, commercial wind energy developer.

## **Economic Development and Tourism Division/COMMERCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

**Agenda:** Report from the Governor's Working Group on Minority Business Development.  
Presentation from the Minnesota Rural Academy for Enterprise.  
Report on technology trends in Greater Minnesota.  
Report on the diversification of Minnesota's economy by the Department of Trade and Economic Development.

## **FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD**

### **EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** Report on integration of early childhood programs, Karen Carlson, Department of Children, Families and Learning.  
Outcome data for early childhood programs, Bob Wedl, Minneapolis Public Schools.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** HF46 (Lipman) Comprehensive local planning local control reestablished, metropolitan land use planning and Metropolitan Council review of local comprehensive plans repealed, and conforming changes provided.  
HF172 (Mares) Mahtomedi authorized to provide housing assistance to get local daytime paramedic service.  
HF174 (Nornes) Partition fences cost responsibility clarified.  
HF16 (Pelowski) Local governments authorized to transfer personal property to nonprofit corporations.  
HF85 (Jennings) Wyoming and Chisago City orderly annexed property reimbursement duration limitation exemption provided.  
Other business.

**2:15 p.m.**

## **House Freshman Legislator Training**

House Chamber

Chr. Rep. Kathy Tingelstad

**Agenda:** Floor procedure and state finance issues.

**2:30 p.m.**

### **\*\*NOTE TIME & ROOM\*\***

## **HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** Overview of governor's budget, Peggy Ingison, state budget director, Department of Finance; Stewart McMullan, executive budget officer, Department of Finance.



## THURSDAY, January 25

8:15 a.m.

### Joint EDUCATION POLICY/ HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

**\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\***

5 State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Harry Mares,  
Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** Math pedagogical techniques in higher education institutions, Witnesses: Joane McKay, dean, College of Education, St. Cloud State University  
Steve Yussen, dean, The College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota.  
Curriculum comparisons: The United States and Japan, Witnesses: Tom Post, professor of math education, University of Minnesota; Sharon Stenglein, mathematics specialist, Department of Children, Families and Learning

### Joint HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Fran Bradley,  
Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** Orientation to developmental disability issues and programs.  
Discussion on developmental disability waivers.

### Regent Candidate Advisory Council

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Nedra Wicks  
**Agenda:** Business meeting 8:15 a.m. to 9 a.m. Interviews for positions

on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (lunch break 12 noon to 1:15 p.m.).

### TRANSPORTATION POLICY **\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\***

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

10:15 a.m.

### CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Tuma  
**Agenda:** HF94 (Haas) Fish and game law gross overlimit violations criminal penalties established, and restitution values determined (pending rereferral).  
Methamphetamines: Bureau of Criminal Apprehension presentation regarding the statewide problem with illegal methamphetamine labs.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment  
**Agenda:** Overview by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and report on air toxics, MPCA.

### Sales and Income Tax Division/ TAXES

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

### STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Krinkie) State Government Finance bill.

12:30 p.m.

### AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach  
**Agenda:** Statewide facilities management group presentation of maintenance issues, Bill Olson, Division of State Building Construction.

### COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Greg Davids  
**Agenda:** Department of Trade and Economic Development agency overview.

3 p.m.

The House meets in session.

## FRIDAY, January 26

8:15 a.m.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy  
**Agenda:** Minnesota Historical Society overview presentation.

9:30 a.m.

### Regent Candidate Advisory Council

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Nedra Wicks  
**Agenda:** Business meeting 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Interviews for positions on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (lunch break 12 noon to 1:15 p.m.).

10:15 a.m.

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** University of Minnesota budget request, President Mark Yudof, University of Minnesota.

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** Governor's K-12 Education Finance budget presented by the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

1 p.m.

### Legislative Audit Commission

316 State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy  
**Agenda:** Release and review of program evaluation report on district courts.

continued from page 14

- Support informal networks of family, friends, and neighbors.
  - Recruit and retain a stable work force.
- "We want to make this a legislative priority this year," said Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden (R-Rochester).
- Rep. Kevin Goodno, (R-Moorhead), chair

of the House Human Services Finance Committee, expressed concern over the high cost of the recommendations and requested dollar estimates for the strategies from the Department of Human Services.

"We can no longer use a Band-Aid approach — the patient is hemorrhaging," said Sen. Dan Stevens (R-Mora). "We have an opportunity

not just to pour money into this but to demand reform," he said, "and we have to do it this session.

"It boils down to this: we either fund this and take care of people the way they should be taken care of, or we accept a lower standard of care." 🐼

Greater party balance is only one issue that will now make redistricting more complex. The issue of how to handle issues of race has already drawn much attention. Kunkel said while the courts have ruled consideration should be given to ensure minorities have a greater voice in the process, districts should not be drawn up solely on the basis of race.

Vast improvements in the computer redistricting software will also play a role. Unwieldy maps were used in the past and the available software often was too expensive for most groups to buy. Now improved software is readily available, meaning more groups will be able to map out their own proposals and more carefully scrutinize what is actually being done.

Kunkel said the issue of sampling is also sure to be discussed.

Sampling is a method used in census counting where projected estimates of populations are used rather than an actual head count. The courts have ruled sampling cannot be used in the process of determining the number of seats in the 435-member U.S. House of Representatives but they have not ruled whether it can be used for redistricting purposes.

Agreement on base values will determine whether the Legislature and governor will be able to agree on a redistricting plan for the state and thereby avoiding a court determined plan, Kunkel said. Those values include making sure districts are equal in population while paying attention to drawing district boundaries in a manner that will ensure communities with locally identifiable common interests are put together.

He said districts that are fair to all parties and ethnic groups are desirable. Also, courts have historically watched for compact districts that are not oddly shaped, bringing into question how they were drawn the way they were.

Finally, drawing competitive districts in an attempt to ensure there are fewer safe seats and limiting advantages to incumbents is often stated as a goal of redistricting, Kunkel said. But he said those who attempt to draw maps to their own advantage may or may not be successful.

"The new maps are based on past behavior of voters who can and do change," he said. 🐼

# Reflections

Late at night in the State Capitol building, when all the lights are dimmed and no people are roaming the halls, architect Cass Gilbert's masterpiece takes on a special feeling.

Except for Capitol Security, Historical Society tour guides and some visitors on weekends, the Capitol is left to its own solitude once the sounds of debate heard through the chamber doors go quiet. The few times in the evening when many people are around are April and May, during the closing weeks of session when lawmakers must use late hours to complete their duties.

But the general public does not often get the opportunity to "feel" the building's personality under dimly lit hallways and imposing portraits of former governors after the cleaning staff retires for the evening.

Then, amidst the majestic columns, classic works by well-known artists of their day, and monuments to Civil War heroes, a distinct feeling looms over the polished marble floors, stone walls, and granite stairways.

It's a feeling of connecting with the past and the present, embodied with the awe of a sense of place for all the people of Minnesota to enjoy — though many have yet to enter its portals.

Conversely, a typical day at the Capitol is one of staggering activity, as halls abound with hundreds of lobbyists, and members of the general public. Others include legislative assistants on some unknown mission, and large groups having their "Day at the Capitol." Normally on such days, the Capitol's personality is felt through all the hubbub as more of an "official" or formal nature.

For a building that may accommodate well over 1,000 people — all talking,

debating, and trekking across the marble floors on any given day — a calm, quiet, peaceful feeling is more the norm late at night.

There is the notion that the building enlivens itself for a new onslaught each day. Before visitors, lawmakers, and staff arrive, Gilbert's act of genius takes on a showy brightness that enhances the marble facade, high ceilings, 142-foot-high dome and chandelier, and the Rotunda — the heart of the Capitol. Many are drawn to it.

Recently, in a 15-minute time span, a foreign couple was seen in the Rotunda posing with their two children for their own self-timed photograph, while an artist was studying perspectives by painting the complex angles of the upper levels from the second floor. Headed up the east stairway was a group of war veterans on a guided tour.

Throughout the building could be heard the lilting sound of a harp echoing from the third floor. Here, the Youth in Government student governor and her cabinet were holding a reception for family, friends, and special guests. The very essence of the building was expressed during that period of time. And the words of Cass Gilbert's designer, Elmer Garnsey, rang true: "...lessons in both patriotism and art" would eventually be furnished by the Capitol.

That was Saturday, Jan. 13, when the building demonstrated all of its qualities. It was stately, somber, peaceful, lively, aesthetic, and official. There was a feeling of accomplishment and contentment in the air, all due to the perceptions of Cass Gilbert, Elmer Garnsey and others who insisted that the people of Minnesota have a sense of place in a space they could call their own.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

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MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Early childhood programs

Combined annual estimate of state and federal funds for Minnesota early childhood education programs, in millions .....	\$300
Minnesota funding for Head Start, Early Childhood Family Education and School Readiness, FY2001, in millions .....	\$50
Number of Minnesota children under age five, 1999 .....	322,000
Percent of state's total population .....	6.7
Child care centers subject to state standards .....	1,600
Number of public and private preschools .....	500
Family day care facilities subject to state rules .....	14,000
Number of Minnesota children served by Head Start programs, 1998-99 .....	15,000
Percent of state's children ages 3 to 5 in poverty served by Minnesota Head Start funding .....	45
Hours of preschool and other services in Head Start programs, per week .....	14
Length of programs services, per year, in months .....	9 to 12
Children who received medical screenings and immunizations in Head Start, 1999, as percent .....	91
Number of received dental screenings, as percent .....	72
Percent of Head Start costs for transportation, FY2000 .....	19
Percent of Minnesota children under age 5 that participated in ongoing ECFE classes, 1998-99 .....	24
Number of states that supplement federal Head Start dollars with state funds .....	17
Percent of Minnesota's Head Start revenues that come from state funds .....	25
Children participating in ECFE classes or home visits, 1998-99 .....	78,500
Parent participants .....	87,000
Average hours per week for ECFE classes .....	2
Weeks a class typically lasts .....	16
Average cost per child for ECFE and School Readiness .....	\$500
Cost for Head Start, per child .....	\$5,000
Average annual salary for center-based Head Start teachers, FY1999 .....	\$14,470
For ECFE/School Readiness parent educators .....	\$29,733
For ECFE/School Readiness child educators .....	\$34,787

Source: *Early Childhood Education Programs, Program Evaluation Report*, Office of the Legislative Auditor, January 2001.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

JANUARY 26, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 4



## HOW TO RESPOND WHEN YOUR TEENAGER ASKS YOU TO HOST AN UNDERAGE DRINKING PARTY:

*It's time to...*  
IS NOT SOMETHING  
FOR THE YOUTH  
YOU HAVE TO GO TO ALL

*Guest star...*  
ON AVERAGE  
THE YOUTH  
ALL OF THE NEWS

*...*  
THE 2000  
THE HOUSE AND  
TO OR IT A JURY

**In this issue:**

**GOV. VENTURA'S BUDGET PLAN**

**BONDING PROPOSED, ETHICS LAW CLARIFIED, AND MORE**

HF252-HF399



# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5  
Banking • 5  
Children • 5  
Crime • 5  
Education • 6  
Elections • 7

Energy • 8  
Environment • 8  
Gambling • 8  
Game & Fish • 9  
Government • 9  
Health • 9

Higher Education • 10  
Local Government • 10  
Recreation • 11  
Taxes • 11  
Transportation • 12

### FEATURES

**At Issue:** Bonding — Gov. Jesse Ventura presented a capital budget request for 2001, a year typically devoted solely to the state's biennial budget. • 14

**At Issue:** Government — Lawmakers are reviewing a bill that clarifies the role of the state's constitutional officers as state employees. But the current state ethics law dates back 40 years. • 15

**At Issue:** Law — Students and lawmakers proposed a bill to register beer kegs in Minnesota to cut down on underage drinking. • 16

**People** — Rep. Geri Evans returns to the Legislature for the third time with the goal to make schools safe and strong for students. • 17

**People** — Rep. Sheldon Johnson used a campaign to clean up the Pig's Eye dump in St. Paul to propel his successful run for the House. • 18

**People** — Rep. Maxine Penas, former teacher and avid motorcyclist, focuses on property tax relief and help for farmers. • 19

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Justice served?	4	Committee Schedule (Jan. 29-Feb. 2)	28
Resources: 2001-2002 House Committee		Reflections: St. Paul Winter Carnival	31
Assignments by member	20	Minnesota Index: Minnesota State Lottery	32
Bill Introductions (HF252 -HF399)	25		

**On the cover:** Brandon Koller, a junior at Irondale High School in Mounds View and member of MADD's Youth in Action, speaks in support of keg registration during a Jan. 24 press conference in the Rotunda.

—Photo by Jenny J. Dean



# Cutting back

**Gov. Ventura's \$27 billion proposed budget reflects more than \$1 billion in tax reform and \$700 million in new spending**

BY MIKE COOK AND MICHELLE KIBIGER

**S**aying his plan will provide tax relief to all Minnesotans and reduce state government, Gov. Jesse Ventura presented his 2002-03 biennial budget Jan. 23.

The governor's budget has \$27.3 billion in general fund spending, a \$2.7 billion increase over the current biennium.

While House members are supportive of differing aspects of the governor's budget, they're concerned about the methods used to put the budget together and the rhetoric surrounding overall spending and reducing the size of government.

In his budget address, delivered at the Science Museum of Minnesota, Ventura said he is "much more satisfied with the 'science' applied to this budget. It is built upon a solid foundation of tax reform and relief, carefully targeted spending, and initiatives designed to better address the demands of a changing economy."

Since March 2000, Ventura's cabinet has been developing budget targets that fall within the bounds of normal inflation. In addition, Ventura wanted to eliminate agency "wish lists." According to budget documents, agency heads were required to "demonstrate significant, specific reform and reallocation initiatives within current funding."

Part of that process involved the "challenge pool" concept, which required agencies to reduce their operating budgets by at least 2.5 percent. That money would then be reallocated to higher priorities, encouraging innovative and cooperative solutions to a tight funding situation, according to the budget executive summary.

During State Finance Commissioner Pam Wheelock's budget presentation to the House Ways and Means Committee Jan. 24, Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said he supported that idea but was interested to know which programs were "chopped" in order to accommodate the plan. Wheelock said each agency would be addressing that issue in their presentations to individual House finance committees.

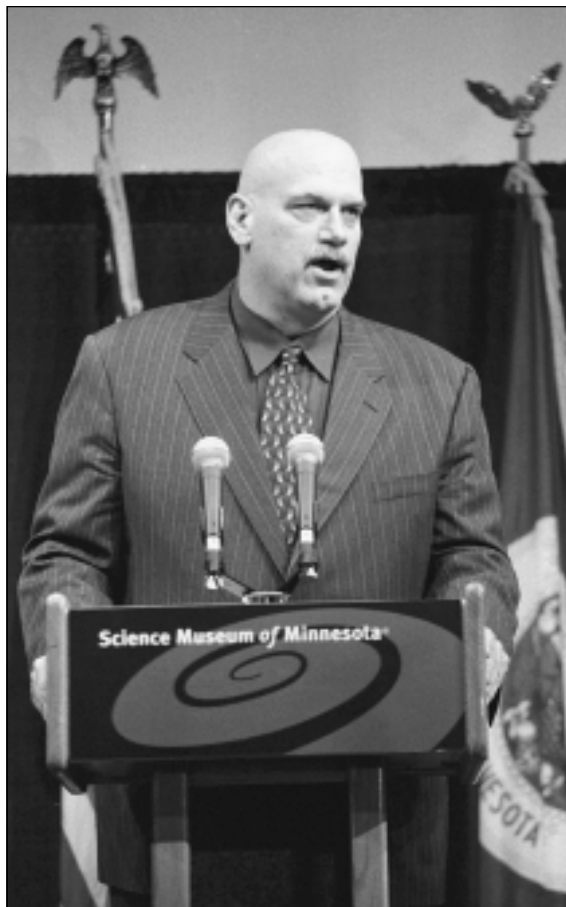


PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Gov. Jesse Ventura gives his state budget address at the Science Museum of Minnesota Jan. 23.**

Though the budget is traditionally about state expenditures for the coming biennium, Ventura has pointed his 2002-2003 budget toward tax relief. "Tax relief should be across the board for all citizens," he said.

First on that list, the governor said, is returning the \$925 million state surplus to taxpayers, with checks to be mailed this summer.

He said it is a matter of the Legislature fulfilling a promise. "That means keeping our word about returning the surplus to taxpayers once we've settled up and closed the books for the current budget period."

Current law already sets that money aside

for a rebate, but the 2001 Legislature must establish the basis for the rebate.

The November forecast projected there will be a budget surplus of more than \$2 billion for the 2002-2003 biennium, unless current law or other conditions change.

However, that doesn't go far enough for the governor.

"My tax reform and relief recommendations begin with continuing the reduction of motor vehicle (registration) tabs to \$75 by 2004 (the 2000 Legislature reduced tab fees to \$99 in the third year of a car's life), a reduction in the income tax rate by 0.5 percent in each of our brackets, and finally a recognition that we must take additional steps to prepare our state for the next century."

The across-the-board income tax rate reduction would be 0.4 percent this year, followed by 0.1 percent in 2003. If resources permit, Ventura would like them to drop another 0.1 percent in 2004.

Other tax reductions include: lowering the corporate income tax rate to 9.4 percent, eliminating the wholesale prescription drug tax and HMO premium tax, eliminating the scheduled 0.5 percent increase in the provider tax, and increasing the working family credit for 2001, and more than doubling it by tax year 2003.

His tax reform centers around the idea that lawmakers should not "squander the opportunity" to help improve Minnesota's position in the global economy.

"It means we now have the chance, and the leadership from my office, to reduce our reliance on property taxes for state and local spending and make our income taxes more competitive as we compete for a shrinking workforce."

Ventura admits his ideas may be controversial, especially on the idea of altering the state's sales tax.

Noting that services, rather than goods, account for 60 percent of consumer spending, Ventura said ultimately both the state and local governments will become more reliant on income and property taxes.

He also spoke of inequities in the state's current tax system, such as: alterations on a suit at the time of its purchase are not taxed but later alterations are, and haircuts for people are non-taxable but those for dogs are. "Apparently the dogs don't have a very good lobbyist at the Capitol," he said.

"It's in our best long-term interests to expand the sales tax to those services," the governor said. "We should reduce this impact by lowering the tax rate from 6.5 percent to 6 percent and continue to exempt necessities of life such as food, clothing, and heating oil."

As for rectifying the property tax system, Ventura wants to take "a big step" by having the state pay for basic K-12 educational costs, instead of local taxpayers.

"Under my proposal, when school programs are paid for with property taxes it will only represent those choices truly made at the local level," Ventura said.

"After all of this, even after paying for part of the cost with some local shifts and a state-wide levy on business and cabin owners, who don't get to vote in local elections, we still provide double-digit tax relief to all classes of property."

Under Ventura's proposal, through the next biennium the state and local governments would collect \$801 million less in property taxes, \$496 million less in income taxes, \$197 million less in license tab fees, and \$446 million more in sales taxes, according to Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith's presentation to the Ways and Means committee. As a result, the state would lose \$1.048 billion from those revenue sources in the biennium.

Ventura's plan to restructure the property tax system and provide significant cuts to rates would require the state to offset the revenues lost by the local governments. As a result, that would technically increase spending.

When taking into account changes from the restructuring of the property tax system, Ventura's proposed \$27 billion general fund budget represents an 11 percent increase in spending. Without the property tax factor, the proposed increase in state spending is 5.4 percent over the previous biennium.

Historically, executive budgets have included various state aids to local governments.

Among the spending proposed in this budget is:

- more than \$115 million to help emerging and incumbent workers, including \$53 million to enhance the working family credit to make it easier for low-income families to stay in the work force;
- \$103 million in recommendations to enhance technology and improve technological investments;

Continued on page 13



## Justice Served?

**County judge nearly impeached a century ago for his actions**

In 1878, just 10 years after the first impeachment of a president (Andrew Johnson), the Minnesota Legislature was faced with trying to decide what constituted grounds for impeachment within its own borders.

According to the book "The Controversial Sherman Page" by Kermeth Northwick, trouble followed judge Sherman Page throughout his life.

Page, an outspoken reformer, was appointed superintendent of the Austin area schools in 1866. He attempted to hold an August teachers' conference in the school building during working hours, but the school board told Page he had to hold the meeting elsewhere after school hours. They went so far as to nail the school doors shut. Page broke into the building with an ax and was arrested.

He would publicly wield his ax again. The town had begun laying wooden sidewalks throughout the community, but one blocked the driveway to the barn where Page kept his team of horses. He destroyed the sidewalk — not once, but twice, each time ignoring warnings from local officials.

Following the second incident, the sheriff was sent to arrest him, but Page locked the officer in his office and argued with him. When help arrived, Page was forcibly removed to court. He was fined \$15 for violating the town's ordinance prohibiting the mutilation of sidewalks.

When the Legislature created the Tenth Judicial District in 1872, Page, who was by then a state senator, resigned from his seat in order to run for a judgeship. He won easily.

Two years later a near riot occurred in Austin as a group of protesters stormed a saloon operating without a liquor license. Page, a leader of the local temperance movement, ordered the sheriff to make arrests and also asked men in the crowd to assist the sheriff. One of the men, Thomas Riley, refused Page's request.

Riley later became a deputy sheriff, and when he attempted to collect expenses from the county, Page ordered that the county refuse to pay him.

County Treasurer Ingmundson criticized Page for abusing judicial power. The next year Page ordered

a grand jury to investigate Ingmundson's office. When they failed to uncover any irregularities, Page sent them back ordering them to come out with an indictment, which they did not do. Page dismissed the jury and charged them with incompetence and ordered the county attorney to arrest Ingmundson. A jury later found the treasurer innocent of all charges against him.

As more and more of his detractors began to speak out, Page had them arrested for contempt. He charged the county attorney, Lafayette French, with libel, tried him, found him guilty, and suspended his law license.

In 1878, 26 citizens from Mower County presented a petition to the House of Representatives calling for the impeachment of Page. Following judiciary committee hearings, the full House, by a vote of 71-30, approved 10 articles of impeachment. Eight counts charged Page with malicious treatment of individuals.

Not one to go down without a fight, Page selected former Gov. Cushman Kellogg Davis to argue his case in front of the Senate. Davis contended that none of the charges reached the threshold of "corrupt crimes in office, and crimes and misdemeanors" as defined in the state's constitution. He said judgment against Page must be based upon his official actions as opposed to his personal matters.

Davis argued in order for the Senate to remove Page it had to be demonstrated "...he is not only a weak and erring man...not only that he has been impulsive beyond what you would have restrained yourselves to—but that he has deliberately, knowing his duty ... turned aside from that way and took the path of malice, injustice, partiality, bias, corruption."

A majority of senators found Page guilty on a few counts, but the necessary two-thirds vote was reached on none. Page returned to Austin and was defeated in the next election.

In 1880 a shot was fired into Page's living room window. Fragments of glass hit him in the side of the head and neck. A brother of Thomas Riley was arrested for the act.

Riley testified that he hated Page but that did not make him unique in the Austin community. Riley was found not guilty.

(D. MAEDA)

## ★ AGRICULTURE

### Dairy consultant program

"You bet" was the answer one Minnesota dairy farmer gave when asked if her business benefited from a state program which provides professional dairy consultants to state farmers.

Administered by the Department of Agriculture, the Dairy Diagnostic program tries to slow the exodus of state dairy producers and to help the remaining farmers become economically viable.

The teams include veterinarians, farm business management instructors, nutritionists, crop experts, University of Minnesota dairy specialists, and officials representing milk processing companies.

Christine Ott, co-owner and operator of Square Deal Dairy in Randolph, testified Jan. 23 before the House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee that the program "has made a huge difference in our dairy," she said.

Countering the downward trend in milk prices which troubles many Minnesota dairy producers, Ott said Square Deal has been able to raise the price of its milk because of improvements suggested by program consultants. She predicted that, given her farm's improved economic status, she expects to soon hire consultants privately, freeing up state resources for other dairy producers.

But not all had such praise for the program.

Committee Chair Rep. Robert Ness (R-Dassel) asked Mayer farmer Bob Dressen why there is not higher demand among dairy farmers for the free consultation service. Dressen said farmers were reluctant to expose themselves to potential criticism. "Most people are reluctant because you're opening yourself up to finding out weaknesses. No one wants to open up."

Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison) relayed the horror story of one constituent who was advised to leave dairy farming by Dairy Diagnostic consultants who said his farm could not be made economically viable.

Pointing his finger at Bruce Kleven representing the Minnesota Dairy Leaders Roundtable, a group which endorses the Dairy Diagnostic program, Peterson said, "We help people *in* dairy, not *out of* dairy. I don't want to hear any more (stories from disgruntled farmers)."

## ★ BANKING

### Banks seek tax breaks

Community banks and other financial institutions would receive a tax break under similar bills heard by the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division, Jan. 25.

HF67, sponsored by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) and HF119, sponsored by the division chair Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), would repeal the corporate franchise tax that applies to banks that have elected subchapter S status under the IRS tax code.

The division took no action on either bill but Harder said both would be considered for inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Prior to 1997, federal law did not permit financial institutions to elect S corporation status. That status allows businesses to be treated as partnerships for tax purposes, where the income of the business is directly taxed to its shareholders whether distributed or not.

Abrams said that since 1999 Minnesota banks have been allowed S corporation treatment for state tax purposes, except that the bank is subject to the corporate franchise tax and the shareholders are allowed a credit against the individual income tax equal to 80 percent of the corporate tax.

The two bills would allow those banks full conformity with the federal tax treatment.

Abrams said it is good tax policy whenever possible for the state tax laws to conform with federal tax laws and thus simplify the system.

He said the proposed change would effect about 1,500 people. The state Department of Revenue estimates the cost to be around \$5.3 million in fiscal year 2002.

Steve Johnson, representing the Minnesota Bankers Association, said the issue is a matter of fairness for banks to be treated the same as other main street businesses.

Linda Swanson, owner of the Blaine State Bank, said she started working at the bank when she was 20 years old as a bookkeeper and has seen the benefits of a community bank.

She said she had the opportunity to purchase the bank in 1998 due in large part to the changes allowing subchapter S status for banks.

"I look at our business as a small business first and a bank second," she said.

## ★ CHILDREN

### Department responds to audit

A recent legislative audit of early childhood education programs raised questions about how well these programs are accomplishing their goals and was critical of the lack of monitoring by the Department of Children, Families and Learning, the overseeing agency.

The three programs examined were Head Start, Early Childhood Family Education, and School Readiness. Excessively large balances in the ECFE reserve accounts of some districts were of particular concern.

Karen Carlson, assistant commissioner of the department, responded to questions about the report before the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee Jan. 22.

"We think this audit represents a fair picture of the three programs," Carlson said.

She outlined several ways in which the department differs with the report:

- Unlike the auditors, the department is convinced by research that early childhood programs improve later school performance;
- Structural differences among the programs make it hard to make direct comparisons; and
- The department would like to oversee program progress and funding more carefully but does not have the capacity to do so.

"I have a lot of concerns about this report," said Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin). "I think the department has a lot of work to do monitoring these programs and reporting on them."

Committee members agreed on two things. They would like to see the implementation of some form of tracking to determine the effectiveness of the programs over time. And they would like the department pay closer attention to the ways in which program funds are used.

## ★ CRIME

### CriMNet system progressing

The state's endeavor to create a criminal justice information system is moving forward, but there are still many pieces to add, state officials told the joint meeting of the House



Judiciary Finance and Crime Prevention committees Jan. 18.

The plan would link conviction, probation, sex offender registry, warrant, protection orders, pre-trial release and juvenile felony record information for all offenders from the 1,100 different law enforcement agencies across the state.

Currently, some of that information is available but it's usually incomplete.

Dale Good, information technology director for the state court system, said Minnesotans expect the state to know all of these things already, when that's not true.

"We have a broken system," he said. "There is no criminal justice single system in the state of Minnesota."

Good said the Legislature has funded several pieces of the system. But, he also said there needs to be more focus on what the local communities provide to the state system. If the exchange of information is incomplete from their end, the entire system will have holes.

For example, the state Bureau of Apprehension's system links offenders with their fingerprints. If their fingerprints are not available, then all the information about that offender goes into "suspense" and can't necessarily be accessed by law enforcement officers in the field.

One way the state has remedied the problem is in the creation of a new suspense file system housed on a secure Internet site to which law enforcement agencies across the state have access.

However, that suspense information is not accessible for such things as criminal background checks.

"It doesn't mean a thing for someone to do a background check when there's potential for 26,000 mistakes," said Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), in reference to the backlog of fingerprints waiting to be entered in the bureau's system.

Approximately \$13 million was appropriated for information system purposes in Katie's Law, passed by the 2000 Legislature. But the idea was actually born in the 1993 legislative session.

At that time a criminal justice information policy group was created to recommend the best course of action for developing a state-wide system.

Since then, many advancements have been made toward a statewide system, including additional electronic fingerprinting machines and other technological advancements.

Still, state officials have focused on helping local agencies understand how important their role in the process is.

"This is not about technology," said Charlie Weaver, commissioner of the state Department

## MCCL RALLY



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

An estimated 5,000 people rally in front of the State Capitol Jan. 22 to commemorate the *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973. The event was sponsored by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life.

of Public Safety. "The problem is that the data isn't getting in there or that the data in there isn't good. It isn't reliable. It's about changing the way people do their jobs every day."

## ★ EDUCATION

### Troubling math skills

Guests to a joint meeting of the House Education Policy and Higher Education Finance committees declared two specific reasons students in Minnesota are not excelling in math.

Lack of high expectations for students and proper math education at an early age might be key in determining why students in the state and around the rest of the country produced mediocre scores on a international test.

Bill Lender-Scholer, director of SciMath Minnesota, presented an overview of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) to the House Education Policy and House Higher Education Finance Committees Jan. 23. Members heard testimony on that day and Jan 25.

"Students cannot be high performing without high expectations," he said. "TIMSS reinforced that."

The study confirmed that Minnesota is not yet making progress in math. This was shown in test data released in December 2000 from the second test of the study taken in 1999. Fourth, eighth, and 12th grade students in the state were tested both years.

Lender-Scholer purported that teaching in the United States is less rigorous and said curricula have little depth as compared to other countries.

Additionally, Sharon Stenglein, a math specialist with the department of Children, Families and Learning, said "high performing countries focus on fewer topics, spend more



Joane McKay, dean of the College of Education at St. Cloud State University, explains math pedagogical techniques in higher education institutions during a Jan. 25 joint meeting of the House Education Policy and Higher Education Finance committees.

## PLANNED PARENTHOOD NEWS CONFERENCE



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

In recognition of the 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the Minnesota Pro-Choice Education Coalition launched a public education campaign Jan. 22. Participating were, *left to right*, Tim Stanley, executive director, Minnesota NARAL Foundation; Amy Brugh, public affairs organizer, Planned Parenthood Action Fund; Pat Sandin, executive director, Midwest Health Center for Women; and Linnea House, development director, ProChoice Resources.

time on them, and keep the topic in the curriculum for less time.”

For example, she said all eighth-grade teachers in Minnesota who responded to a survey said they spend at least some time teaching the meaning and operation of whole numbers, a concept taught in elementary school.

The two committees met together in hopes for a “better alignment between K-12 and higher education math,” according to House Higher Education Finance Chair Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley).

Part of the problem for the average test scores, Stenglein said, is memorization of subject matter but not use and application.

“Many students are not prepared,” she said. “They have learned the content, but forget and are no longer able to demonstrate learning.”

Mary Moreira, who teaches math to 10th-12th graders in the Robbinsdale school district, agreed.

“They come to us in ninth grade ill-prepared,” she said.

Moreira, a teacher of 12 years, pointed to a learning shortfall at an earlier stage.

“We have elementary teachers who don’t like math,” she said.

Joane McKay, dean of the College of Education at St. Cloud State University, said St. Cloud’s program includes a math lab with tutors for students with a “math phobia,” and students are taught by an elementary-methods teacher who has a background in math.

Many teachers, Moreira said, took the minimum math requirement in college. When they reach the classroom they generally teach math “by the book” and don’t know different ways to approach the subject matter.

Stanglein said that may be a matter of time as elementary educators teach many subjects, while in other countries a teacher may only teach one or two.

Moreira, also a longtime school board member, said school administrators, including herself, have not given students the education they deserve.

“Partly we want to be nice,” she said. “With good intentions we have allowed them to do less than they’re capable of.”

## ★ ELECTIONS

### House approves board members

The House gave advice and consent approval Jan. 18 to four governor nominees to the State Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

Three of the nominees, Shirley Chase, Wilbur Fluegel, and Donald Roggenbauer have previously served on the board. Their confirmation is to affirm reappointment to the board. Gov. Jesse Ventura nominated the fourth, former state Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls), to fill a seat vacated by former congressman Tim Penny.

The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board is a service and regulatory agency that administers and enforces state laws about public officials financial interests and potential conflicts of interest, as well as overseeing lobbying expenditures.

Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) expressed concern that none of the board members is from a rural community and that all are from the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Chase is from Little Canada, Fluegel is from Minneapolis, and Roggenbauer calls Maple Grove home.

Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), chair of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee, said members of that committee expressed similar concerns while hearing testimony from the nominees.

Rhodes said Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) would be introducing a bill shortly to address the lack of rural representation on the board.

Current state law requires the six-member board be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of three-fifths of both the House and Senate. Two board members must be former members of the Legislature from different political parties.

The law also requires that two members must be people who have not been public officials, held any political party office other than precinct delegate, or been elected to public office for which party designation is required by law. No more than three of the board members may support the same political party and no member may currently serve as a lobbyist.

The candidates now must have their nominations approved by the Senate.

### Ensuring every vote

Replacing poor election equipment will not address the primary issues lingering from last fall’s presidential election, the state’s head election official said.

“What’s broken is the public’s confidence,” Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer told the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Jan. 24. “We need to restore that confidence.”

Kiffmeyer and her staff gave an overview of the office’s election division. Bradley King, the office’s election director, said his staff fielded more than 4,000 calls the week prior to the election and more than 6,000 on election day.

“That’s an average of a call every few seconds, 24 hours a day,” King said.

Minnesota was the first state to provide results down to the precinct level via the Internet on election night. Ninety-eight percent of the



results were available by 3 a.m. the next day, King said.

Kiffmeyer said the difficulties facing Florida election officials would not happen to their counterparts in Minnesota because the state does not allow the use of punch card voting systems. However, she said, the equipment Minnesota uses has its own issues in regard to making sure each voter has equal assurances their ballot is ultimately counted.

About 92 percent of Minnesota voters cast their ballots on optical scan equipment, with the remaining 8 percent counting ballots by hand. But Kiffmeyer said even those communities with optical scan equipment face different assurances of having their ballot counted.

Two-thirds of the precincts with optical scan machines have ballot counters at the polling place and therefore a voter who mismarks the ballot has the opportunity to correct the ballot before leaving, she said.

But the other one-third mark their optical scan ballot that is later counted at a central location, usually the county government center. Those voters do not have the same chance to correct a ballot.

Kiffmeyer said this raises the questions about whether the state complies with the equal protection concerns raised in the Florida situation.

## ★ ENERGY

### Gas relief in sight?

Natural gas prices, while expected to slightly decrease by next year, are not expected to be significantly reduced any time soon, commerce representatives told members of the House Regulated Industries Committee Jan. 22.

Representatives heard from several local energy companies on the current natural gas situation and potential ways to assist customers with high heating bills.

Xcel Energy's Pat Boland, manager of low-income assistance programs, said his company has been working with "different groups" to find strategies to manage high energy prices, yet the need for assistance is tremendous.

"Unfortunately, the impacts of this winter go beyond low-income households," he said.

Brad Holland, director of customer service for Minnegasco, said his company offers flexible payment plans and encourages customers to participate in energy conservation plans. Minnegasco is also working with the Salvation Army, asking their customers to donate money to the Heat Share program to assist people in greatest need.

Kim Rezek from the Department of

Economic Security said her office has received one additional increase to appropriations from Congress, and three releases from the president's emergency contingency fund to aid low-income households. Rezek's office runs a federally funded block grant service that helps people in need to pay heating bills, awarding an average grant of \$475.

Through the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Rezek says the department plans to serve 18,000 additional households. The program, which currently runs on a first come, first serve basis, is being evaluated to consider prioritizing for the neediest.

After relatively mild winters due to El Nino and La Nina, weather experts have now predicted normal, or cold, winters for the next few years, commerce officials say. The forecast includes the entire country, as more than just the northern states have experienced colder weather this winter.

"The \$2 to \$3 (per thousand cubic feet that customers have been paying) in the past couple years has been undervalued," said Marya White, from the energy division of the Commerce Department. Currently, natural gas is costing consumers \$11.11 per thousand cubic feet, compared to \$3.64 one year ago.

Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) suggested the committee was not getting at the root of the issue at hand.

"We're not addressing the rising price problem," Lieder said. "We can't just help people pay their bills if the cost is only going to rise."

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### DNR a winner in lottery

Last year, the Legislature granted the Department of Natural Resources a new funding source in the form of the 6.5 percent in-lieu sales tax on lottery tickets. Previously, this money went to the general fund.

Targeted for natural resources programs, one-half goes to the Heritage Fund, which includes fisheries and wildlife, and the other one-half to the Natural Resources Fund, which includes parks, trails, and zoos.

"We gave the DNR great discretion in the use of these funds," said Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee. The fund budget for fiscal year 2001 is nearly \$25.5 million.

DNR Deputy Commissioner Steve Morse presented a budget allocation report for the program to committee Jan. 24.

The agency developed a spending plan after meeting with employees, stakeholders, and lawmakers. It covers a wide range of projects.

The \$12.7 million allotment for the Natural Resources Fund was divided between state and metropolitan parks and trails. It was earmarked for a broad spectrum of services from park operations to environmental education.

Of the \$12.7 million in the Heritage Fund, fisheries received \$4.8 million, of which almost one-half was designated for the acquisition of parcels to complete aquatic management areas and provide access to trout streams.

An equivalent amount of the Heritage Fund went to wildlife, about one-half of which, \$2.55 million, was used to acquire wildlife management areas. The remaining \$2.2 million was designated for habitat development, restoration, and conservation.

Ecological services received \$1 million, which has been designated for such projects as river and floodplain restoration and dam modification.

Enforcement received \$1.7 million. Much of that will go for equipping and training conservation officers.

Committee members voiced a number of concerns about staffing. In particular, they challenged Morse to be more aggressive in recruiting women and minorities.

"The record of the department is dismal," said Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul). "The agency has to get these people on board."

Morse said diversity was a goal, but the department was having difficulties attracting minorities.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) said the DNR should have "no trouble whatsoever" recruiting women with college degrees at the salary range they offer.

## ★ GAMBLING

### Big bucks bet in 2000

Gambling remains a highly lucrative industry in the state, according to the director of the Minnesota State Lottery.

George Andersen told the House Government Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Jan. 22 that last year was the most profitable yet, bringing in more than \$397 million in revenue. The lottery began in 1990.

By comparison \$1.5 billion was bet at charitable gambling venues in 2000 with \$73 million wagered on horse racing at Canterbury Park. Andersen said the state estimates there was about \$1 billion spent on illegal gambling activities in Minnesota, primarily organized sports betting.

Andersen said he expects lottery revenues to decrease over the next year due to rising gas prices. He said many sales are made at gas stations where patrons use change leftover

from their purchase of gas to buy a lottery ticket.

Retailers of lottery tickets made more than \$27.1 million in 2000, an average of \$8,336 per outlet. Retailers earn 5.5 cents for every dollar in lottery products they sell. They also collect 1 percent of each winning ticket redeemed at their location.

Andersen said the agency estimates it loses more than \$5 million in sales annually because the state does not allow holiday-related games. He said Minnesota is the only state among the 37 that have lotteries to impose this restriction due to concerns with using religious-related imagery in its games.

He said the largest amount of revenue goes to paying out prizes — \$241 million in 2000 and \$2.2 billion since the lottery began. The net proceeds from lottery sales are divided between the state's general fund and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, amounting to more than \$590 million and \$255 million respectively during the past decade.

Since its inception, the lottery has also allocated more than \$11.5 million to the Department of Human Services for problem gambling programs. Andersen said a 1996 University of Minnesota study showed that very few compulsive gamblers in treatment named the lottery as their preferred form of gambling.

## ★ GAME & FISH

### Overlimit penalties proposed

Legislators are considering a bill that would provide criminal penalties for people who “grossly” violate existing limits on fish and game. The bill designates the severity of the offense based on the monetary restitution value of the overhunted or overfished game, a dollar amount meant to reimburse the state for the loss of wildlife.

In its current form, HF94 establishes a felony penalty for taking animals with a restitution value of \$5,000 or more. Any lesser value could lead to a gross misdemeanor charge.

However, one of the bill's authors has already offered an amendment so that the maximum conviction would be gross misdemeanor. Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) told a Jan. 25 assembly of the House Crime Prevention Committee that the Department of Natural Resources was in favor of moderating the original proposal.

The bill would also allow conservation officers to arrest and take into custody those they discover breaking the law. A violator's

hunting or fishing license would also be suspended for an amount of time based on the total restitution value of the animals killed.

For example, a person found taking three deer over the limit would be arrested, immediately have their game and fish licenses suspended, and conservation officers would seize their equipment and vehicles. A conviction would lead to a \$1,500 fine and the revocation of all fishing and game licenses for five years. It would also be considered a gross misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$3,000 fine.

Currently, the maximum penalty for overlimit violations is \$700, a fee often paid on the spot by violators. According to Haas, many violators resume fishing almost immediately.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) expressed his concern that tourism could suffer if out-of-state hunters and anglers got the message that Minnesota strictly enforced limit laws already in effect. “Maybe this is too harsh,” he said.

Rep. Dale Walz (R-Brainerd) disagreed, saying that responsible, desirable tourism would benefit from the protection the bill would help enforce. “I don't think this will deter tourism, it will protect it,” he said.

Haas added “all the major sporting group in the state are behind this.”

The bill remains in the Crime Prevention committee in part to allow its supporters more time to clarify the powers granted to conservation officers who discover violators.

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### Tight hold on the billfold

In an effort to caution state agencies of hopes for a high budget, State Government Finance Committee Chair Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) presented a fiscal appropriations bill (HF218) much earlier in the session than the bill has ever appeared previously.

Typically a finance committee hears proposals from state agencies over the course of the session and compiles them into one omnibus spending bill.

Krinkie's bill appropriates \$135 million less than the governor's recommendations. Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget proposes to spend \$791 million, compared to the bill's \$656 million.

“We are going to learn, once again, that Chair Krinkie is much more fiscally conservative than the governor,” Krinkie said at the Jan. 25 committee meeting.

The committee took no action on the bill.

Krinkie has chaired the committee since 1999 and served on it two years prior to that. He said there has always been confusion in

regard to operating objectives.

“I wanted to lay before the committee a starting point for the level (a state) agency is funded,” and prompt more ongoing evaluation of increased spending needs in areas such as salary, health care, and rent, he said in an interview.

Krinkie said he wants the bill to “show that the governor is proposing substantial increases, and give a side-by-side comparison” to show differences between the two. Krinkie's “starting point” is tremendously less than the governor's projections for several state agencies.

Funding for the Office of Technology in Krinkie's bill, for instance, falls more than \$28 million behind the governor's budget. Spending for the Department of Administration, under the bill's proposal would be \$39 million less than Ventura's plan.

Few of the bill's recommendations appear higher than the governor's and total less than \$1 million.

Another of his intentions with the bill, Krinkie said, is to forewarn members that what the committee did not fund in 1999, it will still not fund. “There is going to be greater scrutiny on agencies that have been examined closely before,” he said.

State agencies will have a bigger challenge presenting their budget requests since HF218 already establishes different priorities than the governor's proposal.

“The reason for early introduction of (HF)218 is to lay down budget principles,” he said.

## ★ HEALTH

### Home health care

The growth in home health care is giving headaches to the agencies that regulate it.

“It is ironic that when we have a trend toward use of more home-based services almost all our dollars are committed to nursing home regulations,” said Linda Sutherland, director of the Facility and Provider Compliance Division of the Minnesota Department of Health.

Speaking before the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee Jan. 23, Sutherland said if it was up to her to decide how federal funding was allocated, she would spend less on regulating nursing homes and more on home health care.

Other officials agreed that while complaints about home care are growing in number, the resources to address them are very limited.

Most of the growing pains in home health care relate directly to staff shortages. It's not unusual for personal care assistants to show up late, and sometimes not at all, leaving vulnerable people to fend for themselves, according to Sutherland.

"Work force issues pervade all the problems in health care," she said.

A health care staffing crisis has led employers to hire people they would not have considered in the past, said Jerry Kerber, director of licensing for the state Department of Human Services. The agency does background checks on people who provide direct personal care; it has disqualified people at increasing rates over the past nine years.

In addition to complaints to agencies, individuals who have concerns about publicly licensed and regulated programs can turn to a state ombudsman for help.

An ombudsman will teach individuals about their rights and help them to advocate on their own behalf, said Sharon Zoesch, from the office of Ombudsman for Older Minnesotans. She said that 83 percent of complaints reported to her office are successfully resolved.

"We focus on real people with real lives," said Roberta Opheim, ombudsman for mental health and mental retardation. She emphasized that her staff try to resolve issues before they become candidates for regulatory agencies.

## HIGHER EDUCATION



### Students may pay more

Gov. Jesse Ventura's commitment to higher education is in question by members of the House Higher Education Finance Committee.

At its Jan. 24 meeting, the committee members took turns questioning Ventura's proposal for post-secondary institutions.

The unpleasantness centered around proposed allocations for the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities — \$40 million to each in the form of faculty and staff compensation.

The amounts equal two-thirds of the total compensation increase. The remaining one-third is scheduled to come from tuition increases. State Budget Director Peggy Ingison said traditionally the state pays for two-thirds of instruction costs, with the rest coming from tuition.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said this proposal "looks like a passing of the buck to students." He said the only way post-secondary institutions may be able to meet their needs are through tuition increases or layoffs.

Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr. (DFL-Winona) said students at Winona State University were already facing a 7 percent tuition hike for next year, but now that number is expected to be 15 percent. "My assumption is it may be more at other campuses. This is not unfortunate, it is tragic."

Ingison reminded members that Ventura's

other tax cuts will put money back in families' pockets so they can do what is best for them.

At least one legislator was a bit more optimistic. Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) said he thinks the Legislature will ultimately end up passing a good higher education bill. "I'm thrilled at the adventure ahead of us."

Ventura's higher education budget proposal is 4.8 percent (\$126 million) higher than fiscal year 2000-01. The recommendation includes a net increase in \$99.2 million in new initiatives. The increase to the University of Minnesota is \$49 million more than last biennium, \$41 million more to MnSCU, and \$10 million more to the Higher Education Services Office.

Stewart McMullan, executive budget officer, said higher education institutions requested \$519 million in funding, 19.3 percent more than the previous biennium.

Among the highlights of the governor's plan are \$8 million to the University of Minnesota to stabilize core funding at its medical school, \$7 million from the Workforce Development Fund to MnSCU to create regional programs that address critical workforce needs in each region, and new spending of more than \$30 million for financial aid.

The governor also included \$68.3 million for the University of Minnesota, and \$86.4 million for MnSCU, in his bonding proposal, primarily for building maintenance.

### Operating cost help

The University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will soon be seeking funds for operational costs.

But private college officials are urging legislators to not focus solely on public institutions.

Before the House Higher Education Finance Committee Jan. 19, David Laird, president of the Minnesota Private College Council, spoke about policy concerns and issues regarding higher education in general.

"There is no better investment return anywhere in society than a college degree," he said, adding Minnesota needs strong, diverse, and adaptive educational institutions to maintain its competitive edge in the economy.

Using numbers from the Minnesota Department of Economic Security, Laird noted that state employment is expected to increase by more than 400,000 jobs through 2016, with 59 percent of those positions expected to be in occupations requiring at least a college degree.

Laird did spend a little time addressing the value Minnesotans receive from private colleges: an average of 60 percent of students remain in Minnesota after graduation (including 80 percent in 1999), private colleges and universities employ more than 10,000 people,

and taxpayers save \$200 million when undergraduate state students attend private colleges instead of public universities.

However, he urged the 2001 Legislature to consider three ways to ensure greater investments in higher education, both public and private, to bring maximum returns.

Raising the ire of at least one member was a recommendation to "double the direct investment in Minnesota students by increasing to 20 percent the share of state funding that flows to them through the Minnesota State Grant Program," Laird said.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), committee chair, said she was "troubled that the state private colleges are asking the state to double the state grant fund when it would be at the expense of public education."

Laird's other two recommendations were: that the state increase funding to \$5 million annually for a program that helps prepare middle and high school students for college, particularly for those from low-income families with parents who did not attend a post-secondary institution; and develop fair and equitable indicators of all colleges and universities in the state, and use that information to direct state subsidies in the most appropriate way.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT



### Pay for protection

Getting a day job in the city of Mahtomedi might be a bit more attractive to potential paramedic candidates under a bill heard by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Jan. 24.

The bill (HF172), sponsored by Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), gives the city the authority to provide housing assistance for volunteer firefighters with paramedic credentials.

Mares said the legislation is necessary because of a precedent established by a 1952 opinion from the state attorney general. The opinion held that the city of Newport did not have the authority to provide living quarters to its police chief unless the Legislature granted special authority.

City Administrator Jon Hohenstein said Mahtomedi has had a difficult time finding volunteer firefighters because most of the department's members work outside the community during the day and there is a small employer base from which to recruit other daytime volunteers.

Todd Rogers, the city's fire chief, said the bill would give the city one potential solution to a larger problem.

"If the program is successful, it would be another tool of recruitment," he said.

The city council recently approved a \$390 a month stipend to new recruits who agree to work dayshifts, along with making themselves available on other days.

Remi Stone, from the League of Minnesota Cities, said the league has heard from at least six other cities — including Balaton, Excelsior, Roseville, Shoreview, and St. Cloud — with a similar problem. She said those cities have expressed interest in what is being proposed in the bill to address their own public safety employee shortages.

The league is now researching the issues of expanding the idea statewide.

Mares said he has sought a new opinion from the attorney general that may mean the bill is not even necessary and the city may proceed without legislation.

The committee took no action on the bill but Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings), the committee chair, said further hearings on the matter would occur once the attorney general's office has issued its opinion and the League of Minnesota Cities has determined the statewide benefits of a similar bill.

## ★ RECREATION

### Expansion of trails

With almost 17,000 miles of snowmobile trails, Minnesota has one of the largest systems in the country. Now, advocates of other off-highway vehicles (OHVs) would like the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop similar trail systems for their use.

The status of trail development and funding for the vehicles in Minnesota's forests was addressed at the Jan. 22 meeting of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance committee.

The vehicles under discussion include all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), 4X4 trucks, and off-highway motorcycles.

"It will be an ongoing challenge to keep user conflicts to a low level," said Dennis Asmussen, director of trails and waterways for the DNR. "There are increasing opportunities for users to irritate each other."

The planning process for off-highway vehicle trails is underway and involves four points, he told the committee:

- Prevention of environmental damage;
- Enforcement of rules;
- Paying attention to non-motorized needs; and
- Off-trail riding.

Stakeholders from user groups agreed on the importance of these guidelines.

"We have recognized and advocated for some time that ATV use needs to be registered

and managed similar to snowmobiles," said Sonia Bartz, president of the All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota. She said the effort to designate all-terrain vehicle trails in the state has "not been painless," but the group has tried to honor the process.

Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) asked about education and safety training programs. Bartz said safety is important to the group and they intend to focus on it after the trails are established.

Don Youngdahl, legislative chair of the Amateur Riders Motorcycle Association, pointed out that about 90 percent of the trails they want to use for off-highway vehicles already exist and need mostly signage, rerouting, and maintenance.

The economic impact on Minnesota's economy from the building and use of off-road vehicles was a common theme of discussion.

Doug Franzer of the Minnesota United Snowmobilers' Association said the Department of Tourism estimates the economic impact of snowmobiling on the state's economy at \$148 million.

Mitchell Johnson, ATV division manager of Polaris, said his Minnesota company employs 3,500 people and had \$1.3 billion in sales in 1999. He said their ATV business is three times that of their snowmobile business.

Not everyone wants to see such a trail system built. Gene Larimore, speaking for the Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation, told the committee his group believes off-highway vehicle use violates two principles of state land use: to protect the resource and minimize conflict among users of public land. The group wants an environmental assessment done before any such trails are built.

## ★ TAXES

### Checks in the mail?

As has been the case the past two years, many Minnesotans could receive a check from the Department of Revenue this year in the form of a sales tax rebate as provided in two separate bills heard by the House Taxes Committee Jan. 24.

Rep. Dale Walz (R-Brainerd) said his bill (HF2) would fulfill a promise to the taxpayers of the state.



Mitchell D. Johnson, the ATV division manager for Polaris Industries, tells the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee about the contribution his company brings to the economy of the state and the need for ATV trails. The committee was hearing trail development and funding proposals from the Department of Natural Resources.

"It is very important to rebate the money back to the people who paid it in," Walz said. "Families could use the rebate for home repairs, vacations, or unfortunately as may be the case, catching up on overdue fuel heating bills."

The bill is similar to legislation passed in 1999 and 2000 providing for an automatic rebate in which eligible recipients are not required to file any forms to receive a check.

The bill would provide for a sales tax based rebate totaling \$924.5 million. Residents who were not claimed as dependents and who filed a 1999 Minnesota tax return would be eligible as would Minnesota residents at least 18 years old who received social security income.

Current law already designates the money to a rebate, but the Legislature must determine the basis for the rebate.

As with last year's rebate, dependents with at least \$1 of income tax liability would receive a rebate equal to 35 percent of the amount for single filers.

Under Walz's bill the maximum rebate amount would be \$3,400 for joint filers and \$1,700 for single filers. The minimum would be \$240 for married couples and \$136 for single filers.

The committee chair, Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) presented a similar bill (HF48). Abrams said his bill addresses a couple of issues that came up in the state's first two sales tax rebates.

One issue is that individuals or married couples who received social security or public pension benefits are eligible for a rebate of \$136 individually. But those same people may also be eligible for a rebate based on whether they filed a Minnesota income tax return in 1999. The bill specifies in that instance the recipient receives the larger of the two amounts.

The committee took no action on either bill

but Abrams said both will be considered for inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

### Provider tax may be axed

For the past few sessions several bills have been introduced reducing, reforming, or repealing the health care provider tax. But because the tax helps fund the insurance program for lower income Minnesotans, lawmakers have not been able to agree on how to deal with it.

So perhaps it was a symbolic sign of some kind that something is different this year when the fire alarm sounded during the House Taxes Committee hearing Jan. 23, providing a brief interruption in testimony from a variety of groups supporting a bill that would eliminate the tax.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), sponsor of the measure (HF14) said efforts to eliminate the tax have received "enthusiastic support from members on both sides," and he said his bill attempts to address concerns raised in the past.

Bradley said the bill would credit one-time and ongoing tobacco settlement payments to the health care access fund and eliminate the provider tax and premium tax on nonprofit health plan companies. The bill would require health care providers to lower rates reflective of the savings resulting from the elimination of the taxes and document their compliance with the rate reduction requirement.

"This is a desire to get rid of a regressive and very unpopular tax," Bradley said.

The bill requires the commissioner of the Department of Revenue to set the provider tax rates beginning in 2002 based on Department of Finance budget estimates regarding the balance of the health care access fund. If there is no deficit forecast, no taxes would be imposed under the measure. If a deficit is predicted, the commissioner would determine the rate by reinstating the tax in one-quarter of 1 percent increments up to 2 percent.

Currently the provider tax rate is set at 1.5 percent and is scheduled to increase to 2 percent starting Jan. 1, 2002 if no changes in the law take place.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) offered an amendment, supported by Bradley, clarifying the reporting and enforcement requirements to make sure the tax reduction ultimately means lower rates for consumers. The amendment was adopted but no further action was taken on the bill.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), committee chair, said the bill would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

### Special vote for new taxes

Raising taxes would require a supermajority vote of the Legislature under a bill approved by the House Taxes Committee Jan. 24.

HF12, sponsored by Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo), proposes a constitutional amendment asking voters if a three-fifths vote in each house of the Legislature should be required on bills that would increase the state income, sales, and property taxes, as well as state fees and surcharges.

"The Taxpayer's Protection Act does not solve all problems in state government," Lipman said. "It is a needed improvement and it is not a radical change.... It is a modest reform and a needed reform."

Lipman said the bill would impose a similar restriction on the Legislature's ability to raise taxes as is already in place with its ability to pass legislation that incurs debt. A three-fifths vote is required on bonding bills.

Similar supermajority requirements are already required in 12 states with eight of those states requiring an even tougher standard, a two-thirds or a three-fourths vote.

Lipman said the bill would limit the state's power to tax family budgets and help ensure that tax increases are only used as a last resort.

Under the proposal, voters would decide on the constitutional amendment in the 2002 general election.

Tom Pritchard, the president of the Minnesota Family Council, said the group supports the bill because it reduces family budgetary burdens.

"Families are ultimately the ones who pay taxes," Pritchard said.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said the bill was "anti-democracy" because it allows a minority vote to ultimately decide the issue if it receives less than 60 percent approval, thereby killing the bill. He said that states that impose the supermajority requirement such as California have seen a decline in the quality of their schools.

"I don't think it's necessary. We've spent the past five or six years cutting taxes," Dawkins said.

Rep. Michelle Rifenberg (R-La Crescent) said she supported the measure because it addresses an "important point — whose money is it, the government's or the taxpayers?"

The bill now travels to the House Ways and Means Committee.

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### Improving bus safety

Minnesota may soon add to the list of offenses that prevent some convicts from being allowed to drive school buses.

The House Transportation Policy

Committee forwarded a bill to the House floor Jan. 23 that would bar those convicted of certain offenses from obtaining the endorsement necessary to drive. The crimes would include illegal use of minors in sexual performance, possession of child pornography, and the dissemination and display of harmful material to minors.

Representatives approved the increased restrictions following testimony from Chaska Police Chief Scott Knight that his department had arrested a school bus driver who had illegally obtained official permission to drive. According to Knight, the driver altered his name slightly while making a job application, so state employees did not discover his criminal record, which included a prior conviction of child molestation. "He didn't even change his birth date," Knight said.

Dennis Lazenberry, pupil transportation safety director at the state Department of Public Safety, told the committee his department conducts state-mandated background checks on all applicants. He conceded the applicant had eluded detection by simply modifying his name.

The department currently relies on fingerprinting to discover convicted applicants who alter their names, but only those applicants who moved to Minnesota within the previous five years have been fingerprinted. The technique allows the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to better search applicants' criminal histories for disqualifying convictions in other states.

Rep. Dan Larson (DFL-Bloomington) expressed his disapproval of a system that he sees as allowing inappropriate applicants to win endorsements.

"We depend on the state to conduct background checks. It's a false sense of security," he said, promising to examine the possibility of mandating fingerprinting for all new applicants. The department currently fingerprints under its own policy; doing so is not required under state law.

## Where to find information

### House Public Information Office

175 State Office Building  
(651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

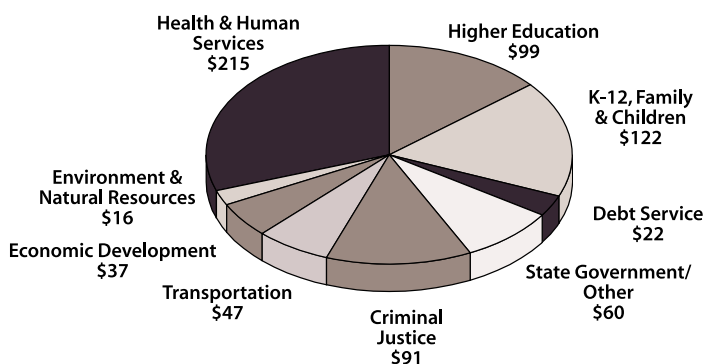
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## Recommended New Spending for 2002-03

\$709 Million Increase



Source: Department of Finance

### Continued from page 4

- a 13 percent increase in criminal justice dollars, including \$27 million for CriMNet, a system that shares criminal information between state and local jurisdictions;
- \$13.8 million to provide health care coverage to more low-income children by simplifying health care programs in the General Fund and Health Care Access Fund;
- \$489 million for K-12 education, a 4.4 percent increase, including \$10 million for teacher recruitment strategies, and \$15 million for schools and districts that try alternative approaches to compensating teachers, focusing more on performance than on seniority;
- a 4.8 percent increase (\$126 million) in higher education funding, including \$14 million to increase financial aid for low income independent, non-traditional, and part-time students, \$11 million to increase the period someone is eligible for the State Grant program, and \$8 million to stabilize core funding for the University of Minnesota Medical School;
- \$95 million for transportation, including \$33.1 million for public transit assistance in 64 Greater Minnesota counties.

Other proposed spending could be categorized as "taking from Paul to give to Peter."

"My budget redirects \$73 million from nursing homes into an \$82 million initiative to expand community-based health care services," Ventura said. "By creating incentives for nursing facility downsizing, more options will be available to help our elderly remain in their homes or live independently."

However, according to Wheelock's presentation, many of those allocations will not be available until fiscal year 2003 because they already received extra funding from the 2000 Legislature for the current fiscal year.

That's because the Legislature didn't heed the governor's request for no additional funding during the previous session, Wheelock said, and he built that into his budget proposal.

Ventura finished his Jan. 23 presentation with a challenge to lawmakers.

"I am recommending a capital budget this year because I believe the Legislature can get both the capital and operating budgets done in one session."

In submitting a \$504 million capital budget, the governor said his goal is to eliminate next year's legislative session.

He warned legislators if they send a capital budget to his office at the end of session, but don't adjourn *sine die*, they will risk a veto of the entire package.

During Ways and Means committee discussion of the governor's budget, Wheelock re-emphasized the governor's goals of keeping spending down.

However, members questioned the veracity of some numbers within the presentation and accused the governor of using account-

ing tricks to make his budget appear as if it didn't significantly increase state spending.

For example, House Speaker Steve Sviggum asked Wheelock to address the governor's contention that the Legislature increased spending by 16 percent in the previous biennium and whether it is fair to compare that figure with the governor's proposed spending increase of 5.4 percent.

"You know that I am mostly supportive of the governor's budget," Sviggum said. "But I'm also sensitive to the fact that the governor said we (the Legislature) increased spending by 16 percent in the last biennium. ... Let's compare apples to apples."

Wheelock said the previous spending increase by the Legislature was probably closer to 13 percent, though officials contend that does not hold with how the governor's recommendations and Legislature's actions were compared historically.

During the presentation, Wheelock outlined several other areas that will benefit from the budget, including using various other state funds and endowments, such as tobacco settlement payments.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), chair of the committee, said the governor should include those funds as state spending and use proper terms to compare how his recommendations have increased over the previous biennium.

Bishop then told Wheelock to admonish the governor to use the proper numbers. He said he thinks the public perceives all spending to come from the general fund, when that is only a part of the numerous funds in the state coffers.

"I think that was misleading and a hit at the Legislature," Bishop said.

However, Bishop concluded by saying that the budget does reflect a lot of hard work on behalf of the executive branch.

Ventura's budget priorities emphasized helping Minnesota compete with other states and

nationally. But Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) said it's important to not curtail the power of service-related businesses, which made significant contributions to the economic boon Minnesota has experienced in recent years.

"What we'll be looking for are unintended consequences of this proposal," she said. "By suddenly shifting the costs to those (service-related) firms, we immediately shut them down."



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

State Finance Commissioner Pam Wheelock uses several graphs to present Gov. Jesse Ventura's biennial budget during a Jan. 24 hearing of the House Ways and Means Committee.

## 'One session, one budget'

Legislators wrestle with Ventura's capital investment plan in what's typically a non-bonding year

BY MARY KAY WATSON

**G**ov. Jesse Ventura presented his 2002 capital budget in 2001, with the caveat to lawmakers that his approval of any capital bonding this year is contingent on their agreement to hold a single session each biennium instead of meeting annually.

"This budget is based 100 percent on (Ventura's) initiative of 'one session—one budget,'" Lee Mehrkens, capital budget coordinator for the Department of Finance, told the House Capital Investment Committee Jan. 23.

In keeping with the proposal made in his State-of-the-State address, the governor presented a \$576 million capital bonding plan in a year that would typically see only a small budget for bonding.

In the past, the governor presented the biennial operating budget in odd years and the capital bonding budget in even years.

In 2000, Ventura's strategic capital budget plan was for \$462 million, of which \$401 million was to come from general obligation bonds.

In 1999, a non-bonding year, the Legislature approved about \$150 million in new projects, and in both 1997 and 1995, bonding for projects was less than \$100 million.

This year, of the \$576 million recommendation, \$504 million would come from general obligation bonds. Other funding sources include \$2 million from the general fund, \$27 million from the trunk highway fund, \$8 million from the solid waste fund, and \$35 million from user-financed bonds.

State bonding is intended for major construction projects, such as for highways and buildings, particularly state university and college facilities.

The governor's bonding proposal for this year hinges on his conviction that "the state should adequately maintain its current buildings before adding new ones."

The underlying principles of this plan are preservation of state assets and facilities.

"The governor's budget focuses on the three R's," Mehrkens summed up. "Repair, renovation, and replacement."

Over time, repairs to state-owned property have fallen well behind what is needed. Commonly referred to as the "capital iceberg," this deferred maintenance backlog is estimated at more than \$1.5 billion by the Department of Administration.

In keeping with his view of government's role as a steward of public assets, Ventura has proposed a capital budget that allocates \$365.3 million, about 60 percent of the total, to asset preservation and replacement projects.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Lee Mehrkens, Department of Finance capital budget coordinator, presents the governor's 2001 capital budget proposal to the House Capital Investment Committee Jan. 23.

"The idea is to fix up what we've got and make it more workable," Mehrkens said.

The remaining 40 percent of the capital budget, \$210.7 million, would be committed to strategic investments consistent with what the governor calls his "Big Plan." Several of these projects take advantage of federal funding opportunities.

### Transportation

The largest single allocation is for \$115 million for the state's share of the Northstar Commuter Rail line between St. Cloud and downtown Minneapolis. With the federal appropriation for this project due to expire in September 2002, "time is of the essence" to approve this funding, according to Mehrkens.

Of the \$115 million, \$7 million would be available immediately, with the remainder available only when federal funding is in place.

The proposed Northstar project would use existing rail corridors for an 80-mile, 12-station commuter rail line that would act as a link in the governor's vision of a multi-modal transportation system for Minnesota.

Other transportation-related projects include \$37.2 million for the repair, renovation, or replacement of three state transportation buildings and \$30 million for repair and replacement of local bridges.

### Education

Higher education accounts for \$154.7 million of the governor's capital budget. Included in this amount are the following:

- \$75 million to Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) for safety and statutory compliance, repairs, and mechanical improvements on its 53 campuses;
- \$50 million for health and safety improvements, improved access, and infrastructure repairs at University of Minnesota campuses;
- \$18.3 million for upgrades to U of M plant growth facilities and science lab design for the Duluth campus; and
- \$11.4 million for the remodeling of science labs and buildings on MnSCU campuses.

Continued on page 31

# Playing by what rules?

Bill seeks to clarify ethics laws for constitutional officers, including the governor, as state employees

By DAVID MAEDA

**A** cynic might say that the words “ethics” and “government official” are not often found in the same sentence.

But the state’s code of ethics for its government employees dates back to 1959. And now lawmakers are grappling with the question of whether Gov. Jesse Ventura should be able to referee wrestling matches or do color commentary for football games while in office or if taking such outside employment opportunities violates the code of ethics.

The issue was before the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee Jan. 19 as members heard a bill that would prohibit Ventura, and five others, from holding outside jobs.

The committee did not vote on the measure but will continue taking testimony and discussing it.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), the sponsor of HF111, said he believes the governor is already bound by the existing ethics code for state employees, but the bill would clarify that the six constitutional officers (governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer, and attorney general) are indeed state employees.

“I’m not here to try to prohibit or eliminate the potential earning income of any citizen in the state of Minnesota,” Krinkie said. “When you take the oath of office to be a legislator or to be a constitutional officer of this state you do indeed give up certain other opportunities that we all might have.”

Alan Gilbert, an attorney from the state Attorney General’s Office, said he issued two opinions, one in January 1999 and the other last November, stating the governor is governed by the state employee code of ethics. Gilbert said Ventura’s acceptance of a position with the new Xtreme Football League may therefore be a conflict of interest.

According to a report published by the Department of Employee Relations in 1987, the Civil Service Board developed the original code of ethics for classified state employees in 1959.

The 1961 Legislature then required each

state agency to develop its own code for its employees; as most agencies merely adopted the already existing code.

In 1973 the Civil Service Board was abolished, and a year later the Legislature repealed the law requiring state agencies to develop their own code of ethics. This left the state without any code in place. In 1975 the commissioner of personnel was required to develop a new set of standards through the rulemaking process.

In 1981 the bulk of the current laws governing state employee ethics was passed by the Legislature. That law covers all executive branch employees.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), a co-sponsor of HF111 and the chief author of a similar bill last year, said the issue is broader than just the current governor.

“Imagine if the secretary of state went into the business of selling election equipment, or the recycling of used chads, or other issues involving elections, and argued that when he or she was doing that, they were doing it in their spare time,” Entenza said. “I think we would be concerned about that, and be concerned that a constitutional officer was not focusing on her primary duty of upholding the election laws of this state.”

Entenza said in his research for the bill he came across no instances of a governor seeking outside employment.

Krinkie’s bill includes “constitutional officer” as part of the definition for employee for the purposes of the state employee code of ethics.

Further, it stipulates the attorney general would be responsible for determining whether a constitutional officer is violating conflict of interests laws, and the governor would be charged with determining conflict of interest charges against the attorney general. Currently the commissioner of the Department of Employee Relations makes the determination on all constitutional officers.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) expressed concern with allowing the attorney general and governor to make the conflict of interest determinations against the other officer. He said this may lead to unnecessary political fighting.


Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield) said even though legislators are part-time employees, as opposed to the full-time position of governor, he was wary of passing law that holds the chief officer of the state to a different standard than legislators.

“I’m very mindful of my own situation,” said Gleason, who is a practicing accountant. “I’m very concerned about holding the governor to a standard where a conflict of interest for him is a violation of the law but I can still personally do all the things I’m not letting the governor do.”

Former representative Marc Asch, now the director of Common Cause Minnesota, a citizen’s lobbying group, said the governor knew while running for office he would have to give up some of his citizen rights if elected.

“As someone from the private sector who holds a responsible position, I am appalled at the assumption that a CEO would not owe his full faith and effort to the entity that was employing him,” Asch said.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) took exception to some of Asch’s remarks.

“If you’re saying he’s doing something different than what he campaigned on, that’s not true. He campaigned on the fact that he was not a career politician, and if he is forced to give up his entertainment career then he becomes a career politician,” Ozment said. 

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature’s web page at:  
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>



# Liquor limitations

## Keg registration plan gathers momentum with legislative, teenage support

By JONAS M. WALKER

**T**he situation is all too common, according to law enforcement officials. Officers receive a report of a loud party, or come across a large group of young people gathered in a warehouse or field. In moments, the teenagers scatter, leaving plastic cups strewn about, a beer keg half-empty, and no clue as to who is responsible.

Representatives are considering a bill that would require liquor stores to number all kegs so they can be individually identified. The bill (HF58) would require liquor stores to record the name, address, and driver's license number or social security number of the person making the purchase.

That information, in addition to the date and time of purchase and the keg identification number, would be recorded and kept by the liquor store for at least 90 days. The identities of purchasers would be made available upon request by law enforcement officials.

Proponents of the bill say keg registration will assist in the tracking and prosecution of adults who provide beer to underage drinkers.

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) is sponsoring the bill and, at a Jan. 24 House Civil Law Committee hearing, described the legislation as "our attempt to link that specific keg to that specific purchaser) in order to hold that person responsible for providing alcohol to minors."

The committee plans to hold further hearings on the bill.

McGuire said she was approached by students who wanted her to sponsor the bill.

She was joined by Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph), who began his testimony by emphasizing the bipartisan support for the initiative.

McGuire and Dehler were joined by two Irondale High School students who support the bill.

Anna Gregg said it "will help parents think twice before providing alcohol" to their underage children. Brandon Keller affirmed Gregg's remarks, conveying the issue's importance to people his age. "I see firsthand the effects of underage drinking. It is a problem



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Student Youth Coordinator for Mothers Against Drunk Driving Selena Reilly testifies before the House Civil Law Committee Jan. 24 in support of a bill that would prescribe standards for identification of beer kegs and require retailers to maintain records of beer keg sales.**

in the high schools," he said.

The Minnesota chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving base their support for the bill on the same motivation: deterrence.

State MADD Youth Director Selena Reilly argued that tracking the movement of kegs would restrict a significant source of alcohol for underage drinkers. Kegs are an "easy way to provide lots of beer to lots of kids."

McGuire pointed out MADD's calculation that a typical 12-ounce cup of beer from a keg

costs only 30 cents. She added that "we have studies showing that the higher the cost of the beverage, the less (underage people) will drink." Under the proposed law, underage drinkers would be forced to illicitly procure alcohol by more expensive anonymous means, such as purchasing canned beer.

That economic disincentive could have far-reaching effects, say plan proponents. For example, the new law could help alleviate the state's drunken driving problem. According to figures provided by Reilly, incidents of drunken driving decreased 32 percent in Massachusetts following that state's adoption of a similar law.

Dehler said he could speak from the retailer's perspective, given his job as a grocer. He mentioned that he may eventually amend the bill to make retailers less liable for the crime of underage alcohol possession. Currently, he explained, "liability follows the purchaser." That is, liquor stores now break the law only if they illegally provide alcohol to minors.

The bill provides for no additional punitive action against liquor stores. Dehler explained that existing criminal laws provide for punishment of those liquor stores that knowingly violate laws against selling liquor to those under 21. The bill explicitly protects liquor stores from litigation as long as they "reasonably and in good faith rely upon the identification provided by the purchaser of a beer keg."


Legislators raised a number of concerns regarding the specific language of the bill.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) objected to the inclusion of social security numbers as acceptable forms of identification for those purchasing liquor.

"There are some federal restrictions on the use of social security numbers," he said. He went on to argue the numbers are easily forged, and they cannot be relied upon as a secure means of identifying liquor purchases.

Wishing to help the authors avoid unintended consequences, Skoglund also suggested that Dehler and McGuire amend a section of HF58 that would bar the possession of an unregistered keg by any "person other than a wholesaler or retailer licensed or authorized... to sell malt liquor."

There is no penalty for such possession written into the bill.

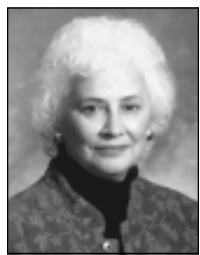
He gestured to a keg the students had hauled into the committee meeting as a prop. "I would hate for someone to get into trouble for having that one," he said. 

# Third time's a charm

Evans brings concern to safe, strong schools back to Legislature for her third term representing District 52B

By MARY KAY WATSON

From her first job out of college as arts coordinator for the Hudson, Wis., school system, Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton) has been passionately involved in education issues.



Rep. Geri Evans

whole life."

Her life is also informed by the principle of voluntarism, for which her father was her role model. She got her first taste of volunteering in 1970 when she formed a tenant's rights group to fight an illegal rent increase.

"It was the beginning of my belief that you should do what you can to improve things in your community and to educate people about their rights," she said.

Not surprisingly, education and voluntarism have come together often in Evans' life: as the chair for the St. Anthony-New Brighton School Board, as president of the League of Women Voters of New Brighton, and as a board member for the Minnesota Alliance for Arts in Education, among others.

"It was in the League of Women Voters where I got my education in issues," she said. "It was like a graduate course."

She achieved these notable positions through years of work behind the scenes on issues such as parks, child safety, and day care for mentally handicapped adults.

Her hard work has not gone unnoticed. Among the awards Evans has received are: the Minnesota Human Rights Award, the Advocate for Heart Award from the American Heart Association, the Channel 11 Volunteer Recognition Award for Community Service, the state

Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation Service Award, and the state Board of Education Leadership in Vocational Equity Award.

Now in her third non-consecutive term as a legislator from District 52B (she also won a seat in 1992 and 1996), Evans, the mother of two grown sons and a 37-year resident of New Brighton, plans to continue her support of the issues she has championed.

"I hope we're beyond the rhetoric of 'We just can't keep pouring money down the rat hole of education,'" Evans said. "Education is an investment."

She is especially concerned about healthy environments in schools. "I really care about safe schools," she said.

Legislators should revisit the laws they've passed to see what has resulted from them, she said. "If you care about something, you ought to be sure it's still workable."

This session Evans plans to return to the issue of indoor air quality she advocated in her second term, when children and teachers in an elementary school in her district were getting very sick from what was found to be mold in the ventilating system.

With a rueful smile, she acknowledged that she'd also like to revisit another issue — this one from her first term. It's the one that made her famous, gender equity in restrooms, called the "potty parity" bill by her detractors. Men may have scoffed, but her successful effort to require public buildings of certain capacities to have equivalent restroom facilities for women and men made some women cheer.

In addition to education and air quality issues, Evans said she plans to focus on health care costs — especially prescription drugs —

and property taxes, which she hears about frequently from her constituents.

She said she gets calls from people who say, "What are we going to do? We're being taxed out of our home."

The importance of lowering property taxes is one area where she agrees with the governor. On others she's not as enthusiastic.

"I have deep concerns about education being 100 percent state funded," she said.

Evans said she would prefer to see a balanced approach used in dealing with the budget surplus — one that would include some kind of rebate but that would also go toward meeting the needs she sees in education, health care, and transportation.

Regarding a rebate, Evans said, "I don't hear much 'Give me back all my money' from my constituents. I hear a lot of 'Couldn't we pool this money and accomplish something big?'"

Evans said her committee assignments — Capital Investment, Government Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy, and State Govern-

ment Finance — were not the ones she had hoped for, but she is enthusiastic about them.

Evans said she moved from volun-

teering to politics when she "realized there's a larger picture here." She has fond memories of the people she worked with as a volunteer and shows an undiminished enthusiasm for making a difference as a lawmaker.

*"I really love education. My training as an educator informs my whole life."*

—Rep. Geri Evans

## DISTRICT 52B

**1998 population (estimate):** 33,707

**Largest city:** New Brighton

**County:** Ramsey

**Location:** northern St. Paul suburbs

**Top concern:** "Indoor air quality is one of my top priorities, particularly when it comes to schools. I am very concerned about safe facilities."

—Rep. Geri Evans



# 'Eye'ing the environment

Campaign to help clean up the Pig's Eye dump site prompted successful run for the House

By DAVID MAEDA

Looking into the future, Rep. Sheldon Johnson (DFL-St. Paul) envisions a quiet and serene park on the old St. Paul Pig's Eye dump site, complete with walking trails and educational materials on how flood plains operate and what happens when a site becomes contaminated.



Rep. Sheldon Johnson

That anyone is even in a position to envision the potential rejuvenation of one of the state's most contaminated areas is due in part to Johnson's involvement in seeing that cleanup began on the dump.

And his successful lobbying efforts during the 2000 session helped prompt his successful run for the Legislature and taught him a valuable lesson in the process.

"Maintaining a positive attitude is important in how effective you are," Johnson said.

The 300 acre Pig's Eye site is located approximately three miles southeast of downtown St. Paul. From 1956 to 1972 it served as an unofficial dumping ground for the city's garbage, junk, and other pollution. For the last 28 years tall grass has grown, covering all the leftover waste.

Johnson became involved in cleanup efforts in the early 1990s, volunteering to serve as a member of the Pig's Eye Park Task Force. After finding out the site had served as a dump, he went to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and began to examine files on the polluted area.

The files showed that the site was contaminated with heavy metals, PCBs, and other toxic materials.

"It was leaching into Battle Creek and into Pig's Eye Lake," Johnson said.

He and his neighbors were concerned that because the homes in the area have their own

wells, there was potential for the residents' drinking water to become contaminated.

"The MPCA needed some impetus to tackle this project," Johnson said. "With all the other projects the case had to be made (for the Pig's Eye site)."

He said that around 20 major environmental organizations became involved in "prodding" the MPCA to put the project near the top of the list of contaminated sites that needed cleaning up. For the past few years, Johnson worked with Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) on legislation that would give priority to the Pig's Eye site.

Last session a law was passed allowing responsible parties at Superfund sites to apply for 15 percent to 20 percent of entire cleanup

the Harding High School PTSA, Johnson brings to the Legislature 14 years of experience working in the area of corrections. He currently supervises the work release program at the Ramsey County Workhouse.

Johnson said his experience working with troubled juveniles should help him add perspective as a member of the House Crime Prevention Committee.

"I've found I'm good at working with people and effective in helping people make a better future," he said.

As a freshman member Johnson knows he will spend a lot of time listening and learning. He said his community activism has taught him the necessity of working collaboratively and collectively with others in order to get things done.

Indeed it was a collective family effort that helped him win his election. His wife and two teenage daughters played an integral role in his campaign.

"They were excited and they helped out quite a bit — from door knocking to phone

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*"I've found I'm good at working with people and effective in helping people make a better future,"*

*—Rep. Sheldon Johnson*

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costs resulting from contamination caused by individuals or businesses unable to pay for cleanup, or responsible parties that cannot be located. Before the law was changed, funding came as a reimbursement after the entire project was completed.

One of the first sites expected to benefit from the change is the Pig's Eye Dump.

For Johnson, the experience was very gratifying and convinced him he should run for the House seat vacated by former Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul).

A lifetime Minnesotan, Johnson was born on a small dairy farm in Braham. He has a bachelor's degree in social work from Bethel College and a master's degree in psychology from the University of St. Thomas.

Besides his involvement with several community organizations, ranging from the St. Paul District One Community Council to

call work to cleaning the house — they did whatever needed to be done," he said.

## DISTRICT 67B

**1998 population (estimate):** 32,120

**Largest city:** St. Paul

**County:** Ramsey

**Location:** southeastern St. Paul

**Top concern:** "To take a balanced approach: that in education funding our state dollars are satisfactory; that the health care needs in the community are met and particularly that all kids are insured; that our environmental policy is geared toward sustainability; and that our tax policy is fair to working families."

**—Rep. Sheldon Johnson**

# Call her 'Maxine'

Former teacher continues her education as a new representative from Greater Minnesota in St. Paul

By DAVID MAEDA

Behind Rep. Maxine Penas' (R-Badger) office desk in the State Office Building, rests a picture of her 18-month-old grandchild sitting atop a big lustrous Victory motorcycle posed to rev it up and take off.



Rep. Maxine Penas

With the juxtaposition between family and adventure, and its prominent display spot in her office, the snapshot gives visitors a sense of the new lawmaker's priorities and a glimpse of her down-to-earth sense of humor.

Judging her by her mild-mannered grandmotherly appearance, you'd probably never guess that one of Penas' favorite hobbies is riding a motorcycle.

Penas and her husband Albert, an engineer at Polaris Industries, began riding the company's distinctive motorcycles a couple years back. But despite her enjoyment of the hobby, she said that last fall she had to learn to use the bike sparingly during her campaign.

"I got some pretty weird looks when I'd pull up at my age in a leather jacket," she said.

Now retired, Penas said her 31 years of teaching remain the single most inspirational part of her life.

"My students, to my dying day, will be the highlight of my life," Penas said. "Their enthusiasm. Their energy. They keep you on your toes. I enjoyed them immensely."

Indeed her former students provided much assistance with her campaign, ultimately not only with their votes but also through their encouragement. Penas said after she decided to run for the House she contacted more than 450 of her former students, many of whom supported her and helped with her campaign.

"My message to them was if they had me as a teacher in school and felt I was honest, treated them fairly and they learned something, then vote for me," she said.

Running against a popular incumbent, Rep.

Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) who served nine terms in the House, Penas said when she started off the campaign trail she didn't even realize that few gave her much of a chance to win.

But she said it was her hard work and diligence in covering at least every town once and just about every township in one of the state's largest geographic legislative districts that paid off in the end. The vast district covers much of northwestern Minnesota and Penas racked up more than 35,000 miles on her vehicle between June and October and 3,000 to 4,000 more on her husband's truck. But she said the

effort it took was one of the most rewarding lessons she learned.

"Win or lose, I won. I never would have expended the energy to meet people if I hadn't run," she said.

Penas was no stranger to the lawmaking process when House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) asked her to run last spring.

A member of several education groups, including serving seven years on the Minnesota Rural Education Board, including one as its president, Penas had come to the Capitol several times to work on issues with her legislators. Still she wasn't quite prepared for what would face her on the other side of the table.

"I don't think a person realizes the work involved in the whole legislative process until you've gotten into it," she said. "I understand it's designed to move slowly for a good reason, but it's like pumping water out of a well and not getting any water until May."

A few years ago, Penas said she and her husband decided to join the Republican Party because they felt it fit their long-held beliefs better than the DFL party did. She mentioned specifically that she is strongly supportive of

pro-life and land rights issues, and as an avid hunter she is a strong advocate for gun rights.

The switch to the other party didn't exactly please her parents, both very active Democrats, but she was reminded of a lesson her father told her when she was growing up.

While she was in college and home for the holidays, she took a job at the town's liquor store because it paid well for part-time seasonal work. She asked her father for approval and she remembers him telling her, "It's not where you work, it's how you act."

That is a lesson she'll keep in mind as a member of the Legislature where the key to being effective is to "be honest, work hard, research the issues, vote with a good conscience, and keep constituents informed."

Thus far into the session she has been able to fly home for the weekends where she, among other things, can enjoy her first time being a

*"My students, to my dying day, will be the highlight of my life. Their enthusiasm. Their energy. They keep you on your toes. I enjoyed them immensely."*

—Rep. Maxine Penas

grandmother. She is glad the steady stream of emails and phone calls have kept her quite busy, even though she sometimes still has to reassure her constituents that she is the same person in St. Paul that she was back home.

"I still am not used to people calling me 'representative.' I'm no different than I was in my district. So calling me Maxine is wonderful," she said.

## DISTRICT 1A

**1998 population (estimate):** 31,766

**Largest city:** Roseau

**Counties:** Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, and Roseau

**Location:** northwestern Minnesota

**Top concern:** "Equity in education funding ensuring that the poor districts are equal to the rich districts. Decreasing taxes, reducing property taxes. It's an agricultural district and reducing property taxes would give some relief to farmers already distressed by bad prices on grain."

—Rep. Maxine Penas

## Minnesota House of Representatives

# 2001-02 Committee Assignments by member

<b>Abeler, Jim (R)-Anoka ..... 49A</b> Health & Human Services Policy Health & Human Services Finance K-12 Education Finance	Finance, Environment & Natural Resources Finance, Family & Early Childhood Education Finance, Health & Human Services Finance, Higher Education Finance, Jobs & Economic Development Finance, K-12 Education Finance, State Government Finance, Transportation Finance	<b>Daggett, Roxann (R)-Frazee ..... 11A</b> Ethics, chair Taxes, vice chair Sales Tax Division Capital Investment
<b>Abrams, Ron (R)-Minnetonka ..... 45A</b> Taxes, chair Property Tax Division Sales and Income Tax Division Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Redistricting Rules & Legislative Administration Ways & Means	<b>Boudreau, Lynda (R)-Faribault ..... 25B</b> Health & Human Services Policy, vice chair Civil Law Health & Human Services Finance Redistricting	<b>Davidson, Gregory M. (R)-Preston ..... 31B</b> Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy, chair Economic Development & Tourism Division Ethics Jobs & Economic Development Finance Regulated Industries
<b>Anderson, Bruce (R)-Buffalo Township ..... 19B</b> State Government Finance, vice chair Education Policy Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy	<b>Bradley, Fran (R)-Rochester ..... 30A</b> Health & Human Services Policy, chair Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Health & Human Services Finance	<b>Davnie, Jim (DFL)-Minneapolis ..... 62A</b> Education Policy K-12 Education Finance Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
<b>Anderson, Irv (DFL)-International Falls ..... 3A</b> Taxes, DFL lead Sales Tax Division Redistricting Ways & Means	<b>Buesgens, Mark (R)-Jordan ..... 35B</b> Education Policy K-12 Education Finance Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs	<b>Dawkins, Andy (DFL)-St. Paul ..... 65A</b> Sales Tax Division, DFL lead Taxes Ways & Means
<b>Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)-Cook ..... 6A</b> Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Environment & Natural Resources Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy	<b>Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)-Crystal ..... 46B</b> Higher Education Finance, DFL lead Education Policy Ways & Means	<b>Dehler, Steve (R)-St. Joseph ..... 14A</b> Higher Education Finance, vice chair Education Policy Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Ways & Means
<b>Bernardy, Connie (DFL)-Fridley ..... 48B</b> Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Taxes Sales Tax Division	<b>Cassell, George (R)-Alexandria ..... 10B</b> Agriculture Policy Education Policy Environment & Natural Resources Policy Higher Education Finance	<b>Dempsey, Jerry (R)-Red Wing ..... 29A</b> Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs, chair Capital Investment Taxes Property Tax Division
<b>Biernat, Len (DFL)-Minneapolis ..... 59A</b> Education Policy Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy K-12 Education Finance	<b>Clark, James T. (R)-New Ulm ..... 23A</b> Transportation Policy, vice chair Capital Investment Civil Law Transportation Finance	<b>Dibble, Scott (DFL)-Minneapolis ..... 60B</b> Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Transportation Policy Ways & Means
<b>Bishop, Dave (R)-Rochester ..... 30B</b> Ways & Means, chair Capital Investment Crime Prevention Judiciary Finance <b>Ex-officio:</b> Agriculture & Rural Development	<b>Clark, Karen (DFL)-Minneapolis ..... 61A</b> Jobs & Economic Development Finance, DFL lead Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Ways & Means	<b>Dorman, Dan (R)-Albert Lea ..... 27A</b> Sales Tax Division, vice chair Agriculture Policy Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Taxes

<b>Dorn, John (DFL)-Mankato ..... 24A</b> Education Policy, DFL lead K-12 Education Finance Rules & Legislative Administration	<b>Gleason, Mark S. (DFL)-Richfield ..... 63B</b> Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Regulated Industries Taxes Property Tax Division	<b>Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)-Brooklyn Center .... 47B</b> Crime Prevention Judiciary Finance Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
<b>Eastlund, Rob (R)-Isanti ..... 18A</b> Education Policy Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy State Government Finance	<b>Goodno, Kevin (R)-Moorhead ..... 9A</b> Health & Human Services Finance, chair Health & Human Services Policy	<b>Hilty, Bill (DFL)-Finlayson ..... 8B</b> State Government Finance, DFL lead Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Regulated Industries
<b>Entenza, Matt (DFL)-St. Paul ..... 64A</b> Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Education Policy K-12 Education Finance	<b>Goodwin, Barbara (DFL)-Columbia Heights ..... 52A</b> Education Policy K-12 Education Finance	<b>Holberg, Mary Liz (R)-Lakeville ..... 37B</b> Civil Law, vice chair Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Transportation Finance Transportation Policy
<b>Erhardt, Ron (R)-Edina ..... 42A</b> Property Tax Division, chair Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Taxes Ways & Means	<b>Gray, Gregory (DFL)-Minneapolis ..... 58B</b> Education Policy Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Redistricting	<b>Holsten, Mark William (R)-Stillwater .. 56A</b> Environment & Natural Resources Finance, chair Capital Investment Environment & Natural Resources Policy Regulated Industries
<b>Erickson, Sondra (R)-Princeton ..... 17A</b> Education Policy Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy K-12 Education Finance State Government Finance	<b>Greiling, Mindy (DFL)-Roseville ..... 54B</b> K-12 Education Finance, DFL lead Capital Investment Education Policy	<b>Howes, Larry (R)-Walker ..... 4B</b> Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs, vice chair Environment & Natural Resources Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy Transportation Policy
<b>Evans, Geri (DFL)-New Brighton ..... 52B</b> Capital Investment Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy State Government Finance	<b>Gunther, Bob (R)-Fairmont ..... 26A</b> Jobs & Economic Development Finance, vice chair Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Crime Prevention Regulated Industries	<b>Huntley, Thomas (DFL)-Duluth ..... 6B</b> Health & Human Services Finance, DFL lead Health & Human Services Policy Rules & Legislative Administration
<b>Finseth, Tim (R)-Angus ..... 1B</b> Agriculture Policy, chair Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Environment & Natural Resources Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy	<b>Haas, Bill (R)-Champlin ..... 48A</b> Ways & Means, vice chair Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy Health & Human Services Policy	<b>Jacobson, Carl (R)-Vadnais Heights .... 53B</b> Health & Human Services Policy Taxes Sales Tax Division
<b>Folliard, Betty (DFL)-Hopkins ..... 44A</b> Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Health & Human Services Finance Health & Human Services Policy	<b>Hackbarth, Tom (R)-Cedar ..... 50A</b> Environment & Natural Resources Finance, vice chair Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Economic Development & Tourism Division Environment & Natural Resources Policy	<b>Jaros, Mike (DFL)-Duluth ..... 7B</b> Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy, DFL lead Capital Investment State Government Finance Ways & Means
<b>Fuller, Doug (R)-Bemidji ..... 4A</b> Capital Investment, vice chair Crime Prevention Judiciary Finance Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs	<b>Harder, Elaine (R)-Jackson ..... 22B</b> Sales Tax Division, chair Agriculture Policy Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Taxes	<b>Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)-Harris ..... 18B</b> Regulated Industries, DFL lead Environment & Natural Resources Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy
<b>Gerlach, Chris (R)-Apple Valley ..... 36A</b> Regulated Industries, vice chair Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Jobs & Economic Development Finance Rules & Legislative Administration	<b>Hausman, Alice (DFL)-St. Paul ..... 66B</b> Transportation Policy, DFL lead Transportation Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy	<b>Johnson, Jeff (R)-Plymouth ..... 34B</b> Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Education Policy K-12 Education Finance

<b>Johnson, Ruth (DFL)-St. Peter ..... 24B</b> Agriculture Policy Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy	<b>Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)-Granite Falls ..... 15B</b> Agriculture Policy Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Ethics Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Health & Human Services Policy	<b>Mahoney, Tim (DFL)-St. Paul ..... 67A</b> Civil Law Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Economic Development & Tourism Division Jobs & Economic Development Finance
<b>Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)-St. Paul ..... 67B</b> Crime Prevention Judiciary Finance Regulated Industries	<b>Kuisle, William (R)-Rochester ..... 31A</b> Property Tax Division, vice chair Taxes Transportation Finance Transportation Policy	<b>Mares, Harry (R)-White Bear Lake ..... 55A</b> Education Policy, chair Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy K-12 Education Finance Rules & Legislative Administration State Government Finance
<b>Juhnke, Al (DFL)-Willmar ..... 15A</b> Agriculture Policy Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Transportation Finance Transportation Policy	<b>Larson, Dan (DFL)-Bloomington ..... 40A</b> Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Economic Development & Tourism Division Transportation Finance Transportation Policy	<b>Mariani, Carlos (DFL)-St. Paul ..... 65B</b> Capital Investment Education Policy Redistricting
<b>Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)-Minneapolis ..... 59B</b> Capital Investment Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Regulated Industries State Government Finance	<b>Leighton, Rob (DFL)-Austin ..... 27B</b> Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Taxes Sales Tax Division	<b>Marko, Sharon (DFL)-Cottage Grove .. 57B</b> Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs, DFL lead Transportation Finance Transportation Policy
<b>Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)-Wells ..... 26B</b> Capital Investment, DFL lead Regulated Industries Transportation Finance Transportation Policy Ways & Means	<b>Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)-Bloomington ... 40B</b> Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Taxes Property Tax Division	<b>Marquart, Paul (DFL)-Dilworth ..... 9B</b> Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Education Policy Higher Education Finance
<b>Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL) Minneapolis ..... 60A</b> Environment & Natural Resources Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy Ways & Means	<b>Leppik, Peggy (R)-Golden Valley ..... 45B</b> Higher Education Finance, chair Capital Investment Education Policy Family & Early Childhood Education Finance	<b>McElroy, Dan (R)-Burnsville ..... 36B</b> Jobs & Economic Development Finance, chair Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Taxes Property Tax Division Ways & Means
<b>Kielkucki, Tony (R)-Lester Prairie ..... 20B</b> K-12 Education Finance, vice chair Education Policy Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy State Government Finance	<b>Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)-Crookston ..... 2A</b> Transportation Finance, DFL lead Regulated Industries Transportation Policy	<b>McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)-Falcon Heights ... 54A</b> Family & Early Childhood Education Finance, DFL lead Crime Prevention Education Policy Rules & Legislative Administration
<b>Knoblach, Jim (R)-St. Cloud ..... 16B</b> Capital Investment, chair Redistricting Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes Property Tax Division	<b>Lindner, Arlon (R)-Corcoran ..... 33A</b> Economic Development & Tourism Division, chair Civil Law Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Jobs & Economic Development Finance	<b>Milbert, Bob (DFL)-South St. Paul ..... 39B</b> Ethics, co-chair Property Tax Division, DFL lead Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes
<b>Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)-Coon Rapids ... 49B</b> Health & Human Services Policy, DFL lead Health & Human Services Finance Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs	<b>Lipman, Eric (R)-Lake Elmo ..... 56B</b> Judiciary Finance, vice chair Capital Investment Civil Law Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy	<b>Molnau, Carol L. (R)-Chaska ..... 35A</b> Transportation Finance, chair Capital Investment Rules & Legislative Administration Transportation Policy Ways & Means
<b>Krinkie, Philip (R)-Shoreview ..... 53A</b> State Government Finance, chair Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Taxes Ways & Means	<b>Luther, Darlene (DFL)-Brooklyn Park .... 47A</b> Civil Law, DFL lead Capital Investment Redistricting	



<b>Mulder, Richard (R)-Ivanhoe ..... 21B</b> Health & Human Services Finance, vice chair Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Health & Human Services Policy Ways & Means	<b>Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)-Long Prairie ..... 11B</b> Agriculture Policy Health & Human Services Finance Health & Human Services Policy Ways & Means	<b>Rifenberg, Michelle (R)-La Crescent ... 32B</b> Redistricting, vice chair Agriculture Policy Regulated Industries Taxes Property Tax Division
<b>Mullery, Joe (DFL)-Minneapolis ..... 58A</b> Economic Development & Tourism Division, DFL lead Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Taxes Property Tax Division	<b>Ozment, Dennis (R)-Rosemount ..... 37A</b> Environment & Natural Resources Policy, chair Environment & Natural Resources Finance Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Rules & Legislative Administration	<b>Rukavina, Tom (DFL)-Virginia ..... 5A</b> Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Taxes Property Tax Division Ways & Means
<b>Murphy, Mary (DFL)-Hermantown ..... 8A</b> Judiciary Finance, DFL lead Capital Investment Crime Prevention Ethics	<b>Paulsen, Erik (R)-Eden Prairie ..... 42B</b> Redistricting, chair Regulated Industries Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes Sales Tax Division	<b>Ruth, Connie (R)-Owatonna ..... 28A</b> Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Economic Development & Tourism Division Transportation Finance Transportation Policy
<b>Ness, Robert “Bob” (R)-Dassel ..... 20A</b> Agriculture & Rural Development Finance, chair Agriculture Policy Education Policy K-12 Education Finance	<b>Pawlenty, Tim (R)-Eagan ..... 38B</b> Rules & Legislative Administration, chair	<b>Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)-Princeton ..... 17B</b> Agriculture Policy Education Policy K-12 Education Finance
<b>Nornes, Bud (R)-Fergus Falls ..... 10A</b> Family & Early Childhood Education Finance, vice chair Environment & Natural Resources Policy Health & Human Services Policy	<b>Paymar, Michael (DFL)-St. Paul ..... 64B</b> Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Crime Prevention Jobs & Economic Development Finance	<b>Seagren, Alice (R)-Bloomington ..... 41A</b> K-12 Education Finance, chair Education Policy Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Ways & Means
<b>Olson, Mark (R)-Big Lake ..... 19A</b> Education Policy, vice chair Crime Prevention K-12 Education Finance Rules & Legislative Administration	<b>Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)-Winona ..... 32A</b> Redistricting, DFL lead Education Policy Higher Education Finance Regulated Industries	<b>Seifert, Marty (R)-Marshall ..... 21A</b> Rules & Legislative Administration, vice chair Education Policy Higher Education Finance Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Redistricting
<b>Opatz, Joe (DFL)-St. Cloud ..... 16A</b> Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Education Policy Higher Education Finance	<b>Penas, Maxine (R)-Badger ..... 1A</b> Crime Prevention, vice chair Agriculture Policy Education Policy K-12 Education Finance	<b>Sertich, Anthony “Tony” (DFL)-Chisholm .... 5B</b> Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy Economic Development & Tourism Division Jobs & Economic Development Finance
<b>Osskopp, Mike (R)-Lake City ..... 29B</b> Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy, vice chair Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Agriculture Policy	<b>Peterson, Doug (DFL)-Madison ..... 13B</b> Agriculture & Rural Development Finance, DFL lead Agriculture Policy Environment & Natural Resources Policy Rules & Legislative Administration	<b>Skoe, Rod (DFL)-Clearbrook ..... 2B</b> Agriculture Policy Education Policy Environment & Natural Resources Policy K-12 Education Finance
<b>Osthoff, Tom (DFL)-St. Paul ..... 66A</b> Environment & Natural Resources Finance, DFL lead Capital Investment Environment & Natural Resources Policy Ways & Means	<b>Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)-South St. Paul ..... 39A</b> Rules & Legislative Administration, DFL lead	<b>Skoglund, Wes (DFL)-Minneapolis ..... 62B</b> Crime Prevention, DFL lead Civil Law Judiciary Finance
	<b>Rhodes, Jim (R)-St. Louis Park ..... 44B</b> Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy, chair Capital Investment State Government Finance Ethics (alternate)	<b>Slawik, Nora (DFL)-Maplewood ..... 57A</b> Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Health & Human Services Policy

**Smith, Steve (R)-Mound ..... 34A**  
 Civil Law, chair  
 Crime Prevention  
 Judiciary Finance

**Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)-Bovey ..... 3B**  
 Ways & Means, DFL lead  
 Capital Investment  
 Governmental Operations &  
     Veterans Affairs Policy  
 Rules & Legislative Administration

**Stanek, Rich (R)-Maple Grove ..... 33B**  
 Judiciary Finance, chair  
 Civil Law  
 Crime Prevention  
 Ways & Means

**Stang, Doug (R)-Cold Spring ..... 14B**  
 Commerce, Jobs, &  
     Economic Development Policy, vice chair  
 Higher Education Finance  
 Regulated Industries  
 Ways & Means

**Sviggum, Steve (R)-Kenyon ..... 28B**  
 Rules & Legislative Administration  
 Ways & Means

**Swapinski, Dale (DFL)-Duluth ..... 7A**  
 Civil Law  
 Crime Prevention  
 Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

**Swenson, Howard (R)-Nicollet ..... 23B**  
 Agriculture & Rural  
     Development Finance, vice chair  
 Agriculture Policy  
 Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
 Environment & Natural Resources Policy  
 Ways & Means

**Sykora, Barb (R)-Excelsior ..... 43B**  
 Family & Early Childhood  
     Education Finance, chair  
 Commerce, Jobs, &  
     Economic Development Policy  
 Crime Prevention  
 Education Policy  
 Ways & Means

**Thompson, Mark (DFL)-New Hope ..... 46A**  
 Governmental Operations &  
     Veterans Affairs Policy  
 State Government Finance

**Tingelstad, Kathy (R)-Andover ..... 50B**  
 Environment & Natural  
     Resources Policy, vice chair  
 Capital Investment  
 Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
 Redistricting

**Tuma, John (R)-Northfield ..... 25A**  
 Crime Prevention, chair  
 Higher Education Finance  
 Judiciary Finance  
 Rules & Legislative Administration

**Vandevier, Ray (R)-Forest Lake ..... 51B**  
 Transportation Finance, vice chair  
 Environment & Natural Resources Policy  
 Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
 Transportation Policy

**Wagenius, Jean (DFL)-Minneapolis .... 63A**  
 Environment & Natural  
     Resources Policy, DFL lead  
 Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
 Rules & Legislative Administration

**Walker, Neva (DFL)-Minneapolis ..... 61B**  
 Health & Human Services Policy  
 Taxes  
 Sales Tax Division

**Walz, Dale (R)-Brainerd ..... 12A**  
 Economic Development &  
     Tourism Division, vice chair  
 Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development  
 Policy  
 Crime Prevention  
 Jobs & Economic Development Finance

**Wasiluk, Scott (DFL)-Maplewood ..... 55B**  
 Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
 Environment & Natural Resources Policy

**Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)-Little Falls .... 12B**  
 Agriculture Policy, DFL lead  
 Agriculture & Rural Development Finance  
 Crime Prevention  
 Ways & Means

**Westerberg, Andrew (R)-Blaine ..... 51A**  
 Commerce, Jobs, &  
     Economic Development Policy  
 Economic Development & Tourism Division  
 Transportation Finance  
 Transportation Policy

**Westrom, Torrey (R)-Elbow Lake ..... 13A**  
 Agriculture Policy, vice chair  
 Agriculture & Rural Development Finance  
 Regulated Industries  
 Transportation Policy

**Wilkin, Tim (R)-Eagan ..... 38A**  
 Health & Human Services Finance  
 Health & Human Services Policy  
 Taxes  
 Sales Tax Division  
 Ways & Means

**Winter, Ted (DFL)-Fulda ..... 22A**  
 Rules & Legislative Administration  
 Taxes  
 Property Tax Division  
 Transportation Policy

**Wolf, Ken (R)-Burnsville ..... 41B**  
 Regulated Industries, chair  
 Education Policy  
 K-12 Education Finance

**Workman, Tom (R)-Chanhassen ..... 43A**  
 Transportation Policy, chair  
 Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
 Environment & Natural Resources Policy  
 Regulated Industries  
 Transportation Finance

## Minnesota State Agencies

(Area code 651)

Administration .....	296-6013
Agriculture .....	297-2200
Children, Families and Learning .....	582-8200
Commerce .....	296-4026
Corrections .....	642-0200
Economic Security .....	296-3644
Employee Relations .....	297-1184
Job Information .....	296-2616
Finance .....	296-5900
Health .....	215-5803
Human Rights .....	296-5663
Toll Free .....	1-800-657-3704
Human Services .....	296-6117
Labor and Industry .....	296-6107
Military Affairs .....	282-4662
Natural Resources .....	296-6157
Pollution Control Agency .....	296-6300
Public Safety .....	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services ...	296-6911
Fire Marshal .....	215-0500
Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division .....	296-6979
State Patrol .....	297-3935
Public Service .....	296-5120
Revenue	
Taxpayer Assistance .....	296-3781
Toll Free .....	1-800-652-9094
Trade and	
Economic Development .....	297-1291
Office of Tourism .....	296-5029
Transportation .....	296-3000
Veterans Affairs .....	296-2562
State Information .....	296-6013

## Monday, January 22

**HF252—Seifert (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Repeal of obsolete rules.

**HF253—Seifert (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Health and human services obsolete rules repealed.

**HF254—Seifert (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Transportation obsolete rules repealed.

**HF255—Seifert (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Environment; obsolete rules repealed.

**HF256—Howes (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Gross weight seasonal increase for transporting carrots authorized.

**HF257—Marko (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Previous transportation appropriations modified to require grants to local governments for right-of-way acquisition and construction costs.

**HF258—Swapinski (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Additional unemployment insurance benefits provided specified employees on layoff from M. E. International.

**HF259—Swapinski (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Duluth aerial lift bridge repair and restoration authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF260—Stanek (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Criminal justice information system improvements provided and money appropriated.

**HF261—Paymar (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Political party units receiving public subsidies resulting from income tax and property tax form checkoff required to create oversight committees, and civil penalties imposed.

**HF262—Boudreau (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Abortion informed consent required and civil remedies provided.

**HF263—Walz (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Camp Knutson renovation and construction grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF264—Wolf (R)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
Legislative Energy Task Force; correcting names of committees represented by members.

**HF265—Wolf (R)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
Legislative Energy Task Force sunset delayed and composition modified.

**HF266—Swapinski (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Lake Superior Center authority enabling law modified, contract and agreements made conditional, and status as a political subdivision clarified.

**HF267—Wagenius (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Well water; model notice created regarding testing of wells, and dissemination required including posting on health department web site.

**HF268—Mulder (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Murray County; Current Lake level maintenance required.

**HF269—Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Wright County aggregate materials production tax authorized.

**HF270—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales tax applied to prefabricated homes.

**HF271—Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Wright County authorized to impose production tax on aggregate materials removed from the county.

**HF272—Nornes (R)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Emergency assistance and transitional housing programs and grants appropriation provided.

**HF273—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Juveniles; domestic abuse and harassment misdemeanors excluded from juvenile petty offense definition.

**HF274—Dorman (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Mercury thermometer sales prohibited.

**HF275—Abeler (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Nursing facility closure plans savings procedure modified.

**HF276—Paulsen (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Candidates prohibited from accepting specified contributions.

**HF277—Clark, J. (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Highway User Tax Distribution Fund appropriations provided.

**HF278—Nornes (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Dentists; medical assistance reimbursement rate increased for specified dentists, dental hygienists permitted to perform services under supervision, grant program for community clinics established, and money appropriated.

**HF279—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
MinnesotaCare premium and other provider taxes repealed, pass-through of savings required, tobacco settlement disposition provided, health care access fund contingent repeal provided, and civil penalties imposed.

**HF280—Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Elk River additional on-sale liquor licenses authorized.

**HF281—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Civil commitment mentally ill definition and emergency hold standard modified, early intervention hospital stay extended, and specified hearings on medications combined with civil commitment proceeding.

**HF282—Knoblach (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Truancy prevention pilot program provided and money appropriated.

**HF283—Knoblach (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales tax rebate provided and money appropriated.

**HF284—Goodno (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Moorhead additional liquor licenses authorized.

**HF285—Ness (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Agricultural liens regulated; revising and consolidating crop liens and agricultural liens on livestock.

**HF286—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Education finance; sparsity correction revenue modified.

**HF287—Mares (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Intermediate school districts authorized to sell and issue bonds under specific conditions.

**HF288—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
School board membership modified.

**HF289—Daggett (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Four-year terms provided for representatives and senators and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF290—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Home heating fuels sales and use tax exemption expanded.

**HF291—Seifert (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Higher education grant stipends calculation modified relating to Pell grants.

**HF292—Opatz (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Board of Teaching required to report annually on performance of teacher candidates on reading, writing and math skills exam and on common core assessments.

**HF293—Pawlenty (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Legislative sessions limited to odd-numbered years, and special sessions authorized by written agreement of speaker of the house and majority leader of the senate, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF294—Walz (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Income tax subtraction allowed for national guard and active duty military pay.

**HF295—Cassell (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Teachers retirement association service credit authorized for specified former St. Paul police officer.

**HF296—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Automobile insurance retroactive cancellation not to affect third-party claimants under specified conditions.

**HF297—Peterson (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 2853, Lac qui Parle Valley, authorized to include a school nurse and medical personnel in health and safety program costs.

**HF298—Peterson (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 2853, Lac qui Parle Valley, severance levy authorized.

**HF299—Peterson (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 2853, Lac qui Parle Valley, fund transfer authorized.

**HF300—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Snowplows defined as special mobile equipment exempted from registration taxes and title requirements.

**HF301—Marquart (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales to political subdivisions tax exemption provided.

**HF302—Davnie (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Excess fuel cost adjustment and energy assistance aid to school districts authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF303—Cassell (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Purchase of specified service credit authorized for prior police or salaried firefighter service.

**HF304—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
State patrol vehicles equipped with video cameras, and money appropriated.

**HF305—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 391, Cleveland, fund transfer authorized.

**HF306—Folliard (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
General education basic formula allowance increased.

**HF307—Evans (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
General education basic formula allowance increased.

**HF308—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
General education basic formula allowance increased.

**HF309—Walker (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
General education basic formula allowance increased.

**HF310—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Voluntary full-day kindergarten funding established and money appropriated.

**HF311—Hilstrom (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Voluntary full-day kindergarten funding established and money appropriated.

**HF312—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Voluntary full-day kindergarten funding established and money appropriated.

**HF313—Goodwin (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Voluntary full-day kindergarten funding established and money appropriated.

**HF314—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales to political subdivisions tax exemption provided.

**HF315—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales tax general rate reduced.

**HF316—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Purchase of prior service credit from the public employees retirement association authorized for a specified individual.

**HF317—Evans (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Campaign contributions and spending limits imposed on political parties participating in the political contribution refund program, multicandidate expenditures by parties limited, and maximum refund amount increased.

## Thursday, January 25

**HF318—Abrams (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Corporate franchise tax; single sales apportionment adopted.

**HF319—Bishop (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Trial court judgeships increased in specified judicial districts and money appropriated.

**HF320—Davids (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Licensed property-casualty insurance agents authorized to assist in procurement of surplus lines insurance without a license.

**HF321—Fuller (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Unmarked police cars exempted from motor vehicle sales tax.

**HF322—Rhodes (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Minnesota utilization review act and practice of medicine definition modified.

**HF323—Haas (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Motor vehicle fuel franchises change in ownership provisions expiration date removed.

**HF324—Kuisle (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Agricultural property net tax capacity, and homestead and agricultural credit aid payments computation modified; and educational agricultural credit application increased and extended.

**HF325—Daggett (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Hospital surcharge repealed for specified medical assistance costs, and money appropriated.

**HF326—Ozment (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Local and state government agency denial of requests for action clarified.

**HF327—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Statutory vote recount margins modified, presidential and congressional election recounts provided, ballot requirements increased, and instant runoff provided for state and federal offices.

**HF328—Dorman (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
School district revenue subject to equalization increased.

**HF329—Hackbarth (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Death penalty imposed for first degree murder under aggravating circumstances, criteria and procedures established, automatic appellate review and administrative framework provided, and money appropriated.

**HF330—Abeler (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Nonprofit agency grant provided to agency currently serving deaf and hard-of-hearing adults with mental illness.

**HF331—Abeler (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Historic preservation grant program created and money appropriated.

**HF332—Nornes (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Nursing facility case mix transition plan established and fine imposed for noncompliance.

**HF333—Biernat (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Secretary of state prohibited from serving on campaign committees or participating in recounts for an office for which the secretary is a candidate.

**HF334—Tuma (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Negligent homicide of a vulnerable adult defined as third degree murder, penalties for failure to report maltreatment increased, and scope of kidnapping expanded to include certain acts involving vulnerable adults.

**HF335—Erhardt (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Corporate franchise tax single sales apportionment adopted.

**HF336—Erhardt (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Capital equipment sales tax collection and refund repealed.

**HF337—Erhardt (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Capital gains income tax exclusion authorized.

**HF338—Erhardt (R)**  
**Taxes**  
June accelerated payment of sales taxes eliminated.

**HF339—Dempsey (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Individual income tax deduction provided for owning an automobile.

**HF340—Tuma (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 392, Le Center, technology integration grant authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF341—Dehler (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Liability and criminal penalties imposed for unlicensed driver involved in a traffic accident resulting in bodily harm or death.

**HF342—Dehler (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Higher education grants terms and conditions modified.

**HF343—Dehler (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Public trails construction, administration, and use requirements established.

**HF344—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Treatment facilities liability limited for administering medication to certain mentally ill persons.

**HF345—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Robbinsdale project 4 tax increment financing district extended.

**HF346—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
One statewide bargaining unit created for all K-12 teachers employed by school districts, and statewide bargaining revenue provided.

**HF347—Swenson (R)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Manure processing and odor control project loans authorized and money appropriated.

**HF348—Gunter (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Youth intervention program grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF349—Rifenberg (R)**  
**State Government Finance**  
Independent School District No. 492, Austin, previously canceled grant to construct a television transmitter reauthorized.

**HF350—Seifert (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities appropriations distribution provided.

**HF351—Stanek (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
DWI; felony level driving while impaired offense established.

**HF352—Kuisle (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Annexed property not serviced for two years reversion to township provided.

**HF353—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Farm advocates program and agriculture information centers financing provided and money appropriated.

**HF354—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**

Background checks required before transferring a pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon at a gun show.

**HF355—Koskinen (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**

MinnesotaCare employer-subsidized insurance definition modified, four-month uninsured requirement exemptions provided, and prohibition on coverage in same month repealed.

**HF356—Workman (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Teachers retirement association service credit purchase authorized for a specified teacher in Independent School District No. 270, Hopkins.

**HF357—Boudreau (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**

Alcohol and drug counselor licensing requirements modified.

**HF358—Wilkin (R)**  
**Taxes**

Property tax class rate on apartments reduced and increased homestead and agricultural credit aid provided.

**HF359—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

Proctor community center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

**HF360—Winter (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Workers' compensation; injured employees not required to submit to examination by employer's physician, and benefits continued except as determined by a neutral health care professional.

**HF361—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Market assistance plan activation and joint underwriting association regulated.

**HF362—Westrom (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Diesel fuel minimum biodiesel fuel content specified.

**HF363—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

City aid base and maximum aid increased for specified metropolitan municipalities.

**HF364—Sertich (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**

Hands-free use of mobile telephones (cell phones) required in motor vehicles.

**HF365—Mares (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**

Intermediate School District No. 916, Northeast Metro, fund transfer authorized.

**HF366—Gleason (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**

Special license plates authorized for retired veterans.

**HF367—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

Hermantown indoor sports and physical education complex construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

**HF368—Stang (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**

Stearns County Highway 55 bridge designated as Old St. Anne's pass.

**HF369—Bishop (R)**  
**Civil Law**

Joint and several liability apportionment regulated.

**HF370—Stanek (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**

Express bus service provided between Rogers and downtown Minneapolis, and money appropriated.

**HF371—Workman (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Local metropolitan government comprehensive plans required to include protection and development of aggregate resources in land use plans.

**HF372—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**

Crime victim notification of expungement proceedings required, and victims allowed to submit a statement to the court.

**HF373—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**

Child support work reporting non-compliance penalties modified, payors hiring independent contractors for public projects required to comply, and report required.

**HF374—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Pollution Control Agency noise survey and analysis conducted and money appropriated.

**HF375—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**

Farm tractor clock-hour meter tampering prohibited, criminal and civil penalties imposed, and remedies provided.

**HF376—Bradley (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**

Omnibus health and human services senior and long-term care services and appropriations bill.

**HF377—Harder (R)**  
**Taxes**

Income tax credit for taxes paid to other states extended to taxes paid to Canada and Germany.

**HF378—Davnie (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**

School district emergency energy assistance provided and money appropriated.

**HF379—Winter (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

Diesel fuel minimum biodiesel content required, B5 or B20 diesel fuel required in specified vehicles and equipment, special fuel tax rate on biodiesel fuel reduced, and money appropriated.

**HF380—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**

MinnesotaCare provider tax and health plan premium taxes repealed, health care access fund eliminated, hospital surcharge repealed, and money appropriated.

**HF381—Lenczewski (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

Metropolitan area fiscal disparities program eliminated.

**HF382—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Seasonal firefighter force maintained, and temporary emergency firefighters eligible for unemployment insurance.

**HF383—Haas (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**

Health insurance premium tax and premium tax on nonprofit health plan companies repealed.

**HF384—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Board of services for the blind created and money appropriated.

**HF385—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries**

Statewide extended area telephone service provided.

**HF386—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**

Notice required prior to engaging in electronic monitoring of employees or use of such monitoring as basis for employment decisions.

**HF387—Walker (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Black Minnesotans council membership increased.

**HF388—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Disabled peace officers and firefighters health coverage continuation provided.

**HF389—Dempsey (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Mississippi River Parkway Commission extended and membership modified.

**HF390—Winter (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Prairieland exposition center nonprofit management corporation authorized.

**HF391—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Capital Investment**

Previous Hennepin County office space appropriation redirected to People, Inc.

**HF392—Finseth (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Water and soil resources board state commissioner members defined as nonvoting members.

**HF393—Mahoney (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Ramsey County and St. Paul city employees allowed equal competition for vacant county jobs in combined city-county departments.

**HF394—Seifert (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Repealing statutes concerning castrating animals running at large in a town.

**HF395—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**

Agricultural land definition modified for purposes of hunting trespass restrictions.

**HF396—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**

Agriculture department principal offices located outside of the metropolitan area.

**HF397—Koskinen (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

Home heating fuels year-round sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF398—Seifert (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**

Agricultural lands exempted from the school district debt service levy.

**HF399—Kuisle (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Municipal tax rate limited to township rate prior to annexation until sewer and water are provided.

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## MONDAY, Jan. 29

8 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Tour of National Guard, Rosemount  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes  
**Agenda:** Overview and tour.

8:15 a.m.

### Children's Environmental Health Working Group

125 State Capitol  
Chrs. Rep. Kathy Tingelstad, Sen. Jane Krentz  
**Agenda:** \*\*\*NOTE CHANGE\*\*\*  
Children's environmental health issues - Report from John Helland, House Research.  
Pesticide and integrated pest management issues, Department of Agriculture and University of Minnesota Extension.  
Governor's "Healthy Kids Learn" initiative.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy  
**Agenda:** Overview of the budget books by the Department of Finance.  
Budget review of the Department of Labor and Industry.

### TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau  
**Agenda:** Commissioner Charlie Weaver, Department of Public Safety.  
State Patrol budget presentation, Chief Anne Beers.

8:30 a.m.

### Regent Candidate Advisory Council

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Nedra Wicks  
**Agenda:** Business meeting 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. Interviews for positions on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (lunch break 12 noon to 1:15 p.m.).

10:15 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten  
**Agenda:** Department of Finance budget overview.  
Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Commission budget presentation.  
Science Museum of Minnesota budget presentation.

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** University of Minnesota budget request, Witness: Mark Yudof, President, University of Minnesota.  
Northern Resources Research Institute (NRRI) and Physics and Electrical Engineering Department funding, Witness: Charles Nutter, CEO, Silicon Valley Corporation.

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** Governor's budget presented by the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

### Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder  
**Agenda:** HF294 (Walz) Allows a subtraction for National Guard and active duty military pay from the individual income tax.  
HF68 (Buesgens) Allows a subtraction for U.S. military pay from the individual income tax.  
HF230 (Bernardy) Allows a subtraction of up to \$5,000 for military pay in U.S. and U.N. armed forces from the individual income tax.  
HF90 (Mulder) Allows a subtraction for military pension from the individual income tax.  
HF91 (Mulder) Exempts sales tax for goods and admission for non-profit dance clubs.

12:30 p.m.

### FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD

**EDUCATION FINANCE**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora  
**Agenda:** Federal funds overview.  
Department of Children, Families and Learning staff: Mary Thissen-Milder, Sue Devich, Lois Engstrom, Elizabeth Roe, Barbara O'Sullivan, Connie Greer, Barry Shaffer, and Joyce Swonger.  
Department of Finance staff: John Breckenridge; Brent Gustafson.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey  
**Agenda:** Presentations: Office of State Auditor, Metropolitan Radio Board, and Metropolitan Airports Commission.  
Other business.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf  
**Agenda:** HF264 (Wolf) Legislative Energy Task Force; correcting names of committees represented by members.  
HFXXXX (Wolf) Relating to telecommunications; modifying and recodifying telecommunications

laws (Governor's Telecommunications Reform Bill).

Presentation by the Department of Commerce on the governor's telecommunications bill.

3 p.m.

### THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

15 minutes after session

### WAYS & MEANS

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. David Bishop  
**Agenda:** HF12 (Lipman) Constitutional amendment proposed requiring three-fifths vote to enact laws imposing or increasing taxes, fees or surcharges.

4 p.m.

### ETHICS

400S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Roxann Daggett  
**Agenda:** Introductory comments from Chair Daggett.  
Approval of committee rules.  
Overview of committee process by House Research.

## TUESDAY, January 30

8:15 a.m.

### EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley  
**Agenda:** Presentation of the nursing home case-mix system transition plan.  
Presentation on the prescription drug program.

### JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek  
**Agenda:** Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Pilot Project.  
Domestic Fatality Review Team overview.  
Bomb Disposal and Domestic Terrorism Plan overview.  
Auto Theft Prevention Board overview.  
Presentation on Governor Ventura's budget as it pertains to the section on Criminal Justice.  
Gary Karger, House Fiscal Analyst.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** HF254 (Seifert) Transportation obsolete rules repealed (continued from Jan. 25 meeting). HF368 (Stang) Stearns County Highway 55 bridge designated as Old St. Anne's pass. Others to be announced.

**8:30 a.m.**

## Regent Candidate Advisory Council

400N State Office Building

Chr. Nedra Wicks

**Agenda:** Business meeting 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. Interviews for positions on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (lunch break 12 noon to 1:15 p.m.).

**10:15 a.m.**

## CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** HF260 (Stanek) CriMNet - Criminal justice information system improvements and appropriations.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** HF80 (Hackbarth) Anoka County; Coon Lake water level control installation required. Continuation of air toxic discussion, American Lung Association.

## STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

Testimony on: Section 19, proposed budget for Veterans of Foreign Wars; Section 20, proposed budget for the Military Order of the Purple Heart; Section 21, proposed budget for the Disabled American Veterans; and Section 18, proposed budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

## TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Sviggum) Governor's tax bill.

**12:30 p.m.**

## AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** Overview of the governor's budget proposals relating to agriculture by the Department of Agriculture.

## CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** Overview of Department of Finance issues and procedures, Peter Sausen.

## COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF47 (Rukavina) Relating to economic development; requiring a closed iron mine and related facilities to be maintained for a period of time; amending Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 93.003.

HF219 (Sertich) A resolution requesting a ban on the importation of certain steel products.

**1 p.m.**

## Major Transportation Projects Commission

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. to be elected

**Agenda:** Introduction and comments by members.

Introduction of legislative and Department of Transportation (MnDOT) staff.

Election of chair.

Discussion of commission goals.

Discussion of procedural issues.

Election of other officers: vice chair and secretary.

Scheduling of meetings: monthly/bi-monthly/semi-monthly

Location of meetings: Capitol complex, other metro/outstate locations.

Staff services: meeting notices, other mailings, minutes.

Presentation by MnDOT: Discussion/presentation of transportation planning process and project selection process.

Setting of time, place and agenda for next meeting.

**2:30 p.m.**

## REDISTRICTING

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Erik Paulsen

**Agenda:** Analysis of Minnesota's population shifts, Tom Gillaspay.

Background on redistricting software, Lee Meilleur.

## Legislative Audit Commission

316 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Release and review of program evaluation report on affordable housing.

## WEDNESDAY, January 31

**8:15 a.m.**

## GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** Department of Employee Relations overview, Julien Carter.

Campaign Finance Board, Jean Olsen.

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** Budget discussions regarding health-related licensing boards.

## JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Budget review of the Department of Commerce and Minnesota Technology, Inc.

## TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** Deputy Commissioner Doug Weiszhaar, Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

Chief Financial Officer Kevin Gray, MnDOT.

Cecil Selness, Modal Operations Division.

Office of Aeronautics Budget Presentation, Ray Rought, director.

**8:30 a.m.**

## Regent Candidate Advisory Council

500S State Office Building

Chr. Nedra Wicks

**Agenda:** Business meeting 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. Interviews for positions on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents 9 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. The meeting may close to the public after the last interview for a discussion of reference checks, and then re-open to the public as the council votes for candidates to recommend to the Legislature. Between two and four candidates will be recommended for each open position on the Board of Regents. The council will take a lunch break from 12 noon until 1:15 p.m.

**10:15 a.m.**

## CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF130 (Dawkins) Dangerous dog definitions and regulations modified, animal control officers duties expanded, evidence preservation provided, and criminal penalties imposed.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Minnesota Zoological Garden budget presentation.

Academy of Science budget presentation.

## HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** Academic Health Center (University of Minnesota) budget request, Witness: Dr. Frank Cerra, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, University of Minnesota.

## **K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Sviggum) Governor's tax bill.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth  
**Agenda:** HF149 (Pawlenty) Regulating the serving, selling, and labeling of certain religion-sanctioned food.  
HF106 (Ness) Allowing certain members of the Minnesota Agriculture Education Leadership Council to designate permanent or temporary replacement members.  
Overview of rural statistics, Tom Gillaspay, State Demographer.

## **Economic Development and Tourism**

### **Division/COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner  
**Agenda:** Affordable housing.

## **FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora  
**Agenda:** Introduction/overview of governor's budget.  
Budget analysis of following programs: ECFE, Head Start, School Readiness, Screening, and Way to Grow.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey  
**Agenda:** Presentations: Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, Minnesota Regional Development Organizations, and Metropolitan Council.  
Other business.

## **THURSDAY, February 1**

**8:15 a.m.**

## **EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** Presentation on issues surrounding adult and child mental health.  
HF97 (Greiling) Revisor instructed to replace phrase concerning mental illness.

## **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek  
**Agenda:** Dakota County Community Justice Zone.  
Budget hearing for the Ombudsman of Crime Victim Services.  
Budget hearing for the Ombudsman of Corrections.  
Budget hearing for the Peace Officer Standards & Training Board.  
Budget hearing for the Sentencing Guidelines Commission.

## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Tuma  
**Agenda:** HF 94 (Haas) Fish and game law gross overlimit criminal penalties established (continuation from Jan. 25 hearing).  
Crime trends overview from the Department of Corrections, Courts, and Minnesota Planning

## **Joint House ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY/ Senate ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY \*\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\*\***

123 State Capitol  
Chrs. Rep. Dennis Ozment,  
Sen. Jane Krentz  
**Agenda:** Office of Environmental Assistance - 2001 Biennial Report.  
Department of Administration - procurement and recycling issues.  
Minnesota Soft Drink Association & Recycling Association of Minnesota - statewide recycling campaign.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie  
**Agenda:**  
HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.  
Testimony on Section 17, proposed budget for Department of Military Affairs.

## **TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Sviggum) Governor's tax bill.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness  
**Agenda:** Continuation of overview of the Governor's budget proposals relating to agriculture by the MN Department of Agriculture.

## **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach  
**Agenda:** Department of Finance report on cancellations, Peter Sausen.

**3 p.m.**

**THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

**4:15 p.m.**

## **HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

Tour, St. John's/St. Benedict's colleges  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** Tour departs from the north entrance of the State Office Building at 4:15 p.m.  
Roundtable presentation and tour scheduled from 6 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.

## **FRIDAY, February 2**

**8:15 a.m.**

## **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy  
**Agenda:** Budget review of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

**8:30 a.m.**

## **HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

Tours  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** University of Minnesota-Crookston roundtable discussion and tour (8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.).  
Northwest Technical College tour (12 noon to 12:30 p.m.).  
Bemidji State University lunch/roundtable discussion and tour (12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.).

**10:15 a.m.**

## **K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

Environment

A proposal to clean up the Minnesota River would invest \$50.8 million in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Federal funding of up to \$163 million is guaranteed for this project, but it is only available until Sept. 30, 2002, and a percentage must be matched with state dollars.

The goal of the project is to provide a 20 percent reduction of pollutants in the river by putting 100,000 acres of marginal cropland into conservation easements. Essentially, CREP would pay farmers not to farm flood-prone land. The Water and Soil Resources Board predicts that improved water quality and expanded wildlife habitat will benefit tourism, recreation and economic development.


Historically, members of the Capital Investment Committee take a state tour of projects during the interim before they decide which ones to fund. If they agree to the one budget-one session initiative, they will not have time to see projects first-hand.

Some committee members responded to the governor's proposals with frustration and concern about items from the 2000 bonding bill. They suggested the governor may yet recommend canceling some previously approved projects, though currently his plan contains no specific cancellations.

"It seems to me that the governor is trying to undo legislative intent," said Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), referring to much lower than expected allocations for higher education facilities and previously approved projects.

Mehrkens said it was not possible "within this funding level" to go ahead with some of the projects passed in last year's session.

"Then why didn't he veto them last year?" asked Committee Chair Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud).

The proposed tax rebate hung like a cloud over the discussion. "It is political nonsense," said Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), "to send money back to taxpayers then turn around and commit ourselves to bonds for building repairs." 

# Reflections

The Saint Paul Winter Carnival pays homage to the coldest season of the year. It begins or ends about the time the Legislature convenes, either in odd- or even-numbered years.

In 2001, the Legislature began its two-year session earlier, but normally, the ice festival is the first to begin in even-numbered years.

The carnival was the first major celebration of winter in the United States. Today, it lasts for 12 days with many outdoor activities, including parades, ice sculpting contests, and softball games on ice.

About the time of the festival's inception 116 years ago, legislative sessions lasted for 60 calendar days. Today, the business of providing for the people overlaps the mid-winter gala during 120 non-consecutive session days during a two-year period.

The Legislature begins its work in January or February out of tradition and constitutional mandate, which dates back to 1858, when most lawmakers were farmers. The first legislators decided to make their roles part-time because most of them had crops and animals to tend to during the other three seasons.

The legislative session and the Winter Carnival underscore the fact that nothing in Minnesota shuts down because of the weather.

The tradition began in response to a visiting New York reporter who wrote that the city was just "another Siberia, unfit for human habitation" at this time of the year.

To disprove "those easterners," members of the Saint Paul Chamber of Commerce created an association in 1885 to manage the winter celebration.

At its first event in 1886, the sponsors promoted many outdoor events and other unusual activities not seen by those from

warmer climes. They also built what was then the tallest ice structure in the world — a 106-foot palace where state government buildings now stand at the edge of the present-day State Capitol building grounds. In 1937, another palace was constructed directly opposite the Capitol.

The palace has always been part of the myth created to help draw more people from across the country to what some called the "frozen tundra." The structure houses Boreas, King of the North Wind, and his court — all who want the weather to stay cold.

His nemesis, the Fire King, or Vulcanus Rex, and his "Krewe," the Vulcans, make frequent assaults on Boreas' realm to try and make spring reappear. Vulcanus Rex usually emerges as the victor after he makes a major assault on the castle near the end of the carnival.

Legislators such as Rep. Daniel A. Morrison (R-Rochester), who had already served in the Senate for four terms, joined in as The Fire King for the 1888 carnival, when the then-tallest ice structure to date was constructed. It was so large that 6,000 people attended a wedding inside its walls before it was attacked by Morrison and his Vulcans.

Another state elected official involved in a mid-winter gala was the 1896 Speaker of the House, Samuel R. Van Sant (R-Winona), who served in Boreas' court as Lord High Chancellor. Van Sant became governor in 1901.

When winter comes to the Capital City, so do elements that make ice palaces vulnerable and legislators energetic enough to spend long hours in conducting legislative business.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

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## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Minnesota State Lottery

Number of states with lottery in fiscal year 2000 .....	37
Total U.S. lottery sales in fiscal year 2000, in billions .....	\$38.1
Sales per capita in Minnesota during fiscal year 2000 .....	\$83
Minnesota's ranking nationally .....	26
Number of states with no form of legalized gambling .....	2
Minnesota State Lottery sales in fiscal year 2000, in millions .....	\$397
In 1999 .....	\$390
In 1998 .....	\$372.8
In 1997 .....	\$369
Sales since lottery began in April 1990, in billions .....	\$3.7
Fiscal Year 2000 sales by product, as percent:	
Scratch Games .....	71
Powerball .....	19
Gopher 5 .....	6
Daily 3 .....	3
Cash 4 Life .....	1
Payout in winnings in fiscal year 2000, in millions .....	\$241.5
In 1999 .....	\$235.5
In 1998 .....	\$224.5
Prize payments since lottery began in April 1990, in billions .....	\$2.2
Lottery proceeds donated to state's general fund, as percent .....	60
Proceeds dedicated to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, as percent .....	40
Amount transferred to state General Fund since April 1990, in millions, .....	\$590
In fiscal year 2000, in millions .....	\$37
Amount transferred to State Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund since April 1990 (in millions) .....	\$255
In fiscal year 2000 (in millions) .....	\$23.5
Number of projects funded with that money .....	217
Percent of adult Minnesotans who gambled in 1998 .....	82
Percent of those who played the lottery .....	55
Percent of people with incomes higher than \$75,000 annually who gamble .....	88
Those with incomes of less than \$15,000 .....	69
Lottery proceeds provided to the Department of Human Services in 2000-2001 for problem gambling programs (in millions) .....	\$3.4
Total state non-lottery wagering during fiscal year 2000, in billions .....	\$5

Source: Minnesota State Lottery Overview 2001 and Minnesota State Lottery Web site ([www.lottery.state.mn.us](http://www.lottery.state.mn.us)).

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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

FEBRUARY 2, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 5

In this issue:

FUNDING HIGHER EDUCATION

CUTTING AIR POLLUTION, MILITARY TAX BREAKS, AND MORE

HF400-HF550

# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5  
Crime • 5  
Education • 5  
Energy • 6

Environment • 6  
Government • 7  
Human Services • 8  
Industry • 8

Recreation • 9  
Safety • 9  
Taxes • 9  
Transportation • 10

### FEATURES

**History:** A Confederate flag captured by a member of the First Minnesota regiment at the Battle of Gettysburg in the Civil War is wanted back in its home state of Virginia but remains in the confines of the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. • 11

**At Issue:** Education — Legislators worry that Gov. Jesse Ventura's K-12 education funding budget is insufficient to meet all of the state's needs. • 12

**At Issue:** Environment — A study of air pollutants shows Minnesota ahead of other states but warns that there are ways to continue reducing harmful toxins in the air. • 13

**At Issue:** Military — Lawmakers have proposed a number of initiatives aiming to reduce the tax burden on Minnesota military personnel. • 14

**People** — Rep. Barbara Goodwin brings experience as a researcher, lobbyist, and policy expert to new role as legislator. • 15

**People** — Rep. Jeff Johnson, having returned home to Minnesota after many years studying and working elsewhere, targets tax relief and education in St. Paul. • 16

**People** — Rep. Dale Walz focuses on gun owners' and property owners' rights as first-term member of the House of Representatives. • 17

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Safety first 4  
Resources: Legislative information is  
plentiful, accessible, and free 18  
Bill Introductions (HF400 -HF550) 20  
The 50 States: Beer control 23

Committee Schedule (Feb. 5-9) 24  
Reflections: Roy Wilkins 27  
Minnesota Index:  
Affordable Housing in Minnesota 28

**On the cover:** Members of the House Jobs and Economic Development Committee get a firsthand look at one of three floor-to-ceiling storage areas where boxes of county and state records are stored before they are microfilmed, and then destroyed. The committee was on a Jan. 26 tour of the Minnesota Historical Society facilities.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

# Cutting it close

University of Minnesota, MnSCU paint a bleak picture following release of Ventura higher education budget plan

By MIKE COOK

University of Minnesota President Mark Yudof said students could face double-digit tuition increases, jobs could be lost, and all Minnesotans could suffer, if Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget proposal for higher education stands.

Those are just some of the consequences Yudof warned of in a Jan. 26 presentation to the House Higher Education Finance Committee.

"The scenarios are quite bleak," he said. "Every year you hear agencies say the sky is falling, but the sky is going to fall."

Morris Anderson, chancellor of the Minne-

requested \$255.6 million for the next two years to cover inflation and make essential improvements in academic programs, technology, and workforce development.

"We're going backward," Jo Ann Roche, vice president of the Minnesota Community College Faculty Association, said Jan. 26. "With rising costs of health care, inflation, and other cost increases needed just to keep our system working, MnSCU will actually be losing money with this budget."

Higher education officials in both systems worry they will either have to increase tuition costs or cut services, or both, in order to make

ends meet. Specifically, they are concerned that access to higher education will be reduced because costs will prohibit certain students from pursuing a college degree.

The University of Minnesota requested \$221 million for the next biennium. Ventura's 2002-03 budget calls for \$56.6 million to the institution, \$40 million of which would support inflation adjustments for faculty and staff

those of greater need.

Most of the university's request would cover salaries. Of the \$124.1 million inflationary request, \$62.8 million was for a 3 percent bump in salary and non-health care fringe benefits.

"The second thing we looked at is what it would cost to give employees exactly the same health insurance coverage for the next two years they have had the last two years," Yudof said. That number came to \$58.1 million. Costs are increasing by 20 percent per year, he said, noting the package is negotiated by the state.

MnSCU officials say they need \$153.3 million just to cover similar costs.

Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring), noting that more businesses are making employees pay more for their health plan, asked if that was an option for university employees. Yudof said the university is examining that but most people prefer to stay with the current state plan.

Finally, the university wants to raise the wages of some employees, who are struggling to make ends meet financially, from \$10 per hour to \$12 per hour, for a total increase of \$3.2 million for the biennium.

Beyond salaries, Yudof said, the university hopes to continue giving the best undergraduate education possible.

"Undergraduate education has been the foundation of the University of Minnesota for 150 years, and if we don't do that right there is nothing else worth doing, frankly," Yudof said.

To that end, the university seeks \$15 million to add 40 teachers for specific freshman seminars, to improve student advisement, to increase undergraduate research opportunities, and to expand study abroad opportunities.

The governor's proposal could also prompt cuts at the University Medical School.

"The medical school is losing \$8 million per year, and has been losing money for a reasonably long period of time," Yudof said, noting that the reserves can no longer sustain the program. "You either have to fix the problem or we will significantly cut back on medical education."

The school has dropped from 13<sup>th</sup> in 1980 to 27<sup>th</sup> in 1999 in the National Institutes of Health rankings. "This reflects the underinvestment and retrenchments in Minnesota compared with state institutions that improved investments," Dr. Frank Cerra, senior vice president of the Academic Health Center told the House Higher Education Finance

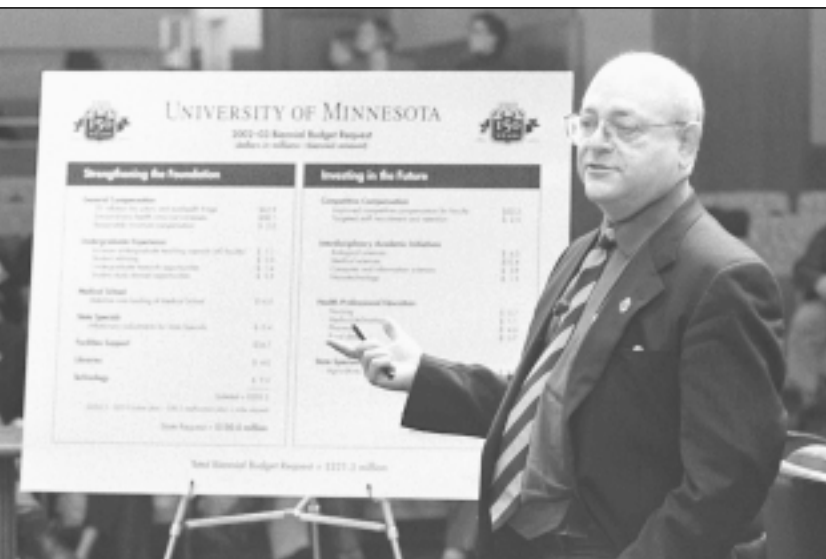


PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

University of Minnesota President Mark Yudof speaks about consequences of the governor's higher education budget request Jan. 26 before the House Higher Education Finance Committee.

sota State Colleges and Universities, echoed those sentiments at a Jan. 30 news conference. MnSCU representatives are scheduled to address the committee Feb. 9.

"The governor's proposed \$47 million increase falls drastically short of meeting our needs, and we cannot avoid serious damage if it is adopted," Anderson said. MnSCU, with Fall 2000 enrollment of more than 150,000 students at 35 institutions and 53 campuses,

compensation.

Yudof spent much of his presentation detailing why the university needs the money it requested.

Both the MnSCU and University of Minnesota budgets were based on a 3 percent tuition increase each of the next two years and \$30 million in internal reallocations. At the university, most of that would be shifting money for faculty from areas of less need to



Committee Jan. 31.

Yudof said \$8 million is needed annually to stabilize the situation. The state currently picks up 9 percent of the medical school operating costs.

Though there are some professors at the medical school who make more than \$100,000 annually, the state only pays for 10 percent of those salaries, Yudof said. The remainder comes from research and outside activities, such as a clinical setting.

"If this medical school downsizes, eight years from now you will rue the day when for \$20 million you could have fixed it," Yudof said. "Because then you will not fix it for (\$20 million)."

The university is also seeking \$34.7 million for facilities support, significantly due to rising energy costs, ongoing maintenance and debt service; \$4 million for libraries with book costs increasing 10 to 15 percent per year; and \$9 million for technology upgrades.

The other \$71.5 million of the university budget request would be targeted for "Investing in the Future" initiatives such as competitive compensation, interdisciplinary academic initiatives, and improving program options, particularly in the health sciences.

While not wanting to present a "doomsday scenario," Yudof said without more money, the university will likely have to reduce allocations for colleges (possibly as much as 7.5 percent each), shift funds to departments with more urgent needs, and raise tuition, possibly as much as 15 percent each year.

"This may get us through the inflationary costs," Yudof said. "It's a matter of choice. How good do you want this place to be?" For example, he said, by keeping costs down, top faculty will leave for other institutions.

"I didn't envision that at a time of a surplus, we'd be cutting back all our programs 7.5 percent," Yudof said.

Stang said if the university were to get all it seeks, the "doomsday scenario" may only be delayed. "What happens in the future when these plans need inflation-plus?" he asked. "Taxpayers may not be very receptive to tax increases for these type investments."

"We need to be efficient, but also know it's extremely difficult to predict the future," added Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria).

Anderson and Yudof each stressed the link between higher education and economic development of the state as a whole.

"By just funding inflation we are doing nothing to help the labor shortage in Minnesota," Yudof said. For example, he said medical facilities in the state are suffering or shutting down due to lack of nurses, pharmacists, and other medical technicians. 🐼



## Safety first

### Legislators refine rules of the road whether on wheels or on foot

A century ago, the automobile was a new phenomenon and drivers found themselves fighting for road space with both horse-drawn carriages and pedestrians.

And the pedestrians often lost the minor skirmishes, unable to protect themselves from the faster, heavier, and more powerful machines.

It was not unusual to see newspaper accounts of tragic car-pedestrian accidents that claimed the lives of foot-bound travelers. Take the following account from the *New York Times* of Henry H. Bliss, who became the first pedestrian killed by a car on Sept. 13, 1899 — the day of his 68<sup>th</sup> birthday:

"H.H. Bliss, a real estate dealer, with offices at 41 Wall St. and living at 235 West 75th St., was run over last night at Central Park West and 74th St. He was injured fatally. Bliss, accompanied by a woman named Lee, was alighting from a south-bound, Eighth Ave. trolley car when he was knocked down and run over by an automobile in charge of Arthur Smith of 151 West 62nd St. He had left the car, and had turned to assist Miss Lee, when the automobile struck him. Bliss was knocked to the pavement, and two wheels of the cab passed over his head and body. His skull and chest were crushed.

"Dr. David Orr Edson, son of ex-mayor Edson, of 38 West 71st St., was the occupant of the electric cab. As soon as the vehicle was brought to a standstill, he sent in a call to Roosevelt Hospital for an ambulance, and until its arrival did all he could to aid the injured man. When he was taken to the hospital Dr. Marny, the house surgeon, said that Bliss was so seriously injured that he could not live."

Though Bliss secured an unfortunate role in history pedestrian safety was hardly a new concern. As far back as ancient Rome, Caesar decreed that heavy wagons were forbidden within the central city after dusk.

As the automobile became more prominent in American society so too did accidents involving cars and pedestrians. By 1937 a record 15,000 pedestrians were killed.

The first major pedestrian safety education efforts began around the beginning of World War I. In 1928 the first electronic traffic light was installed on Fifth Avenue in New York.

One year prior, the Minnesota Legislature passed the state's first major pedestrian safety law, the Uniform Highway Traffic Act, a law that required drivers to yield to pedestrians crossing streets at any clearly marked crosswalk. Likewise, the 1927 law required pedestrians to yield to vehicles within a business district at any point other than a pedestrian crossing.

By the early 1930s, school safety patrols were formed around the country with one of the first established in St. Paul. At about the same time, the Minnesota Highway Department began publishing written guidelines for student patrols. In 1933 the Legislature passed a law that authorized schools to establish school patrols for the purpose of directing and assisting children when crossing streets or highways near schools "so that the crossing may be made without accident and with as little inconvenience as possible."

Though the new laws focused attention on pedestrian safety issues, the number of fatalities remained high. In 1939, 175 Minnesota pedestrians, representing 31 percent of all traffic deaths in the state, were killed. Further emphasis was placed on community planning to address safety issues.

Currently, about 6,000 pedestrians a year are killed nationwide while another 90,000 are injured. That equates to about one injury or death every three to four minutes.

In 1995 the Legislature strengthened the state's crosswalk laws requiring, among other things, drivers to not only yield to pedestrians in crosswalks but to slow to a stop when necessary. The law also made it clear that drivers must yield to pedestrians not only in marked crosswalks, but also unmarked intersections. Failure to do so is deemed a misdemeanor.

In 2000 the Legislature further strengthened and clarified the law by specifying that drivers must stop their vehicles, yield to pedestrians, and proceed only when the pedestrian has completely crossed the lane in front of the stopped vehicle.

Lawmakers hope that by strengthening crosswalk laws the number of pedestrian fatalities will decline.

(D. MAEDA)

## ★ AGRICULTURE

### **Food standards protected**

Legislators are considering a bill that would provide legal protection for foods prepared according to Islamic religious law.

HF149, sponsored by House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) would prohibit the sale or serving of food falsely labeled "Halaal," or prepared according to Islamic religious law, called Sharia. The provisions are modeled on existing standards for Kosher foods prepared according to Jewish religious law.

The House Agriculture Policy Committee approved the bill and referred it to the House Crime Prevention Committee because it would make misrepresentation of Halaal standards a misdemeanor.

During a Jan. 31 Agriculture Policy committee meeting, Damon Drake, outreach director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said the state-sponsored guarantee of Islamic standards would help state farmers hold on to a growing number of Muslim food shoppers. "We think that this will improve profits for farmers," he said.

Matthew Ramadan is an Islamic religious authority known as an Imam. He opened the first Halaal market in Minnesota in North Minneapolis in 1986. "Halaal is basically a word that means lawful, or legal," he says.

Ramadan says that Muslims are required to humanely treat animals intended for human consumption.

For example, animals are not to be kept in a place where they can observe other livestock being slaughtered, butchers must insure animals not see the knife with which they are to be slain, and animal caretakers are required to provide water and other comforts for animals before slaughter.

Until now, Ramadan says that Minnesota Muslims have had to rely on organic or Kosher foods, which Islamic law permits when truly Halaal food is unavailable. He estimates the Minnesota Muslim population numbers about 100,000 people, and that food prepared according to Halaal standards will remain in high demand.

Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie), co-sponsor of the bill, said that existing federal guidelines could be easily adopted by state food inspectors and government agencies.

Ramadan explained that Halaal requirements are commonly upheld in other cities by inspections by local religious authorities.

Citing the shared interests of the Muslim and Jewish communities, Shepard Harris, of the Jewish Community Relations Council, offered his group's endorsement of the proposal.

## ★ CRIME

### **Communication plan funding**

Lawmakers are considering a bill to fund a program intended to dramatically improve communication between law enforcement agencies regarding data about convicted criminals. HF260, sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), would appropriate \$41.5 million to further the development of CriMNet, a computer system which would integrate, track, and share criminal justice information among law enforcement, courts, public safety, and other criminal justice agencies.

The House Crime Prevention Committee considered the bill Jan. 30, and voted unanimously to re-refer it to the House Civil Law Committee to deal with data privacy issues.

The bill would also mandate procedures to assist the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) in cataloging criminals. Among those provisions are strict guidelines for imprinting fingerprints and forwarding copies to the bureau, a commonly overlooked yet effective method for organizing data.

Steve Correll, manager of BCA Criminal Justice Information Systems, testified that sheriffs often provide incomplete information to the bureau regarding every arrest made in their county. For example, he said about 40 percent of all arrests in Hennepin County are incorrectly or incompletely reported to the BCA. The proposed legislation would require sheriffs to regularly report arrestee information to the bureau.

Correll said his bureau retains such incomplete reports, but that information is far less helpful than it could be when courts or other agencies request data on a particular offender.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) expressed concern about the effectiveness of CriMNet, given his understanding that many people held in state prisons and jails are not Minnesota residents. "The value is greatly attenuated

(diminished) if we don't coordinate (information sharing) with other states," he said.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver said the funding request, which was drafted by a mandated policy group, would allow CriMNet to coordinate with a similar federal system, also in development.

Gov. Jesse Ventura proposed spending \$27 million for the CriMNet program in his 2002-03 biennial budget. Weaver explained that the \$41.5 million proposal was a "perfect world" request.

However, he argued that the need for adequate background checks "is one of the most important problems for society." According to Weaver, CriMNet can provide the information necessary to conduct thorough background checks for education, health care, and other workers.

## ★ EDUCATION

### **Student goals questioned**

Asking members of the House Education Policy Committee to shift the focus from standardized test results to individual school progress, Joe Nathan, director of the Center for School Change at the University of Minnesota, challenged legislators to learn the objectives of schools in their districts.

"Clear, explicit, measurable goals," Nathan says, are a part of the answer to ensuring progress for students and schools as a whole.

"We need to have a broader picture — not just standardized tests," he said.

The goals, he said, should also be widely understood so teachers, parents, students, and community members are aware of the school's progress.

At the Feb. 1 hearing, Nathan discussed material from a six-month study that was published in a report titled, *What Should We Do? A Practical Guide to Assessment and Accountability in Schools*.

With an apple, orange, golf ball, baseball, and basketball in front of him, Nathan began his presentation explaining that the objects before him shared certain characteristics, such as circumference and weight. "But there is something that can be said about just not having the numbers," he added.

Legislators commended Nathan's ideas, but



questioned the purpose of education, and educational opportunities in Greater Minnesota.

Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) wanted to know if students should be preparing to enter the workforce or gaining "a renaissance approach and appreciation for the world around them.

"Where do we keep the balance, and what do we want our children to achieve?" he asked.

"Finding that balance is enormously difficult," Nathan replied. He said it is appropriate for the Legislature to decide what students should know when they graduate, and to provide educational opportunities, such as choosing different schools or programs.

However, Kielkucki, who represents a district approximately 50 miles west of the Twin Cities, said there are fewer opportunities outside the metro area. "We don't have that choice in rural Minnesota."

Nathan said he's found many schools in smaller districts have different programs in one building.

He also stated the role that the representatives fill. "The Legislature needs to be careful to provide some things but not tie the hands of schools."

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) pointed out that much of what the study calls for is already in statute, and wondered how Nathan intended to advocate the study's findings differently.

"We're disappointed that the focus has been on districts instead of local schools," Nathan responded. "We haven't focused on explicit goals."

### Equitable funding proposed

The House K-12 Education Committee heard a bill (HF3), sponsored by Rep. Maxine Penas (R-Badger), that would make education funding more equitable across the state.

"There needs to be some kind of provision for districts who cannot pass a levy," Penas said at the Jan. 31 meeting.

The governor's recommendation for next biennium calls for a \$60 per pupil unit increase for fiscal year 2003, with no change in 2002.

That recommendation is based on two equity regions — the Twin Cities metropolitan area and Greater Minnesota. Penas' bill would eliminate the two regions, therefore distributing more funds to districts of a lower percentile. Districts are ranked by percentile according to allocations determined by a state formula.

The governor's proposal totals \$21 million. HF3 would cost around \$35 million annually, increasing the provisions of current law by at least \$25 per pupil unit while providing up to

an additional \$75 per pupil unit more according to a bill's prescribed percentile rank.

Penas' bill, unlike the governor's recommendation, does not include a distinction between districts that conduct a referendum and those who do not.

The committee did not act on the bill, but it will be among several bills considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus budget bill.

## ★ ENERGY

### Heating help approved

A bill that would allow low-income families to receive heating assistance funds two weeks early was passed by the House Jan. 29.

The bill (HF421), sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), would release \$12.2 million dollars in federal money that would otherwise not be granted until Feb. 13. The next allocation would be given out at the end of February.

"This is an urgency and I hope we can make the money available to families who need it," McElroy said.

Heating bills across the state are much higher than expected this winter. December 2000 was much colder than normal, and the price per unit of natural gas is almost triple the rate it was one year ago.

McElroy said the Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LI-HEAP) has received many more applications than in the

past. He said the average grant is \$400 to 500 per family.

"This bill will serve a significant number of families," McElroy said.

The Senate also passed the bill on a vote of 58-0 Feb. 1. It now travels to the governor's desk for approval.

McElroy reported that Gov. Jesse Ventura said he will stay in town to sign the bill, and, if signed, money would be available right away.

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### Legal battle nears resolution

A four-year dispute over the water level of Coon Lake in Anoka County has pitted lake residents against the county and the Department of Natural Resources. That battle may soon be over.

In hopes of resolving the dispute, Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar) has sponsored a bill (HF90) that would require the DNR to modify an outlet control for Coon Lake on an experimental basis, thus raising the water level by approximately six inches.

The committee approved the bill as amended. It will now go to the House floor.

The lake level dropped about one foot in 1996 after Anoka County, with permission from the DNR, removed sediment and vegetation upstream from the lake outlet structure.

A group of lakeshore owners subsequently sued the county and DNR for damages.

### SIMON SAYS



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Simon Opatz joins his dad, Rep. Joe Opatz, and legislators at the big committee table Feb. 1 for the House Education Policy Committee meeting. Simon's birth, nearly six years ago, prompted Opatz to sponsor legislation requiring that mothers be allowed to stay in the hospital at least 48 hours after birth. The bill became law in 1996.

Mediation in 1998 resulted in the plaintiffs suspending the lawsuit with the understanding that a resolution would be forthcoming.

In 1999, the Legislature directed the DNR to study the feasibility of raising the control elevation of Coon Lake. The study that followed examined options for raising the lake to a level acceptable to the most residents with the least environmental impact and lowest cost.

Kent Lokkesmoe, director of DNR waters, told the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee Jan. 30 that the department's recommendation is to construct a modification to the outlet control that would restrict the capacity of outflow. The cost, estimated to be less than \$10,000, would be paid out of the department's budget.

### Zoo budget request

Lawmakers arriving for the Jan. 31 House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee meeting were greeted by a velvety chinchilla, two Australian lizards, and a dwarf white rabbit — each on the arm of a blue-clad volunteer.

All were emissaries from the Minnesota Zoological Garden, joining its official representatives for the annual budget presentation.

"The Minnesota Zoo's reputation extends broadly and deeply in the international zoological community as a leader in education and conservation work," said Lee Ehmke, the zoo's executive director.

Still referred to as the "new" zoo, the Minnesota Zoo is 23 years old and needs work, according to officials. The board also said the zoo needs a new vision, and they hired Ehmke last year to develop a "roadmap to the future."

An environmental lawyer and landscape architect, Ehmke designed the highly acclaimed Congo exhibit at the Bronx Zoo in New York.

Education is one of the zoo's principal activities. This year a proposal for a project called "Connect with the Wildlife at the Minnesota Zoo" would place new interpretive graphics displays in animal exhibit areas. The cost of the project, \$230,000, would come from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources.

The zoo was created as a public-private partnership and remains so today. The state provides approximately 40 percent of the costs associated with the zoo. The rest comes from admissions, fees, and gifts from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Gov. Jesse Ventura recommended the zoo's base budget of about \$15 million for the biennium, plus their LCMR request, and \$140,000 from the Natural Resources Fund, which comes from the lottery-in-lieu monies dedicated to the Department of Natural Resources.

Jim Reinholdz, the zoo's vice president for finance, pointed out the zoo's infrastructure is deteriorating and in need of refurbishing. In support of this, Ventura recommended a capital appropriation of \$4 million to continue the roadways and pathways project.

"Unfortunately," said Reinholdz, "the governor's budget is not enough to cover inflation." Additional increases of about 20 percent each in employee health care and energy costs have zoo finance officials worried.

"As an educational institution, you have a great opportunity to teach about energy conservation," suggested Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls).

Despite a budget shortfall, Ehmke and zoo

board members have high hopes for the future.

"I believe the Minnesota Zoo has the potential to become one of the world's great zoos," Ehmke said. "It could be one of the crown jewels of Minnesota."

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### State help wanted

The state's largest employer could face a serious labor shortage in the near future, the head of the Department of Employee Relations told the House Government Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Jan. 31.

Commissioner Julien Carter said the State of Minnesota employs more than 53,000 people. He said state government may be on the cusp of a "significant exodus of current workers."

Currently 70 percent of state employees are more than 40 years old. Carter said if past retirement trends continue, 18 percent of the workforce, including more than one-half of the professional and management staff, could retire in five years.

Carter said the state needs to develop a strategic plan to replace those workers and decide where resources should be spent. He said while some would argue that reducing the size of government would be a benefit, without a strategy in place it "may lead to more headaches than relief."

Over the years the state has had to adapt in the marketplace to compete with the private sector for workers. Carter said that historically the notion of public service attracted people to government work. Now the state has had to increase its compensation and benefit packages to get quality workers.

"We have an obligation to the taxpayers," he said. "We want to be competitive but we don't want to be extravagant."

Rising health care costs coupled with the aging workforce is another issue the state will need to address, Carter said. Currently the state insures more than 153,000 people including employees, their spouses and dependents.

He said limited competition due to few health care providers has meant rising insurance costs.

This past year the state began a long-term care insurance program for its employees. Carter said the amount of people signing up exceeded the department's expectations and that in the long run that insurance will provide significant savings for the state.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Susan Heffron, a volunteer at the Minnesota Zoo, holds a bearded dragon as committee chair Rep. Mark Holsten prepares to convene the Jan. 31 meeting of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee. The committee was hearing a budget presentation from the zoo.

## ★ HUMAN SERVICES

### Adult foster care rules eased

When Donna Lundgren learned that her mother, who has multiple sclerosis, was too young to receive care from the only adult foster care facility in her county, she called her legislator.

"I could not believe how rigid the rule was," said Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls).

After looking into the matter, Wenzel sponsored a bill that would ease the way for people to be admitted to an adult foster care facility rather than a nursing home. He presented the bill (HF181) to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee Feb. 1. It was approved as amended and sent to the House floor.

Wenzel's bill would change the capacity requirements for adult foster care by lowering the age base from 60 to 55 for facilities that provide service to five persons or fewer.

The bill would also allow the commissioner of human services to grant variances for persons under 55 to be admitted to foster care homes with five or fewer beds when recommended by the county in which the facility is located, as long as other requirements are met.

"Sometimes statutory limits are at odds with what is in the best interests of patients," said Jerry Kerber, director of licensing for the Department of Human Services.

"I see a lot of situations like this," said Marie Poling, who owns Amazing Grace, the care center in Morrison County where Lundgren's mother will live if the bill passes.

Lundgren said her mother, Marge Mueller, who is 58, needs a lot of care but she's too young for a nursing home.

"She needs to be in her own community, near her friends, in a less institutional setting," Lundgren said.

The amendment allows the part of the law that affects Mueller to be effective the day after the governor signs it.

### Less nursing home paperwork

Ask most nursing home staff what they think about paperwork and they'll tell you three things: it's a headache, some of it is necessary and some of it is not. But it's all required — by federal, state, or county entities.

In 1999 the Legislature asked the Department of Human Services to recommend a plan to revise Minnesota's case-mix system and reduce redundant and unnecessary paperwork for nursing facility payments.

The resulting report was presented to members of the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee Jan. 30.

A case-mix system ensures that nursing homes admit residents who may require a lot of care. State payments to the facility depend on the amount of care needed by its residents. The system does not determine how much is spent, but how it is allocated.

The primary goal of the Nursing Facility Case-Mix Transition Plan, which took 18 months to complete, was to move from a dual to a single resident assessment system, which meant aligning the state's system with federal requirements.

The result is a report recommending "a state-of-the-art system," Bob Held, division director of continuing care for the elderly in the Department of Human Services, told the committee. "It is fair, equitable, and budget neutral."

Minnesota's current system is 16 years old, unwieldy, and obsolete in terms of technology. The new approach would be based on the federal system and will significantly reduce paperwork, Held said.

It will take time to update the system. Estimates on the date of implementation range from July 1, 2002 to Dec. 31, 2002, he said.

It will also cost money — about \$1 million the first year, said Ann Lutterman, director of

case-mix review for the Department of Health. Some of that money will come from the federal government.

The biggest costs will be for new technology, including hardware and software, and for education, she said.

On Jan. 25, Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) introduced a bill (HF332) that would establish new nursing facility resident assessment and reimbursement systems based on the Department of Human Services study.

The bill has been referred to the Health and Human Services Policy Committee and awaits a hearing.

## ★ INDUSTRY

### Extending closed mine maintenance

A bill (HF47) that would extend the time a closed mining facility is maintained was approved by the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Committee Jan. 30.

Current law states any closed mining facility must be kept in operating condition for one year. The amendment would lengthen the time to two years.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), who sponsored the bill, said it would give another year for mining plants such as LTV Steel Mining Company time to pursue a new owner. The Hoyt Lakes plant ceased operations in early January, laying off 1,400 steel workers. Rukavina said there is potential for more.

Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) said that LTV Corporation is in Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

"I'm very fearful that in the next few months Chapter 11 could become Chapter 7," Bakk said. "It's essential that we try to keep those assets together."

The bill now moves to the Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee.

### Limiting imported steel

Representatives of the Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Committee approved a bill (HF219) Jan. 30 that would send an official message, in the form of a resolution, to President George W. Bush requesting that his administration investigate illegal dumping of steel products in the United States.

"We can compete with any country in the world if we have a fair chance," said Stan Daniels, staff representative for United Steelworkers of America.

"Illegal dumping" refers to the practice of other countries exporting their excess steel into the United States and selling it at a lower market price than U.S. manufacturers. Officials say this practice has resulted in more than

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Mary Harms carries her sign and 17-month-old granddaughter, Janessa, whose parents are working hard to be able to afford their own home, at an affordable housing rally held in the Rotunda Jan. 31.



7,000 job losses for steel workers across the nation in the last six months, including 1,500 in Minnesota.

The same resolution was proposed three years ago and passed in the Senate, but didn't make it through the House, said Rep. Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm), who is sponsoring the bill.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) stated that 70 percent of steel companies could be filing Chapter 11 bankruptcy by end of year, and he attributes some of that to illegal dumping.

"It's not because we can't compete, it's because of dumping," he said.

"This country has a very strong demand for steel and we need foreign imports," but the percentage of foreign sale is too great, said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook). "Washington D.C. needs to investigate."

Daniels said it has been proven that some countries have done illegal dumping in the United States and the federal government is currently taking action on several cases.

Taconite brings in \$1.5 billion annually for Minnesota, Daniels said. "We will not let this industry die."

The bill now travels to the House floor. Once it passes both the House and Senate, and receives the governor's approval, a proclamation will be sent to the president.

## ★ RECREATION

### No sales tax for dancing

Some Minnesota dancers might have a little more bounce in their step due to a proposed tax break heard by the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division Jan. 29.

HF90 would exempt non profit dance clubs from the state sales tax. The exemption would apply to admission, food and drink, and other sales held at dances sponsored by square dance, folk dance, polka, and ballroom dance clubs.

The committee took no action on the measure, but Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the division chair, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), the bill's sponsor, said the tax relief would help those nonprofit clubs that pay a small amount of sales tax and have to pay accounting help to fill out the forms.

Mulder said the measure would also help those that were unaware that they were supposed to be collecting sales tax at their dances and are now worried about owing the state years of taxes.

Robert Maiden, from the Minnesota

Federation of Square Dancers, said most square dance clubs in the state are small in size, averaging five squares, or 40 dancers. He said the costs to rent space have continued to increase, as has the cost of hiring callers, and cuers — those that call round dances, similar to ballroom dancing.

The Department of Revenue estimates the annual sales of organizations exempted under the bill is around \$6,500. The department estimates lost revenue associated with the bill would be around \$47,000 in 2002, and \$51,000 in following years.

Mulder said many clubs currently are exempt from federal taxes as they have qualified as educational organizations. He said some of those clubs are bigger than the clubs that would become exempt from state sales taxes under his measure.

## ★ SAFETY

### Don't let the dog bite

Technology and "man's best friend" may become one as legislators are considering a bill that could significantly change laws affecting dangerous dogs.

Among the most significant changes in HF130, sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), is a provision that would require owners of dogs deemed dangerous by local animal control officers to pay for the mandatory insertion of a computer microchip into their canines' backs.

A dog would be deemed dangerous based on its behavior, not its breed. That determination, according to the bill, would be made by a local animal control official.

The microchips would be inserted by a veterinarian or animal control officials, and would assist in the tracking and identification of the dogs. The bill would make it a misdemeanor to remove the chip.

Another provision would create misdemeanor and civil liability penalties for owners of dogs who injure service dogs, such as seeing-eye or police dogs.

Because of concerns over the number and character of changes, the House Civil Law Committee voted against moving the bill out of committee during its Jan. 31 meeting. The committee plans to revisit the issue during its next meeting.

"Basically, this is just a plain English rewrite of existing law," Dawkins said. "Sort of a 'get-tough-on-dangerous-dogs' bill."

Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) expressed concern about a provision that would prevent dog owners from appealing a decision higher than the district court level. "I have

concerns about due process," she said.

St. Paul attorney Pamela Finamore testified against the bill, saying it would unnecessarily increase the number of dogs determined to be dangerous and would unreasonably limit dog owners' ability to appeal the determination.

That sentiment was echoed by an American Kennel Club (AKC) through a letter distributed to committee members. According to the club, which represents 70 local dog clubs in Minnesota, the bill "places greater authority and discretion in the hands of animal control officers. In doing so, (it) could make the process by which a dog is determined dangerous much more subjective."

## ★ TAXES

### Governor's tax plan

Calling it a substantial and ambitious tax plan, House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) presented Gov. Jesse Ventura's tax proposal to the House Taxes Committee Jan. 30.

The committee is scheduled to hold several more hearings on the bill, which has not been formally introduced in the House.

Sviggum said he is sponsoring the measure as a courtesy to the governor even though there are provisions in the bill he does not



Department of Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith, left, and House Speaker Steve Sviggum, who is sponsoring Gov. Jesse Ventura's tax plan, listen as members of the House Taxes Committee ask questions about the proposal during a Jan. 30 hearing.

support. He praised the overall bill for “reducing taxes for all Minnesotans.”

“This is reform like we have not seen for a long, long time,” Sviggum said.

He said the bill addresses real life situations and provides substantial relief from the tax burden on all state taxpayers.

Department of Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith said the bill combines both permanent tax relief and fundamental tax reform.

He said one major goal of the proposal is to reduce property taxes, dropping that tax from the second highest tax collected in the state to the third highest, behind income and sales taxes.

Smith said the bill also is an attempt to modernize the sales tax to make it fairer and more representative of today’s economy.

In total the bill would cut property taxes by \$801 million and income taxes by \$496 million. The bill would cut the sales tax rate from 6.5 percent to 6 percent but broaden the base by taxing more services. Those changes would mean an increase in collection of around \$446 million a year.

Smith said the total tax savings per year would be nearly \$1.05 billion.

Sviggum said raising taxes by broadening the sales tax during a time of budget surpluses was an idea he was not sold on.

“I have difficulty with sending a mixed message to taxpayers,” he said.

Ventura’s proposal does not include a 2001 sales tax rebate but Smith said that portion of the governor’s plan would be forthcoming in another bill. He said that proposal would be similar to those already introduced in the House that would total about \$925 million in automatic rebates to 2.4 million taxpayers.

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### Improving the bus system

The Twin Cities transit system would double its current size in the next two decades under a plan put forward by the Metropolitan Council.

Met Council Chair Ted Mondale said the agency hopes that by the year 2020 capacity of the bus system would increase twofold. Currently around 125,000 people ride the metro buses every day.

The Metropolitan Council gave an overview of the agency’s services to the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Jan. 31.

Mondale said in order to meet the goal the system would have to increase by about 3.5 percent a year. He said the benefits of this expansion would include \$2 billion in savings

from not having to build roads and expand utilities.

The agency also estimates other benefits including that around 110,500 acres of land would be spared development, 550 million miles of travel eliminated, 245,000 fewer auto trips would be taken daily, 27 million gallons of fuel would be saved, and 6,600 tons of carbon monoxide would be eliminated.

Mondale said the bus system will remain the backbone of the area’s mass transit system. He said the country’s biggest transit mistake occurred in Los Angeles where the development of light rail led to a “gutting” of that city’s bus system.

The agency would be seeking increased state funding both in the budget base and in property taxes, Mondale said. Also the agency is proposing a fare increase from \$1 up to \$1.25.

Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls) expressed concern with the proposed fare increase because it would lead to fewer people riding buses.

John Byrd, the interim general manager of Metro Transit, said that although in the short term the fare increase would inevitably decrease ridership, in the long term an increase in bus service and further improvements to the system would ultimately mean even more riders.

### Obsolete rules revised

The task of repealing obsolete rules, something Gov. Jesse Ventura has long promoted as a key element of legislative responsibility, has begun.

HF254, sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), would repeal six rules identified by the Department of Transportation as obsolete or repetitive. The House Transportation Policy Committee approved the bill Feb. 1 and sent it to the House floor.

Hope Jensen, rules coordinator for the department, explained in a letter that federal law prohibits states from enacting rules which would allow states to administer tariffs on intrastate carriers. Therefore, according to Jensen, state rules that guide the collection of such tariffs should be repealed.

Other rules that HF254 would repeal also refer to the tariff enforcement.

Jane Nelson, management analyst for the Department of Public Safety, told the committee that repealing laws at the legislative level is far more efficient than doing so via intradepartmental procedures.

Departments are required to allow public hearings and meet other obligations before amending rules on their own initiative, a lengthy and costly process. “We pay \$80 to \$90

per page to publish (rule changes) in the public register,” she said.

The bill has already encountered some opposition. Members decided some provisions in the original list of rules to be repealed should remain in effect. In fact, HF254 passed the committee with only one-third of the original 17 rules to be repealed.

Seifert welcomed the amendments, hoping to make the bill as palatable as possible. “I want to make sure that the House floor doesn’t become a bidding war for getting rid of rules.”

### More troopers sought

Gov. Jesse Ventura’s proposed budget calls for 65 new state troopers to be funded with \$4.3 million from the Trunk Highway Fund during the next two years.

Members of the House Transportation Finance Committee heard that message at its Jan. 29 meeting.

According to the governor’s budget, denial of the additional funds will “prevent the State Patrol from providing even basic coverage in many areas of the state. This will seriously compromise the safety and security of our trunk highway system.”

The state Department of Public Safety hopes to have a total of 566 State Patrol officers working throughout Minnesota by 2004. The Legislature had previously provided funds aimed at sufficiently training, equipping, and paying that many officers.

However, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver said that his department was unable to hire sufficient officers due to increased health insurance, fuel, and vehicle maintenance costs. Health insurance costs for the State Patrol have increased by “nearly 80 percent” between 1997 and 2001, according to the department.

Some of the requested funds would be earmarked for a training program which would introduce new recruits to the department’s procedures and prepare them for duty on Minnesota’s highways. The funds would be drawn from the Trunk Highway Fund, a resource established by the state constitution for the construction and operation of state highways.

Weaver will continue his testimony at a later hearing.

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# Capture the flag

Modern-day interest in Civil War battle involving Minnesota's First regiment brings captured confederate flag to the forefront

By JONAS M. WALKER

**T**he honor-bound dictates of battle place terrific importance upon a military regiment's flag. In ages past colorful banners served as both a communication tool, alerting friends and foes of a particular unit's movement, and as a spiritual rallying point before, during, and after battle for weary soldiers.

So it was on July 3, 1863, the bloodiest day in American history.

That day was the third day of battle between Union and Confederate forces near Gettysburg, Pa., the "Confederate High Tide," the northern most point of conflict during the Civil War.

During a particularly vigorous point in the battle known as Pickett's Charge, some 15,000 Confederate soldiers assailed the Union line at a point held in part by a complement of highly-decorated Minnesota soldiers. The result was predictably tragic — the 28<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment suffered 90 percent casualties, and their Minnesota counterparts fared little better.

According to research conducted by the Minnesota Historical Society, Private Marshall Sherman of Company C, First Minnesota infantry, spotted a Confederate lieutenant bearing his regiment's flag during the storied assault.

Sherman would later report that he approached the Confederate officer and demanded the flag, threatening the Southerner with his bayonet. Although later reports cast doubt upon the accuracy of Sherman's account, no one disputes that he captured both the enemy officer and the all-important flag.

So popular was Sherman's action that he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor — the first St. Paulite to do so. A dutiful as well as brave soldier, Sherman handed over the prize flag to the United States Department of War, in keeping with military regulations. The flag was catalogued along with other captured equipment and labeled "No. 58."

The historical society reports that the War Department returned the flag to Sherman, although it is not known precisely when. It was displayed at his funeral in 1896. Afterwards, it

was moved to the Minnesota State Capitol, where it was exhibited as glorious war booty.

In 1905, the flag came under the official custody of the historical society. Today it is cared for by skilled textile conservators and collections curators and held in climate-controlled cabinets within the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul.

For most Civil War artifacts, the story would end there. However, riding a wave of popularized interest in the Civil War, a group of Confederate re-enactors from the

Roanoke, Va. area asked to be given the flag in 1998.

The Minnesota Historical Society refused the request, citing their legal responsibility to care for fragile artifacts. In its judgment, there was no competent curatorial authority that could be entrusted with the delicate flag. The re-enactors did not have the necessary preservation resources, nor did a Virginia museum nominated by the re-enactors to receive the artifact.

Unwilling to give up, the Virginians convinced their own state legislature to pass a resolution calling for the flag's return to "the people of Virginia."

Not wishing to fight the Battle of Gettysburg all over again, the historical society asked the Minnesota Attorney General's Office to formulate a response to the re-enactors' increasingly vigorous attempts to acquire the flag.

According to a statement issued by the attorney general at the time, Hubert H. "Skip" Humphrey III, the re-enactors based their request on a 1905 Congressional joint resolution that required the Department of Defense, formerly the War Department, to return all

Continued on page 27



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Minnesota Historical Society Director Nina Archabal, *left*, gives members of the House Jobs and Economic Development Committee a brief history of a Confederate flag captured by the First Minnesota regiment during the battle of Gettysburg before having Ian Stewart, deputy director of the Interpretive Programs Division, give a more detailed account of the circumstances surrounding the society's custody of the flag. Members and staff gathered around the flag are, *from right*, Rep. Michael Paymar, Rep. Bob Gunther, Rep. Chris Gerlach, Rep. Dale Walz, Rep. Tony Sertich, Rep. Dan McElroy, Stewart, David Kelliher from the historical society, Linda Holmes from House Research, and Rep. Tim Mahoney.

# Budget equity

Ventura focuses on accountability and student achievement while legislators strive to satisfy districts' requests

BY THERESA STAHL

State representatives argued with government officials about the governor's intentions for general education after their first look at recommendations for the 2002-2003 biennium.

During the Jan. 26 and Jan. 29 meetings of the House K-12 Education Finance Committee, members said they weren't convinced the budget reflects an effort to provide equitable funding to schools across the state.

"The governor, I believe, means well," said Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka). He said the problem is extremely challenging, but hopes Gov. Jesse Ventura will accept the committee's advice.

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) said that upon seeing no increase for small schools he doubted Ventura's intentions for more equitable funding.

"I don't know how the governor can expect an equity piece for education and still be consistent with his philosophies," he said.

Tom Melcher, manager of the program finance division for the Department of Children, Families and Learning, said the governor's recommendation calls for a \$60 per pupil unit increase for fiscal year 2003, with no change in 2002.

"There will be no increase for two years unless districts pass a referendum," Melcher said. He said the state expects to see a \$50 million increase in school district referendums across the state during the biennium.

"This seems counteractive to the goal we set to close the gap," said Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake). "I don't see (an effort for equitable funding) occurring in this bill."

Wayne Hayes, from the governor's office, said projections support the governor's goal of simplifying government. He added that Ventura would make his final decision based on accountability and student achievement. "The governor has not closed the door to additional funding," he said.

Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) pointed out that the "equity problem" is still there.

Hayes responded there might be different perspectives between the executive and legislative branches and emphasized Ventura is

looking at the issue statewide, examining greater flexibility, high achievement, current needs, and where he wants to go in the future. "Students and needs are not uniform across the state," Hayes said.

Legislators were frustrated with how the bill would affect individual school districts. Kielkucki said members of his district have called him, expressing their disappointment with the budget.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) said all districts want less reliance on referenda, not more.

"This bill is every district's worst nightmare," she said.

Ness brought up another downfall of not making an effort to establish more equitable funding.

"No equity equals teacher shortages — there are no resources to compete. Money isn't everything," he added, "but the idea of punishing everyone is not a fair approach to help all students (receive) a fair education."

Hayes mentioned a \$15 million incentive in the budget for school districts to attempt compensating teachers in a different way than the traditional "steps and lanes" system.

Teachers are currently paid by "steps" — the number of years a person has been teaching — and "lanes" — the degree or degrees a person has earned. The new incentive program, which is not yet clearly defined, would compensate teachers according to their students' achievement in the classroom.

"This goes away from steps and lanes,"

Hayes said. The new plan to pay teachers based on "student achievement is a step in the right direction."

The governor's recommendations decrease education funding by 1 percent in 2002, but increase it by almost 2 percent in 2003. Both funding totals fall below the rate of inflation, which worried representatives, especially regarding special education.

Greiling said she doesn't want to see a "backlash" to funding for special education children.

Christine Jax, commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning, said Ventura has been speaking to people across the state about special education and is concerned about the state's national profile in that area. She said special education funding is "a dilemma for the governor."

Jax said special education receives state and federal funding and suggested teachers, legislators, and school administrators complain to Congress about the funding situation in a uniform way.

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***"This bill is every district's worst nightmare."***

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***—Rep. Mindy Greiling***

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Congress has committed to fund 40 percent of special education costs. However, cur-

rent funding levels only represent about 9 or 10 percent of the necessary aid.


The difficulty in special education, along with most funding issues, Jax said, is that the governor got elected as a fiscal conservative.

Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton) said going back and saying what Ventura did last year doesn't address current needs.

Hayes responded that the governor's recommendations attempt to make the system better. "The budget sets the stage for continued goal of student achievement."

"I look at the rung for my district, and I don't know if they're going to make it," Abeler said. He added that the budget shows nice ideas, but he's concerned.

"Is (Ventura) serious about increased funding?" asked Committee Chair Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington).

Hayes replied "Yes" and added that the governor will "base his final decision on what appears on his desk," referring to his power to approve or veto any bill forwarded to the governor's desk by the Legislature. 

## Breathe deeply

Legislators, PCA hope better fuels and consumer education lead to cleaner air

BY MARY KAY WATSON

Minnesota may be ahead of the rest of the country in air quality, but a report from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency says it's no time to be complacent.

Major strides in cleaning up the air have made it look cleaner, PCA Commissioner Karen Studders told the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee Jan. 25, but "air toxics that are now of concern are not visible."

"Command and control" approaches to reducing air pollution worked in the past when major polluters were stationary and easily identifiable, she said. However, today a better model would involve a cooperative approach to address mobile sources of pollution.

"It is time for a paradigm shift in the area of environmental protection," Studders said.

In the Twin Cities metropolitan area, health care and other costs from mobile, or transportation-related, air pollution have been estimated at \$1 billion annually according to a recent University of Minnesota study.

The PCA report identifies particulate matter and toxic air pollutants, or air "toxics," as the culprits. Particulates are very small airborne particles from combustion sources. Toxics include a variety of chemicals, such as those found in vehicle exhaust.

"There is a growing concern about the potential health impact of particulate matter," said David Thornton, major facilities manager of the Policy and Planning Division of the Pollution Control Agency.

Smaller than one-tenth of the diameter of a human hair, particulates penetrate deeply into the lungs when inhaled. Hospital admissions and deaths have increased along with the measured increase of particulates in the air.

Most air toxics emissions come from mobile sources, such as cars, trucks, and airplanes. Small stationary sources, which contribute about 34 percent of air toxics, include wood stoves, gas stations, and dry cleaners. Large stationary sources, like refineries, that are the



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Tim Gerlach, director of outdoor air for the American Lung Association of Minnesota, discusses air toxics during the Jan. 29 House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee meeting.

traditional targets of pollution control agencies, contribute 9 percent. Natural sources such as volcanoes, forest fires, and microbes are usually minor contributors.

Of the 11 air toxics targeted by the PCA, two generate special concern — benzene and diesel exhaust, both of which are known to cause cancer at certain concentrations. It is unknown whether those concentrations occur at ordinary outdoor levels.

Air particulates and toxics and the related problem of global warming are results of a fossil fuel-based economy. Fuel efficiency is at a 20-year low due to an increase in the number of light trucks and SUVs, according to Leo Raudys, PCA community and area-wide manager for the metro district.

To change those numbers the agency has set two major goals by the year 2010: to reduce particulate emissions and ozone-causing

pollutants by 20 percent and to reduce concentrations of air toxics to below federally established health benchmarks.

Raudys said the agency plans to meet these goals by encouraging the following:

- Reducing fuel and energy consumption;
- Substituting cleaner fuels; and
- Increasing air pollution-reduction technologies.

A 10-point plan submitted by the PCA includes study, collaboration, education, and action. People need to be educated to make better environmental choices, Raudys said.

"It is time to market social change," agreed Tim Gerlach, director of outdoor air for the American Lung Association of Minnesota.

Gerlach cited a consumer survey by the association's Clean Air Fuels Education (CAFÉ) Alliance showing that most people are willing to use less polluting fuels and vehicles but few are able to identify pollutants or their impact.


The goal of the group, which includes manufacturers such as Koch Petroleum Group, the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, and the Ford Motor Company, is to educate consumers to use "better" traditional or alternative fuels that exceed federal and state clean air requirements.

On Jan. 30, Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), chair of the committee, took a step toward consumer education when he introduced HF455 that is aimed at giving Minnesota residents a clearer picture of the clean fuels that are available and why it's important to use them.

The bill has been referred to the environment policy committee and awaits a hearing.

Clean fuels as defined in the bill include the following:

- Biodiesel blends of 20 percent or greater by volume
- Compressed natural gas
- Ethanol blends of 70 percent or greater by volume
- Hydrogen
- Liquefied natural gas
- Liquefied petroleum

The bill would appropriate \$500,000 a year for two years from the general fund to the commissioner of commerce for "a public education and awareness program on the use of Minnesota clean fuels." The bill requires the funds to be matched by non-state sources. 

## Duty noted

Four new bills aim to provide tax relief to Minnesota's military personnel

BY DAVID MAEDA

Minnesota is one of nine states that does not recognize military pay in its tax codes. As a result the number of military personnel that list Minnesota as their residence is decreasing, according to testimony in the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division Jan. 29.

Service members spoke in support of four bills that would give tax incentives to the state's military personnel. The committee took no action on any of the proposals but each will be considered for inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Angela Schweitzer, a specialist in the Minnesota Army National Guard, said as a single mother holding two jobs to make ends meet, the extra money would make a difference.

"In my situation every dollar counts. Something like a tax break would add those dollars that I need and keep me off of other state funded programs," she said.

Schweitzer said a deduction might also help reduce the number of service members leaving after the first six years of duty is complete.

"This might be just the thing we need to keep the number of (people) in our Minnesota Army National Guard up to where it needs to be. This might be the incentive to get them to re-enlist," she said.

Rep. Dale Walz (R-Brainerd) said in the past Minnesota's tax treatment of its service men and women has been different. A \$2,000 tax deduction was first initiated for Minnesota military personnel in 1943 during World War II. During the Korean conflict the amount was increased to \$3,000, and was further increased to \$5,000 during the Vietnam War.

In 1987 the omnibus tax bill eliminated many deductions including the military subtraction in order to conform with federal tax reform.

Walz said that many of the state's military personnel have chosen to change their residence to states with lower tax rates.

According to the Department of Military Affairs there were an estimated 10,000 military personnel who listed Minnesota as their state of residence in 1996. Since then that number has



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Tom Nesbitt, left, from the Retired Officers Association, speaks in favor of a bill to subtract military pension from the individual income tax during a Jan. 29 meeting of the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee. Also testifying in favor of the bill was Keith Westrup, a 22-year veteran of the Marine Corps.

declined by an estimated 12 percent.

HF294, sponsored by Walz, would allow a military pay subtraction of up to \$8,000 from Minnesota taxable income and income tax liability. The Department of Revenue estimates the cost would be around \$9.9 million a year.

"I think it's very important we recognize our military personnel and reinstate this tax deduction to them, just as a dedication to them and as an incentive to serve in the military," Walz said.

Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) a co-sponsor of the bill, said the 1987 reforms were an attempt to simplify the tax system. But ultimately eliminating the deductions proved to be a "foolish" and "counterproductive decision."

"When you compare what other states do for guard members, Minnesota is found wanting," Wenzel said.

Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), a co-sponsor of HF294, presented HF68 saying that it would allow a subtraction for active duty military pay for members stationed outside of

Minnesota. The proposal would cost about \$4.4 million per year.

Buesgens said his four brothers all served in the military and all ended up changing their residences in part because of Minnesota's tax policies.

"HF68 says to the young men and women who join our active duty service that we honor and value your commitment to this state and country," Buesgens said. "And we as a Legislature will demonstrate that by correcting a fundamental injustice of taxing these servicemen and women even when they are not stationed in the state of Minnesota."

HF230, sponsored by Rep. Connie Bernardy (DFL-Fridley), would allow active duty personnel including those serving the United Nations and in the Peace Corps to subtract the first \$5,000 of military pay in determining income tax liability.

Bernardy said she supports the other measures, but her bill is a lower cost option. The Department of Revenue estimates HF230 would cost around \$2 million per year.


"Minnesota does lose out on more than just the tax that (residents) pay on this income. They also lose out by losing the numbers of people that

normally stay in Minnesota if they didn't have to pay income tax," Bernardy said. "Whether it be congressional representatives at the national level or losing highway or welfare type funds from the federal government"

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) said his bill, HF91, would allow taxpayers to subtract military benefit pensions from taxable income. Those benefits are currently not exempt federally and would cost the state around \$13.2 million in 2002 and \$13.9 million in 2003.

Steven Meyer, a retired serviceman who spent 22 years in the U.S. Navy, including 17 years in Minnesota as a recruiter, said tax issues are important to military personnel.

"I've had a lot of contact with military retirees and people on active duty and I can assure you that the taxation in Minnesota is of utmost concern," Meyer said.

He said the money retirees would bring to the state would more than make up any holes the tax deductions would cause. 



# Donning a new hat

Goodwin draws on experience as researcher, lobbyist, and policy expert in new role as legislator

By Jonas M. Walker

Rep. Barbara Goodwin (DFL-Columbia Heights) describes her ascent to office as an extension of her previous work developing state policy.



Rep. Barbara Goodwin

As a first-time member of the House of Representatives, she joins the caucus whose legislative services office she used to direct. She has also led DFL research efforts on matters of state policy, and later represented the Minnesota Association

of Professional Employees as a lobbyist in the Capitol.

Her expertise led to a position as a planner for children's mental health policies in Hennepin County, a position she plans to keep, at least part-time, while lawmaking.

Goodwin now represents District 52A, an area covering several suburbs north of Minneapolis. She takes the seat most recently occupied by Sen. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley), who successfully ran for state Senate.

Although she has lived most of her life in the area she now represents, Goodwin says the decision to run for the House was itself an educational experience.

"I wasn't totally aware of all the issues in my district when I decided to run," she said. "You don't really know an area until you knock on doors for five months. But I knew that whatever issues they were, I would be able to jump on those pretty quickly."

Goodwin lists health care, transportation, and education as matters of keen concern to her constituents.

She says she was aware that health care concerns troubled the minds of many Minnesotans, but was surprised to discover the extent of hardships facing people living in her own community. She cites her encounters with the disturbing trend of elderly couples on a fixed income having insufficient funds to purchase medication.

"They had to choose who was going to get their prescription and who was not," she said.

The issue is especially relevant in Goodwin's district, as 60 percent of her constituents are over 55, and many have only marginal health insurance coverage, she said.

Goodwin further explained the mixed blessing of economic development, which her district has seen with the addition of one company's corporate headquarters. Medtronic Corporation recently placed its global headquarters in Fridley, bringing with it 5,000 well-paying and secure jobs.

While Goodwin says she is thankful for the placement, and welcomes the company, her

Goodwin says her committee assignments, including the House Education Policy and K-12 Education Finance Committees, will allow her some leverage in shaping policy important to her district.

Perhaps the striking example of such a difference can be found in the attitudes of Goodwin's constituents toward one issue that consistently divides urban areas and wealthier suburbs. "I asked people about property taxes and they said, 'No, they're pretty good,'" explains Goodwin.

She also said she looks forward to working with her colleagues in the Republican caucus, and remembers enjoying success with those members as a former lobbyist for state professional employees.

"I had Republican votes on a lot of the legislation that was promoted by the members I worked for, so I don't expect that (being in the minority) will be an overwhelming problem," she said.

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*"I wasn't totally aware of all the issues in my district when I decided to run. You don't really know an area until you knock on doors for five months. But I knew that whatever issues they were, I would be able to jump on those pretty quickly."*

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—Rep. Barbara Goodwin

constituents are concerned about the increased traffic on an already congested portion of metropolitan freeway that runs through her district — Interstate 694.

"Anytime we can get an employer that provides health benefits and decent wages, we're really lucky," she said.

She is hoping the proposed NorthStar Corridor commuter rail system can help alleviate what she fears will be an undue traffic burden in her area.

Goodwin says her district "has a lot of school districts running in the red." She says that is due partly to changes increasingly facing inner suburban districts like her own.

"My area is becoming more like an inner city than a suburb," she said. Goodwin explains that an increasing portion of students in those districts require special counseling or instruction in English, services that only recently became necessary.

Though she hopes to serve her constituents as a House member for many years, Goodwin says she is already impressed by the stamina demonstrated by her more senior colleagues. "There are plenty of people here older than me, but I can't count on having that kind of energy at that age," she said. Legislating is "a lot of work, a lot of time, a lot of energy."

## DISTRICT 52A

**1998 population (estimate):** 32,437

**Largest city:** Fridley

**County:** Anoka

**Location:** Northern Twin Cities suburbs

**Top Concern:** "My most important priorities will be health care, transportation, and education."

— Rep. Barbara Goodwin



# Coming home

After years away from his home in Minnesota, Johnson takes seat in St. Paul

By JONAS M. WALKER

Rep. Jeff Johnson (R-Plymouth) is a man whose travels, ancestry, and faith have shaped his understanding.



Rep. Jeff Johnson

The new representative cites two particular places as key to bringing him where he is today — the first, like many Minnesotans, is the land of his ethnic ancestry, Norway.

Johnson said that ancestry informs his views of government. He sums

those up as “self-sufficiency, hard work, and the limited scope and reach of government.”

After growing up in Detroit Lakes, Johnson enrolled in Concordia College in Moorhead, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in economics. He then attained a law degree from Georgetown University in Washington D.C., his second life-defining location; significant because it enhanced his appreciation of home.

“I missed the Midwest,” Johnson explained. “Three years was enough.” So, the newly anointed lawyer returned as far west as Chicago, where he began working at business litigation in a large firm.

After a number of years, he returned to Minnesota, settling in the Twin Cities and beginning work for Cargill, a major corporation with interests ranging from agriculture to manufacturing. Johnson said he enjoys the job in part because he can get out and “meet the people who actually make money for the company, not just those of us who sit behind desks and push paper. It gives me a better perspective on life.”

Johnson says his experience with employment litigation has prepared him for functioning in the House. Citing the importance of discernment and judgment, Johnson says that, in his Cargill position, he “gets to hear a lot of interesting things that may or may not be happening.”

He plans on remaining with Cargill during the session, and returning full-time after the House adjourns in the spring.

Johnson assumes the seat most recently occupied by former Rep. Henry Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth), a fellow Republican who decided not to seek re-election. Johnson now represents a district composed of western Minneapolis suburbs and smaller cities in Hennepin County. Although he says his district “leans Republican,” he faced strong opposition from Dorothy Muffett, whom he characterized as a moderate Democrat.

Johnson says he ran on the issues of education and “fiscal conservatism.” He explains that

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***“Taxpayers should get back every penny of the budget surplus. Individuals and families can make much better decisions about spending money and educating their kids than a bunch of bureaucrats in St. Paul can.”***

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**—Rep. Jeff Johnson**

he was first motivated to run when his son was born three years ago.

“After our little boy was born, I realized how hard it is to raise a child,” he said. “It’s tough to raise a child in Minnesota, in the United States. And I realized that is directly related to legislation.”

Elaborating, Johnson said tax burdens contribute to the already difficult job of parenting. Taxes “make it harder for parents to do what they feel is right with their children,” he said.

Specifically, Johnson would like to “eliminate entirely” the Profile of Learning, which, along with the basic skills tests, comprise the state’s graduation standards measuring the performance of public school students. Johnson favors replacing that system with what he characterizes as an “input system,” in which the state demands relatively few skills and leaves the actual work of curriculum development to local school boards, teachers, and especially parents.

Although he says he came in bearing the frustration of parents regarding K-12 funding and governance, Johnson admits he has a lot to learn.

“I thought I knew a lot. I didn’t,” he said. “It’s a fairly steep learning curve” just to understand the way Minnesota funds primary education. “It has become so complex, it’s ridiculous,” he says. He hopes to make the system more accessible to average citizens.

His other top priority is to bring the principles of fiscal conservatism to bear on all areas of legislation. “Taxpayers should get back every penny of the budget surplus,” he said. “Individuals and families can make much better decisions about spending money and educating their kids than a bunch of bureaucrats in St. Paul can.”

He expressed his frustration with what he sees as “a mentality from both sides of the aisle that the people’s money belongs first to the government, and only second to families and individuals.”

Johnson counts Ronald Reagan among his ideological heroes. More locally, he credits State Sen. Gen Olson (R-Minnetrista) as a mentor, saying her legislative behavior and ideas make her a role model in the Legislature.

Recalling his joy in litigation, Johnson also expressed his appreciation for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. “He doesn’t back down,” said Johnson.

But supporting it all is a key element of Johnson’s true personality: his faith. Johnson says his Lutheran faith is extremely important in his life. “It factors into every decision, every day,” he said.

## DISTRICT 34B

**1998 population (estimate):** 38,036

**Largest city:** Plymouth

**County:** Hennepin

**Location:** Western Twin Cities suburbs

**Top concern:** “My most important priority is the elimination of the Profile of Learning.”

**—Rep. Jeff Johnson**

# Straight shooter

Walz brings law enforcement background, and interests in gun owners' and property owners' rights to the Legislature

BY THERESA STAHL

Like other elected officials in the state, Rep. Dale Walz (R-Brainerd) advocates a smaller, less intrusive government.



Rep. Dale Walz

"One of the roles of government is to enable people to take care of themselves, but not to take care of the people," he said.

Walz campaigned for a spot in the Legislature by suggesting that he would not "over-govern" as a member of the House. His 2000 campaign for district 12A came after a loss in 1998, where he earned 46.3 percent of the vote.

"I decided that was good enough to try again," he said.

Promoting tax rebates, equitable school funding, and property owners and gun owners rights, Walz is now a part of a political body he's always been drawn to.

"As long as I can remember I've been interested in politics," he said.

Walz defeated incumbent Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) in November 2000. Hasskamp had served in the House since 1988.

A police officer for 16 years, and now serving as captain in the Baxter Police Department, Walz said the biggest plus he can contribute to the Legislature, and particularly his spot on the House Crime Prevention Committee, is his experience as a law enforcement official. He has been a member of Minnesota Sex Crimes Investigators Association and has specialized in child molestation issues.

Although Walz's good friend and fellow officer, Russ Wicklund, doesn't live in the same district and therefore couldn't vote for him, Wicklund says Walz will be an excellent representative.

"He's very good with people," and at asking questions, listening, and problem solving, Wicklund said.

Wicklund, who started working with Walz in March 1990, was surprised to learn Walz

would be running for state office, but didn't doubt his ability to do the job well.

"I could see him doing anything he set his mind to," he said.

Walz has been involved with many state organizations during his time with the police department.

"He works with a lot of county investigators, state officers, and pollution control," Wicklund said. "He works with every kind of agency in the area when the job calls for it."

Walz says his background of working with city councils and other government entities

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***"Hopefully we can get the budget surplus returned to the taxpayers, see more prominent income tax cuts, and some restructuring and reforming of property taxes."***

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**—Rep. Dale Walz**

will contribute to his work at the Capitol.

"It's on a much grander scale down here," he said, "but it helps a little bit."

Eager for results in tax cuts, Walz said he plans to support action on tax reform.

"Hopefully we can get the budget surplus returned to the taxpayers, see more prominent income tax cuts, and some restructuring and reforming of property taxes," he said.

Besides belonging to the Crime Prevention Committee, Walz serves on two other committees. They are the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Policy Committee and the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee. He is also the vice chair of the Economic Development and Tourism Division of the Commerce Policy committee.

"We're seeing a lot more development in Crow Wing County," Walz said of the district he represents.

Working to strengthen Greater Minnesota, Walz says equitable funding for schools in rural areas is one of the biggest issues he promoted during his campaign.

Also of significance to his district and a concern of Walz's is property owners' and gun

owners' rights. He fully supports people's right to bear arms, and at the same time understands the importance of teaching children gun safety and respect for weapons.

"A lot of it is parental responsibility," Walz said. He has three children, ages 6, 10, and 16.

"My son is 6, and he likes to look at my guns," said Walz, who keeps his guns locked in a vault where his children can't get to them. "But I taught my son — my daughters, too — respect for guns and that they're not toys."

Walz said his two younger children don't really understand why their dad now works in St. Paul, but his 16-year-old daughter is interested in her father's new job. His children live in Owatonna with their mother, and his new role at the Capitol allows him to see them more.

In his spare time, Walz also enjoys deer hunting, walleye fishing, and working on his 1951 Ford.

Walz, who is a member of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL), said pro-life legislation is important to him. "I can't change that — it's here," he said, pointing to his heart. "It's the way I am."

Right now Walz is on leave from the police department, but he fully intends on keeping his law enforcement career and will be going back to work in June. Wicklund says the department already senses his absence.

"We miss him, but we know he'll be back," he said. "He has a very important job down there and takes it very seriously."

## DISTRICT 12A

**1998 population (estimate):** 36,471

**Largest city:** Brainerd

**County:** Crow Wing

**Location:** north central Minnesota

**Top concern:** "Equity funding for schools, returning the surplus, and more permanent tax cuts."

**— Rep. Dale Walz**

Call, visit, watch, log on . . .

## Legislative information is plentiful, accessible, and free

Keeping track of what's happening at the Minnesota Legislature has never been easier. The latest technology is being used in all areas of communication.

And while the traditional methods such as visiting the Capitol and calling on the telephone are still useful and easy ways to get the information you need, the newest technological methods on television and the Internet have made your choices better than ever.

### A new, improved Web site

Since the Legislature's World Wide Web site went online in 1996, more than 46 million hits have been received. During the 2000 session alone, the site was receiving more than one million hits on the busiest days.

During that time, users commented on the positives and negatives of the site. In response to those remarks, an interim committee of legislative staff looked at ways to enhance the online information — making it even more useful. As a result, the Web site was redesigned and the new format was launched during the fall of 2000.

Accessing information using your fingertips and a mouse begins by directing your browser to <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>, the Legislature's main page.

The site layout has been updated to make it visually simple but also easy to navigate. More advanced users can use drop-down menus to get to the information, while traditional hyperlink text is also available.

A mere click of a mouse button takes a user to both the House and Senate main pages. Easy access is also provided to other areas, including: member information, committee information and schedules; Minnesota Statutes, Session Laws and Rules; joint legislative departments and commissions; youth pages; general information; legislative district information; and employment opportunities.

One of the more popular options is the bill tracker. From the House and Senate pages, users can read any bill and track its status through the legislative process. For those not familiar with the legal language used to draft bills, easy-to-understand summaries are also



Through the Legislature's Web site, the public can access information including bill descriptions and status, committee meeting schedules and agendas, and weekly publications of both the House and Senate.

available. Bills can be searched by number, keyword, or author.

The site is also interactive — links are provided so a user can easily contact a legislator by e-mail.

Both the House and the Senate sites also offer Internet streaming video of floor sessions and selected committee hearings. The service features unedited, live and recorded coverage of the Legislature. To watch events unfold, get the free Windows Media Player plug-in viewer.

Legislative information is available on the House Television Services Web site at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hvtv/hvtvserv.htm>. Archived footage of House committee meetings and floor sessions is also available.

### You've got mail

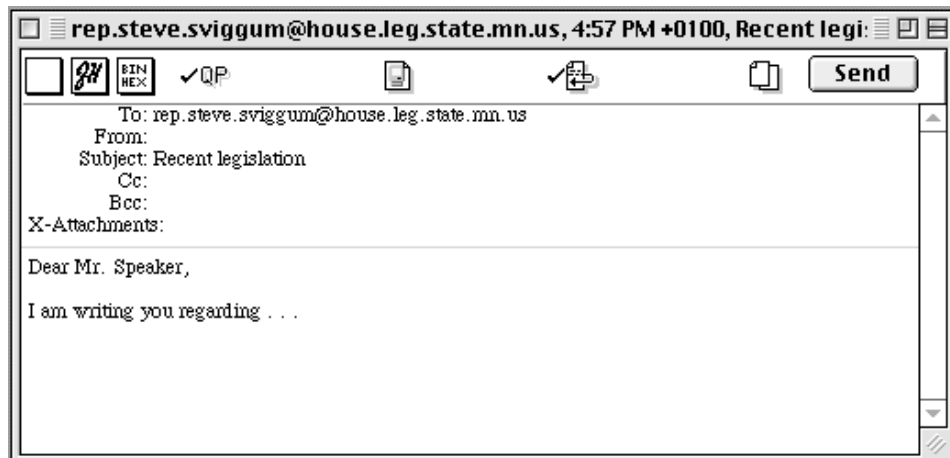
Constituents with e-mail service can now receive daily and weekly committee schedules from both the House and Senate without having to request them each day.

The schedules, updated daily, give specific information about which committees are meeting on a particular day, the time and location of the meeting and general topic agendas for the meeting. Schedules are also available in advance for constituents interested in testifying at a hearing.

To receive the House committee schedule, send an e-mail message to [join-houseschedule@ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us](mailto:join-houseschedule@ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us) or fill out the subscription form at <http://ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us/scripts/lyris.pl?join=houseschedule>.

House schedules are also available on the Web site at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/schedule/index.htm>.

To receive a Senate schedule, e-mail a message to [listserv@senate.leg.state.mn.us](mailto:listserv@senate.leg.state.mn.us). Leave the subject line blank and in the body of the message type: `subscribe sen-schedules`.



E-mail is an increasingly common and efficient way for constituents to contact their legislators. Lawmakers regularly respond to signed messages, and they prefer that correspondents include their full names and addresses.



## Come on down

Technology is a wonderful asset for governmental information, but the best way to find out what's happening at the Capitol is to witness it in person. A good place to begin your visit is at the House Public Information Office, located on the first floor of the State Office Building directly west of the Capitol, in Room 175.

The office has a series of informational and educational publications designed to make the legislative process understandable and accessible for all.

Office staff can quickly determine in which House and Senate district you live and provide you with the name, office number, phone number, and e-mail address of your representative and senator.

Daily and weekly committee schedules are available at the office, as are issues of the newsmagazine *Session Weekly*, a free publication covering weekly House activities during session. Be sure to sign up for the publication and have a thorough weekly wrap-up mailed directly to your home. Likewise, *Senate Briefly*, which covers weekly Senate activities, is available by stopping at Senate Information in Room 231 of the Capitol.

## Pick up the phone

A wealth of information is also available via the telephone. The House Public Information Office can answer general questions regarding the legislative process and who your legislators are. They can also connect you to other offices for additional information. Call the information office at (651) 296-2146 or toll free at 1-800-657-3550.

You don't need to leave home to obtain copies of House bills, either. Simply call the House Chief Clerk's Office at (651) 296-2314 and they'll mail you a copy of any bill. If you



A committee hearing room in the State Office Building features interactive television technology through which lawmakers can communicate with people at more than 80 sites around Minnesota.

don't know who sponsored a bill or what a particular bill's House File number is, call House Index at (651) 296-6646. They can also tell you the status of a bill as it is traveling through the process.

If you have a concern about a pending bill or a policy issue, call your legislator.

You may also access a voice version of the House committee schedule by calling (651) 296-9283.

For similar information in the Senate, call (651) 296-0504 or toll-free at 1-888-234-1112.

## Tune in

Television coverage of the Legislature has been available since 1996. In the Twin Cities metropolitan area, tune in to KTCI-TV, Channel 17. Coverage is included throughout Greater Minnesota on more than 30 cable providers' services. Check with your local cable system for availability. All broadcasts are closed-captioned and schedules are available from House Television Services. Call (651) 297-1338.

Live coverage of floor sessions and committee hearings is provided throughout the day, and taped coverage is played between live proceedings.



Since 1996 House Television Services has provided coverage of action on the House floor and selected committee hearings on Channel 17 and local cable systems.

## Frequently used Web links

Legislature's main page:  
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

*Session Weekly* on the Web:  
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/swkly.ssi>

To search the Legislative Web site:  
<http://search.state.mn.us/leg/>

North Star government information:  
<http://www.state.mn.us/mainmenu.html>

Governor's office:  
<http://www.mainserver.state.mn.us/governor/>

Legislative Reference Library:  
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/lrl.htm>

Revisor's Office:  
<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/revisor.html>

Legislative Links to the World:  
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/links/links.htm>

## Frequently called numbers

House Information:  
651-296-2146  
1-800-687-3550

Senate Information:  
651-296-0504  
1-888-234-1112

Chief Clerk's Office:  
651-296-2314

Office of Secretary of the Senate:  
651-296-2344

## Monday, January 29

### HF400—Pawlenty (R)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Property tax free zones established, individual and business tax incentives provided, tax benefits repaid under specific circumstances, tax free zone aid provided, and money appropriated.

### HF401—Abeler (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Massage therapists and Oriental bodywork therapists registration system established, rulemaking authorized, and criminal penalties imposed.

### HF402—Pawlenty (R)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Disaster relief and flood mitigation measures provided counties designated a major disaster area and money appropriated.

### HF403—Vandever (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Automobile license tax credits provided and tax credit amounts transferred from the general fund to the highway user tax distribution fund.

### HF404—Wagenius (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Nonprofit corporation neighborhood organization voting rights and meeting notice requirements specified.

### HF405—Koskinen (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Patient health information data confidentiality provided, and release of health records to the state prohibited without patient consent.

### HF406—Jennings (DFL)

#### Agriculture Policy

Minnesota State Fair Foundation established by the state agricultural society.

### HF407—Howes (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Wastewater infrastructure supplemental assistance provided and money appropriated.

### HF408—Knobloch (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

State legislators elected without party designation.

### HF409—Seifert (R)

#### Taxes

Yellow Medicine County law enforcement and family service center construction materials tax exemption provided.

### HF410—Otremba (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Abortion informed consent required, and civil remedies provided.

### HF411—Clark, K. (DFL)

#### Civil Law

Retaliatory eviction defense regulated.

### HF412—Mulder (R)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Housing finance agency prohibited from excluding small-volume lenders from loan programs.

### HF413—Mulder (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 402, Hendricks, included in previous facilities needs grant.

### HF414—Mulder (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Department of Corrections assigned responsibility for investigating allegations of maltreatment in juvenile correctional facilities.

### HF415—Knobloch (R)

#### Civil Law

Job reference information disclosure protection provided.

### HF416—Rifenberg (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Hokah authorized to vacate roads if necessary due to extensive damage.

### HF417—Jennings (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Pine County nursing facility bed moratorium exception provided.

### HF418—Jennings (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Chisago County emergency medical services special taxing district authorized and reverse referendum permitted.

### HF419—Seifert (R)

#### Education Policy

Rural charter schools of excellence grants provided and money appropriated.

### HF420—Schumacher (DFL)

#### Environment &

#### Natural Resources Policy

Benton County Graves Farm property purchase grant provided and money appropriated.

### HF421—McElroy (R)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Energy assistance program federal fund expenditure authorized.

### HF422—Seagren (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Loan repayment program established to improve recruitment of excellent teachers in science, math, industrial technology, special education and in rural areas, and money appropriated.

### HF423—Greiling (DFL)

#### Transportation Policy

Combat-wounded veterans exempted from special motor vehicle license plate design decals.

### HF424—Greiling (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Mental retardation and related conditions waiver recipients authorized access to respite care in intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation and related conditions (ICF/MR).

### HF425—Cassell (R)

#### Environment &

#### Natural Resources Finance

Pope/Douglas County materials recovery facility construction grant provided and money appropriated.

### HF426—Knobloch (R)

Sherburne County nursing home medical assistance rate increase provided and money appropriated.

### HF427—Westerberg (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Minnesota amateur sports facility bleacher safety exemption provided.

### HF428—Gunther (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Minnesota talented youth math project expanded and money appropriated.

### HF429—Bakk (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

State agencies authorized to allow commercial wireless equipment on state-owned property.

### HF430—Opatz (DFL)

#### Higher Education Finance

Minnesota student retention center established and money appropriated.

### HF431—Vandever (R)

#### Taxes

Sales tax general rate reduced.

### HF432—Stang (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Transportation revenue provided school districts and included in general education revenue.

### HF433—Entenza (DFL)

#### Civil Law

ERA; equality of rights under the law for men and women provided and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF434—Wagenius (DFL)

#### Education Policy

Staff development grants provided to ensure children are able to read by second grade and money appropriated.

### HF435—Hilty (DFL)

#### Transportation Policy

Moose Lake area fires of 1918 history museum highway sign authorized.

### HF436—Bishop (R)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Alternative municipal annexation procedures specified.

### HF437—Bishop (R)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Town government continued existence referendum provided.

### HF438—Walker (DFL)

#### Education Policy

At-risk student educational structure developed, county and state agency notification permitted, student obstacles identified, staff development and training grants provided, advisory council created, and money appropriated.

### HF439—Marko (DFL)

#### Transportation Policy

Special motor vehicle license plates authorized for retired veterans.

### HF440—Knobloch (R)

#### Civil Law

Probate; background investigations provided on guardians and conservators, access to data on maltreatment of vulnerable adults authorized, and court procedures and requirements authorized.



**HF441—McElroy (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Job Skills Partnership Board membership modified and term limits imposed.

**HF442—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Public post-secondary annual compensation treatment provided in state budget and appropriations.

**HF443—Westerberg (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Blaine City Hall and police department facility construction materials tax exemption provided.

**HF444—McElroy (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Metropolitan Council membership increased to include nonvoting affiliate members from adjacent Minnesota and Wisconsin counties.

**HF445—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Stolen property definition clarified relating to landlords and tenants.

**HF446—Solberg (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Unilateral modification of benefits received by retired employees defined as unfair labor practice.

**HF447—Lenczewski (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Commuter rail facilities physical design component of advanced corridor plan notice and local approval required.

**HF448—Hilty (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 2580, East Central, facilities grant authorized and money appropriated.

**HF449—Hilty (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 2580, East Central, capital loan authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF450—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Medical malpractice statute of limitations statutory reference clarified.

**HF451—Nornes (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
State patrol recruit training academy funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF452—Gunter (R)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Potato disease research grants provided to University of Minnesota, and money appropriated.

**HF453—Skoe (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Discharge of judgments against bankruptcy debtors regulated.

**HF454—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Cosmetology salons operating at assisted living establishments exempted from manager requirement.

**HF455—Ozment (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Clean fuel (biodiesel) use marketing and education program established, and money appropriated.

## Thursday, February 1

**HF456—Westerberg (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Resolution memorializing Congress to authorize and appropriate funding for 40 percent of the cost of special education.

**HF457—Jacobson (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
One year prohibition on lobbying imposed on former legislators, constitutional officers, agency heads, and certain legislative employees.

**HF458—Penas (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Lands enrolled in conservation reserve programs qualified as special agricultural homestead.

**HF459—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Forestry division of Department of Natural Resources relocation to International Falls feasibility study provided, and money appropriated.

**HF460—Davids (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Independent School District No. 238, Mabel-Canton, permanent school year start prior to Labor Day authorized.

**HF461—Mulder (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
High school athlete physical examination records required on file at schools.

**HF462—Howes (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Residential buildings on temporary sites intended to be moved property tax exemption provided.

**HF463—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Mental health patient records family access provided, emergency mental health treatment information requirements provided, and family member participation in aftercare plan preparation authorized.

**HF464—Wilkin (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Specified litigation and settlements by state officials prohibited, and funds recovered through litigation and settlements deposited in the general fund.

**HF465—Marko (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Public employees of the police and fire fund of the public employee's retirement association granted service credit for United States armed forces service.

**HF466—McElroy (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Endurance contest prohibition repealed.

**HF467—Hilty (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Moose Lake area history museum addition grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF468—Erickson (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Princeton fire station facility construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

**HF469—Abeler (R)**  
**Taxes**  
County agricultural societies authorized to retain sales tax on county fair event admissions, and use proceeds for improvements.

**HF470—Abeler (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Nursing home operation cessation or curtailing notice period extended and modified.

**HF471—Abeler (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Historic structures rehabilitation building code required and rulemaking authority granted.

**HF472—Penas (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 2358, Tri-County schools, fund transfer authorized.

**HF473—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Koochiching County cold weather testing center grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF474—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Eveleth retired police officers and firefighters post-retirement adjustment provided.

**HF475—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Little Elk heritage preserve designated as a historic preserve, and money appropriated.

**HF476—Davids (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Insurance self-audit information provided safe harbor protection.

**HF477—Mares (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
School district alternative facilities program eligibility expanded.

**HF478—Sykora (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
ADD; parents and providers required to evaluate programs prior to prescribing drugs to children with attention deficit disorder, educational neglect definition clarified, number of children affected determined, and money appropriated.

**HF479—Lipman (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Election day voter registration identity and residence requirements modified, election administration practice study requested, election equipment purchase revolving loan fund created, and money appropriated.

**HF480—Kielkucki (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Voluntary accreditation program funding authorized to provide optimal educational support services, and money appropriated.

**HF481—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Combat wounded veterans day designated as August 7.

- HF482—Kielucki (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 Independent School District No. 424, Lester Prairie, regional planning management study grant provided and money appropriated.
- HF483—Solberg (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
 Floodwood business and industrial park grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF484—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
 International Falls international bridge design and construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF485—Kielucki (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
 Beaver dam removal conditions modified.
- HF486—Seifert (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
 Elections; newspaper ad disclaimers minimum type size required.
- HF487—Vandever (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
 Townships; nonprofit organizations contract limit for health, social, and recreational services increased.
- HF488—Davids (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
 Ambulance services medical assistance payments paid at Medicare reimbursement rate.
- HF489—Haas (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
 Contractor surety bonds not required on competitive bid public improvements.
- HF490—Kuisle (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
 County economic development assistance application data designated nonpublic until approved.
- HF491—Jacobson (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
 Ramsey County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.
- HF492—Wolf (R)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
 Energy reliability and affordability act of 2001 adopted.
- HF493—Lenczewski (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
 Fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) included in definitions of child with disability, advisory committee established, and state responsibility for care outside the home defined.
- HF494—Winter (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
 Teacher loan forgiveness program established, rulemaking provided, and money appropriated.
- HF495—Finseth (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
 Feedlot regulation authority transferred from the Pollution Control Agency to the department of agriculture.
- HF496—Ozment (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
 Students eligible to vote granted time off from school to vote.
- HF497—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 Bus purchase aid and one-time fuel adjustment created, transportation sparsity formula modified, and money appropriated.
- HF498—Holberg (R)**  
**Taxes**  
 Farmington police department and central maintenance facility construction materials sales tax exemption provided.
- HF499—Rhodes (R)**  
**Taxes**  
 Musical instruments used in school provided education income tax credit.
- HF500—Kielucki (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 Augsburg College teacher preparation program grant provided to educate teachers of students with emotional and behavioral disorders, and money appropriated.
- HF501—Ozment (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
 Conservation officer enforcement activity comparison prevented from use in performance evaluation.
- HF502—Paulsen (R)**  
**Taxes**  
 Vending machine sales of specified items sales tax exemption provided.
- HF503—Pawlenty (R)**  
**Taxes**  
 Research credit increased and extended to income tax, investment credit allowed, application fees imposed, sales tax exemption provided specified purchases, and money appropriated.
- HF504—Mulder (R)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
 At-home infant child care program assistance provisions modified.
- HF505—Stanek (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
 Racial profiling study; statewide model policy and local agency policies required, peace officer training objectives developed, and money appropriated.
- HF506—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
 Unemployment insurance eligibility restrictions removed for specified school contractors.
- HF507—Wagenius (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
 Future motor fuel tax increases dedicated to highway user tax distribution fund and new Minnesota public transit fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.
- HF508—Skoe (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
 Mahnom County center of human environment facility grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF509—Seifert (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
 Automobile insurance claim misleading statements prohibited and comparative fault interpretation clarified.
- HF510—Wolf (R)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
 Telecommunication laws modified and recodified, excise tax imposed on telecommunications, cable, and video services, and money appropriated.
- HF511—Sviggum (R)**  
**Taxes**  
 Omnibus tax bill providing property tax reform; income and corporate franchise tax reform; sales, use and motor vehicle tax reform; providing miscellaneous tax reforms; granting powers; appropriating money.
- HF512—Hilstrom (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 School district emergency energy heating and transportation costs funding provided, and money appropriated.
- HF513—Winter (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
 Cooperatively owned livestock processing plant loan and grant program established and money appropriated.
- HF514—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
 Continued insurance coverage provided for spouses of specified education retirees.
- HF515—Wagenius (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
 Unfair and deceptive insurance acts and practices regulated and discrimination against victims of domestic abuse prohibited.
- HF516—Carlson (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 Judgement levy authority expanded to intermediate school districts.
- HF517—Osthoff (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
 St. Paul grant provided to restore East Como lake trail and lakeshore, and money appropriated.
- HF518—Rhodes (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
 St. Louis Park firefighters' civil service commission abolition authorized.
- HF519—Kalis (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 Independent School District No. 2860, Blue Earth Area Public School, facility grant provided, and money appropriated.
- HF520—Sertich (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
 Northeast entrepreneur fund microenterprise development grant provided and money appropriated.
- HF521—Folliard (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
 Highway noise barrier account created, matching grants authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF522—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
 Adolescent compulsive gambling prevention and education project grant provided, and money appropriated.
- HF523—Gunter (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
 Economic development redevelopment grants authorized and money appropriated.
- HF524—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
 Fridley clean water partnership grant provided for Springbook subwatershed implementation project, and money appropriated.

**HF525—McElroy (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Public employees prohibited from state board and council compensation except under specified conditions and daily payment standards required.

**HF526—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Compulsive gambling treatment and education; Granite Falls project turn-about reconstruction grant provided, and money appropriated.

**HF527—Ness (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Hutchinson public school employee teachers retirement association service credit purchase authorized.

**HF528—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Judiciary Finance**  
Carlton County criminal prosecution and investigations extraordinary expenses reimbursed, and money appropriated.

**HF529—Workman (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Hennepin County land conveyance to city of Eden Prairie, and money appropriated.

**HF530—Entenza (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Energy assistance aid authorized to school districts on a one-time basis, and money appropriated.

**HF531—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Hospital construction and new nursing facility bed moratorium exceptions provided.

**HF532—Harder (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Minnesota River basin conservation reserve enhancement program easements acquired and conservation practices implemented, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF533—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Publicly owned utility relocation costs to be paid by the state.

**HF534—Olson (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 882, Monticello, fund transfer authorized.

**HF535—Olson (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake, maximum effort capital loan authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF536—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Lac Qui Parle State Park development funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF537—Koskinen (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Teachers retirement association service credit purchase authorized for a specified sabbatical leave from Independent School District No. 11, Anoka-Hennepin.

**HF538—Folliard (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales to political subdivisions tax exemption provided.

**HF539—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
State aids; elementary and secondary school system enhanced by providing all school district operating funds through state aids.

**HF540—Folliard (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Unfunded education costs included in referendum revenue cap, and original referendum revenue cap percentage restored.

**HF541—Carlson (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Special education; 100 percent state funding provided for special education revenue, and money appropriated.

**HF542—Goodwin (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Special education; 100 percent state funding provided for special education revenue, and money appropriated.

**HF543—Swapinski (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Special education; 100 percent state funding provided for special education revenue, and money appropriated.

**HF544—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Special education; 100 percent funding provided for special education revenue, and money appropriated.

**HF545—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Biomass electricity facility construction materials sales tax exemption sunset repealed.

**HF546—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Administrative boards and agencies provided proportional representation between metropolitan and outstate areas.

**HF547—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Conservation enhancement reserve program funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF548—Mulder (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Musical instruments used in school provided education income tax credit.

**HF549—Solberg (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
General education revenue isolation index modified.

**HF550—Eastlund (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Edvest; higher education services of-fice rulemaking authority extended.



## Beer control

### Some must wait to consume adult beverage

Since the Brady Bill became law in 1994, gun owners have had to wait five days after purchasing a handgun before they can actually possess the firearm. One of the purposes of the law was to allow local authorities time to perform background checks on gun purchasers.

Now the state of Ohio has applied a similar waiting period to the purchase of beer. A new regulation there requires people who purchase five or more kegs of beer to register their parties and wait five days to get their beer.

The intent of the rule is to crack down on underage drinking and address concerns that some college parties have gotten out of hand.

The rule, enacted by the Ohio Department of Public Safety last August, requires that buyers fill out a form specifying the time and place where the kegs will be served. The buyer must also sign a notarized affidavit that promises beer won't be served to people under the age of 21 and grants law enforcement authorities the right to inspect the party for violations.

It is the last provision that has gotten the American Civil Liberties Union involved in the matter. The ACLU of Ohio has expressed concern with the potential for unlawful police searches. However, the affidavit of consent does contain a clause allowing the party hosts to revoke permission to the authorities at the time of their arrival.

Department officials said they are aware of loopholes to the rule, which allows one host of a party to buy four kegs of beer and another person hosting the same party to buy four more without either having to register.

The state of Maryland already requires anyone who purchases a keg of beer to register with the state. Other states such as New Hampshire, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania have similar regulations or are considering such legislation.

(D. Maeda)

## MONDAY, Feb. 5

8:15 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: To be announced.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: Overview of Department of Health federal fund budget pages.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Continuation of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's budget review (if testimony is not completed on Friday, Feb. 2).

Review of the federal funds slated for state expenditures.

Budget review of Minnesota Technology, Inc.

### TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

Agenda: Conclusion of Office of Aeronautics budget presentation, Ray Rought, Director.

Department of Public Safety federal funds overview, Frank Ahrens, Budget Director.

MnDOT federal funds overview, Dick Swanson, Office of Financial Management Director.

Greater Minnesota transit budget presentation, Donna Allan, Director.

Office of Passenger Rail Transit budget presentation, Cecil Selness, Modal Operations Director.

Office of Railroads and Waterways budget presentation, Al Vogel, Director.

10:15 a.m.

### CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: HF130 (Dawkins) Dangerous dog definitions and regulations modified, animal control officers duties expanded, evidence preservation provided, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF450 (Skogland) Medical malpractice statute of limitations statutory reference clarified.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: Pollution Control Agency budget overview and presentation.

Pollution Control Agency: Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: HESO Budget Request.

Witness: Dr. Bob Poch, Director.

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: HF191 (Erickson) Authorizing a fund transfer for Independent School District No. 473, Isle.

HF206 (Opatz) Appropriating money for an after-school educational enhancement pilot program for low-income youth in the St. Cloud area.

HF225 (Anderson, I.) Providing for a swimming pool levy.

HF226 (Anderson, I.) Providing for revenue for transportation for staff development.

HF228 (Anderson, I.) Providing for revenue for remedial instruction for students who do not receive passing scores on the Minnesota basic skills tests.

### Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: HF133 (Haas) City aid base and maximum aid increased for specified cities.

HF363 (McGuire) City aid base and maximum aid increased for specified metropolitan municipalities.

HF324 (Kuisle) Agricultural homestead and non-homestead property tax class rates reduced, and educational agricultural credit application increased and extended.

HF5 (Penas) Education agricultural tax credit increased.

HF358 (Wilkin) Property tax class rate on apartments reduced and increased homestead and agricultural credit aid provided.

HF158 (Gleason) Property tax refund; percentage of rent constituting property taxes increased.

### Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

\*\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\*\*

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

Agenda:

HF148 (Paulsen) Provides a subtraction for social security income from the individual income tax.

HF186 (Hackbarth) Provides a subtraction for social security income from the individual income tax.

HF339 (Dempsey) Creates a subtraction for the depreciation of a taxpayer's automobile.

HF107 (McElroy) Exempts construction materials used for qualified low-income housing projects.

HF183 (Abrams) Makes the capital equipment exemption an up-front exemption.

HF336 (Erhardt) Makes the capital equipment exemption an up-front exemption.

12:30 p.m.

### FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD

#### EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: Way to Grow - Lois Engstrom, Department of Children, Families and Learning. Head Start - Barbara O'Sullivan and Karla Mouw, Department of Children, Families and Learning. Transitional Housing and Emergency Services - Connie Greer, Department of Children, Families and Learning.

HF272 (Nornes) Appropriating money for emergency assistance and transitional housing. Michael Dahl, MN Coalition for the Homeless.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

Agenda: HF209 (Hackbarth) Shooting ranges preserved, net losses limited, and relocation costs provided.

HF211 (Ozment) Fire departments reimbursed for extinguishing specified motor vehicle fires, municipalities authorized to collect unpaid emergency services bills from nonresidents, and money appropriated.

HF251 (Mulder) Laverne border development zone tax incentives authorized, state tax reductions provided, and money appropriated.

HF393 (Mahoney) Ramsey County and St. Paul city employees allowed equal competition for vacant county jobs in combined city-county departments.

Other business.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

Agenda: HFXXXX (Wolf) Relating to telecommunications; modifying and recodifying telecommunications laws. (Governor's Telecommunications Reform Bill).

(Continuation of presentation by the Department of Commerce on the Governor's Telecommunications Bill from 1/29/01 meeting.)

Presentation from MAPPCOR (Midwest Area Power Pool).

3 p.m.

## THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

### TUESDAY, February 6

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8:15 a.m.

#### EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** Overview of policy and governor's budget.

Witness: Christine Jax, Commissioner, Department of Children, Families and Learning. HF169 (Kubly) Independent School District No. 2534, Bird Island-Olivia-Lake Lillian, grant authorized for contract deadline penalty, and money appropriated.

#### HEALTH & HUMAN

##### SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF116 (Mulder) Respiratory care practitioner advisory council sunset delayed, and athletic trainer registration cancelled for nonrenewal after two years.

HF213 (Mulder) Physician assistants infectious disease education requirement repealed.

HF125 (Nornes) Dentist licensure requirements modified for applicants trained in a foreign country.

#### JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Pilot Project overview.

Domestic Fatality Review Team overview.

Bomb Disposal and Domestic Terrorism Plan overview.

Auto Theft Prevention Board overview.

#### TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** To be announced.

10:15 a.m.

#### CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** HF 149 (Pawlenty) Halaal food product labeling criminal penalties

(Rereferral from Agriculture Policy Committee). HF64 (McElroy) Repealing law prohibiting itinerant carnivals.

HFXXXX (Stanek) Federal law enforcement officers authority.

HF175 (Ozment) Fire retardant cigarettes.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** Discussion of energy issues, Linda Taylor, Deputy Commissioner, Energy Division, Minnesota Department of Commerce.

#### STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

Testimony on: Section 22, proposed budget for Gambling Control Board; Section 23, proposed budget for the Racing Commission; and Proposed budget for the Lottery.

#### TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Sviggum) Continuation of governor's tax bill.

12:30 p.m.

#### AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** Continuation of overview of the governor's budget proposals relating to agriculture by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

#### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** Department of Finance Report on Cancellations, Peter Sausen.

#### COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF331 (Abeler) Relating to preservation of historic structures; creating a historic preservation grant program.

HFXXXX (Abeler) Relating to preservation of historic structures.

HF320 (Davids) Relating to insurance; authorizing licensed property-casualty insurance agents to assist in the procurement of surplus lines insurance without a surplus lines insurance license.

HF156 (Seifert) Relating to occupations; providing an exception for barber shop registration fees.

### WEDNESDAY, February 7

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8:15 a.m.

#### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** Overview of Department of Health budget pages.

#### JOBS & ECONOMIC

##### DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy (Vice Chair Rep. Bob Gunther will be chairing this meeting)

**Agenda:** Continuation of the Department of Commerce budget review from the Jan. 31 committee meeting .

#### TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** Office of Motor Carrier Regulation budget presentation, Ward Briggs, Director.

Local roads budget presentation, Julie Skallman, State Aid Engineer.

Local bridge bonding presentation, Khani Sahebjam, Program Delivery Engineer.

State roads budget presentation, Jim Swanson, Assistant Commissioner; Al Schenkelberg, Investment Management Director; Pat Hughes, Program Support Director.

10:15 a.m.

#### CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF260 (Stanek) Criminal justice information system improvements provided and money appropriated.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Pollution Control Agency budget presentation: tax reform.

#### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** HESO budget request.

Witness: Dr. Bob Poch, Director.

#### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** Platforms of various education groups: Minnesota School Boards Association; Education Minnesota;

Association of Metropolitan School Districts;

Minnesota Rural Education Association;

Schools for Equity in Education;

Partnership for Choice in Education;

Minnesota Business Partnership.



## **TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Sviggum) Public testimony on governor's tax bill.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

**Agenda:** Overview of the new feedlot rules that are being implemented, with interpretation of last year's feedlot bill and review of 60-day permit turnaround process.

## **Economic Development and Tourism**

### **Division/COMMERCE, JOBS &**

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

**Agenda:** Affordable housing.

Report from the Mayor's Task Force.

Legislative Auditor's Report on Affordable Housing.

Report of the Rental Property Task Force.

## **FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD**

### **EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** Report of Early Care and Education Finance Commission: "The Action Plan for Early Care and Education in Minnesota."

Response to report - Dr. Karen Effrem, Pediatrician; Thomas Prichard, MN Family Council.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** HF46 (Lipman) Comprehensive local planning local control reestablished, metropolitan land use planning and Metropolitan Council review of local comprehensive plans repealed, and conforming changes provided.

HF269 (Anderson, B.) Wright County aggregate materials production tax authorized.

HF271 (Anderson B.) Wright County authorized to impose production tax on aggregate materials removed from the county.

HF394 (Seifert) Repealing statutes concerning castrating animals running at large in a town. Other business.

## **THURSDAY, February 8**

**8:15 a.m.**

## **EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** HF71 (Pawlenty) School districts' financial and academic performance evaluated, and money appropriated. Other items to be determined.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN**

### **SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** Presentation on the Prescription Drug Program.

HF6 (Howes) Prescription drug program income limit raised, enrollees required to satisfy monthly deductibles, and money appropriated.

HF13 (Abeler) Prescription drug program income limit raised, enrollees required to satisfy monthly deductibles, and money appropriated.

HF222 (Koskinen) Prescription drug program income limit increased, timeline for enrollment of disabled individuals shortened, and higher burial exclusion provided.

## **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** Budget hearing for the Tax Court.

Budget hearing for the Judicial Standards Board.

Budget hearing for the Private Detective Board.

Others possibly to be announced.

## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** HF351 (Stanek) Establishing felony level DWI penalties.

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** Overview and program outcome discussion by Board of Water and Soil Resources (BOWSR), Ron Harnack, Executive Director.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:**

HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

Testimony on: Section 14, proposed budget for Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board; Section 10, proposed budget for Office of Administrative Hearings; and

Proposal for the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE & RURAL**

### **DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knobloch

**Agenda:** Overview of University of Minnesota HEAPR, Mike Bertelson.

Overview of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities maintenance funding, Al Johnson.

## **COMMERCE, JOBS &**

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF390 (Winter) Relating to local government; authorizing the establishment of a specific nonprofit corporation in development region eight to operate and manage the Prairieland Exposition Center.

Other bills may be added.

**3 p.m.**

## **THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

## **FRIDAY, February 9**

**8:15 a.m.**

## **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**9:30 a.m.**

**\*\*\*NOTE TIME AND ROOM\*\*\***

## **Joint EDUCATION POLICY/ K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Harry Mares, Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** Dr. William Sanders, "Value-Added Assessment System," analytical procedure developed at the University of Tennessee to evaluate teaching effectiveness.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

**\*\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\*\***

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Pollution Control Agency budget overview and presentation: Tax Reform - continued.

Pollution Control Agency Budget Presentation: Waters, Air, Land.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** MnSCU budget request.

Witnesses: Morris Anderson, Chancellor;

Laura King, Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer.

Continued from page 11

Civil War flags under its care to the states. Humphrey wrote "it should be noted that the resolution applies only to flags in the War Department's custody in 1905."

In 1888, the Secretary of War issued a list of all banners held by the department. Conspicuously missing was flag No. 58 — Sherman's flag. Therefore, Humphrey argued, the flag was not subject to Congress's 1905 resolution.

To further drive home the point that Minnesota has every intention of keeping its treasured prize, Humphrey wrote that, "under Minnesota law, a claim for the recovery of personal property must be begun within six years. The six-year period begins tolling when the possessor first begins to treat the property as its own. Clearly, this six-year period has already expired."

Lawmakers have considered other legal measures to keep the flag safely in Minnesota, but have yet to introduce legislation. 🐼

## Staff passing

A long-time House staffer who was Chief Clerk Ed Burdick's boss when he began his career died Jan. 23 in North Ridge Care Center in New Hope, Minn.

Mrs. Agnes Jensen, 103, began working in the Capitol in 1921 for the commissioner of banking and later joined the staff of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Former Gov. J.A.O. Preus served as a guardian for Jensen, who was interviewed for a feature in the March 6, 1998 issue of *Session Weekly*. In that story, Burdick remembered Jensen fondly, saying she was a hard worker and well-respected.

"Mrs. Jensen's job was very important," he said. "She instilled in her employees the importance of working hard and holding down state expenses."

An inscription in her scrapbook reads, "I loved every minute of that job." In the story, she marveled at how she accomplished all the tasks in such a short time with limited resources.

"When I look back on those days, I wonder how I did it," she said. "But I was young."

She retired in 1955, making a salary of \$22.50 per day — compared to her initial House salary of \$5 per day.

Memorial services for Jensen were Jan. 28. She was interred in Fort Snelling National Cemetery.



# Reflections

One of Minnesota's greats, Roy Wilkins, was honored Jan. 24 as the 24th individual to be commemorated on a Black History Month Series stamp. The U.S. Postal Service added him to such honorees as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Sojourner Truth, Jackie Robinson, and Scott Joplin.

Wilkins served as executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for 22 years while working with the civil rights organization for 46 years.

He grew up in the racially mixed Rice Street area of St. Paul. He graduated in June 1919 from Mechanic Arts High School, where the state's Judicial Center now stands on the Capitol grounds.

Other well-known Mechanic Arts graduates include: Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul); U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun; actress Joan Davis;

Billy Williams, executive aide to 14 governors; and retired St. Paul Deputy Police Chief James Griffin. The school closed in 1974, but it housed House members and staff in 1985 while the State Office Building was being renovated. The school was torn down in 1987.

Not even 21 years of age, Wilkins began to define his own future as a national leader. As a student at the University of Minnesota, he became the first secretary of the St. Paul Urban League Board of Directors when it was founded in 1923 and helped to form the St. Paul branch of the NAACP.

Back at Mechanic Arts, young Wilkins began to develop his oratorical skills on the debate team and was president of the Literary Society. Later at the university he won an oratorical contest by giving a spirited speech that opposed the hanging of a black man in Duluth.

Wilkins majored in sociology and minored in journalism in college, while he worked as night editor for the *Minnesota Daily* and edited a black weekly, the *St. Paul Appeal*. After graduation in 1923, he was a

reporter, then managing editor for Missouri's *Kansas City Call* newspaper.

Minnesota's hometown hero further honed his career as he joined the NAACP by becoming editor of its magazine, *The Crisis*. Wilkins headed the publication after the renowned interpreter of black life in America, W.E.B. DuBois, stepped down.

From 1931 to 1977, he worked with other leaders to get national voting rights and civil rights laws passed. Wilkins said his biggest accomplishment was in 1954 when he led, and won, the fight for desegregation in public schools.

Wilkins was a man of quiet dignity and reason, yet he tackled what he called the "ills of society" with strength and fortitude. He received many awards from diverse national groups for his effectiveness, with the highest honor being the Medal of Freedom award, bestowed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1967.

One of Minnesota's favorite sons was not forgotten at home, even after he died in 1981.

In 1984, when the Saint Paul Civic Center Auditorium was renovated, it was named in his honor. A bust dedicated to him can be found at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, near the entrance to the Roy Wilkins Auditorium.

Wilkins was further memorialized in 1992 when the University of Minnesota created the Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, and endowed a chair in his name.

In 1995, a Roy Wilkins Memorial was placed on the State Capitol grounds along John Ireland Boulevard as another crowning tribute to his legacy.

Wilkins' steady faith is personified in his own words: "There are more people who want to do good than do evil."

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



Photo courtesy, U.S. Postal Service

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MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

# MINNESOTA INDEX

## Affordable housing in Minnesota

Income per household (80 percent of median) used to measure affordable	
housing in metropolitan areas, 2000 .....	\$52,480
For non-metropolitan areas .....	\$35,440
Upper limit affordable home value for such households in	
metropolitan areas .....	\$140,000
Upper limit affordable home value in non-metropolitan areas .....	\$95,000
Statewide median home sales price increase, 1990-1999, as percent .....	61
Median household income, as percent .....	50
Average rent in the Twin Cities, as percent .....	34
Median rental household income in the Twin Cities, as percent .....	9
Median sales price of existing home, Twin Cities metropolitan area, 2000 .....	\$159,200
Rank of Twin Cities among 20 largest U.S. metropolitan areas .....	10
Median sales price, San Francisco (highest) .....	\$371,600
Median sales price, Pittsburgh (lowest) .....	\$95,800
Percentage of households that own their homes in Minnesota, 1999 .....	76
Rental vacancy rates in the Twin Cities area, 2000, as percent .....	1.5
Normal vacancy rates, according to experts, as percent .....	5
Number of the nation's 75 largest metropolitan areas with a	
lower vacancy rate than the Twin Cities .....	3
Average monthly rent for all apartments in the Twin Cities area, 1999 .....	\$678
Average rent for all apartments, 2000 .....	\$751
Percent increase .....	11
Household costs considered affordable as percent of income .....	30
Number of counties where median-priced homes were affordable for	
lower income households, 1999 .....	70
Estimated median family income, Twin Cities area (highest), 1999 .....	\$68,600
Median family income, Mahnommen County (lowest), 1999 .....	\$29,500
Minnesota unemployment rate estimate, 1999, as percent .....	2.8
Labor force participation rate, adults 16 and older, 1999 .....	73
Percentage of labor force making \$13.50 or higher per hour, 1999 .....	50
Percentage making less than \$8 per hour, 1999 .....	19
Assistance distributed by Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, 1999, in millions ...	\$292

Source: *Affordable Housing, Program Evaluation Report*, Office of the Legislative Auditor, January 2001.

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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

FEBRUARY 9, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 6

In this issue:

TELECOMMUNICATIONS REFORM PLAN

FEEDLOT AUTHORITY, REACTION TO TAX PLAN, AND MORE

HF551-HF744



# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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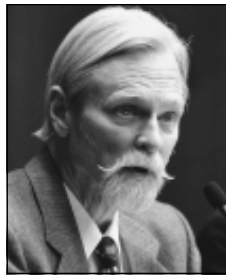
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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Bonding • 5	Energy • 8	Law • 10
Crime • 5	Environmnet • 8	Local Government • 10
Development • 6	Health • 8	Safety • 10
Education • 6	Higher Education • 9	Taxes • 11
Elections • 7	Housing • 9	Transportation • 12

### FEATURES

**At Issue:** Agriculture — Farmers and legislators express concern regarding a proposal to move oversight of feedlots from the Pollution Control Agency to the Department of Agriculture. • 13

**At Issue:** Family — An aggressive action plan for early childcare and education in Minnesota grabs the attention of legislators at a House committee hearing. • 14

**At Issue:** Taxes — The public gets its first chance to comment on Gov. Jesse Ventura's tax plan, including its expansion of the sales tax to many services. • 15

**People** — Rep. D. Scott Dibble turns love for Minnesota and career as community activist into new role as state legislator. • 16

**People** — Rep. Ruth Johnson returns to the House after two-year hiatus with renewed commitment to education and the environment. • 17

**People** — Rep. Connie Ruth draws from all the pieces of her life in the path that led her to the state Legislature. • 18

**People** — Rep. Matt Entenza takes a new role as House Minority Whip after two years as assistant minority leader. • 19

**Late action** — House members take up Senate bill to provide \$30 million in emergency heat assistance to school districts, but amend it to provide a sales tax rebate. • 20

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Perks of the Job	4	What's on the Web: Streaming video	27
The 50 States: Retaining		Committee Schedule (Feb. 12-16)	28
IT professionals	12	Reflections: The Sandager farm	31
Resources: Come to the Capitol	21	Minnesota Index: Minnesota vs.	
Bill Introductions (HF551 -HF744)	23	Top States in Education	32

On the cover: The moon rises over the Capitol Quadriga Feb. 6.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid



# Telecommunication reform

Legislators hear a revised plan for lower costs, better technology, and improved service

BY THERESA STAHL

**A** telecommunications reform proposal from the Ventura Administration promises better rates and more services for Minnesota consumers — residential and business, urban and rural.

The bill (HF510), presented to the House Regulated Industries Committee Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, is a revision of a telecommunications plan introduced last year. Since then, Department of Commerce representatives have listened

to consumers across the state, met with telephone companies and legislators, and used that input in creating a plan for new telecommunications laws.

The new bill, sponsored by Committee Chair Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville), calls for standard statewide service, affordable local phone service, advanced services to anywhere

in the state, and for consumers to be able to choose their own provider.

“Telecommunications would be driven not by the whims of a monopoly, but by a vibrant competitive marketplace,” said Anthony Mendoza, deputy commissioner of commerce.

Most Minnesotans receive service by monopoly carriers. Under the new plan phone companies would be deregulated, creating competition in the marketplace.

The main initiative of the bill requires local service providers to adhere to “universal service,” or meet certain standards of telecommunications service. With universal service, hidden subsidies — access charges and rate averaging — that currently exist in phone bills would be erased.

Some small phone companies currently charge basic services below cost while making up the revenue in access charges which are not regulated by the state. Access charges are entrance and exit fees paid by long distance companies to local service providers to originate and terminate long distance calls. The low costs for basic services make it impossible for a new company wanting to enter the market to compete with them.

For the benefit of small telephone companies that have relied on these access charges, the new plan takes a “soft landing” by reducing the charges slowly over a five-year period. Reduced access charges will also decrease the cost of long-distance calls.

Rate averaging is the second hidden subsidy to be eliminated. When rates are averaged under a monopolistic market, urban consumers help ease the cost to rural consumers,

because the cost of service is much higher in non-metro areas.

Under the new plan, consumers above the average rate, generally rural consumers, would receive a subsidy to bring the cost down to the average rate consumers in the state are paying.

The subsidy would come from a “universal service fund,” which collects a 5 percent excise tax on any telecommunications service — including long distance calls and wireless services. The fund would be created by the bill.

Mendoza said the excise tax would be added after the hidden subsidies were removed, and consumers would benefit in the end.

“It is more money in the pockets of consumers and less money in the pockets of monopoly carriers,” he said.

The universal service fund will also pay for a list of “essential services,” some that consumers currently receive, and others that will be needed more and more as technology changes. They include:

- low-income assistance;
- Telecommunications Access for Communications Impaired Persons;
- touch-tone;
- 911 and E911 (“Enhanced 911,” i.e., tracing calls);
- access to operator services;
- access to directory assistance;
- toll-free Internet access; and
- a capital investment loan fund.

During the presentation to the committee, Wolf asked if the list, which includes about a dozen services, seemed long.

“We’re trying to maintain what we have today at much less cost to ratepayers,” Mendoza explained.

The capital investment loan fund included in the list of essential services would provide start-up funds for telecommunications companies wanting to begin business in Minnesota. The money, at low interest to borrowers, would help deploy advanced communications services such as high-speed Internet, especially in rural parts of the state.

Communities that don’t have access to technologies, notably high-speed Internet, are being left behind, Mendoza said. “The loan is to provide infrastructure so Greater Minnesota is not always last in line for services.”

Even with a low-interest loan incentive,



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREW VON BANK

A telecommunications reform bill intended to simplify the complicated telecommunications system in Minnesota, awaits action in the House Regulated Industries Committee.

competitors could be intimidated from entering the market. But the plan takes measures to protect new companies.

Removing the rate averaging system, also called "deaveraging" by the department, would be completed by the end of 2002. Immediately after the deaveraging, rate caps would be set on basic voice services for two years to give the market time to adjust to the new prices. Following the release of the rate caps, the plan calls for complaint-based regulation.

"There's never been a real standard for when a company is engaged in predatory pricing," Mendoza said. But now there would be.

Predatory pricing occurs when a company lowers their service or product prices below other provider's prices, thereby unfairly pricing their competitors out of the market.

The Public Utilities Commission would hear predatory pricing complaints and would have authority to order structural separation.

The commission would also take consumer complaints. This initiative addresses implications of last year's plan, which was accused of being over-regulatory, according to Mendoza.


Cable companies, which are regulated by local governments, would also be regulated by the state under the new plan. Currently cable operators must obtain a franchise from every local government within the service territory. Telecommunications providers only need approval from the state.

Franchise application fees run as much as \$50,000. The new proposal would allow local governments to continue to collect franchise fees; however, the fees can be credited against the excise fee paid to the state. Local governments would also have control over programming. The state would have ultimate authority to grant and enforce franchises.

Mendoza said the commerce plan for reform isn't trying to put telephone companies out of business, but instead intends to eliminate monopolies and allow people to choose their own provider.

The reason for the bill is to remove barriers to companies that want to enter the telecommunications market, Mendoza said.

"We need to look at the big picture, so that rates are affordable for everyone," he said. "We need to make it a more fair and open marketplace."

The committee has taken no action on the bill. 

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## Perks of the job

**1919 speaker given "unusually lavish" gift**

Rank definitely has its privileges in the House of Representatives. But the 1919 session carried with it a special perk for then Speaker of the House William I. Nolan of Minneapolis.

At the end of the legislative session, the members of the House, along with several staff members, gave Nolan a new, six-cylinder touring car.

Though literature about the 1919 session says Nolan was very popular among the House members, no specific reason explains the gift, which was quite extravagant for the times.

However, a few of the Legislature's accomplishments that year might explain it. That was a big year for the state and the nation, as the states were called to ratify Prohibition and women's suffrage amendments.

But there were other interesting political dynamics at the time that may have explained why the House chose to bestow "an unusually lavish gift" on the speaker.

Back then, the Legislature only met during odd-numbered years and the constitution limited them to 90 legislative days.

And from 1913 to 1973, the Legislature was non-partisan, meaning the members were not elected by party affiliation. Members of the Non-partisan League, a driving political force in the state, were primarily rural farmers who banded together to draw attention to issues dominant in the rural setting. They had been most powerful during the decade from 1910 to 1920, exerting the most influence during the elections of 1918.

The League was not a specific political party, and League members represented many parties.

As a result of the non-partisan atmosphere of the time, politicians were characterized more by their stands on pivotal issues, rather than party affiliation.

For example, people and communities on either side of the Prohibition issue were described as "dry" or "wet."

Nolan's political affiliations, including support from Republican Gov. J.A.A. Burnquist, could have sabotaged his bid for speaker. Instead, the five-term legislator and long-time member of the House Rules Committee was elected by an overwhelming majority of members. The vote was 105-23.



Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

**Members of the 1919 Legislature presented this car to House Speaker W.I. Nolan at the end of the session. (Can you tell what kind of car it is? If you can, please send a letter or call House Information.)**

In his book about the 1919 Legislature, C. J. Buell described Nolan as a fair and efficient speaker.

"His actions were quick, and his rulings were never questioned but once, and then the member raising the question had no one supporting him,"

Buell wrote.

Nevertheless, controversy swirled around the 1919 Legislature, as critics hissed about laws the members were passing and issues that died.

New laws that year established a state Board of Education, a state Agriculture Department and a constitutional amendment to establish a state highway system.

About the only proposal attributed directly to Nolan was the 1919 appropriations law. However, the Legislature designated the highest state budget up to that point — \$31.78 million — and that figure was a \$7 million increase from the previous session.

But many criticized the Legislature for not funding certain needs deemed critical, including unallocated funds to prevent forest fires in northern parts of the state.

Several bits of unfinished business drew members back to the Capitol that September — ratifying the women's suffrage amendment and to establishing a memorial to soldiers from the state who served in World War I.

Nolan served only one session as speaker, saying he would not seek re-election in 1920.

**Continued on page 31**

## ★ BONDING

### Project dollars frozen

State law requires bond money that is unspent or uncommitted be reported to the Legislature after four years. As of Feb. 1, almost \$149 million in bond proceeds were frozen in accordance with this law.

Peter Sausen of the Department of Finance reported the bond proceeds cancellations to the House Capital Investment Committee Feb. 6.

He explained the report is both a bookkeeping measure and a way of getting bond recipients to move ahead on their projects.

There are several reasons why a project might not go forward. Sometimes circumstances change. An example is the airport facilities authorization for more than \$81 million that would have paid for a Northwest Airlines maintenance base in northern Minnesota.

Other projects need to meet other requirements. For example, the public television transmitter grant of \$975,000 for the city of Austin needs approval from the Federal Communications Commission, which has not yet been granted.

Sometimes the bond regulation criteria are simply too restrictive for the receiving agency, and they choose not to use the money.

Now that the cancellations have been reported, recipients who still plan to use the money must come forward and convince the Legislature their projects are still viable.

The Legislature must then pass language to extend the bonding availability and the governor must sign off on it. Any appropriations that are not extended are automatically cancelled as of July 1. The unused money goes back into the debt service fund and is recycled into paying off other bonds.

## ★ CRIME

### Prevention board sunset

Members of the House Judiciary Finance Committee questioned Gov. Jesse Ventura's recommendation to allow the state's auto theft prevention program to sunset at the beginning of 2002 during its meeting Feb. 6.

Formerly the Auto Theft Prevention Board and now under the authority of the Department of Public Safety's office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention, the program

distributes grants to law enforcement agencies to curtail and prevent auto theft.

Since the program began in 1997, auto theft in the state has been reduced about 33 percent.

According to state law, the program is set to end Jan. 1, 2002. In his biennial budget, Ventura has not recommended continuing the program, funded through a 50-cent surcharge per premium on auto insurance policies providing comprehensive coverage.

Each year, the surcharge provides about \$2.3 million to the program. However, existing law caps spending for the program at \$1.8 million, creating a balance in the fund.

During the 2000 session, the Legislature allocated some of the previous fund balance for other purposes, disbanded the board, and eliminated all staff positions.

In his budget proposal, Ventura explained his recommendation to let the program lapse as of June 30, 2001, by saying once a state-funded program is successful at the local level, the local communities should absorb the cost.

Mary Ellison, whose office in the Department of Public Safety now oversees the program, explained that it simply wasn't one of the governor's priorities.

Committee members and other officials questioned the logic that this should be a locally funded project.

"I don't really understand the argument," said Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner. She testified that the program has allowed her department to concentrate on prosecuting auto theft cases more vigorously and obtain convictions on "difficult cases," such as those where auto owners left their keys in a vehicle and it was stolen.

"It's not taking state dollars to do this project. It's taking a user fee," she said. "Without those additional dollars we will not prosecute as many of these cases. We will not prosecute the difficult cases."

Other law enforcement and insurance industry representatives testified that the program is an effective way to use resources and prevent crime.

Committee Chair Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) said he expects more discussion about the program as the committee weighs proposals for its overall spending target.

### CriMNet funding approved

A bill that would appropriate \$41.5 million to continue development and utilization of CriMNet, a statewide system to share criminal justice information among courts law enforcement officials, cleared another hurdle.

The House Civil Law Committee approved HF260, sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), Feb. 7 and referred it to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

The bill would grant \$20 million to the state Supreme Court to continue redevelopment of the court information system, intended to integrate criminal justice information from all law enforcement agencies across the state. The system would be used in every county.

The Department of Public Safety would receive \$14 million, the majority of which provides grants to local agencies to actually implement integration plans they have already developed.

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension would be granted \$6 million, the majority of which would be dedicated to processing information not yet entered into the bureau's existing computer system. The remaining \$1.5 million is earmarked for the Department of Corrections to bolster statewide supervision systems and to prepare its records for CriMNet's inauguration.

Don Gemborling, director of information policy analysis for the Department of Administration, said it is important to keep crime-related information accurate and private. This data can "really have an extreme effect on people's lives," he said. "It can affect jobs and their ability to get housing."

Stanek called the CriMNet system a vast improvement over the current system. "It does not change current law" regarding access to criminal records, he said.

Rich Neumeister, a concerned citizen, told the committee he was unsatisfied with officials' assurances that citizens' right to privacy would be sufficiently protected. "I support CriMNet in principle," he said. "But how do we make sure that the system's rules correspond" to appropriate principles of data privacy?

Steve Correll, BCA director for criminal justice information system, told the committee that CriMNet will help prevent the misidentification of people charged with crimes or applying for jobs or housing.

"The intent is to facilitate communication,"



he said. CrimNet is not “a warehouse” of information; it simply helps existing agencies legally share information.

## ★ DEVELOPMENT

### Preservation aid possible

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) presented two bills relating to historic preservation at the Feb. 6 House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Committee meeting. Both were approved.

HF331 proposes to create a historic structure preservation grant program that would award up to 20 percent of the costs of restoration projects.

HF596 would allow a person to receive an income tax credit for up to 25 percent of rehabilitation costs.

Several members of state preservation groups told legislators that historic buildings are resources for today’s communities.

“This is for preserving our state’s heritage, which gets smaller every day,” said Bob Frame, executive director of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota. He said the lack of financial resources is the most common reason buildings are not restored.

Brenda Johnson, of the Southeast Minnesota League of Cities, expressed a need for public-private partnerships, saying they are “an effective tool,” especially for maintaining downtown areas.

In response to a question regarding tax abatement, Johnson said it “hasn’t surfaced as a tool yet.”

Brian McMahon of the Preservation Alliance said buildings they are interested in working on are those that have retained their architectural character. He stressed it was not a cosmetic program, and the buildings need maintenance that does not come cheap.

“These buildings are in need of assistance, otherwise they wouldn’t get done,” McMahon said.

HF331 calls for a \$10 million appropriation to the grant program, which would be administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.

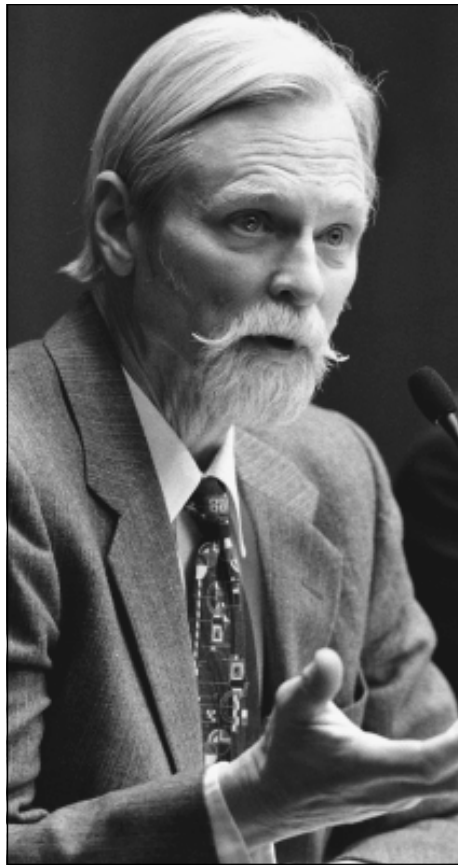
Rep. Arlon Lindner (R-Corcoran) asked if the amount would be enough.

“It’s a very good start,” Abeler replied.

The bill now moves to the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee.

Referring to HF596 that allows the income tax credit, Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said the historical buildings in need of restoration are currently valued low for property tax, and once improved will be at a higher retail value.

“You’re working against yourself if (property) taxes (skyrocket) after restoration,” he said.



**Charles Nelson, historical architect with the Minnesota State Historical Preservation Office, testifies for a bill that would create a historical preservation grant program during a Feb. 6 hearing of the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Committee.**

“Taxes will go up if you improve your property anyway,” Abeler replied.

HF596 now moves to the House Taxes Committee.

## ★ EDUCATION

### Evaluation proposal examined

A plan to have an outside agency create a consistent comparison of the financial and academic achievements of school districts received a mixed reception from members at a House committee meeting.

The House Education Policy Committee approved HF71, sponsored by House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), Feb. 8 and referred it to the House K-12 Finance Committee.

Under HF71, the commissioner of the Department of Children Families and Learning would contract with an independent school evaluation service “to evaluate and report on the academic and financial performance of the state’s independent school districts.”

This would be accomplished using six core categories: school district expenditures,

students’ performance outcomes, return on resources, school district finances, student learning environment, and school district demographics.

Representatives from Standard & Poor’s, a New York-based firm, shared what they have done in Michigan and Pennsylvania and how they could do the same in Minnesota. They said it is best to do an analysis over a number of years to see trends.

William Cox, managing director for school evaluation services, emphasized his company is not a ratings service. “We get contextual information for independent analysis. Our analysis is diagnostic, not prescriptive.”

“This way we can compare school districts using similar (numbers),” Pawlenty said, something that does not currently exist. “What we have now is a mess. We need to question if we want to improve.”

Under the proposal, the outside firm must submit its written report to the commissioner within 360 days of the date the contract is signed. The report must then be made available to the public immediately. It will also be available via the Internet.

Funding for this proposal would be appropriated from the state’s general fund. No costs were proposed, but Cox said programs in Michigan and Pennsylvania cost \$2 million to \$2.5 million per year.

Information used by Standard & Poor’s would be data already provided by school districts to the state.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) expressed concern about spending more money for another way to analyze data when money might best be spent elsewhere for education. “We have the Office of Educational Accountability. Why not just beef them up?”

On the other hand, Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria), a former school superintendent, supports the idea. “We’ve had bits and pieces in the past, but never a broad, independent analysis. If we had this it would allow us to make better decisions and then see how we did.”

### Performance-based pay

Legislators showed skepticism toward a \$15 million recommendation for performance-based teacher pay in the 2002-2003 governor’s budget at the Feb. 6 meeting of the House Education Policy Committee.

The plan was not being officially proposed in the committee, but members took the opportunity to address it, while officials were appearing to provide program overviews. The committee took no official action.

The incentive moves away from the current

“steps and lanes” system by which teachers are currently paid. “Steps” refers to the number of years a person has been teaching, and “lanes” refers to the degree or degrees a person has earned.

“We want to see teachers be awarded for what they bring to the classroom,” and for how students perform, said Christine Jax, commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning, the state’s education department.

Some legislators questioned the small amount allocated for the incentive. Rose Hermodson of the department explained that few schools would be ready to restructure their compensation plans, and the department only expects the new pay method to cover 5 percent of teachers in the state. Jax added the allocation represents the limited amount of money the governor wants to spend.

To apply for the Performance Incentive Pool, as the program is called, districts or schools would create guidelines for their own plans to compensate teachers according to student’s classroom improvement. The role of the department would be to monitor program development and provide direction.

Criteria for the Performance Incentive Pool include:

- Implementation of graduation standards;
- Tools to measure student performance;
- Measures to show improved student attendance;
- Evidence of professional development;
- Measures of student, family, and community involvement;
- A data system describing academic progress for parents and public; and
- A compensation structure for teachers that eliminates pay increases tied to years of service.



Christine Jax, commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning, testifies before the House Education Policy Committee Feb. 6.

Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls) suggested that by just looking at test results to measure student achievement — therefore not examining arts, music, and physical education — they would not be taking a “systems” look at schools. Davnie, a teacher, questioned the method by which student achievement would be gauged, stating that an administrator can have a negative effect on a school.

The department would use Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) to see if students are achieving, as well as “other methods of progress” which they did not specify.

Reps. Paul Marquart (DFL-Dilworth) and John Dorn (DFL-Mankato) talked about declining enrollment, rising class sizes, and less funding for rural districts. “How are they supposed to improve under these conditions?” Marquart asked. There is some money, he said, but not enough.

The funds aren’t sufficient to go statewide in the next biennium, Hermodson said; however, there not enough schools that would be ready anyway. Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville) commended the governor on the budget for the incentive pool, and its plan for “slow growth.”

### Funds for teacher development

More than 70 school districts would qualify for financial assistance for transportation expenses associated with staff development, under a bill (HF226) sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int’l Falls).

The bill would allow teachers in school districts that receive sparsity revenue — funds for districts that are geographically isolated and have low enrollment — up to \$200 per year for travel expenses related to seminars or conferences for professional growth. Funds granted — between state aid and a district’s local levy — would total \$686,000 statewide, if every teacher used the maximum amount available.

James Baschky, a science teacher of seven years in the International Falls School District, testified in favor of the bill before the K-12 Education Finance Committee Feb. 5.

In the past, he said, his school has sent the entire science department to Minnesota Science Teachers Conference, but this year it can only send one teacher. In previous years, Baschky said, he has used his own car and covered some costs himself, but this year that isn’t an option.

Baschky’s district, like others in the state, is too far away from other school districts to have the option of partnering and sharing the cost of seminars.

John Frederickson, superintendent of the

International Falls School District, said the cost of bringing in people to conduct staff training is too expensive, as he laid out the costs for committee members.

Representatives suggested using interactive television as a cheaper means to receiving seminars, but Frederickson said the state’s ITV system is limited. Several people, including Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), explained it is much more beneficial to attend a conference in person.

“Face to face interaction with peers is something you could never get from (interactive television),” she said.

The bill will be considered for inclusion in the K-12 education omnibus bill.

### Remedial instruction funding

Citing that there are no funding sources to cover remedial courses for students who do not pass a graduation standards test on their first try, Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int’l Falls) introduced a bill (HF228) that would provide revenue to pay for such instruction.

The bill was heard by the House K-12 Education Finance Committee Feb. 5. It will be considered for inclusion in the committee’s omnibus bill.

One-third of students in the state fail the Minnesota Graduation Standards Test their first time and would likely benefit from early intervention with specialized instruction, supporters of the bill say.

HF228 would allow districts to use local levy funds for graduation standards remedial instruction. The cost of one course of 30 students would cost districts an average \$10,000 annually, which includes salary, benefits and course supplies.

## ELECTIONS



### Type size in political ads

State law requires that campaign literature contain a disclaimer stating who produced the material.

But that law does not require the disclaimer be legible. Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) has proposed a bill (HF486) that he says would attempt to address what many would consider a common sense issue by requiring that the disclaimer be at least a certain sized type.

Seifert presented the bill to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Feb. 5. He showed the committee a newspaper advertisement that ran in the Marshall newspaper the day before the election. He said the disclaimer to the ad was



printed in a type size and font style that made it nearly impossible to read.

Many people in the community were upset with the particular advertisement, Seifert said, and because the disclaimer was difficult to read, it was nearly impossible for voters to know who was responsible for producing the advertisement.

He said that with the increasing negativity in local campaigns, knowing who is behind an advertisement is becoming more and more of a concern.

"The disclaimer is almost of equal importance as the message that is going out," he said. "If we have no idea who is sending the message out there is no accountability."

Originally, HF486 would have required that the disclaimer be in at least 10-point type. But the bill was amended to lower the type size to eight-points.

Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) said he wasn't convinced the bill was necessary and was concerned about micromanaging the "art" of advertising design.

Dehler said gamesmanship is part of the political process and the advertisement Seifert brought with him from Marshall was for a candidate who lost the election.

The committee approved the bill and it was sent to the House floor.

### State growth continues

The population of Minnesota grew by 12.4 percent during the past decade, the state demographer told the House Redistricting Committee Feb. 6.

Tom Gillaspay said that according to the preliminary United States 2000 Census figures used for apportionment purposes, the population of the state is 4,925,670. That total includes a resident population of 4,919,479 with 6,191 Minnesotans living overseas.

Apportionment is the federal process used in determining the number of seats each state will have in Congress.

The percent increase was larger than both the decade of the 1980s, when the state's population increased by 7.3 percent, and in the 1970s when there was a 7.1 percent increase.

The decade of the 1950s saw an increase of 14.5 percent but Gillaspay said there were differences between that large increase and the increase of the past decade. He said that in the 1950s the growth came in large part to new births, while in the 1990s the state saw a large increase in the number of people who moved here from other states or countries.

According to census figures nearly one-half of Minnesota's population increase in the 1990s was due to migration into the state.

Gillaspay said for census purposes the traditional seven-county metro area is now expanded to include Chisago, Isanti, Sherburne, and Wright counties. That area minus the St. Paul/Minneapolis area saw the largest increase in population (18.5 percent) during the past decade. By comparison, population in the two core cities dropped by 2.4 percent. The rest of the state saw a 4.2 percent increase.

Using those numbers the suburban areas are likely to gain five representatives in the House, while the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis are expected to lose two seats between them, and Greater Minnesota would lose three seats, Gillaspay said.

Yet he cautioned those numbers are preliminary, and that ultimately the redistricting process will determine the number of representatives from the different parts of the state.

The state's undercount for the last census was 0.4 percent, the third lowest in the nation. Each time the government conducts a census there can be a certain amount of underestimating what the population will be, and that contributes to the undercount. Gillaspay said that number can be partially attributed to the state being less diverse than the nation as a whole, as well.

The official census figures to be used for redistricting are expected to be released sometime in March.

## ★ ENERGY

### Heating help on the way

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law Feb. 2 that would allow low-income families to receive heating assistance funds two weeks early.

The law, sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), passed in the House on a 126-0 and 58-0 in the Senate.

Effective Feb. 3, the law releases \$12.2 million in federal money that would have otherwise not been granted until Feb. 13.

The Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides services that help income-eligible households keep their homes heated through the winter. Households meeting the income limits can receive a one-time grant, which is usually paid to their heating vendor.

Grant size is based on the number of people in the household, gross household income, fuel type, and fuel consumption from the previous winter. The households with the lowest incomes and highest bills receive the largest grants.

The program also provides emergency heating system repair for households in a no-heat

situation or have had their service discontinued or interrupted.

McElroy said the program has received many more applications than in the past due to high energy costs this winter. He said the average grant is \$400 to \$500 per family.

"This bill will serve a significant number of families," McElroy said.

HF421\*/SF460/CH2

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### MPCA reductions planned

Reduced funding is forcing the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to eliminate the equivalent of 70 full-time jobs over the next two years, a 9 percent reduction in staff.

"This has not been an easy task," Lisa Thorvig, PCA deputy commissioner, told members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Feb. 5, during the agency's budget presentation.

The governor has recommended about \$25.2 million in spending from various funds for the PCA. The agency has not yet completed its presentation.

The agency intends to cut staffing through attrition. Additionally, they have been holding vacancies open in anticipation of this action. During the next two years, agency officials expect to meet the objective through retirements and through employees leaving for other reasons, Thorvig said.

Programs are also being cut, and employees from those programs will be assigned to other programs as positions open.

Most of the PCA programs being eliminated or reduced are those that deal with problems that are not a top priority, agency officials say. Some have already accomplished their goals, and others are somewhat duplicated by other agencies such as the Department of Health.

Committee chair Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) asked about staff morale in the face of these cuts.

"Morale is not good," Thorvig told the committee. "People who work at our agency are there because they care about the environment. It is especially difficult for people whose programs have been cut."

## ★ HEALTH

### Removing a stigma

Words can hurt.

"Labels discriminate," Tom Peterson, executive director for the Minnesota Consumer/Survivor Network, told members of the House Health and Human Services Policy

Committee Feb. 1 during a meeting on mental health.

With the goal of eliminating such discrimination, Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) introduced a simple bill with far-reaching possibilities.

HF97 would change the phrase "is mentally ill" to "has a mental illness" in all Minnesota statutes and rules. The bill was approved unanimously by the committee and referred to the House Civil Law Committee.

Stigmatization of people with mental illness has occurred throughout history. One might think people are more enlightened now than they were 50 years ago; however, the recent U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health reported that even though the American public has become more knowledgeable about mental illness, they are no less prejudiced.

People with mental illness are avoided, distrusted, stereotyped, and feared, the report said. They have reduced access to jobs and housing; and they suffer from isolation, low self-esteem, and hopelessness.

As a result of this stigma, almost two-thirds of all people with mental illness do not seek treatment, according to recent studies.

"The stigma can be worse than the illness," Peterson said.

The 1999 White House Conference on Mental Health called for a national anti-stigma campaign, which falls in line with the spirit of Greiling's proposal.

## ★ HIGHER EDUCATION

### College funding aid okayed

Financing help for those who will soon be enrolled in college might be on the way.

On Feb. 7, the House Higher Education Finance Committee approved HF550, sponsored by Rep. Rob Eastlund (R-Isanti). The bill now moves to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee because it refers to rules.

HF550 extends the time for adopting rules for the Edvest savings program for nine months. The program cannot begin operating until rules are adopted.

The Edvest program was enacted in 1997 as a way to save money for post-secondary schooling by providing tax benefits and state grants to match contributions. The program allows accounts to be created for a designated beneficiary who will attend college in the future. Families with income of \$80,000 or less are eligible to receive back up to 15 percent (maximum \$300) of their contributions in the form of a state grant.

When enacted, the Legislature appropriated

\$3 million per biennium for the program. With the exception of some up front costs, no money has been spent. However, monies left in the fund at the conclusion of each biennium were transferred back into the state's general fund.

But those funds didn't go unspent because there was no interest in the program. Rather, officials allowed the initial deadline for setting rules and guidelines for the program to pass, thus the terms for granting the money were never established.

The original 18-month provision for adopting rules expired in early 1999. Phil Lewenstein, from the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office, said his organization was working on the aspects of the program and simply overlooked the time for enactment clause. Among the aspects he listed were: getting the Internal Revenue Service to adopt the regulations, identifying things in state law that need to be addressed with this program, and data privacy issues.

"I assume they won't be sleeping at the switch next time," said Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal).

Lewenstein said the office hopes to have the program rules ready for adoption in advance of the nine-month time frame, because much work has already been completed.

Eastlund indicated that 2,000 to 3,000 people have already expressed an interest in this program. It is anticipated the first appropriations will be made next year, for people who enroll in the program by the end of 2001.

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at:  
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

## ★ HOUSING

### Shelter funds sought

A bill that would appropriate \$10 million for transitional housing and emergency services from the state's general fund was discussed Feb. 5 in the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee.

HF272, sponsored by Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls), will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus spending bill.

"Housing is one of the basic needs in life," Nornes said. "I feel strongly that people should have a place to rest after, hopefully, a day of work."

"Transitional housing" is state-subsidized housing for people who are homeless or temporarily displaced from their homes. Minnesota has 64 transitional housing programs.

On an average night Minnesota shelters provide a place to sleep for 6,220 people; more than 50 percent of those are children or unaccompanied youths, according to Michael Dahl, of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless. About 1,000 people are turned away each night.

The number of people seeking emergency shelter has been steadily rising, and has more than tripled since 1987. The number of children living in temporary housing grew more than sevenfold during that time period, according to the Family Housing Fund.

"The crisis we're seeing in affordable housing is part of the reason for the crisis in shelter availability," Dahl said. Until more affordable housing is made available, he said, "we're going to see more people trying to use shelters."

### TINY DANCER



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Luke Verbout, 2, from Cottage Grove, plays on the "Star of the North" in the center of the Rotunda at the conclusion of the Feb. 8 rally for early childhood and family education.

Housing is "affordable" if it costs no more than 30 percent of household income, according to a report by the Department of Children, Families and Learning. The goal of transitional housing is to help people "obtain and maintain stable housing."

Not all people seeking shelter are jobless. Cathy ten Broeke, director of St. Stephen's Shelter in Minneapolis, said 60 percent of their guests are working. Those individuals participate in a program that requires them to set aside 40 percent of their income for permanent housing.

After discussion, committee members agreed they needed more information about the type of emergency services to be provided before they could recommend the bill. Dahl agreed to provide them with that information.

## LAW

### Civil clarity sought

Legislators are considering a bill that would correct a technical aspect of state law governing civil actions brought against healthcare providers.

According to the bill's sponsor, Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), HF450 is intended to clarify legislation, passed two years ago, which increased the statute of limitations on wrongful death actions brought against healthcare providers from two years to four years.

Characterizing the bill as technical, he told the House Civil Law Committee Feb. 5 the same legislation "is on the consent calendar in the Senate."

However, Richard Thomas, chair of the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association Law Improvement Committee, wrote HF450 should be scrapped in favor of a uniform system of wrongful death regulation. "The statute of limitations against physicians had been two years for many years in Minnesota," he wrote in a letter submitted to the committee.

"What has been lost in the debate is the fundamental question of whether there should be a four-year statute of limitations against physicians and other healthcare providers in wrongful death actions when every other party is subject to a three-year period."

The committee unanimously approved the bill and referred it to the House Health and Human Services Committee.

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Shooting range protection

The House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee approved a bill Feb. 5 that would shield shooting ranges from new local government ordinances.

Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar), sponsor of HF209, said the bill is similar to one the House passed in 1999. It requires local units of government to allow existing shooting ranges to continue operating even if local zoning ordinances change.

"A lot of shooting ranges in Minnesota are being shut down for frivolous reasons," Hackbarth said.

He said ranges are important for safety reasons as they teach young hunters how to shoot. Without the ranges, Hackbarth said there would be an increase in the number of "disasters out in the woods."

Currently, there are approximately 375 shooting ranges in the state. Hackbarth said with the increase in urban development into rural areas of the state that noise complaints against the ranges have increased.

Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls) asked Hackbarth if he considered all noise complaints against shooting ranges as being "frivolous" and if it was the role of the state rather than local government to address the concerns.

Hackbarth said the complaints relate mostly to noise rather than any hazards caused by users of the ranges. He believes it is the state's role to become involved because it is a statewide issue being addressed.

The bill would require the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to develop voluntary guidelines for shooting ranges. It also stipulates that shooting ranges could only be closed or relocated because of a new development if the range becomes a "clear, immediate, and proven safety hazard" to the development.

If a range were found to be a hazard but can be made safe, the DNR or the local unit of government would be required to pay for the improvements, under the bill.

Remi Stone from the League of Minnesota Cities and Dave Weirens from the Association of Minnesota Counties both spoke against the bill saying it would severely limit local control and give shooting ranges unequaled preferential treatment.

The bill now goes to the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

### Castration law might be cut

The House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee approved a bill Feb. 7 that might cause a collective sigh of relief from the head of town boards throughout the state, as well as certain roaming animals.

HF394 sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) repeals a law that requires the chair of the town board to castrate a stallion, bull, boar, or ram running at large if the owner is notified and continues to allow the animal to roam free. Heads of boards refusing or neglecting to perform the duties under this law are guilty of a misdemeanor.

Seifert said that bill is part of an ongoing effort he is working on with Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) and Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley) to purge obsolete laws from the books. He said some thought was given to drafting a large omnibus bill repealing a variety of obsolete laws but such a bill would be open to nearly any amendments since it would deal with so many different areas and statutes. Therefore several specific bills will be introduced this session repealing laws.

Established in 1947, the mandatory castration statute is a section of the law establishing regulation of stray animals and imposing penalties to animal owners who allow their animals to roam free off their property.

Seifert said this particular obsolete law was brought to his attention by his father, a former township official who had come across the law more than 20 years ago and was surprised to see it still on the books.

Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Cottage Grove) said she ironically learned about Seifert's bill last week when there was heavy news coverage of three wandering cows that escaped on Interstate 694 and eluded capture for a number of hours.

Referring to Seifert's bill with a smile, Marko said, "We definitely need to do it. It is critical."

The bill now goes to the House Transportation Policy Committee.

## SAFETY

### Safer smokes

Legislators are considering a bill that could decrease the likelihood that cigarettes would start fires.

HF175, sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), would require cigarettes made or sold in Minnesota to meet fire retardant standards established by the state fire marshal.

The House Crime Prevention Committee referred the bill to the House Governmental





**Members of the House Crime Prevention Committee take a closer look at a less flammable cigarette during a Feb. 6 hearing. Members were discussing a bill that would make fire resistant cigarettes the only type sold in Minnesota.**

Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee without recommendation during a Feb. 6 meeting. Members expressed concern that the Crime Prevention committee was an inappropriate venue because HF175 includes no criminal penalties for violating the standards provided in the bill.

Citing his experience as a firefighter, Ozment said, "Having an opportunity to work on this issue has been really exciting for me."

He explained that cigarette manufacturer Merit has developed a paper that resists burning unless the smoker is actually drawing oxygen through the cigarette. Small threadlike fire-retardant filaments are wound around the tobacco, surrounding the cigarette in a tight, cylindrical pattern.

Members expressed a variety of concerns ranging from the safety of inhaling fumes from the burned filaments to the legality and commercial impact of requiring the entire tobacco industry to follow the lead of one manufacturer.

In response, Ozment said there is no significant cost impact to consumers for cigarettes using the special paper.

Ozment told the committee that Minnesota was the first state to require that tents sold in the state be flame-retardant. The result was that all manufacturers chose to make only flame-retardant tents. Thus, Minnesota essentially provided protection for consumers everywhere by leading the charge for protective legislation, and could do so again.

No other state has established a mandate on the papers, Ozment said. However, the state of New York is also considering such an action.

### **Dangerous dog bill advances**

The House Civil Law Committee approved a bill Feb. 5 that would put tougher regulations on dangerous dog owners.

The bill (HF130), in the words of its sponsor, Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), would "get tough on dangerous dogs."

Specifically, the proposal would require owners of dogs deemed dangerous by local animal control officers to pay for the mandatory insertion of a microchip into their canines' backs. A dog would be considered dangerous based on its behavior, not its breed. The assessment would be made by local animal control authorities.

Dawkins agreed to a number of changes after several members suggested the original bill made too many changes to existing law.

Committee members approved several amendments, including one that nullified the bill's original provision barring dog owners from appealing the decisions of animal control authorities to any court higher than the district court level.

A second amendment voided the provision that would have required dangerous dog owners to take out an insurance policy worth at least \$300,000. The updated version sets that figure at \$50,000.

The bill now moves to the House Crime Prevention Committee, which will focus on penalties provided in the bill, for violations including the removal of a tracking microchip from a dangerous dog's skin and for having a dog that harms a service dog.

## **TAXES**



### **Social Security break proposed**

As Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar) was campaigning last fall, one of the issues he heard a lot about was Minnesota's policy of taxing Social Security benefits.

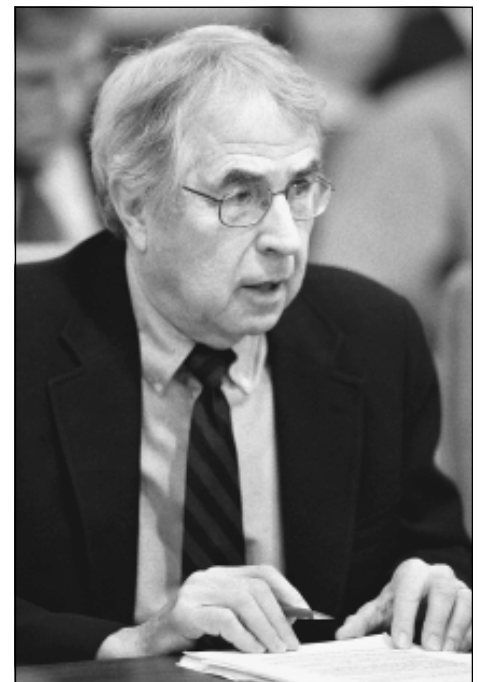
He became convinced that he should offer legislation exempting those benefits and thus was pleased to learn that last session Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie) had already offered such a bill.

This session Hackbarth and Paulsen have both sponsored bills (HF148 and HF186) that would allow taxpayers to subtract Social Security benefits from their Minnesota taxable income. Both bills were presented Feb. 5 to the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division.

The Department of Revenue estimates the cost of allowing the exemptions would be around \$285 million during the next biennium. Currently, 35 states and the District of Columbia do not tax Social Security benefits.

Under current law, for income tax purposes single filers are required to include Social Security benefits on income over \$25,000 while the threshold for married couples filing jointly is \$32,000.

Up to 50 percent of the benefits are included in taxable income for single filers with income greater than \$25,000 but less than \$34,000. Up to 85 percent of benefits are included in



**Merle Genzlinger testifies in favor of a bill that would exempt Social Security benefits from being taxed as income during the Feb. 5 hearing of the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee.**

taxable income for single filers with income of more than \$34,000.

For married couples the 50 percent threshold applies to income between \$32,000 and \$44,000, and the 85 percent threshold kicks in on income of more than \$44,000.

Paulsen said the state's decision to tax Social Security benefits was an effort to conform to federal tax law.

Merle Genzlinger, a retired Honeywell employee, said that the policy is "ill-advised" and "unfair."

"I understand that the U.S. government's primary reason for taxing Social Security is to replenish the Social Security fund," Genzlinger said. "The state of Minnesota does not have a dog in that fight."

The division took no action on the bills, but both will be considered further for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### Ramp meter study

Minnesota Department of Transportation Commissioner Elwyn Tinklenberg told lawmakers the recent Twin Cities ramp meter study demonstrated that the meters provide "clear benefits" to the metro area.

Addressing a Feb. 6 meeting of the House Transportation Policy Committee, Tinklenberg spoke of results from the six-week study, mandated by the Legislature and conducted by an independent consulting firm.



Vassili Alexiadia, a consultant with Cambridge Systematics, discusses the Twin Cities ramp-meter study with members of the House Transportation Policy Committee Feb. 6.

Tinklenberg said the study "thoroughly documented the benefits resulting from ramp metering to traffic operations and related factors such as air quality in the Twin Cities metro region. The study also demonstrates the need to balance the efficiency of moving as much traffic during the rush hours as possible, consistent with safety concerns and public consensus regarding

queue length at ramp meters."

He added the ramp meters were an "imperfect" attempt to maximize the efficiency of the metro freeways, which should be understood as only a component of a more comprehensive metro transit system.

The study showed that accidents increased and travel times became longer and less predictable, although fewer drivers overall used the freeways when meters were turned off. Furthermore, the average commute increased by seven minutes of freeway driving time, while time spent on entrance ramps decreased by only 2.5 minutes.

Committee Chair Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) suggested that one mechanism for improving metropolitan area transit could be to limit the type of travel permitted during rush hours. "Who's on the freeway that doesn't need to be there?" he asked rhetorically.

Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Wells) expressed his approval for the study's methodology, but cautioned against additional efforts to influence transportation policies by commissioning further research. "We can't micromanage," he said. "It's time to move forward."

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) noted the study's results showed a correlation between commute length and public attitudes toward meters. "This is a question of values," she said, referring to the study's conclusion that people with longer commutes were more likely to look favorably upon the continued use of ramp meters.



## Retaining IT professionals

### States' strategies may be solution to reduce employee turnover

For years the state of Kansas had difficulty competing with the private sector for employees with computer programming and technical skills. In 1997 the state decided to try a new approach to attract and retain those employees.

Instead of relying on traditional methods to attract employees, the state developed a task force, made up of human resources and information technology professionals from various state agencies, to define the scope of the problem and develop a strategy to address it.

The task force developed an IT Retention Program, which includes a pay plan that allows signing bonuses of up to \$3,000 for potential employees with specific computer skills. The program also provides a \$500

bonus for state employees who successfully recruit information technology workers from the private sector.

Making sure employees are provided with up-to-date equipment, such as laptop computers, and the latest software is also a program priority.

The changes are working.

In 1997 turnover in state information technology jobs was around 15 percent. By 1999 that number had dropped to approximately 4.5 percent.

It's not just Kansas that has successfully devised plans to retain workers.

A similar approach in Wisconsin has helped that state address its shortage of information technology skilled employees.

Shortly after the state implemented its version of the program, more than 150 new employees were hired.

A recruiting and retaining program in Missouri has government managers working with officials from the state's colleges and universities to develop class work designed to meet specific skills needed for state government jobs.

State officials have targeted two groups as potential employees. The first are underemployed workers seeking a job change. The second are middle and high school students. By designing a specific curriculum aimed directly at these groups, the state hopes to develop a lasting relationship with a pool of potential employees.

(D. MAEDA)



## Power struggle

Proposed change in regulatory authority angers some farmers, legislators

By JONAS M. WALKER

**H**oping to alleviate the administrative burden upon Minnesota farmers, representatives are considering transferring certain regulatory authority from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Existing state law instructs the PCA to “protect Minnesota’s environment through monitoring environmental quality and enforcing environmental regulations.”

Among the regulations promulgated and enforced by the agency are those governing feedlots, defined as an area “where the concentration of animals is such that a vegetative cover cannot be maintained within the enclosure.” Feedlots can become environmentally problematic if animal manure is improperly allowed to enter groundwater or streams.

HF495, sponsored by Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), would remove the PCA’s authority to regulate feedlots and place rulemaking and enforcement responsibility in the state Department of Agriculture.

“The Department of Agriculture is an advocate for family farms. The (PCA) is an adversary of family farms. Advocates would have a more compassionate, helpful touch,” said Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), co-sponsor of the bill.

The bill has been referred to the House Agriculture Policy Committee. However the idea of moving feedlot oversight from the PCA to the Agriculture Department dominated the Feb. 7 committee meeting, though they took no action on it.

The bill comes a year after the Legislature passed a law loosening some of the feedlot regulations proposed by the agency in 2000. Typically, the agency sets its own rules governing feedlot regulation, but the legislation superceded those.

Asked whether the department would be hamstrung if charged with the responsibilities of both promoting agriculture and regulating agricultural pollution, as his proposal dictates, Osskopp said he wants “a conflict of

interest (within the relevant regulatory agency). I don’t want an adversarial relationship (between farmers and regulatory agencies). I want to help family farmers.”

Osskopp denied that pollution control activities could be compromised if left up to the same officials who promote farming. “I’m not looking for someone to look the other way,” he said. However, he admits the Agriculture Department’s “attitude and policies would be different” from those promoted by the PCA.

Although HF495 does make a few adjustments to the actual rules governing feedlots, Osskopp explained the bill is perhaps best understood as a statement of frustration on the part of farmers and their representatives in St. Paul.

“Maybe this is a message to the PCA that we would like to see whoever is in charge of (feedlots) be a little more farmer-friendly,” he said. “If you won’t be, we will find someone else who will.”

The bill would allow the Agriculture Department to burden county officials with the responsibility of enforcing feedlot regulations. Some of those officials, though, are reluctant to assume that responsibility.

Beltrami County Commissioner Steve Booth testified that he and other county officials were not thrilled at the prospect of enforcing environmental regulations. “We would be happy to tell (the state) to do it. We don’t think we have a problem with feedlot pollution.”

As evidence, Booth presented department data that showed rural water had become more clear between 1989 and 1999, while water in more urban and suburban counties had become less transparent. Discounting the relevance of PCA regulations in contributing to that change, Booth said rural areas “are being force-fed a bunch of superfluous rules and regulations.”

He described PCA rules as “vague,” which he said contributed to “mistrust and confusion” among farmers. He suggested producers “would be more willing to enforce

(pollution control rules) if they understood them.”

Booth denied feedlots were causing problems that PCA regulations intend to prevent. “In my heart of hearts, we don’t have the problem of liquid manure.”

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) endorsed county-level pollution control mechanisms, explaining average farmers suffer when PCA regulations overzealously target smaller farms. “One size does not fit all,” he said.

A PCA regulation requiring farmers to register the number and location of their animals proved especially controversial.

Rod Massey, PCA south district director, said the rule’s intent was to easily identify farmers who have feedlots and would need additional assistance meeting federal and state feedlot requirements. He said farmers were asked to fill out a form that was crafted “so that (farmers) will not be subjected” to unnecessary inspections.

Instead, farmers felt assailed. Osskopp said farmers “never thought the day would come that they would have to register like sex offenders.”

Continued on page 20



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**John Peterson, who raises beef cattle in Pinewood, testifies before the House Agriculture Policy Committee Feb. 7 during an overview of the new feedlot rules that are being implemented.**

# Group seeks reform

Commission presents aggressive plan to re-evaluate Minnesota's priorities for early child care and education

BY MARY KAY WATSON

A blue-ribbon commission has produced a "bold" plan to reorder Minnesota's priorities in early childcare and education. The plan has an equally bold price tag: \$480.7 million annually.

"What happens to children in the first five years of life lays the foundation for their success in K-12," said former Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser, co-chair of the Early Care and Education Finance Commission, in a presentation to the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee Feb. 7.

Fraser and other commissioners said the return would be greater than the investment, with a net savings to the public over time.

A decade ago the National Education Goals Panel set a goal for the year 2000 that all children would start school "ready to learn." But current studies estimate that 40 percent of the nation's kindergarten-aged children do not meet that goal. Estimates put Minnesota at 30 percent.

"We are spending a lot of money on remedial care because people don't get the right start," said commission member Dr. Blanton Bessinger, director for child advocacy and child policy for Children's Hospitals and Clinics in St. Paul. "A lot of what is in our report is preventive medicine."

Citing such threats to children as poverty, lack of development, lack of stimulation, and violence, Bessinger said, "These threats have to be addressed by public policy."

The commission, established in 1998, acknowledged a "new reality" in the challenges facing parents, and set a goal to "ensure that Minnesota's children receive early care and education that provides a safe, nurturing, educational, and culturally affirming environment."

The House committee has heard a lot about early childhood education in Minnesota this year. Some problems of the current system include fragmentation, inconsistency, and lack of availability to some children.

The commission's comprehensive report, Action Plan for Early Care and Education in Minnesota, addresses these issues and more. Rather than scrapping current programs, the plan would build on, and upgrade, those that are successful, while filling in the gaps to produce a comprehensive system.

The commission's recommendations fall into three categories:

- Give more power and resources to parents to raise their children.
- Increase the quality of early care and education.
- Retool and integrate early care and education to enable Minnesota's children to be kindergarten-ready.

"We want to create time for parents to spend with their children," said Jim Koppel, executive director of the Children's Defense Fund of Minnesota.

One of the recommendations that would support parents in this way would create a \$500 per child refundable, indexed state tax credit for

families with children under age 5.

Another is a program that would offer voluntary paid parental leave. This would be a limited subsidy, shared equally by employers and the state, for a period of time up to 26 weeks.

The quality of available childcare in Minnesota is inconsistent, according to experts. In addition, wages for childcare professionals are dismal — Minnesota ranks 48th out of 50 states.

"More than 60 percent of what's out there is not good child care because they do not have enough resources," said Nancy Johnson, executive director of the Minnesota Childhood Resource and Referral Network.

The plan recommends integrating all early childhood programs, including before and after school programs, at the local level. This would include upgrading existing programs and expanding School Readiness programs.

In addition, Head Start would be funded for birth to age 3, and funding for 3- to 5-year-olds would be increased. Among the Head Start components being given priority are home visitor and parent education programs.

"It's rare that we see such a broad cross-section of ideologies come together and agree on an issue," said Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls).

Not everyone was so enthusiastic.

"I think it misses the mark," said Tom

Continued on page 31



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Former Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser holds up a copy of the "Action Plan for Early Care and Education in Minnesota" during a Feb. 7 presentation to the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee. The report was produced by the Early Care and Education Finance Commission. Other members of the commission include Chuck Slocum, Dr. Blanton Bessinger, Steve Young, Margaret Boyer, Jim Koppel and Nancy Johnson.

## A fit for all?

Legislators seek clarification, others voice concern as hearings begin regarding Ventura's tax plan

By DAVID MAEDA

**G**ov. Jesse Ventura likens his tax proposal to a sweater. He asked the Legislature to consider the package as a whole rather than pick out pieces causing the entire thing to unravel.

Yet as lawmakers closely examine the details, bits of the whole have already come under question. The House Taxes Committee held several

hearings the past two weeks devoted to diving into the many provisions of the bill (HF511) sponsored by House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon).

The committee has scheduled more hearings over the next several weeks throughout Greater Minnesota to take public testimony on the bill.

Matt Smith, commissioner of the Department of Revenue, said HF511 combines several goals — both saving taxpayers money and also developing a fair, balanced, and understandable system.

"While distinct unto themselves they work better in combination," Smith said.

He said permanent tax relief proposed in the bill is designed to make the growth in government spending less than it would otherwise be. Tax reform in the bill sets out to determine what the best mix of taxes should be.

At the heart of the proposal is an attempt to shift the state's reliance on property taxes to sales taxes. HF511 proposes to remove the state determined general education levy making the property tax more local and more accountable.

To make up for that lost revenue the governor is proposing to lower the sales tax rate from 6.5 percent to 6 percent but expand that tax to more services.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, questioned whether it is good public policy to make the state more dependent on sales tax during a time the tax is facing challenges from the proliferation of Internet sales.

During the past year the department, along with 37 other states, participated in a national effort, known as the Streamlined Sales Tax

Project, attempting to design a more universal sales and use tax system by simplifying the calculation, reporting, and payment requirements for vendors. Smith said the complexity of the current system has meant less overall compliance.

He said one of the important principles of HF511 is adopting the project's recommendation for sourcing, or the rules for deciding which state has the right to impose and collect its tax on a transaction.

According to existing law, Minnesota sales tax is based on where the greater part of the production or performance occurred. The proposal would base the tax on where the service is consumed or provided.

Under the change a Minnesota company that ships a product to an out-of-state customer would not charge sales tax to that person.

The concept, in order to work, would require other states to adopt a similar standard. The project proposed sample legislation for each state to enter into a compact governing all the states involved in the program. Several states are considering the proposal, which would bind them to an agreement, but without it nothing compels any of the states to comply.

Smith said one goal of the reform is to tax consumption of all goods sold and services provided in the state unless there was a good policy principle for why an exemption should be allowed.

"The overall thrust of the governor's proposals as they affect Minnesota businesses is to try to make sure that we keep and make Minnesota a good place from which to do business and that we don't disadvantage Minnesota firms as they try to compete in other markets," Smith said.

### Expanding the sales tax to more services

Current untaxed services that would be subject to the sales tax under HF511:

- Legal Services
- Computer and Data Processing Services
- Real Estate/Property Management Service
- Commissions
- Engineering, Architecture and Surveying Services
- Motor Vehicle Repair Services
- Construction- Special Trades
- Accounting Services
- Management, Consulting and Public Relations Services
- Intrastate Transportation Services
- Advertising Services
- Investment Counseling Services/Brokerage Fees
- Personnel Services
- General Repair Services
- Personal Services (Beauty and Barber)
- Sewer Services
- Research and Development/Testing Services
- Funeral Services
- Misc. Business Services (Veterinary, sound recording, claims adjusting, etc.)

Source: Department of Revenue

The department estimates the bill would increase by about 30 percent the number of businesses in the state that would become sales tax collectors, and the department would need around 40 to 50 staff to administer the changes. Abrams questioned whether the state would effectively enforce compliance considering the growth of remote sales even with the additional staff.

Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) and Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) questioned how the expansion to services would affect the building of homes.

Under the measure, a construction firm employing its own electricians and plumbers would not pay sales tax on those services but a company contracting out for those services now would be subject to the tax.

Smith said the sales tax on a home valued at \$150,000 would amount to approximately \$1,872, but, under Ventura's plan, the same house would see a property tax reduction of about \$496 a year.

Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan) raised a similar concern about the equity of the bill on

Continued on page 20

# Taking the next step

Dibble moves from being a neighborhood activist to working on issues of more state impact at the Capitol

By DAVID MAEDA

It was a natural career progression from his community activism. That's how Rep. D. Scott Dibble (DFL-Mpls) viewed his decision to run for a seat in the Legislature.



Rep. D. Scott Dibble

Long active in his southwest Minneapolis neighborhood as an organizer and coalition builder, Dibble had already spent much time at the Capitol working with his legislators.

"People would ask me 'When are you going to run for office?' and my stock response was, 'I don't know,'" he said, since the idea was not at the forefront of his mind.

Dibble's interest in politics began when he attended the University of St. Thomas in the mid-1980s. At the time the HIV/AIDS crisis was just entering the public consciousness and Dibble joined others in trying to help shape an effective public policy for "one our most complex social issues."

Along with health issues and trying to find a cure and stop the spread of the disease, Dibble, who is openly gay, said issues like personal privacy, returning to the workplace, housing access, class, race, and homophobia are also important to him.

As a neighborhood activist he worked against the expansion of I-35W and for a reduction of airport noise. He said developing a statewide comprehensive transportation plan and affordable housing issues were other areas he worked on.

Dibble said he and the other neighborhood leaders soon learned their grassroots efforts were greatly helped by reaching out to all sectors of the community, and building partnerships with different groups, including the DFL party.

He served six years as an aide for Minneapolis City Council Member Dore Mead and currently holds the part-time position as the Loring Park executive coordinator.

When longtime state Sen. Allan Spear decided not to run for another term Dibble said Spear encouraged him to run for office. Then when Sen. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) announced he was running for Spear's seat in the Senate, Dibble said the time felt right to take his community activism to the next level.

His run for office turned out to be quite a rewarding experience. "It was a really dynamic campaign that brought in a lot of people who never had been involved with working on a campaign," he said.

Dibble said the efforts of those that

Valley High School where he was a classmate of Rep. Chris Gerlach (R-Apple Valley). He said he learned that the state's traits are like no other.

"There is a unique character of the community," he said. "It's almost like living in a small town. I'm well connected with all my neighbors. We know each other and are involved in each other's lives."

For the most part he said the focus during the campaign was on the issues concerning his constituents and not on him being a gay candidate. He was proud of his district and of the people of the state because he received no hate mail during the campaign.

"I've been very forthright about (my identity). It's an important part of who I am," he said.

Dibble said he occasionally would run across someone who seemed a bit hostile, but without exception in the end the exchange

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*"There is a unique character of the community, It's almost like living in a small town. I'm well connected with all my neighbors. We know each other and are involved in each other's lives."*

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—Rep. D. Scott Dibble

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supported him did not end with his election to office, but that he will continue to work with many of them firsthand in St. Paul to address issues.

After his first month in office, Dibble said he has been "extraordinarily busy getting up to speed" on the issues and developing relationships with other lawmakers.

"What has surprised me is the astonishing amount of paper flow around here," he said. "I've been ruthless about keeping on top of it but there is a tidal wave of paperwork."

He has been trying to read all the information sent to him from various groups outside the Capitol because he wants to learn about the variety of issues across the state.

Although he has always viewed Minnesota as home, Dibble spent much of his youth in various parts of the world. Born in New York City, he also lived in Bermuda, Italy, Portugal, Texas, and Alabama.

"I was the typical Air Force brat," he said.

Still he always looked forward to spending time in Minnesota. He graduated from Apple

turned out positive.

"I was able to engage people in a conversation, the kind I'm sure they never had before. I would say I'm gay and this is how I feel about an issue," he said. "I probably didn't change their mind but it gave them something to think about."

## DISTRICT 60B

**1998 population (estimate):** 32,144

**Largest city:** Minneapolis

**County:** Hennepin

**Location:** south central Minneapolis

**Top concern:** "To help develop a comprehensive holistic solution to our transportation challenges on a statewide basis."

— Rep. D. Scott Dibble



# Staying connected

Legislator returning after two-year hiatus plans to stay close to her roots

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

When Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter) left the House in 1998 to campaign for lieutenant governor with gubernatorial candidate



Rep. Ruth Johnson

Mike Freeman, she didn't realize the move would actually bring her back home to the place she always wanted to be anyway — a kindergarten classroom.

Freeman lost the DFL primary in 1998, and Johnson returned to

St. Peter where she worked as a Title I teaching assistant at South Elementary School. She spent her time in the spring of 1999 working with kindergarten, first-, and second-grade students on their reading skills.

Johnson, who has a bachelor's degree in religion from Gustavus Adolphus College and a master's degree in college administration from Indiana University, said she initially went to college to become a kindergarten teacher.

The experience taught her the importance of preparing young children to start school and how teachers are succeeding even though their task is difficult in some cases.

"The teachers have to help them be prepared," she said. "They need more than the three R's. I got to see that for myself."

Johnson says education is her top priority in her return to the Legislature. She hopes to provide the necessary resources and rewards to schools and parents so students can be equipped to succeed.

Several proposals she supports that would accomplish that goal include loan forgiveness programs, alternative compensation plans, and other support for schools — K-12 or higher education — including infrastructure.

"We have to recognize that funding for education did not keep pace with inflation in the early 90s," Johnson said. "We're still playing catch up."

Johnson said it's important to encourage students to enter professions, not just

teaching, where there is the most need, but not necessarily the promise of a high salary.

"I have been ashamed of the level of debt that young people have had to assume to do the jobs that we require them to do," she said. "But we definitely need committed, compassionate, and caring people" in those jobs.

When Johnson was first elected in 1996, she was assigned to education, environment, and health and human services committees. This time around, she serves on the agriculture policy and finance committees, as well as the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

Johnson says that gives her the opportunity

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*"We have to recognize that funding for education did not keep pace with inflation in the early 90s. We're still playing catch up."*

—Rep. Ruth Johnson

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to focus on "stewardship of the land, air and water resources," which bring her back to her rural/agrarian roots.

The daughter of a Lutheran pastor, Johnson spent most of her formative years in the predominantly rural communities of central and northeastern Nebraska. She said as a child she could walk out her front door and see the town dairy and walk a few steps into a cornfield nearby.

Today, her office in the Capitol complex is filled with paintings and photos of farm life, including the painting of a hog shed.

She says she supports loan programs and other plans to encourage farmers. In addition, she notes the importance of using alternative means to produce sources of energy, including ethanol, biodiesel, and biomass as fuel.

"We have forgotten as a nation that we need to conserve our energy," she said.

During her absence from the Legislature, Johnson also worked with a leadership program for low-income neighborhoods throughout the state to prevent crime and violence.

Johnson says much of that work involves connecting residents with community resources and with one another. This is especially important, she says, in Greater Minnesota as it becomes more culturally diverse.

One success story Johnson tells is the Lyndale Neighborhood Association effort to bring in economic opportunity. Businesses have begun coming in to the Minneapolis area, homeowners have begun fixing up their houses, and the community is revitalizing itself.

"People start to see each other as neighbors and not as strangers," she said. "Businesses are finding it a new opportunity, and that only adds to the economic base."

Though Johnson says she plans to devote most of her time now to being a legislator, she hopes she can stay connected to campuses and classrooms, where she has spent most of her career.

She said she enjoys returning to classrooms and sharing the importance of government with students.

"Public service is a wonderful way for them to give back to their communities," she said.

That's one of the significant lessons she took with her from the campaign for lieutenant governor — that people do care about government and want to be involved. But she takes her responsibility to communicate with constituents and promote the government as an institution for the people very seriously.

"We are the government and it can work better," Johnson said. "But it works best when people are connected."

## DISTRICT 24B

**1998 population (estimate):** 34,729

**Largest city:** St. Peter

**Counties:** Blue Earth, Nicollet, LeSueur

**Location:** south central Minnesota

**Top concern:** "Education — What I hear from people is their concern about our schools. Education plays an extremely important role in the success of our children."

—Rep. Ruth Johnson



# Preparation pays off

Varied background in business, management, and education leads Ruth to St. Paul

BY MARY KAY WATSON

Until last year, Rep. Connie Ruth (R-Owatonna) had never considered running for public office. But she says she's not surprised to find herself at the Legislature.



Rep. Connie Ruth

"Everything I've ever done has prepared me for this," said Ruth who represents District 28A. "Sometimes I feel like my life has just been laid out for me."

Ruth's background looks like a Midwestern sampler: agriculture, health, communication, education, voluntarism, church, and family. She grew up on a farm, worked in radiology, stayed home to care for her young children, worked as general manager for a cable television firm, went back to school for a master's degree in organizational management, and now works as the distance learning coordinator for Southwest State University's Riverland campuses. All this, Ruth said, has been informed by her faith.

Last year, she received an unexpected phone call from House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), who represents District 28B, asking her to consider running for the seat formerly held by Republican-turned-Independent Rep. Doug Reuter, who moved to Texas. Her first reaction was negative. But after meeting with legislators from the Republican Caucus, she came away saying "Yes."

"I was so impressed by their commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm," Ruth said. "Several of them shared their faith with me, and they didn't even know me. I felt called, I really did."

Ruth, a 32-year resident of Owatonna, said friends told her, "It's a perfect fit for you." She wore red throughout her campaign, and her red campaign signs read "Connie!" with a large exclamation point. After she won the election with 54 percent of the vote, her husband had a pin made for her in the shape of an exclamation point to "capture my personality, whatever that means," she said with a laugh.

Ruth's St. Paul office reflects her energy. The walls glow with close-up photos of vivid flowers, all taken by her husband Doug, who is a county attorney. A photo of her family includes the family dog along with daughter,

order of business is to get the U.S. Highway 14 expansion completed. The highway, which runs through downtown Waseca, carries more than 10,000 cars a day on two lanes and is both inadequate and dangerous, according to Ruth.

"When I was door-knocking at people's homes along the highway, I had to shout to be heard," she said.

The highway is important for farmers because they haul their grain on it and important to the area's economic growth, Ruth said. However, it is not included in the governor's budget. "We might have to reappropriate some dollars for it," Ruth said.

Education also has a role to play in economic growth, she said. She is concerned about declining enrollment in Waseca, and the district's inability to pass a bond issue.

"To have a quality workforce, we have to have quality education," she said.

Ruth is energized by the promise of her new

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*"It's imperative we lower taxes. I'd love to see the surplus go back to the constituents. They know best how to use those dollars."*

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—Rep. Connie Ruth

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Kirsten, sons, Jonathan and Greg, and Greg's wife Christine.

A plaque that defines integrity, a gift from the cable TV firm she worked for, represents her philosophy. She said she is an adherent of the idea of servant leadership and tries to treat all people with respect.

The importance of improving economic growth and development in her area is an overriding issue for Ruth. She wants to see new businesses move in and is concerned that businesses have already been lost due to high corporate taxes.

"It's imperative we lower taxes," she said. "I'd love to see the surplus go back to the constituents. They know best how to use those dollars."

The issues at the top of her list for this year are transportation and education. Her first

job. "I love a good challenge, I love to learn," she said. "I'm so honored and humbled by the response I've had. It has been overwhelming."

## DISTRICT 28A

**1998 population (estimate):** 34,268

**Largest city:** Owatonna

**Counties:** Steele and Waseca

**Location:** southeastern Minnesota

**Top concern:** "I believe in an open flow of communication. I want to bring government to our community. I want people to feel a part of government."

—Rep. Connie Ruth

# Whip squared

House now has two Whips as Entenza ascends to Minority Whip after term as assistant minority leader

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

**R**ep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), now in his fourth term in the Minnesota House of Representatives, will fill a new role during the 82<sup>nd</sup> session of the Legislature — Minority Whip.

The 2001-2002 session marks the first time the House has had any “Whip” positions in its leadership structure. The Republican caucus named Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) as Majority Whip to assist Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan). Likewise, Entenza will aid Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) in his duties.

In government terms “whip” was first used in the English Parliament. It comes from fox hunting where the “whipper in” is the person responsible for keeping the hounds together and working as a team. Therefore, in the Legislature, the term can be applied to a caucus leader who keeps members informed about topics and keeps members of the same party together in voting on specific key issues.

Both Seifert and Entenza will specifically assist their respective caucus leaders with floor debate, motions, parliamentary procedures and help coordinate floor activity, including amendments, speeches, establishing the order of speakers and defending caucus policies.

In an interview earlier this session, Seifert said his position is a way to reach out to the caucus membership and provide better communication. Entenza agreed.

“We’re working to make sure our members are informed,” Entenza said. “It was part of (Pugh’s) strategy for making sure the DFL position is communicated.”

Entenza will continue in his position as assistant minority leader, which he has held since 1999. He said he has already been performing a number of the minority whip duties as an assistant leader, so he feels comfortable assuming the new role.

“I was certainly involved in floor strategy before, but now I have to take the lead,” Entenza said.

That also involves working with Pugh to develop caucus positions and strategies on specific issues. Entenza says he enjoys good, spirited floor debates and looks forward to discussing several issues, including privacy and taxes, as well as education and health care funding.


When he was first elected to the Legislature, Entenza said, he was primarily focused on education issues. In fact, he has served on the House K-12 Education Finance Committee since his first term.

But being a caucus leader allows him to explore other issues and look at legislation from a broader perspective. And floor debates require a slight departure from the specific details of legislation.

Entenza described the difference between committee hearing discussions and floor

debate, using the example of the “Patients Bill of Rights.”

“I think the floor debates tend to touch on broader topics,” he said. “We’re going to want to send a strong message, not just on the details of the (bill) but that we also support the concept.”

Entenza also looks forward to further involvement with leaders in the Republican caucus. He calls both Pawlenty and Seifert fair and competent leaders, and he enjoys working with them. 

## HOUSE LEADERSHIP

**Steve Sviggum-R**  
Speaker of the House

**Tim Pawlenty-R**  
Majority Leader

**Thomas W. Pugh-DFL**  
Minority Leader

**Mary Liz Holberg-R**  
Assistant Majority Leader

**Tony Kielkucki-R**  
Assistant Majority Leader

**Jim Knoblach-R**  
Assistant Majority Leader

**William Kuisle-R**  
Assistant Majority Leader

**Dan McElroy-R**  
Assistant Majority Leader

**Carol L. Molnau-R**  
Assistant Majority Leader

**Marty Seifert-R**  
Majority Whip

**Lyndon Carlson-DFL**  
Assistant Minority Leader

**Matt Entenza-DFL**  
Assistant Minority Leader/Minority Whip

**Al Juhnke-DFL**  
Assistant Minority Leader

**Margaret Anderson Kelliher-DFL**  
Assistant Minority Leader

**Sharon Marko-DFL**  
Assistant Minority Leader

**Mary Murphy-DFL**  
Assistant Minority Leader

**Mary Ellen Otremba-DFL**  
Assistant Minority Leader

**Loren Solberg-DFL**  
Assistant Minority Leader



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Minority Whip, Rep. Matt Entenza, left, talks with Rep. Mary Jo McGuire, right, on the House floor earlier in the session.

# Emergency heat assistance

## Senate bill providing \$30 million to schools amended on House floor to give sales tax rebate

The House took the uncommon step Feb. 8 of suspending both the constitution and the House rules to allow the second and third reading of a bill that would allocate \$30 million to school districts for emergency heating and transportation costs.

House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) made the motions for the suspensions, which allowed the full House to consider SF228\*/HF378, sponsored in the House by Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls).

The bill was originally passed by the Senate Feb. 5 by a vote of 40 to 23, and senators expressed urgency, hoping the House would act on the bill so the aid could go to schools soon.

However, members amended the bill on the floor, which will require the approval of the Senate before it can move forward.

Davnies told the House, "We are experiencing some of the highest energy costs ever." His bill would require the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning to reimburse school districts for 97 percent of the difference between any given school district's anticipated and actual energy

and transportation costs. There would be a cap of \$30 million for statewide spending on the measure.

Shortly after the debate began, Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) proposed an amendment that deleted the entirety of SF228 and introduced a bill to spend the projected \$925 million budget surplus for the current biennium in the form of a sales tax rebate, based on 1999 receipts. The amendment provides rebate recipients with the opportunity to return the money to the state for one of six appropriations ranging from K-12 education to transportation spending.

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) proposed an amendment adding nursing homes to that list. The House approved the amendment.

Davnies resisted measures to amend his bill. "If we don't pass a clean, uncluttered bill," he warned, "school districts will have to lay off teachers, cut extracurricular programs, and reduce course offerings."

Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) offered an unsuccessful verbal amendment to the Abrams amendment that would

restore the complete text of SF228.

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) spoke in favor of Pugh's amendment. "The Davnie language is the responsible thing to do. It was what Minnesotans understand. It recognizes the mutual responsibility we have to one another."

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) offered another amendment that would have included higher educational institutions among those schools to be reimbursed for higher heating costs. Some members remained skeptical of any spending which could be appropriated to the University of Minnesota. Carlson's amendment was defeated.

Members' opinions regarding amendments generally fell along party lines, with Republicans favoring an unmitigated rebate and DFLers favoring a modified rebate, which would funnel some funds toward energy costs for schools.

"We have bills that are due now. We don't have a surplus until the bills are paid," said Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls). "You have missed the point," countered Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield). "It's my money for my family. It's not your money."

The House passed Abrams' amendment and also passed the bill on an 82-42 vote. It must now return to the Senate for that body to concur with the amendments.


(J. WALKER)

Continued from page 13

Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) sought to differentiate between what she saw as aggressive enforcement and helpful assistance in meeting necessary environmental protections. "We have a good feedlot officer; he helps people come into compliance."

Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria) echoed Otremba's comment. "The PCA ought to be a helping agency and not an agency which throws up barriers."

Massey said the PCA relocated a majority of its staff outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area so they are closer to the farms they regulate. He also said the agency identified a number of counties that could serve as clearinghouses for farm-regulation information and assistance for farmers wishing to comply with environmental rules.

"We are never going to be best friends (with the farmers we regulate)," said Massey, "but we can be a good source of information." 

Continued from page 15

delivery services. The proposal would charge sales tax on private services such as Federal Express or United Parcel Service but not on the United States Postal Service, since the state cannot tax the federal government.

Smith said the shift in tax burden should be considered in the context of the entire proposal and businesses will benefit from other parts of the bill such as the reduction in the commercial industrial tax rate.

During the first public testimony on the bill Feb. 7, individuals representing nonprofit groups expressed concern with the bill's provisions that affect their organizations.

Under HF511 more nonprofits would qualify for sales tax exemptions on their purchases and more types of goods would be exempt. But the bill would also make more sales by nonprofits taxable and would create a fee that local units of government could charge


certain nonprofit organizations for public safety services.

It is the last two measures that have many concerned.

Pat Lynch, representing the YMCAs of Minnesota, said increasing taxes on the organization would mean a cut back in services provided.

"Every dollar that is redirected is a dollar that won't be directed back to our programs," she said.

Lori Fritz, the vice president of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation said her organization is already struggling to maintain its level of services, and any added tax burden would mean a cutback in programs.

"Those that need help would suffer the most," she said. "And the government would have to come in and help those in need." 



## How to get here

### Location

The Capitol complex is north of I-94, just minutes from downtown St. Paul. It is accessible from the east and west on I-94, and from the north and south on I-35E.

**I-94 eastbound:** Exit at Marion Street. Turn left. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right. Go one block, cross Rice Street, and enter Parking Lot D.

**I-94 westbound:** Exit at Marion Street. Turn right. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right. Go one block, cross Rice Street, and enter Parking Lot D.

**I-35E northbound:** Exit at Kellogg Boulevard. Turn left. Go to John Ireland Boulevard and turn right. Metered parking spaces line both sides of the boulevard.

**I-35E southbound:** Exit at University Avenue. Turn right. Go to Rice Street and turn left. Go one block and turn left to enter Parking Lot D.

Visiting the Minnesota State Capitol complex can be a rewarding and educational experience for everyone. There are buildings to explore and tours to take almost any time you choose to visit. And when the Legislature is in session during the first part of every year, there are floor sessions to observe, committee meetings to attend, and legislators to meet. Remember that this is your state Capitol, and you are always welcome.

### Parking

Public metered parking is available in Lot Q, north of the Capitol at Cedar Street and Sherburne Avenue; Lot D, next to the State Office Building off Rice Street on Aurora Avenue; Lot F, directly behind the Transportation Building; Lot K, across from the Armory on Cedar Street (enter from 12th Street); and on the orange level of the Centennial Office Building Ramp at Cedar Street and Constitution Avenue. All-day metered parking is available in Lot Q. Capitol Security personnel will issue tickets for expired meters.

All-day parking permits may be purchased for \$3.50 from Plant Management on the third floor of the Ford Building. Cash or checks are accepted and correct change is appreciated. For more information, call (651) 297-3993.

Outdoor handicapped parking is available in Lot O, which is on the northeast side of the Capitol, and in Lot F.

Indoor handicapped parking is available on the lower level of the State Office Building Ramp (use the call box at the ramp entrance to gain entry); on the blue level of the Centennial

Office Building Ramp; and on the entry level of the Administration Building Ramp (two stalls).

There are two handicapped entrances to the Capitol. One is on the northeast side of the building, just off Lot O; the other is a drop-off entrance under the south main steps at the front of the building.

Since parking is limited during legislative sessions, busing may be easier. Freeway express bus service is available. Bus number 94B takes you to the Capitol and the State Office Building. Call the Transit Information Center at (651) 349-7000 for schedule and route information.

## What to do

### Tours

Tours of the Capitol are offered through the Capitol Historic Site Program of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Tour guides lead the 45-minute tours on the hour Mondays through Fridays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (last tour leaves at 4 p.m.); Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.); and Sundays between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.). The tours are free of charge and begin at the Capitol's information desk at the end of the corridor to the right of the main entrance. Brochures in about 20 foreign languages also are available there.

Tour participants may request customized tours that emphasize either the building or state government.

Historical society officials ask that groups of 10 or more call at least two weeks in advance to reserve a tour time.

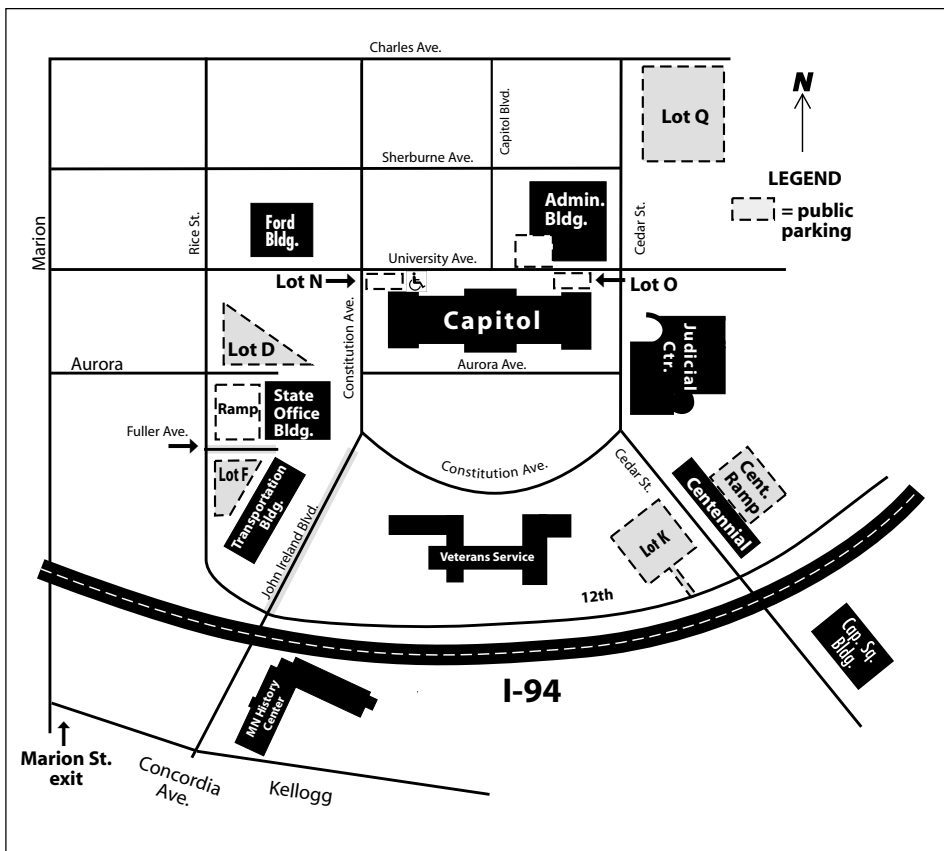
The society offers "Voice of the People: Your Role in Minnesota Government," a half-day session for students in grades 9-12.

Also, special tour events are scheduled monthly throughout the year. Some of these events entail admission fees; others are free. A special events guide is available upon request.

For more information about the tours or to reserve a time, call the Capitol Historic Site Program, (651) 296-2881.

### Legislative sessions

Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate debate bills when the Legislature is in session.





At the beginning of a legislative session, the pace of floor sessions is generally slow as new bills are assigned to committees and non-controversial items are discussed. At about the session's midpoint, however, the legislative pace quickens.

The House usually meets at 3 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, and the Senate meets at 11:30 a.m. Mondays and at 9:30 a.m. Thursdays during the first few weeks. House floor sessions are scheduled for the afternoon because committees meet in the morning and early afternoon. As the session nears the end, however, both bodies may meet several times a day, often into the night.

All House and Senate floor sessions are open to the public. Visitors interested in observing these sessions may call the House Chief Clerk's Office, (651) 296-2314, or Senate Information, (651) 296-0504, with questions. Spectators may sit in the galleries of either chamber.

## Committee meetings

Visitors wanting to attend a committee meeting may call the committee hotlines for prerecorded messages with the meeting times and agendas for each day: House, (651) 296-9283; Senate, (651) 296-8088. Printed agendas for the week also appear in each issue of the *Session Weekly* and the *Senate Briefly*.

Committee meetings are open to the public. When a public hearing is scheduled, the committee may listen to comments from the audience (when time permits) in addition to the scheduled speakers. Committees have different policies on hearing testimony depending upon their size and workload. Informational handouts that committee members receive during meetings or hearings are considered public information and are available to the audience on a first-come, first-served basis.

Major proposals often have several public hearings so committee members may listen to all arguments for and against a bill.

Each committee has a chair, vice chair, administrator, and legislative assistant. A list of committees and members is available in the House Public Information Office in Room 175, State Office Building, or the Senate Information Office in Room 231, State Capitol.

Groups and individuals wishing to testify before a committee should call the appropriate committee's legislative assistant well in advance of the meeting and ask to be placed on the agenda. Committees prefer requests one week in advance but will accept later notification when unexpected issues appear on the committee schedule. A brochure containing tips on testifying at legislative committee hearings is available from the House Public Information Office.

## Dining

Cafeterias are located in most state buildings. The small State Office Building cafeteria is usually open only when the Legislature is in session. A large, year-round cafeteria also is available in the State Capitol and the Transportation Building.

Also, there are many restaurants within walking distance. The Lagoon Vietnamese Restaurant, White Castle, and El Bravo Mexican Restaurant are on Rice Street. On University Avenue, you will find McDonald's, Burger King, Mai Village, and other restaurants. There also are dozens of restaurants only minutes away in downtown St. Paul. Bus rides downtown cost 25 cents. You can catch the bus on Constitution Avenue.

## Group visits

Sometimes groups plan a "legislative day" at the Capitol in order to express a particular viewpoint to legislators.

Rooms for special conferences or speakers can be reserved by calling the State Office Building room scheduler at (651) 296-5408 or the Capitol room scheduler at (651) 296-0866.

If group members want to meet with their individual legislators or testify before a committee (see "Committee meetings"), arrangements should be made at least a week in advance.

Often such groups have members wear a distinctive name tag or badge to indicate their concern about a particular issue.

Groups planning a trip to the Capitol should remember that seating is fairly limited in some committee rooms — particularly when the topic is controversial.

## E-mail schedules

Anyone with e-mail can receive both House and Senate committee schedules. To sign up to receive the House committee schedule, you have two options. Send an e-mail message to [join-houseschedule@ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us](mailto:join-houseschedule@ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us) or direct your Web browser to <http://ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us/scripts/lyris.pl?join=houseschedule> and fill out the subscription form on the Legislature's Web site.

To receive the Senate schedule, send a message to:

[listserv@senate.leg.state.mn.us](mailto:listserv@senate.leg.state.mn.us)

Leave the subject line blank, and in the body of the message, enter:

**subscribe sen-schedules**

# Where to find information

## House Public Information Office

175 State Office Building  
(651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

The House Public Information Office is a nonpartisan office that provides committee meeting schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* newsmagazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the Legislature's World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

## House Television Services

216C State Capitol (651) 297-1338

House Television Services is responsible for live coverage of House floor sessions and some committee hearings. Such coverage is aired in the Twin Cities area on KTCI-TV, Channel 17. The House also broadcasts via satellite statewide. Outstate residents should check with local cable operators for time and channel information or the office's Web site at: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hvtv/hvtv.ssi>

All televised floor sessions and committee hearings are close-captioned for people with hearing impairments.

## Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (651) 296-2314

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

## House Index Department

211 State Capitol (651) 296-6646

The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized index available for public use. House Index lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories. The office can also give you the current status of legislation.

## Senate Information Office

231 State Capitol (651) 296-0504

The Senate Information Office is responsible for all information about the Senate, including the committee schedule, bill status, legislator information, and the distribution of bill copies.

## Senate Media Services

B-44 State Capitol (651) 296-0264

Senate Media Services, a bipartisan office, produces television programs, multi-media productions, scriptwriting, photography and graphics. It offers live coverage of the Senate floor sessions and some committee hearings.

## Monday, February 5

### HF551—Finseth (R) Agriculture Policy

Ethanol producer payments authorized to expand regional ethanol development and money appropriated.

### HF552—Abrams (R) Taxes

Sales tax rebate payments provided, automatic rebate enacted, and money appropriated.

### HF553—Ruth (R) Transportation Policy

Obsolete and duplicative transportation laws repealed.

### HF554—Dorman (R) Taxes

Individual income tax rates reduced.

### HF555—Finseth (R) K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 628, Plummer, fund transfer authorized.

### HF556—Stanek (R) Crime Prevention

Federal law enforcement officers authorized to exercise powers of arrest in Minnesota under specified circumstances.

### HF557—Haas (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Osseo Volunteer Firefighters Relief Association increase in liabilities offset and money appropriated.

### HF558—Swenson (R) Agriculture Policy

Johne's Disease (paratuberculosis) testing program enhancement provided and money appropriated.

### HF559—Goodno (R) Health & Human Services Policy

Nursing facility, intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation (OCF/MR) and other program rate increase provided and money appropriated.

### HF560—Goodno (R) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Patient protections provisions modified.

### HF561—Harder (R) Taxes

Heron Lake watershed district increased levy authorized.

### HF562—Goodno (R) Taxes

Border city enterprise zone allocations authorized for western border zones.

### HF563—Lieder (DFL) Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

Farm wrap network and rural help network grants provided and money appropriated.

### HF564—Rhodes (R) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Neighborhood home improvement loan pilot project established and money appropriated.

### HF565—Kubly (DFL) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Olivia Center for Agricultural Innovation established, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF566—Lenczewski (DFL) Taxes

Income tax rate reduction plan required to limit growth in revenues.

### HF567—Osskopp (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Fair and clean elections act; increasing campaign contribution disclosure, limiting contributions and expenditures, increasing public subsidies, and appropriating money.

### HF568—Jennings (DFL) Regulated Industries

Public Utilities Commission chair duties expanded, salary limit raised, and informal dispute resolution provided.

### HF569—Molnau (R) Taxes

County road and bridge maintenance equipment and vehicle tax exemptions provided.

### HF570—Hilstrom (DFL) Crime Prevention

Peace officer license revocation, suspension, and denial grounds prescribed; Peace Officer Standards and Training Board minority recruiter reporting removed, and city council member peace officer empowerment repealed.

### HF571—Rukavina (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy

Rehabilitation counselor qualification requirements provided.

### HF572—Harder (R) Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

Soybean diseases and genetics research provided and money appropriated.

### HF573—Finseth (R) Taxes

Land payments in lieu of taxation provisions modified.

### HF574—Davids (R) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Public assistance eligibility irrevocable trust funds asset exclusion limits modified.

### HF575—Kuisle (R) Taxes

Individual income tax education expenses deduction expanded.

### HF576—Thompson (DFL) Health & Human Services Finance

Hennepin County nursing home rate increase provided and money appropriated.

### HF577—Lenczewski (DFL) Taxes

Reverse referendum authorized to rescind state tax increases refund of rescinded revenues provided, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF578—Pugh (DFL) K-12 Education Finance

Special School District No. 6, South St. Paul, full day kindergarten grant authorized and money appropriated.

### HF579—Larson (DFL) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Consumer financial record privacy provided, consumer authorization required for financial record disclosure, and remedies provided.

### HF580—Entenza (DFL) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Telecommunications consumer privacy act.

### HF581—Lenczewski (DFL) Ways & Means

State budget process increased public participation and notification provided.

### HF582—Entenza (DFL) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Telemarketing; written consumer authorization required for electronic charges imposed by telemarketers.

### HF583—Hackbarth (R) Taxes

Diesel fuel used to operate commuter rail systems sales tax exemption provided.

### HF584—Hackbarth (R) Taxes

Commuter rail system construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

### HF585—Gleason (DFL) Civil Law

ERA; equality of rights under the law for men and women provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF586—Seifert (R) Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Minnesota River Basin Projects, Inc. floodwater control grant provided and money appropriated.

### HF587—Huntley (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy

Detoxification services provided by counties reimbursed by state funds.

### HF588—Swapinski (DFL) Taxes

Western Lake Superior sanitary district sales tax exemption provided.

### HF589—Jaros (DFL) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Duluth aerial lift bridge lead paint abatement and repainting provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF590—Gunther (R) Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Extended employment program hourly reimbursement rates increased, welfare-to-work extended employment partnership program funding provided, and money appropriated.

### HF591—Slawik (DFL) Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) revenue modified, reserve fund balances capped, and money appropriated.

**HF592—Dorman (R)****Taxes**

Non-mixed-municipal solid waste tax decreased, and specified accounting and recordkeeping requirements repealed.

**HF593—Lenczewski (DFL)****Taxes**

Income, corporate franchise, sales and use, and motor vehicle sales tax increases limited; and tax rate reductions required to ensure revenues do not exceed limits.

**HF594—Westrom (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Spinal cord injury research board and trust account established, rulemaking authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF595—Ozment (R)****Transportation Policy**

Railroads; local governments authorized to establish quiet zones regulating or prohibiting locomotive warning devices.

**HF596—Abeler (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Historic structure rehabilitation income tax credit provided.

**HF597—Evans (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Joint and survivor annuity benefit selection required of specified retirement plans, and terms clarified.

**HF598—Slawik (DFL)****Taxes**

Dependent care income tax credit expanded.

**HF599—Mulder (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Resolution memorializing Congress to propose a constitutional amendment to allow states to apportion one chamber of their legislative bodies on the basis of area, not population.

**HF600—Harder (R)****Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Minnesota agriculture in the classroom program educational specialist funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF601—Johnson, R. (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 508, St. Peter, declining pupil aid grant authorized and money appropriated.

**HF602—Leighton (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Special education revenue base year modified.

**HF603—Abeler (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Council on disability sunset extended.

**HF604—Sertich (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Employee assistance records access provided to persons receiving services, and employee assistance records required to be kept separate from personnel records.

**HF605—Leighton (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 492, Austin, authorized to carry an operating capital account deficit.

**HF606—Larson (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Term limits provided for state legislators and constitutional officers, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF607—Skoe (DFL)****Taxes**

Stationary feed bunks and fencing used to contain beef or dairy cattle exempted from sales tax.

**HF608—Harder (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Independent School District No. 2884, Red Rock Central, Internet access grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF609—Anderson, I. (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Koochiching County Big Bear Country education center construction grant authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF610—Solberg (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Local public officer's conflict of interest law exception provided.

**HF611—Sykora (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Education price index created, general education formula allowance adjusted, and money appropriated.

**HF612—Nornes (R)****Taxes**

Licensed child care facilities educational materials sales tax exemption provided.

**HF613—Rukavina (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Private easements across tax-forfeited land authorized.

**HF614—Huntley (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

University of Minnesota-Duluth new laboratory science building construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF615—Lenczewski (DFL)****Taxes**

Tax credit established for land donated for conservation purposes, and report to legislature required.

**HF616—Marko (DFL)****Taxes**

Local government aid paid to specified metropolitan cities increased.

**HF617—Jacobson (R)****Crime Prevention**

Ramsey County - St. Paul joint domestic abuse prosecution unit continued, and money appropriated.

**HF618—Kubly (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Disaster relief provided for Yellow Medicine and Chippewa counties resulting from July 25, 2000 tornado, and money appropriated.

**HF619—Swapinski (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Former military personnel service credit purchases authorized with specified public pension plans for uncredited military services.

**HF620—Fuller (R)****Transportation Finance**

Akeley Highway 64 bridge construction funded, and money appropriated.

**HF621—Fuller (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 306, LaPorte, grant authorized for air quality requirements construction costs, and money appropriated.

**HF622—Fuller (R)****Taxes**

Bemidji Bureau of Criminal Apprehension satellite laboratory construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

**HF623—Fuller (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 306, LaPorte, fund transfer authorized.

**HF624—Seagren (R)****Transportation Policy**

Light rail; requiring route to be identified before spending appropriations to study light rail transit and commuter rail.

**HF625—Seagren (R)****Transportation Policy**

Trunk Highway 62 in Minneapolis and Richfield construction project restrictions imposed.

**HF626—Walz (R)****Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Family homeless prevention and assistance program funding provided and money appropriated.

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**Thursday, February 8**


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**HF627—Holsten (R)****Taxes**

Hugo City Hall construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

**HF628—Leppik (R)****Crime Prevention**

Apartment manager background checks required on individuals who have resided in the state less than 10 years.

**HF629—Dorman (R)****Regulated Industries**

Austin Municipal Utilities Commission joint ventures with Freeborn-Mower counties cooperative electric power association authorized.

**HF630—Swapinski (DFL)****Taxes**

Sales to political subdivisions tax exemption provided.

**HF631—Skoglund (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

School trespass law clarified.

**HF632—Luther (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Organ donors; paid leave required for organ donation.

**HF633—Osskopp (R)****Taxes**

Tax refunds applied to pay child support before any tax offsets.

**HF634—Ozment (R)****Ways & Means**

Claims against the state paid, and money appropriated.

**HF635—Opatz (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

St. Cloud authorized to file notice regarding potential activity at regional airport.

**HF636—Smith (R)****Ways & Means**

State spending prohibited from increasing at a greater rate than the consumer price index, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF637—Smith (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Water quality cooperative activities restricted.

**HF638—Smith (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
World War II; statute of limitations waived on actions for compensation by persons forced to perform labor by Germany or Japan between 1929 and 1945.

**HF639—Nornes (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Brain and spinal cord injury research board and trust account established, provider reporting provisions modified, civil penalties imposed, surcharge applied to specified traffic fines, and money appropriated.

**HF640—Ness (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Farmer-lender mediation program sunset extended.

**HF641—Ness (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Pupil unit reporting required for charter schools in initial years of operation.

**HF642—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
National health services corps state loan repayment program; disciplinary action grounds established for physicians failing to meet obligations or repay loans.

**HF643—Paulsen (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Initiative and referendum provided and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF644—Johnson, S. (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
Technical career student loan forgiveness program established and money appropriated.

**HF645—Marko (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Local road improvement fund created, uses specified, fund transfers provided, advisory committee established, and money appropriated.

**HF646—Sykora (R)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Youth programs in community education revenue provided, levy authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF647—Westerberg (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
East Bethel; Trunk Highway 65 improvement bonds issued.

**HF648—Abeler (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Birth centers regulatory system study required.

**HF649—Fuller (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Bemidji State University fieldhouse addition planning provided and money appropriated.

**HF650—Fuller (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Northwest Technical College - Bemidji State University colocation project phase II funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF651—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Natural gas allowed as petroleum component of E85 fuel.

**HF652—Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Eminent domain proceedings owner costs and fees provided.

**HF653—Evans (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
State building code terms defined, building officials designated, and advisory council extended.

**HF654—Hackbarth (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
State-run gaming facility authorized, duties and powers prescribed, gaming revenue use specified, and money appropriated.

**HF655—Wolf (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Minnesota unemployment insurance program law; technical and miscellaneous substantive unemployment provisions modified, procedures clarified, and eligibility extended to specified victims of domestic abuse.

**HF656—Lipman (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Revisor's bill correcting erroneous, ambiguous, and omitted text and obsolete references; and making miscellaneous technical corrections.

**HF657—Lipman (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
State funding of abortion services prohibited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF658—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
Regent candidate advisory council abolished.

**HF659—Wolf (R)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
State energy plan established, energy conservation promoted, and conforming, technical and clarifying changes provided.

**HF660—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Medical assistance mileage reimbursement increased.

**HF661—Stang (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Accountancy Act of 2001 established, rulemaking authorized, and penalties imposed.

**HF662—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Aurora housing and redevelopment tax increment financing district extended.

**HF663—Biernat (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Traffic signal violation citations by photographic evidence authorized, local programs requirements provided, penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

**HF664—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Koochiching County regional cold weather testing facility construction grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF665—Kielkucki (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Regional development commissions and other regional organization local planning assistance funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF666—Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Equal pay commission created, and study and report required.

**HF667—Seifert (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Administrative rules procedures modified.

**HF668—Lenczewski (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
In-lieu property tax payments provided for state-owned property.

**HF669—Rhodes (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
St. Louis Park local contribution authorized for specified tax increment financing districts.

**HF670—Carlson (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Resolution memorializing the President and Congress to carry through on their pledge to fund 40 percent of special education costs.

**HF671—Goodwin (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
Public utilities commission required to ensure accurate utility bills, public utilities required to offer budget plans subject to approval, billing practices investigated, penalties provided, and technical provisions modified.

**HF672—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Railroad bridge expansion financial assistance authorized.

**HF673—Stanek (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Emergency 911 telephone services maximum allowable fee increased, and specified local signage costs authorized.

**HF674—Swapinski (DFL)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Child advocacy center grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF675—Swenson (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
West Newton reimbursed for costs of St. George community wastewater treatment system, and money appropriated.

**HF676—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Medical care and health insurance expanded income tax deductions authorized.

**HF677—Mulder (R)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
School readiness aid modified and money appropriated.

**HF678—Bishop (R)**  
**Judiciary Finance**  
Community corrections; sex offender treatment corrections and productive day initiative programs grants provided, and money appropriated.

**HF679—Lindner (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Advocating Change Together, Inc. (ACT); grant provided for training for people with disabilities, and money appropriated.

**HF680—Rhodes (R)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Perspective, Inc.; transitional housing grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF681—Rhodes (R)**  
**Family & Early Childhood  
Education Finance**

St. Louis Park Meadowbrook collaborative housing project grant provided to enhance youth outreach services, and money appropriated.

**HF682—Gunther (R)**  
**Taxes**

Sales tax rate reduced.

**HF683—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Environment &  
Natural Resources Policy**

Chromated copper arsenate sale and use prohibited.

**HF684—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations &  
Veterans Affairs Policy**

Capitol area grounds vegetation removal and cleanup required.

**HF685—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs &  
Economic Development**

Employment of unsupervised minors prohibited.

**HF686—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs &  
Economic Development**

Duluth technology village grant provided, and money appropriated.

**HF687—Kielkucki (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**

School lunch and breakfast funding increased, school eligibility expanded for priority for a fast break for learning grant, and money appropriated.

**HF688—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Environment &  
Natural Resources Policy**

St. Louis County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

**HF689—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Taxes**

Beaver Bay sales and use tax authorized and revenue use specified.

**HF690—Mahoney (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs &  
Economic Development**

Tattooing of minors prohibited.

**HF691—Hackbarth (R)**  
**Environment &  
Natural Resources Policy**

Motor vehicle transfer fee eliminated.

**HF692—Sviggum (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**

Juvenile correctional facilities required to allow residents to attend religious services.

**HF693—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**

Dentists loan forgiveness program established, donated dental services program created, dental services and provider requirements modified, reimbursement rates increased, immunities provided, and money appropriated.

**HF694—Davids (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs &  
Economic Development**

No-fault auto insurance sale of income loss benefits coverage to senior citizens regulated.

**HF695—Osskopp (R)**  
**Governmental Operations &  
Veterans Affairs Policy**

Health care reimbursement plan for state employees established, funds transferred, and money appropriated.

**HF696—Stanek (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**

Correctional officers disciplinary procedures established.

**HF697—Holsten (R)**  
**Taxes**

Reduced property tax rate provided for specified class 2c land bordering public waters.

**HF698—Osskopp (R)**  
**Governmental Operations &  
Veterans Affairs Policy**

Fire marshal investigators or inspectors defined as classified employees included in the public employees police and fire fund.

**HF699—Sykora (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**

Domestic abuse; omnibus domestic abuse bill enhancing criminal and civil provisions and appropriating money.

**HF700—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs &  
Economic Development**

Ada 1997 flood recovery work bond interest reimbursement grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF701—Gunther (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs &  
Economic Development**

On-site employee drug and alcohol testing permitted under certain circumstances.

**HF702—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Local intervention grants for self-sufficiency formula modified.

**HF703—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Senior service corps volunteer programs; foster grandparent and senior companion program funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF704—Fuller (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**

Emergency medical services personnel licensure provided exception from criminal rehabilitation provisions.

**HF705—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Environment &  
Natural Resources Policy**

Conservation easement matching grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF706—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Breast and cervical cancer treatment medical assistance eligibility established and money appropriated.

**HF707—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Carisoprodol classified as a controlled substance upon federal ruling.

**HF708—Workman (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Well drilling machines and equipment registration tax exemption clarified.

**HF709—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Environment &  
Natural Resources Finance**  
St. Cloud area joint powers board parks and trails grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF710—Wolf (R)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
Minnesota retail electric competition act adopted and money appropriated.

**HF711—Penas (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Rural hospital grants provided and grant provisions modified, health care technician and rural hospital nurse loan forgiveness programs established, telemedicine coverage sunset repealed, and money appropriated.

**HF712—Mares (R)**  
**Governmental Operations &  
Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Local government correctional service plan contribution rates modified.

**HF713—Boudreau (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Day training and habilitation services medical assistance coverage provided.

**HF714—Tingelstad (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs &  
Economic Development**  
Plumber licensure required, inspection requirements for plumbing installations established, fees and rulemaking authorized, and restricted plumbing contractor licensure provided.

**HF715—Molnau (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Operation of certain school buses without a school bus endorsement restricted.

**HF716—Kielkucki (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 111, Watertown-Mayer, fund transfer authorized.

**HF717—Gunther (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs &  
Economic Development**  
Blue Earth County rural advanced business facilitation program pilot project grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF718—Skoe (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Probate; medical assistance claim clearance provision limited.

**HF719—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Environment &  
Natural Resources Finance**  
Crookston; Red Lake River Ottertail dam reconstruction and modification grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF720—Wasiluk (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs &  
Economic Development**  
Employee invention agreements regulated.

**HF721—Larson (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs &  
Economic Development**  
Richfield redevelopment grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF722—Leighton (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Civil remedy provided injured employees if employer willfully or repeatedly violates safety laws.

**HF723—Finseth (R)**  
**Environment &  
Natural Resources Finance**  
Big Bog and Red River State Recreation Area operating costs funded, and money appropriated.

**HF724—Rhodes (R)**  
**Governmental Operations &  
Veterans Affairs Policy**  
State professional service contract procedures specified.

**HF725—Tingelstad (R)**  
**Environment &  
Natural Resources Finance**  
Metropolitan regional parks system operation and maintenance provided and money appropriated.



**HF726—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
 Prior service credit purchase authorized for a former Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, instructor.

**HF727—Clark, J. (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
 Graves at regional treatment center cemeteries required to show names, and money appropriated.

**HF728—Sertich (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 Declining pupil revenue calculated using five-year average enrollment.

**HF729—Ozment (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
 Nursing grant program for persons of color established, summer health care interns and nursing loan forgiveness programs modified, nursing scholarship and health care planning programs established, study required, and money appropriated.

**HF730—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
 St. Paul Park roads transit regulated.

**HF731—Pugh (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 Debt service equalization aid funding increased, property tax levy for new school buildings lowered, and money appropriated.

**HF732—Thompson (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
 Service credit purchase from the public employees retirement association authorized for a former Minneapolis park board employee.

**HF733—Gleason (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
 Drug price control board established, maximum prices established, other duties specified, penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

**HF734—Davnie (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 School lunch and breakfast funding increased, eligibility for a fast break to learning grant expanded, and money appropriated.

**HF735—Leppik (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
 Seat belts; passenger restraint requirements for minors prescribed, booster seat requirements provided, seat belt requirement extended to all passengers in vehicle, certain exemptions eliminated, and penalties increased.

**HF736—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
 Home heating fuels year-round sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF737—Mariani (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
 Racial profiling policies and report required, independent expert retained, law enforcement training in eliminating racial profile required, and money appropriated.

**HF738—Opatz (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 General education basic formula allowance increased.

**HF739—Osskopp (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
 Grand Excursion 2004 planning and promotion funded, and money appropriated.

**HF740—Sertich (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 Districts with declining enrollment funding increased.

**HF741—Goodwin (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 Alternative facilities program eligibility expanded to districts with older facilities.

**HF742—Mulder (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
 Prepaid medical assistance and prepaid general assistance medical care program capitation rates increased for non-metropolitan counties.

**HF743—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 Activity aid provided to school districts to fund extracurricular activities.

**HF744—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 General education revenue formula and referendum allowance for the referendum revenue program modified.

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footage of committee and floor action so that when they see a news story about the event, they can find more information by viewing the event from start to finish.

The site will provide an index, making it easy for users to find the specific bill or topic they wish to view, without having to weed through hours and hours of coverage.

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**Information, House**  
 175 State Office Building ..... 296-2146  
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 231 Capitol ..... 296-2343  
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subscription form on the Legislature's Web  
site.

## MONDAY, Feb. 12

8:15 a.m.

### Children's Environmental Health Working Group

123 State Capitol  
Chrs. Rep. Kathy Tingelstad, Sen. Jane Krentz  
**Agenda:** Health risk values.  
Analysis of data regarding the environmental  
triggers of asthma, Marian Marbury, Department  
of Health.  
Department of Health report on the comparative  
risks of multiple chemical exposures, Pam Shubat.  
"Danger in the Air," Sierra Club report on  
particulates and air toxics in Minnesota.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes  
**Agenda:** HF106 (Ness) Minnesota Agricultural  
Education Leadership Council permanent or  
temporary replacement members authorized for  
specified ex officio seats.  
HF387 (Walker) Black Minnesotans council  
membership increased.  
HF389 (Dempsey) Mississippi River Parkway  
Commission extended and membership  
modified.  
HF546 (Kubly) Administrative boards and  
agencies provided proportional representation  
between metropolitan and outstate areas.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno  
**Agenda:** Department of Health overview of  
budget pages 315-390.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy  
**Agenda:** Budget review of:

Minnesota Board of Architects, Engineering,  
Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture,  
Geoscience and Interior Design;  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission;  
Minnesota Council on Chicano-Latino Affairs;  
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council;  
Minnesota Council on Black Minnesotans.  
(Please note: The Council on Asian-Pacific  
Minnesotans will present their budget overview  
on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2001.)

### TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau  
**Agenda:** Conclusion of state roads budget  
presentation: Randy Halvorson, Director of  
Program Delivery; Pat Hughes, Program Support  
Director.  
Road operations budget presentation: Mark  
Wikelius, Maintenance Engineer.  
Office of Electronic Communications Budget  
Presentation: Andy Terry, Director.  
General support budget presentation: Linda  
Bjornberg, Management Operations Director.  
Buildings—operations and capital budget  
presentation: Paul Jensen, Buildings Engineer.

9 a.m.

### Legislative Audit Commission

125 State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy  
**Agenda:** Release and review of program  
evaluation report on insurance for behavioral  
health care.

10:15 a.m.

### CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith  
**Agenda:** HF415 (Knoblach) Job reference  
information disclosure protection provided.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten  
**Agenda:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
budget presentation: air and land.  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency budget  
presentation: integrated environmental  
programs.  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency budget  
presentation: administrative support.

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** MnSCU budget request.  
Witnesses: Morris Anderson, Chancellor;  
Laura King, Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial  
Officer.

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** HF43 (Abrams) Relating to education  
finance; granting an inflationary increase in  
operating referendum revenue allowances.  
HF168 (Folliard) Relating to education finance;  
including a growth factor in the referendum  
revenue cap; restoring the original referendum  
revenue cap percentage.  
HF365 (Mares) Relating to education finance;  
authorizing a fund transfer for Intermediate School  
District No. 916, Northeast Metro.  
HF413 (Mulder) Relating to education finance;  
extending a planning grant.  
HF286 (Anderson, I.) Relating to education;  
modifying sparsity correction revenue.  
HF549 (Solberg) Relating to education;  
modifying the general education revenue  
isolation index.  
HF378 (Davnie) Relating to education;  
appropriating money for school district energy  
costs.

### Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt  
**Agenda:** HF561 (Harder) Heron Lake watershed  
district increased levy authorized.  
HF462 (Howes) Residential buildings on  
temporary sites intended to be moved property  
tax exemption provided.  
HF193 (Paulsen) Property taxes; area wide tax  
base contributions limited.  
HF381 (Lenczewski) Metropolitan area fiscal  
disparities program eliminated.  
HF158 (Gleason) Property Tax Refund -  
continued from Feb. 5, 2001, committee meeting.

12:30 p.m.

### FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora  
**Agenda:** Governor's Proposal to Consolidate  
Childcare, Cherie Kotilinek, Department of  
Children, Families and Learning; Elizabeth Roe,  
Department of Children, Families and Learning.  
Presentation on child care application and  
oversight in Hennepin County, Carol Miller,  
Hennepin County.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey  
**Agenda:** HF345 (Carlson) Robbinsdale Project  
4 Tax Increment Financing District extended.  
HF487 (Vandever) Townships; nonprofit  
organizations contract limit for health, social,  
and recreational services increased.  
HF326 (Ozment) Local and state government

agency denial of requests for action clarified.  
Other business.

## **REGULATED INDUSTRIES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

**Agenda:** HF492 (Wolf) Relating to energy; enacting the Energy Reliability and Affordability Act; making conforming and clarifying changes (Power Initiative).

HFXXXX (Wolf) Relating to utilities; restructuring the regulation of electricity generation; providing for transition to a competitive industry; requiring restructuring plans; providing for recovery of stranded costs, etc. (Chamber's Initiative).

HFXXXX (Wolf) Relating to energy; establishing a state energy plan and promoting energy conservation (Governor's Initiative).

**3 p.m.**

## **THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

## **TUESDAY, Feb. 13**

**8:15 a.m.**

### **EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** Report on facility use analysis of MnSCU and intermediate school districts.

Overview of policy and governor's budget.

Witness: Christine Jax, Commissioner, Department Children, Families and Learning.

### **HEALTH & HUMAN**

#### **SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF253 (Seifert) Health and human services obsolete rules repealed.

Presentation on the Prescription Drug Program.  
HF13 (Abeler) Prescription drug program income limit raised, enrollees required to satisfy monthly deductibles, and money appropriated.  
HF222 (Koskinen) Prescription drug program income limit increased, timeline for enrollment of disabled individuals shortened, and higher burial exclusion provided.

### **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** Budget overview for the Department of Public Safety; Division of Emergency Services; Office of Drug Policy & Violence Prevention; Fire Marshal.

### **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**10:15 a.m.**

### **CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** Public hearing on Racial Profiling.

### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL**

#### **RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** Commissioner Al Garber, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Forestry Initiative.

### **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

Testimony on: Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation.

Section 8, proposed budget for Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

### **TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** Continuation of HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill public testimony.

**12:30 p.m.**

### **AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** Overview of the proposed budgets for the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI), the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, and the Minnesota Horticultural Society.

### **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** Overview of Department of Transportation issues including trunk highway bonds, bridges, light rail and the governor's recommendations.

**5 p.m.**

### **REDISTRICTING**

Brainerd City Council Chambers

501 Laurel St.

Chr. Rep. Erik Paulsen

**Agenda:** Greater Minnesota committee hearing.  
**Note to members and staff:** Van will leave from front of State Office Building at 1:30 p.m. and return that evening.

## **WEDNESDAY, Feb. 14**

**8:15 a.m.**

### **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF70 (Seifert) Presidential electors designated and duties specified.

HFXXXX (Seifert) Rules.

HF175 (Ozment) Cigarette fire retardant standards required.

### **HEALTH & HUMAN**

#### **SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** Department of Health overview of budget pages.

### **JOBS & ECONOMIC**

#### **DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Budget review of: Minnesota Board of Accountancy; Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans; State Board of Electricity. Minnesota Board of Barbers.

### **TRANSPORTATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** Presentation on Proposed MnDOT Budget Cuts: Kevin Gray, Chief Financial Officer. Highway Construction Industry Council Needs Assessment Study.

**10:15 a.m.**

### **CIVIL LAW**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF369 (Bishop) Joint and several liability apportionment regulated.

### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL**

#### **RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Department of Trade & Economic Development overview of tourism in Minnesota as it pertains to natural resources and its economic impact.

### **HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** To be announced.

### **K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Kielkucki) Food service bill.  
HF472 (Penas) A bill for an act relating to education finance; authorizing a fund transfer for Independent School District No. 2358, Tri-County schools.

HF104 (Stang) Relating to education finance; authorizing fund transfer for Independent School District No. 750, Rocori.

HF292 (Opatz) Relating to education; requiring the board of teaching to report annually on the performance of teacher candidates on the reading, writing, and math skills exam and on common core assessments.

HF516 (Carlson) Relating to education finance; expanding the judgment levy authority to intermediate school districts.

## **TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth  
**Agenda:** HF362 (Westrom) Requires that diesel fuel sold in the state contain a minimum of five percent biodiesel fuel oil by weight.  
HF76 (Davids) Requires that diesel fuel sold in the state contain a minimum of five percent biodiesel fuel oil by weight.

## **Economic Development and Tourism Division/COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner  
**Agenda:** HF618 (Kubly) Disaster relief provided for Yellow Medicine and Chippewa counties resulting from July 25, 2000 tornado, and money appropriated.  
HF412 (Mulder) Housing Finance Agency prohibited from excluding small-volume lenders from loan programs.  
HF564 (Rhodes) Neighborhood home improvement loan pilot project established and money appropriated.

## **FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora  
**Agenda:** Child care topics to be announced.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey  
**Agenda:** Presentations: Metropolitan Airports Commission (question and answer session, continued); Builders Association of Minnesota; Minnesota Association of Realtors.  
Other business.

## **THURSDAY, Feb. 15**

**8:15 a.m.**

## **EDUCATION POLICY**

Tour  
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares  
**Agenda:** Tour of John A. Johnson Achievement Plus Elementary School in St. Paul.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley  
**Agenda:** HF127 (Mulder) Nursing assistants with prior records expunged exempted from disqualification.  
HF128 (Nornes) Nursing facility technology room grant program established, and money

appropriated.  
HF275 (Abeler) Nursing facility closure plans savings procedure modified.  
HF332 (Nornes) Nursing facility case mix transition plan established and fine imposed for noncompliance.

## **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek  
**Agenda:** Budget overview for the Department of Public Safety continued: Bureau of Criminal Apprehension; Minnesota Center for Crime Victim Services; Alcohol & Gambling Enforcement.

## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Tuma  
**Agenda:** HF130 (Dawkins) Animal control - Dangerous Dogs (criminal penalties).  
HF205 (Nornes) Driver's license suspension for theft of gasoline.  
Other bills to be added.

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment  
**Agenda:** HF274 (Dorman) Mercury thermometer sales prohibited.  
HF455 (Ozment) Clean fuel (biodiesel) use marketing and education program established, and money appropriated.

## **Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder  
**Agenda:** HF270 (Murphy) Provides for the application of the sales tax to sales of prefabricated homes.  
HF107 (Cassell) Exempts sales to political subdivisions.  
HF166 (Wasiluk) Exempts sales to political subdivisions.  
HF188 (Stanek) Exempts sales to political subdivisions.  
HF301 (Marquart) Exempts sales to political subdivisions.  
HF314 (Kubly) Exempts sales to political subdivisions.  
HF538 (Folliard) Exempts sales to political subdivisions.  
HF468 (Erickson) Exempts materials and equipment used in the construction of a fire station in Princeton from sales and use taxes.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie  
**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

Testimony on: Section 9, proposed budget for State Board of Investment.  
Section 11, proposed budget for Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach  
**Agenda:** Overview of North Star Corridor issues.

## **COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Greg Davids  
**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Gunther) Relating to drug testing in the workplace.

**3 p.m.**

## **THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

## **FRIDAY, Feb. 16**

**8:15 a.m.**

## **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten  
**Agenda:** Science Museum of Minnesota: budget presentation.  
Board of Water and Soil Resources: budget presentation.  
Board of Water and Soil Resources: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

## **HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** University of Minnesota Efforts to Spend Money Smarter.  
Witness: Elizabeth Eull, Budget & Finance Officer, Office of Budget & Finance, University of Minnesota.

## **K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

Instead, there was a buzz surrounding the presentation of the car, that the license number “232323,” designated specifically for Nolan by Secretary of State Julius Schmahl, was an attempt to discourage Nolan from a gubernatorial bid.

Though he was not on either the primary or general election ballot in 1920, Nolan did seek and win a term in Congress, representing Minnesota’s Fifth District, in 1929.

The car presentation, shortly after noon on the final day of the session in April 1919, created quite a scene. Reports suggest that the car was actually driven up the Capitol steps to the rotunda where it was displayed for the general public to see.

Whatever the reason for the gift — be it Nolan’s popularity, leadership, or future political aspirations — might be better explained by one legislative move. The Legislature passed a law in 1919 requiring state residents to register automobile titles with the state, presumably the Secretary of State.

(M. KIBIGER)

#### Continued from page 14

Prichard, president of the Minnesota Family Council. “It deals with the symptoms of the problem, not the cause. We need to restore a culture of marriage. Children need two parents — a mother and a father.”

“A lot of red flags are raised by this report,” said Karen Effrem, a physician staying home to raise her children. “It promotes multiculturalism and politically correct thinking.” She said the programs advocated are based on false assumptions, are intrusive, and are not what parents want.

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) said, “I don’t see these as programs, I see them as opportunities. This is the direction we ought to be heading in if we want a good future for our kids.”

Steve Young, president of the Minnesota Public Policy Forum, said the 42 members of the commission “focused on approaches and values that reflect deep commonalities in human experience.”

“I don’t always agree with Don Fraser, but we agree on this,” Young said. “These are recommendations we as Americans can come together on.”

In recognition of the complexity of the plan, commissioners agreed on a five-year action plan for “coalition building, grassroots organizing, and ‘social marketing’” for implementing the recommendations. 🐼

# Reflections

Minnesota’s past and present conjoin with the future at the far southwest corner of the state. Out on the prairie, west of the incorporated town of Hills, sits a 2,500-acre working farm located two miles north of the Iowa border and two miles east of South Dakota.

The fourth generation family farm was homesteaded back in 1873 by the great-grandfather of its present owners, brothers Gene and Mike Sandager and their families. Other employees include a sister, Jo Wulf, the bookkeeper, and Lee Westfall, the assistant manager.

Since 1950, the farm has used part-time international exchange students who

maintain businesses that are moving out of the state due to taxes, leaving its consumers behind.

Another concern is that of many farmers regarding the issue of low prices in return for farm products. It should be understood that farmers — even in Rock County — compete with a world market whose goods may be undersold to the United States through an outmoded national open-door policy.

In order to survive, many farm owners must make tough decisions about diversifying their livelihood. Others often decide to “sell the farm.” Such is the case for a dairyman who farmed near the Sandagers,

but recently auctioned his entire herd of cattle.

While the Sandagers are weighing options for their beef cow/calf supplier business, already they and others nearby are investing in the business of processing

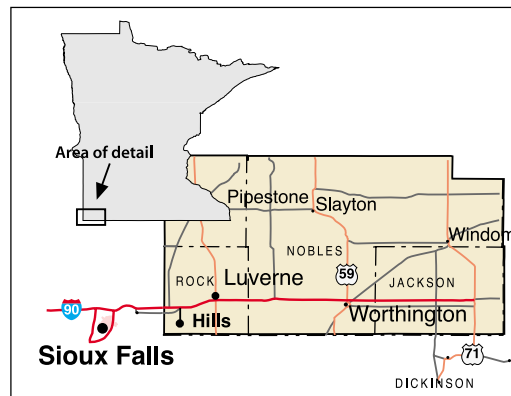
fuel alternatives for motor vehicle and other uses.

Gene Sandager is fully aware of the effect of the global economy in his far corner of southwestern Minnesota. He therefore is a major advocate among his peers to get them more involved in the legislative process, for herein lies one likely solution to their well-being.

As for the future, Sandager notes that Minnesotans — urban and rural — should appreciate living in the state, should have a voice in legislative policy, and should have the foresight to be a step ahead of others locally, nationally, and internationally.

Good advice, for the past may be preserved, the present beneficial, and the future may be worthwhile for everyone.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



Most of the Sandager farm is in District 21B

and Rock County, where Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) is the legislator. Some separate acreage is actually farmed in South Dakota.

A few miles north of the farm, the past is ever present in Blue Mounds State Park, where buffalo still roam amongst natural prairie resources. Also located here is a more than 100-foot-high rock outcropping of reddish-gray quartzite — the highest point in the area.

The “mound” as it is known locally, is a leftover from the Cretaceous Period when glaciers formed the Minnesota landscape. It extends for more than two miles to the north and west, then drops off sharply to the south and east of the formation.

In this small corner of the world, a continued benefit for Minnesota residents will depend on work in the Legislature to help



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## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Minnesota vs. Top States in Education

Minnesotans between ages 18 and 24 with a high school diploma or equivalent, as percent .....	90
Percentage for top ranking states .....	93
Minnesota ninth- through 12th-graders taking at least one upper level math course, as percent .....	38
Top states .....	59
Minnesota ninth- through 12th-graders taking at least one upper level science course, as percent .....	23
Top states .....	37
Scores in the top 20 percent nationally on SAT/ACT college entrance exams per 1,000 high school graduates, in Minnesota .....	189
Top states .....	192
Percentage of Minnesota high school freshman enrolling in college within four years in any state .....	46
Top states .....	54
Percent of family income in Minnesota needed to pay for college expenses at a community college minus financial aid .....	19
Top states .....	17
Expenses, minus financial aid, at a four-year public institution in Minnesota, as percentage of family income .....	20
Top states .....	19
Expenses, minus financial aid, at a four-year private institution in Minnesota, as percentage of family income .....	52
Top states .....	30
Share of income that poorest families need to pay for tuition at lowest priced colleges, in Minnesota, as percent .....	19
Top states .....	9
Average loan amount that Minnesota students borrow each year .....	\$3,168
Top states .....	\$3,094
First-time, full-time Minnesota students completing a bachelor's degree within five years, as percent .....	50
Top states .....	66
Certificates, degrees and diplomas awarded at all Minnesota colleges and universities per 100 undergraduate students .....	19
Top states .....	20

**Note:** many averages are weighted.

**Source:** *Measuring Up 2000: The State-by-State Report Card For Higher Education*. The entire report is available at [www.highereducation.org](http://www.highereducation.org).

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# SESSION Weekly

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HF745-HF961



# Session Weekly

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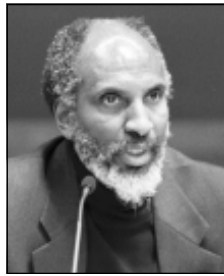
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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Children • 5	Family • 9	Industry • 11
Crime • 5	Gambling • 9	Local Government • 12
Education • 5	Government • 9	Safety • 12
Elections • 7	Health • 10	Taxes • 12
Employment • 7	Higher Education • 10	
Environment • 8	Housing • 11	

### FEATURES

**At Issue:** Energy — Legislators are examining proposals to conserve energy and create new, modern sources of energy. • 13

**At Issue:** Health — Two proposals to expand eligibility for the state's prescription drug programs, beyond inclusions made in 2000, are being considered by the House. • 14

**Policy** — The former White House director of technology challenges legislators to provide funding for looming technological advances in a Capitol Forum Series speech. • 15

**People** — Rep. Paul Marquart, in his first term as a House member, vows to consider how every issue will affect rural Minnesota. • 16

**People** — Rep. Neva Walker, the first African-American woman ever elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives, melds work as politician and community organizer into role as legislator. • 17

**People** — Rep. Scott Wasiluk brings a strong, family tradition of political involvement and activism to the House. • 18

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: A tough start	4	Reflections: Three women of merit	27
Bill Introductions (HF745 -HF961)	19	Minnesota Index: Minnesota occupational	
Committee Schedule (Feb. 19-23)	24	projections 1998-2008	28

On the cover: members of the 2001-2002 Minnesota House of Representatives.

—Photo illustration by Andrew Von Bank

# Racial profiling

House members disagree on which methods would be most effective in addressing the problem

By JONAS M. WALKER

**T**he House has begun to address an issue that representatives, community leaders, and law enforcement personnel agree has haunted Minnesota and the rest of the United States for many years: the ‘profiling’ of minorities by police officers.

“We have made this a top priority of this committee,” said Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), who chairs the House Crime Prevention Committee.

At a packed Feb. 13 committee meeting, Tuma asked Jason Brown, vice-president of the Minneapolis chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, why the issue of racial profiling was attracting so much national and local attention.

Brown, who joined other community leaders, government officials, and academics in support of legislative initiatives addressing racial profiling, replied, “This is an issue of power, an issue of being heard.”

He made reference to Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls), Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls), St. Paul Police Chief William Finney, and Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, all of whom are prominent African-Americans who testified before the committee. “Twenty years ago, we didn’t have a mayor and a representative (to speak to the issue of racial profiling). Now we have the power; we have your atten-

tion. By God we’re going to use it,” said Brown, to the audible delight of some in the audience.

Sayles Belton said Minneapolis has already begun collecting data to study racial profiling. She explained that doing so was in “no way meant to suggest that we don’t have dedicated police officers who are professionally performing their duties. But, we know that racial profiling does occur.”

She characterized collecting data as “the first step in the right direction towards eliminating biased policing. Eliminating racial profiling is at the top of our agenda in Minneapolis. We want the same in the state.”

Connecticut, Missouri and Rhode Island currently require participation by all law enforcement agencies in statewide racial profiling studies. At least eight other states are addressing the problem in some way. “To not act on this shows that the Minnesota Legislature is immune or doesn’t care,” Gray said.

Representatives have sponsored three bills that demonstrate both the widespread agreement that racial profiling does occur and the significant differences, which continue to divide stakeholders. All three create statewide studies to record information about police stops, including the date, time, location, the officer’s reason for the stop, and the outcome.

Beyond agreeing as to the basic data to be collected, the proposals differ in three major

aspects: the state official responsible for collecting the information, the voluntary or compulsory nature of the study, and the collection of officers’ badge numbers.

Gray is developing a bill, which will likely be introduced within the next few weeks, that contains the most rigorous study.

Under his plan, the attorney general would be responsible for overseeing the compulsory statewide collection of data, including officers’ badge numbers. Additionally, police chiefs would report “whether the driver and passengers were advised of their constitutional rights under the Fourth Amendment to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures,” whether a search was conducted, any injuries resulting from the stop, and the stop’s duration.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), a Minneapolis police officer, offered HF505 under which the commissioner of public safety would collect information volunteered by Minnesota law enforcement agencies. It would explicitly forbid the identification of the stopping officer by badge number. “I’m not convinced that doing so would serve any benefit,” said Stanek.

In another major difference from other plans, HF505 would study “the officer’s perception of the race, ethnicity, or national origin of the driver.” Stanek explained that under those conditions, police officers would be reluctant to ask stopped drivers about their race or ethnicity.

A third plan would not require chiefs to collect individual officers’ badge numbers, but would identify all collected data as coming from a particular law enforcement agency, as Stanek’s does.

But another feature of the third plan, HF737, sponsored by Rep. Carlos Mariani



PHOTOS BY ANDREW VON BANK

John Powell from the Institute on Race and Poverty, St. Paul Police Chief William Finney, Minneapolis Police Chief Robert Olson, and Migizi Communications Director Laura Waterman-Woodstock are among those who testified at a Feb. 13 hearing on racial profiling.

(DFL-St. Paul) is that officers would have to actually record "whether the officer knew the race/ethnicity of the driver before the stop," a piece of information not registered under the other two proposals.

Mariani described the bill, as "a middle ground" between the Stanek and Gray resolutions.

Like Gray's plan, Mariani would make the commissioner of public safety responsible for collecting data, which chiefs would be required to report. In its current form, HF737 would not require that individual officers be associated with the data on stops. However, Mariani suggested in a later interview that he could look favorably on such a requirement.

Mariani and Gray each pointed out that badge-identified records would be used for internal police department review only, and would not be made public.

In his budget, Gov. Jesse Ventura recommended a one-time allocation of \$280,000 to the Department of Public Safety to compensate local jurisdictions for the cost of an optional study.

Stanek's bill would allocate \$1.15 million in the form of grants to the commissioner of public safety, while the Mariani and Gray bills do not currently include final cost figures. All three bills are financed via general fund appropriations.

Commissioner of Public Safety Charlie Weaver said Ventura is "opposed to statewide mandatory collection," instead favoring money for increased training and in-service education, as well as voluntary data collection. Weaver told the committee that Ventura characterized racial profiling as "fundamentally a local issue."

Gray countered that, although he empathized with the governor's concern that local control not be compromised, Minnesota has a responsibility to address racial profiling statewide. "The concern I have is whether local law enforcement officials are going to act on the information (garnered in the study). Are the most egregious violators going to come forward?"

Sayles Belton echoed Gray's sentiment when asked by Stanek if the state's mandate that local agencies collect data would be too much of a burden on local officials. "The whole state should be a partner in sharing costs and ensuring the credibility of the study," she said.

Gray added local control of the study would be appropriate if "this were solely an issue of law enforcement. This is a major civil rights issue," he said. "Eliminating racial profiling is not something we can pawn off to the mayors or police chiefs. This is something we as a state need to come to grips with." 🐼



## A tough start

**Still in its infancy, the BCA weathered harsh criticism from officials**

At a time when lawmakers are planning to fund CriMNet, a computerized system to track and identify criminals, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension has garnered attention not often focused on state agencies.

In that regard, contemporary bureaucrats and law-enforcement officials might empathize with their professional peers of 70 years ago.

The U.S. Congress enacted the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920, forbidding the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcohol. At the time, Minnesota was still something of a wild territory, and St. Paul in particular was known as a safe haven for all manner of criminal behavior.

Hoping to curb increasing criminality on the prairie, Minnesota created the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in 1927. Two years later, Gov. Theodore Christianson left no room for ambiguity in communicating his frustration with rising crime and the BCA's seeming inability to effectively respond.

In a 1929 statement to the Legislature the governor wrote, "The essential functions of government are few. And it is those essential functions that government fails most lamentably. The first duty of the state is to protect life, liberty, and property. But it is to this duty that the State devotes the least of its activity."

Christianson explained that embattled honest citizens who knew criminals were deviously at work in their midst had nowhere to turn. Even as governor, he said, "There is no agency of the state government, not even a single investigator, that I can call upon to get the evidence."

The governor wrote that local police departments were overwhelmed by "the numerous depredations by desperate criminals which have occurred, the frequent bank robberies and other outrages which have been committed, the recent invasion of the State by members of the underworld from other cities, (and) their apparent intention to establish a center of operations here."

To officials Christianson sounded a warning bell that something needed to be done. He organized a Commission on

Criminal Apprehension to study the matter and charged the commission to "prepare definite measures for presentation to the law-making body."

The commission conducted "an examination of the laws governing the systems of criminal apprehension in other states and examination of the practical workings of these systems." Echoing Christianson's consternation, the committee began its final report by saying "anyone who indulges in the belief that the problem of crime is not a grave one, is simply blind to patent facts and deaf to resounding alarms."

On Dec. 31, 1930, the committee concluded that "we are handicapped by a paucity of either general or accurate records and statistics of crime." Although the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension had been operating for three years, "few records and reports (of crime) have been received by the bureau, and no substantial progress has yet been made in collecting any statistics."

The committee reported that "we find a drifting away from the old, purely local system of policing towards a centralized state organization." At the time, 11 states had established state police, three had created county police units, and at least 19 states, including Minnesota, had established a state patrol, which primarily regulated traffic on the trunk highway system.

"There can be no efficiency in detection or apprehension without unified action and organization directed from a central head. All peace officers, local or otherwise in their appointment, should be coordinated, and they should have the power of arrest throughout the state," the committee wrote.

Since then, the BCA has grown to be the major statewide force in the investigation of crime scenes, the collection of criminal statistics, and the accumulation of data on particular criminals. It employs more than 200 people, has 13 field offices throughout the state and, according to its Web site, has a forensic lab with "an international reputation as one of the finest in the country."

(J. WALKER)



## ★ CHILDREN

**Childcare consolidation considered**

Gov. Jesse Ventura has recommended consolidating all existing subsidized childcare programs into one program.

The proposal was presented to the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee Feb. 12 by Cherie Kotilinek and Elizabeth Roe, from the Department of Children, Families and Learning (CFL), charged with overseeing childcare programs.

The governor's proposal would combine the childcare programs that currently reside within the Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) and Minnesota Family Investment (MFIP) programs into one and eliminate two others, moving their funding to the new one.

While there would be no net change in appropriations from the general fund, there would be an increase to the department's budget. The additional funds, a total of \$21.5 million, for administering the repackaged program would come from the child care grant program in the Higher Education Services Office and the dependent care tax credit in the Department of Revenue. Both these programs would end under the proposal.

Concerned lawmakers challenged the program change on a number of fronts.

"This is a real thorny issue because most of the money you've put in has come from other programs," said Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), committee chair.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) was concerned the elimination of higher education childcare grants meant students would no longer get the childcare support they need. In fact, according to Roe, 28 percent of students currently receiving those grants would not be eligible under consolidation unless they opted to work 20 hours a week.

"I don't believe the governor has an agenda against students," Kotilinek said, "but that he has an agenda for working families."

That agenda is based on the following goals:

- To allocate resources to the highest priority families;
- To provide incentives for families to transition to self-sufficiency; and
- To treat families in similar financial circumstances similarly.

Eligibility requirements would change for the new program. For example, income eligibility would drop from 75 percent or less than

the state median income to 50 percent or less.

"This would appear to be a major reshuffling of how people are served by these programs," said Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls). "These programs are a promise we make to the people of Minnesota."

## ★ CRIME

**Gas 'n go no more**

Legislators are considering a bill that would suspend for one year the driver's license of any person convicted of stealing gasoline.

Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) is the sponsor of HF205. But his efforts to have it approved by the House Crime Prevention Committee were delayed Feb. 15 when it was revealed that committee rules require Nornes to submit a document outlining the cost to the state of any legislation, called a fiscal note. He promised to produce the information.

According to one Bloomington gas station owner, "drive-offs" cost his company more than \$11,000 last year. He explained the

practice of filling a vehicle with gasoline and then leaving without paying bewilders gas stations nationwide.

The owner, Leroy Voehl, said the problem is especially acute when gas prices are at their highest. In addition to the intuitive explanation that people are more prone to drive away when they feel gas prices are too high, Voehl said gas station profits are at their lowest when prices are highest. "We are catching the brunt of high fuel costs," he said.

Voehl said gas stations are required to pay state fuel tax regardless of whether customers pay for or steal what they pump. "We are the tax collectors for you people. Are you going to help us or not?"

Rep. Debra Hilstrom (DFL-Brooklyn Center) inquired as to whether HF205 would lead to prosecution of honest but forgetful customers who unintentionally depart a gas station without paying. Nornes assured her that the bill would not, as a defendant would first have to be convicted of stealing gasoline before his or her license would be revoked.

Voehl told the committee Minnesota gas stations are increasingly likely to use protective measures that alienate customers, causing them to fuel elsewhere.

For example, his station has begun accepting only credit card payments or cash before filling begins, moves that have angered many loyal customers.

## ★ EDUCATION

**Education credit reduction proposed**

As part of Gov. Jesse Ventura's tax proposal, the state's K-12 education credit would be scaled back.

HF511, sponsored by House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), would limit the number of eligible expenses and reduce from 100 percent to 75 percent the amount of the credit.

The House Taxes Committee heard testimony Feb. 13 that the reduction would create difficulties for some of the state's lower income families. No action was taken on the bill.

Currently families with a household income of less than \$37,500 are eligible for the credit which can be applied towards the expenses for items and services such as certain textbooks, tuition, computer hardware and education software, musical instruction and instrument

**VALLEY SINGERS**

PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**At the opening of Feb. 12 session, House members are treated to a song performed by the Valley Singers from Valley Middle School in Apple Valley. The choir is directed by Jonathan Ofstad.**

rentals, and qualifying transportation costs.

Morgan Brown, executive director of the Minnesota Education League, said the proposed changes would make the credit more confusing and less accessible. He said by reducing the percentage of the credit's value, and limiting what is eligible, figuring out the credit would become more complex.

Brown said the changes would also shut down a number of loan funds available to lower income families to purchase education services. Families with their qualifying education credit later repay those loans.

Officials from the Department of Revenue testified that like much of the tax proposal, reduction in credit assistance to low income families would be offset by other measures in the proposal such as the increase in the state's working family tax credit.

The department said the amount of errors that occur by those filing for the education credit is substantial. Approximately 7,900 returns totaling more than \$4.3 million were adjusted in 1998. In 1999 approximately 2,715 returns totaling \$2.3 million were adjusted.

Carolyn Louper-Morris, the president of Cyberstudy101, a Minneapolis company that helps low income families access the tax credit, said not all the families that would lose the education credit will qualify for the working family credit as both programs have different eligibility requirements.

### Measuring teacher effectiveness

Legislators explored a method for measuring student achievement and evaluating teachers at a joint meeting of the House K-12 Education Finance and House Education Policy committees Feb. 9.

Dr. William Sanders shared procedures of a "Value-Added Assessment System" he took part in developing at the University of Tennessee to evaluate teaching effectiveness.

Sanders said what's most important to measure is the progress a student makes from the point they enter a grade.

"What I'm looking for is scales of measure that are highly correlated with curricular objectives," he said.

He explained that students should be measured individually; however, the teacher needs to be evaluated by all students' progress in the classroom.

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) asked what makes an effective, better teacher. Sanders said they make gains across the range of students.

"(Effective teachers) have got children working at different paces, in different places at the same time," he said. "They have to provide academic growth opportunities for all students."

Sanders admitted the value-added system measures math well, but cannot effectively measure areas such as fine arts.

"There is more measurable variability among math teachers" than arts, science, and reading, he said. For example, Sanders said some students will read on their own, and while parents will help with math homework, they generally do not introduce new concepts.

Several representatives questioned how student attendance and mobility played into measuring student achievement and teacher evaluation.

Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato), a teacher for 29 years, said he's found student performance greatly reflects attendance patterns. Sanders said students are only included in data if they attended 150 days of the school year.

"There is a set of kids that are falling through the cracks because they move so much," said Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls), also a teacher. Sanders replied the system uses data on all students, and the mobility factor doesn't lower measurements because they are using a value-added system.

Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton) disagreed with Sanders, saying the system was flawed, as far as evaluating teachers due to the effect attendance and mobility on a student's progress. Sanders said it is a conservative method for measurement.



**Dr. William Sanders addresses the joint House Education Policy/K-12 Education Finance Committee Feb. 9 about "Value Added Assessment System," an analytical procedure developed at the University of Tennessee to evaluate teaching effectiveness.**

### Student meal funding

Two bills proposing to increase funding for student meals at school and expand eligibility for a breakfast program grant were heard before the K-12 Education Finance Committee Feb. 14.

Reps. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) and Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls), both educators, attested to the importance of students starting their day with a good meal.

HF687, sponsored by Kielkucki, would raise the amount the state must pay for school lunches from 8 cents to 14 cents. The bill also would increase funding for school breakfasts, and would make more schools eligible to receive grants for free and reduced student meals.

Statistics prove that good nutrition helps in the learning process, Kielkucki said. "We have to equip our students with the tools to achieve, and that includes food."

The representatives had on hand a school principal, school nurse, and parent to testify to the benefits of eating breakfast.

Despite funds for meals, "We have a tough time making ends meet," with requirements to serve more and offer food within nutritional provisions, said Polly Podpesker, director of food and nutrition at Grand Rapids Public Schools, and a representative for the Minnesota School Food Service Association. Funding for school breakfasts has not increased since 1993, she said.

Carol Rosener, school nurse for a Hopkins junior high school, said the chief complaint in the early morning hours is a headache or stomachache and that the student can't concentrate. The first question she asks is if the child had breakfast, and the answer is usually no.

In addition to provisions in Kielkucki's bill, HF734, sponsored by Davnie, would allow secondary schools to be eligible for a school breakfast grant program. Currently, only elementary schools can apply for the program.

Davnies said that in high school, "When many students are taking their first steps to independence, or rebellion," they will refuse to eat breakfast.

Rep. Robert Ness (R-Dassel) said a price increase for school meals is "way overdue."

Both bills would be effective in 2002 and 2003, and will be considered for inclusion in the omnibus education bill.

### Teacher exam data

A bill that would require the Minnesota Board of Teaching to report data from exams taken to obtain a teaching license is expected to have better luck this session than last year when it was taken out of the omnibus education bill.

"This year it is going to pass," said Rep. Alice Seagren, chair of the K-12 Education Finance Committee.

Seagren's committee heard the bill Feb. 14 and will consider it for inclusion in the omnibus education bill.

The bill (HF292) is sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), who said the data will show how successful teachers are at passing.

To obtain an initial teaching license, one must pass a basic skills exam in reading, writing, and math. Those who do not pass the test take remedial courses, usually offered by their college or university.

According to the bill, the Legislature would receive reports on the number of teacher candidates who took the exam, the number of candidates who passed and failed, and scores earned on the test.

The bill would be effective beginning with the 2001-2002 school year.

## ELECTIONS



### Font size bill passes

By a 125-6 vote, the House passed a bill Feb. 12 that would clarify the state's campaign disclaimer law.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), sponsor of HF486, said that under current fair campaign practices laws, paid political advertisements appearing in newspapers, periodicals, or magazines must include a disclaimer stating who prepared and paid for the ad. However, there were no regulations as to the size of the disclaimer.

"Why do we have a disclaimer law if you can't even read the disclaimer?" Seifert asked.

He said the law was in place because truth in advertising is important in election campaigns so voters can know what group or person is responsible for political advertisements.

The original bill would have required that the disclaimer be in at least 8-point sized type.

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) asked Seifert why the bill focused on type size rather than the larger issue of legibility. He said the size of the type doesn't matter as much as the font style used, considering many ads use a tightly compressed typeface.

After much discussion, the House accepted an amendment offered by Seifert striking the 8-point type requirement and requiring that disclaimers be "legible."

Seifert said the issue of size was brought up during the House Government Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee's hearing of the bill. He said that without specifying a type size, a candidate could use tiny print and still claim the disclaimer could be read by using a magnifying glass.

"This sends a message to people that they have to have a readable disclaimer," Seifert said.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said the bill was not necessary and that the issue was

that the current disclaimer law was not being enforced.

He said the "real issue" was the broader concern of the need for comprehensive campaign finance reform.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

### Ensuring proper spending

The thin line between public service and politics might become a little more defined under a bill that would make changes to state campaign laws.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), sponsor of HF53, told the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Feb. 9 that the bill would prohibit constitutional officers, agency heads, and legislators from spending agency funds for advertisements and public service announcements using their name, image or voice.

The committee approved the bill and referred it to the full House.

Under the measure agencies would still be allowed to produce advertisements for their programs and services but would not be able to use the agency head or candidate in the message.

Seifert distributed a 1998 *Minneapolis Star Tribune* article about former Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III using \$10,000 from his agency's budget on public service announcements that ran during the election cycle. The announcements with Humphrey's narration were in support of a crime bill before the Legislature. Humphrey was a candidate for governor at the time.

Those announcements, Seifert said, blurred the line between serving a public purpose and campaigning for office. He said those with established campaigns should use committee funds for the announcements that can be perceived as serving a political purpose.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said the bill was a "poor solution to a nonexistent problem." She said the bill would not prohibit a candidate from using agency funds in the production of announcements and advertisements but would only prevent them from using those funds to pay media outlets to run the messages.

Prohibiting the state from using popular figures, such as the current governor, in promoting its public service programs would also be a disservice, she said.

## EMPLOYMENT



### Reference check change considered

Legislators may soon change the balance of power between workers and their previous employers.

When most people apply for jobs, they

expect their previous employers will make fair and accurate statements regarding their past employment. When that doesn't happen, workers can sue for damages.

According to Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud), Minnesota employers refrain from passing along all but the most basic information. Though existing law allows them to provide objective employment information, many businesses will convey only dates of employment and the official job title of previous employees, though existing law allows them to discuss many other items, fearing lawsuits from previous employees denied jobs elsewhere.

Knoblach says one result is that good workers suffer because previous employers withhold positive information rather than expose themselves to criticism by making favorable comments about good employees and saying nothing about bad ones. Additionally, workplace safety and efficiency may be compromised by workers who would not have been hired if previous employers had shared information about poor job performance.

To encourage former employers to share complete job histories, Knoblach sponsored HF415. The bill would provide statutory immunity to employers who provide reference information on former employees.

The bill received a hearing in the House Civil Law Committee Feb. 12. It was referred to the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Committee.

Under the bill, an employer would not be liable for damages incurred to the former employee stemming from the sharing of information unless: the information is false, the employer knew or should have known the information was false and acted maliciously by communicating it, and the prospective employer actually relied on the information.

Furthermore, employees must demonstrate these conditions "by clear and convincing evidence," a standard some said is too high. Joel Carlson of the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association said such a high standard "is little more than absolute immunity in disguise."

"Why should employers have such a high degree of protection when everyone else is held to the preponderance of the evidence?" asked Bernard Brommer, president of the Minnesota AFL-CIO. He explained that, currently, plaintiffs in civil defamation cases have to prove they were defamed only by a preponderance of the evidence.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) expressed concern that small businesses might be lulled into "a false sense of security" by the law, and could find themselves subject to additional lawsuits if they followed Knoblach's reasoning and began sharing information. Despite Skoglund's concern, Tom Hesse, director of fiscal and labor



management policy for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, endorsed the bill.

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### Feedlot funding questioned

Gov. Jesse Ventura's feedlot initiative is a prime example of the ways in which governmental bodies and agencies overlap in solving problems — and the accompanying tradeoffs.

Lisa Thorvig, deputy commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, told members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Feb. 9 that money authorized for the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) should be reallocated to the Board of Water and Soil Resources. No action was taken on the issue.

The proposal would shift \$2.47 million during the next two years from a flexible water clean-up fund to one that is dedicated to bringing feedlots up to environmental standards. The initiative is part of a funding package that includes the Pollution Control Agency, Water and Soil Resources Board, and the Department of Agriculture.

The Clean Water Partnership is a pass-through grant program created in 1987 to address the problems of contaminated runoff in urban and agricultural areas.

"We are accelerating the use of the CWP fund for feedlots instead of letting them come up on the list as other projects do," Thorvig said. This is in keeping with an overall effort to shift existing resources from lower to higher priority uses, she added.

The money would be used to cost-share with livestock operators for environmental upgrades, technical assistance, and planning and assessment assistance, as well as for county delegated feedlot permit program grants.

In addition to the reallocation of CWP funds, Ventura has recommended \$1.45 million during the biennium from the general fund for staffing the PCA feedlot permit staff.

Feedlot permit fees would be reduced by \$399,000 during the next two fiscal years as part of the Environmental Tax Reform package.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) expressed concern that the PCA was moving away from a program that had a lot of support. "This is a flawed process," she said. Other committee members agreed they would prefer to keep the money in the Clean Water Partnership if possible.

"I don't want to be critical of the agency in this matter because I know you're faced with a difficult situation," Committee Chair Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) told Thorvig. "This committee finds this difficult too."

"We did a lot of soul searching over this," Thorvig responded.

### Frog funding fizzles

The study of malformed frogs has been one of the highest profile programs in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. However, the funding for the study ends this biennium.

Lisa Thorvig, deputy commissioner of the PCA, told the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Feb. 12 the research part of the program will not be renewed.

The only real change in the program is that the agency will no longer provide funding to outside researchers, said Mike Sandusky of the PCA. It will not conduct any research of its own, either.

However, the agency will continue to collect and provide frogs and other relevant items, such as water and sediment samples, to other researchers. Minnesota is the only state doing this, Sandusky said.

He said the agency is a season behind on analysis and is currently seeking a herpetologist for its staff.

Minnesota has been in the forefront of frog research since 1995 when school children from Le Sueur found a large number of deformed frogs while studying a wetland area.

Their discovery galvanized the public, and sightings of malformed frogs were reported from two-thirds of Minnesota's counties by the summer of 1996. Soon, people in other states and other countries were sighting deformed frogs.

Because the malformed frog phenomenon is not unique to Minnesota, the PCA has concluded the problem is a national one and future research should be led by federal agencies. The national frog research network is now

"well established," Sandusky said.

The PCA has collaborated with other researchers and national agencies to determine the extent and causes of the problem.

The cause of the deformities has not yet been determined. Research indicates it might be something in the water where malformed frogs are found, but they don't yet know what that "something" is. Possibilities include parasites, endocrine disrupters, and ultraviolet radiation.

The phenomenon of malformation in frogs is important because it may be a harbinger of problems that will face humans in the future.

### Tourism talk

Fade in: a beautiful Minnesota summer day, two boys in a fishing boat with their dad. Impressed with the great fishing, the boys ask how dad knew about this fishing hole. "Just a hunch." He grins and shrugs. Suddenly several more fishing boats pull up nearby, each motored by a well-known angler. "Wow!" the boys yell. "How did you know about this spot?" They all hold up Minnesota Fishing Guides. "It's in here!" Fade out on boys with delighted expressions.

"Looks like more (fish) stocking's going to be needed," said Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

The video clip was part of a presentation by the Minnesota Office of Tourism before Holsten's committee Feb. 14.

Although the tourism office does not have

## 60 . . . AND COUNTING

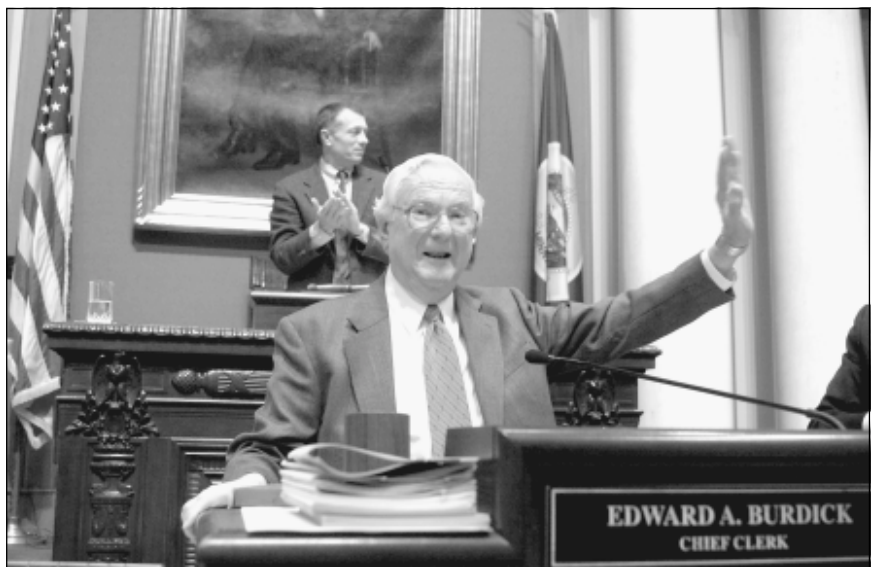


PHOTO BY TOM OLSMSCHIED

Chief Clerk Ed Burdick waves to acknowledge the applause of members while being honored Feb. 15 for his 60 years of service to the House of Representatives. Burdick was first hired as a session-only page and his first day was Feb. 15, 1941.

its budget reviewed by the committee, its activities are pertinent to the Department of Natural Resources budget, which is under the committee's stewardship.

"We need to know who you are going after," said Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls). "The people who tread lightly and cost us a little or those who tread heavily and cost us a lot."

For example, if more people are coming to Minnesota to hike, then investments must be made in the trail system. If fishing is the goal, lakes may need to be stocked with fish species more often.

About half of all tourism is related to Minnesota's natural resources: fishing, golf, hunting, boating, skiing, snowmobiling, biking, hiking, camping, and just enjoying Minnesota's natural beauty and wildlife.

It is the job of the Office of Tourism to promote these activities both within the state and in other states and countries. They do this in a variety of ways: TV ads, brochures, activity guides, a Web site, and advertising in various media. Most of these are supported through businesses in the tourism industry paying to be placed in the advertisements.

According to John Edman, director of the Office of Tourism, 23.5 million people visited Minnesota last year either for pleasure or business. In addition, Minnesota residents made 10.7 million trips within the state. The economic impact of that travel and tourism totaled \$8.3 billion, he said.

"Surveys show Minnesota exceeds people's expectations in terms of what they're looking for in outdoor activities and natural beauty," Edman said.

"We want to bring in dollars from other states," he said, "but at the same time we don't want to lose dollars from Minnesotans going elsewhere."

## ★ FAMILY

### Four-legged friends exemption

They may not pay any taxes, but the state's homeless dogs and cats most likely would support a measure sponsored by Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park).

HF115 would provide a sales tax exemption on animals sold by nonprofit animal shelters. Luther told the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division Feb. 15 that the exemption would only apply in cases where the sales price of the animal does not exceed the reasonable costs of caring for the animal prior to the sale.

Beverly Orr, the founder and chair of Last Hope Inc., said her nonprofit organization located in Farmington is dedicated to helping unwanted, abandoned, and homeless animals.

"This would save tax dollars to cities and



**Bev Orr of Last Hope Inc. in Farmington, testifies Feb. 15 for a bill that would exempt the sales of pets by animal rescue groups from sales and use taxes. Her testimony came before the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee.**

towns who wouldn't have to put down and cremate homeless animals," she said.

The Department of Revenue estimates the cost of the measure would be around \$510,000 during the biennium. According to the department, there are more than 51,000 animals adopted yearly in the state that would qualify for the exemption.

Orr said Last Hope opened in 1985, and in that year helped 40 cats and dogs find homes. The operating expenses at the time were \$853.

Last year the all-volunteer organization helped 1,444 dogs and cats, had expenses of around \$128,000, and collected \$7,300 in sales taxes, she said. The organization is totally dependent on fees and donations for its budget.

Orr said the average cost of placing a cat is around \$88 while the average cost for placing a dog is around \$150.

The division took no action on the bill, but Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), chair of the division, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

## ★ GAMBLING

### Card club helps horses

In horse racing terminology, "points of call" refer to places during a race where the running positions are indicated on a chart. The final point of call is always the finish, and the penultimate point of call is the eighth pole.

Randy Sampson, president of Canterbury Park, presented a point of call on the state horse racing facility's condition to the House Government Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Feb. 9.

Sampson said the opening of the card club at the facility last April helped horse racing to its most successful year in a number of years.

"Canterbury Park is a much more viable business," he said. "Its chances for success are much better."

In 1999 the Legislature approved the card club specifying that there could be up to 50 tables at the facility and that only unbanked games, or player versus player games, opposed to players versus the house, would be allowed.

Sampson said the 42-table club employed a full-time workforce of greater than 400 with part-time seasonal help numbering more than 1,000.

In 2000 the wagering for live races at the track topped \$15.6 million, while simulcasts accounted for more than \$57.2 million. The size of total purses for the year was the highest since 1991. Attendance at the track was 230,658.

According to a Department of Trade and Economic Development study, the track was responsible for 7,657 jobs in the state and had a \$252 million economic impact at its peak in the early-1990s.

The state's 400 horse farms represented an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars, the report stated.

Sampson said the 2001 season will have 61 live racing dates, the largest number since his family re-opened the track six years ago.

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### Tornado relief

Rep. Gary Kubly (R-Granite Falls) sponsored a bill (HF618) that would appropriate funds for disaster relief in his hometown.

The dollars are needed as the southwestern Minnesota community was hit for the second time in three years by a natural disaster that ruined much of the town. In July 2000, it was hit by a tornado that followed a major flood in 1997.

Granite Falls Mayor David Smiglewski told the House Economic Development and Tourism Division of the Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee Feb. 14 the



tornado ravaged one-third of the community.

Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) jokingly advised the mayor to plan natural disasters during the legislative session. Requests for state funding can only be heard when the Legislature is in session.

Sandy Brustuen, a Granite Falls resident, shared her experience in the tornado. "It was the most terrifying thing I've ever been through," she said.

Brustuen and her family lost their house in the flood and again in the tornado. Insurance is paying for about one-half of the cost to rebuild, she said.

Funds for the bill originally totaled \$6.5 million. However, the bill's sum was amended to subtract \$3.6 million from the original amount, taken from the Minnesota Investment Fund, which, without the amendment, would have used its entire allocation.

The amendment, bringing the bill down to \$2.9 million in aid, passed with a 6-4 vote by committee members. The monies would be allocated through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and the state Department of Trade and Economic Development.

Smiglewski said financial assistance would be used to "attract businesses and to better suit occupants" of the town. More than 15 percent of Granite Falls' high-end jobs "walked out of our community.

"We want to try to bring community back to where it was four years ago," he said.

The bill now moves to the Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee.

### Geographic concerns raised

There would be a greater mixture of representatives on state boards and councils under a measure approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Feb. 14.

HF546, sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), would require administrative boards and agencies with statewide jurisdiction to have representation as near as possible to the state's population balance.

Kubly said the bill came as a result of the committee's confirmation hearings of candidates to the state's Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. All four of the candidates came from the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

The boards and agencies should be as "equitable and inclusive" as possible, Kubly said.

The state's open appointment law, established in 1978, was created to encourage citizen participation in helping determine the policies and services of state government. The boards and councils range from the State Arts Board to the Battered Women's Advisory Council.

The Office of the Secretary of State publishes a list each month of all the vacancies. Most of the positions are voluntary but many do pay a small per diem and expenses for attending the meetings.

During a Feb. 12 hearing of the bill, Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) was one of several committee members to express a concern that by requiring balance on the boards and councils, it may tie the hands of those trying to fill vacancies.

Lipman said it might be a better idea to limit the bill's scope to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and work on the balance issue as part of the open appointments process.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) said finding people in Greater Minnesota to serve on a volunteer basis on boards that meet in St. Paul, while a worthwhile goal, may be difficult to attain.

Kubly offered an amendment which was approved during the Feb. 14 hearing clarifying that the population balance requirement would not pertain to boards that specify metropolitan or non-metropolitan residence for some or all of its membership.

The amendment also would allow an appointing authority to certify to the secretary of state that for a vacancy that has a limited number of applicants from a geographic area, the population balance requirement unreasonably limits the filling of the position.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

## HEALTH



### Dental loan forgiveness

A shortage of dentists in Greater Minnesota is approaching crisis proportions, according to officials from the Minnesota Department of Health.

An initiative recommended by Gov. Jesse Ventura would help alleviate the problem, according to Gayle Hallin, assistant commissioner for the community health services division for the department.

Hallin presented the governor's Health Workforce Development Initiative to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee Feb. 12.

Access to health care in rural Minnesota has eroded across the board, she said, and is in urgent need of an infusion of skilled health care workers and an upgrading of facilities.

The governor's proposal would target investments to eliminate health disparities, including those faced by rural Minnesotans, in all types of health care.

One component of this initiative is to extend the educational loan forgiveness program for health professionals to dentists.

This program would repay a portion of a dentist's school loans in exchange for a promise to practice dentistry in an under-served area for a specified amount of time.

"Loan forgiveness is a strong component in a student's choice of career location," said Mark Schoenbaum, manager of primary care and financial assistance programs for the health department.

He said forgiveness of educational loans has proven to be very effective in attracting health providers to rural communities and keeping them there.

"Most of those who serve out an obligation in rural areas and small towns remain in that location or a similar one," Schoenbaum said.

Under the governor's proposal, funding for the loan repayment program, which would include loan forgiveness for physicians, nurses, and dentists, would total \$3.2 million during the next two years. Fourteen dentists per year would be added to the program.

A dentist in the program would be reimbursed for up to \$10,000 per year in loans, for a minimum of three and a maximum of four years.

While the loan forgiveness program is intended for graduating practitioners, during the first year of the program dentists who are already practicing in urban settings would be accepted, Schoenbaum said.

No action was taken on the proposal.

## HIGHER EDUCATION



### MnSCU states its case

Calling it an "investment in Minnesota's future," representatives from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities said additional funding is necessary, or changes may be on tap.

MnSCU is the largest single provider of higher education in the state with approximately 216,000 students in credit bearing courses annually at its 35 institutions with 53 campuses. Sixty-one percent of fall 1999 undergraduates in Minnesota were at a MnSCU institution.

Speaking before the House Higher Education Finance Committee Feb. 12 and 14, Chancellor Morris Anderson and Laura King, vice chancellor and chief financial officer of MnSCU, explained their organization's 2002-03 biennial request.

"We are requesting a \$255.6 million increase to build the capacity of our 35 institutions to provide students with high-quality education and competitive skills," Anderson said. The base budget for MnSCU is \$1.14 billion.

Of that request, \$153.3 million is for inflationary increases, including staff compensation and health care costs, and \$157.7 million

is for quality and competitive investment, which includes “the cost of providing quality academic programs, competitive course offerings and assurance of access to higher education in Minnesota.”

The costs are offset by a proposed 3 percent tuition increase each year and \$30 million in internal reallocations. King said reallocation has been occurring for 10 years, but is now being “drawn out into the daylight so people know about it.”

“We’ve done our job (by reallocating),” said Winona State University President Darrell Krueger told the committee. “You’re on the verge of not fulfilling your side.”

Gov. Jesse Ventura’s recommendation calls for a \$47.6 million increase.

“We thought the nearly \$256 million was to compete,” Anderson said. “At \$153 million we are in the maintenance mode, and at \$47.6 million we are in survival mode.”

Without additional funding, “We will close programs and lay off faculty,” he added.

Students will also pay more. Winona State University is projecting a 15 percent tuition increase for next year, while fees are forecast to rise 16 percent at St. Cloud Technical College.

Representatives also presented trends that they say show the reduced funding MnSCU has received in the past decade, such as MnSCU’s share of the state’s general fund decreasing from 6.3 percent for fiscal year 1990-91 to 4.6 percent in fiscal year 2000-01.

Another example, Anderson said, is the change in appropriation per capita from 1990 to 2000 was 57 percent for the state budget, but 16 percent for MnSCU. “There have been state resources available, but maybe the priorities have shifted.”

## ★ HOUSING

### Lack of affordability

Five years ago the Twin Cities ranked first in the nation’s 25 largest metropolitan areas in terms of housing affordability. Now, the area is 14<sup>th</sup>.

Rick Packer, a project manager for Arcon Development, told the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 14 that despite having one of the highest median incomes in the nation, the Twin Cities area’s affordable housing problem is becoming more severe.

He said the area’s median house price is rising three times faster than the median family income.

According to the Builders Association of the Twin Cities, it is expected that when buying a new home in 2001, the minimum townhouse cost will be \$130,000, and the minimum

## STUDENT DEMONSTRATION



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Students from all of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and the University of Minnesota make their way to the steps of the Capitol for a rally after marching from the St. Paul Technical College. The Feb. 14 rally was in opposition to Gov. Jesse Ventura’s budget proposal for higher education.

single-family house price will be between \$250,000 to \$275,000.

Packer said increasing land prices and rising regulatory fees are driving up the costs of building new homes.

He said it is accepted appraisal and lending practice to require the value of a lot be approximately 25 percent of the total house package. Every \$1,000 increase in the price of a house equals 3,400 families that will no longer be able to afford the house.

The committee also heard testimony that political planning decisions are a driving factor.

Glenn Dorfman, from the Minnesota Association of Realtors, said “smart growth” development practices serve an “elitist agenda” by shutting out new arrivals to the area, mostly minorities, from living in the growing suburban areas.

“When people complain about traffic back-ups and parking shortages, what they mean is that they want government to get everybody else off the roads,” Dorfman said. “They certainly do not support policies that would put them out of their own cars or deprive them of parking.”

He said first time homebuyers make up 40 percent of his business and the state’s minority population is the fastest growing segment of first time homeowners.

## ★ INDUSTRY

### More fuel additives

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) has sponsored legislation that would require diesel fuel sold in Minnesota to contain a minimum of 2 percent “biodiesel” fuel by volume starting July 1, 2002. The bill, HF362, would increase that

minimum amount to 5 percent by 2006.

Biodiesel fuel is a blend of petroleum oil and nontoxic, biodegradable, combustible liquid fuel derived from vegetable oil or animal fats. It can be used in semi-tractor trailers, farm implements, jet engines, and home-heating systems. However, Westrom said jet engines would be exempted from the requirement.

Westrom told the House Agriculture Policy Committee Feb. 14, “I am soy charged. I want this whole committee to be soy charged by the end of this meeting.” Soybean oil is commonly used in biodiesel fuels. The committee took no action on the matter, but more hearings are expected.

Mike Yost, a Murdock soybean farmer and former president of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, said biodiesel fuels are “good for the environment, the economy, and for our energy security.” He said the association had seen no evidence of soy oil additives contributed to the ‘jelling’ of diesel fuel.

That testimony was endorsed by Dana Albers, Hennepin County Fleet and Equipment Manager. He managed a study of county-owned snowplows that demonstrated no observable fuel problems with soy oil additives. In fact, some drivers suggested plows with the soy added gained a bit of power.

Bill Frank, vice president of the Minnesota Trucking Association, characterized the bill as “good farm politics, but bad public policy.” He said increasing demand for soy products would only marginally help farmers, while gravely affecting truckers.

## ★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Fiscal disparities reviewed

The 1971 Legislature created the state's fiscal disparities program to provide a method for local governments in the Twin Cities metropolitan area to share in the resources generated by the growth in the area without removing any resources currently available.

The law requires that each taxing jurisdiction contribute 40 percent of the growth of its commercial industrial property tax base since 1971 to a metrowide pool. The money is then redistributed according to a formula based on population and fiscal capacity.

The House Taxes Committee Property Tax Division heard two bills Feb. 12 that would make changes to the program, or eliminate it altogether.

HF381, sponsored by Rep. Ann Lenczewski (DFL-Bloomington), would repeal the program beginning with taxes payable for 2002. Lenczewski said that with the governor's extensive tax reform proposal the time was right for examining the program.

Had other state aid programs like the Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid and Local Government Aid been in place, the fiscal disparities program may never been implemented, she said.

According to information provided by the Citizens League, the cities of St. Paul, which gained \$27.1 million, Cottage Grove, which gained \$3.3 million, and Coon Rapids, which gained \$3.1 million, are the top 2001 benefactors from the program.

On the other hand, Bloomington contributed \$21.8 million more than it received, Eden Prairie contributed \$11.3 million more than it received, and Plymouth contributed \$10.8 million more than it received.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) said the program's history needs to be taken into account in any reform or repeal discussion. He said without the program, projects such as the construction of the Mall of America and the Metrodome might never have occurred.

HF193, sponsored by Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), would cap a municipality's contribution to the pool at 15 percent of its total net tax capacity or a percentage equal to the percentage of net tax capacity contributed for taxes payable in 2001, whichever is greater.

The committee took no action on either bill, but both will be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at:  
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

## ★ SAFETY

### Cigarette bill extinguished

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee failed to approve a bill Feb. 14 that would have established cigarette fire retardant standards.

The motion to send the bill to the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee with no recommendation failed by a 9-9 vote.

HF175, sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), would require the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety with assistance from the state's fire marshal to develop rules establishing the standards.

Tom Brace, the state's fire marshal, said the state of New York will commence rulemaking shortly establishing standards in that state for cigarettes designed to go out if the smoker does not take a puff. He said that under HF175 Minnesota would likely adopt rules similar to New York's.

Brace said of the 60 people killed in fires in Minnesota during 1999, 15 died in fires caused by careless smoking.

Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) said fire retardant cigarettes wouldn't address issues like fire standards for furniture, and of individual safety negligence.

"We can't legislate against carelessness and while this may be one tool, it is not a panacea," Kielkucki said.

Ozment said one of the goals of the legislation was to demonstrate to the federal government that if there were enough support among states a federal standard should be developed.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) said he was concerned that there was nothing in the bill that would require that the rules deal with health issues. Osskopp said that by requiring cigarette makers to develop fire retardant cigarettes, the companies might just put in chemicals to achieve the standard.

Jim Gould, a Washington D.C. attorney representing cigarette manufacturers, said if the law were approved, Minnesota cigarettes would need to be different from any other state. Gould said since the issue involved interstate commerce, any law would have come at the federal level.

## ★ TAXES

### A break for businesses

Each June, many Minnesota businesses see a one-month blip that can be an increase in their corporate taxes. The House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division heard two bills Feb. 8 that would eliminate this unique requirement.

Under current law retailers with at least \$120,000 in annual sales tax collections must pay 62 percent of their estimated June sales tax liability two business days before June 30. The rest of the year they are required to pay the taxes by the 14th of the following month.

HF184 sponsored by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) and HF338 sponsored by Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina) would eliminate the June accelerated sales tax payment effective for the June 2002 liability.

The division took no action on either bill but Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the committee chair, said both would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Abrams said the accelerated tax was established in the early 1980s when the state was facing budget shortfalls. The state fiscal year ends each June, and in order to move more money into the current fiscal year the payment from merchants was shifted.

Businesses are penalized if they estimate their tax incorrectly, paying less than they actually owe. Jack Mansun from the Department of Revenue said 10 to 12 percent of filers pay a fine each year.

"This was a very bad piece of tax policy," Abrams said. He said the 2000 omnibus tax law lessened some tax burden on state retailers by eliminating the accelerated payment requirement on excise taxes and reducing the percentage due on sales and use tax from 75 percent to 62 percent.

The cost of either bill over the next biennium is estimated at \$145.2 million in fiscal year 2002 and \$10.7 million in fiscal year 2003. Officials from the Department of Revenue testified that cost estimate might change depending on the state's February revenue forecast.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said since there would be such a large one-year cost that perhaps it would be appropriate to use the state's budget surplus to ease the transition.

In proposing similar legislation in previous years to the leadership in both parties in the House and Senate, Abrams had suggested using budget surpluses to pay the cost but that admittedly the June accelerated sales tax was seen as an "unsexy item" to address.

He said eventually Minnesota will need to address its accelerated payment requirement if it wishes to participate in a nationwide attempt to create a more universal sales and use tax system simplifying the calculation, reporting, and payment requirements for vendors.

### Industry leaders speak out

Individuals representing some of the state's communication industries united in opposition to the governor's tax plan during a hearing Feb. 14.

Continued on page 27

# Energy deliberations

Three bills focus on conservation and renewable sources in Minnesota

BY THERESA STAHL

**E**mphasizing conservation and modern energy sources, three bills proposing new energy legislation were introduced to the House Regulated Industries Committee Feb. 12.

In order to meet capacity shortages, several organizations have created plans that underscore energy efficiency, affordability for low-income customers, renewable energy sources, and customer choice in selecting energy suppliers.

Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville) is the chief sponsor of all three bills heard by the committee he chairs.

The POWER (People Organized for Workers, the Environment and Ratepayers) Campaign bill (HF492) calls for energy efficiency by promoting conservation, exploring renewable energy sources, such as wind power and advanced fuel cells, and modernizing power plants to maximize their use and retain jobs. It was presented to the committee by Bill Grant, executive director of the Midwest office of the Izaak Walton League.

"Existing power plants are among our most valuable assets," Grant said. The bill would exempt plants that pledge to convert to cleaner fuels from the personal property tax, and it would set caps on emissions.

Between efficiency, renewables, modern technologies, and repowered plants, the campaign estimates 300 megawatts of new energy capacity.

"There is tremendous potential for these sources" to meet growth over the coming years, Grant said.

The POWER campaign also addresses affordability for consumers, which includes negotiating payment plans that would prohibit disconnections during extreme heat or cold with certain customers.

"Nearly two-thirds of Minnesotans who want energy assistance cannot get it," said Ron Elwood of the Legal Services Advocacy Project, a part of the campaign.

The POWER bill seeks no general tax dollars.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**William Grant, director of the Midwest Office of the Izaak Walton League of America, speaks about energy issues in front of the House Regulated Industries Committee Feb. 12.**

The plan from the Department of Commerce weighs most heavily on conservation. "If you don't have to use energy, that's the best plan of all," said Ann Seha, director of energy policy for the department.

HF659 would form a statewide energy plan to encourage public participation in conservation and take advantage of modern energy technologies, especially those that have no fuel costs once in use, Seha said.

In its effort for conservation, the bill further requires utilities to share the statewide conservation goal and "demonstrate achievement in compliance plans and progress reports."

Funding for modern energy technologies includes \$500,000 each year from a Renewable Development Fund at Xcel Energy. Monies would go toward locating power generation closer to where the need is, reducing stress on

transmission and distribution systems, and reducing the need for new large generation plants, according to the proposal.

Linda Taylor, commissioner of the department, said the plan would be developed and implemented one year from now and would be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission for approval.

"We have a strong emphasis on conservation first, and building later," she said.

The third bill is proposed by the members of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, which has consistently supported competition among energy suppliers, according to Bill Blazer, senior vice president of the chamber.

The chamber's bill (HF710), therefore, "gives the customer the opportunity to choose their generator of electricity," Blazer told the committee.

Customer choice is one of two policy changes the bill would require. The other would streamline regulatory requirements related to long-distance transmission, while local distribution would remain regulated.


States are moving to competitive energy options, for other reasons than price, Blazer said. One of the chamber's goals, however, is to retain Minnesota's below-average energy pricing position among the states.

Blazer said customer choice would have three positive effects: incentive to conserve energy, competition prompting new energy generation, and to trigger technological innovation.

"When there is tension between supply and demand, businesses get creative as to how to market more conservation," he said. "Under regulation, the incentive just isn't there."

Blazer said chamber members have continually supported a measure for customer choice over the past four years, the last poll having been taken in July 2000.

Legislators so far have shaken their heads at deregulation, fearing a path that might lead them to a situation like California's, where they are facing an energy crisis.

Wolf said he will soon be introducing a fourth energy bill that would encompass qualities of the other three. He said the committee will consider all the bills over the next few weeks. 



# More to be done

Proposals would expand eligibility for prescription drug assistance beyond increased benefit in 2000

BY MARY KAY WATSON

**T**wo bills that would make more people eligible for Minnesota's prescription drug program are being proposed in the House.

Rep. Jim Abeler's (R-Anoka) bill (HF13) would expand eligibility by eliminating the requirement that persons must be 65 years old and by raising income eligibility from 120 to 150 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

In addition, it would establish a sliding fee schedule requiring participants with incomes between 120 and 150 percent of the guidelines to share in the cost of the program by paying a monthly deductible.

In 2000, federal poverty guidelines were set at \$8,350 for a single person and \$11,250 for a family of two.

If the bill passes, these provisions would take effect July 1, 2001. Money to pay for the anticipated increase in enrollees would be appropriated from the general fund.

The House Health and Human Services Policy Committee heard presentations Feb. 13 and recommended that the bill be passed, referring it to the Health and Human Resources Finance Committee.

"I believe this is a move in the right direction," Abeler said. "There will always be a cut-off point. There will always be a person who doesn't quite make that mark."

A similar bill, HF222, authored by Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids), differed primarily in that it would increase the income limit to 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines. Koskinen authored the original senior drug bill in 1997.

HF222 was sent to the finance committee without recommendation.

Several people testified for both bills.

"On behalf of all seniors I want to thank you for the senior drug program," said Alan Timm of Coon Rapids. "I believe raising the income standards would be most helpful. Seniors also need to be reassured that this program will continue."

Minnesota's prescription drug program, enacted in 1997, was implemented in 1999



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**White Bear Lake resident Judy McLeod, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, gives emotional testimony about the high cost of prescription drugs during the Feb. 13 meeting of the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.**

with a \$4 million annual appropriation. It is supervised by the state Department of Human Services and administered by the counties.

The program has been amended twice to increase participation and expand the funding level. The 2000 Legislature amended the program to include people with disabilities, which was to be effective July 1, 2002.

Along with age, income, and residency requirements, enrollees must meet specific asset guidelines.

To qualify, a single person may have assets of up to \$10,000, and a married couple may own \$18,000 in assets. A home, car, and pre-paid burial fund up to \$1,500 are exempt. The bills before the committee do not change these guidelines with one exception. Koskinen's bill would increase the burial fund to \$8,000.

The need for the program has been well

documented. Surprisingly, enrollment has been much lower than the anticipated 12,000 persons, according to Kathleen Henry, director of Health Care Eligibility and Access in the Department of Human Services. An enrollment of 2,111 in January 2000 increased to 5,657 in January 2001.

"My generation is not used to asking for help," said Doug Davis, advocacy coordinator for the Minnesota chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). "We like to think we can take care of ourselves."

Marge Jamieson, a member of the Minnesota Board on Aging, said she thinks many people who might be eligible are discouraged from signing up by the age, income, and asset guidelines. She said about 20 percent of the 11,000 people who called the board about drug costs last year were eligible but didn't know it.

Davis said outreach should be more specific and probably needed to be done at the county level. Currently, outreach for the program includes brochures, posters, radio announcements, and the "Senior LinkAge Line," an information service.

Both bills also make the prescription drug program available to Medicare enrollees who are under age 65 a year earlier than existing law provides.


This would also apply to people with a disability.

Joel Ulland, from the Multiple Sclerosis Society, said the group supports the change in both bills from July 1, 2002 to July 1, 2001 as the effective date of coverage for people under age 65 with disabilities.

"Access to prescription drugs is vitally important to people with MS," Ulland said. "One of the largest barriers has been that Medicare doesn't pay."

Christine Grui, a resident from Lexington, said her medications for multiple sclerosis cost \$2,500 per month. No longer able to work, Grui, a former nurse, said she is afraid of what could happen if her husband were to lose his job.

Judy McLeod, a former nurse from White Bear Lake, said her monthly prescription cost for multiple sclerosis is \$1,535. She said she spends more on drugs than on groceries.

According to Ulland, Grui would qualify under Abeler's bill and McLeod would qualify under Koskinen's bill. 



# Crystal ball

Former White House technology director challenges lawmakers to provide support for advances that are only 10 years away

BY THERESA STAHL



Technologically speaking, how far into the future can you imagine?

Can you imagine being able to immediately identify a body at a crime scene by the victim's DNA? Can you imagine a hearing aid that could tell you when it was safe to cross the street,

which restaurant was just up the road and what the dinner special was that night?

Duncan Moore says these things may be possible by the year 2010.

Moore was the first guest speaker in the 2001 Capitol Forum Series that began Feb. 8. The series, designed for legislators and legislative policy staff, is presented by Minnesota Technology, Inc., and the McKnight Foundation. However, due to bad weather and a late session of the House many legislators were unable to attend the Feb. 8 speech.

Moore, the former associate director of technology for the White House Office of Science and Technology, spoke to those gathered about new technologies, their effect on the economy, and the technology issues in the future.

"Technology is moving so fast, and we don't have the time, the money or enough people to work" to satisfy the pace for the future, he said. It is up to government to supply the monies for technology, he added.

This year the federal government allocated \$43 billion for technology. The funding supports fundamental research, including that at universities.

"There has to be a good pathway for researchers (professors) at universities," Moore said. "The state plays a critical part."

A strong research infrastructure is needed to handle the ethical, legal, and societal implications of technological advances and to continue the workforce in education and training for new technologies, he said.

"We are concerned about ethical implications with technology," Moore said. The trade-offs can be a lot of good, but they can also bring a lot of harm.

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***"Technology is moving so fast, and we don't have the time, the money or enough people to work."***

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***—Duncan Moore***

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In the past few years, we have created things that are economically driven, Moore said. "We took social needs of the country and figured out how science and technology can support them."

Looking forward to 2010, Moore stretched imaginations and rhetorically asked audience members how technology could aid humans to improve lives.

In crime technology, he asked, how can we use Global Positioning Systems to trace former criminals?


Technology for successful aging could make great advances, helping people live 10 years longer. One way technology could aid the elderly is in the winter, which can be difficult for

older people, especially for those who can't drive. What if, Moore asked, a person could call a bus, and knowing that it would take them 10 minutes to get to the bus stop, have the bus call their house when it was 10 minutes away?

Despite the great advances we could make in technology, none of it will be possible without skilled people. "There is a huge workforce problem," Moore said.

He reported that the number of people in the United States graduating with electrical engineering degrees is one-half of what it was in 1987. Comparatively, parks, recreation, leisure, and fitness majors have tripled in the last 30 years. He said many students think, "If unemployment is so low, why major in something hard?" History has shown the only time many people choose more difficult majors is when the country is in recession.

Moore also expressed concern for the anticipated major shortage of kindergarten through eighth-grade teachers. In three years the country will need to replace 2.2 million (or two-thirds of) teachers. Yet the nation's colleges and universities are only generating 120,000 teachers each year, and statistics show that 40 percent to 50 percent are not teaching one year after they have graduated. The subjects in most need of teachers are science and math, especially now, Moore said.

Moore asked "Where are we going? In 2010?" He left legislators much to consider as they lead the state toward a more technologically advanced future. 

## Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

**Information, House**  
175 State Office Building ..... 296-2146  
**Chief Clerk of the House**  
211 Capitol ..... 296-2314  
**Index, House**  
211 Capitol ..... 296-6646

**TTY, House** ..... 296-9896  
**Toll free** ..... 1-800-657-3550  
**Information, Senate**  
231 Capitol ..... 296-0504  
**TTY, Senate** ..... 296-0250  
**Toll free** ..... 1-888-234-1112

**Secretary of the Senate**  
231 Capitol ..... 296-2343  
**Voice mail/order bills** ..... 296-2343  
**Index, Senate**  
110 Capitol ..... 296-5560

# On a rural mission

Marquart vows to consider how every issue affects rural Minnesota

BY THERESA STAHL

Rep. Paul Marquart (DFL-Dilworth) compares his experience as a legislator to that of a college student.



Rep. Paul Marquart

"Being a rural legislator, and being away from home is kind of that same feeling as living in the dorms when you were in college," Marquart says, only this time he's living in a hotel.

The committees he and other legislators serve on are much like sitting in class, he said.

"I am a teacher, yet I'm a student down here," says the former Dilworth mayor and social studies teacher. "Every night I go home and do my homework."

Marquart said he plans to spend most of his "class time" promoting and educating others on issues that affect non-metropolitan parts of the state.

"I look at every issue that comes up as to how it effects rural Minnesota," he said.

While he will focus mostly on education and agriculture, Marquart says he will also advocate affordable housing and incentives to create new jobs and new businesses in rural areas, lowering prescription drug costs for senior citizens, and campaign finance reform.

The committees on which Marquart serves reflect his areas of concern: Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy, Education Policy, and Higher Education Finance. He said the only committee he requested but was not assigned to was agriculture.

Marquart's top concerns in education pertain to declining enrollment, he says. Between September 1999 and September 2000, nine of the 11 school districts in his House district lost enrollment, totaling more than 300 students.

"The governor is asking school districts to be more accountable, to look at achieving higher quality standards, and a lot of districts are just looking at how to survive and move on to the next year," he said. "It's going to be

difficult to retain the high quality, much less improve it."

Schools in Marquart's district have had to cut their language and industrial technology programs. Elementary classrooms are growing from class sizes of 20 to 25 students, he said. "It's starting to erode at the quality of our education."

Marquart points to a struggling agriculture economy as another circumstance that's hurting rural areas in Minnesota. He has pledged to support permanent agricultural property tax relief and promote policy supporting the small family farmer.

He sees potential for diversifying products

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*"I have the best of both worlds. Teaching and working with youth one-half of the year, and setting policy for the state to improve the quality of life for rural Minnesota."*

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—Rep. Paul Marquart

such as ethanol and soy and wants to promote their uses statewide. Marquart said he is aware of agricultural needs that reach higher than the state level.

"A lot of concerns in agriculture and the lower commodity prices certainly are federal problems, but there are some things to do as a state," he said.

It is important for legislators across the state to be aware of rural issues, Marquart said.

As examples, he cited the development of affordable housing, creating incentives for businesses and new jobs, and bringing high-speed Internet access to remote areas of the state.

"Legislation needs to be flexible in state law as to how can it apply to various areas and communities in the state," Marquart said.

He also stressed the significance of bipartisan ship. "It's important that Democrats and Republicans work together on rural Minnesota issues."

Marquart speaks with knowledge about politics from his 11 years as the mayor of Dilworth, a small town near Moorhead. During his time as mayor he worked closely with Ken Parke, Dilworth city administrator, who says Marquart will be missed.

"People didn't feel like they were losing him, but just representing them in another way," Parke said of when Marquart won the election.

Parke describes Marquart as very personable, someone who always promoted the positive. "When people had concerns he always followed through," he said. "He spent a lot of time improving the quality of life in Dilworth. He's a person that doesn't sit for very long."

Marquart's love for government, leadership qualities, and his background as mayor and in teaching government make him an excellent politician, Parke said.

"He's a political figure that was actually sincere about the things he was saying," he said. "Everybody knows he's going to be hard to replace."

Marquart says he misses his family — wife Colleen and daughters Lindsey, 14, and Ashley, 9 — but running for state representative was a decision they made together. In fact, Marquart said one of the reasons he didn't

pursue the position earlier is because he felt his children were too young, but "now they understand what's going on."

Now, Marquart wants to focus on crucial issues that are important to rural Minnesota and will return to Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton to teach each fall. "That's something I would never want to give up."

"I have the best of both worlds," he said. "Teaching and working with youth one-half of the year, and setting policy for the state to improve the quality of life for rural Minnesota."

## DISTRICT 9B

**1998 population (estimate):** 33,669

**Largest city:** Breckenridge

**Counties:** Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, and Wilkin

**Location:** northwestern Minnesota

**Top concern:** "Declining enrollments and long-term erosion of our high quality of education."

—Rep. Paul Marquart

# History maker

First female African-American legislator brings community concerns to the Capitol

BY MARY KAY WATSON

Election Day 2000 was fraught with tension for many — politicians and voters alike. But for one Minnesota woman and her constituents in District 61B, it was an historic and celebratory day. Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls) was elected to the Legislature: the first African-American woman to serve there.



Rep. Neva Walker

“It’s not about me,” Walker said. “It was a community win. Everyone has taken ownership of it.”

Walker sees herself first and foremost as a community organizer. She has worked on issues of affordable housing, youth organizing, and neighborhood development.

She has especially enjoyed opportunities to work with people with developmental disabilities. “That’s something I cherish,” said Walker, whose 7-year-old family member was born with Down’s syndrome.

“I believe in hands-on learning,” she said. “I don’t necessarily believe what other folks tell me.”

Walker never intended to run for the Legislature. But an experience demonstrating with homeless people at the Capitol galvanized her. “The reception here wasn’t that friendly” during the rally, she said.

That encounter motivated her to examine the state government more closely. When Walker learned that there had never been a black woman legislator in Minnesota, she was “so disappointed” that she tried to find someone to run for office. No one came forward, so she decided to do it herself.

“I firmly believe there shouldn’t be a distinction between community work and political work. Now I have the opportunity to combine the two.”

“Community” could be Walker’s middle name. Her mother, Clarissa Walker, has been program manager for Sabathani Community Center in south Minneapolis for more than 30 years.

“I’m a community baby,” laughed Walker, 29. She grew up in the Sabathani neighborhood and was one of her mother’s earliest and longest-serving volunteers. The center includes transitional housing and back-to-school assistance, a clothing shelf, holiday assistance, tax service, a garden, and a food shelf that serves between 1,000 and 1,500 people a month.

“My mother is the person from whom I’ve gotten most of who I am,” said Walker. “The two men in my life — my father and my grandfather — focused on family first, and my mother did the community stuff.”

Walker’s 13-year-old son Shae, an eighth-grader at Minneapolis Green Central, takes her

disparities and racial profiling. She also hopes to study diversity issues in education — not only in Minneapolis, but throughout the state.

“Being a black woman, I definitely have an interest in communities of color,” Walker said, “but I also see the correlation between communities of color and towns in Greater Minnesota. They wonder, ‘Are our schools going to stay open?’ and we wonder, ‘Will we get teachers of color?’”

She said her involvement in community issues has been her best preparation for the Legislature. “Folks think you need a master’s degree, or to be a lawyer or teacher or some other profession to be a legislator. You don’t,” Walker said. “All you need is compassion for the community, a determination to learn, and a commitment to work.”

She wants to involve young people of all ages in the political process in an informal, non-threatening way. She encourages students to visit her at the Legislature on Fridays, or she will go to their classrooms.

*“I firmly believe there shouldn’t be a distinction between community work and political work. Now I have the opportunity to combine the two.”*

—Rep. Neva Walker

new job at the Legislature in stride. His main concern is that she help pass laws to get rid of smoking and drinking.

In addition to volunteer work, Walker has worked for the Jordan Neighborhood Association, Family and Social Services, and The United Way. She received her education in sociology at the University of Minnesota.

Her introduction to the Legislature has been both exhilarating and exhausting. She said it didn’t take long to discover the most important characteristic a new Legislator needs: a sense of humor.

She has enjoyed getting to know her freshmen peers — both DFL and Republican. “We’re all different. Realistically, we all have personal agendas and district agendas. As someone who comes from a social service background, I have more of a tendency to give dollars to social services. I know the work they do.”

“I don’t promote living off the government, but there’s a role government has in assisting families to be as self-sufficient as they can.”

In addition to affordable housing, issues of importance to Walker include educational

She said a young man recently told her “stay healthy and fight because we’re so happy you’re there.”

People have high expectations of Walker because of her unique position. “I remind people that I’m in a quadruple minority: my party’s in the minority, I’m black; I’m a woman; and I’m under 30. Let’s be realistic.”

## DISTRICT 61B

**1998 population (estimate):** 32,120

**Largest city:** Minneapolis

**County:** Hennepin

**Location:** south central Minneapolis

**Top Concern:** “I want to involve community in every aspect of the Legislature: encouraging them to come and visit me, to take historic tours, sit in on committees, watch the action on the floor, come in and testify, and e-mail or phone their legislators.”

—Rep. Neva Walker

# Carrying on

Wasiluk brings family tradition of public service to Legislature

By JONAS M. WALKER

Rep. Scott Wasiluk (DFL-Maplewood) brings with him a proud heritage of political activism that runs through generations of his family's history.



Rep. Scott Wasiluk

His paternal grandparents hail from Belorussia, now Belarus, a country in central Europe, formerly part the U.S.S.R that gained its independence upon the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Wasiluk's grandfather left his ancestral homeland at the age of 21, escaping the Russian Czar's 1911 draft efforts. He abandoned his family's landholding past, accepting the fate to be wrought by his own hands in the the United States. He first arrived in Minneapolis by way of Canada.

His marriage was arranged between the Russian communities in the Twin Cities and Detroit. His bride even hailed from the same area in Belorussia. The couple moved to St. Paul and had a son, Wasiluk's father, in 1917.

Wasiluk's parents were closely involved in Twin Cities progressive politics in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. They worked on Hubert Humphrey's campaigns, and introduced their children to the DFL party. When Wasiluk's father passed away, his mother carried on in his position on the Maplewood City Council.

Wasiluk's sister, Sandy Dicke, is now an assistant sergeant-at-arms for the House. She says family ties profoundly influenced the younger Wasiluk. "I taught him everything he knows about politics and ice skating."

Looking back, she remembers her brother as a bright, adept athlete, especially proficient at hockey and tennis. She also recalls that Wasiluk was known for his forgetfulness. "Once, he made it all the way to International Falls for a hockey tournament with only one skate," she said, smiling.

Wasiluk brings his educational and scien-

tific backgrounds to bear on his new duty representing the people of District 55B. He grew up in Maplewood, and still lives in the district's largest city.

The Wasiluk family ties to their community run deeper than just the freshman legislator. Wasiluk's wife, Julie, currently serves on the Maplewood City Council, and their two children are enrolled in the public schools Wasiluk used to help administer.

Wasiluk brings nine years of experience on the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School Board to the Legislature. In three of those years, the North St. Paul High School alumnus chaired that body.

He says that "the policy aspects of schools

job is very different from the task of campaigning. Wasiluk's sister is confident her brother is up to the challenge. The character trait she most admires is his "willingness to devote the necessary time to public service."

As to his legislative priorities, Wasiluk is deferential to the work done by his predecessors, Bruce Vento and, more recently, Betty McCollum, who was elected to the United States House of Representatives in November 2000 to replace Vento, who passed away that summer.

Wasiluk says his priorities will surround "good communities, good schools." Asked about the relationship between the two, Wasiluk added, "Safe schools exist in safe communities. In my experience, collaboration and synergy made the schools stronger."

Citing his experience leading educational initiatives during belt-tightening eras, Wasiluk says he has learned to provide "more service with less" support and fewer resources. He gives the example of building new schools in his district with the help of local business lead-

*"Safe schools exist in safe communities. In my experience, collaboration and synergy made the schools stronger."*

—Rep. Scott Wasiluk

and school districts" form the basis of his public administration experience.

A University of St. Thomas graduate, Wasiluk's political experience began at an uneasy time for Democrats nationally. In 1980, Ronald Reagan was elected president and Wasiluk took a job as a page for former State Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood). "He was my senator," explains Wasiluk. "I was interested in government; good government, and policy."

Wasiluk works as a microbiologist at Boston Scientific Corporation, which manufactures medical equipment. He "coordinates studies to ensure that the process of sterilizing medical equipment is efficacious."

He describes his job as "rewarding," and plans to keep in touch with work during the legislative session.

As any first-time legislator will admit, the

ers and community organizers.

"The environment fits in there, too," he added.

He will have the opportunity to apply his scientific expertise in the pursuit of good government as Wasiluk was appointed to both the Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance committees.

## DISTRICT 55B

**1998 population (estimate):** 34,419

**Largest city:** Maplewood

**County:** Ramsey

**Location:** northern St. Paul suburbs

**Top concern:** "Good communities, good schools, these will be my highest priorities."

—Rep. Scott Wasiluk



## Monday, February 12

**HF745—Bishop (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
University Center Rochester health sciences center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF746—Bishop (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
University Center Rochester infrastructure improvement completed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF747—Dehler (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Farmed cervidae harvest permitted on licensed shooting preserves and money appropriated.

**HF748—Dehler (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District Nos. 486, Swanville, and 487, Upsala, cooperative secondary facilities grant provided, maximum grant amount increased, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF749—Dehler (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 748, Sartell, fund transfer authorized.

**HF750—Dehler (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 738, Holdingford, fund transfer authorized.

**HF751—Kuisle (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities tuition policy provided, and University of Minnesota tuition policy recommended.

**HF752—Rhodes (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
St. Louis Park local contributions for tax increment financing districts authorized.

**HF753—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Conservation angling licenses provided, and limits and fees specified.

**HF754—Mulder (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Enhanced 911 emergency telephone service signs and markers matching payments to local governments authorized.

**HF755—Dorman (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Solid waste management tax rates reduced and automatic adjustment provided for future years.

**HF756—Daggett (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Income tax deduction provided for specified governmental pension income.

**HF757—Mulder (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Trunk Highway 75 designated "King of Trails."

**HF758—Sertich (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Natural resources research institute grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF759—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
MinnesotaCare provider taxes repealed, cigarette and tobacco taxes increased, health care access fund eliminated, MinnesotaCare transferred to the general fund, and unfair cigarette sales act repealed.

**HF760—Osskopp (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
State patrol fine distribution modified, trooper training account established and fund uses specified, and money appropriated.

**HF761—Folliard (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Minnesota Family Investment Plan, (MFIP), education and training program provisions modified.

**HF762—Schumacher (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
American sign language/English interpreters and oral or cued speech transliterators requirements provided for employment by a school district.

**HF763—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Agribusiness investigative unit established in the Office of the Attorney General, support family farms license plates authorized and requirements provided, and money appropriated.

**HF764—Swapinski (DFL)**  
**Judiciary Finance**  
Hazardous materials emergency response/chemical assessment teams operation provided and money appropriated.

**HF765—Holsten (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Lottery ticket revenues dedicated for natural resource purposes increased.

**HF766—Holsten (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Omnibus environment and natural resources appropriations bill.

**HF767—Holberg (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Business discrimination provisions modified, and discretionary disclosure permitted during investigation.

**HF768—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
Educational program requirements provided for care and treatment facilities and money appropriated.

**HF769—Holberg (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Vehicular homicide repeat offender penalties enhanced.

**HF770—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
State board of education established, membership provided, and powers granted.

**HF771—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Age of eligibility to hold office lowered and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF772—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Prevailing wages required for state employees engaged in work on state buildings.

**HF773—Kielkucki (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Personal and dependent exemption income tax deduction provided.

**HF774—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
Energy independence for Minnesota goals and timeline provided, task force created and reports required.

**HF775—Boudreau (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Day training and habilitation service variance request mediation process established, rate structure pilot project provided, county responsibilities defined, task force extended, and money appropriated.

**HF776—Kielkucki (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Minnesota learning resource center grant provided for A Chance to Grow/ New Visions, and money appropriated.

**HF777—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Minneapolis police chief's appointing authority increased, and police department community services bureau abolished.

**HF778—Stang (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Motor vehicle sales and distribution unfair and illegal practices specified.

**HF779—McElroy (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Motor vehicle dealers; franchise transfers and objections to establishment or relocation of a franchise provisions modified.

**HF780—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Heating fuel costs of public post-secondary institutions reimbursed, and money appropriated.

**HF781—Hilty (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Commissioner of agriculture constitutional office created, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF782—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
DWI; electronic alcohol monitoring recidivism and conditional release violation rates study required.

**HF783—Stanek (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Deadly force definition modified relating to less lethal munitions used by peace officers.

**HF784—Bishop (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Metropolitan State University St. Paul campus library construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF785—Tingelstad (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
University of Minnesota Raptor Center lead poisoning in bald eagles research provided and money appropriated.

**HF786—Abeler (R)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Adults with disabilities community education programs monitoring and technical assistance provided, and funding levels ensured.

**HF787—Abeler (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Nursing home moratorium exception priority for Anoka area extended, and money appropriated for moratorium exceptions.

**HF788—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Children's mental health disorder prevention and treatment outcomes required, school pre-assessment teams role expanded to mental health reporting, school grants provided for developing mental health plans, and money appropriated.

**HF789—Davids (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Agricultural land definition modified relating to recreational trespass law.

**HF790—Davids (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Blufflands trail system requirements modified.

**HF791—Kuisle (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Dairy producer civil fine excess amount waiver granted and reimbursement provided.

**HF792—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Migratory waterfowl policy advisory committee established.

**HF793—Leighton (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Fillmore and Mower counties flood control retention ponds grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF794—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Rural revitalization board and commissioner of rural revitalization established, funding designated, and money appropriated.

**HF795—Johnson, S. (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Ramsey County project ReConnect grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF796—Davnie (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
Arsenic; school districts notified annually to treat wood treated with arsenic, school districts and charter schools prohibited from purchasing wood treated with arsenic without safety commitment, and money appropriated.

**HF797—Erhardt (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Minneapolis and Richfield Highway 62 reconstruction project restrictions imposed.

**HF798—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Civilian conservation corps worker statue provided and money appropriated.

**HF799—Osskopp (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Combat wounded veteran special motorcycle license plate authorized.

**HF800—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**State Government Finance**  
Camp Ripley Minnesota military museum operating funds provided and money appropriated.

**HF801—Kuisle (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Motorists required to move to left lane of highways when emergency vehicles are parked on the right shoulder.

**HF802—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Gitchi-Gami state trail development funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF803—Smith (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Legislature; requiring each bill introduced to be accompanied by a fiscal note.

**HF804—Smith (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Tenants; issuing a dishonored check for rent defined as theft.

**HF805—Smith (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Real property registration requirements provided and phased in.

**HF806—Smith (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Grandparent visitation rights provided and expanded, procedures specified, and mediation required.

**HF807—Swapinski (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Genetically engineered agriculturally related organism release requirement exemptions repealed.

**HF808—Dempsey (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Mississippi River Parkway Commission promotion of tourism and economic development along Great River Road provided and money appropriated.

**HF809—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Mass purchase of pistols or semiautomatic military-style assault weapons prohibited under most circumstances.

**HF810—Swenson (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Court administrators required to send notice of payment of judgements to specified credit reporting agencies.

**HF811—Swenson (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Rural hospital capital improvement grant and loan program established and money appropriated.

**HF812—Bradley (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Suicide prevention goals, programs, duties and studies required; mental illness transition plans established; provider payment rates adjusted; mental health services and treatment coverage requirements provided; and money appropriated.

**HF813—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Licensed mental health counseling board established, licensure requirements provided, rulemaking authorized, penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

**HF814—Winter (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Medical assistance hospital surcharge repealed and money appropriated.

**HF815—Fuller (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Alcoholic beverage concentration terms defined.

**HF816—Folliard (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
School counselor incentive grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF817—Howes (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Local government contract public bid requirements modified.

**HF818—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Medical assistance eligibility asset limitations modified relating to employed persons with disabilities.

**HF819—Kielkucki (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Wright County board authorized to rename a body of water.

**HF820—Erhardt (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Watershed districts authorized to increase levies for enforcement purposes.

**HF821—Abeler (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Abortion informed consent required and civil remedies provided.

**HF822—Abeler (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Light rail; commuter rail funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF823—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
School counselor demonstration site pilot program provided, and money appropriated.

**HF824—Winter (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales tax rate reduced.

**HF825—Peterson (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Bus purchase levy established.

**HF826—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Declining pupil unit aid increased and money appropriated.

**HF827—Stanek (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Capitol complex security technology purchase and installation provided and money appropriated.

**HF828—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Hennepin County employees granted disaster volunteer leave.

**HF829—Boudreau (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Local building department professional activity funds authorized.

**HF830—Slawik (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Ramsey and Washington county property owner personal information disclosure notice continued.

**HF831—Biernat (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Uniform parentage act (2000) adopted.

## Thursday, February 15

**HF832—Daggett (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Lawful gambling taxes reduced and reporting requirements modified.

**HF833—Walz (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Fishing contest held without a permit allowed an increased number of participants.

**HF834—Walz (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Triploid grass carp use permitted for aquatic vegetation control, rulemaking required, and criminal penalties imposed.

**HF835—Walz (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Crosslake city library grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF836—Walz (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 182, Crosby-Ironton, fund transfer authorized.

**HF837—Bradley (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Teacher leave extensions to teach at charter schools limited to single extension.

**HF838—Ozment (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Dakota County Rosemount highway shop construction materials and supplies sales tax exemption provided.

**HF839—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Dakota County Northern Service Center in West St. Paul construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

**HF840—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Mental health assessment required within 72 hours of referral.

**HF841—Dorman (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Lawful gambling tax rates reduced provided and reporting requirements modified.

**HF842—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, (IRRRB), board membership regulated.

**HF843—Haas (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Osseo public works facility and community center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

**HF844—Swenson (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Agriculture Department responsibility for inspection services on dairy farms defined, and cooperation required between Pollution Control Agency and Department of Agriculture.

**HF845—Hackbarth (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
All-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety training and youth operating provisions modified to include a riding component.

**HF846—Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
HIV/AIDS general education in the workplace funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF847—Entenza (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
HIV/STI education in schools funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF848—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Peace officers authorized to execute search warrants on foreign corporations to search for electronic evidence, Minnesota corporations to provide electronic evidence when served, and specified child pornography penalties enhanced.

**HF849—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Firearm and ammunition manufacturers required to provide shell casings and projectiles to commissioner of public safety, firearm ballistics identification system funded, and money appropriated.

**HF850—Mariani (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Ethanol plant odor control equipment grant provided to Gopher State Ethanol, and money appropriated.

**HF851—Walz (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
DWI; chronic offender pilot project treatment program created, courts authorized to require offenders to complete program, and money appropriated.

**HF852—Howes (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Motor vehicle filing fees modified and clarifying changes provided.

**HF853—Ozment (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
State park land acquisition provided and money appropriated.

**HF854—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
HIV; education and awareness activities in Greater Minnesota funded, and money appropriated.

**HF855—Mares (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
PERA; membership, allowable service, benefit calculation, employer reporting, contribution rates, amortization requirements, vesting, and refund provisions modified.

**HF856—Kielkucki (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Liability limited for specified non-profit corporations maintaining homes for dependent children, providing day training and habilitation services, or day services for children with mental retardation and related conditions.

**HF857—Kielkucki (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Election Day registration to require picture identification, additional registration information required, certain felony convictions reported, and rulemaking authorized.

**HF858—Erhardt (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Vending machine foods exempted from sales tax.

**HF859—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Knife River harbor of refuge and marina improvements provided and money appropriated.

**HF860—Marko (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Multimodal transportation fund established for highway and transit projects, motor vehicle sales tax revenue dedicated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF861—Hilstrom (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Life imprisonment without possibility of release sentence imposed for first degree murder of a child under the age of 14.

**HF862—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Privatization of public services procedures established, and public accountability provided.

**HF863—Hilty (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Aitkin County tax-forfeited land sales authorized.

**HF864—Ozment (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Cannon River joint powers board resource protection grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF865—Fuller (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Community service authorized in lieu of criminal fines under specified circumstances.

**HF866—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
St. Cloud area joint planning district plan transportation component development grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF867—Seagren (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Hennepin; suburban regional park district authorized to set commissioner compensation, boundaries clarified, open meeting law conformity provided, donations accepted, and joint powers agreements authorized.

**HF868—Abrams (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Patent rights and protections established, coverages regulated, carrier and provider duties specified, and remedies provided.

**HF869—Howes (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Municipal annexation of unincorporated land procedures and criteria provided.

**HF870—Erickson (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Snowmobile trail access grant-in-aid continuation required.

**HF871—Erickson (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
City purchases on credit cards authorized, and personal liability established for unauthorized purchases.

**HF872—Sertich (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

St. Louis County special purchasing laws repealed.

**HF873—Howes (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Hubbard County tax-forfeited land conveyance authorized free of the tax-forfeited trust.

**HF874—Opatz (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Legislative sessions limited to odd-numbered year, special sessions authorized by written agreement of the speaker of the House and majority leader of the Senate, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF875—Mares (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Health plans required to provide coverage for scalp hair prostheses in cases of cancer treatment.

**HF876—Jacobson (R)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Ramsey County single ICF/MR funding provided for field audit disallowances, and money appropriated.

**HF877—Bakk (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Specified solid waste transfer station project repayment obligations waived.

**HF878—Luther (DFL)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

District 287 Foundation grant provided to develop supportive housing to provide independent living opportunities for adults with disabilities and money appropriated.

**HF879—Jennings (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Rush City prison buffer zone land acquisition and building removal funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF880—Solberg (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 319, Nashwauk-Keewatin, additional levy authorized to finance library and community service project.

**HF881—Buesgens (R)****Education Policy**

State board of education established, elected state superintendent provided, education responsibilities realigned, and task force recommendations on resources and duties required.

**HF882—Opatz (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Urban growth boundaries established, Metropolitan Council review and approval required, and agricultural and open space preserved between metropolitan area and St. Cloud region.

**HF883—Johnson, S. (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Criminal justice data communication network use authorized for determining if civil commitment petitions as sexual psychopathic or sexually dangerous person should be filed.

**HF884—Stang (R)****Agriculture Policy**

Poultry producers provided mediation and binding arbitration options.

**HF885—Buesgens (R)****Taxes**

State tax share payments to counties with tribal casinos appropriation limit removed.

**HF886—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Immunization schedule established annually for persons enrolled in schools, child care facilities, or post-secondary institutions, and task force established.

**HF887—Leppik (R)****Transportation Policy**

Residential roadway redefined.

**HF888—Olson (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Health insurance uniform charges required and certain discriminatory charges prohibited.

**HF889—Solberg (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 318, Grand Rapids, school-based health center levy authorized.

**HF890—Kelliher (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Loring Playhouse in Minneapolis on-sale wine and malt liquor license authorized.

**HF891—Olson (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Lake Improvement districts; modifying percent of property owners necessary to petition for creation, termination or holding a referendum on creation.

**HF892—Kahn (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Mill City museum operation funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF893—Sertich (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Historic building revenue provided school districts and money appropriated.

**HF894—Osskopp (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Casino; card club wagering system definitions modified.

**HF895—Mahoney (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Temporary workers bill of rights enacted, and criminal and civil penalties imposed.

**HF896—Ness (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Summer school funding reinstated, basic skills summer school pupil units defined, and money appropriated.

**HF897—Sertich (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Arrowhead University Center development funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF898—Kelliher (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Malformed amphibian research grant provided to Pollution Control Agency and money appropriated.

**HF899—Olson (R)****Education Policy**

Textbook and instructional materials loaned to nonpublic school pupils content requirement modified.

**HF900—Slawik (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Counties required to give property owners the option of excluding their names from lists released for non-governmental purposes.

**HF901—Anderson, B. (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Voting provisions for overseas voters clarified.

**HF902—Lenczewski (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Gifted and talented revenue provided as ongoing component of general education revenue and money appropriated.

**HF903—Gerlach (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Obsolete statutes repealed restricting sale of wagon covers and similar items.

**HF904—Davnier (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Prohibition on possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon on school property modified to remove exemption for holders of a permit to carry a pistol.

**HF905—Haas (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Health insurer and health maintenance organization regulation simplified, small business health insurance task force established, and appointments provided.

**HF906—Schumacher (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Benton County Graves farm property purchase grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF907—Osthoff (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Prior service credit purchased for a specified teacher.

**HF908—Dehler (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Independent expenditures by political parties on behalf of their own candidates limited as a condition of receiving a public subsidy.

**HF909—Paymar (DFL)****Transportation Finance**

Ford Parkway bridge rehabilitation provided and money appropriated.

**HF910—Dempsey (R)****Education Policy**

Educational administrators board established, duties transferred, rulemaking authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF911—Pelowski (DFL)****Education Policy**

Soda pop sale or distribution prohibited in schools.

**HF912—Murphy (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Arson strike force sunset extended.

**HF913—Leppik (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Minnesota Project Innovation, Inc.; grant provided, and money appropriated.

**HF914—Kuisle (R)****Taxes**

Manufactured home parks property tax class rate reduced, and homestead and agricultural credit aid adjustment provided.



<p><b>HF915—Cassell (R)</b>  <b>Education Policy</b>  Pledge of allegiance required in all public schools.</p> <p><b>HF916—Erhardt (R)</b>  <b>Commerce, Jobs &amp; Economic Development</b>  Securities fees modified for certain securities issued by open-end management companies and unit investment trusts.</p> <p><b>HF917—Rhodes (R)</b>  <b>Health &amp; Human Services Policy</b>  Council of health boards established.</p> <p><b>HF918—Otremba (DFL)</b>  <b>Health &amp; Human Services Policy</b>  Alzheimer's Disease care facilities patient disclosures required, and money appropriated.</p> <p><b>HF919—Dawkins (DFL)</b>  <b>Health &amp; Human Services Policy</b>  Civil commitment definitions and procedures modified, patient rights specified, coverage and cost of care provided, voluntary consent procedures expanded, court records sealed, and money appropriated.</p> <p><b>HF920—Dawkins (DFL)</b>  <b>Civil Law</b>  Civil commitment court case captions required to refer to patient by initials and commitment court records sealed.</p> <p><b>HF921—Dawkins (DFL)</b>  <b>Crime Prevention</b>  Stolen property definition modified relating to leased property.</p> <p><b>HF922—Mares (R)</b>  <b>K-12 Education Finance</b>  Century College and Intermediate School District No. 916 agreements clarified, grant authorized, and money appropriated.</p> <p><b>HF923—Skoe (DFL)</b>  <b>Education Policy</b>  Repealing mandated three additional days of student instruction or staff development training.</p> <p><b>HF924—Nornes (R)</b>  <b>Health &amp; Human Services Finance</b>  Residential mental health grant program for facility upgrades established and money appropriated.</p> <p><b>HF925—Bakk (DFL)</b>  <b>Environment &amp; Natural Resources Policy</b>  Logging; master logger certification program developed, and money appropriated.</p>	<p><b>HF926—Goodno (R)</b>  <b>Commerce, Jobs &amp; Economic Development</b>  Uniform health care identification cards content and format modified, prescription drug information required on cards, and issuance requirements established.</p> <p><b>HF927—Kuisle (R)</b>  <b>Transportation Policy</b>  Motor vehicle sales tax proceeds portion dedicated to highway user tax distribution fund, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.</p> <p><b>HF928—Abeler (R)</b>  <b>Education Policy</b>  Health and safety program expenditures to include removal of architectural barriers for disabled access.</p> <p><b>HF929—Wenzel (DFL)</b>  <b>Taxes</b>  Vacant platted land assessment provided.</p> <p><b>HF930—Dawkins (DFL)</b>  <b>Governmental Operations &amp; Veterans Affairs Policy</b>  Elections; judicial retention elections, instant runoffs, "none of the above" vote, campaign jury, party caucus and primary date changes, absentee voting modifications, and tabulation equipment fund provided, and money appropriated.</p> <p><b>HF931—Cassell (R)</b>  <b>Taxes</b>  Nonpublic schools sales tax and motor vehicle excise tax exemptions extended to school districts.</p> <p><b>HF932—Swenson (R)</b>  <b>Commerce, Jobs &amp; Economic Development</b>  Regional sludge management demonstration project appropriated money.</p> <p><b>HF933—Gunther (R)</b>  <b>Commerce, Jobs &amp; Economic Development</b>  Farm implements and outdoor power equipment buyback requirements provided.</p> <p><b>HF934—Bradley (R)</b>  <b>Health &amp; Human Services Policy</b>  Alternative quality assurance licensing system project for programs for persons with developmental disabilities expiration date extended, requirements modified, and money appropriated.</p> <p><b>HF935—Goodno (R)</b>  <b>Health &amp; Human Services Policy</b>  Automatic external defibrillator; liability immunity for persons rendering emergency care clarified.</p>	<p><b>HF936—Finseth (R)</b>  <b>Transportation Policy</b>  World War II and Korean Conflict veterans special license plates authorized.</p> <p><b>HF937—Rhodes (R)</b>  <b>Education Policy</b>  Profile of Learning personal and family financial management area modified.</p> <p><b>HF938—Boudreau (R)</b>  <b>Taxes</b>  Faribault outdoor swimming pool construction materials and equipment purchase sales and use tax exemption provided.</p> <p><b>HF939—Howes (R)</b>  <b>Taxes</b>  Resorts; class 1c and 4c improvement materials and equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.</p> <p><b>HF940—Howes (R)</b>  <b>Taxes</b>  Homestead resort valuation and tax deferment provided.</p> <p><b>HF941—Erickson (R)</b>  <b>Agriculture Policy</b>  Federal rules adopted relating to pesticides, occupational safety and health, transportation, seeds, food and drugs, good manufacturing processes, drug and feed additives, and eggs.</p> <p><b>HF942—Abeler (R)</b>  <b>Health &amp; Human Services Policy</b>  Speech-language pathologists and audiologists licensure established.</p> <p><b>HF943—Walker (DFL)</b>  <b>Health &amp; Human Services Finance</b>  Health disparities across populations addressed by a statewide prevention program and money appropriated.</p> <p><b>HF944—Johnson, R. (DFL)</b>  <b>Health &amp; Human Services Policy</b>  Fair drug pricing; prescription drug program established and money appropriated.</p> <p><b>HF945—Bradley (R)</b>  <b>Governmental Operations &amp; Veterans Affairs Policy</b>  Proposed rule notices required to include a readable and understandable summary of the rules.</p> <p><b>HF946—Winter (DFL)</b>  <b>Taxes</b>  Motor vehicle rentals and alcohol sales special sales and use tax rates repealed.</p> <p><b>HF947—Winter (DFL)</b>  <b>Taxes</b>  Pork processing facility construction sales and purchases tax exemption extended.</p> <p><b>HF948—Winter (DFL)</b>  <b>Taxes</b>  Lawful gambling tax rates reduced and reporting requirements modified.</p>	<p><b>HF949—Rifenberg (R)</b>  <b>Commerce, Jobs &amp; Economic Development</b>  Newspapers; qualified papers serving small local public corporations requirements modified.</p> <p><b>HF950—Anderson, I. (DFL)</b>  <b>Transportation Policy</b>  Snowmobile use of highway rights-of-way provisions modified.</p> <p><b>HF951—Slawik (DFL)</b>  <b>K-12 Education Finance</b>  School district equity revenue increased.</p> <p><b>HF952—Solberg (DFL)</b>  <b>K-12 Education Finance</b>  Nonresident pupil transportation levy authorized.</p> <p><b>HF953—Fuller (R)</b>  <b>Crime Prevention</b>  Child abuse list of offenses modified to include violations from other states.</p> <p><b>HF954—Sertich (DFL)</b>  <b>K-12 Education Finance</b>  First-grade preparedness programs expanded, qualified property poor school district revenue designated, and money appropriated.</p> <p><b>HF955—Wasiluk (DFL)</b>  <b>Education Policy</b>  Students unable to read by the end of third grade prohibited from enrolling in fourth.</p> <p><b>HF956—Wasiluk (DFL)</b>  <b>Taxes</b>  Sales tax rate reduced.</p> <p><b>HF957—Gunther (R)</b>  <b>Jobs &amp; Economic Development Finance</b>  Minnesota computers for schools program appropriated money.</p> <p><b>HF958—Johnson, R. (DFL)</b>  <b>Taxes</b>  Elderly and disabled income tax deduction amount increased.</p> <p><b>HF959—Folliard (DFL)</b>  <b>Health &amp; Human Services Policy</b>  Chemicals; health risk value rules evaluation provided for chemicals emitted into the air.</p> <p><b>HF960—Milbert (DFL)</b>  <b>Taxes</b>  High school league tournament admissions exempted from sales tax.</p> <p><b>HF961—Wagenius (DFL)</b>  <b>Taxes</b>  Energy efficient products exempted from sales tax.</p>
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## MONDAY, Feb. 19

8:15 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes  
**Agenda:** HF111 (Krinkie) - carry over - Ethics code applied to executive branch constitutional officers, officers prohibited from engaging in outside work, and malfeasance definition expanded for purposes of recall.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno  
**Agenda:** Minnesota Department of Human Services overview of budget pages C-5 to C-295.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy  
**Agenda:** Review of Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's administrative costs and use of federal funds. Overview of current affordable housing plan.

### TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau  
**Agenda:** HF351 (Stanek) DWI; felony level driving while impaired offense established.  
HF101 (Dempsey) Port development assistance appropriation provided.  
Governor's budget spreadsheet presentation, John Walz, Fiscal Analyst.

10:15 a.m.

### CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith  
**Agenda:** HF375 (Kubly) Farm tractor clock-hour meter tampering prohibited, criminal and civil penalties imposed, and remedies provided.  
HF453 (Skoe) Discharge of judgments against bankruptcy debtors regulated.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten  
**Agenda:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: Remediation Fund and solid waste overview.

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** Mayo Medical Center budget request. Witnesses: Dr. Tony Windebank, Dean; Dr. David Agerter, Chair, Family Medicine Department. U of M Efforts to Spend Money Smarter.  
Witnesses: Mark Yudof, President; Richard Pfitzenreuter, Chief Financial Officer.

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** HF734 (Davnies) Relating to education finance; increasing funding for school lunches and breakfasts; expanding school eligibility for a fast break to learning grant; appropriating money.  
HF500 (Kielkucki) Relating to education; appropriating money for a teacher preparation program to educate teachers of students with emotional and behavioral disorders.  
HF555 (Finseth) Relating to education; authorizing a fund transfer for independent school district No. 628, Plummer.  
HF578 (Pugh) Relating to education; authorizing a grant to special school district No. 6, South St. Paul, for a full day kindergarten program; appropriating money.  
HF741 (Goodwin) Relating to education finance; expanding eligibility for the alternative facilities program to districts with older facilities.  
HF743 (Anderson, I.) Relating to education; providing for revenue for extracurricular activities; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 123B.  
HF816 (Folliard) Relating to education; providing for school counselor incentive grants; appropriating money.

### Sales and Incomes Tax Division/ TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder  
**Agenda:** HF569 (Molnau) Exempts certain purchases by counties for road and bridge maintenance from sales, use, and vehicles sales tax.  
HF469 (Abeler) Allows county agricultural societies to retain sales tax proceeds to fund improvements.  
HF588 (Swapinski) Exempts sales to Western Lake Superior Sanitary District.  
HF592 (Dorman) Decreases the non-mixed-municipal solid waste tax and repeals accounting and record-keeping requirements.  
HF755 (Dorman) Reducing the solid waste management tax rates, allowing for automatic future adjustments of these rates.

12:30 p.m.

### FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora  
**Agenda:** Food Assistance Program; Family Assets for Independence Program; Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grants; Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA).  
HF674 (Swapinski) A bill for an act relating to child abuse; appropriating money for child advocacy centers.  
Child Abuse Account.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey  
**Agenda:** HF172 (Mares) Mahtomedi authorized to provide housing assistance to get local daytime paramedic service. Continued Hearing.  
HF518 (Rhodes) St. Louis Park firefighters' civil service commission abolition authorized.  
HF665 (Kielkucki) Regional development commissions and other regional organization local planning assistance funding provided and money appropriated.  
HF817 (Howes) Local government contract public bid requirements modified.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf  
**Agenda:** Presentation by Patrick Wood, Chairman of the Texas Public Utilities Commission, on Electric Deregulation/Restructuring in Texas. Discussion and analysis of major energy proposals (HF492, HF659, and HF710) before the committee.

3 p.m.

### THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

7 p.m.

### Property Tax Division/TAXES

Edina City Council Chambers  
4801 W. 50th St.  
Edina, Minn.  
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt  
**Agenda:** HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill.

## TUESDAY, Feb. 20

8 a.m.

### Joint House TRANSPORTATION POLICY/Senate TRANSPORTATION

123 State Capitol  
Chrs. Rep. Tom Workman, Sen. Randy Kelly  
**Agenda:** Transportation issues, Congressman Jim Oberstar.

8:15 a.m.

### Joint CRIME PREVENTION/ JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. John Tuma, Rep. Rich Stanek  
**Agenda:** Department of Corrections: Presentation on Per Diem Reduction Plan.

### EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares  
**Agenda:** HF478 (Sykora) ADD; parents and providers required to evaluate programs prior to prescribing drugs to children with attention deficit disorder, educational neglect definition clarified, number of children affected determined, and money appropriated.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley  
**Agenda:** HF603 (Abeler) Council on disability sunset extended.  
HF405 (Koskinen) Patient health information data confidentiality provided, and release of health records to the state prohibited without patient consent.  
Other bills may be added.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment  
**Agenda:** Aggregate Resources Task Force Report.  
Rep. Tom Rukavina, Task Force Chair.  
Department of Natural Resources.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie  
**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.  
Testimony on: Section 11, proposed budget for Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning.

## **TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** Continuation of HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill - public testimony.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach  
**Agenda:** Overview of Department of Natural Resources asset preservation issues, CREP.

## **COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Greg Davids  
**Agenda:** HF560 (Goodno) Relating to health; providing patient protections.  
HF564 (Rhodes) Relating to housing; establishing a pilot program to improve neighborhoods by providing deferred low-interest loans; appropriating money.  
HF412 (Mulder) Relating to

housing; prohibiting the housing finance agency from excluding small-volume lenders from loan programs.

HF690 (Mahoney) Relating to consumer protection; prohibiting the tattooing of minors; providing an exception.

**4 p.m.**

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno  
**Agenda:** Continuation of Minnesota Department of Human Services overview of budget pages C-5 to C-295.

**5 p.m.**

## **REDISTRICTING**

Southwest State University  
Student Center West  
1501 State St.  
Marshall, Minn.  
Chr. Rep. Erik Paulsen  
**Agenda:** Rep. Marty Seifert: Welcome and opening remarks.  
Tom Gillaspay, State Demographer: Analysis of Minnesota's population shifts.  
Robin Anthony, Minnesota Secretary of State's Office: Local government redistricting timeline.  
Open microphone: Comments, questions and input from the audience.

**6 p.m.**

## **Joint House EDUCATION POLICY/**

**Senate EDUCATION**  
200 State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Harry Mares,  
Sen. Sandra Pappas  
**Agenda:** Joint hearing to meet and recommend University of Minnesota Regent nominees to be presented to a joint convention of the Legislature.

## **WEDNESDAY, Feb. 21**

**8:15 a.m.**

## **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes  
**Agenda:** Department of Administration overview.  
HFXXXX (Olson) Employees Right to Know.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno  
**Agenda:** Continuation of Minnesota Department of Human Services overview of budget pages C-5 to C-295.

## **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy (Vice Chair Rep. Bob Gunther will chair this meeting.)  
**Agenda:** Budget review:  
Worker's Compensation Court of Appeals;  
The Bureau of Mediation Services.  
HF331 (Abeler) Historic preservation grant program created and money appropriated.  
HF626 (Walz) Family homeless prevention and assistance program funding provided and money appropriated.

## **TRANSPORTATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau  
**Agenda:** Driver and Vehicle Services budget presentation, Brian Lamb, Director.  
Department of Public Safety Admin. and Related Services budget presentation; Frank Ahrens, Director.  
Office of Pipeline Safety budget presentation Tom Brace, State Fire Marshal; Charles Kenow, Administrator.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **CIVIL LAW**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith  
**Agenda:** HF369 (Bishop) Joint and several liability apportionment regulated.  
HF239 (Lipman) Real property ownership and application clarifications provided, Minnesota common interest ownership act modified, and torrens proceedings representation provided.  
HF243 (Dawkins) Trusts; uniform principal and income act modified, and antilapse law clarified.

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten  
**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources: Minerals overview and budget presentation; Water overview and budget presentation.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** DOER Health Insurance Plan Purchasing Overview.  
Witnesses: Dave Haugen, Assistant Commissioner, Employee Insurance Division.  
University of Minnesota Perspective on Health Insurance Plan Purchasing.  
MnSCU Perspective on Health Insurance Plan Purchasing.  
Witness: Bill Tschida, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, MnSCU.

## **K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth  
**Agenda:** HF362 (Westrom) Requires that diesel fuel sold in the state contain a minimum of five percent biodiesel fuel oil by weight.  
HF394 (Seifert) Repealing certain provisions regarding castrating certain animals running at large in towns.  
House Resolution 3 (Kielkucki) Recognizing the McLeod County Farm Family of the Year.

## **Economic Development and Tourism Division/COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE**

Tours  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora  
**Agenda:** Committee Off-site Tours: Lifetrack Resources; Winnetka Learning Center; Perspectives, Inc.; Hubbs Center.  
Vans depart northwest parking lot of State Office Building promptly at 12:15 p.m. Return to State Office Building at approximately 5:15 p.m.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey  
**Agenda:** Legislative Auditor: Program Evaluation Report, "Affordable Housing"  
Other business.

**1:30 p.m.**

## **Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/ LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens  
**Agenda:** Organizational matters. HF46 (Lipman) Comprehensive local planning local control reestablished, metropolitan land use planning and Metropolitan Council review of local comprehensive plans repealed, and conforming changes provided.

**7 p.m.**

## **Sales and Income Tax Division/ TAXES**

Dakota County Administration Center  
1590 W. Hwy. 55  
Hastings, Minn.  
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder  
**Agenda:** HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill.

## **THURSDAY, Feb. 22**

**8:15 a.m.**

## **EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek  
**Agenda:** Budget overview for the Department of Corrections.

## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman  
**Agenda:** HF132 (Haas) Traffic-impacted metropolitan city street account created in county state-aid

highway fund, and allocation provided continued.  
HF416 (Rifenberg) Hokah authorized to vacate roads if necessary due to extensive damage continued.  
HF672 (Hausman) Railroad bridge expansion financial assistance authorized.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Tuma  
**Agenda:** Legislative Auditor's Report on Chronic Offenders. Legislative Auditor's Report on District Courts.

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment  
**Agenda:** HF501 (Ozment) Conservation officer enforcement activity comparison prevented from use in performance evaluation.  
HF241 (Juhnke) Portable fish houses exempted from licensing requirements.  
HF242 (Juhnke) Fishing; use of two angling lines permitted.  
HF753 (Bakk) Conservation angling licenses provided, and limits and fees specified.

## **Property Tax Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt  
**Agenda:** HF158 (Gleason) Property Tax Refund - continued.  
HF212 (Gleason) Airport property.  
HF363 (McGuire) LGA for Falcon Heights.  
HF616 (Marko) LGA for Newport.

## **Sales and Income Tax Division/ TAXES**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder  
**Agenda:** HF773 (Kielkucki) Provides an individual income tax subtraction for personal and dependent exemptions.  
HF756 (Daggett) Allows an individual income tax subtraction for certain governmental pension income.  
HF233 (Fuller) Exempts ambulance services from motor fuel taxation.  
HF321 (Fuller) Exempting unmarked police cars from sales tax.  
HF622 (Fuller) Exempts construction materials and equipment for a BCA satellite

laboratory in Bemidji from sales and use taxes.  
HF607 (Skoe) Exempts certain agricultural equipment from the sales and use taxes.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie  
**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.  
Teachers Retirement Association; Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund;  
Local Police & Fire Amortization Aid;  
1st Class City Teachers State Aid.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach  
**Agenda:** Overview of Minnesota Housing Finance Authority.

## **REGULATED INDUSTRIES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf  
**Agenda:** Presentation by John Stauffacher, Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs of Dynegy, on regulatory concerns of independent power producers.  
**Note:** The Regulated Industries Committee is meeting in room 200 during the Commerce Committee's regular meeting time. The Commerce Committee will not be meeting at this time.

**3 p.m.**

## **THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

**7 p.m.**

## **Property Tax Division/TAXES**

Burnsville High School  
600 E. Hwy. 13  
Burnsville, Minn.  
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt  
**Agenda:** HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill.

## **FRIDAY, Feb. 23**

**8:15 a.m.**

## **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno  
**Agenda:** Continuation of Minnesota Department of Human Services overview of budget pages C-5 to C-295.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten  
**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources: Trails and Waterways overview and budget presentation; Parks and Recreation overview and budget presentation.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** MnSCU Board Level Administration and Management Legislative Study Overview.  
Witnesses: Judy Grew, Senior Management Consultant, Management Analysis Division, Department of Administration; Jim Jarvis, Management Consultant, Management Analysis Division, Department of Administration; Michael Vekich, Chair, MnSCU Board of Trustees.

## **K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**12 noon**

## **Property Tax Division/TAXES**

St. Cloud City Hall  
400 2nd St. S.  
St. Cloud, Minn.  
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt  
**Agenda:** HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill.



# Reflections

Three women who died within the past month made a direct and lasting impact on the lives of Minnesotans. They were strong advocates for some of the issues being discussed even today at the Capitol.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh, Timothy Olivia Vann, and Dale Evans all mapped new roads and charted new territory through their dedication and leadership in pointing the way for others to follow, in spite of personal setbacks.

Lindbergh was married to Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr. Although not the first to fly across the Atlantic, as some believe, Charles, from Little Falls, was the first to fly solo from New York to Paris.

In 1977, she played a major role in forming the Anoka-based Charles A. and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation to help balance conservation and the environment with technology. Anne, not a native of Minnesota, often attended foundation meetings, though she lived out of state.

On May 20, 1985, she and her daughter, Reeve, spoke at the dedication of the Lindbergh statue across from the Transportation Building on the Capitol complex. In spite of Anne's own successes, she and Charles coped with losing two of their six children, including their firstborn, who was kidnapped and murdered at the age of 20 months.

Vann moved to St. Paul from Oklahoma with 10 children in tow in the late 1950s. She lived in a large colonial home on Dayton Avenue where she raised the children, one grandchild, and was a surrogate mother to many in the neighborhood.



Anne Morrow Lindbergh

While her children pursued various ventures, Timothy waited until age 54 to achieve her master's degree in public administration and then go on to direct the Model Cities Health Center in St. Paul.

She made time to volunteer for civic and community organizations, while performing many church duties for the St. Paul Cathedral. She continued her dedication to helping others even after the tragedy of losing a daughter in a tragic fire.

Vann, who once was the only female on a Negro League baseball team, fought for race equity, less the com-

adequate and health talked to and testimerous at the the late e a r l y

Timothy Olivia Vann 1980s. A strong interest in health care kept her on the HealthPartners Board of Directors for 14 years.

The family was invited to the White House in 1983 to receive a Great American Family award from First Lady Nancy Reagan. That same year, they received the Saint Paul Urban League's annual Family of the Year award.

Close to 2,000 people showed up for her funeral at the cathedral as a testament to the impact she made on St. Paul.

Dale Evans is mostly remembered by those who were young enough to spend 10 cents at a Saturday movie to watch she and husband Roy Rogers gallop across the



Timothy Olivia Vann

screen after the bad guys. With Roy on his steed, Trigger, and Dale on her horse, Buttermilk, with sidekick Gabby Hayes alongside, they always demonstrated that good won out over evil. When the West-erns faded, they took their entertainment to America through television.

As "Queen of the West" Evans was a singer and songwriter who married Roy in 1947. Between them, they had nine children — one of their own, four by adoption, one by Dale's former marriage, two by Roy's, and one foster child.

The Rogers' also suffered personal tragedy through the deaths of three children: one from the mumps, one in a church bus crash, and one choked to death.

But Dale and Roy's strong religious beliefs gave them inspiration to continue to be role models for many people.

In 1975 Dale, Roy, Dusty Evans, their TV sidekick, Pat Brady, and the Sons of the Pioneers gave a rousing performance at the Minnesota State Fair. Dale also came to Minnesota in 1980 as the motivational speaker for a women's seminar in Bloomington.

All three women — Lindbergh, Vann, and Evans — made an unforgettable impact on Minnesota. A message to them may be summarized by the first line of one of the hundreds of songs written by Dale Evans: "Happy Trails To You."

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



Dale Evans

Photo of Anne Morrow Lindbergh copyright National Women's Hall of Fame Web site, Timothy Olivia Vann photo courtesy of the family, and the Dale Evans photo copyright of the Official Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Web site.

Continued from page 12

"It's a form of pin the tail on the donkey policy," Mark Anfinson of the Minnesota Newspaper Association told the House Taxes Committee. He was referring to what he thought was an arbitrary approach to what would be subject to the sales tax under the bill.

"It's a strange set of priorities that would inhibit the dissemination of information," he said.

HF511 sponsored by House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) would hit newspapers hard throughout the state, Anfinson said. The bill would eliminate the sales tax exemption on publications, add tax onto circulation services and advertising, and lead to collection problems.

He said under the proposal newspaper carriers would now be tax agents and the newspaper vending boxes would have to be redesigned in order to be capable of collecting the sales tax.

Stephen Bergerson, a Minneapolis attorney speaking on behalf of the Minnesota Communication Industry Coalition, said the industry is one of the largest and fastest growing business sectors in the state. He said Minnesota publishing, printing, advertising, film, and other communication-related companies employ more than 200,000 people and generate around \$17 billion in annual revenue.

Bergerson said the sales tax expansion on

those industries would result in major advertisers such as BMW, L.L. Bean, and United Airlines pulling their business from Minnesota advertising agencies. He said the resulting loss in business would mean the state's big firms would relocate, and midsize and small agencies would either shrink or fold.

"Every single state which has ever had an advertising services tax, and that includes Arizona, Maryland, Florida, and Iowa, have quickly repealed it. Every single one of the other 40 states including, not incidentally, New York, Illinois, California, and Texas that have considered it have rejected it," Bergerson said.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Minnesota Occupational Projections 1998-2008

Total number of jobs projected for Minnesota in 2008 .....	3,196,670
Total number jobs estimated in 1998 .....	2,761,900
Resulting number of new jobs .....	434,770
Percent increase .....	16
Percent growth from 1988 to 1998 .....	23
Number of jobs projected to be available by 2008 to new workforce entrants and re-entrants, due to the retirements .....	650,000
Projected number of new jobs in service industry .....	236,432
As a percent of all new jobs .....	54.4
Largest area (business services) in new jobs .....	89,558
Second largest (health services) in new jobs .....	46,136
New jobs in trade industries by 2008 .....	86,685
Largest area (retail) in new jobs .....	67,204
Projected number of new jobs in manufacturing .....	31,594
Largest area (durable goods) in new jobs .....	17,742
Projected new jobs in finance, insurance and real estate by 2008 .....	27,282
New jobs in transportation, communications, and public utilities by 2008 .....	21,034
Projected number of new jobs in self-employment outside of agriculture .....	12,362
New construction jobs by 2008 .....	11,578
Projected decrease in agricultural, forestry and fishing jobs .....	6,194
As percent of 1998 industry workforce .....	8
Projected decrease in mining jobs .....	1,724
As percent of 1998 industry workforce .....	21
New jobs for projected fastest growing occupation (computer systems analysts) between 1998-2008, .....	32,169
Retail salespersons new jobs (second fastest) .....	13,777
Cashiers new jobs (third fastest) .....	12,259
Lost jobs for fastest projected declining occupation (farmers) between 1998-2008 .....	5,560
Lost jobs for second fastest declining occupation (farm workers) .....	1,987
Lost jobs for typists and word processors .....	1,448
State unemployment rate 1998, as percent .....	2.5
Unemployment in 2000, as percent .....	2.7

Source: Minnesota Department of Economic Security, Minnesota Statewide Occupational Projections, November 2000.

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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

FEBRUARY 23, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 8

In this issue:

COSTS OF FELONY DWI

AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HEALTH RECORD PRIVACY, AND MORE

HF962-HF1143

# Session Weekly

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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5  
Business • 5  
Children • 5  
Crime • 6  
Education • 6  
Elections • 7

Employment • 8  
Environment • 9  
Government • 9  
Higher Education • 10  
Human Services • 11  
Industry • 11

Law • 12  
Recreation • 12  
Safety • 13  
Taxes • 13  
Transportation • 14

### FEATURES

**At Issue:** Government — A plan requiring Minnesota's constitutional officers, including the governor, to demonstrate that secondary employment opportunities are not a conflict of interest heads to the House floor. • 15

**At Issue:** Health — State officials and medical researchers are discussing access to patients' medical records for research purposes. • 16

**At Issue:** Housing — A Legislative Auditor's report shows that housing prices are climbing faster than salaries, vacancy rates are low and rents are high, prompting officials to find a way to help those who struggle most to find adequate housing. • 17

**At Issue:** Local government — House members are considering several measures that would exempt local units of government from having to pay sales taxes on their purchases. • 18

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Who's in charge	4	Reflections: Ann Bancroft and Liv Arnesen	27
Bill Introductions (HF962 -HF1143)	19	Minnesota Index: 2001 state official salaries	28
Committee Schedule (Feb. 26-March 2)	23		

**On the cover:** Carolyn Shafer, 12, from Girl Scout Troop 1341 stops to observe an exhibit in the Rotunda on Women's Day, Feb. 19. The exhibit recounted acts of violence against women in Minnesota.

—Photo by Sara Kirk



# Footing the bill

Legislators examine the price tag at both state and local levels associated with a felony drunken driving penalty

By **JONAS M. WALKER**

**A**cting on an initiative that has disappeared and reappeared in the Legislature for years, lawmakers are considering making a fourth drunken driving conviction within 10 years a felony.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) has sponsored a bill (HF351) that provides a maximum penalty of up to seven years in prison and up to a \$14,000 fine, or both.

But the major point of derailment for instituting a felony drunken driving sentence is not the policy; it's trying to anticipate the cost.

During the 2000 legislative session, "four-in-10" provisions passed both the House and Senate, but died in conference committee amid lingering concerns about the cost of prosecuting and incarcerating many new felons. Gov. Jesse Ventura had threatened to veto any measure that did not include sufficient cost information and support.

Dave Johnson (DFL-Bloomington), gave its final report in October.

Stanek said his bill echoes a number of the group's conclusions. For example, the group concluded "there is a real need to impose stayed sentences that provide sufficient incentives for the offender to choose treatment and supervision." Stanek said that, faced with the prospect of three years behind bars, offenders would likely choose intensive treatment.

Although Stanek's bill includes no appropriation, the bill is estimated to cost \$5.4 million in FY 2003, a figure that could increase to more than \$13.6 million by FY 2005.

However, the Department of Finance said the material fiscal impact will depend upon how judges actually sentence drunken driving offenders.

The bill has cleared two House committees so far, including the House Crime Prevention Committee, and most recently, the House

Transportation Policy Committee on Feb. 19. Under the bill, a DWI violation is classified as a felony if a person has three prior convictions, in addition to the current violation, within 10 years of the first conviction.

Existing law for first-time drunken driving offenders provides a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail, a \$700 fine, and a drivers' license suspension for at least 30 days. A driver could face gross misdemeanor charges if their blood-alcohol

concentration exceeds .20 or if a child is in the vehicle. Although both criminal and administrative penalties, such as license revocation, become more stringent for repeat drunken driving offenders, current law

does not allow felony convictions.

Under HF351, courts would not be allowed to stay the imposition of a felony sentence, but would have the option of staying its execution. In other words, judges would have discretion as to whether a convicted drunken driving felon spent his or her entire sentence behind bars.

Specifically, a convicted drunken driving felon could leave prison before completing two years if he or she successfully completes a chemical dependency treatment program while incarcerated. Drunken driving felons could be released as soon as 10 months after being placed in prison if they agree to a work release program.

Dennis Benson, deputy commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Corrections, previously said his department is prepared to meet the additional burden of incarcerating DWI felons. They would likely be housed at Faribault or Moose Lake prisons, where chemical dependency treatment programs already exist.

Most of the additional funds for felony DWI would be required for the housing, treatment, and protection of incarcerated drunken driving offenders in state prisons. According to 1998 Department of Public Safety data, approximately 1,400 drunken driving offenses would be eligible for felony-level conviction under the proposed bill. Of those, 550 offenses would be committed by drivers, who had already been convicted of at least four DWIs.

According to Sentencing Guidelines Commission information provided in the fiscal note for the bill, "If 15 percent of offenders received an executed prison sentence and 10 percent of those on probation were eventually revoked to prison, 326 to 613 prison beds would be needed." The range reflects early release options.

However, the same publication calls those figures "conservative" and notes judges still have the option of staying the execution of a sentence, a judgement resulting in a 180-day jail sentence that would fall to local jurisdictions.

Similar measures providing felony penalties for repeat drunken driving offenders have met with opposition from local jurisdictions that fear being overburdened by what amounts to an unfunded state mandate — Minnesota creating a felony that counties and cities fund.

Agencies have attempted to address that concern, but have been unable to provide concrete numbers. For example, the Supreme Court concluded "additional administrative staff time and courtroom security (are)



PHOTOS BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Paul Scoggin, representing the state County Attorney's Association, speaks about the fiscal impact of HF351 during the Feb. 19 House Transportation Finance Committee meeting.**

Stanek also sponsored the 2000 felony DWI initiative.

Instead of creating a felony DWI, the conference committee mandated a statewide study. The DWI working group, chaired by Stanek and Sen.



required to process felony cases." It identified those as "local government costs," but declined to make an actual estimate.

Judges may at first execute relatively few sentences, only to render more stringent penalties as offenders collect felony convictions.

Assuming that judges will become increasingly likely to execute the sentences of felonious drunken drivers, the number of needed beds could increase to 1,500. Predicting this figure is more likely to coincide with the actual effects of the new law, the commission noted imprisonment rates for other crimes carrying mandatory minimum penalties are "significantly higher than 15 percent."

The same report also cited the novelty of treatment-initiated early release programs as a factor contributing to the difficulty of predicting the number of beds needed. Currently, Minnesota does not have a broad early release mechanism for offenders who complete treatment while in prison.

In total, the Department of Corrections estimates that it will need to hire almost 170 full-time equivalent positions (FTEs) by fiscal year 2005 to appropriately guard, supervise, and treat felony drunken drivers. Other agencies estimate they would need 20 FTEs, including one person to manage additional felony appeals for the state Attorney General's office, which handles most felony appeals in Greater Minnesota.

Elsewhere, the Department of Public Safety estimates that State Patrol appearances to testify in the prosecution of DWIs will cost \$27,000.

The bill now moves to the House State Government Finance Committee, which will likely take up the matter in early March.

The Senate companion file, SF264, sponsored by Sen. Johnson has been approved by that body's Crime Prevention Committee. The Health and Human Services and Corrections Division of the Senate Finance Committee is now set to hear the matter. 🐾



**David Rosini, convicted of criminal vehicular homicide, gives emotional testimony in support of HF351 during the Feb. 8 House Crime Prevention Committee meeting.**

IT'S A FACT



## Who's in charge?

### 150-year-old U of M not always run by Legislature-appointed regents

On Feb. 25, the University of Minnesota will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Chartered before Minnesota was even a state, the school is patterned after state universities in surrounding states, but today stands unique among those other schools for its governing structure.

Minnesota was still a territory in 1851, with its current borders on the east, north and south, and the western border extending clear to the Missouri River. Nevertheless, other territorial governments in Michigan, Iowa, and Wisconsin had chartered universities, and Minnesota's territorial leaders would follow suit.

Territorial Gov. Alexander Ramsey petitioned the U.S. Congress for a land grant of 100,000 acres to establish the university. He, and several others who lobbied for the school, fancied an institution not unlike giant schools in the East such as Harvard.

Congress granted 46,080 acres on Feb. 19, 1851, and the territorial legislature acted to charter the school about a week later. Ramsey signed the act Feb. 25.

The Minnesota charter established five areas of study for the school to concentrate on: science, literature, and the arts; law; medicine; agriculture; and the theory and practice of elementary instruction.

The university began a preparatory school Nov. 26, 1851, with 20 pupils, charging between \$4 and \$6 per quarter, depending on the curriculum.

Michigan was the first nearby state to charter a university, doing so as a territory in 1817. The Territory of Wisconsin chartered its university in 1838. And the University of Iowa was founded on the same day as Minnesota, Feb. 25, but four years earlier in 1847. That was 59 days after Iowa became a state.

None of the other states began college classes for several years after passing the initial laws chartering the universities.

Though these upper-Midwestern states all followed suit holding education high among its esteemed principles, they went their own ways as far as university governance was concerned. Each has a board of regents, but those boards are compiled in varying ways.

In the 1851 charter, the University of Minnesota would be governed by a board of 12 regents, elected by joint convention of the Legislature. The state constitution confirmed the charter.

Today, regents are elected the same way. Minnesota is one of only a handful of states where the legislature elects regents.

However, in both Wisconsin and Iowa, the boards are larger, govern all state colleges and universities, and are appointed by the governor. In Michigan, regents are elected by voters in the general election.



**Meeting of the Board of Regents in President Northrop's office, University of Minnesota, 1889.**

At one time, Minnesota's board was appointed by the governor. According to Theodore Blegen, the reorganization act of 1860 eliminated selection by joint legislative election and provided for a board of eight members — the governor, lieutenant governor, university chancellor (later president), and five people appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The reorganization act was prompted, in part, by financial difficulties during the economic downturn of 1857. The school would close during the Civil War years.

In 1864, a new organization act named three men as regents of the university, according to Blegen. They were then-Gov. John Pillsbury, O.C. Merriman, a Minneapolis lawyer, and John Nicols, a St. Paul merchant. Under their guidance, the university's preparatory school turned around its debt, and reopened in 1867. College-level classes began in 1869.

Blegen's accounts of the Board of Regents history don't specifically account for further restructuring. However, another dispute over the board's authority in 1928 uncovered the fact that the governor had appointed the regents serving at that time.

It presented a sticky situation, but a state attorney general, wrote Blegen, argued that the governor was acting within the bounds of the 1851 charter. He had appointed the current members, who could legally hold office until the next Legislature appointed a new board.

(M. KIBIGER)

### Clarification

In the Feb. 16 issue of *Session Weekly*, stories in the highlights section may have created some confusion regarding the party affiliation and hometown of Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls). The information provided here is correct. We apologize for any inconvenience.

★ **AGRICULTURE****What time is it?**

Lawmakers are seeking to penalize people who tamper with "clock-hour meters." Such gauges register the amount of time a farm implement, such as a combine, has been in operation.

This information is analogous to the mileage recorded by an automobile's odometer, and can determine the resale value of some equipment. By disconnecting clock-hour meters or altering the time displayed, sellers of farm equipment can inflate the value by making equipment appear newer than it actually is.

Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) is sponsoring HF375, which would prohibit knowingly tampering with, changing, or disconnecting a meter. The bill provides for a criminal penalty of gross misdemeanor. It also provides a civil remedy of at least \$1,500 for people harmed by such tampering. The penalties are identical to those of people convicted of tampering with automobile odometers.

The House Civil Law Committee approved the bill and referred it to the House Crime Prevention Committee.

Rodney Skalbeck, a farmer from Sacred Heart in west-central Minnesota, told a Feb. 19 meeting of the Civil Law committee of his experience buying a combine that he discovered had an altered clock-hour meter. He said he was defrauded into buying an older combine that was prone to breakdown and could find no legal recourse.

"There should be a law against this," Skalbeck said. "Combines cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. The farmer you save (from fraud) could be raising your food."

The measure was met with opposition from the farm equipment sales industry.

Jerry Schoenfeld, representing the Farm Implement Dealers Association, said the proposed legislation could unfairly hurt farm implement dealers. "Farmers themselves tamper with these meters," he said.

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) pointed out the new law would prohibit "persons" from tampering with the meters and would include in the definition of "person" both individuals and businesses.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) also expressed disaffection with Schoenfeld's testimony. "It seems to me that dealers would want

to be protected as everyone else would. They are buying more combines than anyone."

★ **BUSINESS****Prohibiting tattooing of minors**

Elizabeth McCullough, tattoo artist for Acme Tattoo, said a woman recently came into her store with her 13-year-old son to get a tattoo on his neck.

She testified Feb. 20 before the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Committee that she is concerned about parents having the ability to allow their young children to make permanent decisions about their bodies.

"With parent's permission, anyone can tattoo their 13-year-old, a 5-year-old, an infant,"

McCullough said. "It is not protecting the individual or tattooist."

McCullough supports HF690, sponsored by Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul), that would prohibit tattooing of minors. The bill is "to help parents in making decisions at the right time," he said.

Rita Bosquez, who works with youth of all ages, said a person's priorities and values change dramatically as they get older. Teens may "seriously regret changes as their lives unfold and develop," she said.

"Teens of today face a unique situation — tattoos are accepted in that age group, and they are easy to get," Bosquez said.

Under HF690, tattooists must require photo identification showing the person is 18 years of age or older. A civil penalty of \$500, plus attorney fees and the cost of removing the tattoo is associated with the bill.

Bosquez noted that tattoos cannot be completely removed.

Committee members began discussing penalties of the bill, then decided those should be negotiated in the House Civil Law Committee, where the bill is headed next.

★ **CHILDREN****Aid to youth**

The House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee heard testimony Feb. 19 supporting a bill that would boost the funding for children's advocacy centers.

HF674, sponsored by Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth), would appropriate money from the state's general fund to the Department of Children, Families and Learning for grants for these centers. The bill does not specify a dollar amount, but Swapinski said they are looking for a total of \$600,000.

The bill was laid over by the committee for possible inclusion in its omnibus bill.

"Every day I have the awesome responsibility of listening to children who have been hurt," said Patty Matejka, executive director of First Witness Child Abuse Resource Center in Duluth.

The Legislature first mandated programs to help abused children in 1987, but the programs vary widely in scope.

Children's advocacy centers, such as First

**FREE-RANGE FARMER**

PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Mike Noble, who produces organic dairy and free-range hogs and beef near Kenyon, testifies for continued funding for organic and sustainable farming during a Feb. 20 hearing of the House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee.**

Witness, take a comprehensive, coordinated approach using a multidisciplinary team of experts in child protection, medicine, mental health, and law enforcement, among others.

Interviews are held in a safe environment, according to Mike Schultz, a sergeant with the Duluth Police Department. "We are seeking the truth in a child-friendly manner."

Carolyn Levitt, director of the Midwest Children's Resource Center at Children's Hospital in St. Paul, said advocacy centers "bring together the commitment and talents of people who work in different agencies for the welfare of the child."

She said the Midwest is "a bit behind" the rest of the country in establishing such centers. So far, funding for the three centers in Minnesota has been a patchwork of appropriations from the U.S. Department of Justice, counties, and state grants.

"We are trying to get the state to help us help our kids," said Matejka. She said the center's staff and their board spend too much time trying to raise money.

"We are struggling to stay open," said Rip Rapp, board member for First Witness. "We are up to our ears writing proposals for grants."

John Laux, former Minneapolis police chief and a board member of Cornerhouse in Minneapolis, said the center interviews more than 500 children a year who are victims of sexual abuse.

"The typical child sexual abuse victim is a 7-year-old girl," he said.

Mark Rubin, assistant St. Louis County attorney, said the centers are needed and valuable because of their team approach.

"These are gifted and dedicated people who treat children with respect and dignity," Rubin said. "When children leave these centers, they are empowered."

## ★ CRIME

### Cutting corrections costs

Officials from the state Department of Corrections plan to reduce the daily cost of housing inmates in the state's prisons by at least \$10 per day by the end of the current fiscal year and a total of \$20 in the future.

They presented their plan for accomplishing this goal to a joint meeting of the House Crime Prevention and Judiciary Finance committees Feb. 20. As a result of the plan, Commissioner Sheryl Ramstad Hvass said the department will not ask for more funding in its budget, even though inmate populations are expected to keep rising during the next several years.

The department hired national consultants,

funded by a technical grant from the National Institute of Corrections, to recommend ways of cutting per diem costs. Of the 38 items the consultants recommended, officials say 35 of them are already being accomplished in whole or part, and the rest are not feasible for Minnesota's prison population.

A committee, consisting of corrections officials and others, was then formed to develop a strategy for reducing per diems.

The plan would reduce per diem costs from an average of \$87.19 per day, to \$77.78 by June 30, 2001, to \$68.72 "in the future." Minnesota has typically been in the top three states nationally, Ramstad Hvass said. The department goal is to be out of the top 10.

"My goal is within three years," she said.

Ramstad Hvass and Deputy Commissioner Dennis Benson outlined several ways the department plans to reduce the numbers.

Cost reductions will come from several places: increasing numbers of inmates per facility, reducing staff via attrition, absorbing growth, and utilizing developing resources.

Ramstad Hvass said the department is leaving vacant positions unfilled and reassigning management and others. She anticipates eliminating or reassigning up to 190 positions in the department that employs about 4,000 people.

Benson said very few would result from layoffs.

Several members were concerned that services would be reduced as a result of the cost reductions. Both Ramstad Hvass and Benson said they don't want to compromise safety or services.

"There have been no wholesale cuts in programs," Benson said. "We have diluted some programs." He continued, saying they plan to better utilize existing resources.

Ramstad Hvass said officials are trying to strengthen the services offered inside the prison with those on the outside so there's some continuity.

"We're starting to think about pre-release plans on day one of incarceration," she said. "Prison is not necessarily the healthiest place for rehabilitation but we're doing a lot to change the culture and focus on the programs that work."

## ★ EDUCATION

### Ritalin use debated

Marilynn Pavlak, a former elementary teacher of nearly 26 years, says parents often asked her if medication such as Ritalin, a prescription drug used to calm children who are abnormally hyperactive, was appropriate for their child. More often than not, she would say no, but said that some teachers see it as a "godsend."

"I have seen a huge misuse of it in the classroom," Pavlak told the House K-12 Education Finance Committee Feb. 20.

She has been questioned by single parents and by families where both parents were working, many of them looking for an "easy fix," she explained.

Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) has introduced a bill (HF478) requiring parents,

## CLASSROOM SESSION



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Members of the Education Policy Committee listen to St. Paul Schools Superintendent Pat Harvey, center, during a Feb. 15 tour of John A. Johnson Achievement Plus Elementary School in St. Paul.





**Bob DeBoer of New Visions Charter School in Minneapolis testifies in front of the House Education Policy Committee Feb. 20 about a bill that would require parents and providers to evaluate programs prior to prescribing drugs to children with attention deficit disorder.**

education providers, and health care professionals to first evaluate alternatives to prescription drugs when a child has been diagnosed with attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

"This is to look at other options before using drugs as first option," Sykora said. "I know for many parents that Ritalin has been their child's savior ... but I also know parents that would pull their child from school before putting them on drugs."

"The traditional approach is to use medication," said Bob DeBoer, founder of New Visions Charter School. For behaviors like ADD and ADHD, he said, "We need to look at the causes before deciding what is best treatment," and suggested examining food and nutrition.

Children using Ritalin, DeBoer said, don't feel the joys of success or frustrations of life. They can experience emotional and behavioral problems, and people on Ritalin for a long time have higher rates of suicide and depression, he said.

A second provision in the bill says, "A parent's refusal to consent to a special education evaluation of the parent's child ... does not constitute educational neglect."

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) argued that under this provision, parents could refuse any assessment for their child.

"Why do you want to draw this so broadly?" he asked. He said it excludes assessment for any type of emotional problem that a child might have if their parent is in denial.

"I don't want parents getting coerced into something they don't want to," Sykora replied. Entenza put forth an amendment to delete the added language in the bill's second section. Sykora agreed to withdraw the bill and attempt to clarify the second section.

Lastly, the bill would appropriate \$50,000 for the state's education department to collect statistics on Minnesota students diagnosed with ADD or ADHD currently taking prescription drugs such as Ritalin. It would also reveal the number of students who have not received an ADD or ADHD diagnosis but are taking such drugs.

The Coalition for Children with Disabilities submitted a letter to the committee, stating the study would not produce accurate numbers, because many students take their prescription drugs at home, not at school. The study would not reveal whether other interventions have been tried and would not give information to show whether schools are "pressuring parents to obtain prescriptions," the letter says.

The committee tabled the bill.

### **School maintenance funds sought**

In an effort to expand qualifications for schools to receive additional funds for deferred maintenance of their buildings, Rep. Barbara Goodwin (DFL-Columbia Heights) sponsored a bill (HF741) that would make about 40 more districts eligible.

Currently, a district qualifies if it has at least 1.85 million square feet of building space and its average building age is at least 15 years. Under this bill, about 20 large school districts fit the requirements.

HF741 would amend current statute to allow districts with more than 500,000 square feet of space with an average building age of at least 30 years to qualify for the program.

During the House K-12 Education Finance Committee Feb. 19 legislators expressed frustration with what is presently in law and acknowledged Goodwin's bill as a step in the right direction.

Goodwin said average-size districts with older school buildings should qualify for funds for maintenance costs.

Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) said it is a major dilemma for the education community, especially for rural schools that in many ways cannot meet the requirements. "We really have to do something in this area," he said.

To obtain funds for the deferred maintenance costs, districts must either use capital account money, or, more commonly, go to voters for a local levy. If the bill passes, it could cost \$39 million statewide in levies, and \$2.5 million from state aid.

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) said there are two things wrong with the bill. First, "it encourages districts to keep old buildings in their register," and, for example, use them for storage. Secondly, it doesn't account for small schools that have less revenue and fewer resources. "It doesn't look at the big picture," Ness said.

Goodwin disagreed, saying the bill supports local accountability. "It is local control," she said.

The committee took no action, but Goodwin said if the bill is approved by the House Taxes Committee, it also has to be approved by the House K-12 Finance Committee. If it became law, it would be effective in 2003.

## **ELECTIONS**



### **Granny D leads reform**

Ninety-one-year-old Doris Haddock went for a walk in Pasadena, Calif., on Jan. 1, 1999, and didn't stop walking until she arrived in Washington D.C. 14 months later.

Haddock, known to many as "Granny D," sought to bring attention to her strong belief that the country is in need of campaign finance reform.

At a Feb. 16 joint hearing of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee and the Senate Elections Subcommittee, Haddock said reform is needed because it takes "great amounts of money" to win an election in a system that is corrupt.

"We're letting our democracy slip slide, slip slide away," she said.

With two children, eight grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren, Haddock said the best legacy she could leave would be to help turn things around so the nation could get back to being "a true democracy."

Originally she wanted to complete her walk in 12 months but as her journey got more attention, she was asked to speak more about her cause. Along the way she wore out four pairs of shoes, meaning she got about 800 miles per pair.

On her journey she learned that those who say nationwide low voter turnouts are due to people not caring about politics are off base. She said people told her they didn't want to "vote for a bunch of crooks."

"Politicians are not crooks. It's the system that is crooked," she said.

The committee also heard testimony from two Maine lawmakers. In 2000 that state established a voluntary full public financing option for candidates who agree to not take private funds.



Doris "Granny D" Haddock, 91, is applauded for her effort walking across the country in support of campaign reform during the Feb. 16 House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee meeting. Also testifying on clean campaigns at the hearing were Sen. Ed Youngblood (R-Maine), left, and Rep. Bill Norbert (D-Maine)

Sen. Ed Youngblood, a Republican, ran against a 16-year incumbent. He said abiding by the state's "clean election" law forced him to run a focused campaign that included as much face to face contact with the voters as possible.

"The more doors you knock on, the more eyes you look at, the better off you will be," he said.

Rep. Bill Norbert, a Democrat, said volunteering to not take any "soft money" was a "limiting but liberating" experience. He said the public financing program cost Maine taxpayers less than \$1 million for the 2000 elections.

Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), the House committee chair, said having an open process is important so that people have confidence that the system is fair.

"There is nothing wrong with being a politician. It's a very noble thing to do," Rhodes said. "Hopefully having open and above the board elections will inspire young people to go into the profession."

## ★ EMPLOYMENT

### On-site drug testing

A bill that would permit employers to conduct on-site drug and alcohol testing drew many questions and strong reactions at the Feb. 15 House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Committee meeting.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), the sponsor of HF701, explained the bill does not change existing law but would allow drug testing to take place on a job site instead of in a lab, where testing is currently required to take place.

"This is using modern technology to take care of a formerly cumbersome process," he said.

Forty states allow on-site drug and alcohol testing by employers, 11 of them having recently approved the new method.

Product manufacturers for a testing cup that screens for drugs and alcohol testified at the meeting about the product's reliability. The cup, which has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is one of several products that could be used by employers.

Several representatives from railroad organizations opposed the bill, saying there is very little trust between employees and supervisors in the industry and such a test may be used against them.

Stan Daniels, of the United Steelworkers Association, said the bill would violate basic labor agreements. He said he would not oppose a bill that restricted industries, such as mining, from on-site testing.

Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) offered that the language in the bill could be written so permission for on-site testing would not automatically be included in employee contracts.

"I don't want to unilaterally put something into their contracts," Bakk said.

Due to a time constraint, deliberations about the bill are scheduled to continue Feb. 27.

Committee Chair Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) suggested to Gunther that before the bill comes back to the committee he should amend it in consideration of the issues brought up at the meeting for northern Minnesota industries such as railroads and mining.

### Political contributions

Employees belonging to particular organizations that advocate or financially support political candidates would be notified of their option to withhold their own funds if they don't support the candidate, under a measure sponsored by Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake).

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee heard the bill (HF1027) Feb. 21 and will further discuss it at later hearings.

Olson said the bill requires a membership organization to notify its members of their rights to reduce their dues by the percentage amount the organization uses for political purposes. If the members give written notice, they are entitled to a refund of dues.

George Hawkins, executive director of the Minnesota Chapter of the Association of Builders and Contractors, said the National Labor Relations Act already provides that every employee has the right to join a membership organization, such as a union.

Hawkins said what is not widely recognized is the act also provides that employees have the right not to join a union. He supports HF1027 because it is "a matter of fairness and a matter of information."

"No one can be compelled to participate in a political organization or support a political cause or candidate against his or her will," Hawkins said.

Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield) said currently consumers finance political



activities by purchasing products from corporations that later spend money on political causes and candidates. He said he was concerned the bill would limit workers' rights.

"This would be an extreme limitation on the political voice of labor unions and working people," Gleason said.

He offered an amendment that would exclude organizations that exist for the purpose of collective bargaining or for dealing with employees concerning grievances or terms or conditions of employment.

Olson did not support the amendment because it would "gut the bill."

He agreed with Gleason that workers' rights are eroding but said the bill would restore some of those rights by informing people where their dues are being spent.

The amendment failed by an 8-8 vote.

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### Conservation clock ticking

A program that would improve water quality and reduce pollution in the Minnesota River basin is working against the clock. To achieve its goal, the Minnesota River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program must receive funding this year from the Legislature.

"This is a project we can't allow to be stagnant for the next year," said Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), who has sponsored a bill (HF532) that would provide funding for the program.

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is requesting an appropriation of \$51.4 million, a combination of bonding and general fund monies, to leverage \$98 million in federal funding.

"It's urgent for the state to complete its investment to fully leverage federal funds," Ron Harnack, executive director of the board, told the House Capital Investment Committee Feb. 20.

So far, the state has appropriated \$30 million dollars that have been matched by \$65 million in federal funds. The deadline for obtaining the additional federal funds is September 2002.

The goal is to buffer a total of 100,000 acres of marginal cropland in a voluntary, mutually beneficial partnership between the state and landowners. Thirty thousand acres of conservation easements in the Minnesota River basin have already been enrolled.

Cleaning up the Minnesota River is a huge undertaking. According to the board, it is one of the most polluted rivers in the country, largely due to agricultural runoff. Most of the runoff comes from floodplain areas, riparian lands (those adjacent to river banks), and

drained wetlands.

In removing this land from production, significant benefits are anticipated. Among these are:

- reductions in phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment;
- retention of soil;
- reduced disaster assistance;
- habitat improvement;
- carbon sequestration; and
- increased tourism and recreation.

Landowners are paid a percentage of the assessed value of eligible land. In exchange, they set up a conservation plan that will maximize water quality and benefit wildlife.

"It's a program that's hard to beat," Harnack said. "It's forever." He said 99.99 percent of the easements are permanent.

The program is supported by 37 counties and 61 organizations, including The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, Minnesota Corn Growers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Its support in the Legislature crosses party lines.

"This is truly a bipartisan effort," said Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Wells). "One of the few."

### Less cash for trash

Two bills that would reduce the tax rate charged to municipalities for residential and commercial solid waste disposal services were heard in the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division Feb. 19.

The measures, HF592 and HF755, are sponsored by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea).

In 1989 the state imposed a 6.5 percent sales tax on garbage collection. Three years later a solid waste fee of 20 cents per cubic yard on landfilled and processed waste was created.

In 1997 a single solid waste management tax was created to replace the existing tax and fee. Dorman said the new tax was intended to be revenue neutral and raise around \$44.5 million per year, or the same total of the two old revenue sources.

Instead, he said, the amounts collected have exceeded what was forecast. In 1999 the tax raised more than \$49 million and it is projected that in 2001 the tax will generate in excess of \$54 million.

HF592 would reduce the tax rate on residential mixed municipal solid waste disposable services from 9.75 percent to 8.5 percent. Commercial mixed municipal services would see a rate reduction from 17 percent to 15 percent.

HF755 would reduce the rates even further — to 7.2 percent on residential services and 12.8 percent on commercial services.

Lisa Thorvig, a deputy commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, said the agency opposes both bills.

Thorvig said Gov. Jesse Ventura would soon introduce a comprehensive environment tax reform proposal that is contingent on the current solid waste management tax rate.

Since the amount of tax is determined by the amount of waste disposed, Thorvig said the bills would encourage those who are not practicing good environmental habits.

"Those producing increased waste should not be rewarded with a decreased tax," she said.

The committee took no action on either bill but Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the division chair, said both would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### Permanent rules move ahead

The full House will soon vote on the Permanent Rules of the House, approved Feb. 21 by the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

A revised version of the rules was presented to the committee by Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) who has also been working with the Senate to compile the Joint Rules used by both bodies.

Changes to the rules are primarily technical, Tuma said, with a few exceptions. One significant change would require that each of the finance committees in the House have its own omnibus bill, in an effort to avoid combining multiple topics.

A bill from the 2000 session, dubbed by some as the "garbage bill," raised attention because it combined several topics — including health and human services, environment, criminal justice, agriculture, jobs, government, and economic development — into one bill.

"This is intended to avoid the 'omnibus, omnibus' bill scenario we had last year," said Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), committee chair.

Another change would clarify what Tuma said is already House procedure regarding budget targets set by the House Ways and Means Committee. The change states that the budget resolution will set maximum limits for net expenditures, rather than revenues and expenditures, since the definition of net expenditures includes revenues.

Other changes involve committee jurisdiction over particular bills. For example, many bills affecting government must go before the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee. In an effort to streamline the process, Tuma proposed the committee be allowed to review a bill in the possession of another committee. The governmental operations committee will then offer

its recommendations and if the committee in possession of the bill accepts the recommendations in total, it would not have to be officially heard in the committee.

Another change requires bills ultimately having an impact on capital projects, or bonding, to go through the House Capital Investment Committee. Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud), chair of that committee, gave the example of the Hiawatha light rail project where cash was appropriated for planning and preliminary purposes, but bonding was required for the project.

He said the full committee never had an opportunity to approve the overall plan.

Absent from the proposed rules was any change to the rule governing offensive language in speech and debate. During the 2000 session, a controversy arose due to some language on the floor between two members and several members felt the remedy provided by the rule is inadequate.

The House Ethics Committee met to recommend new language, but it was not incorporated into the new rules.

Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) said there's no remedy to the problem and no guarantee that a similar situation won't occur in the future.

Both Pugh and Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) suggested the method for objecting to language be clarified and archaic wording regarding how the offensive language is recorded be eliminated.

No amendment was offered.

## ★ HIGHER EDUCATION

### Regents recommended

A quintet has been recommended to serve on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

Before a Feb. 20 joint meeting of the House education committees and Senate Education Committee, one student and four others were nominated to the institution's governing body.

All must be approved by a joint meeting of the full House and Senate. Previously scheduled for Feb. 26, that meeting has been indefinitely postponed.

Angela Bos, a senior at the university's Morris campus was recommended to be the student representative, and Michael O'Keefe the candidate from the Fifth Congressional District.

O'Keefe, the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services and a regent since December 1996, defeated former state finance commissioner Jay Kiedrowski 45-23. Members of the district endorsed Kiedrowski at a meeting one week earlier.

Some questioned O'Keefe's candidacy because he is part of Gov. Jesse Ventura's administration. O'Keefe said some people told him if he wants to remain a regent he must quit his day job.

During his remarks O'Keefe emphasized he has spoken against the governor's funding plan for the university. "My views are probably more widely known than any other regent," he said. "I've done what any good regent should."

The lengthier battles were for the three at-large seats, a four-year seat to finish the term of the late William Peterson, and two six-year terms.

Nine candidates vied for the seats with the four-year choice, which was voted upon first, coming down to Ray Waldron of St. Anthony Village and Frank Berman of Edina. Waldron, the secretary-treasurer for the Minnesota AFL-CIO, led Berman, an attorney, 34-33 after two rounds of voting (with three members voting for other candidates) and 36-34 after three rounds of voting, but 38 tallies were needed to receive the recommendation.

After much discussion on how to break the apparent deadlock, Berman withdrew from competition for the seat, and focused on the six-year terms. Waldron then received 51 votes in round four to win the recommendation. Many legislators abstained during the final round of voting.

Three rounds into the first six-year race, Berman and Regent Patricia Spence of Rice were tied at 35 votes apiece. The same was true after round four, before three legislators changed their minds in the fifth round, giving Spence, the current board chair, the needed 38 votes.

Berman's last chance to gain a recommendation fell in the second round of voting for the final seat as Jacqueline Fraedrich of Coon Rapids, current Regent Warren Larson of Bagley,

and Richard "Pinky" McNamara of Edina advanced to round three.

The final vote gave McNamara, a business owner who donated \$10 million to the university in 1998, the necessary 38 votes, only after Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul) changed his vote to McNamara as the tallies were being added. Larson received 21 votes and Fraedrich 11.

Afterwards, Cohen said he changed his mind because McNamara would have received the additional vote on the next ballot, and he didn't want to further drag out the meeting, which lasted past 11 p.m.

### Smart spending emphasized

With the University of Minnesota and Gov. Jesse Ventura differing on how much money the institution should receive in its budget for the next biennium, university officials stressed their

### SNEAK PEEK



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Michael Harris, 6, on a tour of the Capitol with his first grade class from Wildwood Elementary School in Mahtomedi, peeks between Corp. Perry Tholl, left, and Pvt. Michael Schudt, members of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, to see a Feb. 21 ceremony in the Rotunda celebrating the University of Minnesota's 150th birthday.

previous smart spending initiatives Feb. 19.

"There is always the concern of being accountable," University President Mark Yudof said. "My goal is to disprove that the university is a black hole for money."

Yudof explained to members of the House Higher Education Committee the ways in which the university has reprioritized \$112.7 million since fiscal year 1998. The number does not include internal reallocations by academic units to meet redirected faculty focus and effort.

"This is a serious degree of cutting costs and making hard choices," Yudof said.

Of the money reallocated, the largest amount (\$35.2 million) came in the form of institutional revenue sharing — assessing all units to cover common goods and institution-wide priorities. Using this plan, individual colleges contribute 2.25 percent of their total revenues into a central pool that administration spends as it sees fit to best meet needs.

Another aspect of institutional assessment was a \$17.9 million enterprise project that replaced human resource and student financial computer systems.

Other savings include \$17.1 million by self-financing a portion of compensation, and trimming administrative costs. "When I came here I thought we were top heavy," Yudof said.

Included in the \$33.1 million in administrative base budget reductions, is the elimination of two provost offices, the office of senior vice-president for finance, and the Office of Treasurer, consolidation of the Office of Information Technology, and other base budget reductions.

The remaining \$9.4 million is from academic initiatives instituted in 1998.

Under this plan, Yudof said, when the state puts money into an area, so does the university, and sometimes, external funds will also be allocated.

As an example, Yudof noted in the area of new media where the state allocated \$1.7 million in 1998 and the university kicked in \$567,000 to improve its program and facilities. Hubbard Broadcasting later donated \$10 million to the program. "I believe we would not have received that money had we not gotten the money to improve the program and Ford and Murphy Halls," Yudof said.

## HUMAN SERVICES



### Becoming compliant

The licensing division of the Minnesota Department of Human Services has fallen behind. Way behind.

Existing law requires site visits every two years, but according to budget documents, about 23 percent of the 3,642 programs licensed by the department are not being

visited as often as required. These include programs such as adult day care, foster care, and childcare.

"We are reprioritizing so we can put more licensors in the field," Jerry Kerber, director of the human services licensing division, told the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee Feb. 19.

Department officials say the lack of timely reviews has been a result of laws that have increased the department's responsibilities without increasing funding. These increased demands have led to a redirection of funding designated for routine licensing inspections toward more pressing obligations.

Since 1990 the average caseload for a licensor has increased from 85 to 182 programs. To meet the statutory requirements for licensing reviews, the department said it needs to hire 14 new licensors.

To meet that need, the department is requesting new funding of \$1.1 million in 2002 and \$923,000 in 2003 from the general fund. The governor supports the request.

One concern Kerber voiced is the potential for lawsuits if people are injured in a facility that has not been visited.

"Will this amount of money bring you into statutory compliance?" asked Committee Chair Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead).

"We believe it will," Kerber said.

## INDUSTRY



### Texas energy plan

Minnesota legislators might have warmed to Texas' energy deregulation plan, but are still considering many possibilities for energy solutions in the state.

"He opened some interesting issues for consideration," said Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville), chair of the House Regulated Industries Committee. "I don't know where it will go. We're not shutting off any options."

On Feb. 19 committee members heard what Texas has done to encourage companies to build more power plants in the state and keep prices down for consumers.

"If you open the market they will come and build," said Patrick Wood, who, as chairman of the Texas Public Utilities Commission, oversaw a wholesale competition plan that deregulated energy suppliers during the past six years.

The plan has resulted in many clean, new power plants running today. As part of deregulation, retail rates reflect cost declines, the state's transmission grid is being upgraded, and standardized business rules have been put in place.

The state asked for the public's input, and



Patrick Wood III, chair of the Texas Public Utilities Commission, gives a presentation on electric deregulation and restructuring in Texas during the Feb. 19 House Regulated Industries Committee meeting.

Texas' residential and business communities responded, setting the stage for efficiency and renewables, Wood said. In Texas, conservation was very popular, which surprised them, he added.

Wood, who reviewed Minnesota's three energy proposals, said the state has "a lot of the basics in place," and gave several suggestions to the committee.

Wood recommended starting with a solid infrastructure, having clear market investment signals for generation, and an organized management system, admitting that "managing risk is our biggest failure." In Texas, he said, there were "too many dukes, and not enough kings."

Saying Americans generally take short-term solutions over long-term ones, Wood advised the Legislature to set goals for efficiency and renewables, and to use market methods to get there. He especially emphasized wind power, which has been very successful in Texas and could be just as successful in Minnesota.

Marya White, manager of energy planning and advocacy for the Department of Commerce, said she and others studied the Texas model while putting together the department's energy plan. Their proposal would not deregulate, but requires considerable efficiency and conservation measures.

"We agree that conservation is best," and that there are good wind resources in the state, White said.

"The Texas example gives us a lot of reason to move to a competitive market," said Bill Blazar,

senior vice president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's plan is the only one currently proposing deregulation.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) asked how Minnesota can have competition without supply. Blazar replied the state needs to have certainty in new generation, and Texas ultimately knew where they wanted to go.

Michael Noble, representing the POWER campaign, said there is a difference in how the two states see efficiency — in Minnesota it's a main player, but it doesn't factor into Texas' plan much.

"Nothing really is as cost effective as efficiency," Noble said.

## ★ LAW

### Halal bill passes

By a 130-1 vote, the House passed a bill Feb. 15 to provide legal protection to foods prepared according to Islamic law.

HF149, sponsored by House Majority leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), prohibits the sale or serving of food falsely labeled "Halal," or prepared according to Islamic religious law, called Sharia.

The bill's prohibitions are identical to the provisions protecting the Jewish community from food falsely labeled or improperly prepared as Kosher.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) was the lone opposition vote. He later said he opposed the measure, which he characterized as "another form of excessive government regulation," in part because of the cost of enforcing the regulation.

On the whole, members expressed admiration for the Jewish-Islamic partnership leading to the bill's support. Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) echoed the sentiments of several members, suggesting "this cooperation should be a model for peace in the Middle East."

Matthew Ramadan, an Islamic authority known as an Imam, opened the first Halal market in Minnesota in North Minneapolis in 1986. He had previously explained to the House Agriculture Committee that "Halal is basically a word that means lawful, or legal." He said that Muslims are required to humanely treat animals intended for human consumption.

For example, animals are not to be kept in a place where they can observe other livestock being slaughtered, butchers must insure animals not see the knife with which they are to be slain, and animal caretakers are required to provide water and other comforts for animals before slaughter.

Before now, Ramadan says that Minnesota Muslims have had to rely on organic or Kosher foods, a substitution that Sharia permits when truly halal food is unavailable. He estimates the Minnesota Muslim population numbers about 100,000 people and that food prepared according to halal standards will remain in high demand.

The bill's sponsors say that halal requirements are determined at the local level by Muslim authorities and are commonly enforced in other major American cities.

The bill now moves to the Senate.

### Simplifying state rules

Legislators are considering adjusting state law so defendants found liable for 50 percent or less of the damages in a tort case would be responsible for only the percentage of the plaintiff's damages that is equal to the defendant's percentage at fault.

Under existing state law, a judge may order a defendant found 15 percent or less at fault to pay a portion of the plaintiff's damages up to four times that defendant's fault.

The rule does not apply in environmental torts, where defendants are not protected by limits on liability, but rather are always responsible for up to 100 percent of the damages they may cause. Such an arrangement, known as "joint and several liability," is a legal doctrine that each party bearing some responsibility for an injury may be held responsible for all the injured party's damages.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) sponsored a bill (HF369) to address what he described as "a fundamental question of fairness."

Bishop told a Feb. 21 meeting of the House Civil Law Committee his bill would move Minnesota law closer to a national trend of curtailing joint and several liability. He also emphasized that his bill "simplified the law."

The bill maintains existing law for environmental torts, but eliminates a current provision preventing government entities from being ordered to pay more than \$300,000 per person or \$1 million per incident. Defendants found liable for less than one-half the damages would be responsible only for the percentage of the plaintiff's damages that is equal to the defendant's percentage of fault. Also, joint and several liability is upheld for a person who commits an intentional tort.

The bill has the support of municipalities and the business community.

The Civil Justice Coalition, a coalition of businesses and government entities, wrote that Bishop's "modest and reasonable change will dramatically reduce the number and amount of settlements paid" to plaintiffs.

Opponents suggest the bill would impede

the legitimate collection of funds to compensate tort victims.

Chris Messerly, a member of the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association, said, "Taxpayers would pay hundreds of millions of dollars that would otherwise be paid by insurance companies."

The House Civil Law Committee approved the bill, sending it to the House floor.

## ★ RECREATION

### Science Museum funding

Science Museum of Minnesota President James Peterson has asked the Legislature for additional funding beyond the governor's recommendation for the 2002-03 biennium.

Speaking before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 16, he asked that they endorse an increase of \$250,000 in the base appropriation for the museum, as well as a 3 percent adjustment for inflation.

The governor's biennial recommendation includes no change in the base funding of \$1.2 million. That level of funding has remained the same since 1991. State support for the science museum currently accounts for 4.5 percent of its overall funding, compared to 7 percent in 1991.

Most of the museum's funding comes from private contributions, county appropriations, fees, memberships, and on-site restaurant and store proceeds. The museum also realizes income from exhibits and films it produces and distributes internationally.

In June 2000, Ramsey County cut its appropriation to the museum by 50 percent, or \$250,000.

Ventura has recommended a request for \$495,000 for two environmental education projects that would come from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) Fund. No action has been taken on either request.

The two new environmental projects would both be outdoors. The first, called Water-scapes, will teach about outdoor non-point source pollution and demonstrate ways to improve water quality.

The second project, a demonstration of upland habitat restoration, would entail the acquisition of eight acres of property adjacent to the St. Croix watershed research station.

In December 1999, the museum opened in its new downtown St. Paul location closer to the Mississippi River. While the building has changed, the mission has not: to encourage people of all ages "to experience their changing world through science."

Attendance during the museum's first year in its new location grew to 1.2 million, up from



around 700,000 in the old downtown site. Officials project that attendance will “settle down” to about 850,000 per year. Memberships increased from 19,000 to 32,000.

## ★ SAFETY

### Housing help for firefighters

Cities would be allowed to offer a housing incentive to attract public safety personnel under a measure heard by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 19.

The committee approved an amended version of the bill and referred it to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee without recommendation.

HF172 sponsored by Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) originally applied only to the city of Mahtomedi. That city is attempting to address a shortage in volunteer firefighters.

The bill allows cities to provide housing assistance to any public safety personnel.

Jon Hohenstein, the Mahtomedi city administrator, said the city has had a difficult time finding volunteer firefighters because most of the department’s members work outside the community during the day and there is a small employer base from which to recruit other daytime volunteers.

Mares said the legislation is necessary

because of a precedent established by a 1952 state attorney general opinion, which held that the city of Newport did not have the authority to provide living quarters to its police chief unless the Legislature granted special authority.

After the committee heard the bill Jan. 24, Mares sought an opinion from the current attorney general to see if the previous opinion still held. That office ruled there is no current statute that specifically gives the city authority for expenditures for volunteer firefighter housing and therefore legislation is needed.

The bill was amended to include all cities and expanded to also apply to the recruitment of police officers.

Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji), a volunteer firefighter, said he was concerned about expanding the legislation to include full-time paid positions in addition to the original intent, which was aimed at volunteer services.

Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), agreed with Fuller’s concerns, saying the expansion of the bill would lead to cities competing against each other for employees.

“If the original legislation was a slippery slope then this amendment is a free fall from 30,000 feet,” Buesgens said.

The committee approved an amendment to the amendment that would limit the bill to statutory cities wishing to provide housing assistance to volunteer firefighters and ambulance personnel.

concentration legislation); \$1.5 million for staff in the CrimNet system; \$5 million for the CrimNet integration analysis, options, and suspense file; and \$7.4 million in state matching funds for federal disaster assistance.

Many of the change items are located in the bureau’s budget. However, legislators were aware of adjustments for the CrimNet system, which would integrate law enforcement data from around the state, because of a task force report presented earlier this year outlining anticipated costs.

That report suggested a need of about \$41.5 million for the system. Gov. Jesse Ventura is recommending \$27 million.

At the Feb. 15 meeting, members wondered about the DWI enforcement dollars.

Frank Dolejsi, director of the BCA lab, said the 2000 Legislature removed base funding from the trunk highway fund for basic DWI analysis, which employs 18 scientists. The plan, according to the budget, is to replenish most of that money from the general fund and the rest from the trunk highway fund.

Without the money, those scientists would be laid off.

Other major functions seeking general fund dollars under the Department of Public Safety include: \$6.6 million for the State Fire Marshal, \$9.8 million for law enforcement and community grants, and \$14.8 million for emergency management.

The committee will evaluate the requests and determine what to include in its omnibus bill.

## ★ SNAKE CHARMER



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie) gets up close and personal with a 28-pound boa constrictor named Rosey Feb. 22 in the State Capitol Rotunda. Rosey’s handler, naturalist Kevin Wier, was at the Capitol with other Minnesota Zoo staff and animals, as part of an event designed to increase awareness of the zoo, its programs, and to promote the zoo’s legislative requests.

## Public safety request

Officials from the Department of Public Safety are requesting \$164.6 million in general fund appropriations for its fiscal year 2002-03 budget, an increase of \$15.2 million from the previous biennium.

They made their requests to the House Judiciary Finance Committee during the past several weeks and wrapped up testimony Feb. 15.

The biggest share of the budget, \$62.8 million, would go to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. A close second is the Crime Victims Services Center, which is requesting \$62.2 million, most of which would go to support centers around the state.

Those centers provide victims services in several categories, including general crime, battered women, and sexual assault.

Laurie Ohmann, executive director of the center, said grants are distributed to centers according to agreements that they meet certain needs and criteria.

Major general fund change requests for the department overall are as follows: about \$2.7 million for DWI enforcement (not connected with any felony or .08 blood-alcohol

## ★ TAXES

### Taxed for travel

A provision of Gov. Jesse Ventura’s property tax reform proposal would allow cities to impose a new transportation utility fee to fund the upgrade and maintenance of roads and bridges.

Under the proposal the fee would be based on the road traffic generated by the property. A public hearing of the proposed fee would be required before the fee could be imposed.

Members of the business community expressed concern with the proposed new fee Feb. 21 as the House Taxes Committee continued hearings of the governor’s tax bill (HF511), sponsored by House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon).

Scott Lambert, representing the Minnesota Auto Dealers Association, said the transportation utility fee would, in essence, establish a new property tax with no cap that would exist outside any levy limits.

He said the proposal left it unclear what restrictions would be imposed on how the revenue could be used.

Annette Henkel, representing the Minnesota Retailers Association, said the tax would put Main Street businesses at a competitive disadvantage with Internet retailers.

"This is a local option property tax on businesses with very little accountability," Henkel said.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, said the governor's continued support of reducing motor vehicle license registration fees while creating the new fee was "an interesting policy choice."

He said the desire to switch from "what is basically a user fee to a new property tax" for funding road improvements is "absolutely mind boggling."

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### More rail options

In his pursuit of a multi-modal transportation system for Minnesota, Gov. Jesse Ventura has recommended \$115 million in general obligation bonding for a commuter rail line between Minneapolis and St. Cloud.

Officials from the Department of Transportation presented the plan for the Northstar Corridor commuter line to the House Capital Investment Committee Feb. 15. The committee took no action on the measure.

The line is projected to cost \$231 million, with a funding formula of 50 percent state, 40 percent federal, and 10 percent local.

The 80-mile corridor would use existing tracks owned by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad to carry state-of-the-art trains at 79 mph beginning in 2004. Twelve stations are planned, most with bus service and park-and-ride lots.

The trip time, including stops, is estimated at 83 minutes during peak commute, said Tim Yantos, executive director of the Northstar Corridor Development Authority. Ridership is estimated at 2.8 million in the line's first year.

"There is a tremendous amount of community support for this," Yantos said.

Support in the committee was mixed.

"Everyone benefits from highways, even if they don't drive," said Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska). "Goods and services have to come down that highway. The question is whether people using this train will get to go where they want to go."

Ken Stevens, of the development authority, said commuter rail is very flexible. "If you want to add capacity to this system you simply add cars."

Yantos said the corridor to be served is the

fastest growing area in Minnesota. Population is expected to grow by 49 percent in St. Cloud, 402 percent in Becker, and 232 percent in Elk River by the year 2025.

"I think there are a lot of opportunities with the Northstar Corridor," said Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover). "It's definitely a wise use of taxpayer dollars."

Upon completion of the North Star line, a link would be built to connect it with the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit station in downtown Minneapolis.

That project, the first light rail line in Minneapolis since the streetcars, is now under construction. The 11.6-mile line will link downtown Minneapolis, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, and the Mall of America when it's completed in the fall of 2004.

Bob Winter, assistant division engineer with the Department of Transportation, said the trip from end-to-end will take 30 minutes, with stops at 17 stations. Bus service will provide access to the stations, and timed transfers will be available. Park-and-ride lots will be located at the Fort Snelling station and the Mall of America.

### Bridge funding sought

Legislators are taking steps to improve the bargaining positions of municipalities in negotiations with railroads regarding rail bridges over publicly owned roads.

Railroads now routinely refuse to voluntarily lengthen bridges for the benefit of localities wanting to expand roads beneath them, says Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul). Since state law now prohibits local agencies from spending money to extend bridges owned by railroad companies, municipalities must purchase bridges in order to lengthen them. The resulting maintenance costs bear heavily on cities and counties.

Hausman introduced a bill (HF672) to give local agencies the ability to enter into partnerships with railroads so public money could lengthen bridges. The plan would prevent local taxpayers from having to purchase an entire bridge simply to expand the roadways below them.

House Transportation Policy Committee Chair Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) expressed concern about spending money for corporately held property during a Feb. 22 meeting. Ramsey County Department of Public Works Director and Engineer Ken Haider responded that the public funds would still be appropriated by the state and authorized by county regulators. "This is not free reign to funnel money to railroads," he said.

Hausman said the Minnesota Department

of Transportation currently has the ability to spend money to extend railroad bridges. In the long run, Haider told the committee, allowing local officials this discretion could decrease the cost to local taxpayers while still allowing for road improvement and not harming railroads.

The committee approved the bill and referred it to the House Transportation Finance Committee.

### Advice from Washington

Members of the House and Senate transportation committees got a lesson from a Washington, D.C. ally of Minnesota transportation projects.

U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar (DFL-Chisholm) told a Feb. 20 joint meeting of state lawmakers that he is concerned that federal tax cuts could jeopardize funding for transportation projects. Oberstar is the ranking Democrat of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

He spoke of his travels to Europe, China, and American cities where major transportation projects helped ensure the long-term economic viability of local workers. "If we in Minnesota are going to be players on this global scene, we have to keep our infrastructure competitive and our people and products mobile," he said.

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska), chair of the House Transportation Finance Committee, asked about what she described as "a crisis in port development in America." Oberstar echoed her concern, noting U.S. saltwater ports cannot accept the largest seafaring cargo ships today, a problem that would only become more acute without infusion of federal dollars to bolster port functions.

He also endorsed Molnau's suggestion that the Minnesota Legislature pass memorials supporting federal funding of waterway improvement, something the House Transportation Policy Committee has already done. "We would welcome the support and interest to help our cause," Oberstar said.

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) broached the topic of metro area transit. "In urban areas, pouring more concrete has its limits," she said. "Those citizens who want alternatives have not had their voices heard in this state."

Oberstar said he is "a strong advocate for smart growth, not by zoning, but by creating mobility." Endorsing transportation plans such as light rail and commuter rail, Oberstar said, "If you pour another yard of concrete south of Interstate 494, the whole state's going to sink."

## On to the floor

Amended Krinkie bill limiting the outside income of constitutional officers moves beyond House committee process

BY DAVID MAEDA

Minnesota's constitutional officers would be expected to demonstrate moonlighting opportunities are not a conflict of interest with their elected duties under a measure approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Feb. 19.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

HF111, sponsored by Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), originally would have prohibited the state's six constitutional officers — the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer, and attorney general — from engaging in outside activities for which the officer receives income for providing personal, professional, or other services.

Krinkie later offered an amendment, that the committee approved, that would create a "presumption of a conflict of interest" in income earning outside activities.

Under the measure, it is presumed that outside income earning activities are a conflict of interest with official duties unless the official can demonstrate otherwise in a hearing.

Krinkie said the bill is not specifically about Gov. Jesse Ventura's outside activities. The bill would not become effective until Jan. 1, 2003, when Ventura's term expires.

"This would provide that the constitutional officers, including the governor, put the duties of office first and foremost and not let anything dissuade them from those duties," Krinkie said.

He said the bill would clarify that the state's constitutional officers are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

The amended bill would establish the chief administrative law judge as the person responsible for determining whether an activity was a conflict of interest.

Under the original bill, the state's attorney general would have that duty and the governor would be charged with determining conflict of interest charges against the attorney general.

That provision led to a concern there might be a potential for political fighting between the two elected officials.

Krinkie said regardless of whom might ul-



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

**Former Gov. Arne Carlson, right, testifies for a bill sponsored by Rep. Phil Krinkie, left, that would prohibit executive branch and constitutional officers from engaging in outside work during a Feb. 19 hearing of the House Government Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.**

timately decide conflict of interest charges against constitutional officers the situation needs to be addressed because two conflicting opinions have already created confusion.

Alan Gilbert, chief deputy and solicitor general from the Attorney General's Office, issued an opinion in response to an inquiry by Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) that determined the governor is an employee of the state and thus bound by the state code of ethics.

But Julien Carter, the commissioner of the Department of Employee Relations, later ruled Ventura's new job is not a conflict of interest with his state duties because existing statute is confusing and contains ambiguous language.

Former Gov. Arne Carlson spoke in support of the bill on Feb. 19 saying the state has had a

"long and rich tradition" of the nobility of public service. He said those that run in an election know they might have to make sacrifices in order to serve the public.

"Those that seek public office all know what the compensation is and expectations are going in," he said. "This bill is a statement of the expectations and values we place on public service — that no office shall be used for the benefit or attainment of personal wealth."

He disagrees with Ventura's contention the state's current ethics law does not directly pertain to the constitutional officers.

"It's absurd that the janitor of this building is being held to a higher standard than the governor or state auditor," Carlson said.

Without the measure, the former governor said the problem of elected officials accepting inappropriate employment opportunities would only escalate.

"History has shown us that once the door of self-opportunity is open others will follow and open it wider," he said.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) said he was concerned that by limiting outside employment, the bill would require the constitutional officers to be "career politicians."


Carlson said the term "career politician" is subjective and pointed out that some labeled St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman a career politician after one term in office.

"There is no definition of career politician. The electorate makes that decision at election time," he said.

Noting the governor recommends a budget for the University of Minnesota, Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) asked what the difference was between "whooping and hollering" at university football and basketball games and a governor announcing Xtreme Football League games.

Krinkie said the main difference was that Ventura's announcing job was an income producing activity.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) spoke against the bill because he said it addresses a specific issue brought up by the activities of one individual and voters ultimately determine if an office holder is violating public trust.

He said his father once advised him, "you never get ahead by knocking somebody else's success." We want people to be successful with enough gumption to have a second job if that's what their family needs," Solberg said. 

# Medical records

State officials and legislators discuss the merits of access to patients' records for research purposes

By MARY KAY WATSON

**A** concern about the privacy of medical data has generated debate among state officials regarding access to patients' medical records for research purposes.

State officials, medical researchers, and concerned citizens appeared before the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee Feb. 20 to address the issue.

Originally, the officials were set to offer testimony regarding a bill (HF405) that would prohibit the release of medical records to the state without patients' consent. However, the bill's sponsor, Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids), temporarily withdrew the bill.

That gave concerned parties an opportunity to exchange viewpoints and information related to the use of medical records for research into chronic and infectious disease.

Koskinen said the bill might not be brought back to the committee.

"I've asked both parties to continue their discussion, and, hopefully, they will come to a resolution that is agreeable to both," she said.

The bill speaks to a concern on the part of the attorney general's office that citizen's private medical records could be made available to someone who would misuse them. Koskinen said no allegations have been made that such a thing has occurred, but the potential exists.

The attorney general's office takes the view that the release of medical records should be up to the patient. Deputy Attorney General Ken Peterson said the rights of citizens to data privacy should outweigh the need of society for "unlimited access" to medical records.

"Medical documents are the most intimate

details of a person's life," he said. "They should be shared only with those the patient wants to share them with.

Peterson said the attorney general's office did not believe any misuse has occurred but believed the current approach was "flawed."

Twila Brase, from the Citizens Council on Health Care, said she was concerned people might avoid health care if the system does not protect their privacy. "Patients should not have to choose between care and confidentiality."

Julie Brunner, deputy commissioner of health, said patients don't have to make that choice. The Minnesota Department of Health does not collect individual medical records, she said, but only components of data pulled from billing records.

Current research relying on that data includes studies on asthma, occupational respiratory disease, hysterectomies, and cancer.

"The loss of the ability to gather this data would be a blow to public health in Minnesota," she said.

Lawmakers questioned why researchers needed to be able to identify people individually for their research.

Wendy Nelson, from the health department's health policy and systems compliance

division, said identifiers, such as social security numbers, are needed to be sure individual cases are not double or triple counted. She said data that would identify individuals is encrypted, and the codes are kept in a safe deposit box requiring two people to open it and another to put it in the system.

In addition, Nelson said, "We are prohibited by law from releasing any individual data — ever."

Acknowledging people's fears that their private records could be accessed, Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) asked about data security.

"The data is very secure," Brunner said.

The department had a thorough audit of its database system last year. Auditor Jeff Hall said the department had stringent controls on access and excellent control of the physical computer and data area. Low-risk vulnerabilities found by the audit are being remedied, he said.

"The probability of breaking the encryption code is 20 million to one," Hall said.

Timothy Church, a public health researcher and professor at the University of Minnesota, said the system cannot be any better than those who run it.

"The Department of Health people are 'bulldogs' when it comes to safeguarding people's medical records," Church said. "These are the people you want in charge of these records."

"Our fear is that restrictions on our ability to get good data would make it difficult or impossible for consumers to get information that will help them make better health choices," said Bill Blazer, chairman of the board of the Minnesota Health Data Institute.

Stuart Hanson, a physician and the board's vice chair, said aggregated data is essential for understanding the effects of infectious and chronic diseases.

"The Legislature needs to consider this issue very, very, very carefully," said Harry Hull, state epidemiologist. "If we do not have accurate and complete information, you are going to be put into the position of having to make decisions based on anecdotes and conjecture."

Bradley frequently asked testifiers to what extent the ability of patients to "opt out" of research would affect the results of that research. Most agreed with Hull, who said the results would be flawed and possibly even useless without universal participation.

"This potential inaccuracy is the crux of the concern for limiting access to medical records for research purposes," said Steven Jacobsen, an epidemiologist at the Mayo Clinic.

Bradley noted concerns the bill addresses are driven somewhat by fear.

"After this discussion there is another kind of fear," Bradley said, "The fear of health consequences if we don't give ourselves the ability to do the research that is needed."



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Dr. Steven Jacobsen, associate professor of epidemiology at the Mayo Clinic, testifies on health care data privacy issues during a Feb. 20 hearing of the Health and Human Services Policy Committee.**



# Affordable housing

Growing concern prompts the governor to recommend \$24 million for low-income households and homeless

BY THERESA STAHL

**A**n evaluation from the Office of the Legislative Auditor on affordable housing confirmed that housing for Minnesota residents is expensive, apartment vacancy rates are low, and rents are high.

As a result, housing industry conditions are prompting officials to improve resources to help all Minnesotans find adequate housing — particularly those who are homeless now.

The study was presented to the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 21. The report is strictly informational and provides no recommendations. During the 2000 session legislators had requested more information regarding the affordable housing situation in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and statewide.

Another House committee, Jobs and Economic Development Finance, recently heard a budget presentation from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, which includes a recommended \$24 million one-time allocation from Gov. Jesse Ventura. The committee has also considered a bill that would appropriate money to a homeless prevention group.

Craig Helmstetter, co-author of the affordable housing report from the Legislative Auditor's office, said the percentage of a person's income devoted to housing costs is part of the report's definition of affordable housing. When people pay more than 30 percent of their total income, housing is not considered affordable.

Although Minnesota has the fourth highest median income and the lowest unemployment rate in the United States, the report said that 50 percent of jobs pay less than \$13.50 an hour. In addition, people who work in "13 of the 25 fastest-growing occupations cannot afford an average one-bedroom apartment," without spending more than 30 percent of their income on rent.

Numbers from the report show that between 1990 and 1999 the state's median home sales price increase was 61 percent, while the increase in median household income was 50 percent.

Average rent in the Twin Cities area increased by 34 percent, which contrasts with the median rental household income for the same area, which increased by 9 percent. Inflation during this period rose 27 percent.

Notably, vacancy rates in the Twin Cities dropped from 6.7 percent in 1988 to 1.5 percent in 2000.

Primary research for the report was gathered surveying developers, builders, and local housing organizations. "All survey groups generally agree that land, labor, and material costs are significant factors" in limitations to production of affordable housing, the report said. The same group agreed "they need government help — in the form of financial assistance and regulatory waivers — to build affordable housing in Minnesota."

Kit Hadley, commissioner of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, echoed the same financial need.

"We face a challenge in the future in revenue and expenses," she told the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee Feb. 19.

Ventura has recommended a \$24 million "Affordable Housing Initiative" for the 2002-2003 biennium that would be distributed evenly between the two years. "These extremely low-income families often must pay such a large portion of their income for housing that very little money is available for other necessities," the recommendation reads.

The governor has also recommended consolidating several development and supportive housing-type programs to increase the production of affordable housing and housing for the homeless and for very low-income households.

Rep. Dale Walz (R-Brainerd) introduced a bill to the committee Feb. 21 that would provide an additional \$4.6 million to the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance program, which would be administered by the state's housing agency. The funds would be awarded over and above the program's base budget.

While there has been some concern that Walz's bill (HF626) would use tax money from Greater Minnesota for the metro area, Walz pointed out there are no emergency shelters in his north-central district.

"We're seeing across the state that (the program) does work," said Michael Dahl, executive director of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless. "If we don't prevent homelessness, we'll pay for the cost elsewhere," such as in medical services.

Women and children make up the biggest group of homeless persons, Dahl said, and the

Continued on page 27



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

"Land, labor, and material costs are significant factors" as limitations to the production of affordable housing according to the Legislative Auditor's report, "Affordable Housing."

# Taxing purchases

Proposals would eliminate sales tax imposed on local units of government, but would residents benefit?

By DAVID MAEDA

It may seem counter-intuitive, but existing law requires local units of government to pay sales taxes on its purchases.

Several proposals to eliminate that sales tax were heard in the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division Feb. 15. However, legislators wondered whether the savings to those municipalities and school districts would actually be passed on to the residents of those communities in the form of a tax cut.

HF108 sponsored by Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria), HF166 sponsored by Rep. Scott Wasiluk (DFL-Maplewood), HF301 sponsored by Rep. Paul Marquart (DFL-Dilworth), HF314 sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), HF538 sponsored by Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins), and HF630 sponsored by Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth) were all presented to the committee. A seventh identical bill, HF188 sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), was also on the agenda but was not officially presented.

The exemption is also part of Gov. Jesse Ventura's tax proposal.

Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the division chair, said the proposals would be considered for inclusion in the omnibus tax package.

Under existing law, Minnesota counties pay approximately \$20 million a year on sales tax. Douglas County Commissioner Pat Heldt said the money could be better spent on purchasing items such as additional squad cars for the sheriff or in providing essential services.

"It makes no sense to tax tax dollars," she said.

The Department of Revenue estimates the cost of the sales tax exemption on local governments would be around \$99 million in 2002 and \$112 million in 2003.

The committee adopted an amendment to HF166 that would exclude goods and services from the local government exemption provided they are in direct competition with a private sector business. Examples of these include city-run cafes, restaurants, laundromats, golf courses, campgrounds, and liquor stores.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Deanna Ulven, center, vice-mayor of Hawley, testifies for a bill that would exempt the payment of sales tax by political subdivisions during a hearing of the House Sales and Income Tax Division. Breckenridge Mayor Cliff Barth, right, waits to testify for the bill sponsored by Rep. Paul Marquart, left.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) said in the early 1990s, when the state was facing budget deficits, representatives from local government chose the sales tax on their purchases as a better alternative to a reduction in the amount of the Homestead Agricultural Credit Aid.

HACA provides \$480 million to counties, cities, towns, school and special districts.

Abrams was concerned that none of the bills provided a mechanism that would guarantee property tax payers would actually see a tax cut, rather than allowing local units of government to merely increase spending as a result of sales tax savings.

"I'm not interested in growing government," he said.

Abrams suggested a better solution may be to exempt the local units of government from sales tax, but balance that with a reduction in the amount of HACA aid by \$100 million.

Harder said Abrams' idea perhaps would appeal to local officials since the costs of sales tax continues to grow but HACA aid is capped,

and thus making it easier to deal with on an administrative level while budgeting.

Franklin Denn from the Minnesota Township Association was one of several local officials to speak in favor of the bills.

He said when the sales tax was implemented on local government purchases in 1992, it was supposed to be a temporary measure that would be removed once the state's budget situation improved.

"The dollars spent on sales tax is money not spent on services," he said.

Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth) said the number of bills being introduced by members of both parties proposing to eliminate the tax was an indication that there is widespread bipartisan support for the measure.

Duluth Mayor Gary Doty, also representing the League of Minnesota Cities, said local officials are held responsible for their decisions by their accessibility with their neighbors.

Continued on page 27

## Monday, February 19

### HF962—Cassell (R)

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
County hospital board membership provisions modified, and county hospital borrowing authority provided.

### HF963—Sykora (R)

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Microenterprise grants provided and money appropriated.

### HF964—Gunther (R)

**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Minnesota Investment Fund appropriated money.

### HF965—Gunther (R)

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Minnesota Investment Fund project eligibility modified and revolving loan account established.

### HF966—Erickson (R)

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Voting in the wrong precinct penalties increased, automatic and optional recount provisions modified, and presidential electors meeting procedures modified.

### HF967—Mulder (R)

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
School-sponsored potluck events authorized.

### HF968—Juhnke (DFL)

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Ambulance service personnel provided state supplemental benefits, and amount and limits on supplemental benefits increased.

### HF969—Clark, K. (DFL)

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Rental housing pilot program established to encourage landlords to rent to high-risk tenants in specified counties, and money appropriated.

### HF970—Dawkins (DFL)

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Lifetrack resources grant provided and money appropriated.

### HF971—Bishop (R)

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
County urban service areas established, zoning authority priorities clarified, and business incentives restricted.

### HF972—Jennings (DFL)

**Transportation Policy**  
Local highway assistance fund created and portion of revenues from the motor vehicle sales tax credited to the fund.

### HF973—Stang (R)

**Higher Education Finance**  
State educational financial aid eligibility requirements modified, child care grant award increased, and specified Edvest data classified.

### HF974—Solberg (DFL)

**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 698, Floodwood, capital loan authorized and money appropriated.

### HF975—Rukavina (DFL)

**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Mineral lease payments deposited in mineral lease account and permanent school fund, taconite mining company grants provided, and money appropriated.

### HF976—Abeler (R)

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Chiropractors; licensing requirements and grounds for disciplinary action modified.

### HF977—Leppik (R)

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities technical and community college employee unions merged.

### HF978—Stang (R)

**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District Nos. 739, Kimball, and 75, St. Clair, indoor air quality grant provided and money appropriated.

### HF979—Paymar (DFL)

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Commercial corridors revitalization in central cities grants provided and money appropriated.

### HF980—Osthoff (DFL)

**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Park buildings construction and remodeling projects exempted from legislative notice and review requirements.

### HF981—McElroy (R)

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Legislative commission on metropolitan government established, oversight of Metropolitan Council provided, and legislative authorization required for council budget and programs.

### HF982—Sykora (R)

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Minnesota State Retirement System service credit purchase authorized for a specified department of transportation employee.

### HF983—Wagenius (DFL)

**Agriculture Policy**  
Aerial pesticide application regulated.

### HF984—Wasiluk (DFL)

**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Pollution Control Agency programs funded and money appropriated.

### HF985—Knoblach (R)

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Respite care for family adult foster care providers program established.

### HF986—Holsten (R)

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Bayport storm sewer system reconstruction grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF987—Greiling (DFL)

**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Mental health services funding provided for children and adolescents who have emotional disturbance and exhibit violent or destructive behavior, and money appropriated.

### HF988—Mulder (R)

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Candidates not to be charged a fee for participation in a public parade unless all other units participating are charged similar amounts.

### HF989—Buesgens (R)

**Education Policy**  
Resolution memorializing the President and Congress to cease imposing on the states unwelcome mandates under Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act.

### HF990—Dawkins (DFL)

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
St. Paul community center and armory grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF991—Osthoff (DFL)

**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Como Park Zoo and Conservatory operation grants provided and money appropriated.

### HF992—Skoglund (DFL)

**Crime Prevention**  
Negligent fire resulting in injury or property damage definition modified.

### HF993—Nornes (R)

**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Central Lakes Trail established in Otter Tail, Grant, and Douglas counties.

### HF994—Dorn (DFL)

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Hospital waiver or variance request procedure established.

### HF995—Buesgens (R)

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Horse racing license applicant requirements modified, and anti-inflammatory medication content maximum amount increased.

### HF996—Dempsey (R)

**Crime Prevention**  
Supreme Court judicial education program to include training on the mandatory fine for failure to produce proof of insurance.

### HF997—Wagenius (DFL)

**K-12 Education Finance**  
Full-day kindergarten phased in for all students, first-grade preparedness grants provided, and money appropriated.

### HF998—Lieder (DFL)

**Transportation Finance**  
Greater Minnesota transit assistance funding provided and money appropriated.

### HF999—Mares (R)

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Local government correctional service retirement plan coverage extended to probation officers and 911 dispatchers employed by counties.

### HF1000—Erickson (R)

**Taxes**  
Mille Lacs County aggregate materials production tax imposed.

### HF1001—Ness (R)

**Agriculture Policy**  
Ethanol producer payment program expanded and extended, ethanol production goal repealed, payment cap increased, and money appropriated.

### HF1002—Ness (R)

**Agriculture Policy**  
Agricultural utilization resource institute board of directors additional member provided.

**HF1003—Gunter (R)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Displaced homemakers program funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1004—Abeler (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Supportive housing and managed care pilot project county and individual eligibility provisions modified and money appropriated.

**HF1005—Marquart (DFL)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Becker County nursing facility rate adjustment provided.

**HF1006—Dawkins (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Mental illness and chemical dependency facility supplementary service rate increase deadline for county negotiation extended and money appropriated.

**HF1007—Davids (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Gas sales below cost prohibited and enforcement authority provided.

**HF1008—Juhnke (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Integration revenue provided for school districts implementing an integration plan.

**HF1009—Finseth (R)****Agriculture Policy**

Agricultural land definition clarified.

**HF1010—Thompson (DFL)****Taxes**

Sales tax rate reduced.

**HF1011—Walker (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Powderhorn Lake in Minneapolis restoration and aeration provided and money appropriated.

**HF1012—Buesgens (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Scott County Housing and Redevelopment Authority statutory references clarified, and economic development authority powers specified.

**HF1013—Huntley (DFL)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Provider surcharge offset provided for erroneously paid charges, and money appropriated.

**HF1014—Boudreau (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Medical assistance reimbursement for special transportation services provisions modified.

**HF1015—Mares (R)****Education Policy**

Omnibus family and early childhood education and K-12 education programs and funding provision modifications.

**HF1016—Holberg (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

City and county obligations payment by electronic transfer or credit card authorized.

**HF1017—Walker (DFL)****Taxes**

Taxpayer assistance services provided to low-income taxpayers through grants to nonprofit entities and money appropriated.

**HF1018—Milbert (DFL)****Taxes**

Access to amusement devices removed from definition of a taxable service.

**HF1019—Workman (R)****Transportation Policy**

State contract procedures modified, highway construction and maintenance bids and records posted electronically or over the Internet, seasonal highway weight limitations modified, and clarifying changes provided.

**HF1020—Wagenius (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Hennepin County nursing facility rate increase to median provided.

**HF1021—Buesgens (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Casino licensee authorized to detain persons suspected of cheating.

**HF1022—Biernat (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

First degree manslaughter definition modified to prohibit a conviction in cases where the provocation was caused only by words.

**HF1023—Biernat (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Merchant Marine and Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) service plaques authorized on Capitol grounds.

**HF1024—Abeler (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Referendum revenue subject to equalization amount increased.

**HF1025—Entenza (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

State board of investment member disclosure provisions expanded.

**HF1026—Kielkucki (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

County boards and municipalities prohibited from adopting official controls that conflict with local land use plans.

**HF1027—Olson (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Membership organizations required to provide notice and refund on request portion of dues spent on political activity, and reporting to ethical practices board required.

**HF1028—Olson (R)****Education Policy**

Freedom from censorship in Minnesota public schools act enacted.

**HF1029—Gray (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Racial profiling by law enforcement prohibited, study on racial profiling required, certain information provided motorists involved in a traffic stop, providing training, advisory committee created, reports required, and money appropriated.

**HF1030—Lenczewski (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Bloomington nursing facility replacement exception to moratorium provided, rate increased, and money appropriated.

**HF1031—Hackbarth (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Local community forest ecosystem health program, community forestry assessments, and tree planting funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1032—Bernardy (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Referendum equalization allowance increased.

**HF1033—Goodwin (DFL)****Education Policy**

Pupil unit counting methods modified.

**HF1034—Bernardy (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Secondary vocational programming funding restored and money appropriated.

**Thursday, February 22****HF1035—Peterson (DFL)****Taxes**

Agricultural homestead property residency location requirement exception provided for employer-provided housing.

**HF1036—Bishop (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Casino; state-operated casino authorized, 21st century economic development fund established, and money appropriated.

**HF1037—Anderson, B. (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Dental assistant licensure established.

**HF1038—Clark, J. (R)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Minnesota Inventors Congress grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1039—Solberg (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

City public utilities commission abolition or transfer of jurisdiction to city council authorized.

**HF1040—Harder (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Soil survey updating grants provided to Cottonwood, Lincoln, Nobles, and Pipestone counties, and money appropriated.

**HF1041—McElroy (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Workforce development tax increment financing districts authorized.

**HF1042—Howes (R)****Taxes**

State tax share payments to counties with tribal casinos increased.

**HF1043—Bishop (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Health care provider tax research credit increased.

**HF1044—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Volunteer ambulance attendant training reimbursement provisions modified, grants provided, rural ambulance service advisory committee created and study required, and money appropriated.

**HF1045—Olson (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Seatbelt use insurance premium discount required, and mandatory seatbelt use requirement for adults repealed.

**HF1046—Clark, J. (R)****Education Policy**

Schools notified of student possession of drug paraphernalia.

**HF1047—Solberg (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

University of Minnesota research and outreach centers capital improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1048—Bishop (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Sunday sales by motor vehicle dealers prohibition repealed.



**HF1049—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Unicameral legislature provided with 135 members and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1050—Nornes (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Cities and townships hosting mixed municipal solid waste transfer stations authorized to impose fees.

**HF1051—Smith (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Medical malpractice expert review certifications regulated.

**HF1052—Leighton (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 500, Southland, disabled access levy extended.

**HF1053—Abrams (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Private health care coverage regulations revised, specified regulatory controls transferred, and managed care plan requirements established.

**HF1054—Johnson, J. (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
I-394 “sane lanes” use by single-occupant vehicles study and report required, and money appropriated.

**HF1055—Mares (R)**  
**Judiciary Finance**  
Peace officers’ overtime grants provided for St. Paul, Minneapolis, and statewide departments, and money appropriated.

**HF1056—Smith (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Local government correctional service plan benefit formula percentage increased.

**HF1057—Seifert (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Regional emergency response and fire training center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

**HF1058—Mares (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Gifted and talented revenue established as permanent education funding and money appropriated.

**HF1059—Erhardt (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Property tax refund provided for specified homeowners age 65 or over.

**HF1060—Erhardt (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Light rail; local approval required for location of commuter rail through residential areas.

**HF1061—Erhardt (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Single license plate required for registered motor vehicles.

**HF1062—Kielkucki (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, best practices grant provided for training to address diverse school populations.

**HF1063—Jacobson (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales tax rebate provided, automatic rebate enacted under specified circumstances, and money appropriated.

**HF1064—Bradley (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Consumer support grant services expanded, waivers provisions clarified, and developmental disabilities services provisions modified.

**HF1065—Walker (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Rental application fees prohibited.

**HF1066—Thompson (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Real property loans regulated, prepayment penalties prohibited, escrow account interest required, and private mortgage insurance and lending practices regulated.

**HF1067—Boudreau (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Social work licensure examination requirement exception provided for certain persons who are refugees or immigrants to the United States and for whom English is a second language.

**HF1068—Bradley (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Crisis nurseries development and expansion funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1069—Osskopp (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Lawful gambling organization annual audit requirements modified, noon hour bingo authorized, and natural disaster relief expenditures permitted from gambling proceeds.

**HF1070—Osskopp (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Lawful gambling premises permits to run concurrently with license of organization and permit fees clarified.

**HF1071—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
State park and recreation area boundaries modified and boathouse lot leases in Soudan underground mine state park administration provided.

**HF1072—Entenza (DFL)**  
**State Government Finance**  
Employee compensation costs provided for executive, legislative, judicial, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and University of Minnesota employees; and money appropriated.

**HF1073—Clark, J. (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Minnesota river trail established and money appropriated.

**HF1074—Johnson, S. (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Pig’s Eye dump in St. Paul cleanup grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1075—Boudreau (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Home-sharing grant program funded and money appropriated.

**HF1076—Kuisle (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Urban town annexation limited.

**HF1077—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Aggregate material removal tax extended to counties that vote to impose the tax and rate of tax increased.

**HF1078—Abeler (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Social work board authorized to limit enforcement activities, social work licensure fees set, and surcharge imposed.

**HF1079—Slawik (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
School District No. 6067, Tri-District, magnet school grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1080—Thompson (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Gender-specific language replaced with gender-neutral language in the constitution, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1081—Jacobson (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Health care review organization provisions modified, participation in Internet-based information sharing systems authorized, and specified data release permitted.

**HF1082—Erhardt (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Long-term care insurance income tax credit maximum increased.

**HF1083—Fuller (R)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Beaver damage control grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1084—McElroy (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Financial institution investment authority and recordkeeping requirements modified; rates, charges, fees, and disclosures regulated; and after-hour drop boxes exempted from detached facilities regulation.

**HF1085—Workman (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Motor home and other defined recreational equipment width limitations modified and maximum length of motor homes prescribed.

**HF1086—Gunther (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Community foundation grants provided for management and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations, and money appropriated.

**HF1087—Mares (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Minnesota Education Finance Act of 1992 repealed.

**HF1088—Seagren (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Family, early childhood, and K-12 education program funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1089—Gleason (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport airline gate limit imposed, exception provided, and transition period defined.

**HF1090—Smith (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Independence public safety building construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

**HF1091—Johnson, J. (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Environment and natural resources trust fund advisory committee sunset repealed and task force created.

**HF1092—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
University Avenue corridor in St. Paul transit improvements provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1093—Stanek (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
DNA; biological specimen collection and analysis from criminal offenders expanded.

**HF1094—Marquart (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Marginal cost pupil unit count increased for districts with declining enrollment.

**HF1095—Koskinen (DFL)****Taxes**

Convenience store videocamera security requirements prescribed, tax credit provided, and penalties imposed.

**HF1096—Leighton (DFL)****Taxes**

Electric generation facility property tax exemption limited to facilities constructed by specified laborers.

**HF1097—Solberg (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

“Grace” photograph, taken in Bovey, designated as the state picture.

**HF1098—Dawkins (DFL)****Civil Law**

Eviction records expungement requirements provided.

**HF1099—Osthoff (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

St. Paul technology infrastructure bonds authorized.

**HF1100—Smith (R)****Civil Law**

Government data practices act expanded to include metropolitan area towns.

**HF1101—Schumacher (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

County water implementation tax and base grant amounts increased and money appropriated.

**HF1102—Greiling (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Family access to mental health patient records provided, statement required for emergency hold, and specified family members allowed to participate in aftercare plan preparation.

**HF1103—Gleason (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Agencies assessed for cost of administrative hearings not covered by general fund appropriations.

**HF1104—Vandevor (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Real estate task force work plan funded and electronic filing of real estate documents initiated.

**HF1105—Rukavina (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation commissioner authorized to acquire discontinued mining property.

**HF1106—Paymar (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Highland Park pavilion restoration funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1107—Rukavina (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Nonmining vocational education programs expanded in specific school districts and money appropriated.

**HF1108—Smith (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Sunday sales by motor vehicle dealers prohibition repealed.

**HF1109—Smith (R)****Civil Law**

Political subdivision regulation and causes of action against the firearms industry limited.

**HF1110—Abeler (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Contract alternative schools funding increased and alternative contract revenue defined.

**HF1111—Bakk (DFL)****Transportation Finance**

Lake County Forest Highway 11 completion provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1112—Bakk (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Registration and tagging of pelts and fur-bearing animals required.

**HF1113—Clark, J. (R)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Brown County nursing facility rate increase provided and money appropriated.

**HF1114—Schumacher (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Sand Dunes State Forest trail system construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1115—Haas (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Minnesota comprehensive health association regulated, contributing member definition modified, writing carrier contract period extensions permitted, subsidies provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1116—Jennings (DFL)****Regulated Industries**

Cellular and other wireless services excluded from definition of telecommunications right-of-way use; mandating that providers have no authority to erect towers in public right-of-way.

**HF1117—Jennings (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Pine City nursing facility replacement bed moratorium exception provided.

**HF1118—Workman (R)****Transportation Policy**

Design-build method of state transportation project delivery provided.

**HF1119—Erhardt (R)****Taxes**

Homestead property tax computed using household income and money appropriated.

**HF1120—Pugh (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Dakota County tax-forfeited land conveyance free of the trust in favor of the taxing district authorized.

**HF1121—Pugh (DFL)****Regulated Industries**

Metropolitan area transmission line siting regulated.

**HF1122—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Nonmetropolitan county prepaid medical assistance and prepaid general assistance medical care program capitation rates increased.

**HF1123—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Nonmetropolitan county prepaid medical assistance program capitation rates increased.

**HF1124—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Nonmetropolitan inpatient hospital rates for certain diagnosis-related groups adjusted.

**HF1125—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Nonmetropolitan inpatient hospital rates for certain diagnosis related groups adjusted.

**HF1126—Haas (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Virtual school district program created and money appropriated.

**HF1127—Mulder (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Lewis and Clark joint powers board rural water system funded, and money appropriated.

**HF1128—Jennings (DFL)****Regulated Industries**

City and joint venture telecommunications service providers authorized.

**HF1129—Abrams (R)****Taxes**

Sales and use tax regulations clarified.

**HF1130—Leppik (R)****Higher Education Finance**

Electronic library for Minnesota funded and money appropriated.

**HF1131—Goodwin (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

High-risk youth placement advisory task force established and report required.

**HF1132—Goodno (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Medical assistance income standard and asset limitations for medical assistance eligibility for the elderly and disabled increased, and basic needs benefits disregarded as income for TEFR medical assistance eligibility.

**HF1133—Swenson (R)****Transportation Policy**

Gross weight seasonal increase for transporting sweet corn and peas provided.

**HF1134—Osthoff (DFL)****Transportation Finance**

St. Paul downtown advanced parking information system expanded and money appropriated.

**HF1135—Seagren (R)****Education Policy**

Alternative competency-based licensing for school administrators provided.

**HF1136—Seagren (R)****Education Policy**

Reading competency grants provided to assist with ensuring children's reading competency by the end of third grade, and money appropriated.

**HF1137—Clark, K. (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Youthbuild program grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1138—Huntley (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Inpatient hospital rates adjusted for facilities located outside of the metropolitan area.

**HF1139—Huntley (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Prepaid medical assistance and prepaid general assistance medical care program capitation rates increased for nonmetropolitan counties.

**HF1140—Pugh (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Unicameral enactment of non-appropriation bills provided, legislative terms modified, and constitutional amendments proposed.

**HF1141—Thompson (DFL)****Taxes**

Income tax rates reduced.

**HF1142—Kubly (DFL)****Agriculture Policy**

Ethanol producer payments extended to three new ethanol plants, payment program extended two years, ethanol production goal repealed, payment cap increased, and money appropriated.

**HF1143—Knoblach (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Local tax increment financing contribution modified to avoid state aid offset.

## MONDAY, Feb. 26

8:15 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes  
**Agenda:** SF142/HF387 (Walker) Black Minnesotans council membership increased. HF389 (Dempsey) Mississippi River Parkway Commission extended and membership modified.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno  
**Agenda:** Minnesota Department of Human Services deep budget overview of Agency Management, Health Care Management, Continuing Care Management and Economic Support Management.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy  
**Agenda:** Budget review of IRRRB. HF47 (Rukavina) Iron mining; Closed iron mines and facilities required to be maintained for two years. HF520 (Sertich) Northeast entrepreneur fund microenterprise development grant provided and money appropriated.

### Joint House and Senate Children's Environmental Health Working Group

123 State Capitol  
Chrs. Rep. Kathy Tingelstad, Sen. Jane Krentz  
**Agenda:** Indoor air quality in schools. Presentation by the Department of Children, Families and Learning and the Minnesota Department of Health.

### TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau  
**Agenda:** Office of Traffic Safety budget presentation, Kathy Swanson, Director. Metropolitan Council Report on Metro Mobility/ADA Paratransit Service, Nacho Diaz, Met Council Transportation Planning Director; Dave Jacobson, Metro Mobility General Manager; public testimony will also be taken.

10:15 a.m.

### CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith  
**Agenda:** HF239 (Lipman) Real property ownership and application clarifications provided, Minnesota common interest ownership act modified, and torrens proceedings representation provided. HF767 (Holberg) Business discrimination provisions modified, and discretionary disclosure permitted during investigation.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten  
**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources budget presentation: Parks and Recreation.

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** MnSCU Board Level Administration and Management Legislative Study overview. Witnesses: Judy Grew, Senior Management Consultant, Management Analysis Division, Department of Administration; Jim Jarvis, Management Consultant, Management Analysis Division, Department of Administration; and Michael Vekich, Chair, MnSCU Board of Trustees.

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** HF836 (Walz) Relating to education; authorizing a fund transfer for Independent School District No. 182, Crosby-Ironton. HF216 (Bernardy) Relating to education finance; establishing permanent funding for gifted and talented programs as a component of general education revenue. HF578 (Pugh) Relating to education; authorizing a grant to Special School District No. 6, South St. Paul, for a full day kindergarten program; appropriating money. HF602 (Leighton) Relating to education; modifying the base year upon which special education revenue is calculated. HF605 (Leighton) Relating to education finance; authorizing Independent School District No. 492, Austin, to carry a deficit in its operating capital account for a limited number of years. HF880 (Solberg) Relating to libraries; authorizing additional levy for Independent School District No. 319, Nashwauk-Keewatin.

HF889 (Solberg) Relating to education finance; authorizing a levy for Independent School District No. 318, Grand Rapids.

### Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt  
**Agenda:** HF820 (Erhardt) Watershed districts authorized to increase levies for enforcement purposes. HF914 (Kuisle) Manufactured home parks property tax class rate reduced, and homestead and agricultural credit aid adjustment provided. HF668 (Lenczewski) In-lieu property tax payments provided for state-owned property. HF929 (Wenzel) Vacant platted land assessment provided.

10:30 a.m.

### Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

Department of Revenue Tour  
600 N. Robert St.  
St. Paul, Minn.  
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder  
**Agenda:** The tour will include a general tour of the department, an overview of sales and income tax audit procedures, and an explanation of the Revenue Department's re-engineering project. We will have a van leaving from the State Office Building parking lot at 10:15 a.m. to transport members and staff to the Revenue Building.

11:45 p.m.

### \*\*\*NOTE TIME AND ROOM\*\*\*

#### REGULATED INDUSTRIES

118 State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf  
**Agenda:** Presentation by Pennsylvania Representative Frank Tulli, Jr. on Electric Deregulation/Restructuring in Pennsylvania. Discussion and analysis of major energy proposals (HF492, HF659, and HF710) before the committee.

12:15 p.m.

### \*\*\*NOTE TIME\*\*\*

#### FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora  
**Agenda:** Childhood Development - Dr. Megan R. Gunnar, Professor of Child Development, University of Minnesota.

**\*\*\*NOTE TIME\*\*\***

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** Presentation (continued): Legislative Auditor's Report: Affordable Housing.

**1:30 p.m.**

**THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

**TUESDAY, Feb. 27**

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**8:15 a.m.**

**EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** HF478 (Sykora) ADD; parents and providers required to evaluate programs prior to prescribing drugs to children with attention deficit disorder, educational neglect definition clarified, number of children affected determined, and money appropriated.

HF1015 (Mares) CFL Administrative Bill. Presentation of the bill only. Testimony and action on the bill will be scheduled for a future date.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF648 (Abeler) Birth centers regulatory system study required.

HF1123 (Mulder) Nonmetropolitan county prepaid medical assistance program capitation rates increased.

HF1124 (Mulder) Nonmetropolitan inpatient hospital rates for certain diagnosis-related groups adjusted.

HF1132 (Goodno) Medical assistance income standard and asset limitations for medical assistance eligibility for the elderly and disabled increased, and basic needs benefits disregarded as income for TEFRA medical assistance eligibility.

Reading of the Adoption Proclamation.

**Note:** If necessary, this meeting will continue at 4 p.m. in 10 State Office Building.

**JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** Budget overview for the Department of Corrections continued - Community and Juvenile Services.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** HF9 (Ruth) A bill for an act proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution by adding a section to article XIV; dedicating all revenue from the sales tax on motor vehicles to the highway user tax distribution fund.

HF11 (Westerberg) A bill for an act proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, by adding a section to article XIV; dedicating not less than 32 percent of revenue from the sales tax on motor vehicles to the highway user tax distribution fund.

HF860 (Marko) A bill for an act relating to transportation; establishing multimodal transportation fund for highway and transit projects; proposing constitutional amendment to dedicate revenues from motor vehicle sales tax to multimodal transportation fund.

**10:15 a.m.**

**CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** HF51 (Goodno) Lowering the blood alcohol concentration level for *per se* DWI offenses from .10 to .08.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** HF455 (Ozment) Clean fuel (biodiesel) use marketing and education program established, and money appropriated.

**STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

Section 25, proposed budget for Board of the Arts;

Section 26, proposed budget for Humanities Commission.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** Continuation of public testimony on HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill.

**12 noon**

**Major Transportation Projects Commission**

400N State Office Building

Chr. David Jennings

**Agenda:** Review Minnesota Statute/definition of a major project.

Discussion/presentation of the Metro Division's Transportation System Plan (TSP).

Review funding information (handouts).

Setting of time, place and agenda for next meeting.

**12:30 p.m.**

**AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** Overview of Maximum Effort School Loan Program.

**COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF701 (Gunther) Relating to drug and alcohol testing; permitting the use of on-site testing under certain circumstances.

HF618 (Kubly) Relating to tornado relief; providing disaster relief and other assistance for counties designated a major disaster area due to the July 25, 2000, tornado; appropriating money.

**1 p.m.**

**Joint House and Senate Solid Waste Working Group/ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

454 State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Tom Hackbarth, Sen. David Tomassoni

**Agenda:** House/Senate researchers giving overview of solid waste issues.

(Informational meeting - no public testimony.)

**5 p.m.**

**REDISTRICTING**

Winona City Council Chambers

207 Lafayette

Winona, Minn.

Chr. Rep. Erik Paulsen

**Agenda:** Tom Gillaspay, State Demographer: Analysis of Minnesota's population shifts.

Robin Anthony, Minnesota Secretary of State's Office: Local government's redistricting timeline.

Open Microphone: Comments, questions and input from the audience.

**7 p.m.**

**Property Tax Division/TAXES**

Jewish Community Center

4330 Cedar Lake Rd.

St. Louis Park, Minn.

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill.

**WEDNESDAY, Feb. 28**

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**8:15 a.m.**

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF724 (Rhodes) State professional service contract procedures specified.

HF429 (Bakk) State agencies authorized to allow commercial wireless equipment on state-owned property.



**HEALTH & HUMAN  
SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno  
**Agenda:** Continuation of Monday's agenda.  
Minnesota Department of Health deep budget  
overview of Health Care Access Fund accounts  
and Management and Support Services.

**JOBS & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy (Vice Chair Rep. Bob  
Gunther will chair this meeting.)  
**Agenda:** Overview of YouthBuild program.  
HF20 (Mullery) Youth intervention program  
grants authorized and money appropriated.  
HF348 (Gunther) Youth intervention program  
grants provided and money appropriated.  
HF878 (Luther) District 287 Foundation grant  
provided to develop supportive housing to  
provide independent living opportunities for  
adults with disabilities and money appropriated.

**TRANSPORTATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau  
**Agenda:** Metro Transit budget presentation, Ted  
Mondale, Met Council Chair; John Byrd, Interim  
Metro Transit General Manager; Nacho Diaz,  
Met Council Transportation Planning Director.

**10:15 a.m.**

**CIVIL LAW**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith  
**Agenda:** Professor Robert E. Oliphant, William  
Mitchell College of Law, Family Law in the Civil  
Justice System presentation.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL  
RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten  
**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources  
budget presentation: Fisheries, Wildlife,  
Ecological Services.

**HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** HF442 (Opatz) Public post-secondary  
annual compensation treatment provided in state  
budget and appropriations.  
Witness: Jim Pehler, President, Inter-Faculty  
Organization.

**K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** Continuation of public testimony on  
HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill (if  
needed).  
Additional agenda items may be announced.

**12:30 p.m.**

**AGRICULTURE POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth  
**Agenda:** HF558 (Swenson) Johnes Disease  
money appropriated.  
HF640 (Ness) Extending date for Farmer Lender  
Mediation.  
HF285 (Ness) Regulating Ag Liens.

**Economic Development and Tourism  
Division/COMMERCE, JOBS &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner  
**Agenda:** HF262 (Walz) Camp Knutson  
renovation and construction grant provided and  
money appropriated.  
HF608 (Harder) Independent School District  
No. 2884, Red Rock Central, Internet access  
grant provided and money appropriated.  
HF475 (Wenzel) Little Elk heritage preserve  
designated as a historic preserve, and money  
appropriated.

**FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora  
**Agenda:** Community Education.  
After-school Enrichment Grants.  
HF646 (Sykora) A bill for an act relating to  
community education; providing for youth  
programs; appropriating money.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN  
AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey  
**Agenda:** HF662 (Rukavina) Aurora housing and  
redevelopment tax increment financing district  
extended.  
HF669 (Rhodes) St. Louis Park local contribution  
authorized for specified tax increment financing  
districts.  
HF828 (Mullery) Hennepin County employees  
granted disaster volunteer leave.  
HF871 (Erickson) City purchases on credit cards  
authorized, and personal liability established for  
unauthorized purchases.  
HF1012 (Buesgens) Scott County housing and  
redevelopment authority statutory references  
clarified, and economic development authority  
powers specified.

**1:45 p.m.**

**Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council  
and Agencies/  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN  
AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens  
**Agenda:** Continued Hearing:  
HF46 (Lipman) Comprehensive local planning  
local control reestablished, metropolitan land  
use planning and Metropolitan Council review  
of local comprehensive plans repealed, and  
conforming changes provided.

**7 p.m.**

**Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

South Central Technical College  
Heritage Hall  
1920 Lee Blvd.  
North Mankato, Minn.  
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder  
**Agenda:** HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill.

**THURSDAY, March 1**

**8:15 a.m.**

**EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares  
**Agenda:** Read Across America presentation.  
HF910 (Dempsey) Educational administrators  
board established, duties transferred, rulemaking  
authorized, and money appropriated.  
HF770 (Carlson) State board of education  
established, membership provided, and powers  
granted.  
HF881 (Buesgens) State board of education  
established, elected state superintendent  
provided, education responsibilities realigned,  
and task force recommendations on resources  
and duties required.

**HEALTH & HUMAN  
SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley  
**Agenda:** HF713 (Boudreau) Day training and  
habilitation services medical assistance coverage  
provided.  
HF775 (Boudreau) Day training and habilitation  
service variance request mediation process  
established, rate structure pilot project provided,  
county responsibilities defined, task force  
extended, and money appropriated.  
HF711 (Penas) Rural hospital grants provided  
and grant provisions modified, health care  
technician and rural hospital nurse loan  
forgiveness programs established, telemedicine  
coverage sunset repealed, and money  
appropriated.  
HF811 (Swenson) Rural hospital capital  
improvement grant and loan program  
established and money appropriated.

## **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** Budget overview for the State Public Defenders.

Budget overview for the Uniform Laws Commission.

Department of Public Safety: Presentation on the Bomb Disposal & Domestic Terrorism Plan.

## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** DM&E Report.

HF366 (Gleason) A bill for an act relating to motor vehicles; authorizing special registration plates for retired veterans.

HF423 (Greiling) A bill for an act relating to veterans; exempting combat-wounded veterans from the special motor vehicle license plate design that identifies eligibility groups using decal stickers.

HF439 (Marko) A bill for an act relating to motor vehicles; authorizing special motor vehicle license plates for retired veterans.

HF799 (Osskopp) A bill for an act relating to motor vehicles; authorizing special motorcycle license plate for combat wounded veteran.

HF936 (Finseth) A bill for an act relating to motor vehicles; authorizing special license plates for veterans who served in both World War II and the Korean Conflict.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** HF783 (Stanek) Deadly Force definition modified to exclude use of less lethal munitions by peace officers.

HF372 (McGuire) Crime victim notice of expungement proceedings required.

HF704 (Fuller) Emergency medical services personnel provided exemption from criminal rehabilitation provisions.

HF865 (Fuller) Community service authorized in lieu of criminal fines.

HF953 (Fuller) Child abuse list of offenses modified to include violations from other states.

HF570 (Hilstrom) Peace officer license revocation provisions and other Peace Officer Standards and Training Board proposals.

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** HF274 (Dorman) Mercury thermometer sales prohibited.

## **Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

**Agenda:** HF502 (Paulsen) Sales tax exemption for certain items dispensed through vending machines.

HF858 (Erhardt) Exempts certain food sold in vending machines from sales and use taxes.

HF359 (Murphy) Exemption for sales tax on materials used in constructing a Proctor community activity center.

HF367 (Murphy) Exemption for sales tax on materials used in constructing a Hermantown indoor sports & physical education complex.

HF409 (Seifert) Exempts the purchase of property for use as a law enforcement and family service center in Yellow Medicine county.

HF443 (Westerberg) Exempts the purchase of property for use as a city hall and police department facility in Blaine.

HF498 (Holberg) Sales and use tax exemption for construction of a police station and central maintenance facility in Farmington.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

Section 12, Subd. 7., proposed budget for Public Broadcasting;

Section 24, proposed budget for Amateur Sports Commission.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF323 (Haas) Relating to motor vehicle fuel franchises; removing an expiration date.

HF655 (Wolf) Relating to unemployment insurance; making technical and substantive changes; providing that certain applicants on leaves of absence are ineligible for benefits; modifying definitions; clarifying procedures; providing eligibility for benefits for certain victims of domestic abuse; instructing the revisor to renumber sections and change terms.

HF694 (Davids) Relating to insurance; no-fault auto; regulating income loss benefits to senior citizens.

HF850 (Mariani) Relating to the environment; appropriating money for ethanol plant odor control.

**3 p.m.**

## **THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

## **FRIDAY, March 2**

**8:15 a.m.**

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Human Services deep budget overview of Family Planning and Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs.

## **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Budget review of the Department of Trade and Economic Development.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources budget presentation: Enforcement.

## **K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**12 noon**

## **Property Tax Division/TAXES**

Duluth City Hall City Council Chambers  
Third Floor

411 W. 1st St.

Duluth, Minn.

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill.

## **Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

Marshall City Hall

344 W. Main St.

Marshall, Minn.

Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

**Agenda:** HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill.

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Continued from page 17

biggest factor that determines whether they will be homeless as an adult is if they are homeless as a child.

Traci Roberson works at Hennepin County Shelter as a rapid exit worker, which means she tries to get people out of the shelter and into more stable housing within 14 days of their arrival. Roberson, who has been homeless before, said she is glad for prevention dollars.

"Rising costs are making it more difficult to (get people into housing)," she said. "We need a lot more resources."

Rep. Chris Gerlach (R-Apple Valley) said he supports the bill but wondered how they derived the \$4.6 million figure, rather than a rounded-off number.

Dahl responded that he asked the coalition to request an amount, and had received an actual cost estimate from them.

Gerlach also asked if the money could be used to provide for any abortion services. Dahl said the coalition is not using funds for such purposes. But the coalition does offer pregnant women the opportunity to meet with counselors.

Still, Gerlach requested an amendment. "I would be open to amendments that would clarify so funds wouldn't be available for abortion services," he said. Dahl maintained the amendment would not be relevant. The bill was tabled. 🐼

Continued from page 18

"We take our spending decisions very seriously. We're not a wealthy community. Most communities outside the metro area live on a shoestring (budget)," Doty said.

Keith Carlson, representing the Metropolitan Inter-County Association, said Abrams' concern over local government spending held those units up to a different standard than other organizations that have appeared before the Taxes Committee.

Carlson cited a recent proposal heard in committee repealing the corporate franchise tax applied to banks that have elected subchapter S status under the IRS tax code. Carlson said the bankers testifying were never asked whether the tax break would mean lower costs to their customers.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said the taxing of government purchases was not a good policy. He said it made even less sense on a state level with state agencies paying the state taxes "moving money from this pocket to that pocket."

Dawkins said he shared Abrams concern about increased local spending, but it is an accounting issue that needs a solution. 🐼

# Reflections

Winter 2001 in Minnesota has not been a pleasant one.

An average of 54 inches of snow has fallen across the state with no melting in sight. Coupled with average low temperatures in January and February hovering between 3.7 and 9.1 degrees, many have found it uncomfortable getting to the Capitol to conduct legislative business.

It has not been Minnesota's worst winter, and in no way does it compare to battling the elements encountered by the Bancroft-Arnesen Expedition in Antarctica.

On Feb. 12, Minnesota explorer Ann Bancroft and her Norwegian teammate, Liv Arnesen, were the first two women to successfully ski across the frozen Antarctic landmass. Bancroft had already led a women's expedition to the South Pole and was the first woman to reach the North Pole. Arnesen was the first woman to ski solo to the South Pole.

The two explorers would have welcomed Minnesota's weather for they spent 90 days in temperatures down to 30 degrees below zero, with storms creating winds as high as 100 mph as they traversed the desolate, ice-covered continent.

When sub-freezing temperatures and snow and winds arrive at the Capitol complex, legislators, staff, lobbyists, and others enjoy much more comfort than a polar expedition. They walk the two-block trek from the State Office Building to the House and Senate chambers through part of an underground system that connects all the buildings around the complex.

The "tunnel" as it is called, becomes the subterranean mode for most people to get where they are going without having to confront the outside during many days in winter.

While Bancroft and Arnesen only saw each other and three birds during the first, 60-day leg of the journey, the opposite is true for tunnel users.

During any of the 60 or more official legislative days in an annual session, the tunnel not only gets used by those in the Legislature, but also by thousands of others who use it as a shortcut to downtown or to get to off-campus government buildings.

The 1.18-mile tunnel system in no way compares to the distance Bancroft and Arnesen skied and ski-sailed to the South Pole, then to the Ross Ice Shelf, 1,688 miles from their starting point. Nor is the entire distance of the tunnel used by everyone on a daily basis, except for exercisers who speed-walk a mile or more.

The tunnel was built to avoid inclement weather. It was constructed in sections as eight buildings were added to the complex. The first, built in 1913, connects the old Historical Center with the Capitol. The section that gets the most traffic was built in 1931 and connects the Capitol to the State Office Building.

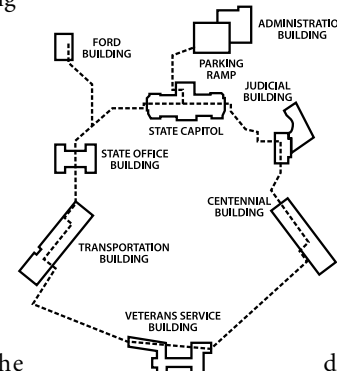
Tunnel users walk or exercise with ease throughout its route, even along the gradual descent to its lowest point of 75 feet below ground at the Veteran's Service Building.

In contrast, the trek across Antarctica was no easy task.

Bancroft and Arnesen successfully crossed the landmass by spending a night in a blizzard, then portaged and ski-sailed down two glaciers, including one from 7,398 feet above sea level. They reached the Ross Ice Shelf before winter set in.

The thought of such an amazing Bancroft-Arnesen adventure in brutal weather helps one to greatly appreciate the use of the tunnel in getting around when Minnesota's winter is not just harsh, but mean.

— LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
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ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-1298

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

# MINNESOTA INDEX

## 2001 state official salaries

Governor .....	\$120,303
Ranking among U.S. states as of January 2000 .....	9
Salary of highest paid governor (California) .....	\$165,000
Salary of lowest paid governor (Nebraska) .....	\$65,000
Minnesota governor salary in 1990 .....	\$98,914
In 1980 .....	\$62,000
Attorney General .....	\$93,983
In 1990 .....	\$77,274
State Auditor .....	\$72,187
In 1990 .....	\$59,362
Lieutenant Governor .....	\$66,168
In 1990 .....	\$54,413
Secretary of State .....	\$66,168
In 1990 .....	\$54,405
Treasurer .....	\$66,168
In 1990 .....	\$51,470
Most recent salary increases for constitutional officers (July 1997 and January 1998), each, as percent .....	2.5
Supreme Court Chief Justice .....	\$122,098
In 1990 .....	\$86,210
Supreme Court Associate Justice .....	\$110,998
In 1990 .....	\$80,010
Most recent salary increases for judges (July 1999 and January 2000), each, as percent .....	3
Legislators (House and Senate) .....	\$31,140
Ranking in the United States .....	12
Average legislator's salary in 50 states .....	\$22,796
Legislator's salary in 1990 .....	\$25,138
In 1980 .....	\$18,500
Legislators' daily per diem .....	\$56
Most recent salary increase (January 1999), as percent .....	5
Salary for Speaker of House, majority and minority leaders as of March 24, 1999 .....	\$43,596
Maximum salary for most state cabinet agency heads, as percent of governor's salary .....	95
In year 2000, dollars .....	\$114,288
Number of state cabinet agency heads making that amount as of Aug. 1, 2000 .....	0
Maximum salary of state cabinet agency head as of Aug. 1, 2000 .....	\$108,393
Number of cabinet agency heads (of 24) making that amount .....	21

Source: House Research Department Information Briefs (August 2000 and September 2000), CQ's State Fact Finder 2001, The Minnesota Legislative Manual 1979-1980, 1989-1990, and 1995-96, and The Book of States 2000-01.

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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MARCH 2, 2001

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 9

In this issue:

FEBRUARY BUDGET FORECAST

YOUTH INTERVENTION, TRANSPORTATION FUNDING, AND MORE

HF1144-HF1359

# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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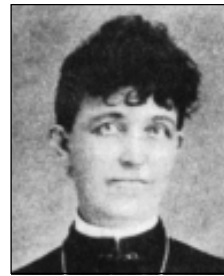
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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5  
Arts • 5  
Children • 5  
Crime • 6  
Education • 7  
Elections • 7

Energy • 8  
Game & Fish • 8  
Government • 8  
Health • 9  
Higher Education • 10

Human Services • 10  
Immigration • 11  
Recreation • 11  
Safety • 12  
Taxes • 12

### FEATURES

**At Issue:** Children — The House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee approved three bills that would fund youth intervention programs to give children constructive skills and help them stay out of trouble. • 14

**At Issue:** Crime — Gov. Jesse Ventura has recommended a \$730 million 2002-03 budget for the Department of Corrections, a \$3.9 million reduction in the department's base. • 15

**At Issue:** Education — Legislators are mulling plans to fund after-school programs for children through district's community education departments. • 16

**At Issue:** Transportation — Three bills that would create funding sources for transportation in the state constitution were approved by the House Transportation Policy Committee Feb. 27. • 17

**Policy:** A Capitol Forum Series speech challenged lawmakers to evaluate the importance of partnerships between industry and public higher education institutions • 18

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: State un-official	4	The 50 States: Family pets	30
Resources: State and Federal Offices	19	Reflections: The "Minnesota Blizzard"	31
Bill Introductions (HF1144 -HF1359)	21	Minnesota Index: State	
Committee Schedule (March 5-9)	26	government finances	32

On the cover: Emei Thompson, 5, waves two flags at the Feb. 27 International Adoption Citizenship Day Event in the Rotunda. Emei attended with her mother, Kerry Thompson, and sister, Ana, 2, who received her citizenship when a federal law took affect that day. Both children are from China.

—Photo by Sara Kirk

# Forecast caution

Projected budget surpluses dip slightly, but officials don't paint a bleak economic picture

BY DAVID MAEDA

**W**hen Pam Wheelock, commissioner of the Department of Finance, presented the November budget forecast, she cautioned the outlook might be overly optimistic.

Indeed the revised revenue forecast released Feb. 28 reflects a slowing economy. And while the odds of a recession have gone up since the last forecast, officials are optimistic the economy has enough momentum to carry it over any potential bumps.

The new projected numbers are those that will be used in budgeting decisions made by the Legislature this year.

According to the February forecast, there will be an \$856 million surplus left over from fiscal year 2001 which runs from July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001. That number is down from the \$924 million forecast in November.

The \$856 million is the amount available for a rebate. State Economist Tom Stinson said the final amount will be determined once the state's books are balanced at the end of the fiscal year.

Likewise, the November forecast estimated

a surplus of about \$2.086 billion for the next two fiscal years. According to the February forecast, that projection has been reduced by \$551 million to about \$1.5 billion. Far from carved in a stone tablet, the state's budget forecast is fluid, calculated using current state spending and tax sources.

Speaking about the overall February budget forecast, Wheelock said, "This is a modest adjustment to the state's revenue outlook."

She said the size of this year's sales tax rebate checks will fall in the middle compared to the previous two years — smaller than those sent out in 1999 but larger than in 2000.

Stinson said there were several factors for the reduced forecast. He said the decision by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, to slow the national economic growth by raising interest rates accomplished the task. However, the slowing economy combined with soaring energy prices, a severe winter, and the declining stock market meant the state collected less revenue than expected.

Declining consumer and business confidence

also played a role, Stinson said, as did a growing fear the nation was entering a recession.

Stinson noted it's important to keep in mind that despite the changes from the November forecast, the economy is not shrinking but just is not growing as fast as expected.

"This is not a recession. This is not a downturn," Stinson said. "We are not going in reverse as we would be in a recession. We're just growing slower."

He said, however, there was a "substantial risk" in the rapid turnaround predicted in the forecast, and the chances of a further short-fall remain high.

Data Resources Inc., the consultant that prepares the state's budget forecasts, based its forecast on the belief that the slowdown in the economy will reverse itself in the near future. The forecast is contingent on strong growth in 2002-2003. There is a 40 percent chance for a recession according to the consultants, up from a 25 percent probability in the November forecast.

Stinson said the forecast contains a few assumptions. One is that the Federal Reserve Board will cut interest rates between now and early fall, thereby providing stimulus for growth.

Another assumption is that President George W. Bush's proposed across-the-board tax cut will be law by the end of June. Stinson said the tax cut will not have any short-term impact on the economy but in the long term, it most likely would boost consumer spending.

DRI's forecast also assumes oil prices will be reduced by fall.

Stinson said the state's Council of Economic Advisors was not in total agreement with the consultant's prediction that a quick rebound will occur.

Stinson likened the state's economy to a driver trying to plow through a snow pile at the end of a driveway.

"Most believe that the economy will have enough momentum to get through this difficult spot," he said. "But you don't really relax until the rear wheels are back on the driveway and you've made your way through it."

Stinson said while the state's economy continues to grow, certain sectors are struggling much more than others.

In particular the outlook for the state's agriculture economy is not very good. Currently, there are no plans for a disaster relief program similar to what was in place in 1999 and 2000.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

State Economist Tom Stinson uses a marker to show a nearly \$600 million "V" shaped revenue downturn from the November Forecast during a Feb. 28 press conference releasing the Finance Department's February Forecast. Finance Commissioner Pam Wheelock, right, looks on.



Also, farm payments from the federal government are expected to fall off substantially over the next year, Stinson said.

The manufacturing sector of the state is also expected to decline although not as severely as it will nationwide, Stinson said.

Alternately, the forecast is encouraging for the construction industry over the next few years with several major projects now finishing their planning stages.

Gov. Jesse Ventura said his administration put its budget together knowing the November forecast numbers might be overly optimistic.

"No major adjustments will have to be made to our budget proposal," Ventura said.

He said his tax reform package would not be greatly affected by the reduced forecast, either, and the state still can afford to cut its income and property taxes. He said the forecast was an indication of the need to change the state's current tax structure, which relies on the income and property taxes for its two highest sources of revenue.

Had his proposed decrease in the sales tax rate and expansion upon more services been in place, Ventura said, the reductions in the forecast would have been smaller.

Wheelock echoed Ventura saying consumer durables play a major part of the state's tax base and thus a shift of the sales tax to more services would help stabilize that taxing source.

The revenue collected from the state's sales tax and corporate income tax fell short of the levels forecast in November. Revenue from the sales tax was \$46 million less than expected, while the corporate income tax brought in \$47 million less than forecast. The individual income tax collection fell \$12 million below what was forecast in November.


Reaction among House leadership varied. House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said the revised forecast didn't change the necessity to lower taxes in the state.

House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) said it was even more important now with a slower economy to find the proper balance between tax cuts and investments in education and technology.

Wheelock said this was the first time since 1992 that the state's budget forecast needed to be scaled back from the previous forecast.

She said there was one constant of all the budget forecasts over the years: "They've all been wrong. The question is how big the swings are one way or the other."

She said the more the forecast is off, the more problematic setting the state's budget becomes.

"The good news is that we don't have any commitments at this time," she said. "This certainly does put a little bit more pressure on policymakers to try to make determinations of priorities." 



## State un-official

### Poet laureate title claimed by a few, but never officially established

Well-known poets such as Robert Penn Warren, Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Frost have all served as the poet laureate for the United States, a position officially established in 1985.

And in Minnesota, five different people have claimed the title, but the Legislature has never voted to establish the position, despite the support of poetry leagues throughout the state.

An effort to make a state poet laureate stalled in 1974. A bill was introduced that year that would have provided for the post, selected by the state arts council for a two-year term. It was approved by the House Governmental Operations Committee and was referred to the House Rules Committee.

That's where the bill died.

But that didn't stop arts organizations from bestowing the title to several Minnesotans over the year. In fact, even when a Minnesota governor got involved it didn't stem controversy.

The first claim to the title came in 1934 when Gov. Floyd B. Olson congratulated Margarette Ball Dickson for her poetry achievements in a letter.

According to the letter, now housed in the state archives, dated April 30, 1934, Olson wrote, "Permit me to extend my congratulations upon your designation as the poet laureate of this state. I have just been informed by the Poet Laureate League in Washington that you have been given this award."

From that letter, Dickson deemed herself "appointed" poet laureate by the governor. However, 30 years later a Minneapolis journalist questioned that distinction in his *Minneapolis Star* column.

The journalist, Abe Altrowitz, himself a poet, asked two officials from the League of Minnesota Poets if the action made Dickson the poet laureate and they disagreed. In the 1963 story, the league historian at the time said the absence of a law authorizing a poet laureate suggested it wasn't an official position.

During the next several years, Altrowitz

would make a push to "officially" establish the distinction. He supported the pending 1974 legislation and convinced his former editors (he retired the year before) to sponsor a contest where the public could vote for a poet laureate.

Altrowitz, who himself had been light-heartedly dubbed the state's Commissioner of Poetry by Govs. Karl Rolvaag, Harold LeVander, and Wendell Anderson, introduced readers of his column to several candidates for the position.

(He had actually resigned his appointment from LeVander and Anderson, who responded in verse that his resignation would not be accepted. At that point, Altrowitz called the appointment a labor of love that also fed his ego with flattery.)

Ultimately, the "voters" chose Laurene Tibbetts of St. Paul as poet laureate, according to the ballots compiled by the Minneapolis Star's Promotions department. However, the League of Minnesota Poets had formally nominated Norman Boe of South St. Paul, Elvira T. Johnson of Duluth, and Nan Fitz-Patrick of Minneapolis.

At the time, 20 states had active poet laureates, with another six states having appointed poets who were deceased.

During his two terms in the 1980s, Gov. Rudy Perpich actually proclaimed October 10 to be Laurene Tibbetts day.

The League of Minnesota Poets took over naming their own poet laureates since the state would not officially sanction the practice. Their first nominations were Boe and Johnson.

Others to hold the position were Robert Cary, named poet laureate of Minnesota by *Embers* magazine, published in Batavia, N.Y. In addition, Meridel LeSueur was named poet laureate of the Twin Cities in 1980, but newspaper accounts do not list who honored LeSueur with the distinction.

Since 1974, there has been no official proposal establishing a poet laureate for the state.

(M. KIBIGER)

Photos courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society



Margarette Ball Dickson



Laurene Tibbetts



## ★ AGRICULTURE

### Mediation plan extension

Legislators are taking steps to ensure the ongoing viability of a program that mediates business disputes between farmers and financiers.

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) proposed HF640 to extend the sunset provision of the Farmer-Lender Mediation Program from July 1, 2001 to July 1, 2003.

"I happen to believe this is a good program," he told a Feb. 28 meeting of the House Agriculture Policy Committee.

The committee unanimously approved the bill. It now moves to the House floor.

The project was conceived in the 1986 Farmer-Lender bill to assist farmers in meeting the demands of overwhelming debt. Under the law, Minnesota farmers are offered the opportunity to renegotiate, restructure, or resolve debt during a 90-day period after beginning mediation.

Creditors are barred from collecting on the debt during that period. To qualify for the program and the legal protection from foreclosure, farmers must elicit assistance within two weeks of being notified of the lender's intent to collect.

Neutral mediators are available through the University of Minnesota's Agriculture Extension program.

According to a program brochure, negotiators are trained to use conflict resolution skills to facilitate effective negotiation between farmers and lenders. "The mediator leads and manages discussion without making decisions or judgments, insures that all participants get to speak and be heard, helps define issues, emphasizes common goals, looks at all options, and reduces fault finding."

Program Director Mary Nell Preisler said more than 12,000 debtor farmers had requested the services of her office since 1986. That number constitutes more than 30 percent of all circumstances in which creditors gave notice to farmers of their intent to forcibly collect on the debt.

According to Preisler, participants in the program report that "the farmer becomes more prepared to make decisions about the future, communication between lenders and borrowers is improved, and frustration and tensions between parties is minimized." If mediation fails to produce a new agreement, both farmers and lenders are free to pursue whatever other courses

of action are at their disposal.

HF640 appropriates no money because the program is already included in the University of Minnesota budget.

## ★ ARTS

### State funding questioned, defended

Faced with a House proposal that would halve Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget recommendation for the Minnesota State Arts Board, members and supporters of the board testified to the difference state dollars can make in the arts.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), chair of the House State Government Finance Committee, is sponsoring a bill that slices millions of dollars from the governor's recommendations for state agencies. Under HF218, the State Arts Board would be given \$15 million, compared to the governor's recommended \$26 million for the 2002-2003 biennium.

Executive Director Robert Booker said the board gives back to citizens by using state dollars to support touring activity, classes for K-12 students, and creating connections with local artists. The agency makes an extra effort to promote the arts in rural parts of the state where, Booker said, "skill-building tools are rare."

Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township) asked what return the state can see on its investment.

In Winona, Booker said, an artist who had received a state grant later donated artwork to city buildings. He said he also sees a lot of voluntarism, and funds help build careers.

Penelope Snipper, state arts board secretary, noted that \$28 million in 2000-2001 had the impact of \$1 billion.

David Esbjornson, who grew up in Willmar, is now directing the play *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, on the calendar for the season at the Guthrie Theatre. Esbjornson, who has lived in New York for the past 20 years, said he speaks with pride about his start in the arts in Minnesota. Being in the arts, he said, has been a journey.

"It's a way of life, a process, rather than product on the stage or painting on a wall," he said. "It is important to maintain the entire fabric of an arts culture."

Esbjornson brought with him a statement from actor Patrick Stewart, who has a leading role in the play.

"The Guthrie is an artistic beacon, and

without support, that light will dim," the letter said. "My career would not have started without public funding."

After testimony was given, Krinkie asked when the agency will "get off the state welfare program."

"Public funding provides a level of accessibility for citizens that may not be there without initial dollars," Booker countered. He added it also triggers private funding.

Krinkie questioned how to determine who has the need for state money and where the need is greatest.

"It's not welfare, it's part of our culture," said Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park). "It's an opportunity for people to come from all over the state to see exhibitions that they would not get a chance to see. If we start closing up all these institutions, what kind of a life do we have?"

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) pointed out an article published recently that stated the returns generated from arts in the state, from businesses, taxes, and through tourism activity.

"The return to the state is greater than if the state didn't (contribute to the arts)," Kahn said.

The committee took no action on the bill.

## ★ CHILDREN

### Re-examining children's needs

Legislators who make policy decisions regarding early childhood programs heard about advances in scientific knowledge that has implications for those decisions.

Megan Gunnar, professor of child development at the University of Minnesota, presented a report from the National Academy of Science to the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee Feb. 26.

The report strongly recommends dedicated funding be set aside to "improve the quality and increase the compensation and benefits of childcare workers."

Calling for a "new national dialogue," the report said policy makers must craft an agenda that will "ensure both a rewarding childhood and a promising future for all children."

Gunnar, a member of the committee of scientists who wrote the report, said an "explosion" of knowledge about early childhood development has converged with a social and economic transformation that calls for a



**Megan Gunnar, professor of child development at the University of Minnesota, points to a graph while presenting a report from the National Academy of Science to the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee, Feb. 26.**

re-examination of policy toward families and young children.

The importance of early brain development has been widely publicized, but Gunnar said the focus on birth to age three “begins too late and ends too soon.” She said research shows many factors affect a child’s brain development, including such hard-to-measure realities as its mother’s stress level before birth.

Gunnar’s specialty is stress in children. She said a child who suffers from prolonged stress is unable to thrive. “Neglect, physical maltreatment, and intrusive parenting” are obvious stressors. But uncertainty and inattention can also stress children.

“We need to be concerned not only with what children are *not* learning, and with what they *are* learning,” she said.

Changes in parental work patterns are having a serious impact on children, and the support system for families is inadequate, according to the report. Economic necessity often requires parents to work longer and

sometimes non-standard hours when childcare may not be available. Low-income families have the added stress of limited access to quality childcare.

“There is a striking relationship between the quality of care — both family and paid — and children’s stress levels,” Gunnar said. “Children with trouble regulating their behavior are also children with trouble regulating their stress levels.”

Studies indicate poverty has a disproportionately large effect on young children. Current statistics indicate that 22 percent of U.S. children younger than age five live in poverty, and have a much lower probability of graduating from high school than children who endure poverty at later ages. In fact, disparities in children’s knowledge and abilities are evident before they start kindergarten.

According to the report, a child needs: a sustained relationship with a caregiver; a safe, clean, and stimulating setting that is compatible with the family’s value system; and support for any special needs a child may have.

“The bottom line,” Gunnar said, “is quality.”

## ★ CRIME

### **.08 clears first hurdle**

A measure to lower the legal blood-alcohol concentration limit from .10 to .08 is moving forward in the House.

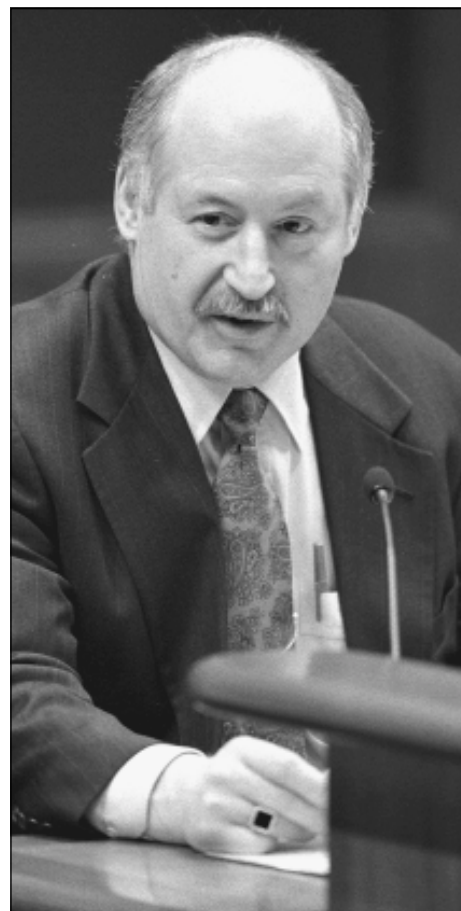
The House Crime Prevention Committee approved the measure Feb. 27, and referred it to the House Transportation Finance Committee.

The limit would exist not only for driving, but also for any other activity over which the state exercises authority, including boating and hunting.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), the sponsor of HF51, said “anywhere the law now says .10 will be changed to .08.”

He explained that “over 300 studies show that most drivers are impaired at .08.” To back up the claim, Goodno played a videotaped experiment in which a small number of Minnesotans drank until their blood-alcohol concentration reached .08 and then drove. All participants, including one liquor store owner who initially expressed opposition to .08, had significant difficulty navigating a driving course and expressed support for lowering the legal limit.

The actual number of drinks required to reach a .08 level is also a matter of some controversy. House Research estimates that a 130-pound woman could expect to have a .08 concentration about two hours after quickly drinking three “standard drinks,” a measure equivalent to a five-ounce glass of wine, a 12



**Kenn Rockler, a lobbyist for the Wine, Beer, and Spirits Association of Minnesota, testifies Feb. 27 before the House Crime Prevention Committee against a bill that would lower the blood-alcohol level from .10 to .08 for drunken driving offenses.**

ounce beer, or 1.5 ounces of 80-proof liquor, about the potency of vodka. A 175-pound man could drink about five drinks in the same amount of time.

Emphasizing the bipartisan support for the measure, Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) explained that “President Bush and Congress have all expressed support for .08.” In fact, Congress has made some federal transportation spending dependant upon states adoption of the .08 limit by 2004.

Opponents of .08 have expressed concern that the measure would unreasonably target social drinkers and not repeat offenders. However, Lynne Goughler, the Minnesota legislative chair for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, told the committee “any reasonable person knows that the law will not affect social drinkers.”

Kenn Rockler, representing the Wine, Beer, and Spirits Association of Minnesota, argued that no data conclusively demonstrated that lowering the blood-alcohol concentration limit saves the lives of drivers who had been drinking.

## ★ EDUCATION

### Special ed funding lag

A bill that would change the current two-year lag in special education funding to a one-year lag was introduced to the House K-12 Education Finance Committee Feb. 26.

HF602, sponsored by Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin), would not change the cap for special education, only the time-frame in which districts are reimbursed for expenses.

The committee took no action on the bill but may include it in its omnibus bill.

Leighton said the funding lag is “a huge issue statewide ... particularly for smaller districts in rural Minnesota who have more funding problems.”

Districts currently estimate special education costs two years before actually receiving payment. Because of the two-year lag, changes in the program — students added or lost — are not reflected for two years.

However, some officials are concerned the change could bring small financial inequities to districts across the state.

Sen. Grace Schwab (R-Albert Lea) testified before the committee, saying one-half of the districts would get more funding for special education and one-half would get less.

Tom Melcher, financial manager at the Department of Children, Families and Learning, said he is concerned the bill would make it more difficult for school districts to plan their budgets. Melcher said the department has “no problem administratively,” as far as budget stability and the ability to plan.

Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) supported HF602, saying it is “a common sense bill.”

### Gifted and talented funding

Gifted and talented programs in schools across the state would receive ongoing state funding in a bill sponsored by Rep. Connie Bernardy (DFL-Fridley).

Currently, a district may allocate its own revenue or apply for grants to fund gifted and talented programs, but few exist in the state. HF216 would cost around \$10 million annually and would be effective in the 2001-2002 school year and later.

“It is simply a program designed to encourage students to reach the extents of their own potential — and it is disheartening to see any program which encourages such positive ideals diminished due to inadequate funding,” said Aly Richey, a junior at Spring Lake Park High School, who has participated in gifted and talented programs for nine years.

According to the bill, funding must be used for identifying gifted and talented students;

## READ ACROSS AMERICA



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Lillian Kallestad, 6, of Otter Lake, sporting a Cat in the Hat hat, reads aloud in front of the House Education Policy Committee March 1 as part of a Read Across America presentation. Read Across America, a national celebration of reading, marks the birthday of Dr. Seuss, March 2.**

providing educational programming for those students; and providing staff development to aid in the teaching of such students.

“Teachers can’t teach these students without training,” said Jean Colleen, a parent of three children, who testified to the House K-12 Education Finance Committee Feb. 26.

“We can’t continue to ignore the needs of gifted and talented students.”

Bernardy said each district would decide which schools would receive funding for the programs.

“These classes teach that instead of focusing on the grades a student receives, achievement really has to do with the extent to which students are able to challenge themselves,” Richey said.

The committee took no action on the bill but will consider it for inclusion in the K-12 education omnibus bill.

## ★ ELECTIONS

### Voter's choice

Minnesota voters would choose whether to establish an initiative and referendum process in the state, under a measure heard by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Feb. 23.

HF643, sponsored by Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), would put a constitutional amendment question on the 2002 ballot asking voters whether the state should establish a system where voters adopt laws or amend the constitution directly on the ballot.

The committee approved the bill and referred it to the House Crime Prevention Committee.

Currently 24 states now have a form of initiative and referendum. Paulsen said he deliberately patterned the bill so it would not be like California’s system that only requires a certain number of signatures before a question is placed on the ballot. The ballots in California tend to be several pages long.

Under HF643 those proposing an initiated law, or a repeal of an existing law, are required to have a petition signed by a number equal to at least five percent of statewide registered voters who voted for the governor’s seat in the previous general election. In addition the same percent of signatures must be collected from voters in at least three-quarters of the state’s congressional districts.

Paulsen said initiative and referendum increases voter turnout and creates a better-informed electorate. He also said it encourages grassroots activism and has led to important legislation in our country’s history including women’s right to vote, campaign finance reform, and tax and environment reforms.

Donald Waller, from the Minnesota Independence Party, said initiative and referendum would allow citizens of the state to bring forward questions on issues not being dealt with in the Legislature.

On the other hand, Brad Lehto from the Minnesota AFL-CIO said initiative and referendum undermines the legislative process and allows individuals and groups not accountable to voters to set the agenda.

The amount of money spent in states with initiative and referendum systems in place is a concern, Lehto said, and the United States Supreme Court has ruled the money cannot be restricted because it is being used for protected free speech.

Bill Blazar, from the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce said that representative democracy relies on elected bodies to resolve complex issues.

“Initiative and referendum reduces the role



of legislative bodies but also gives those bodies a way to avoid their responsibility," Blazar said. "It weakens a fairly good and responsible approach to government."

## ★ ENERGY

### Marketing for power suppliers

An independent power producer from Texas spoke to the House Regulated Industries Committee Feb. 22 on how to create incentives for companies that want to build power plants in Minnesota.

The committee, which is considering several energy bills, recently learned about Texas' energy deregulation plan and Pennsylvania's deregulation and restructuring plan.

"Look at what you can do to encourage generation and transmission ... to maintain reliable infrastructure for citizens of the state," said John Stauffacher, senior director of Regulatory Affairs for Dynegy in Houston, Texas.

Incentives such as tax abatements, employee job credits, and infrastructure assistance, Stauffacher said, would encourage outside companies to seriously look in Minnesota.

Rep. Chris Gerlach (R-Apple Valley) asked how plant siting in Minnesota compares to other states.

Certificates of need — state authorization to build a power plant — can lead to "long and rancorous debates, and any requirements can be a hindrance," Stauffacher said.

"When, two years ago, prices were at \$2, (drillers) weren't out there trying to find other ways to (provide energy)," he said. "Now, they are. If we are going to put a generation resource on the ground ... the market has indicated there is a need."

"We need to supply what the customer wants, and look at new products," such as green products, to meet need, he said.

Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) wanted to know which technological innovations have developed or been enhanced due to the current energy situation.

"Technology has been driving the industry to more efficiency," Stauffacher said. "Turbines have gotten bigger, but more efficient," and some companies are doing energy management techniques to become more efficient.

Stauffacher warned against only importing power which, he said, may be a good strategy in the short run, but soon the demand may increase for that state. "I would advise you to not rely on any single component" for energy supply.

## ELECTRIFYING TESTIMONY



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Pennsylvania Rep. Frank Tulli, Jr. gives a presentation on electric deregulation and restructuring during the Feb. 26 House Regulated Industries Committee meeting.

## ★ GAME & FISH

### New fishing license proposed

A bill that would create a new category of fishing license was presented to the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee Feb. 22.

Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) said his bill (HF753) for a conservation angling license is something he's been thinking about for a long time.

"I'm trying to get people to think about conservation," he said. "A successful day out on the water can be three walleyes, not six."

Bakk's bill would set daily and possession limits at one-half that of a standard fishing license, rounded down to the next whole number. The conservation license would be offered to residents and non-residents, and would cost two-thirds of the corresponding fee for a standard license.

Bakk modeled his bill after the approach Ontario has taken. Officials from the Canadian province told him about 50 percent of conservation licenses were bought by people who only fish occasionally or don't usually keep a limit. Their experience is that people who buy conservation licenses have less impact on the resource.

Ron Payer from the Department of Natural Resources said Ontario officials advised the limit for conservation licensees should be

lower than the average limit to be sure it has the intended conservation effect.

"The department feels the concept is a good one," Payer said. However, he said, the department is concerned about revenue loss, which he estimated could be as high as \$2 million.

"You don't kill the goose that laid the golden egg," said Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls). "Maybe we could make up for the loss from the general fund."

Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) wondered whether the new license category might not result in increased revenue from those who wouldn't otherwise buy a fishing license. "It might bring in new fisherpersons," she said.

Bakk said he anticipated more licenses would be sold.

The committee took no action on the bill but will consider it for inclusion in the committee's omnibus game and fish bill.

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### House adopts permanent rules

The House met for nearly five hours Feb. 26 to approve its permanent rules for the 2001-2002 session.

During the discussion, members offered 15 amendments to the proposed rule changes, many of which addressed the powers of the speaker and certain committee chairs.

However, the report from the House Rules and Legislative Administration was passed by the full House on a 68 to 64 vote with the body actually accepting very few amendments.

The rules will stand as the guidelines for House action until the biennial session adjourns in 2002.

Amendments not accepted or voted down were referred to either the Rules committee or the House Ways and Means Committee for further discussion.

Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), with the assistance of Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), presented the rules to the full House. Pawlenty proposed one amendment, that a section which would have allowed the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee to issue opinions on legislation, rather than requiring every bill that would fall under its jurisdiction to have a hearing.

However, members expressed concern over that provision and it was removed.

Members also offered several amendments regarding provisions that allowed the speaker or presiding officer to vary from the order laid out in the various calendars for the day. Tuma and Pawlenty said that provision was to streamline



proceedings, but DFL members argued those rules gave the speaker too much power.

In addition, Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) proposed amending the rule governing the powers of the Ways and Means Committee. The new rules state the Ways and Means Committee sets budget targets for net expenditures, based on the revenue forecast for major finance bills. The new rules also disallow the committee to combine finance committee bills.

Solberg suggested the House not remove language involving revenue targets and that the full House should establish budget targets, not just the Ways and Means Committee. His amendments were referred to the committee.

During a recent committee meeting, Tuma said net expenditures take revenues into account.

Rules also say any other bill that passes out of a finance committee should be counted against the committee's overall target. In the past, there has been some confusion regarding whether targets govern omnibus bills alone. Any amendment that upsets the balance would be ruled out of order. Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) was unsuccessful in his attempt to amend the language.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) also proposed a rule that would require amendments be printed in the journal even if they have been ruled not germane, or pertinent to the topic, and an appeal has been filed and tabled. He said that the amendment in that situation has not been withdrawn and should be noted for the record.

Another successful amendment noted that the House cannot meet past midnight except by a majority vote of the House to deviate from that standard.

Initially Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) had proposed the House not meet after 10 p.m., with a variance of up to two hours allowed by majority vote of the House.

His amendment failed.

### Contractor concerns

When it comes to the planning, designing, and building state projects, cheapest may not always be best. That's the issue HF724, sponsored by Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), attempts to address.

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved the bill Feb. 28 and sent it to the House floor.

Rhodes, the committee chair, said the bill would require that state agency selection of contractors regulated by the Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design be based on qualifications and not on the lowest bid as in other state contracts.

Under the measure, a state agency would first rank contractors solely on their qualifications. Once those have been determined the agency would be allowed to get pricing information.

The bill would allow agencies to establish procedures for screening and selecting contractors, and those procedures could be adjusted to accommodate the cost, scope, and schedule of a particular project.

Jeff Coleman, a professional engineer from the board, said qualification-based selection has been in place at the federal level since 1972 and is used in at least 36 states.

Coleman said when it comes to building a state complex most would agree the building should be done well rather than just at the least expensive cost.

Kent Allin, an assistant commissioner from the Department of Administration, said the department opposes the bill because it would take away an important tool, the cost determination, in selecting a contractor.

"We agree that the selection shouldn't just be on the low bid but the current process allows qualifications to be the primary determining factor as long as there is some consideration of price," Allin said. "Price can be the tiebreaker where the qualifications are judged to be equal."

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) offered an unsuccessful amendment that would have allowed state agencies the option of using the qualification-based selection rather than make it mandatory as in the bill.

Coleman said allowing cost considerations into the qualification selection portion of evaluation would undermine the entire process because once cost becomes involved it colors the rest of the evaluation.

"It's the camel's nose under the tent," he said.

## HEALTH



### Birth center study proposed

A bill that would require the commissioner of health to study the regulatory system of birth centers was brought before the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee Feb. 27.

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka), sponsor of HF648, said it was an attempt to provide more options for families. No birth centers now exist in the state.

The bill would require that the commissioner examine birth center regulatory systems in other states and countries, including the health outcomes of those birth centers. A report on the commissioner's recommendations

would be due to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 2002.

Commissioner of Health Jan Malcolm said she believes a study would be appropriate. The committee passed the bill and referred it to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

"The goal of birth centers is to provide safe, sensitive, cost-effective care for women and their families in a friendly, more-relaxed environment than the bustle of a hospital," Abeler said.

Seventy-five percent of states regulate birth centers. Most have established regulations similar to those developed by the American Public Health Association in 1982, according to Kitty Ernst, director of the National Association of Childbearing Centers Consulting Group.

Currently, there are about 150 to 175 centers in the country. Care in these centers is provided by nurse midwives or licensed traditional midwives. The centers, which work in collaboration with hospitals and obstetricians, have established methods for moving patients who may need acute care to a hospital.

"It's a small market of women who use birth centers," Ernst said. "But they're very vocal and very intent on what they want in their childbirth experience."

Asked about the average length of stay, Ernst said, "Seven hours." Lawmakers looked at her in quiet astonishment.



Kitty Ernst, director of the National Association of Childbearing Center Consulting Group, testifies for a bill that would fund a study to formulate regulations for birthing centers in Minnesota.

"Most of the mothers in birthing centers have been so empowered by their program," she said, "that they're sitting up at four hours saying, 'Can I go home yet?'"

"These are normal, healthy mothers," she said. Babies and mothers who need more care are moved to hospitals.

Ernst emphasized that if the state decides to allow birth centers, it must make sure the payment system is in place.

## ★ HIGHER EDUCATION

### Regent selection on hold

The selection process for members of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents has been delayed due to fears over partisan motivation.

The House and Senate were scheduled to meet jointly Feb. 26, to appoint five members to the 12-member board that is the governing body of the university. Instead, the House opted to refer a joint resolution establishing the joint meeting of the two bodies to the House Education Policy Committee.

By law, the Legislature must appoint regents by May 7 or a date agreed to by concurrent resolution. Otherwise Gov. Jesse Ventura will appoint people to fill the vacancies.

At a Feb. 20 joint meeting of the House and Senate education committees, legislators recommended five people for the positions: Angela Bos as student representative, Michael O'Keefe from the Fifth Congressional District and Patricia Spence, Richard "Pinky" McNamara, and Ray Waldron for the three at-large positions.

However, problems arose when House Republicans became concerned that Senate DFLers might introduce the name of a candidate not recommended by the committees at the joint convention and get that person elected.

Republicans contend that legislative leaders have been circumventing the established regent-selection process for many years for political reasons.

"We need some time to sort out what their intentions are," House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) said during the Feb. 22 floor session. "We're not inclined to become co-conspirators to another round of this body, for political or other reasons manipulating the merit selection process."

House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) questioned House Republicans' willingness to keep the process in the open. "It sounds as though you're trying to make sure there is some arrangement with

leadership from the Senate, in some place other than this floor, that the votes are arranged in a way that is satisfactory to you."

One House DFLer questioned the ability to vote for whom he thinks is the most qualified. Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) said, "With this process we're establishing, I may not vote the way of my conscience, but how some people are going to make an agreement with another body. Quite frankly I think that is wrong."

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) countered, saying, "What we want is a fair and open process in which merit selection and the selections of the joint (education) committees are honored."

No hearing date on the resolution has yet been set.

### Paying your own way

Students wishing to retake a college class may have to do so with their own money.

Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester) has sponsored HF751 that would provide a tuition policy for the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities regarding students retaking classes.

"If a student wants to retake a course the state should contribute zero to the class," he told the House Higher Education Finance Committee Feb. 28.

The policy would be enacted for students who retake a class after previously attaining a passing grade, or for those who drop a class in the final three weeks of the term.

Kuisle said the bill would give the institutions the option of setting up a policy for extenuating circumstances, such as health issues or being called for active military duty.

The proposed law would effect a handful of students.

Peter Zetterberg, director of institutional research and reporting at the University of Minnesota, said about 535,000 credit hours were taught last fall at the Twin Cities campus, with about 5,200 students dropping a class in the final three weeks.

"I believe the same (percentages) are true at our Crookston, Duluth and Morris campuses," he said.

Of those students retaking classes, of which there are about 1,000 per semester, Zetterberg said most are enrolled in lower division math, chemistry or physics courses where a grade of C or better is needed for their major. He said 75 percent of students achieve the needed grade the second time around.

Patrick Opatz, the budget director for MnSCU, said system-wide numbers indicate that 0.45 percent of students withdraw in the last two weeks and 1.65 percent retake a

course. MnSCU students are enrolled in about 537,000 credit hours per term.

The committee took no action on the bill, but it will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

### Consistency sought

A bill that seeks higher education funding equity may be included in the House Higher Education Finance Committee omnibus bill.

HF442, sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), requests that higher education instructional base funding be adjusted for inflation at the rate of inflation used in the November forecast during even-numbered year.

Current law requires several adjustments to post-secondary instructional base funding, including adjustments for enrollment and inflation adjustment.

Speaking Feb. 28 before the House Higher Education Finance Committee, Opatz said the November forecast is the base used for other state agencies, and should also be the standard for the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Jim Pehler, president of The Inter-Faculty Organization, which serves the faculty of state universities, spoke in support of the bill.

He said that in other areas, salary and benefits are included in the agency's base level funding. "The intent of this bill is to level the playing field for all agencies."

Pehler also said, for example, that when another agency gets a 4 percent budget increase, the agency can use it for what it deems necessary. But in higher education, part of that money must go for inflationary increases in salaries and benefits because it is not part of the base level.

"It is unfair when others get a base adjustment and MnSCU and the University of Minnesota do not," said Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria).

"The issue is consistency," said Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), the committee chair.

## ★ HUMAN SERVICES

### Funeral funding goes forward

Asset limits imposed by the Minnesota Medical Assistance Program restrict the options for people who want to prepay their funeral expenses.

Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) presented a bill (HF574) to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee Feb. 22 that would eliminate a disparity in medical assistance eligibility requirements.

To qualify for medical assistance a person must meet certain asset criteria, including no more than \$2,000 in an irrevocable burial trust. Current law, however, is inconsistent in that it allows a person to put as much as he or she wants into a burial insurance policy without losing eligibility.

As the law stands, a person with more than \$2,000 in a burial trust must spend it down before qualifying for medical assistance. The law has not changed that limit in more than a decade, despite the reality that even the most modest funeral costs well above \$2,000.

David's bill would affect only the type of funding a person can use. There is no anticipated fiscal impact on the medical assistance program from this change.

Tim Hoff, a funeral director from St. Charles, said many of the people with whom he works are more comfortable keeping their money in a bank than buying insurance.

"It makes no difference to the funeral director whether families use insurance or a trust, but it makes a difference to many individuals," Hoff said.

"There's no abuse in this system. We have the most stringent consumer protection laws in the country regarding funeral trusts," said Kelly Guncheon, executive director of the Minnesota Funeral Directors Association.

"A death is a very emotional time for families," said Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls). "We don't want to make it harder than it is."

The committee approved the bill and referred it to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

### **Income standard may change**

People on medical assistance have to struggle more than is fair to make ends meet, said supporters of a bill that would raise the income and asset standards for individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled, allowing them to keep more of their money.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) presented HF1132 to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee Feb. 27. The bill was approved and referred to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

"This bill is very critical to the economic survival of people dependent on medical assistance," said Gene Martinez, representing the Minnesota Consortium of Minnesotans with Disabilities.

The income standard represents the amount of money that people on medical assistance are allowed to receive if they are unable to work. Currently, that amount is \$482 per month for an individual, about 30 percent

below the federal poverty guideline of \$696. For a couple, the Minnesota standard is \$602 versus the federal poverty guideline of \$938.

People receiving more than the income standard are subject to a "spend-down" option in order to qualify for medical assistance. Under a spend-down, individuals must incur medical bills in an amount equal to or greater than the amount by which their income exceeds the income standard.

People on medical assistance are also subject to asset limits — currently \$3,000 for an individual and \$6,000 for a married couple.

"We know first hand the difficulty low income seniors have," said Beth Nelson, speaking for the Minnesota Board on Aging. "Their meager income is not enough for food, clothing, and other needs."

HF1132 would raise the income standard to 100 percent of the federal poverty guidelines and provide that increases in Social Security benefits are not counted as income until the first day of the second month following the publication of the poverty guidelines.

The bill would also increase asset limits to \$10,000 for a single adult and \$18,000 for a married couple, the same standard the state prescription drug program uses.

In addition, the bill provides that money from child support, social security, and certain other benefits be excluded as income for children receiving medical assistance.

"I receive \$651 a month and \$149 is taken off the top for my medical assistance spend-down leaving me with only \$502 a month to live on," wrote Ellen Hansen in a letter to the committee. Hansen, who is from Burnsville, has multiple sclerosis. "Sometimes I don't eat as well as I should because I can't afford food."

"We often see people who are unable to meet their needs because of spend-down," said Sue Krey, program supervisor in long term care for Dakota County. "This bill would help people keep more of their money, stay in their homes, and be a part of their communities."

## **IMMIGRATION**



### **Council changes considered**

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill Feb. 26 that would change the representation on the state's Council on Black Minnesotans.

The measure now goes to the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee. The Senate passed the bill 60-0 Feb. 5.

SF142 sponsored in the House by Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls) would expand the size of the council from its current 11 members to 13 members. Under the measure the additional seats would need to be filled by one

person whose ethnic heritage is from West Africa, and one member whose ethnic heritage is from East Africa.

The Council on Black Minnesotans was established in 1980 to advise the governor and Legislature on issues facing black people in the state. The council is also charged with recommending changes to laws to help address those issues.

Walker said prior to her election to the House she served on the committee that made recommendations to the governor about who should be appointed to the board.

She said the council is supposed to represent individuals of all African descent and that often issues facing African-Americans are different from those facing new African immigrants.

Lester Collins, the council's executive director, said the state's population of new immigrants from Africa is rapidly increasing. He said the state's Somali population is one example of a growing community.

"We don't have the capacity on the board to deal with some of the issues," Collins said.

Walker said the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans is required to have representatives from different Asian countries. She said while a similar requirement is not possible in the African-American community, the bill establishes that the state's increasingly diverse black community is properly represented.

## **RECREATION**



### **Forest recreation**

A plan to transfer the administration of state forest trails, campgrounds, and day-use areas to other divisions of the Department of Natural Resources was presented to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Feb. 26.

Under the new DNR plan, campgrounds and day-use areas located in state forests will become the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Division, and trails in state forests will be administered by the Trails and Waterways Division. This is an executive decision and does not require action by the Legislature.

"All forest campgrounds will be reassigned to the closest park," said Bill Morrissey, director of the Parks and Recreation Division. He said the transfers would happen over a three-year period, beginning July 1 with regions one and five, the northwest and southeast sections of the state, respectively.

When the transfer is complete, the administration of more than 1,000 campsites at 46 campgrounds and 44 day-use areas will be moved from the Forestry Division to parks and recreation.

The Forestry Division's fiscal year 2000 budget allocation for managing those facilities was about \$646,000. Approximately \$240,000 of that will be transferred to the parks division to cover enforcement expenses, subject to approval by the Department of Finance.

Campsites not in official campground areas, such as boat-accessible sites, will become the responsibility of the Trails and Waterways Division beginning July 2003.

Currently, the Forestry Division operates almost 2,000 miles of multi-use recreational trails, including ATV, snowmobile, and cross-country ski trails. The Trails and Waterways Division, which already has some involvement in the management of these trails, will assume full responsibility July 1. The following year the division will take over hiking, biking, and multiple use trails and related facilities.

In 2003, the Trails and Waterways Division will begin administering canoe and boat accesses and campsites, along with water-related facilities that are now under the jurisdiction of the Forestry Division.

The rationale behind the transfer is a desire on the part of DNR Commissioner Al Garber for the Division of Forestry to focus its efforts on the sustainable management of state forests "with an emphasis on timber, forest health, forest protection, and private forest management assistance."

## ★ SAFETY

### More bleachers exempted

In 1999 the Legislature approved a law requiring that bleachers taller than 30 inches have gaps between seats, floorboards, and guardrails that do not exceed four inches. The previous standard for the size of the gaps was nine inches.

Last year exemptions to the four-inch gap requirement were granted to the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, and private colleges and universities for retractable bleachers that were in place as of Jan. 1, 2001.

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill (HF427) Feb. 28 that would grant a further exemption to the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission. The measure now goes to the House floor.

Rep. Andrew Westerberg (R-Blaine) said not providing an exemption to the commission, a state agency, was an oversight.

The commission oversees the National Sports Center in Blaine. Paul Erickson, the executive director of the commission, said the

center has more than 2.7 million visitors every year. He said he knew of no instances when a child fell through the 8,000-seat portable bleachers at the facility.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) offered an amendment that was approved, exempting bleachers installed at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome from the four-inch requirement. The dome will host the men's college basketball Final Four this March.

The cost to retrofit the bleachers at the dome would be greater than \$100,000, said Steve Maki, executive director of the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said providing exemptions solely to state agencies didn't address the "unfunded mandate" imposed under the original legislation on other entities such as school districts, cities, and counties.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said there are other safety issues of greater importance than the issue addressed by the original bleacher safety bill. She said, as an example, many more individuals are injured when they bike without wearing helmets.

### Cigarette standards revived

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee reconsidered, and then approved, a bill Feb. 28 that would require the state's fire marshal to establish rules regarding cigarette fire retardant standards.

## TRANSIT TALK



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Metropolitan Council Chair Ted Mondale gives a Metro Transit budget presentation to the House Transportation Finance Committee Feb. 28.**

The bill was sent to the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee without recommendation by an 11-9 vote.

Two weeks earlier the committee failed to approve the measure on an 8-8 vote. At that hearing several members expressed concern about the scope and costs of the rulemaking authority in the bill.

HF175, sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), would require that cigarettes offered for sale or manufactured in the state must comply with the adopted rules.

State Fire Marshal Tom Brace said a preliminary cost estimate of writing the rules indicates it would come to around \$24,000.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said that figure seemed low in comparison to the costs generally associated with rulemaking procedures.

Ozment encouraged the committee not to kill the measure because of the rulemaking provision but to allow the bill's supporters to argue the merits of developing cigarettes designed to go out if the smoker does not take a puff.

He said technology for safer cigarettes exists and many lives could be saved as a result.

"This is one of the most important pieces of legislation I've carried," the nine-term member said.

Tobacco industry representatives testified at the Feb. 14 hearing that technology for fire retardant cigarettes does not currently exist and that the bill would set Minnesota apart from every other state.

Ozment said whether safer cigarettes can be or already are made and the economic impact of establishing standards is the issue that will be discussed by the Commerce committee. He said safer cigarettes are already on the market.

"Why cut the process short when we can save lives? We know cigarettes can be made safer," he said.

## ★ TAXES

### More renters aid possible

Renters would be eligible for a larger property tax refund under a proposal sponsored by Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield).

The House Taxes Committee Property Tax Division heard Gleason's bill (HF158) Feb. 22 but took no action on the measure. Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), the division chair, said the bill would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax package.

Currently renters can claim a property tax refund if the household's income exceeds a certain percentage of income. The state has schedules that determine the income thresholds and refund amounts.

Gleason said his bill would increase the percentage of rent constituting property taxes



from 19 percent to 28 percent. The Department of Revenue estimates the bill would cost more than \$70 million annually.

Rachel Callanan, representing the Minnesota Housing Partnership, said the state's lower-to-moderate income families are facing increasing hardships due to the growing lack of affordable housing in the state.

According to a recent Legislative Auditor's report, the average two-bedroom apartment in the Twin Cities metropolitan area has a monthly rent of \$794. The report says the vacancy rate in the metropolitan areas of the state is 1.5 percent, much below the "healthy" rate of 5 percent.

Callanan said the partnership supports proposals to lower rental property taxes but the auditor's report showed those tax reductions would not mean lower rents for consumers.

Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester) asked if the \$72 million would be better spent on affordable housing or providing the additional rental refund amounts in Gleason's bill.

Gleason said he thought the refunds would have an impact on renters' ability to afford housing. He said the current system allows homeowners to deduct their interest on mortgage payments from their taxes and thus discriminates against renters.

### Fairness in vending

When you buy a carton of milk at your local convenience store you do not pay sales tax on the item. Purchase the same carton from a vending machine, and you are paying sales tax.

The House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division heard two bills March 1, that would address this inconsistency. The committee took no action on either measure, but Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the division chair, said both would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

HF502, sponsored by Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), would exempt drinks containing milk and milk products, fruit and fruit products, vegetables, granola, breakfast and energy bars, yogurt and pudding purchased from a vending machine from the sales tax.

Mark Young, president of the Automatic Merchandising Council and a food service vendor from St. Louis Park, said the inequity of taxing food from a vending machine puts vending machine merchants at a disadvantage with their main competitors, convenience stores.

He said currently vending machine owners most often absorb the additional costs rather than pass them on to consumers and that ultimately the sales tax exemption would lead to lower prices.

## TAXING HEARING



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Nick Dawkins, 18 months, takes a nap as his father, Rep. Andy Dawkins rocks the stroller and asks a question during a Feb. 22 hearing of the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee.

Tom Briant, the executive director of the council, said 30 years ago a Minnesota Supreme Court decision established that food sold in vending machines was more like food served in restaurants than food sold in grocery stores. Thus, vending machine items, like restaurant food, is subject to the sales tax.

Rep. Connie Bernardy (DFL-Fridley) said she supports the effort to exempt the healthier foods and hoped the exemption would mean that vendors stocked the machines with more healthy foods.

HF858, sponsored by Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), would exempt all types of food sold in vending machines that is currently exempt when sold at grocery and convenience stores.

"The bill is a little more pricey (than Paulsen's bill) but much cleaner," Erhardt said.

The Department of Revenue estimates the cost of HF502 to be around \$1.3 million in 2002-03, while the cost of HF858 would be \$11.5 million over the biennium.

### Manufactured home savings

The National Mobile Home Construction and Safety Standards Act passed by the U.S. Congress in 1974 began defining manufactured homes more as buildings rather than vehicles.

The House Taxes Committee Property Tax Division heard a bill (HF914) Feb. 26 that would tax that type of housing in a manner similar to other residential housing.

Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester), the sponsor of the measure, said reducing the class rate on manufactured home park land from

1.65 percent to 1.2 percent would stimulate the growth in some affordable housing.

Currently the tax rate on single-family, residential non-homestead property valued at less than \$76,000 is 1.2 percent.

To prevent a loss of tax base and tax shifting to other types of properties, the bill would increase the state Homestead Agricultural Credit Aid to taxing jurisdictions.

Mark Brunner, the executive director of the Minnesota Manufactured Housing Association, said there were more than 3,300 manufactured homes produced in the state last year. The industry employs more than 4,800 people.

Mark Lambert, a manufactured park owner, said the rate reduction would lead to a growth in the number of manufactured home parks in the state.

"This brings the benefits of a manufactured home owner more in line with single family home owners," Lambert said.

Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield) asked Lambert if the tax rate reduction would be passed on from the manufactured home park property owners to the homeowners.

Lambert said that while the rate reduction goes directly to the park owners, residents would benefit too because the bill would allow park owners to hold down their costs.

The Department of Revenue estimates the cost of the measure would be around \$1.4 million a year.

The committee took no action on the bill, but Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), the division chair, said it will be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

# Youth intervention

Three bills would give millions now to programs that proponents say would save millions later

BY THERESA STAHL

**J**im Carter is making amends. As a board member of Minnesota Youth Intervention Program Association, he wants to help prevent children from making the same mistakes he did.

Shoplifting at age eight was his first crime, and others would follow. He eventually served two years for armed robbery. He says he has hurt many people in his life, but it could have all been prevented if someone had intervened after he was caught shoplifting.

Carter, 21, told members of the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee that government should foster a safe society, he said, by supporting programs that prevent youth from ending up in courts and prisons.

Carter, who is now a business owner, testified Feb. 28 for two bills (HF20 and HF348) that would grant funds to youth intervention programs.

"This really doesn't cost money, but reaps benefits," said Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), the sponsor of HF348.

Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of HF20, says the programs save millions in criminal activity. His bill would appropriate \$2.5 million to fund 50 youth intervention programs.

HF348 calls for almost \$1.5 million to be given to youth intervention programs, and 1 percent allocated to the Youth Intervention Program Association. "Funding will be used to expand existing programs to serve unmet needs and to create new programs in underserved areas of the state," the bill reads.

Scott Beaty, executive director of the association, says HF348 "promotes and encourages communities to help their youth." The ratio of community dollars to state money for the programs, including the association, is two to one.

Both bills were laid over and will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

A third bill appropriating money to a youth intervention program was given an informational hearing by the committee. HF1137,

sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), would allocate \$1.5 million between 2002-2003 to Youthbuild programs.

Clark says the 25-year-old organization is "impressive," serving urban, suburban, and rural youth. Youthbuild, which has 12 sites throughout the state, provides specialized training in construction and the building trades fields, computer technician fields, leadership and basic academic skills, and construction-based work experience for youth-at-risk of not completing their high school education.

During the 2000-2001 biennium, the program received about \$1.5 million. Some of the needs for the coming biennium include funding to assist program alumni and funding for more computers.

Those interested in the program must go



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Esmeralda Barboza, a student at City Academy, tells members of the House Jobs & Economic Development Finance Committee Feb. 28 how participants in the Youthbuild program "work as a team."

through an application process, and many are turned away due to funding limitations. Target groups include high school dropouts and potential dropouts, youth-at-risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system, chemically dependent and disabled youth, homeless youth, teen parents, and public assistance recipients.

Christina Sweatt, Youthbuild coordinator in Bemidji, said there are already more than 20 people on the waiting list for the June orientation, and they will have more. They hold two orientations every year.

"We have evolved," Sweatt said. "We use building and teaching trades to teach what young people will need to succeed."

"Most of them do not fit into traditional ways of teaching," she explained. "They are not weak links. They are stronger than any youth out there if we give them the opportunity."

Katrinka Jack is a sophomore in high school. Through a program at The City, Inc., she has learned more math skills, how to use levels, and how a house is built, along with roofing, concrete work, and teamwork.

"You can't build a house alone," Jack said. "The more people that are there, the more fun and educational experience it is."

Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul) asked what happens if someone misses a day or shows up late for work.

"You miss out on learning — someone has to take up my job," Jack replied. "They treat it as a real job, and there are consequences if you're late."

In 2000, Minnesota Youthbuild programs served 387 young people. Ninety-five units of affordable housing were constructed or renovated, affecting more than 300 low-income and homeless persons.

Last year 72 percent of participants successfully completed the program, 85 percent of those who successfully completed the program obtained their high school diploma or GED, and 35 percent enrolled in post-secondary institutions. One-third entered the building trades, and 70 percent entered employment with a starting wage averaging \$9 an hour.

Mahoney, a pipe fitter by trade, said there is a need for more than just carpenters, and asked if they received any training in fields such as plumbing, masonry, or pipe fitting.

Youthbuilders shadow workers in different trades, and "we try to expose them to a number of different fields," said Salvador Pachew,

Continued on page 31

## Close scrutiny

Governor's recommended \$730 million budget for corrections prompts skepticism among House members and employees

BY MICHELLE KIBIGER

Corrections officials are asking for nearly \$730 million during the next biennium, including an aggressive reduction plan in average per diem cost for adult inmates at the state's nine correctional facilities.

The recommendation, forwarded by Gov. Jesse Ventura, actually reflects a \$3.98 million reduction in the base budget for the Department of Corrections. In addition, the per diem plan would result in about \$18 million in re-allocations throughout the department for other programs.

However, members of the House Judiciary Finance Committee, which heard budget requests Feb. 22 and Feb. 26, expressed concern that the department's needs were greater than the governor's recommendation would suggest.

And members of labor unions representing corrections employees also suggested that plans to re-allocate money might create a hardship for employees.

Commissioner Sheryl Ramstad Hvass said it's the first time in the department's history officials have not asked for an increase in the budget.

"I think it's wonderful for the first time ever that we're not asking for increases," said Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown). "But I'm really concerned that the numbers are being cut too far. We've got to make sure that our numbers are absolutely correct."

Ramstad Hvass said the budget is based on Ventura's Big Plan principles of getting the "best bang for the buck." She said the depart-

ment has undergone an extensive review of programs and developed a strategic plan. In addition, the department is embarking on a significant plan to reduce the cost of housing inmates each day at the adult facilities.

That plan would reduce per diem costs to \$77.78 by the end of the fiscal year and further reduction to \$68.72 in the future. Ramstad Hvass said she hopes to accomplish that goal in three years.

The plan would also add about 500 beds system-wide to help cut costs. In addition, the department is keeping about 190 positions open and re-assigning other management and line staff to cut per diem costs.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Tim Walsh, director of juvenile services for the Minnesota Department of Corrections, presents the department's budget overview at the Feb. 27 House Judiciary Finance Committee hearing.**

"I think we're all concerned how far we go," said Deputy Commissioner Dennis Benson. "I don't think there's anything wrong with looking at the national average and using that as a guideline. But where it makes sense, I believe it's in our best interest to get as close to that average as we can."

"We shouldn't be asking the taxpayer to bring \$98 to the table every time we have a new inmate."

Among the changes in the budget is a request for \$1.5 million to continue the department's efforts toward integrating the CrimNet system.

In addition, the governor has proposed \$3 million for cost-efficiency improve-

ments, including enhancements to electronic fencing at the St. Cloud prison, electronics on the walls at the Stillwater prison, and electronic locks at certain facilities, particularly those converted from former state mental hospitals.

The governor adds \$13.7 million to the department's budget for community

supervision, including \$2 million for caseload reductions and \$1.5 million for intensive supervised release.

Over the past four years, the Legislature has appropriated about \$17 million to reduce caseloads for probation agents. Since then, caseloads have dropped about three per case worker, said Deputy Commissioner Mark Carey.

He said probation is probably the least understood aspect of corrections. Probation officers do all the behind the scenes work to make sure inmates get back on track and don't end up back in the prison system.

At the Feb. 26 hearing, Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), committee chair, asked how much the department had requested from the governor for this purpose. He said he didn't think \$2 million would go far enough.

"What do we really expect to get for \$2 million?" Stanek asked. "Rep. (Dave) Bishop (R-Rochester) has a bill for \$16 million over the biennium. Now that would get us somewhere."

Several other members, including Murphy and Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), said they also wondered what the original request from the department had been.

Bishop responded that he had tried to get original requests from the Department of Finance but was denied. He said he's concerned that the governor's administration is withholding important information.


Several representatives from the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees attended the meeting to express their concern over the tight budget and the per diem reduction plan.

Jim Monroe, executive director for the group, cautioned members not to rely on technology to compensate for reduced staff. He said he came from Ohio where such a plan did not work.

Bob Haag from MAPE also said case workers are concerned they won't have adequate time to prepare inmates to go back into the public sector and succeed.

Representatives from AFSCME Council 6 also testified briefly, saying overtime costs are high due to the positions being held open by the reduction plan.

Though corrections officials say they solicited staff input in developing the per diem reduction plan, Haag said employees were not given a good enough opportunity to comment about the plan.

"A union should not have to come to a committee like this with our concerns," he said. 



# Staying after school

Youth development programs in community education seek more state funds

By MARY KAY WATSON

**A**fter-school community education has had no increase in state funding in 13 years.

"The time has come for us to give them a little bump," said Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior).

The "bump" Sykora offered the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee Feb. 28 was a bill that would authorize \$11 million a year for youth programs in community education.

HF646, authored by Sykora, would provide for supervised youth programs during non-school hours within established community education programs.

To receive state funding for these programs, a school district would have to levy according to a revenue formula. Money received from the state must be used for "activities that support the development of social, mental, physical, and creative abilities of school-age youth."

The intent of Minnesota's Community Education Program is to make use of public school facilities to provide lifelong learning opportunities for all community members. Programs offered may be wide-ranging, including those for children and youth. It has always been a state aid and levy program.

And after-school programs are important, officials say, because they give children supervised, constructive activities and keep them out of trouble.

Schools across the state are currently struggling to keep their after-school programs going. More than 100 Minnesota school districts are now either at a zero balance or are spending at a deficit in their community education budgets.

The problem is especially severe in rural areas. The average total population of districts with deficits is 6,000 and their average deficit is \$46,000, according to Dennis Carlson of the Minnesota Community Education Association.

Tom Searcy, director of community education for New London-Spicer schools, said youth programs in his district have had no increase in funding in 13 years.

On a recent Sunday, Searcy had to cancel



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Carol Thomas from the Department of Children, Families and Learning testifies before the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee, Feb. 28 on community education funded after-school programs.**

programs because of snowstorms. In listening to be certain the radio announced the closings, he heard of six other schools that closed programs.

"Six years ago, none of our schools were open on weekends," he said. "Without HF626 they will all be closed again. And I don't believe it will be weather-related."

There is an increasing need for these programs in all areas of the state. Thirty-four percent of Minnesota's 6- to 12-year-olds and 56 percent of 10- to 12-year-olds are left alone for some time each week, according to a study by the Urban Institute of Washington D.C.

"As an educator, farmer, parent, and grandparent, I'm concerned about the future of our rural communities," said Bev Struxness,

director of the Lac qui Parle Valley Community Education Program. "Community education programs are the link between education and the local economy."

Asking for support of Sykora's bill, Struxness spoke eloquently of the time it takes to make a program work: finding volunteers, organizing activities, and helping those youth who are "sitting on the fence."

"It's especially important to reach out to high-risk children," she said.

Minnesotans have historically given strong support to after-school programs for children. According to a recent poll survey by the Afterschool Alliance, 92 percent of voters say there is a need for places where children can go after school for organized activities and learning opportunities, and 79 percent say the state should help foot the bill.

Other programs in Minnesota reach out to children after school, and the committee heard from some of them.

In 1996, in response to concerns about unsupervised youth and rising juvenile crime rates, the Legislature established after-school enrichment grants. An appropriation of \$10.4 million was made for 2000-01 to 34 grantees who provide programming for high-risk 9- to 13-year-olds.

It is the priority of this grant initiative to involve youth who are struggling academically, at-risk of becoming involved with the criminal justice system, and/or not supervised by an adult during non-school hours.

Club Fed is a collaboration of 65 different agencies in North Minneapolis that received such a grant.

"Without the programs provided by Club Fed," said Farzaneh Kia, the organization's program director, "kids would be in the street, hanging around. They would rather be in the structured programs — playing sports, being with their friends."

The program is located at 42 sites and offers programs such as tutoring, mentoring, arts, and sports. Kia said school attendance of participants in Club Fed has increased overall.

Lawmakers voiced concern about measuring outcomes for these programs. Carol Thomas, of the Department of Children, Families and Learning, acknowledged the difficulties of evaluating after-school programs. She said data is being collected, and a system of

**Continued on page 31**



## Road funding concerns

With the reduction of license tab fees, legislators seek a more steady funding mechanism for transportation projects

BY JONAS M. WALKER

Legislators are wrestling with the responsibility of ensuring the viability of Minnesota's transportation infrastructure, a task made all the more difficult in the wake of reductions in license tab fees, once a mainstay for highway funds.

Now, Minnesotans may have the opportunity to vote on guaranteeing transportation funding in the state constitution.

The House Transportation Policy approved three bills on the matter Feb. 27, and referred them all to the House Transportation Finance Committee. All would amend the state constitution, which requires approval by the majority of voters in the general election.

Though the committee forwarded the bills to the finance committee, discussion at the hearing centered around the conflict between funding roads and funding transit systems.

HF9, sponsored by Rep. Connie Ruth (R-Owatonna), would dedicate all revenue from the sales tax on motor vehicles to the highway user tax distribution fund. HF11, sponsored by Rep. Andrew Westerberg (R-Blaine), would dedicate not less than 32 percent of revenue from the sales tax on motor vehicles to the highway user tax distribution fund. HF860, sponsored by Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Cottage Grove), would establish a multi-modal transportation fund for highway and transit projects. Her bill proposes that all revenues from the motor vehicle sales tax be dedicated to the new fund.

One-third of revenue generated by the motor vehicle sales taxes now goes to the highway distribution fund, with the remainder appropriated to the general fund. Money from the general fund has been used to compensate the highway distribution fund for revenue that would have been deposited from the collection of license tab fees.

Beginning in 1967, motor vehicles, like most other sellable merchandise, became subject to a 3 percent general state sales tax. In response to criticism that the tax was among the highest in the United States, Minnesota later

divided revenue from taxes on a vehicle purchase into a sales tax and a motor vehicle excise tax. That name was later changed to the motor vehicle sales tax.

Since then, the Legislature has added two additional taxes directly affecting automobile owners: license registration fees and the gasoline tax. Each contributes about one-half the value of the highway tax distribution fund, which is dedicated exclusively to the trunk highway fund and the county and municipal state-aid highway and street funds.

In light of recent declines in state license tab fee revenue, some legislators are concerned an important funding source for road construction and maintenance has been neglected. According to the Department of Revenue, the license tab reduction will result in a revenue reduction of \$175 million to the highway user tax distribution fund by fiscal year 2003. That figure is nearly 15 percent of the fund's total revenue.

Statewide, residents and government entities are clamoring for what seems to be an ever-shrinking pot of funds available for transportation projects. However, there is a significant difference in the solutions legislators are proposing. The variation in the plan underscores the differences in transportation sensibility found among lawmakers.

Sorenson said his group favors the restoration of dedicated highway funding to levels that existed prior to tab fee reduction.

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul)

expressed her support for Marko's bill, HF860. She explained that highways cannot adequately function if planners ignore the benefits of transit solutions.

"Perhaps it's time we begin rethinking (the assumption that) highways are separate from transit systems," Hausman said.

Sam Grabarski, representing the Minneapolis Downtown Council, echoed her thoughts.

His organization represents the largest employers in downtown Minneapolis, an area that is the daily destination and departure point for more than 220,000 commuters.

"We are completely dependant on multi-modal transportation systems," he said. Grabarski said running express buses along the

shoulders of congested Twin Cities' highways mitigates the need for building additional lanes, something that local groups have begun to oppose and, in some cases, successfully prevent.

Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester) asked Grabarski about what he saw as the irony of using automobile sales taxes to assist in the funding of alternative transportation systems. Grabarski responded that drivers polled by his organization routinely supported additional transit programs by an overwhelming majority.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) expressed concern that suburban businesses might disfavor transit funding, and that a statewide multi-modal fund could politically alienate central commercial districts.

Grabarski countered that suburban businesses were increasingly in agreement with his organization. "Even I was surprised to learn that


(suburban) chambers of commerce now say transit is their number one priority." 



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

**Robert E. Vanasek, former speaker of the House and now a lobbyist from Robert Vanasek & Associates, testifies Feb. 27 before the House Transportation Policy Committee on constitutional amendments providing a revenue stream for transportation projects.**

# Public-private partnership

Speakers emphasize strong bonds between industry and public universities in research and innovation

By **JONAS M. WALKER**



Lawmakers got a lesson Feb. 22 from regional economic and technological powerhouses on the importance of partnerships between private venture capital and public universities.

The event was part of the annual Capitol Forum Series, sponsored by Minnesota Technology. This year's topics focused on developing technology and how it will shape Minnesota's future.

On Feb. 22, the topic was "Integrating a Research University into a Regional Technology Forum."

Kitty Forbes Vogt of the Georgia Research Alliance told House and Senate members of her state's investment in public university-led research and development.

Via specially designed offices funded by the state, Georgia industry has expanded its relationships with universities, which in turn leads to "gains in venture capital investment." The result is that Georgia, and Atlanta specifically, has benefited from an explosion in the number of high-tech jobs, she said.

"Georgia has a proven model for turning university research into economic growth," said Vogt. "Through the Georgia Research Alliance, we connect business, scientific and government leaders to generate start-ups, attract industry, enhance jobs and create wealth."

"Technology-driven economies tend to reinforce themselves over time. They are the key to sustained economic growth."

David Allen, assistant vice-president for technology partnerships at The Ohio State University, explained Minnesota could harness the economic power of the high-tech industry by taking advantage of such partnerships.

He said traditional relationships between universities and industry were strictly "buy-sell. Now, industry needs brand identity for capturing the best students." In other words, industry wants access to student innovation throughout the educational career of that student.

Allen suggested that industry would likely feel more comfortable making long-term investment in specific programs if universities could guarantee access to students as early as their sophomore year.

He also said successful traits of university/industry collaboration include the sharing of costs and rewards, the building of relationships beyond key actors on both sides, and accountability to "diverse constituencies." He emphasized such partnerships are not appropriate for all faculty members, or for all educational programs.

He also said that cultural barriers between industry and academia constitute significant barriers to the success of partnerships. For

example, industry exists to maximize profit for shareholders, while universities are generally focused on merely generating ideas and original thought.

For those who seek such partnerships, Allen said, the Georgia and Ohio models can be economically lucrative for business, intellectually stimulating for academics, and a boost in esteem for a metropolitan area or state.

The seminar comes at a time of conflict within the Legislature over the future of the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Allen emphasized that, instead of trying to be all things to all people, the best universities must intentionally pursue "selective excellence."

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) expressed concern that universities might compromise their "Aristotelian virtue of learning for its own sake" by allowing industry to guide publicly-funded research.

"After World War II people had the same concerns," Allen responded. "If you leave (major research decisions) to faculty members, we can make sure that good people do the right thing."

He also added The Ohio State University's ethics commission vigorously monitors the relationships. "The key is disclosure," said Allen, referring to the tension between industry's need for secrecy and the public trust, which necessitates transparency.

Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township) said, "It takes leadership of the University to guide this." Expressing the generally optimistic mood of the assembled lawmakers regarding the possibility of the University of Minnesota engaging in such partnerships, he said, "There is great potential."

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) was impressed with the idea of tying compensation of professors to the success of their ideas in the marketplace, a scheme he said he "would like explored more" at the University of Minnesota.

"We need risk takers" in the development of agricultural technology, he said. 🐾



PHOTOS BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Kitty Forbes Vogt, program manager for the Georgia Research Alliance, and David Allen, assistant vice-president for technology partnerships at The Ohio State University speak at the Capitol Forum Series Feb. 22.**

# Minnesota State and Federal Offices

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(Area code 651)

Agriculture .....	297-2200
Children, Families and Learning .....	582-8200
Commerce .....	296-4026
Corrections .....	642-0200
Economic Security .....	296-3644
Employee Relations .....	297-1184
Job Information .....	296-2616
Finance .....	296-5900
Health .....	215-5800
Human Rights .....	296-5663
Toll Free .....	1-800-657-3704
Human Services .....	296-6117
Labor and Industry .....	296-6107
Military Affairs .....	282-4662
Natural Resources .....	296-6157
Public Safety .....	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services .....	296-6911
Fire Marshal .....	215-0500
Alcohol and Gambling	
Enforcement Division .....	296-6979
State Patrol .....	297-3935
Pollution Control Agency .....	296-6300
Public Service .....	296-5120
Revenue	
Taxpayer Assistance .....	296-3781
Toll Free .....	1-800-652-9094
Trade and Economic Development .....	297-1291
Office of Tourism .....	296-5029
Transportation .....	296-3000
Veterans Affairs .....	296-2562

State Information ..... 296-6013

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Legislative Information ..... <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

## Joint Legislative Services

### Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC)

85 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-9002

### LCC Central Accounting

60 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-8890

### LCC Subcommittee on Rules

55 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-1121

### Claims (Joint Subcommittee on Claims)

85 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-0099

### Geographic Information Systems

#### (GIS) Oversight Office/Subcommittee

85 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-0098

### Legislative Advisory Commission (LAC)

Fourth Floor, Centennial Office Building

658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 ..... (651) 296-4956

### Office of Legislative Auditor

First Floor, Centennial Office Building

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### Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women

85 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-8590

Toll Free ..... 1-800-657-3949

### Joint Subcommittee on Employee Relations (LCC)

85 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-2963

### Legislative Commission on Health Care Access

309 Capitol ..... (651) 296-4261

### Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR)

65 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-2406

### Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement

55 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-2750

### Legislative Commission on Planning & Fiscal Policy

85 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-9002

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Eveleth 55734 ..... (218) 744-7400

### Mississippi River Parkway Commission

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Minneapolis 55459-8207 ..... (612) 449-2560

### Electric Energy Task Force

322 Capitol ..... (651) 296-1767

### Regent Candidate Advisory Council

85 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-9002

### Board of Trustees Candidate Advisory Council

85 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-9002

### Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board

First Floor South, Centennial Office Building ..... (651) 296-5148

658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155

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645 State Office Building ..... (651) 296-3398

### Office of the Revisor of Statutes

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## Monday, February 26

### HF1144—Wilkin (R)

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Attorney general access to health data limited.

### HF1145—Boudreau (R)

**Agriculture Policy**  
Veterinary medicine cease and desist orders authorized.

### HF1146—Ozment (R)

**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Salt distribution stockpiles design, construction, and use requirements established.

### HF1147—Mullery (DFL)

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Landlord and tenant property covenant clarified.

### HF1148—Mullery (DFL)

**Crime Prevention**  
Judges authorized to set bail at levels that protect the public safety.

### HF1149—Mares (R)

**Education Policy**  
Educational data classification and dissemination provided.

### HF1150—Bishop (R)

**Ways & Means**  
Budget and forecast procedures technical provisions modified.

### HF1151—Mulder (R)

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Psychologist disciplinary actions penalty provisions modified.

### HF1152—Mulder (R)

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Emergency medical services buildings in rural Minnesota construction matching grants provided through the Minnesota Investment Fund, and money appropriated.

### HF1153—Mulder (R)

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Local government building project architect requirement exemption provided.

### HF1154—Greiling (DFL)

**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission insecticide use restricted.

### HF1155—Abeler (R)

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Health care provider affirmative consent to participate in a network under a category of coverage and disclosure of provider's contract changes required.

### HF1156—Dehler (R)

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Prescription drug program eligibility expanded.

### HF1157—Dehler (R)

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
St. Stephen water and wastewater systems grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF1158—Osskopp (R)

**Taxes**  
MinnesotaCare provider and premium taxes repealed, tobacco settlement proceeds allocated to health insurance account, personal income tax exemption for dependents provided, health care access fund repealed, and money appropriated.

### HF1159—Pawlenty (R)

**Capital Investment**  
Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation and Gillette Children's Specialty Health Care facility prior funding provisions modified.

### HF1160—Davids (R)

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Physician assistants prescribing medication review provisions modified.

### HF1161—Sertich (DFL)

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Minnesota State Retirement System refunds of contributions authorized for employees who terminated service at any time in the past.

### HF1162—Swapinski (DFL)

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Duluth; St. Louis River community recreation, service, and learning center grant provided and money appropriated.

### HF1163—Gray (DFL)

**K-12 Education Finance**  
Adolescent parenting grant program funding provided and money appropriated.

### HF1164—Gray (DFL)

**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Homeless prevention school stability project funding provided and money appropriated.

### HF1165—Gray (DFL)

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Head Start grantee minimum funding ensured and money appropriated.

### HF1166—Mulder (R)

**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Lamb and wool research, education, and marketing assistance program funding provided and money appropriated.

### HF1167—Skoe (DFL)

**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Red Lake Watershed district manager position authorized to represent the Red Lake Indian Reservation.

### HF1168—Juhnke (DFL)

**Regulated Industries**  
Telecommunications infrastructure redundancy required.

### HF1169—Dorman (R)

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Employer safety committee requirements modified.

### HF1170—Dawkins (DFL)

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Early childhood care and education pilot project grants authorized and money appropriated.

### HF1171—Kalis (DFL)

**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Faribault County Soil and Water Conservation District Quad-Lakes project grant provided and money appropriated.

### HF1172—Ruth (R)

**Transportation Policy**  
School bus driver's licenses checked twice annually.

### HF1173—Howes (R)

**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Minnesota Conservation Corps funding provided and money appropriated.

### HF1174—Howes (R)

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Propane education and research council established.

### HF1175—Vandevier (R)

**Taxes**  
Electronic tax filing requirements modified.

### HF1176—Vandevier (R)

**Taxes**  
Electronic tax filing requirements modified.

### HF1177—Gunther (R)

**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Blue Earth County board grant provided for study of Rapidan Dam, and money appropriated.

### HF1178—Lenczewski (DFL)

**Taxes**  
Metropolitan fiscal disparities program study required and money appropriated.

### HF1179—Lieder (DFL)

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Public safety employees assigned to state patrol to enforce motor vehicle size and weight laws defined as public safety officers for purposes of survivor benefits.

### HF1180—Lenczewski (DFL)

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Aspergillosis; public benefits for diagnosis and treatment of aspergillosis provided as provided for tuberculosis.

### HF1181—Anderson, B. (R)

**Education Policy**  
Independent School District No. 877, Buffalo, permanently authorized to start school prior to Labor Day.

### HF1182—Clark, J. (R)

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Invention developer contract requirements modified.

### HF1183—Nornes (R)

**Taxes**  
Ambulance service supplies, equipment, repair, and replacement parts sales tax exemption provided.

### HF1184—Clark, J. (R)

**Education Policy**  
Pupil unit count increased for kindergarten pupils.

**HF1185—Smith (R)****Civil Law**

Revenue recapture act use authorized for collection of specified judgements, priority of claims provided, service of process requirements modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1186—Abrams (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Integration revenue provided for all members of a multi-district integration collaborative.

**HF1187—Mulder (R)****Taxes**

Education agricultural property tax credit increased.

**HF1188—Gunther (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Fire training exercise ash disposal regulated.

**HF1189—Vandever (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Election of municipal council members provided after annexation.

**HF1190—Dorman (R)****Taxes**

Agricultural processing facility construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

**HF1191—Juhnke (DFL)****Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Turkey respiratory disease control and prevention research grant provided to University of Minnesota and money appropriated.

**HF1192—Abeler (R)****Education Policy**

Applicants for temporary limited teaching license or personnel variance permitted to submit applications by July 1, and conforming rule changes provided.

**HF1193—Goodno (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Home and community-based options for individuals with disabilities access improvements provided, consumer control provisions modified, and consumer-directed home care demonstration project established.

**HF1194—Rukavina (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Declining pupil aid provided for economically distressed school districts and money appropriated.

**HF1195—Mariani (DFL)****Education Policy**

Student loans; public institutions required to adopt student assistance policy for loans in default, and grant eligibility conforming changes provided.

**HF1196—Tingelstad (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Tobacco settlement fund modified, medical education endowment fund sunset extended, healthy kids learn endowment fund established, and money appropriated.

**HF1197—Hackbarth (R)****Transportation Policy**

Metropolitan Council demonstration project funding provided for express bus service between downtown Minneapolis and one or more cities located outside the transit taxing district, and money appropriated.

**HF1198—Tingelstad (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Foster care, adoption assistance, and relative custody assistance advisory task force convened.

**HF1199—Tingelstad (R)****Taxes**

Adoption expenses income tax deduction provided.

**HF1200—Tingelstad (R)****Taxes**

Adoption expenses income tax credit provided.

**HF1201—Westrom (R)****Taxes**

Poultry litter biomass electrical generating facility construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

**HF1202—Westrom (R)****Taxes**

Poultry litter biomass electrical generating facility property tax exemption provided.

**HF1203—Gunther (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Home energy assistance trust fund account established and money appropriated.

**HF1204—Jacobson (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Laurentian Environmental Learning Center funding provided to Mounds View school district and money appropriated.

**HF1205—Sykora (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Wine; off-sale wine licenses authorized for supermarkets in metropolitan counties.

**HF1206—Evans (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Prescription drug rebate program established and money appropriated.

**HF1207—Pugh (DFL)****Education Policy**

Special School District No. 6, South St. Paul, chemical and alcohol-free school grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1208—Pugh (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Debt service tuition rebate provided to public post-secondary students and money appropriated.

**HF1209—Slawik (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Patient rights and protections established, coverages regulated, carrier and provider duties specified, and remedies provided.

**HF1210—Evans (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Patient rights and protections established, coverages regulated, carrier and provider duties specified, and remedies provided.

**HF1211—Daggett (R)****Taxes**

Water treating and pressurizing materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

**HF1212—Bradley (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Health maintenance organizations authorized to offer greater flexibility in enrollee cost-sharing.

**HF1213—Peterson (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Drug dog alert defined as probable cause for searches for controlled substances, training objectives required for dogs, grants provided for purchase and care of dogs, and money appropriated.

**HF1214—Lipman (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Election provisions clarified, and specified election procedures and requirements modified.

**HF1215—Jennings (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Teachers retirement association service credit purchase authorized for a teacher at Independent School District No. 279, Osseo.

**HF1216—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Comprehensive advanced life support educational program funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1217—Ness (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Telecommunication access revenue and other connectivity funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1218—Rhodes (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan Radio Board expiration date extended to 2005.

**HF1219—Gunther (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

State fund mutual insurance company state involvement reduced.

**HF1220—Bradley (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Long-term care; consumer information and assistance and community-based care, system reform and reimbursement, workforce recruitment and retention, and regulation of nursing pools provided; and money appropriated.

**HF1221—Mares (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Children's mental health integrated services pilot projects funded and money appropriated.

**HF1222—Dawkins (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Manufacturer's duty to repair, refund, or replace specified new computers defined.

**HF1223—Abeler (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Licensed nursing facility annual rate increases established.

**HF1224—Davids (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Medical response unit registration provided.

**HF1225—Osthoff (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Saint Paul Greenway Corridor funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1226—Sertich (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

State lands exchange requirements modified.

**HF1227—Carlson (DFL)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Hennepin County nursing facility rate increase authorized and money appropriated.

**HF1228—Paymar (DFL)****Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Ramsey County ACE (All Children Excel) program and Hennepin County Delinquents Under 10 programs funded, and money appropriated.

**HF1229—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Actions restricted against a driver for violation of condition of abstinence.

**HF1230—Boudreau (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Library for the blind telecommunications system funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1231—Erickson (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
School media program staff position established, school media center study initiated, and money appropriated.

**HF1232—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
St. Louis County school trust land long-term lease authorized.

**HF1233—Haas (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Brooklyn Park city economic development authority tax increment use authorized.

**HF1234—Eastlund (R)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Regional library telecommunications aid grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1235—Holsten (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Forest management money appropriated.

**HF1236—Rhodes (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
House and Senate confirmation of members of the Metropolitan Airports Commission required.

**HF1237—Seifert (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Lac Qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District Prairie Farm Preservation and Exhibit Center grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1238—Otremba (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Minnesota Dairy Supply Management Act established.

**HF1239—Vandever (R)**  
**Local Government a& Metropolitan Affairs**  
Forest Lake special election authorized on whether to increase the size of the city council and establish wards.

**HF1240—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Restrictions on the purchase of retirement plan service credit for prior military service eliminated.

**HF1241—Ness (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Feedlot permitting delegation in certain counties required and support funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1242—Nornes (R)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Library basic support grant money appropriated.

**HF1243—Ness (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Feedlot specialist program established and money appropriated.

**HF1244—Bradley (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment program requirements established, report required, and money appropriated.

**HF1245—Stang (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Dishonored check collection charges provisions modified.

**HF1246—Dorman (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Gas; civil remedies provided for theft of motor fuels.

**HF1247—Eastlund (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Veterans home board administration of planned giving donations provided.

**HF1248—Eastlund (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Veterans homes resident deposit accounts modified.

## Thursday, March 1

**HF1249—Bishop (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Sex offender assessments ordered.

**HF1250—Rhodes (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Military discharge certificates classified as private data.

**HF1251—Osskopp (R)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Sustainable and organic foods programs base funding levels restored and money appropriated.

**HF1252—Pawlenty (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Veterans; homeless or at-risk veterans housing projects loans and grants provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1253—Ness (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
School district reserve accounts authorized.

**HF1254—Workman (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Driver's license reinstatement fee alcohol-impaired driver education account allocation modified.

**HF1255—Haas (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
County social service agencies reimbursed for out-of-home juvenile placement costs and money appropriated.

**HF1256—Holberg (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Best interests of the child factors clarified relating to custody proceedings.

**HF1257—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Family and adult self-sufficiency program provisions modified.

**HF1258—Hilstrom (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Brooklyn Center replacement transit hub design and construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1259—Erickson (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Fingerhut, Inc., of Mora employees provided extra unemployment benefits.

**HF1260—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Custodial and non-custodial parent terminology neutralized relating to family law.

**HF1261—Bishop (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Corrections; obsolete language repealed referencing Regions Hospital, predatory offenders required to demonstrate full compliance with supervised release, and risk level review and reassessment provisions modified.

**HF1262—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Personal and dependent exemption income tax deduction provided.

**HF1263—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
Special education services provisions modified and money appropriated.

**HF1264—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Urban rivers act draft preparation required.

**HF1265—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
Charter schools board established and money appropriated.

**HF1266—Ness (R)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Dairy diagnostics and modernization program additional funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1267—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Sports wagering games authorized, sports bookmaking licenses provided, and Minnesota active recreation fund established.

**HF1268—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Genetic information insurance company use regulated under the Genetic Discrimination Act.

**HF1269—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Mississippi whitewater trail funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1270—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Currency exchanges, real estate brokers, real property appraisers, residential contractors, and collection agencies continuing education, fees, costs, duties, rights and recovery fund amounts regulated.

**HF1271—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Chiropractors; licensed chiropractors included in preferred provider networks.

**HF1272—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Administration department directed to decentralize state agencies and departments.

**HF1273—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Nursing facility operating cost reimbursement floor established.

**HF1274—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
Biomass mandate modified to include new facility in northern Minnesota that utilizes biomass residue wood and wood byproducts.

**HF1275—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Organic, natural, and locally grown foods promotion periodical established, and money appropriated.

**HF1276—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Crane operator certification and regulation provided, rulemaking required and civil penalties imposed.

**HF1277—Molnau (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Interregional transportation corridor financing procedures, statewide communications system, and transportation revolving loan fund provisions modified, and clarifying changes provided.

**HF1278—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Recreational vehicle combination maximum length increased to 65 feet.

**HF1279—Hilstrom (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Homeowner notice provided prior to cancellation of insurance for nonpayment of premium by a mortgage escrow servicer.

**HF1280—Seagren (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Elementary reading specialist licensure provided, and elementary school teacher license requirements modified.

**HF1281—Holberg (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Light utility trailers lifetime registration provided.

**HF1282—Osskopp (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Rural finance authority provisions modified.

**HF1283—Seagren (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Internet sales and leases regulated, and domain names and agents for service of process information disclosure provided.

**HF1284—Rhodes (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Lottery funds not dedicated to natural resources trust fund allocated to arts fund and amateur sports fund.

**HF1285—Winter (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Nobles County joint powers transit authority grant provided for operation of prairieland transit system and money appropriated.

**HF1286—Ruth (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Traffic flow improvements funded to eliminate bottlenecks in metro area, at-risk interregional corridors outside metro area improved, annual reports required, and money appropriated.

**HF1287—Ruth (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Trunk Highway 14 four-lane expressway segment constructed, environmental impact statement prepared, and money appropriated.

**HF1288—Daggett (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Living-at-home block nurse program numbers and funding increased and money appropriated.

**HF1289—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Prostitution crimes aggressive initiative provided, criminal penalties increased and mandatory minimum sentencing imposed, presentence investigations ordered for all prostitution, firearm, or drug offenses, and money appropriated.

**HF1290—Howes (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
County offices made appointive positions under certain circumstances.

**HF1291—Boudreau (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Health plan subrogation clause limitation provisions modified.

**HF1292—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Family and adult self-sufficiency program provisions modified.

**HF1293—Davids (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Public service commissioner's remaining duties transferred to commissioner of commerce after reorganization order No. 181.

**HF1294—Mares (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Post-retirement health care savings plan for state employees established and money appropriated.

**HF1295—Haas (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Volunteer firefighter relief association consultant conditions imposed.

**HF1296—Abrams (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Legislative days limit repealed and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1297—Dempsey (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Office of Strategic and Long-range planning Authority transfer from municipal board statutory conforming changes provided, and delegation by the director authorized.

**HF1298—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Joint powers wastewater treatment boards authorized to issue bonds.

**HF1299—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Driveway damage caused by snowmobile metal traction device reimbursement provided.

**HF1300—Jacobson (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Motor vehicle sales tax funds deposited in the highway user tax distribution fund and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1301—Osthoff (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
St. Paul Roy Wilkins Auditorium planning and design grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1302—Hackbarth (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Natural resources; specified advisory committee expiration dates extended, hunting stamp provisions modified, snowmobile safety grants carry forward provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1303—Boudreau (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Children's health insurance provisions modified.

**HF1304—Nornes (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Lead poisoning prevention provisions modified, property sellers required to provide well water test results, and obsolete laws repealed.

**HF1305—Hackbarth (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Environmental assistance revolving loan account established and money appropriated.

**HF1306—Howes (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Minnesota Conservation Corps program and decorative forest products provisions modified, sustainable forest resources provisions repeal delayed, study required, civil penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

**HF1307—Bradley (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Guardianship service providers defined, duties specified, and money appropriated.

**HF1308—Kelliher (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
County biological survey funded and money appropriated.

**HF1309—Dibble (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Brewers; retail and wholesale sales of a licensed brewer's own products permitted.

**HF1310—Abrams (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Construction; state building official authorized to interpret the state building code, annual reports on construction-related fees required, construction fees regulated, and waivers of rights requirements prohibited.

**HF1311—McElroy (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Minnesota money transmitters act established.

**HF1312—Koskinen (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Hearing aids for children insurance coverage required.

**HF1313—Ozment (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Soil and water conservation district grants provided for non-point engineering technical assistance, feedlot water quality management program, and special projects cost-share program; and money appropriated.

**HF1314—Mares (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Seat belt offense designated as a primary offense.

**HF1315—Fuller (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
State fire marshal additional duties specified, fire marshal account recreated, and money appropriated.

**HF1316—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Publicly owned parking facilities tax exemption provided.

**HF1317—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Tax increment financing district pooling qualifications and permission process modified.

**HF1318—Ozment (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Environmental fund revenues and expenditures provided, remediation fund established, and money appropriated.



**HF1319—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Nursing home pass-through reimbursement extended.

**HF1320—Lindner (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Hassan Township economic development authority authorized.

**HF1321—Ruth (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Steele County aggregate materials production tax imposed.

**HF1322—Buesgens (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Metropolitan Council and other related commissions abolished, ownership of metro sports facilities transferred to Minneapolis, wastewater control commission established, duties transferred, and money appropriated.

**HF1323—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
Minnesota Energy Security and Reliability Act enacted.

**HF1324—Bradley (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Long-term care provisions modified.

**HF1325—Johnson, S. (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Asian-American juvenile crime intervention and prevention grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1326—Mares (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
PERA; service credit purchase for a specific individual employed by White Bear Lake school district authorized.

**HF1327—Finseth (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Bear hunting; use of dogs for bear hunting allowed.

**HF1328—Ness (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Limited English proficiency programs revenue increased.

**HF1329—Goodwin (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Dental service coverages extended to porcelain-fused-to-metal crowns for adults and bridges.

**HF1330—Clark, J. (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Felony penalty for aggravated cruelty to pets imposed.

**HF1331—Skoe (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Designated housing projects within Native American Indian reservations exempted from property taxes.

**HF1332—Daggett (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Becker County nursing facility rate increase provided.

**HF1333—Wolf (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Teacher contract January 15 deadline date and penalty repealed.

**HF1334—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Former University of Minnesota hospital employees disability coverage provided.

**HF1335—Slawik (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Maximum income tax dependent care credit increased, phaseout extended, and money appropriated.

**HF1336—Mulder (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Health insurance; stop-loss fund account created and money appropriated.

**HF1337—Mulder (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Health insurance; purchasing alliance stop-loss fund account created and money appropriated.

**HF1338—Haas (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Insurers, agents, coverages, benefits, costs, claims, investments, notifications, and disclosures regulated; commissioner powers and duties provided, and regulation of nonprofit legal services plans eliminated.

**HF1339—Schumacher (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Motor vehicle registration taxes limited, motor vehicle sales tax funds dedicated to highway user tax distribution fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1340—Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Wright County recorder appointment permitted.

**HF1341—Davnie (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Special education revenue increased, funding for related programs increased, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1342—Marquart (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Education; isolation index distance factor increased for sparsity revenue.

**HF1343—Evans (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Prescription drug program expanded.

**HF1344—Thompson (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Medical assistance income standard for persons who are aged, blind, or disabled increased.

**HF1345—Cassell (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Minnesota Association of Resource conservation and development grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1346—Howes (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Sustainable forest property tax program established, refunds provided to certain property owners, tree growth tax law repealed, and money appropriated.

**HF1347—Rhodes (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Tenant impact statement provisions modified and civil penalties imposed.

**HF1348—Holberg (R)**  
**Judiciary Finance**  
Dakota County criminal justice information system improvements grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1349—Molnau (R)**  
**Taxes**  
County levy for watershed management separate certification provided.

**HF1350—Ozment (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Dakota County authorized to provide services to Metropolitan Inter-county Association, Dakota County Agricultural Society, and specified employees included in PERA.

**HF1351—Abeler (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Local learn and earn programs allowed to add additional program slots, subsequent evaluation of student outcomes provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1352—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Teachers retirement association annuity formula computation modified.

**HF1353—Stanek (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Interstate compact for adult offender supervision adopted, existing compact repealed, advisory council created, administrator appointed, reports required, and money appropriated.

**HF1354—Holsten (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Petroleum tank release cleanup provisions modified.

**HF1355—Holberg (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Center for Crime Victim Services reorganized as a division of the Department of Public Safety, powers and duties transferred, grants authorized, and rulemaking provided.

**HF1356—Dorman (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Agricultural operation nuisance liability protection expanded.

**HF1357—McElroy (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Commissioner of revenue authorized to reissue checks for refunds in cases of hardship, and certain uncashed tax refunds listed as unclaimed property.

**HF1358—Stang (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Entertainment agencies regulation repealed.

**HF1359—Ozment (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Lottery ticket in lieu tax disposition modified, state wildlife management area additions provided, land exchanges authorized, and Roseau County conservation land sale permitted.

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## MONDAY, March 5

7:30 a.m. departure

### TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport  
6040 28th Ave. S.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55450

Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** Airport tour.

**Members and staff:** Meet on east steps of State Office Building (outside Secretary of State's office) at 7:30 a.m.

8:15 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF550 (Eastlund) Edvest; higher education services office rulemaking authority extended.

HF116 (Mulder) Respiratory Care Practitioner Advisory Council sunset delayed, and athletic trainer registration cancelled for nonrenewal after two years.

HF70 (Seifert) Presidential electors designated and duties specified.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** Continuation of Department of Health and Department of Human Services deep budget overview.

MDH, Management and Support Services.

MDH, Health Care Access Fund.

Meeting will resume 15 minutes after session in 10 State Office Building.

DHS, Economic Support Management.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Budget review of the Department of Economic Security.

10:15 a.m.

### CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF209 (Hackbarth) Shooting ranges generally accepted practices defined, relation to local ordinances specified, closing and relocation requirements provided, and nuisance action liability granted.

HF281 (Greiling) Civil commitment mentally ill definition and emergency hold standard modified, early intervention hospital stay extended, and specified hearings on medications combined with civil commitment proceeding.

HF919 (Dawkins) Civil commitment definitions and procedures modified, patient rights specified, coverage and cost of care provided, voluntary consent procedures expanded, court records sealed, and money appropriated.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry budget presentation.

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** HF342 (Dehler) Higher education grants terms and conditions modified.

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** HF480 (Kielkucki) Relating to education; authorizing funding to establish a voluntary accreditation program to assist school districts to provide optimal educational support services; appropriating money.

HF776 (Kielkucki) Relating to education; appropriating money for the Minnesota Learning Resource Center.

HF398 (Seifert) Relating to education finance; exempting agricultural lands from the school district levy for debt service.

HF434 (Wagenius) A bill for an act relating to education; ensuring that all children are able to read by second grade; appropriating money.

### Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

**Agenda:** Overview of Tax Increment Financing by Joel Michael, House Research.

Presentation on Tax Increment Financing Report by Office of the State Auditor.

### Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

\*\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\*\*

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

**Agenda:** HF939 (Howes) Exempts the purchase of equipment and materials used to make improvements to certain resorts from sales and use taxes.

HF612 (Nornes) Exempts certain purchases by licensed child care facilities.

HF627 (Holsten) Exempts the purchase of certain property used in constructing a Hugo city hall from sales & use taxes.

HF1018 (Milbert) Removes access to amusement devices from the definition of a taxable service.

HF633 (Osskopp) Provides for use of tax refunds to pay debts for child support before tax offsets.

12:30 p.m.

### FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD

#### EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** HF786 (Abeler) Relating to education; community education programs; modifying the adults with disabilities program.

Chris Orr, Anoka-Hennepin Community Education.

Toni Lippert.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** HF652 (Anderson, B.) Eminent domain proceedings owner costs and fees provided.

HF665 (Kielkucki) Regional development commissions and other regional organization local planning assistance funding provided and money appropriated.

HF867 (Seagren) Hennepin; suburban regional park district authorized to set commissioner compensation, boundaries clarified, open meeting law conformity provided, donations accepted, and joint powers agreements authorized.

HF891 (Olson) Lake improvement districts; modifying percent of property owners necessary to petition for creation, termination or holding a referendum on creation.

HF1016 (Holberg) City and county obligations payment by electronic transfer or credit card authorized.

## **REGULATED INDUSTRIES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

**Agenda:** HF118 (Kielkucki) Resolution memorializing television networks to reduce violent and sexually explicit material and produce material that promotes wholesome family values. Presentation by Larry Sawyer, Director of Government Relations and Civic Affairs for General Mills.

Presentation by Larry Schedin, President of Schedin & Assoc.

HFXXXX (Jennings/Wolf) Energy Reliability and Regulatory Flexibility Act.

**3 p.m.**

## **THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

**15 minutes after session**

## **HEALTH & HUMAN**

### **SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** Continuation of morning agenda.

**6 p.m. or immediately following session  
(whichever is later)**

## **Elections Subcommittee/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Eric Lipman

**Agenda:** HF857 (Kielkucki) Election day registration to require picture identification, additional registration information required, certain felony convictions reported, and rulemaking authorized.

HF479 (Lipman) Election day voter registration identity and residence requirements modified, election administration practice study requested, election equipment purchase revolving loan fund created, and money appropriated.

**6 p.m.**

## **Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement**

112 State Capitol

Chr. to be elected

**Agenda:** SF451 (Pogemiller); HF712 (Mares) PERA-Corr; Contribution rate reductions. SF625 (Tomassoni); HF474 (Rukavina) Eveleth P&F; Post retirement increase.

SF358 (Betzold); HF557 (Haas): Osseo Volunteer Fire; Special appropriation to offset liability increase.

HF1295 (Haas); SFXXXX (Betzold) Volunteer Fire; Requiring bonding or insurance for financial consultants.

SF190 (Scheevel); HF207 (Rifenberg): Volunteer Fire; Increase in lump sum supplemental benefit and state reimbursement.

SF810 (Pogemiller) PERA; Contribution increases, benefit modifications, and coverage changes.

HF855 (Mares) PERA; Contribution increases, benefit modifications, and coverage changes.

## **TUESDAY, March 6**

**8:15 a.m.**

## **EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** HF915 (Cassell) Pledge of allegiance required in all public schools.

HF1028 (Olson) Freedom from censorship in Minnesota public schools act enacted.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN**

### **SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF376 (Bradley) Community care options for older adults act providing comprehensive senior care, and money appropriated.

HF1220 (Bradley) Long-term care; consumer information and assistance and community-based care, system reform and reimbursement, workforce recruitment and retention, and regulation of nursing pools provided; and money appropriated.

HF1324 (Bradley) Provisions for long-term care modified.

HF7 (Eastlund) Nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation and related conditions (ICF/MR), and direct care provider rate adjustments provided.

HF559 (Goodno) Nursing facility, intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation (OCF/MR) and other program rate increase provided and money appropriated.

HF124 (Folliard) Home care providers required to provide notice of service termination, and state health care program reimbursement rates increased for home care providers.

HF470 (Abeler) Nursing home operation cessation or curtailing notice period extended and modified.

**Note:** This meeting will continue at 4 p.m. in Room 10 of the State Office Building. The bills on the agenda will be presented in the a.m. and public testimony will be taken in the p.m. meeting time. The discussion surrounding HF 376, HF 1220, and HF 1324 is intended to be a review of the provisions included in the bills in their current form.

## **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** Budget overview for the Minnesota Trial Courts.

## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** The DM&E report.

Bills to be announced.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** HF505 (Stanek) Racial Profiling - Statewide policies and training objectives.

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL**

### **RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** HF362 (Westrom) Diesel fuel minimum biodiesel fuel content specified.

HF208 (Workman) Resolution urging authorization of funding for modernization of waterways.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

Section 13, proposed budget for Department of Employee Relations.

## **TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** "Competiveness Under the Governor's Plan."

Testimony from various major Minnesota employers.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE & RURAL**

### **DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** Association proposals for Minnesota's farmers, Minnesota Farm Bureau; Minnesota Farmers Union.

Overview of Minnesota Veterinarians' priorities, Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association.

## **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knobloch

**Agenda:** Overview of Wastewater Infrastructure Fund.

## **COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF926 (Haas) Relating to health; modifying content and form at requirements for Minnesota uniform health care identification

cards; requiring uniform prescription drug information to be included on cards; establishing requirements for issuance of cards.

HF903 (Gerlach) Relating to motor vehicles; repealing restrictions on the sale of wagon covers and similar items.

HF252 (Seifert) Relating to state government; repealing obsolete rules.

HF1084 (McElroy) Relating to financial institutions; modifying investment authority and recordkeeping requirements; regulating certain rates, charges, fees, and disclosures; exempting certain unstaffed after-hour drop boxes from detached facilities regulation.

HFXXXX (Entenza) Commerce Insurance Bill.

**2:30 p.m.**

**Subcommittee on Gaming/  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &  
VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Osskopp

**Agenda:** HF894 (Osskopp) Casino; card club wagering system definitions modified.

HF995 (Buesgens) Horse racing license applicant requirements modified, and anti-inflammatory medication content maximum amount increased.

HF1021 (Buesgens) Casino licensee authorized to detain persons suspected of cheating.

HF1069 (Osskopp) Lawful gambling organization annual audit requirements modified, noon hour bingo authorized, and natural disaster relief expenditures permitted from gambling proceeds.

HF1070 (Osskopp) Lawful gambling premises permits to run concurrently with license of organization and permit fees clarified.

**4 p.m.**

**HEALTH & HUMAN  
SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** Continuation of morning agenda.

**7 p.m.**

**Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

Minneapolis YMCA

3335 Blaisdell Ave.

Minneapolis, Minn.

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill.

**WEDNESDAY, March 7**

**8:15 a.m.**

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &  
VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF289 (Daggett) Four-year terms provided for representatives and senators and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF18 (Mares) Amateur Sports Commission new soccer field grants authorized, criteria established, and money appropriated.

HF172 (Mares) Cities authorized to provide housing assistance for volunteer firefighters or ambulance personnel.

**HEALTH & HUMAN  
SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** Review of November and February Forecast changes.

**JOBS & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Continuation of budget reviews for the Department of Trade and Economic Development and Department of Economic Security, if necessary.

Bills to be announced.

**TRANSPORTATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** HF998 (Lieder) Greater Minnesota transit assistance funding provided and money appropriated.

HF645 (Marko) Local road improvement fund created, uses specified, fund transfers provided, advisory committee established, and money appropriated.

HF140 (Molnau) Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**10:15 a.m.**

**CIVIL LAW**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF810 (Swenson) Court administrators required to send notice of payment of judgments to specified credit reporting agencies.

HF319 (Bishop) Trial court judgeships increased in specified judicial districts and money appropriated.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL  
RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry budget presentation continued.

Department of Natural Resources Operations Support budget presentation.

**HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** HF977 (Leppik) Minnesota State Colleges and Universities technical and community college employee unions merged.

Witnesses: Ed Schones, Co-President, Minnesota State College Faculty; Larry Oveson, Co-President, Minnesota State College Faculty; Bill Tschida, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, MnSCU.

HF291 (Seifert) Higher education grant stipends calculation modified relating to Pell grants.

**K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** HF1186 (Abrams) Relating to education; providing integration revenue for all members of a multidistrict integration collaborative.

HF1008 (Juhnke) Relating to education finance; qualifying all school districts that implement an integration plan for integration revenue.

HF1107 (Rukavina) Relating to education; making non-mining secondary vocational programs more widely available; appropriating money.

HF63 (Ness) Relating to education finance; restoring funding for secondary vocational programming; appropriating money.

HF8 (Ruth) Relating to education finance; restoring funding for secondary vocational programming; appropriating money.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** Discussion of proposed changes to HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill.

Continuation of HF1129 (Abrams) Sales Tax Recodification.

Other agenda times may be added.

**12:30 p.m.**

**AGRICULTURE POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

**Agenda:** HF791 (Kuisle) Requires a waiver of the civil fine in excess of amount required on diary farmers.

HF1002 (Ness) Allows an additional member on the Agriculture Utilization Resource Institute (AURI) board of directors.

HF1009 (Finseth) Clarifying the definition of agricultural land.



HF406 (Jennings) Relating to the state agricultural society, authorizing establishment of a nonprofit corporation.

#### **COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF285 (Ness) Relating to liens; regulating agricultural liens; revising and consolidating crop liens and agricultural liens on livestock.

HF778 (Stang) Relating to commerce; regulating motor vehicle sales and distribution; specifying unfair and illegal practices by manufacturers, distributors, and factory branches.

HF779 (McElroy) Relating to commerce; modifying provisions dealing with motor vehicle dealer franchise transfers and objections to establishment or relocation of a franchise.

HF1245 (Stang) Relating to commerce; amending provisions relating to charges recipients of dishonored checks may collect from persons who write the checks.

#### **FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD**

##### **EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** HF681 (Rhodes) Relating to young people; appropriating money for youth outreach services.

Budget Accounts: Abused Children; Children's Trust Fund; Adolescent Parenting; Male Responsibility, Carol Thomas, Department of Children, Families and Learning.

HF1163 (Gray) relating to education; appropriating money for the adolescent parenting grant program.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** HF326 (Ozment) Local and state government agency denial of requests for action clarified.

HF371 (Workman) Aggregate resource protection and development included in local government land use comprehensive plans.

HF416/SF400 (Rifenberg/Kierlin) Hokah authorized to vacate roads if necessary due to extensive damage.

HF1153 (Mulder) Local government building project architect requirement exemption provided.

1:45 p.m.

#### **Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/**

##### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

**Agenda:** HF444 (McElroy) Metropolitan Council membership increased to include nonvoting affiliate members from adjacent Minnesota and Wisconsin counties.

HF981 (McElroy) Legislative commission on metropolitan government established, oversight of Metropolitan Council provided, and legislative authorization required for council budget and programs.

#### **THURSDAY, March 8**

8:15 a.m.

##### **EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** To be announced.

##### **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** Presentation on Dental Access Report by DHS.

HF278 (Nornes) Dentists; medical assistance reimbursement rate increased for specified dentists, dental hygienists permitted to perform services under supervision, grant program for community clinics established, and money appropriated.

HF693 (Goodno) Dentists loan forgiveness program established, donated dental services program created, dental services and provider requirements modified, reimbursement rates increased, immunities provided, and money appropriated.

HF1212 (Bradley) Health maintenance organizations authorized to offer greater flexibility in enrollee cost-sharing.

HF 1014 (Boudreau) Medical assistance reimbursement for special transportation services provisions modified.

**Note:** The following bills will be discussed during the evening meeting which will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Room 10 of the State Office Building.

HF934 (Bradley) Alternative quality assurance licensing system project for programs for persons with developmental disabilities expiration date extended, requirements modified, and money appropriated.

HF587 (Huntley) Detoxification services provided by counties reimbursed by state funds.

HF642 (Kahn) National health services corps state loan repayment program; disciplinary action grounds established for physicians failing to meet obligations or repay loans.

HF1081 (Jacobson) Health care review organization provisions modified, participation in Internet-based information sharing systems authorized, and specified data release permitted.

**Brief presentation of the following health care tax bills:**

HF194 (Mulder) Ambulance services excluded from MinnesotaCare provider tax.

HF279 (Huntley) MinnesotaCare premium and other provider taxes repealed, pass-through of savings required, tobacco settlement disposition provided, health care access fund contingent repeal provided, and civil penalties imposed.

HF380 (Kubly) MinnesotaCare provider tax and health plan premium taxes repealed, health care access fund eliminated, hospital surcharge repealed, and money appropriated.

HF383 (Haas) Health insurance premium tax and premium tax on nonprofit health plan companies repealed.

##### **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** Budget overview for the Minnesota Trial Courts continued.

Budget overview for the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Budget overview for the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

##### **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** To be announced.

10:15 a.m.

##### **CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Boudreau) MN Personal Protection Act - Permits to Carry Pistols.

##### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** Groundwater Subcommittee Report, Rep. Rod Skoe.

Survey of the Groundwater Act of 1989, John Helland, House Research.

Minnesota's Water Supply, DNR Waters.

##### **Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

\*\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\*\*

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

**Agenda:** HF575 (Kuisle) Expands the individual income tax subtraction for educational expenses.

HF499 (Rhodes) Allows an education subtraction or credit for musical instruments used in school.

HF548 (Mulder) Allows an education subtraction or credit for musical instruments used in school.

HF545 (Anderson, I.) Eliminates the expiration date for a Biomass electricity facility construction materials sales tax exemption.

HF1201 (Westrom) Exempts from the sales tax purchases of materials and equipment used in constructing a biomass electrical generating facility.

#### STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

Section 16, proposed budget for Department of Revenue.

12:30 p.m.

#### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF1053 (Abrams) Relating to insurance; revising certain provisions involving state regulation of private health coverage; transferring certain regulatory control; establishing requirements for managed care plans.

HF905 (Haas) Relating to insurance; simplifying regulation of health insurers and health maintenance organizations; establishing a task force on small business health insurance; providing appointments.

3 p.m.

#### THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

6:30 p.m.

#### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** See morning agenda.

#### FRIDAY, March 9

8:15 a.m.

#### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF252 (Seifert) Repeal of obsolete rules.

#### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** Budget overviews of the Veteran's Home Board, the Disability Council, Ombudsman for Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and Ombudsman for Families.

#### JOBS & ECONOMIC

#### DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Budget review of the Minnesota Historical Society.

10:15 a.m.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources Operations Support budget presentation continued.

#### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** Presentation of the Department of Revenue's Tax Incidence Study.



## Family pets

### Tennesseans can collect when beloved family members are killed

In Tennessee pets are now legally recognized as family members rather than just personal property.

During 2000, a state law was passed that allows pet owners to collect non-economic damages when the pet is killed by an unlawful, intentional or negligent act of another person or their animal. The law allows the owner to collect up to \$4,000 in compensation for the emotional damage that is associated with the loss of a pet.

Prior to the passing of the law, pet owners could only recover the cost of replacing the animal plus the cost of veterinary bills.

The law's chief sponsor, Sen. Steve Cohen, a Democrat from Memphis, lost his 12-year old Shih-Tzu, T-Bo, in August 1999 when a

larger dog roaming the neighborhood attacked and killed the Shih-Tzu, who was outside doing his business.

Cohen introduced the legislation because he was frustrated with state law that offered no recourse other than suing for the monetary value of the pet — putting pets on par with any other personal property loss. He said the law attempts to address the grief issues connected with losing a pet.

No other state has a similar law, which only applies to incorporated areas of counties with populations of 75,000 or more. The law exempts farmers who kill dogs that are killing or "worrying" their livestock.

(D. Maeda)



## FYI

### Committee deadlines set

Each year, the House and Senate set deadlines by which most bills must be heard in a committee and forwarded through the legislative process.

Committee deadlines for this year will be officially determined by a joint House-Senate resolution. While that resolution has yet to be approved, it is expected to contain the following deadlines and language further defining each deadline.

The first committee deadline will be **Friday, March 30**. By that date, bills must pass out of necessary policy committees in their house of origin.

The second committee deadline will be **Thursday, April 12**. By that date, bills other than those containing appropriations will have to be passed out of all policy committees in both the House and the Senate.

The third deadline will be **Wednesday, April 25**. All omnibus finance bills will have to pass out of committee by that date.

Of course, there are exceptions to the deadlines. The taxes committees and rules committees in both bodies are exempt. And a bill can be heard after the deadlines if the rules committee in either body grants permission.

Continued from page 14

a site manager for Youthbuild at The City, Inc., in Minneapolis. He noted that carpentry companies are most aggressive in pursuing Youthbuild workers.

Jamie Janezich is a case manager for the Arrowhead Youthbuild program in Virginia. He said that area is losing a lot of jobs, but the people in the program are on their own, earning money, and many have moved into unsubsidized housing. It gives youth a sense of community, and respect for community, he said.

"This erases a stigma that they're just running around," Janezich said. "It gives them opportunities to meet their goals."

Lonnie Thomas, Jr., who attends Summit Academy in Minneapolis, said there was a time when he hated to go to school, but now he loves it. He wants to go into real estate and business, and buy houses he could fix up and sell. Youthbuild paved the way.

"At first I didn't see my future; now I see it," he said. 🐾

Continued from page 16

measurement is being developed.

Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth), who lives in the area served by a grant-funded, after-school enrichment program, said the juvenile crime rate in his neighborhood "seems to have fallen" since the program went into effect.

"Juvenile crime has gone down in the north side in the past four years," said Kia. "Can I say it's all due to after-school enrichment programs? No, but I know it's a big factor."

Another program previously receiving state financing is Guard Our Youth, which uses National Guard armories for after-school programs for at-risk and under-served youth.

Gary Bloedel, of the state Department of Military Affairs, said the program serves 75,000 youth each year at 13 locations. State funds go to pay a coordinator for the programs. The facilities are open on a gratis basis.

Gov. Jesse Ventura has recommended a budget increase of 4.8 percent for after-school enrichment grants. He has not supported any increases for community education programs, nor has he supported continuing the Guard Our Youth program.

The committee took no action on HF646, but will consider it for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill. 🐾

# Reflections

Visits by more diverse groups to the Capitol are likely the result of an ongoing effort to educate the general public about the legislative process. The more citizens learn that they can make a difference in what bills are introduced and how lawmakers vote, the more they show up to make their voices heard.

Positive activities by organizations like the League of Women Voters and the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits have greatly increased know-how for people to be directly involved in public policy.

Associations and constituents from many legislative districts throughout the state all have a "Day at the Capitol."

And there are a few individuals who seem to spend days, and even weeks, at the Capitol promoting their cause.

One visitor, who is still fighting taxes imposed on her property 15 years ago, continues to bring flyers and written materials to the House Post Office for the members' mailboxes. Another is seen daily as he talks to lawmakers or testifies about the rights of the homeless.

Another visitor literally set up an office in the hallway on the first floor of the State Office Building for preparing and collating materials to hand out to the Legislature.

While these actions are all demonstrations of people being involved in a democratic process, one Minnesotan of note is possibly the most colorful. Born Maria Jane Quiggle, she did not go unnoticed, for she was tall, imposing in stature, and vocal. She married a Civil War veteran and, through her advocacy, helped to make the Blaisdell name well known in the state.

Mrs. Blaisdell "had an obsession that she was a person of consequence politically." She made a nuisance of herself on many visits during the 1880s from the Blaisdell home in Pelican Rapids to St. Paul and Minneapolis. Here she would call on prominent political leaders and needle them to try and

get her husband's government allowance increased.

Blaisdell was not successful with state elected officials, so she made trips to Washington D.C. to confront the Minnesota congressional delegation. She soon was given the name the "Minnesota Blizzard," for "storming" the halls of Congress on her own behalf.

The "Blizzard" would converge on the offices of members of Congress with belligerence and determination to get a bill introduced for her husband. She also tried to get a pension for herself, having served

as a nurse at Fort Snelling.

She was such a terror for almost 20 years, that members of the Minnesota delegation such as Knute Nelson, who was the state's governor from 1893-95, would often go into hiding when she was in town.

The "Blizzard" continued to nag politicians and businessmen back at home to pay for her many trips to Washington. Once there, U.S. senators and representatives gave her small

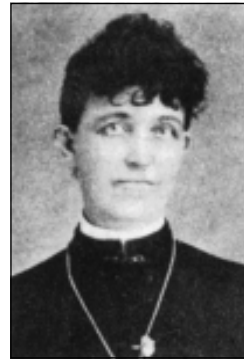
sums to return home after she could make no headway for her cause.

Like Blaisdell's actions in the past, and a couple of individuals who now show up at the State Capitol, staff and members can always be assured of having visitors.

One unforgettable visitor shows up to complain each year, not at the Capitol, but at the House and Senate Information booths at the Minnesota State Fair. Her issue, while not reliable, is about eliminating placement of human waste on public property. She wants to see public toilet kiosks in neighborhoods and downtown.

She has ranted and complained for four or five years now. Someday her problem may be solved. At least she's learned where to express her concerns.

LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



Maria Jane Blaisdell

Photo of Maria Jane Blaisdell from the book 101 Best Stories of Minnesota by Merle Potter, 1956, © Schmitt Publications Inc. Minneapolis, Minnesota

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

# MINNESOTA INDEX

## State government finances

Total state revenues for fiscal year 2001, excluding federal grants, in billions ....	\$15.86
Revenue from individual income tax, in billions .....	\$5.93
Revenue from sales tax, in billions .....	\$4.50
Revenue from other taxes (motor vehicle fuels and licenses, cigarettes and tobacco, etc.), in billions .....	\$2.05
Total state spending, for fiscal year 2001, excluding federal funds, in billions .....	\$16
Amount for Pre K-12 education, including family and early childhood education spending, in billions .....	\$4.51
Amount for health and human services, in billions .....	\$3.32
Amount for transportation, in billions .....	\$2.06
Amount for property tax aids, in billions .....	\$1.71
Amount for higher education, in billions .....	\$1.40
General Fund spending for fiscal year 2001, in billions .....	\$13.12
Fiscal year 2001 state sales tax rate for general items and motor vehicles, as percent .....	6.5
For liquor, wine and beer sales, as percent .....	9
For motor vehicle rentals, as percent .....	12.7
2000 sales tax rebate, in millions .....	\$635
1999 sales tax rebate, in billions .....	\$1.3
State motor fuels tax, per gallon .....	\$2.0
Corporate franchise tax, as percent of federal taxable income after numerous adjustments .....	9.8
Cigarette and tobacco products tax per pack .....	\$48
As percent of wholesale price of tobacco products .....	35
Insurance premiums basic tax, as percent of premium paid .....	2
Gambling revenue in fiscal year 2000, in millions .....	\$160
Percent from the lottery .....	54
Percent from lawful gambling .....	45.3
State debt obligations outstanding as of Nov. 1, 2000, in billions .....	\$6.6
General obligations, in billions .....	\$2.61
Equipment leases, in millions .....	\$46
Agency obligations, in billions .....	\$3.94
Largest agency obligation (Housing Finance), in billions .....	\$1.98
General obligation debt authorized, but not yet issued, in millions .....	\$772

Source: *Minnesota Data Book for Legislators*, House Research Department, January 2001.

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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MARCH 9, 2001

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 10

In this issue:

LONG-TERM CARE PLANS

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IDENTIFYING VOTERS, AND MORE

HF1360-HF1604

# Session Weekly

**Session Weekly** is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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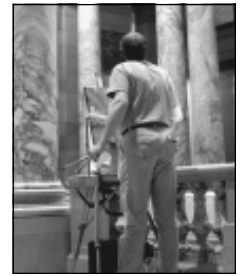
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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5  
Crime • 5  
Development • 6  
Education • 6  
Elections • 8

Environment • 9  
Health • 9  
Higher Education • 10  
Industry • 11  
Law • 12

Recreation • 13  
Taxes • 14  
Transportation • 15

### FEATURES

**At Issue:** Education — A House committee is considering two plans to reinstate the state Board of Education, abolished just two years ago. • 16

**At Issue:** Elections — A House subcommittee approved a bill that would require voters to produce photo identification before receiving a ballot at the polling place. • 17

**People:** Gov. Harold Stassen, the youngest elected governor in the United States, perennial presidential candidate, and signatory of the U.N. Charter died March 4. • 18

**Resources:** The Minnesota State Law Library, open to the public, offers many resources for legal research. • 19

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Permanent school fund	4	Reflections: Marvin Roger Anderson	31
Bill Introductions (HF1360 -HF1604)	20	Minnesota Index: School safety	32
Committee Schedule (March 12-16)	25		

**On the cover:** Lisa Enleutner, case manager at the Presbyterian Homes of Roseville, stands among cutouts that represent long-term care facilities in Minnesota that couldn't be present at a March 6 Rotunda rally in support of proposed nursing home reform legislation.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

# Long-term care in crisis

Legislature works to reform an outdated and complex system, while caring for the needs of patients and health care workers

By MARY KAY WATSON

Few Minnesotans are untouched by the issues of long-term health care, whether personally or through family and friends. Strokes, Alzheimer's, and other disabling events can be emotionally and financially devastating for the individual and his or her family.

But the prognosis for long-term health care in Minnesota is guarded, at best. People who work in the field agree: the patient is critical.

Last year, a task force of lawmakers and state agency commissioners worked to understand the issues, develop strategies, and recommend actions to the 2001 Legislature.

On March 6, three bills addressing long-term care reform were heard by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee:

- HF1220 is based on the recommendations of the Minnesota Long Term Care Task Force.
- HF1324 is based on policy changes requested by the Department of Human Services.
- HF376 is a collaborative effort of two nursing facility trade organizations: Care Providers and the Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance.

"This is the beginning of a journey that could take several years," said committee chair Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), sponsor of the bills.

Following a rigorous review of the bills and lengthy testimony from stakeholders, Bradley said he would likely consolidate the three bills into a completely new one, which is expected to be ready for consideration in coming weeks.

In varying language, the bills cover similar territory: consumer information, insurance, system planning and transition, nursing facility reimbursement and regulation, cost-of-living adjustments, and workforce issues.

All three bills provide for expanded consumer information services that would build on the existing Senior LinkAge Line, a phone-based service. Two would modify pre-admission screening and prohibit the charging of fees for consultations.

"People don't choose long-term care facili-

ties more than once or twice in their lives. If you don't get it right the first time that's pretty much the ball game," said Robert Kane, chair of aging and long-term care at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health.

Long-term care is not a one-size-fits-all proposition. People need a way to know what they are buying, Kane said.

David Norrgard, who works with the Advocacy Center for Long Term Care, said information should include "hidden costs," such as selling the home, packing, and moving.

Norrgard said his family spent \$86,000 for a year of care for his parents, not including basics such as clothing.

"We are spending down their assets," he said. "One of their frustrations is that they will not

insurance, including an increase in the tax credit from \$100 to \$250.

In recent years, the focus of long-term care has shifted dramatically from nursing facilities to community-based care. "People are voting with their feet," Kane said. He said lawmakers should capitalize on this trend to "bring Minnesota in line with the rest of the country."

HF1220 would require the commissioner of human services to develop a process that would adjust long-term care services to serve demand. This would include using community and regional planning groups, voluntary nursing facility closures, and expansion or establishment of needed services.

HF1324 would provide funding for alternative care programs, such as foster care, assisted living, and environmental modifications.

These are a step in the direction of a more balanced system, one that would offer affordable community-based services for aging and disabled people of all income levels.

Clearly, the balance is a delicate one. Experts

with varying viewpoints testified before the committee. Even Bradley seemed ambivalent, acknowledging that Minnesota's system is biased toward nursing homes while voicing concern that, in closing some of those facilities, the state could wind up short of needed capacity.

In general, there was enthusiasm about the promise of community-based care when appropriate.

"Seniors prefer to live in their own

homes and communities for as long as possible," Ken Moritz, chair of the Minnesota Board on Aging, wrote to the committee. "It is clear that the elderly will not choose nursing homes if there are affordable alternatives in their communities."

"The idea of community-based care is laudable but not always realistic," said Norrgard.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Tracy Mosoti, right, director of nursing at the Jones Harrison Care Center; Beth Anderson, second from right, who has a daughter in long term care; Jacki Nelson, second from left, administrator at Augustana, and Greg Carlson, left, Board Chair, Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance testify March 6 before the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee on a proposed long term care bill.

be able to pass on an inheritance."

Private insurance can help prevent such financial devastation. HF1220 would require the Board of Aging to promote employer-sponsored long-term care insurance and provide regulation of insurers to protect consumers. HF376 also includes provisions regarding long-term care



"As a person becomes frail and vulnerable, they gradually need more care, not less."

The three bills before the committee all address the need for a new nursing home system that would be reimbursed in new ways. A voluntary closure process is proposed in HF1220 and HF1324, and a program that would aid in the conversion of nursing homes to assisted-living facilities is addressed in HF376.

"We don't want these facilities to turn into 'Medicaid ghettos,'" said Patti Cullen, vice president of Care Providers. "Private payers won't want to go to these older facilities."

State reimbursement to nursing homes is a knotty issue. The bills' provisions for a cost-of-living increase range from 2 percent to 3.5 percent per year.

"Three percent isn't going to touch the needs we have in long-term care," said Traci Mosoti, director of nursing at the Jones Harrison Care Center in Minneapolis.

Kane echoed others' concerns over staffing situations. "There is an enormous crisis in staffing. We need to pay people more but must realize that we can never pay them enough — a morale boost is needed."


Donna Kalis, a nurse at the Lutheran Care Center in Little Falls, said many of the staff at her center have left to work for temporary staffing agencies as "pool" workers because they can make more money. She said pool workers lack a commitment to the facility and the people they care for.

The use of pool workers elicited anger and frustration from administrators, staff, and family members.

"When I see pool aids sitting around or out in their cars while full-time staff do their jobs and get paid less, I get very angry," said Beth Anderson, whose 30-year-old daughter with Huntington's Disease was sexually abused by a pool worker.

HF1220 would require that the Department of Health register pools that provide services to nursing facilities and do background checks on pool workers.

Paying staff more without an increase in state support was a moot point for administrators of most facilities, who said they sometimes have to choose between paying utilities and paying staff.

Workforce issues are addressed in HF220 and HF376. Included are grants that promote health care careers and help pay for summer interns. Loan forgiveness programs for nurses who serve in nursing homes and the establishment of a scholarship program for nursing assistants are other features of the bills. 



## Permanent school fund

### Federal land grants help pay for education

Children across the state receive funds for education that were set aside more than a century ago, around the time Minnesota became a state.

In 1857, Congress granted land — sections 16 and 36 in each township — to the state as a trust to be used for purposes such as railroads, internal improvements, colleges and universities, and schools. Eight million acres were reserved, with three million of those dedicated to permanent school funds, or trust funds.

In the case of the school lands, they could be sold and the revenue would be invested for educational purposes.

The original Minnesota Constitution states: "The proceeds of such lands as are or hereafter may be granted by the United States for the use of schools within each township of the state shall remain a perpetual school fund to the State.

"The principal of all funds arising from sales or other disposition of land or other property granted to this state in each township for educational purposes shall forever be preserved inviolate and undiminished."

The Minnesota school fund is unique in the United States. Only Texas, which came into the Union with all its lands, has a larger public estate.

In 1871, according to *The Children's Heritage, The Achievement of the Minnesota Trust Funds and How It Came About*, compiled in 1928 by John Stone Pardee, hard times came to the state in a "falling off" in agriculture sales.

While school lands comprised three million acres, only one-half the state was available for agriculture, due to swamp or overflowed lands, so there was really only 1.5 million acres in "what was recognizable as the habitable part of the state." And of that the larger part was sold. Of the remainder, in 1880, "two-fifths of the uninhabited portion, or one-fifth of the state, is unsurveyed, and one-fifth of the timbered region, or one-tenth of the state, is in Indian reservations."

Today, 2.5 million acres exist in what is now called the permanent school fund. The Department of Natural Resources manages

the land, the majority of which is state forest.

The department's goal for management of school fund lands is "to secure the maximum long-term economic return from the school trust land consistent with sound natural resource conservation and management principles and specific policy guidance as provided in state law," according to a 1983 school fund management report by the DNR.

Costs incurred in the management, administration, and protection of the lands are deducted from forestry proceeds earned by those lands. Costs include fire suppression protection, timber sale preparation, timber regeneration, law enforcement, insect and disease protection, soil survey, and general office operations.

Principal of the trust includes cash and investments generated from land sales, mining royalties, timber sales, lakeshore and other leases, gifts to the fund, and other sources. Funds are overseen by the State Board of Investment, and the majority of those funds are divided between domestic stocks and domestic bonds.

Each year interest earned by the investment of the permanent school fund principal is distributed to school districts on a per-pupil basis. These funds, because they are part of the general education formula, reduce the amount of state general fund money needed to fund that formula.

The fund distributed about \$30 million annually during most of the 1990s. That number dropped in 1997 when the board changed investment practices, but is expected to reach the same level of funding or more in the coming years.

Perhaps Pardee best stated the intent of the funds that would build a more prosperous state. "...The land of Minnesota was a gift to the settlers who would make it worth owning and the railroads which would make it worth claiming, except for about one-tenth of the state. And that is the land which, dedicated to the Minnesota trust funds, has been kept for the heritage of the children."

(T. STAHL)



## ★ AGRICULTURE

**Dairy dollar dilemma**

During the latter part of the 1980s, the Legislature sought to address increased public concern regarding the processing of milk contaminated by bovine medicines.

To do so, lawmakers created civil penalties for farmers who repeatedly permitted their own tainted milk to be included in the large collections of milk gathered by dairy processors.

The state Department of Agriculture was permitted to impose fines on producers, which then passed the charge along to the offending farmers. More than \$100,000 in fines have been imposed in the past three years. Legislators repealed the civil penalties last year under lobbying pressure from farmers.

Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester) is now sponsoring HF791 to reimburse dairy producers fined during the few months between the passage of the bill repealing the fines (April 13, 2000) and its enactment on Aug. 1, 2000. During that period, the Department of Agriculture worked with violating producers to forgo payments of what was expected to become an obsolete fine.

Nine producers were fined more than \$37,000 for violating the law, although only one producer, Land O' Lakes Pine Island, paid its assessed fine in the intervening time. Under HF791, it stands to be reimbursed nearly \$12,000.

Kuisle told the House Agriculture Policy Committee March 7 that, although it is the producer which would receive payment from the Department of Agriculture, farmers themselves would ultimately receive reimbursement.

Doug Engbretson, the department's assistant to the dairy department, described the original impetus for the penalty as "somewhat of a political, consumer reaction to a political scare." He assured the committee that milk is still closely regulated and eight million pounds of unsafe milk are destroyed each year in Minnesota.

The Agriculture Policy Committee unanimously approved the bill. It now moves to the Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee.

## ★ CRIME

**Concealed carrying concerns**

Legislators are considering a bill that would make it easier to be granted a permit to carry handguns.

Under HF1360, sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), county sheriffs would be required to issue a permit within 15 days of an application unless the applicant fails a background check.

According to existing law, sheriffs and police chiefs have discretion regarding when and to whom they issue concealed weapons permits. The law reads that they have the authority to authorize permits to those who demonstrate "an occupation or personal safety hazard" that would necessitate being armed.

Under Boudreau's plan, an applicant seeking a permit must be at least 21 years old, have successfully completed a training course or demonstrate experience, not have been convicted of a felony, and not be listed in the state criminal gang registry. Sheriffs would be forbidden from considering any other information and would be required to explain in writing a decision to deny a request.

Boudreau told a March 8 meeting of the



Texas State Rep. Suzanna Gratia Hupp makes a gun gesture with her hand as she tells the House Crime Prevention Committee March 8, how a gunman shot her parents in a restaurant.

House Crime Prevention Committee that the current law "is unfair and discriminatory" because local officials have the power to arbitrarily deny requests. She emphasized her bill "does not change current handgun restrictions, it only changes the permit process." Boudreau added, "The established human right to personal protection must be realized in Minnesota."

David Gross, a St. Louis Park attorney, endorsed the legislation, saying, "This is about treating people respectfully, democratically, and fairly. Because of the discretionary authority vested in local officials, we experience discrimination."

Texas State Representative Suzanna Gratia Hupp said violent crime "immediately dropped in Texas" after that state began issuing permits to carry handguns in the mid-1990s.

George Hayes, a state-licensed peace officer in Minnesota, said, "Real working cops agree that concealed-weapon permit holders are no threat to police officers." He added, "The people most likely to be victimized are the ones prevented from carrying handguns."

Opponents to bill included Dr. Kathy Sweetman, president of the Minnesota Academy of Pediatrics, who said the number of "suicides, homicides, and accidental deaths (by handguns) is 40 times higher than (the number of times a gun is used) in self-defense." She added that the "best way to protect children is to remove guns from individuals and communities."

Testimony was scheduled to continue into the evening March 8, after this edition of *Session Weekly* went to press. Look for more on this story in next week's issue.

**Racial profiling bill progresses**

A measure to address racial profiling is moving its way through House committees.

The House Crime Prevention Committee approved a bill March 6 that defines racial profiling, requires the establishment of a statewide model policy, mandates training requirements, and provides for administrative oversight of police departments by the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training Board.

HF505, sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), would appropriate \$400,000 to the POST board and \$100,000 for a "public awareness campaign" aimed, in part, at



Dennis Flaherty, left, executive director of the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, Anoka County Sheriff Larry Podany, center, and Dennis J. Delmont, executive director of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, testify March 6 before the House Crime Prevention Committee regarding a racial profiling bill.

explaining to those who have been racially profiled how to lodge a complaint. Legislators referred the measure to the House Judiciary Finance Committee to address these expenditures.

Stanek fended off an amendment which would have mandated a statewide study of racial profiling featuring an independent analysis of data including the cause of all traffic stops, the outcome of any searches, and the age, race, and ethnicity of the driver. "I support the collecting of information," he said. "But this is a local issue best left up to local officials."

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the amendment, which borrowed language from HF737 and HF1029, sponsored by Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) and Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls) respectively.

Paymar argued that, although local law enforcement agencies are intimately involved in the issue of racial profiling, Minnesota has a statewide responsibility to protect civil rights. "Looking back to the 1960s Voting Rights Act, you can see that (relying upon local officials to enforce civil rights protections) just doesn't work."

"We are looking for a win-win situation for all Minnesota citizens; police and residents of color," Mariani told the committee. He said the study should collect as much statewide information as possible to ensure that communities of color accepted the study as valid. "You can't fix what you don't identify," he said.

Gray faulted the Stanek bill for not addressing the "growing gap in trust" between communities of color and police. "If it's a training issue, why has it taken so long? Why have we had to come here to get the Legislature to do something?"

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## ★ DEVELOPMENT

### Eminent domain extension

The House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee considered a bill March 5 that would amend state law governing the procedures for taking or purchasing private property for public use.

The committee took no action, but Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings), the committee chair, said further action might be taken when the differing sides can come up with a bill that's more acceptable.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township) said HF652 is similar to a bill approved by the committee last year. Before it was amended, that bill originally was much more wide reaching, and would have established a property protection act in the state.

HF652 would lengthen the notification period that a condemning authority must provide to a property owner. That notification must clearly state that the authority intends to take possession of the property.

Under the measure the quick-take period would be lengthened from 90 days to nine months.

The bill also would require that in eminent domain proceedings a property owner would be entitled to reimbursement of all reasonable costs of expert fees, appraisal fees, and legal fees if the final award or damages exceeds the original offer by 15 percent or more.

John Schmick, a commercial real estate appraiser said the existing eminent domain law is "seriously flawed." He said the law is currently being used by some authorities as "a weapon against property owners to intimidate them."

Schmick said the bill is patterned after Wisconsin law, and would help level the playing field, which would ultimately result in fewer lawsuits being filed.

Leland Frankman, a Minneapolis attorney, said he was a member of the lawyer's committee that helped draft the state's 1971 eminent domain law.

Frankman spoke against the bill saying most property owners he works with would not want the quick time period lengthened. He said in many cases the property owners want to collect their money "as quick as possible so they can get on with their lives."

## ★ EDUCATION

### Religion in history

History books today are shorter than they were a few decades ago. Over time religious references have been taken out, reflecting the separation of church and state.

Proponents of a bill (HF1028) say students should have the opportunity to study America's founding documents, regardless of whether they contain religious content, without concern for being disciplined and school administrators should not fear legal recourse for allowing such activities.

"It's about freedom; it's about perpetuating our roots," said Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake), the bill's sponsor, at the March 6 House Education Policy Committee meeting.

HF1028 says, "Districts may not limit or restrain instruction in American or Minnesota state history or heritage based on religious references in documents, writing, speeches, proclamations, or records." It adds, "These and any other materials must be used for educational purposes and not to establish any religion."

"We emphasize getting back to original documents," said David Barton, founder and president of WallBuilders, a national pro-family organization. Barton, of Aledo, Texas, said Olson's bill is similar to legislation that is being passed in other states.

Displaying many original historical documents, Barton said religion and prayer influenced America's first lawmakers and political systems.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said examples of historical documents listed in the bill might include controversial laws and information, such as the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v Wade* decision. Olson replied that it is part of history. It should be there to develop critical thinking skills, he said, and all sides of an issue need to be preserved.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), said

### Committee deadlines changed

Each year, the House and Senate set deadlines by which most bills must be heard in a committee and forwarded through the legislative process.

The first committee deadline, for bills to be through policy committees in house of origin, will be **Friday, March 30**.

The second committee deadline has been changed to **Wednesday, April 11**. By that date, bills other than those containing appropriations will have to be through all policy committees in both the House and the Senate.

The third deadline will be **Wednesday, April 25**. All omnibus finance bills will have to pass out of committee by that date.

Exceptions to the deadlines include the taxes committees and rules committees in both bodies. And a bill can be heard after the deadlines if the rules committee in either body grants permission.



**Aledo, Texas resident David Barton, president of WallBuilders, testifies before the House Education Policy Committee March 6 in support of a bill that would ensure the access of educators and students to historical documents with religious content.**

she doesn't disagree with the bill but asked why the Legislature should make a law that repeats the law. "Why do we need this clarification?"

"While these things are permitted, I hear from students and teachers that they are not," Olson replied. For instance, he said some teachers instead of reciting the pledge of allegiance, recite a "pledge to the earth."

Barton added the perception from highly publicized cases of taking prayer out of schools have made teachers and school officials wary of any religion in the classroom. He cited cases such as students being disciplined for saying prayer over their own lunch and athletes for saying a prayer before a game.

Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria) said, as a superintendent of schools, he was approached by principals who questioned singing Christmas songs in the classroom that made religious references, or discussing the meaning behind Thanksgiving. "This will help clarify the fact that we could do it," he said.

### **All-day kindergarten proposed**

Three bills heard March 2 in a House committee propose funding full-day kindergarten for all school districts in the state.

"Research demonstrates it's very effective for getting kids on track for the first grade," said Jim Grathwol, representing the Minneapolis Public Schools.

Currently, the state provides half-day funding for most kindergarten programs and \$7 million annually for full-day kindergarten programs.

The bills (HF247, HF311, and HF997), which were heard in the House K-12 Education Finance Committee, vary slightly. They will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

HF247, sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), and HF311, sponsored by Rep. Debra Hilstrom (DFL-Brooklyn Center), would bump up pupil weight funding for kindergarten students from .557 to 1.115. The annual cost for a 75 percent attendance rate would be about \$120 million.

John Fredericksen, superintendent of International Falls School District, said in order to be successful as first graders, students have to spend more time in kindergarten.

"We need to make the child care experience into an education experience," he said.

Another issue is parents' concern for day care, Fredericksen said. "It's a hassle to find half-day day care."

High levels of poverty, students of color, and mobility in schools make it more important for learners to be more active earlier on, said Chris Richardson, superintendent of the Osseo school district, the state's fourth largest. Cultural diversity early on in the classroom, he said, helps students work in the social diversity of school for students whose first language is not English.

HF997, sponsored by Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), takes a gradual approach, starting in 2002 by increasing funding for schools with a high number of students that are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The program would be fully phased in by 2007, costing about \$123 million annually by that time.

"A half-day program is not enough time to meet academic needs," said Kari Knutson, a kindergarten teacher in Alexandria and past president of the Minnesota Kindergarten Association.

Knutson said she pays \$45 each week to have her daughter in all-day kindergarten, but many families cannot afford the expense. "By having parents pay, we're missing a lot of children."

### **"I pledge allegiance..."**

The House Education Policy Committee approved a bill (HF915) March 8 that would require students in public schools to recite the pledge of allegiance at least once a week.

HF915 now moves to the House floor.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria), would allow school boards to waive the state requirement for recitation of the pledge and adopt a local recitation policy. The bill would also excuse teachers or students who object to reciting the pledge without penalty.

Committee members denied an amendment by a 13-17 vote that would expand the requirement to all public, nonpublic, and charter school students.

Virgil Persing, Legislative chair for the American Legion, spoke in support of the bill.

"This is what we have to instill in our children today," he said.

### **Special education funding sought**

A bill that would send a message urging Congress to fulfill its promise to fund 40 percent of the cost of special education was approved by the House Education Policy Committee Feb. 28.

"Over 25 years ago, the federal government required states to provide children with disabilities an appropriate education, and for 25 years, the government has failed to meet its promise to pay 40 percent of the cost," the bill states. HF456, sponsored by Rep. Andrew Westerberg (R-Blaine), has been sent to the House floor.

Federal allocations for special education funding have averaged 13 percent annually for the past few years. Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) said he doesn't remember a school board meeting in the past few months that the issue of federal funding for special education hasn't come up. Lack of promised funds has forced local school districts to cover the shortfall.

Westerberg said at the National Governor's Convention last month Gov. Jesse Ventura petitioned President George W. Bush to pay 40 percent of special education costs. HF456 reminds Congress that during his campaign Bush vowed to meet the federal obligation as mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, passed in May 2000.

Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls) says the federal government has the finances — by way of a projected \$5.6 billion surplus — to pay their part of special education. There are two reasons for a budget surplus, he says. One, there is money that was budgeted but never spent; two, bills are not being paid.



"This is to remind Congress that they do have the means to fulfill their promise," he said.

### Aiding adults with disabilities

A bill that would expand community education programs for adults with disabilities was presented March 5 to the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee.

HF786, sponsored by Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka), would modify the program piloted in 1986 to identify strategies to integrate adults with physical and mental challenges into the community.

Programs would no longer need to be approved by the Department of Children, Families and Learning. Instead, submission of a program and budget to the department every five years would be sufficient for funding eligibility. The department would be required to provide monitoring and technical assistance to all programs.

The bill would expand the number of programs that qualify for Adults with Disabilities funding and would guarantee the continuation of existing programs by requiring that annual funding be at least as much as that received in fiscal year 2001. It was held over for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

According to Chris Orr, coordinator for the Anoka-Hennepin Adults with Disabilities program, approximately 50,000 people are currently being served in Minnesota. She anticipates that number could double with the passage of Abeler's bill.

"One of the benefits of this program that's hard to measure," Abeler said, "is the collaborative support that comes from the families of participants."

Toni Lippert, the mother of a 50-year-old severely disabled woman, spoke of what the

program has meant to her. She said her daughter spent years in state facilities where she regressed "to a fetal position." Her daughter now lives in a foster home in Anoka, where she participates in a program.

"When I first received the Community Education schedule of programs she could be involved in, I cried," Lippert said. Her daughter now goes on field trips and makes craft projects.

"She never went to school. I never had artwork to hang on the refrigerator as most parents do. This year I got a valentine card from her that she dictated. It was the most verbalizing she has ever done," Lippert said. "It's hanging on my refrigerator."

## ELECTIONS



### Electoral college change considered

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill March 5 that would modify the way Minnesota helps elect the nation's president.

HF70, sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), would change the state's winner take all approach in selecting presidential electors and establish a system of proportional selection.

Under the measure, each major political party in the state would nominate an elector from each congressional district and two from the state at large. The presidential candidate that receives the most votes in a congressional district would get that electoral vote. The winner of the entire state would get the two at large votes.

Seifert said two states, Maine and Nebraska, currently select their electors in this manner. He said had Minnesota used the system in the 2000 presidential election, both President George W. Bush and former Vice-President Al Gore would have each received five of Minnesota's 10 electoral votes. That is because Gore's vote came predominantly from the Twin Cities metropolitan area while Bush carried much of Greater Minnesota. Under the current system, Gore was awarded all 10 votes.

Nationwide, instead of the eventual 271 electoral votes that Bush won, had each state had a proportional method of selecting electors, he would have won 286 electoral college votes.

Seifert was prepared to offer the bill before the 2000 election because, he said, it is important for regions of the state to have a voice, and HF70 would allow that by not just relying on the state's popular vote.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) expressed concern that by adopting the proportional selection, Minnesota would be "unilaterally

disarming" itself. Without the full 10 electoral votes, Kahn said candidates would be less likely to spend as much time in the state.

Kahn offered a successful amendment that would require a majority of states to adopt a similar proportional selection process before Minnesota's method of choosing electors would be changed.

Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) said under HF70 the likelihood of the presidential election ending up in the U.S. House of Representatives would be increased.

He said a strong regional candidate could carry enough congressional districts so that no candidate would receive the necessary 270 electoral votes to win.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

### Two or four?

Voters would be allowed to decide whether members of the Minnesota House of Representatives should serve two or four-year terms, under a measure approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee March 7.

HF289, sponsored by Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee), would place a constitutional amendment question on the general election ballot asking voters whether the state should go to a system of staggered four-year terms in both the House and the Senate.

Daggett said during her last campaign she often heard "weren't you just here?" when knocking on doors.

"It created in my mind the concern that we really are a bother. People are tired of the ads and the fund raising," she said.

The current system of having representatives elected every two years as opposed to their counterparts in the Senate who serve four-year terms was to allow greater accountability in one chamber of the Legislature.

But Daggett said with increasing technology, legislators are more accessible than ever before. She said she spends much of her time responding to e-mails from constituents.

Serving for a longer term would allow representatives to focus more attention to the needs of their constituents rather than to the next campaign, she said.

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) spoke against the bill saying it would further the advantages of incumbents because they can better establish themselves.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) agreed with Lipman and said if given the choice, many legislators would prefer 10-year terms. Seifert said the two-year election cycle allows voters the opportunity to make wholesale changes to the Legislature.

"I prefer what Thomas Jefferson said,



Toni Lippert holds a valentine that she showed and read to the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee March 5. The valentine was made by her 50-year-old disabled daughter, Mary, who participates in Anoka's "Project Power" program. The committee was considering a bill that would modify the adults with disabilities community education programs.



‘frequent elections are man’s best friend,’” Seifert said.

The bill now goes to the House Civil Law Committee.

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### Locks and dam expansion

A bill urging legislative support for modernization of inland waterways, in particular the Upper Mississippi River Basin, was returned to the House floor by the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee March 6.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), author of HF208, acknowledged the debate had been “contentious” so far. The bill was recommended by the House Committee on Transportation Policy and referred to the House Floor, where it was re-referred to the environment committee.

The contentiousness has centered on the wording of the resolution, in particular the term “modernization,” which in the context of the bill means an extension of the lock-and-dam system.

Most of the current system is more than 60 years old and in need of repair. According to the National Corn Growers Association, lock delays in the river basin cost U.S. farmers and businesses an average of \$94 million per year.

Barges are efficient at carrying bulk commodities. One barge can carry as much as 58 large semi trucks, according to the Iowa Department of Transportation. Fifteen-barge tows, a common configuration, are more than 1,100 feet long.

“We want to see some of the locks and dams extended from 600 feet to 1,200 feet,” said Gerald Tumbleson, a farmer and member of the corn growers association. “We need a way to move our grain and want to do it in a more environmentally friendly way.”

There was disagreement among both testifiers and committee members as to whether increasing barge traffic would do just that.

“Waterborne transportation has environmental costs one-fifth that of rail and one-tenth that of trucks, primarily as a result of fuel consumption,” said Al Vogel, director of the Minnesota Department of Transportation Rail and Waterways Division.

Less air pollution, significantly fewer accidents, and no wear and tear on the highway system are factors in favor of water transportation, said Vogel.

However, wear and tear on the river may be another matter.

“The ecological consequences of barge traffic are significant,” said Bill Grant, of the Izaak Walton League. “On balance, we feel the environmental impacts outweigh the benefits of increased barge traffic.”

Workman offered an amendment to HF208 that acknowledged the importance of environmental issues, but he was adamant about inclusion of the term “modernization.”

“I see a system of locks and dams as integral to our transportation system,” he said.

## PICTURE PERFECT



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Richard Rock from Goodhue County works at his easel on the second floor of the east wing of the Capitol March 6. Rock, who primarily paints landscapes, found moving inside during the cold weather months much more comfortable. Other buildings he has put on canvas are the Como Park Conservatory, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, St. Paul Cathedral and the Basilica in Minneapolis.

## Thermometer sales stopped

A bill that would prohibit the sale of mercury thermometers was approved March 1 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee. It will now go to the House floor.

HF274 was previously laid over by the committee to give its sponsor, Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), time to resolve some questions in relation to industrial and agricultural use of mercury thermometers.

As a result, exceptions were made in the bill for situations in which the U.S. Department of Agriculture requires the use of mercury thermometers, in specified climate control systems, and where mercury thermometers are used to calibrate other thermometers.

For most uses, accurate alternatives to mercury thermometers are readily available. Mercury thermometers already in use would not be affected by the bill, however special care must be taken in their recycling and disposal.

Last March, Duluth enacted a ban on the sale of mercury thermometers, the first city in the nation to do so. In 2000, the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District collected 645 pounds of mercury waste, including 2,447 fever thermometers. Residents who turned in mercury thermometers were given mercury-free replacements.

Jan Malcolm, state commissioner of health, wrote in support of Dorman’s bill. “Accidental breakage and careless disposal of mercury containing thermometers is a significant source of environmental mercury contamination,” she said.

“The impact a small amount of mercury has on the environment is substantial,” Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) said in a Feb. 15 hearing. “Each thermometer contains approximately .75 to 1 gram of mercury. That’s enough to call a fish advisory on a lake.”

## ★ HEALTH

### Help for rural hospitals

Two bills designed to help rural hospitals with staffing and facilities were presented to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 1.

Rep. Maxine Penas (R-Badger) set a tone of rural hospitality with home-baked cookies for committee members.

Among the provisions in her bill (HF711) are new loan forgiveness programs for nurses and health care technicians who agree to practice in rural hospitals.

The bill also would modify requirements and appropriate money for the summer health care intern program, which is intended to

expose high school and college students to the experience of working in rural hospitals.

Other provisions in the bill include an extension of the rural hospital capital improvement grant program and a permanent extension of medical assistance benefits for "telemedicine" consultations.

"Hospitals are vital to the existence of rural communities," said Roxanne Ronald, chief executive officer of the Minnewaska District Hospital. "These programs have been central to our providing an essential life service."

Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet) said his bill (HF811) is aimed at keeping small hospitals viable by establishing a capital improvement grant and loan program for rural hospitals to upgrade, remodel, and/or replace equipment and facilities.

The bill establishes very restrictive criteria for eligibility. Among other things, an applicant must be the only hospital in a county, serve a migrant worker population, and have 25 or fewer licensed beds.

Currently, three Minnesota hospitals meet these criteria: those in Arlington, Wheaton, and Warren. All are critical access hospitals.

"These hospitals serve a large percentage of elderly people who can't travel long distances for health care," said Mike Schramm, administrator of the Sibley Medical Center and Clinics in Arlington. "Access to primary care and emergency room services is critical in these areas."

Mary Ann Scheid, a physician at Sibley, agreed. "Often people cannot go an additional 30 to 60 minutes for care," she said. "We need the funding to continue to exist, to provide high quality care, and to recruit quality professionals."

Both bills were approved and referred to the Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

### Teen pregnancy costs

The House Health and Human Services Finance Committee reviewed the budget for family planning services before a packed house March 2. Of particular interest were the programs that try to address the problem of teen pregnancy.

Minnesota has extreme disparities in the rates of teen pregnancy. According to the state Department of Health, the rate among white teens is among the lowest in the nation, while the rate among African-American teens is one of the highest. Rates among American Indian, Asian, and Hispanic youth are also unacceptably high and rising, officials say.

The problem has grabbed Gov. Jesse Ventura's attention. His budget for the next biennium includes \$10 million per year for a teen pregnancy prevention program.

"Teen pregnancy fast forwards a young person's life," said Jeanette Taylor-Jones, assistant commissioner of health.

Statistics paint a grim picture for a teen mother: she is more likely to be a single mother, live in poverty, experience sexual abuse, and depend on welfare programs than a woman who waits until beyond her teens to have a baby. She is also less likely to graduate from high school.

Children of teen parents have poorer health, lower cognitive development, more behavioral problems, and fewer educational opportunities. And the pattern continues — they are more likely to become teen parents themselves.

Legislators expressed frustration with the lack of measurable outcomes from current teen pregnancy prevention programs.

"This is a lot of money we've been spending," said Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester). "How did we miss the boat?"

Ron Campbell, director of maternal and child health, agreed the problem was frustrating and complex. He said the health department has tried to take a comprehensive approach involving a combination of abstinence programs, improved family communication, and family planning.

There was agreement that something has to be done, but lawmakers asked to see some concrete numbers on the results from current programs before they would consider the governor's proposal.

"Are we using enough resources?" asked Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), committee chair. "Or are we putting our resources in the wrong place?"

## HIGHER EDUCATION



### Pell Grant problem

A bill that would eliminate reductions in state aid for students who receive federal financial aid received a mixed message March 7 from the House Higher Education Committee.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) is the chief sponsor of HF291, which would allow students full benefit that they qualify for under the Pell Grant program. He said the bill has been a House position for a number of years, only to die elsewhere.

The Pell Grant is designed to help students from low-income families pay for college. Late last year Congress raised the maximum award from \$3,300 to \$3,750. The problem is that under current state law when a student's Pell Grant amount is increased, the student's state grant is reduced by a corresponding amount.

Seifert's bill would not reduce the state contribution. He said most states do what the bill requests.

Michael Redlinger, chair of the Minnesota State University Student Association, said that since 1995 more than 10,000 students attending state two-year community or technical colleges are no longer able to receive state grants.

At the same time, he said Pell Grants increased from a maximum of \$2,340 for the 1995-96 school year to \$3,750 for 2001-02.

"To ensure continued community/technical students' access to state grants, enacting the Pell Grant 'Pass-Through' is absolutely

### SIGN O' THE TIMES



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Mounds View High School seniors Amy Withhart, left, and Candice Bartelle, right, advocate their message for Gov. Jesse Ventura which reads, "My Governor thinks I'm a black hole," as they left his reception room, March 5. The students had come to the Capitol for a rally calling for increased funding for public schools.

essential this legislative session, particularly with the \$450 Pell Grant increase that will take effect next school year," Redlinger said.

Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring) said the bill could ultimately hurt middle income students.

For example, he said, someone whose family income is slightly above qualifying for a Pell Grant may get a state grant, but someone from a lower-income family can get both a Pell Grant and a state grant. "Suddenly those with a low income have more paid for while those making a little more end up with higher debt when they leave college."

Seifert said there is no cost to the proposal.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), the committee chair, clarified that statement saying there is a cost shift. If Pell Grant money is deducted it goes back to the general fund, with the money usually being put back into higher education, although it does not have to be.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), in his 15<sup>th</sup> term, does not recall higher education ever losing the money, "But I can remember having to argue for it."

HF291 was laid over for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

### Financial assistance extension

A plan to increase the eligibility of those seeking financial aid may be included in the House Higher Education Finance Committee's omnibus bill.

Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) is sponsoring HF342 that would change eligibility rules for students receiving state grants and, in addition to expanding those that are eligible, increasing the amount of a child care grant a student may acquire.

At the March 5 committee meeting, Dehler said his bill would allow students to be eligible for state grants until they receive their baccalaureate degree. Current law allows eligibility for eight semesters or 12 quarters.

"This extended eligibility would mirror the current federal law regarding Pell Grant eligibility," said Robert Anderson, chair of the Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators (MAFAA) Government Issues Committee.

In addition, the bill would increase the maximum child care credit from \$2,000 for each eligible child per academic year to \$2,500. The bill would also extend the eligibility for child care assistance to students attending for-profit institutions. Students attending those institutions are already eligible for state grants.

"MAFAA believes it is a matter of fairness to the parent students attending these excluded institutions," Anderson said. "That

fairness issue becomes a concrete issue for those students and their children when the remedy for child care costs is increased student loan debt."

Representatives had mixed feelings about the proposals.

"I think it is a great idea," said Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr. (DFL-Winona), "but I have a concern of where the money will come from."

The costs are expected to be \$2.3 million for additional child care grant money during the next biennium, and \$10.7 million for extended state grant eligibility. In its current form, the bill contains no appropriations.

"I'd like to see this bill stand alone with appropriations attached without having to take from somewhere else," said Rep. Paul Marquart (DFL-Dilworth).

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), the committee chair, expressed concern about students not finishing school in a timely manner because money will continue to be there for them.

Anderson said most students want to finish as quickly as they can because life as a student is not financially appealing, but students must also "meet the standards of their institution's satisfactory academic progress policy" to receive aid.

## ★ INDUSTRY

### House grants miners benefits

Miners on the Iron Range, particularly former employees of LTV Steel Mining Co. in Hoyt Lakes, could be kept afloat a bit longer, with the nearly unanimous passage of a bill on the House floor.

Members voted 132-1 to pass HF47 that would aid Iron Range employees and the Hoyt Lakes facility.

"We are in a world of hurt on the Iron Range," said Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), sponsor of the bill.

The bill extends the time a mining plant is kept in operating condition from one year to two years to allow the state to find a buyer for the facility.

The bill also gives an additional 13 weeks of unemployment compensation for laid-off iron mine workers.

Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) is sponsoring another bill (HF157) to give an even longer extension for unemployment.

The bill now awaits action in the Senate.

### Public TV going dark?

Legislators pressed public television officials for alternatives to state funding and questioned the need of statewide noncommercial television during a funding request before the House State Government Finance Committee March 1.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), chair of the committee, is sponsoring a bill that would eliminate millions of dollars from the governor's recommendation for state agencies. HF218 allocates no money to public television for the 2002-2003 biennium.

Public television carries family and children's shows, educational programs, arts features, public affairs information, and legislative coverage in the Twin Cities area.

A bill sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) would award a \$20.9 million one-time grant to provide funding for a federal mandate to public television to convert from an analog signal to a digital broadcast signal by May 2003. Funds from HF197 would be matched by the federal government.

Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) asked if the federal government match would still be available if funding was delayed. Officials said the funds are retroactive and the state would be able to spend the money when it is

## FAMILY RESOLUTION



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Tom Prichard, president of Minnesota Family Council, testifies in front of the House Regulated Industries Committee March 5 in support of a resolution "memorializing television networks to reduce violent and sexually explicit material and produce material that promotes wholesome family values."



received. However, stations, not the federal government, would have to pay the interest accrued on any loans to cover costs in the meantime.

Jim Pagliarini, president of Twin Cities Public Television, said stations will auction off analog equipment upon installation of the digital signal. Auction proceeds, which he said are estimated at billions of dollars, will go to the federal government.

"What happens if you don't get money from the state?" Krinkie asked. The Twin Cities and Duluth would use a low-power digital service and other parts of state will have no public television, Pagliarini said. "We would be broadening the digital divide."

Public television receives about \$9 million from 110,000 member contributors. Public television does not receive any funds from payments to cable companies.

Krinkie suggested charging for public television, but supporters said public programming is meant to be a service, and Americans value that service, especially its educational programming. Bill Strusinski, from the Minnesota Public Television Association, said there is an overwhelming demand for public television.

Rep. Rob Eastlund (R-Isanti) asked if operating expenses will be higher for a digital signal. Pagliarini said expenses will "more than double."

The committee took no action on the bill.

### Steel investigation requested

The House approved a resolution March 5 to send an official message to President George W. Bush requesting that his administration immediately investigate illegal dumping of steel products in the United States. The vote was 119-2.

"Illegal dumping" refers to the practice of other countries exporting their excess steel into the U.S. and selling it a lower price than American manufacturers.

HF219/SF258\*, sponsored by Rep. Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm), maintains that a "crisis has been generated by surges in United States imports of steel."

Officials say illegal imports of steel products have been the cause behind more than 7,000 job losses for steel workers across the nation in the last six months, including 1,500 in Minnesota.

The resolution implores Bush "to immediately impose a one-year ban on imports of all steel products that are the products of, or are manufactured in, Australia, China, South Africa, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Mexico, or Brazil

if the President finds that the governments of those countries are not abiding by the spirit and letter of international trade agreements with respect to imports of steel products into the United States."

The measure was previously approved by the Senate. However, when it came to the House, Sertich amended the House language, and the final product will be sent back to the Senate for its approval, before being sent to the governor.

## LAW

### District court budget

Members of the House Judiciary Finance Committee heard a familiar message during the budget presentation for the state district courts March 6 and 8: they need more money.

State Court Administrator Sue Dosal cast a dim light on the situation. She characterized the computer system as dating back to the "Reagan era" and said salaries for judges are so low, they can't even attract applicants for the jobs. There are too many cases for judges to handle, as well.

"Judges are handling too much, too fast, and on not enough information," she said. "The demands placed on the courts have outpaced our resources."

District courts, or trial courts, represent the largest chunk of the Judicial Branch in the state. The state Supreme Court and Court of Appeals round out the branch entities. They have not yet presented their budget.

The courts are requesting \$281.1 million from the general fund for 2002-03, nearly \$40 million more than Gov. Jesse Ventura's recommendation. The request includes an increase of about \$70 million to cover the following costs: attract and retain competent employees, judicial services, mandated costs, and internal efficiency initiatives.

Dosal explained the districts are struggling to hire and retain judges, law clerks, court interpreters, and court reporters because the system's salaries are low and pay increases have been infrequent in recent history. There are also several mandated costs, either by the constitution or state law, that the system must cover.

In addition, the state is overtaking administration and funding of the court system in each county and district throughout the state.

Dosal cited a 1989 report that suggested the state should be responsible for costs. Since then, several pilot projects and other gradual transitions have been undertaken.

Currently four districts, representing 55 counties, are state funded. Beginning July 1

the entire state will be responsible for funding the system. Dosal said the courts are requesting \$1.8 million during the biennium for new staff to conduct accounting and human resources duties.

State courts are proposing nine new judgeships to reduce workloads. Dosal said that of the two million filings in 2000, 10 percent are considered major cases. And judges are spending about 80 percent of their time on those major cases.

Minnesota judges testified they are moving through cases too quickly. In addition, they rank 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for salaries, having received increases in only five of the last 10 years, according to the presentation.

In addition, mandated costs represent about 85 percent of expenses for the trial courts, Dosal said. The system requests \$28.7 million during the biennium to cover these costs, including about \$18 million to reimburse local governments for revenue lost as the state takes over these responsibilities.

Judge Larry Cohen from Ramsey County testified the system needs to support guardians ad litem, interpreters and indigent defense costs.

Guardians ad litem are required by the constitution for each child involved in neglect and abuse cases. These guardians advocate for the child throughout the course of the case.

The plan would also increase requirements for court interpreters, requiring certification and professional standards, which current interpreters support.

When committee members asked judicial officials to prioritize their requests, given the other demands before the committee and the Legislature, they said that these requests are not flexible.

"We have to take everything that comes in the door, and we have to do it constitutionally in a relatively short amount of time," Dosal said. "We have no programs to cut."

### More 'robes' needed

Minnesota courts are considered to be among the most respected and efficient of any state courts in the United States, a position some say could be jeopardized unless steps are taken to mitigate judicial overload.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) is sponsoring HF810 to add nine district judges. The House Civil Law Committee approved the measure March 7 and referred it to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

Under the plan, five judges would be assigned to rapidly growing Twin Cities suburban districts, two would be assigned to the southeastern portion of the state, and two to northwestern Minnesota.



According to Supreme Court Senior Research Analyst Linda Green, the number of major cases — including felonies, major civil cases, and family disputes — filed in Minnesota increased 36 percent in the previous decade. She said average major case filings require two hours of a judge's attention. Minor case filings, which require only about two minutes of judicial attention, increased 71 percent during the same period.

Green said changes in state laws were the primary cause of the increase.

"Although violent crime is down nationwide and in Minnesota," she said, "changes in (laws regarding) drug sentencing, gross DWI misdemeanors, and other felonies have caused the increase."

Judge Tom Mott from Ramsey County said state courts receive about 7,800 filings per judge each year. Comparable states experience only about 5,300 filings.

"When I started in 1988, the caseload 'tide' wasn't deep, but it has been rising ever since," he said. "We have increased efficiency statewide, but the water is at nose level and we need life jackets."

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) suggested criminal recidivism rates could rise due to judicial overload.

"Anecdotally, I have no doubt" criminals are more likely to repeatedly offend if judges are incapable of devoting individual attention to a case, Mott said. "As long as litigants feel they have been heard, they are much more likely to adhere to the court order, to modify their behavior."

Judge Gerard Ring of the Third Judicial District in southeastern Minnesota said litigants' "perception of justice will be determined by their experience (in front of judges). I remember when I used to meet with the prosecutor, the defense attorney, and the probation officer before sentencing," but his busy schedule now prevents him from giving that attention.

### Public defender budget

The state Public Defense Board, which oversees the 500 public defenders and 200 other staff statewide, is requesting \$111.7 million for 2002-03. The board presented its budget to the House Judiciary Finance Committee March 1.

The board's request is about \$6 million more than Gov. Jesse Ventura's recommendation.

Board officials alerted the committee to several things that could pose potential problems in the future: more judges means increased caseloads, lawyers carrying nearly double the number of cases they should be, and salaries too low to retain attorneys.

"We hire great people," said Gordon Stewart, executive director of the Legal Rights Center in Minneapolis, part of the public defender system. "But we want to keep them."

To accomplish these ends, the board is proposing increases of \$4.2 million in 2002 and \$5.5 million in 2003 to increase the viability of the state's part-time public defender system.

Ventura made no recommendation regarding the request.

Kevin Kajer, fiscal director for the board, said 65 percent of the public defenders in the state are part-time. Many of them are in Greater Minnesota and work on a contract basis.

However, they're handling more cases than they should, he said.

Officials estimate each lawyer should handle 400 cases per year. In 2000, they were handling an average of 784 cases each. And estimates show that with 13 new judgeships in the state, cases will increase to 990 per lawyer at current staffing levels.

Dick Scherman, chief administrator for the board, gave the example of Sherburne County, where the court must shut down two or three times a day because there aren't enough public defenders.

"Frankly, we don't know what we're going to do up there," he said.

The plan would fund an additional 29,000 hours of part-time public defenders, specifically to reduce caseloads.

The budget also includes requests in the base budgets for salary and insurance costs.

In addition, another \$1.2 million is being requested so the public defenders can connect to the developing CrimNet system and other sources for offender and case information. Officials say the lawyers don't get their information promptly, which affects representation by not giving them enough time to prepare.

"There is no doubt about it that the quality of service has definitely suffered in the state of Minnesota," Scherman said. "I think our public defender staff will say that they're concerned about that."

## ★ RECREATION

### Fields of dreams

The happy little feet of the state's youth soccer players would find more land to roam under a measure approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee March 7.

The bill now goes to the House State Government Finance Committee.

HF18, sponsored by Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), would appropriate \$12 million to the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission to make matching grants available to develop new soccer fields across the state.

The bill requires the grants be equally dispersed across the state as much as possible.

Under the proposal the amount of matching dollars depend on the size of additional funding. For grants up to \$20,000 the recipient would have to match the amount dollar for dollar. For grants between \$20,001 and \$75,000, the recipient would be required to double the amount of the grant. For grants above \$75,000 the recipient would have to triple the amount.

"There's a difference between ideas that sound good and good sound ideas," Mares said. "This is a good sound idea."

He said soccer is the largest sport in the world and the fastest growing sport in Minnesota.

Paul Erickson, the executive director of the commission, said last year the Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million for soccer and other sports. The commission received applications for around \$6 million.

The \$2.5 million was used to build 140 soccer fields, renovate 16 others, and help build baseball, football, and hockey facilities.

### BLUE NOTE



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Violinist Darren Hall, a junior at Duluth Central High School, performs "Education Funding Blues" along with the school's orchestra in the Rotunda, March 2.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) asked Mares why the money that is due to be paid to the commission as part of the state's loan to St. Paul for the Xcel Energy Center couldn't be used instead of a new appropriation.

Mares said the money has not yet been paid to the commission and there have been other bills introduced that would appropriate that money for other projects.

## TAXES



### Big businesses oppose plan

Representatives from many of the state's largest corporations spoke against the governor's tax reform proposal March 6.

The House Taxes Committee took testimony from spokespeople from Northwest Airlines, Medtronic, IBM, General Mills, and 3M, all of whom expressed concerns with the proposal, which is being carried by House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon).

Kenneth Levinson, a vice president of Northwest Airlines' tax risk management department, said the airline would have paid between \$50 million and \$60 million more in Minnesota taxes, had the governor's proposal been law last year.

"That's 20 percent of our total net income. This seems to be anti-competitive, anti-business, and financially punitive in an extreme way," Levinson said.

He said expanding the tax to the purchase of flight simulators, repair parts, lubricants, and fuels would have a "significant adverse affect" on the airline as would an expansion of sales taxes on intra-state travel services and delivery services.

Levinson said the proposed decreases in the sales tax rate, along with reductions in property and corporate income taxes would result in a \$1.1 million savings, which would not come close to offsetting the tax increases.

Robert R. Ryan, senior vice president and chief financial officer of Medtronic, said the medical devices company also would be hit hard by the shift in taxes.

Medtronic spent \$590 million in the state last year on research and development. Ryan said a proposed change in HF511 to the state's research and development credit would reduce the incentive to invest in that area in Minnesota.

Under existing law, certain corporations are allowed a credit that is calculated on a percentage of gross receipts. Under the governor's tax proposal, the amount used to calculate the credit would be based on a five-year average of qualified research expenses. The credit would only be allowed if research expenses have increased over that time period.

Ryan also spoke against the proposed elimination of a corporate deduction that allows foreign operating corporations a subtraction equal to 80 percent of royalties, fees, and other similar income from state taxes.

The committee has taken no action on the bill but continues taking testimony regarding its provisions.

### 'Big Plan' questions

After holding 20 hearings across the state on Gov. Jesse Ventura's tax reform proposal, Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) had a question for Department of Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith March 7.

Abrams, chair of the House Taxes Committee, asked Smith why of all the people who testified at the hearings less than a handful spoke in support of the governor's proposal (HF511).

Smith told the committee that public opinion polls both by the media and the department show there is broad public support for the concepts in the proposal — reducing the state's income and property taxes, but expanding the sales tax on to more services.

"There has been more intense scrutiny on this than any other government proposal in over a decade," Smith said.

He said due to that scrutiny it is easy for people to pick out pieces of the reform they don't agree with but it is difficult to fully understand such a "comprehensive and complicated tax proposal."

The governor's proposal has been scaled back to reflect February's reduced revenue forecast. In the original proposal the state's income tax rates would have been reduced by 0.4 percent across the board. That reduction would now be 0.3 percent.

Also a much-discussed expansion of the sales tax to nonprofit services has been removed from the proposal, Smith said.

The governor's proposed license tab registration fee reduction would be delayed for a year, taking effect in 2003 under the amended proposal.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) said when he originally looked at Ventura's proposal he thought the property and income tax reforms were "so good" that he was willing to work on the proposed expansion of the sales tax. But he said after hearing testimony on the issue it would be difficult for him to support the proposal.

Abrams was critical of the revised proposal maintaining its elimination of sales tax on local government purchases while reducing the income tax relief in the bill.

He said representatives from local government testified that savings from the elimination of the sales tax on their purchases would be spent on services rather than on property tax reductions.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said he hoped the concerns about the sales tax expansion didn't sound a "death knell" on the entire proposal.

"I hope we can continue to work towards a more equitable, efficient, and stable tax system," Dawkins said.

### Extra tax credit

Minnesota taxpayers would receive extra credit towards their education expenses under a measure heard by the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division March 8.

HF575, sponsored by Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester), would expand the state's current K-12 education tax credit to relatives of eligible students.

Under existing law, a subtraction is allowed of up to \$2,500 for children in grades 7-12, and \$1,625 for students in kindergarten



10-year-old Amber Brown-Jones tells the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee that "It's good for Grandma and Grandpa to give me money for my education." The committee was hearing a bill March 8 that would allow individuals to subtract educational expenses from their income tax.

through the sixth grade. Parents, grandparents and foster parents, with whom the child lives with for more than one-half the tax year, can take the deduction.

Kuisle said the bill would expand the subtraction to apply to education expenses paid by grandparents, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews of the qualifying student regardless of where the child lives.

Amber Brown Jones, a 10-year-old student from Ramsey said the expansion of the credit would encourage even greater participation from family members into the education of the students.

"My aunts, uncles, and grandparents have contributed greatly toward my education," she said.

Sonia Greer, executive director of Partnership for Choice in Education, a nonprofit group that supports expanding education choices for families, said more than 57,000 families benefited from the education tax credit in 1999, a 49 percent increase from the previous year.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) expressed concern that expansion of the credit might adversely affect public schools. He said families that send their children to public schools can only claim the subtraction on after school, education-based activities.

Dawkins said that because of a shortage in funding, public schools might be tempted to shift more education-based activities from the regular school day to after school hours.

The Department of Revenue estimates the cost of the bill would be \$350,000 in 2002 and \$365,000 in 2003.

The committee adopted an amendment that would expand the subtraction for noncustodial parents. No further action was taken on the bill, but Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the division chair, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### More Greater Minnesota money

Representatives have offered a plan to devote more money to transit in Greater Minnesota than suggested in Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget.

HF998, sponsored by Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston), would appropriate nearly \$22 million during each year of the next biennium, more than \$5 million above what is in Ventura's budget. The bill, heard March 7 in the House Transportation Finance Committee, will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

The additional funds would be used to assist in the founding of new transit programs in six

counties and to expand services in others. The bill specifies that counties receiving state funds would have to match between 35 percent and 50 percent of the state's investment.

Lieder told the committee that his bill would be sufficient only to prevent the atrophy of existing services. He said the state is currently not funding the needs for Greater Minnesota transit. Lieder explained that "because of the funding schedule, (rural transit providers) are cutting back services."

Kim Jensen, speaking on behalf of the Mower County Heartland Express and the Minnesota Public Transit Association, said state assistance is necessary for rural programs to continue operation.

"There is no other source of funding available," she said. Jensen warned that underfunding rural transit would serve to increase "the isolation of residents and decrease economic activity."

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) said well-funded rural transit programs could help stem the tide of migration away from rural areas. "These systems become the lifeblood for our communities. Maybe keeping people out there could stem the constant migration to the Twin Cities."

Linda Elsstrand of Tri-Cap Heartland Express in the St. Cloud area said, "We have more demand than we can provide. The governor's budget will probably cut back services."

She added that the elderly, poor, and residents with disabilities would be among the most negatively affected if the governor's budget were adopted without amendment.

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) expressed

her support for the bill, explaining that "rural transit doesn't always mean buses. Greater Minnesota transit is very different from the (Twin Cities metropolitan area transit)."

## Minnesota State Agencies

(Area code 651)

Administration .....	296-6013
Agriculture .....	297-2200
Children, Families and Learning .....	582-8200
Commerce .....	296-4026
Corrections .....	642-0200
Economic Security .....	296-3644
Employee Relations .....	297-1184
Job Information .....	296-2616
Finance .....	296-5900
Health .....	215-5803
Human Rights .....	296-5663
Toll Free .....	1-800-657-3704
Human Services .....	296-6117
Labor and Industry .....	296-6107
Military Affairs .....	282-4662
Natural Resources .....	296-6157
Pollution Control Agency .....	296-6300
Public Safety .....	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services .....	296-6911
Fire Marshal .....	215-0500
Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division .....	296-6979
State Patrol .....	297-3935
Public Service .....	296-5120
Revenue Taxpayer Assistance .....	296-3781
Toll Free .....	1-800-652-9094
Trade and Economic Development .....	297-1291
Office of Tourism .....	296-5029
Transportation .....	296-3000
Veterans Affairs .....	296-2562
State Information .....	296-6013

## AIRPORT TOUR



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Members of the House Transportation Finance Committee get a glimpse of the powerful jets at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport during a March 5 bus tour of new construction.

# Board of Education

Two bills propose to restore state board and public oversight of education

BY THERESA STAHL

**T**wo years after the state Board of Education was abolished by the Legislature, two bills from the House of Representatives would reinstate the supervisory board.

The House Education Policy Committee tabled the bills after their March 1 hearings. The bills vary in qualifications of number of board members to authority of the board, but Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), sponsor of HF881, says he and Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), sponsor of HF770, are committed to working together.

Carlson said the board is needed to guarantee public access at the state level.

"It is to ensure education policy issues have broad public input," he said.

His bill would appoint 12 citizens to the board, one of whom must reside in each congressional district; the chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities; and the president of the University of Minnesota.

The bill requires at least four of the citizens to have previously served as a local school board member. The governor would appoint the resident citizens with the recommendation of the Senate. One member would be chosen annually to serve as board president, with a maximum term of three consecutive years. Board members would be prohibited to hold public office or be employed by any board of education or school district, public or private during their tenure.

HF770 would give the board "the authority to exercise general supervision over educational agencies and adopt or amend administrative rules." Furthermore, the Revisor of Statutes, in consultation with House and Senate counsel, would give certain powers to the board, and prepare a report for the 2002 Legislature to show changes.

Carlson says the bill would take back authority from the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning, the state's education department. "It will put it back to the way things once were," he said. The bill would be effective Dec. 1, 2001.

Buesgens' bill proposes a smaller board and describes its specific authority.

The bill would create a state superintendent of public instruction, replacing the commissioner of education, who would have administrative control of the department. The superintendent would hold a four-year term in a nonpartisan position, elected during the state general election.

Under HF881, the board would be composed of eight elected citizens, one from each congressional district. The board would have general supervision "over educational agencies and other education-related matters." It would elect its own president, with a maxi-

legislative task force, composed of House and Senate education committee members that would recommend to the 2002 Legislature "how best to allocate financial and staff resources and education policy-related duties between the State Board of Education and the state superintendent of public instruction."

Most provisions in HF881 would become effective Jan. 1, 2003.

Both bills would require changing back the name of the Department of Children, Families and Learning to the Department of Education. The department was renamed under Gov. Carlson's administration in 1995. Representatives said the new name has been too confusing and people don't realize it is the education department.

Robert Brown, a professor at the University of St. Thomas and once a member of the board of education, spoke to the committee about the history of the board and why it no longer exists in the state. Minnesota is one of only two states that do not have such a body.

Over a period of time, Brown said, the Legislature reduced its authority. Teacher licensure was taken away, and the commissioner of the department was appointed directly by the governor. Serious problems arose, including the governor appointing his own paid workers to

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***"We need to create a board not based on what we did in the past, but what we need in the future."***

***—Prof. Robert Brown  
former member of the State Board of Education***

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num term of three consecutive years. Members would have the same conflict of interest restrictions as provided in Carlson's bill, and would serve staggered four-year terms.

The bill's provisions on rulemaking say the board "may adopt new rules and amend any of its existing rules under legislative authority." Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) said rules can take hours to review and warned committee members the bill may bring "more charges to ourselves."

HF881 also permits the board to grant a local school district a rule variance for "implementing experimental programs in learning or school management." Any new rule would have to meet the approval by the superintendent of public instruction before adoption.


To create what Buesgens calls a "statement of policy," the bill would order a temporary

serve on the board, Brown said. Eventually, in 1999, the Legislature voted to abolish the board.

But Brown stressed the need for reinstatement and addressed several goals for the Legislature. "We need more discussion to make the board as effective as can be," he said. "We want a structure that least interferes with kids' ability to learn."

He said there is no cookie-cutter formula for such a board, and legislators need to learn from mistakes in the past.

"We need to create a board not based on what we did in the past, but what we need in the future," Brown said.

Rep. Robert Ness (R-Dassel) said he supports a board of education, and the Legislature needs to "move this out" this session. "I think we've lost something," he said. 



## Freeze frame

A bill that would require a photo identification to vote is being met with some resistance

BY DAVID MAEDA

**T**he bedlam that broke out following the 2000 presidential election focused unparalleled public examination on the voting process. In Florida the manner in which the votes ultimately were counted became just as important an issue as the results of the count itself.

Minnesota Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer told the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Election Subcommittee March 5 that since the election she has heard from “an overwhelming” number of citizens concerned with the integrity of Minnesota’s voting systems.

Kiffmeyer said a number of people were surprised to discover the state doesn’t require a person to show any identification at the polling place before voting.

Although the state traditionally has one of the nation’s highest voter turnouts, Kiffmeyer said she has heard from many of those that don’t vote because they think the system is “a sham.”

“The biggest controversy is that just anybody could walk in and claim a name,” she said. “There has been a tremendous shaking of the general confidence in the system.”

HF857 a bill Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) said he was carrying on Kiffmeyer’s behalf, would require voters to present picture identification at the polling place before receiving a ballot.

The subcommittee approved an amendment that would allow a person who doesn’t own a picture identification to vote after signing an affidavit. The amended bill was approved and referred to the full committee.

The bill would also require that registrants list the last four digits of their social security number on the voter registration card. Those four numbers would be printed on the polling place roster and could be used to further verify the identity of a person.

“The outcome of an election is only as good as the inputs we put into the process,” Kielkucki said.

Under current law voters are allowed to register to vote any time except during the 20 days

prior to the election. The 20-day period allows election officials to finalize the election day roster that voters must sign under oath prior to receiving a ballot.

Minnesota is one of the few states that also allows registration on election day. To do so a potential voter has to show a prescribed picture identification (generally a drivers license or state ID card). If the address on the identification is not current, state law allows a number of documents such as a current utility bill to verify the address of the person.

A person who does not have the proper identifying documentation is also allowed to bring in a person who lives in the same precinct who can verify or “vouch” that the wannabe voter also lives in the precinct.



PHOTO BY SARA KIRK

Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer, left, testifies March 5 before the Elections Subcommittee of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee in favor of a bill that would require picture identification to vote. Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), right, is the bill’s author.

Kiffmeyer offered anecdotal evidence of some fraud in the state, but committee members did not press the issue further.

Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) expressed concern with the bill’s photo identification requirement, pointing out those who register more than 20 days prior to an election don’t have to present identification to prove who they are when they register.

Kubly said requiring someone who has been vouched for to also present a photo identification doesn’t make sense since the voucher has already confirmed they know the person lives in that precinct.

“This bill is raising at least as many questions as it resolves,” he said.

Kielkucki said there were two separate issues involved, verifying the identity of the voter and verifying the residence.

Luci Botzek, from the Association of Minnesota County Officials, said that although her organization has not taken an official position on the bill, local election officials believe the current system “works very well.” She said the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners recently approved a resolution stating its opposition to the photo identification requirement.

Victoria Davis, from the St. Paul chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the issue that should be learned from the Florida experience was not there was rampant fraud, but rather thousands

of voters were left disenfranchised because their names were mistakenly left off the voter rolls and thus were unable to vote.

She said instead of increasing requirements to vote the state should be looking for ways to increase access.

“I’m struggling with the ‘why’ of this bill,” Davis said. “Why would you want to do things that might exclude some people from voting?”

Kielkucki said the intent of the identification requirement was not meant to lower voter participation. He said it was ironic

that a person has to show picture identification before getting served in a bar but doesn’t have to do so to vote.

“I believe the right to vote is paramount,” he said. “I’m not trying to deny access to vote. I’m trying to ensure the integrity of the process.”

Amy Caucutt, who served as an election judge in Rochester, said she heard voters

Continued on page 31

# Boy wonder

Gov. Harold Stassen — youngest U.S. governor, perennial presidential candidate, signatory of U.N. charter — dies at age 93

BY MICHELLE KIBIGER

Flags flew at half-staff to honor him. Former colleagues mused about his political promise. Legislators sighed and reminisced about his kindnesses to them. Friends and family mourned.

Gov. Harold Stassen's long life and diverse career touched the lives of many in the House of Representatives and the culture of the State Capitol. And they were moved to honor the man whose tenacity almost made him a caricature of Minnesota politics.

Stassen died March 4 in Bloomington of natural causes. He was 93.

Members of the House passed a resolution March 5 honoring Stassen and his contributions to the state, the United States and the world.

Resolution sponsor Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview) reminded the body of Stassen's life's work and the esteem with which members could hold his accomplishments.

"He is someone who I think we can all admire and respect in his dedication to public service and his commitment not only to the citizens of the state of Minnesota but his commitment to world peace and his work in the United Nations," Krinkie said.

"He truly was a rather phenomenal man." Stassen's journey began on a farm in West St. Paul, born to Baptist parents in 1907. He was the third of five children.

His father, William, served as head of the

local school board and as mayor of West St. Paul. Those political roots drove Stassen, who would complete high school by 15, finish undergraduate studies at the University of Minnesota by age 19, and earn a law degree at age 21.

By 1929, Stassen had received his degree, passed the bar, opened a law office, and achieved his first public office — that being Dakota County Attorney.

He sought his first statewide office, governor, at age 31, in 1938. And Stassen would not

be stopped, winning by nearly 300,000 votes and becoming the youngest man to be elected governor in Minnesota and the nation. To this day, that feat has yet to be bested.

Stassen, a Republican, easily won reelection in both 1940 and 1942, at a time when governors were only elected to two-year terms.

However, Stassen resigned his post in 1943 to join the armed forces in World War II. In fact, the governor signed bills until midnight April 21, 1943, the day the Legislature adjourned, and resigned the next day.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Stassen to lead the United States delegation to San Francisco to draft and sign the United Nations Charter.

After the war, Minnesotans expected Stassen to return home and seek a seat in the U.S. Senate, where his challenger would be then-Mayor of Minneapolis Hubert Humphrey.

But Stassen had higher aspirations —

*"He is someone who I think we can all admire and respect in his dedication to public service and his commitment not only to the citizens of the state of Minnesota but his commitment to world peace and his work in the United Nations. He truly was a rather phenomenal man."*

—Rep. Phil Krinkie

seeking the Republican nomination for president in 1948 against Thomas Dewey.

For much of the contest, Stassen was ahead, but the campaign would turn in Oregon in May 1948. There, Dewey campaigned aggressively, requiring Stassen to make strong anti-Communist statements. In addition, the two engaged in a radio debate — the first of its kind — which many call the turning point because newspapers and pundits called Dewey the victor.

Dewey would win the Oregon primary and Stassen would never catch up. Democrat Harry S. Truman would defeat Dewey that November and gain the presidency.

Though he would run for president unsuccessfully a total of nine times, the last being in 1992, his first was the closest he ever came to that office. However, he would serve in President Dwight Eisenhower's administration in various security and foreign affairs roles.

Stassen also served as president of the University of Pennsylvania from 1948 to 1953.

On the House floor March 5, Krinkie credited Stassen for his commitment to world peace. He quoted from a 1951 speech Stassen delivered about the former Soviet Union:

"I believe we'll help a liberation and upward climb of mankind for both better conditions than a free and democratic world can provide this latter goal will not come quickly, but I anticipate that the half century that lies before the youth of today will seize this expanding freedom, this better life."

Said Krinkie, "I think we can all appreciate this man's endeavor, his persistence and

Continued on page 31



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Former Gov. Harold Stassen spoke with members in the retiring room before giving a speech to announce his presidential candidacy in the House Chamber March 11, 1992.**

# Justice for all

Minnesota law library offers special collections and other legal resources since early territory days to officials and the public

BY DAVID MAEDA

It is a slight exaggeration to say the Minnesota State Law Library is as old as the wind. But it's not a stretch to say the library is as old as the state. An 1849 act of Congress that established the Minnesota Territory also provided a \$5,000 appropriation for a library to be located at the seat of government. The library was set up later that year in the St. Paul Central House.

Originally the facility, like most libraries, had a variety of books on different subjects. But in the 1870s, the state Supreme Court assumed administration of the library and the collection's focus changed to an emphasis on law-related material.

In the early 1990s, the library moved to its current location in the state's Judicial Center. The expansive space houses a myriad of legal documents from treatises and briefs, to court transcripts and federal and state regulations.

With its elegant, regal design, the library is well worth a tour just for its impressive architecture, layout and historical atmosphere.

Over the years the library's primary task has been assisting a wide variety of people trying to understand the gray areas inherent in the complexity of law.

Daniel Lunde, the library's head of public services, said that many of the visitors come in believing that the legal information they seek will be readily available in one spot, and that the law itself will be black and white.

But Lunde said legal research often is much more detailed because laws are created from a variety of sources including: state statutes, local ordinances, state agency rules and court decisions. He said something as seemingly simple as a particular law's statute of limitations can be difficult to ascertain depending on circumstances involved. Nonetheless he said library staff members do their best to at least get patrons started in retrieving the information they seek.

And because the basis for all law lies within historical decisions and information, the library is often the gateway for everyone from lawmakers to lawyers to homeless people.



PHOTO BY SARA KIRK

**The Minnesota State Law Library offers many resources for legal research, including legal documents, briefs and court transcripts. In addition, books that are several centuries old, rare and out-of-print are located in the special collections room, pictured here.**

In his 1964 song "Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll," Minnesotan Bob Dylan wrote that in our system of justice, "the ladder of law has no top and no bottom." In other words, all people are supposed to be treated equally under the law.

Lunde said that statement is borne out every day at the law library.

"We see everyone from the chief (Minnesota) Supreme Court justice, to a person who walks in off the street and everyone in between," he said.

He added that many of the people who use the library's services cannot afford legal representation and are trying to find as much information as they can to help their own situation.

"We are guides through the whole law process — educators, too," Lunde said.

Among the library's resources are the typical things you would find in any law library: Minnesota Statutes, Session Laws, case decisions, and legal reviews. There are many other resources for researching laws, as well, including legal periodicals.

The staff is also well versed in legal research and can help direct your legal search. And the library has guidelines in place so patrons are aware staff cannot give out legal advice and cannot attempt to interpret laws.

Staff assistance doesn't stop at the door as the library has two outreach programs that provide services to those who cannot necessarily make it to St. Paul.

One is the Law Library Service to Prisoners that helps provide legal materials to inmates trying to research the law as it applies to their own case. The other enables counties in Greater Minnesota that do not have law libraries of their own to request materials from the state law library.

Perhaps the most interesting room in the library is the one that probably is visited the least — the special collections room.

Located off to the side of all the stacks of materials is a mid-size room with an ominous warning sign outside the door: "Do not enter room when alarm sounds. Halon 1301 being released." (Halon is a commonly used fire suppressant.)

If there is ever a fire in the library Halon gas removes oxygen from the room so the fire cannot burn.

This is especially important as the room contains many of the library's most valuable and treasured books — such as those from the 1700s and rare, long out-of-print books.

While the material from the special collections room cannot be checked out, most of the library's collection is available to the general public. The library's catalog can be found online: [www.state.mn.us/courts/library/](http://www.state.mn.us/courts/library/)

## Monday, March 5

### HF1360—Boudreau (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Minnesota Citizens' Personal Protection Act of 2001 adopted recognizing the right to self-defense, providing permits to carry a pistol, and imposing criminal penalties.

### HF1361—Workman (R)

#### Civil Law

Trucking firms provided civil liability immunity for disclosure of employment history.

### HF1362—Workman (R)

#### Civil Law

ICF/MRs provided civil liability immunity for disclosure of employment history.

### HF1363—Clark, K. (DFL)

#### Judiciary Finance

Marijuana medical use research grant provided and money appropriated.

### HF1364—Dibble (DFL)

#### Crime Prevention

Marijuana; affirmative defense established for possession or sale of small amount of marijuana solely for use with a debilitating medical condition.

### HF1365—Dorman (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Clean fuel use required in state vehicles, grants provided motor fuel retailers who install pumps to dispense cleaner fuel, and money appropriated.

### HF1366—Buesgens (R)

#### Education Policy

School district contracts with teachers required to be structurally balanced.

### HF1367—Wolf (R)

#### Regulated Industries

Owner-occupied residential housing program authorized to use rental energy revolving loan program funds.

### HF1368—Westerberg (R)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Manufactured home park redevelopment program established and money appropriated.

### HF1369—Leighton (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Rehabilitation Council for the Blind, Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, and other specified committees and councils sunsets repealed.

### HF1370—Dehler (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

School boards authorized to transfer excess revenue in the debt redemption fund to the operating capital account in the general fund.

### HF1371—Dehler (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Referendum authority increase provided without election in certain circumstances.

### HF1372—Erickson (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Electronic continual learning plan grants provided and money appropriated.

### HF1373—Stanek (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension authorized to charge a fee for Internet access to public criminal history data.

### HF1374—Clark, K. (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Banks required to process checks received on a banking day in sequence by check number.

### HF1375—Clark, K. (DFL)

#### Civil Law

Service charges, time limits, and civil penalties for dishonored checks regulated.

### HF1376—Abeler (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Human services licensing background studies provisions modified.

### HF1377—Abeler (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

General education basic formula allowance increased and indexed.

### HF1378—McGuire (DFL)

#### Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Multi-county, multi-type library system grants provided and money appropriated.

### HF1379—Krinkie (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

State procurement provisions modified.

### HF1380—Dibble (DFL)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Section 8 home ownership assistance provided and money appropriated.

### HF1381—Wilkin (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Human services licensure background studies requirements modified.

### HF1382—Olson (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Como Lake and Powderhorn Lake aeration treatments provided and money appropriated.

### HF1383—Workman (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Motorcycle handlebar height restrictions repealed.

### HF1384—Otremba (DFL)

#### Agriculture Policy

Poultry included in prompt payment for livestock purchases requirement.

### HF1385—Mullery (DFL)

#### Crime Prevention

Assaults and robberies committed in bus zones provided enhanced criminal penalties.

### HF1386—Ozment (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Shoreland protection program established, grants provided, and money appropriated.

### HF1387—Kuisle (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

State commitment to debt service equalization increased and money appropriated.

### HF1388—Murphy (DFL)

#### Crime Prevention

Background studies conducted of individuals providing services in secure and non-secure juvenile residential and detention facilities.

### HF1389—Ozment (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Non-game wildlife account contribution matching funds provided and money appropriated.

### HF1390—Clark, K. (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Spoken language interpreter demonstration training project established.

### HF1391—Solberg (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Resolution urging the United States Postal Service to create a postage stamp reproducing Eric Enstrom's photograph "Grace."

### HF1392—Gunther (R)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Minnesota Investment Fund usage provisions modified.

### HF1393—Workman (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Waste Management Act modified to provide flexibility to counties, SCORE fund redistribution provided, solid waste management plan requirements modified, and other solid waste statutes and rules clarified.

### HF1394—Tingelstad (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Asthma inhaler possession and use authorized for public elementary and secondary school students.

### HF1395—Otremba (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Turtle licensing and taking provisions modified.

### HF1396—Wenzel (DFL)

#### Agriculture Policy

Dairy Producers Board sunset extended and money appropriated.

### HF1397—Tingelstad (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Child placement provisions modified and definitions provided.

### HF1398—Dorman (R)

#### Taxes

Residential rental property class rates reduced, and homestead and agricultural credit aid computation adjusted to compensate for lost revenue.

### HF1399—McElroy (R)

#### Taxes

Sales tax rebate of 2000 eligibility expanded and money appropriated.

### HF1400—Nornes (R)

#### Education Policy

Health and safety revenue use authorized to pay interest on health and safety program project finance agreements.

### HF1401—Bakk (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Cook County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

### HF1402—Erhardt (R)

#### Taxes

Homestead, agricultural, and seasonal recreational property exempted from general education tax; property tax class rates reduced; homestead credit program established, school district levy computation modified, and money appropriated.

### HF1403—Hilstrom (DFL)

#### Crime Prevention

Criminal records sealing petitioning provisions modified.



**HF1404—Kuisle (R)****Transportation Policy**

Towed implements of husbandry provided an exemption from tail lamp display requirement.

**HF1405—Gleason (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Prescription drug price discrimination provisions strengthened, drug price disclosure required, criminal penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

**HF1406—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Maternal death review and study provided.

**HF1407—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Health-related councils expiration dates modified; funeral goods and services regulation authority transferred, public health collaboration plan provisions modified, rural hospital program modified, and boxing regulation repealed.

**HF1408—Gunther (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Minnesota State University, Mankato, rural policy and development center funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1409—Jacobson (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Minor employee age certification requirement satisfied by form I-9.

**HF1410—Gunther (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Rural policy and development center staff authorized to participate in state insurance, retirement, and other plans that apply to state employees.

**HF1411—Stanek (R)****Crime Prevention**

Predatory offender registration provision repealed retroactively and legislative intent specified.

**HF1412—Boudreau (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Medical assistance reimbursement provided for certain employee travel costs in conjunction with services provided in the recipient's home, and money appropriated.

**HF1413—Tuma (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

No-fault auto insurance basic economic loss benefits regulated.

**HF1414—Cassell (R)****Higher Education Finance**

Alexandria Technical College post-secondary outreach grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1415—Mares (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities annuity program provisions modified.

**HF1416—Abrams (R)****Taxes**

Electronic filing and paying of taxes programs established, uniform sales and use tax administration provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1417—Koskinen (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Nursing facilities minimum staffing standards established, facilities required to post information on staffing standards, studies required, and money appropriated.

**HF1418—Johnson, S. (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Neighborhood-based crime victim and witness services grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1419—Bradley (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Children's mental health screening, diagnosis, and treatment demonstration project established; report required; and money appropriated.

**HF1420—Sertich (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

School district levy for retired employee health benefits extended.

**HF1421—Dehler (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 485, Royalton, fund transfer authorized.

**HF1422—Dehler (R)****Civil Law**

Immunity from liability extended for owners of land used for recreational purposes to certain owners of adjoining land.

**HF1423—Leppik (R)****Education Policy**

Pupil transportation requirements for school districts removed and pupil transportation fees allowed.

**HF1424—Krinkie (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan Airports Commission capital improvement program legislation required and legislative approval of individual capital projects required.

**HF1425—Hilty (DFL)****Taxes**

Sales ratio study modified for purposes of certain state property tax aid formulas.

**HF1426—Fuller (R)****Crime Prevention**

DWI; persons employed in health-related occupations allowed to administer chemical tests for DWI purposes, and terms relating to alcoholic beverage concentration defined.

**HF1427—Fuller (R)****Crime Prevention**

DWI; preliminary screening test results deemed admissible for implied consent prosecution, certain first-time offenders prohibited from receiving reduced revocation period, plate impoundment law amended, and criminal penalties enhanced.

**HF1428—Davids (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Insurance rates and coverages regulated and minimum anticipated loss ratios established.

**HF1429—Sykora (R)****Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Annual market rate surveys for child care required and money appropriated.

**HF1430—Winter (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 175, Westbrook, student entrepreneurship project grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1431—Hilty (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Environmental learning center grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1432—Hilty (DFL)****Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Minnesota institute of sustainable agriculture funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1433—Leighton (DFL)****Civil Law**

Limitations on actions based on services or construction to improve real property modified.

**HF1434—Juhnke (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Metropolitan magnet school grant program extended statewide and money appropriated.

**HF1435—Howes (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Yellow perch daily and possession limits established.

**HF1436—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Wholesale drug distributors required to report the best price and information on the prescription drug and prescription drug patient assistance programs required.

**HF1437—Skoe (DFL)****Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Child care market rate survey modified.

**HF1438—Bishop (R)****Crime Prevention**

Prison inmate conditional release board established.

**HF1439—Anderson, B. (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

National Guard eligibility and rank designation requirements clarified, unused armory site disposal authorized, and other armory provisions clarified.

**HF1440—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Nurse licensure compact enacted.

**HF1441—Slawik (DFL)****Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Early childhood immunization efforts funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1442—Mulder (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Professional sports; commissioner of trade and economic development authorized to negotiate with teams for control and use of the team name in the event the team relocates.

**HF1443—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Medication therapy management pilot program implemented and money appropriated.

**HF1444—Wilkin (R)****Taxes**

Tax withholding on wages abolished, and payment of estimated taxes on wages provided.

**HF1445—Abeler (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Temporary employment agencies serving nursing facilities licensure required, facilities required to report use of agencies, and rate adjustments provided.

**HF1446—Smith (R)****Civil Law**

Family law recodification provided for marriage dissolution, child custody, support, and maintenance provisions, and conforming changes provided.

**HF1447—Johnson, R. (DFL)****Agriculture Policy**

Eggs; shell egg handling regulations modified.

**HF1448—Johnson, R. (DFL)****Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Sustainable and organic foods program base funding restored, dairy diagnostics program funded, biological control facility operation provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1449—Swapinski (DFL)****Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Child care providers and staff education and retention program established and money appropriated.

**HF1450—Winter (DFL)****Agriculture Policy**

Resolution memorializing Congress to begin repealing and rewriting the Freedom to Farm Act.

**HF1451—Larson (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport expansion impact provided, airport mitigation planning authorized and airport impact zones established, mitigation fund created, and money appropriated.

**HF1452—Penas (R)****Agriculture Policy**

Turf grass research initiated, report required, and money appropriated.

**HF1453—McGuire (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

After-school enrichment grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1454—McGuire (DFL)****Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Early Childhood Care and Education Services Act adopted.

**HF1455—Osskopp (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Designer selection board provisions modified.

**HF1456—McGuire (DFL)****Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

School readiness program services and eligibility requirements expanded and money appropriated.

**HF1457—Otremba (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

MinnesotaCare gross income definition modified.

**HF1458—Otremba (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

MinnesotaCare eligibility for single adults and households with no children expanded.

**HF1459—Lipman (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Washington County tax-forfeited land conveyances and public and private land sales authorized.

**HF1460—Otremba (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Prescription drug program eligibility expanded.

**HF1461—Marquart (DFL)****Taxes**

Agricultural homestead classification maximum distance from residency extended.

**HF1462—Mares (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Teacher retirement service credit purchases provided, fund transfer permitted, and prior service credit determination procedure extended.

**HF1463—Marquart (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Marginal cost pupil unit count for districts with declining enrollment increased.

**Thursday, March 8****HF1464—Abeler (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

School district equity revenue increased.

**HF1465—Stanek (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Police civil service periodic examinations permitted and clarifying changes provided.

**HF1466—Holberg (R)****Civil Law**

St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority data regulations extended to all housing and redevelopment authorities.

**HF1467—Holberg (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Payment bonds regulation clarifying and technical changes provided relating to notice of claims.

**HF1468—Jaros (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Veterans' unemployment benefits provided to qualified veterans currently receiving federal military pension.

**HF1469—Finseth (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Coyotes; counties authorized to offer bounties for destruction of coyotes.

**HF1470—Kuisle (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

School district teacher contracts required to be structurally balanced.

**HF1471—Boudreau (R)****Crime Prevention**

Alternative response programs for child protection or assessments data privacy provided.

**HF1472—Thompson (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Emergency 911 telephone service fee collection responsibility transferred to revenue department, and enhanced 911 service funding expenditures authorized for signs and markers.

**HF1473—Osthoff (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

St. Paul Port Authority funding provided for acquisition of Trout Brook area properties and money appropriated.

**HF1474—Osthoff (DFL)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

St. Paul Port Authority funding provided for Trout Brook area blight removal and money appropriated.

**HF1475—Walz (R)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Ironton; Cuyuna Range Technology Center grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1476—Nornes (R)****Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Minnesota economic opportunity grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1477—Mares (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minneapolis Firefighters Relief Association law reorganized.

**HF1478—Wagenius (DFL)****Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Parents' Right To Know Act; parental notice required when Head Start program or child care provider plans to use certain pesticides.

**HF1479—Walker (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Employed individuals with disabilities temporary medical assistance eligibility extension provided.

**HF1480—Walker (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Ventilator—dependent persons nursing facility rates modified.

**HF1481—Cassell (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Landowner definition modified for participation in the RIM program.

**HF1482—Murphy (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

MSRS disability benefits, early retirement requirements, eligibility, refund, and survivor benefit provisions modified, pilot project extended, and technical changes provided.

**HF1483—Abeler (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Human services direct support professional incentive program established and money appropriated.

**HF1484—Kelliher (DFL)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Child exposure to toxic chemicals awareness grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1485—Kelliher (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Pollution Control Agency required to provide emissions information and money appropriated.

**HF1486—Murphy (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Model policing program pilot project authorized, community mental health peace officer advisory board created, reports required, and money appropriated.

**HF1487—Haas (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Provisions rendered obsolete by the electronic licensing board modified, disposition of certain taxes and proceeds modified, watercraft license and title provisions modified, sale of live animals and animal portions clarified.

**HF1488—Workman (R)****Transportation Policy**

Speed limits in highway work zones provisions modified, seasonal highway weight limitations modified, and commissioner of transportation allowed to convey interest in certain land to property owners.

**HF1489—Hilty (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Northern Technology Initiative, Inc. created.

**HF1490—Tuma (R)****Judiciary Finance**

Center for Reducing Rural Violence program continuation provided and money appropriated.

**HF1491—Fuller (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Environmental review concerning sunken log removal clarified, local approval required, and money appropriated.

**HF1492—Howes (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 116, Pillager, fund transfer authorized.

**HF1493—Davids (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Consumer financial and health information privacy regulated.

**HF1494—Skoe (DFL)****Taxes**

Agriculture preservation organizations property tax exemption provided.

**HF1495—Lenczewski (DFL)****Taxes**

Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, and Metropolitan Airports Commission joint public safety training facility construction materials and equipment purchase sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF1496—Smith (R)****State Government Finance**

Fair Labor Standards Act compliance cost money appropriated.

**HF1497—Nornes (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Lake County state land sales authorized, lakeshore land exchange terms modified, and certain charges exempted.

**HF1498—Larson (DFL)****Transportation Policy**

Minneapolis and Richfield Highway 62 construction and reconstruction delayed and report required.

**HF1499—Osskopp (R)****Crime Prevention**

Automobile theft prevention program eliminated.

**HF1500—Smith (R)****Civil Law**

Medical support bonus incentives program expanded, medical and child support laws reformed, and cost-of-living adjustments provided for.

**HF1501—Lenczewski (DFL)****Taxes**

Bloomington city facility construction materials and equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF1502—Evans (DFL)****Agriculture Policy**

Agriculture advisory committees and a review board extended.

**HF1503—Kalis (DFL)****Capital Investment**

Outstanding state general obligation bonds callable in 2003 money appropriated.

**HF1504—Mahoney (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Departments of administration and health directed to adopt certain standards and pipe layer licensing requirements clarified.

**HF1505—Lenczewski (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Pre-1990 tax district five-year rule applied and time limitations provided.

**HF1506—Jaros (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Pistol and semiautomatic military-style assault weaponry licensing required, application and background check procedures provided, and dealer license conditions prescribed.

**HF1507—Bishop (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Treatment of legal nonconforming uses of land clarified.

**HF1508—Howes (R)****Civil Law**

Phosphorous-based fertilizer application restricted, adulteration factors clarified, and civil penalties provided.

**HF1509—Gunther (R)****Transportation Finance**

Snow removal expense grant money appropriated.

**HF1510—Gunther (R)****Taxes**

Fairmont motor vehicle sales and use tax and excise tax authorized.

**HF1511—Westerberg (R)****Taxes**

Telework assessment and telecommuting expense income tax credits provided.

**HF1512—Tingelstad (R)****Crime Prevention**

Telecommuting effects on juvenile crime and other social issues study provided and money appropriated.

**HF1513—Westerberg (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Telecommuting days designation authority provided to Department of Public Safety and money appropriated.

**HF1514—Jaros (DFL)****State Government Finance**

Duluth Veterans Memorial Hall financial assistance provided and money appropriated.

**HF1515—Sykora (R)****Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Basic sliding fee child care assistance and MFIP programs consolidated and income eligibility modified.

**HF1516—Hilstrom (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Child neglect definition modified.

**HF1517—Wilkin (R)****Civil Law**

Swimming pool requirements established for family day care homes and municipalities provided immunity from claims based on provider's failure to comply.

**HF1518—Clark, J. (R)****Taxes**

Homestead property classification provided individuals residing in elderly assisted living facilities.

**HF1519—Clark, J. (R)****Crime Prevention**

Sex offender DNA submission requirements expanded, penalty increased for fleeing a peace officer resulting in death, crime of aiding an offender expanded, and domestic abuse case evidence provisions modified.

**HF1520—Kuisle (R)****Transportation Finance**

County and municipal state-aid street fund restrictions modified, highway safety center grant authority transferred, and state rail bank lease provisions modified.

**HF1521—Leppik (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Paint ball guns sale and rental regulated.

**HF1522—Bradley (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Full-time nursing home administrator requirements modified.

**HF1523—Tingelstad (R)****Taxes**

Ham Lake Fire Department facility construction materials and supplies sales tax exemption provided.

**HF1524—Leppik (R)****Agriculture Policy**

Phosphorus fertilizer use regulated.

**HF1525—Skoglund (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

PERA-coordinated retirement plan service credit purchase authorized for a specified Minneapolis employee.

**HF1526—Erhardt (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

ATV; metropolitan cities authorized to restrict operation of recreational motor vehicles.

**HF1527—Kuisle (R)****Transportation Policy**

Driver's License Agreement Act adopted, motor vehicle and motor vehicle dealer regulations modified, electronic accident reporting authorized, and clarifying changes provided.

**HF1528—Penas (R)****Agriculture Policy**

Cooperative meat inspection program financing provisions modified.

**HF1529—Tingelstad (R)****Agriculture Policy**

Pesticide application in schools regulated.

**HF1530—Penas (R)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Roseau County nursing facilities rate increase provided.

**HF1531—Bradley (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Young adult transitional services provided and community-based mental health services increased.

**HF1532—Murphy (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Duluth Teachers Retirement Fund provisions modified, service credit purchases allowed for members collecting workers' compensation, partial post-retirement adjustment increase provided, and annuity formula modified.

**HF1533—Ruth (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Waseca tax increment financing district expenditures authorized.

**HF1534—Tingelstad (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District Nos. 728, Elk River, and 535, Rochester, high performance school facilities pilot projects established and money appropriated.

**HF1535—Ruth (R)****Taxes**

Agricultural education property owned by nonprofit entity property tax exemption provided.

**HF1536—Westrom (R)****Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Farm Connect grant provided establishing links between farmers and marketing opportunities and money appropriated.

**HF1537—Lipman (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

State agency rulemaking housekeeping and technical changes bill.

**HF1538—Evans (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Ramsey County tax-forfeited land conveyance authorized.

**HF1539—Solberg (DFL)****State Government Finance**

Shooting sports facility grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1540—Kielkucki (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Incentive funding program created for career and technical education programs and money appropriated.

**HF1541—Mullery (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Landlords required to accept current tenant reports on prospective tenants.

**HF1542—Eastlund (R)****Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

CLEARCorps lead hazard reduction project grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1543—Holsten (R)****Crime Prevention**

Fireworks limited personal use authorized, affidavit of safety guidelines required, and criminal penalties imposed.

**HF1544—Hilty (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

New counties standard of market value provided, petition to change county boundaries signatures required, and county board special elections provided to fill vacancies.

**HF1545—Wasiluk (DFL)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Ramsey County nursing facility rate increase provided.

**HF1546—Goodwin (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Alzheimer's; disclosure of form of care required in certain special care status units, and penalties and remedies provided.

**HF1547—Finseth (R)****Agriculture Policy**

Minnesota grown logo license renewal late fee eliminated and terms clarified.

**HF1548—Nornes (R)****Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Child care resource and referral programs funded and money appropriated.

**HF1549—Wenzel (DFL)****Transportation Policy**

C. Elmer Anderson Memorial Highway portion of Trunk Highway 371 advertising restrictions imposed.

**HF1550—Wenzel (DFL)****Civil Law**

Recreational trails; duty of care and liability of landowners limited along recreational trails.

**HF1551—Tuma (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Motorized recreational vehicle use restricted on state land, and registration and fee disposition modified.

**HF1552—Bakk (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Lake County tax-forfeited land sales authorized.

**HF1553—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**  
Job training programs study required including wage rates.

**HF1554—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**  
Auto insurance discrimination prohibited based upon location within metropolitan area.

**HF1555—Abeler (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Retaliatory action prohibited against nurses declining to work additional hours and patient abandonment by a nurse defined as grounds for disciplinary action.

**HF1556—Gunther (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**  
Workers' compensation uniform fees for medical services provided.

**HF1557—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Inver Grove Heights tax increment financing district local distribution for designated parcels authorized.

**HF1558—Abeler (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Qualified school administrator recruiting funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1559—Sviggum (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Dodge Center Fire Hall construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

**HF1560—Schumacher (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Septic system disclosure and inspection required prior to sale of real estate.

**HF1561—Bradley (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Charter schools; teacher leave to teach in charter schools limited.

**HF1562—Hilty (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
Reading; 595 days to reading competency grant program established, and money appropriated.

**HF1563—Dorn (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
District-sponsored choice magnet schools authorized and start-up grants provided.

**HF1564—Mariani (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
African-American Fine Arts Center money appropriated.

**HF1565—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Minnesota State Retirement System and State Patrol Retirement Fund contribution rates increased, and definition of "average salary" modified.

**HF1566—Pelowski (DFL)**  
**Redistricting**  
Districting principles for legislative and congressional plans established.

**HF1567—Pelowski (DFL)**  
**Redistricting**  
Districting principles for legislative and congressional plans established.

**HF1568—Kelliher (DFL)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Mighty books grant program established and money appropriated.

**HF1569—Osskopp (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Minnesota State College and Universities customized trainer positions reclassified.

**HF1570—Paulsen (R)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
Electricity; customer choice pilot program established.

**HF1571—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Development costs in government data practices redefined.

**HF1572—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
PATH mental health program funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1573—Wolf (R)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
Low-income utility customers programs required.

**HF1574—Boudreau (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Retired dentist program established, dental practice donation program created, and money appropriated.

**HF1575—Carlson (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Compensatory revenue clarified for school districts reducing the concentration of students eligible for free or reduced price meals.

**HF1576—Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Pride in Public Art Act of 2001 established creating task force on State Capitol art work.

**HF1577—Bishop (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Third degree murder and manslaughter scope expanded when use of controlled substances is involved.

**HF1578—Goodno (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Ad valorem property tax levy for watershed districts authorized.

**HF1579—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Public employees police and fire retirement plan; salary to be used for purposes of calculating benefits clarified and certain payments by the Department of Public Safety required.

**HF1580—Bradley (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Health care coverage product regulation simplified and regulatory reform process established.

**HF1581—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Healthy kids learn endowment fund established, radioactive and special nuclear materials fees regulated, immunization data use criteria provided, health related programs modified, tobacco settlement fund modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1582—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Public employees group long-term care insurance program eligibility expanded.

**HF1583—Biernat (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Public employees group long-term care insurance program eligibility expanded.

**HF1584—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Seat belt violations primary offense authorized, all passengers required to wear seat belts, and penalties imposed.

**HF1585—Walz (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Minnesota Citizen's Personal Protection Act of 2001 established.

**HF1586—Workman (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Local road authorities authorized to prohibit trucks on streets and highways, and five-ton seasonal weight restriction limited.

**HF1587—Krinkie (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
City, school, and county election dates established.

**HF1588—Slawik (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Early elementary class size reduced and money appropriated.

**HF1589—Howes (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Bid and performance bond thresholds modified.

**HF1590—Boudreau (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Deaf-Blind Services Minnesota, Inc., funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1591—Ozment (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Aquatic restoration grants authorized, administrative penalty orders provided, laws relating to decoys clarified, turtle licensing modified, conservation law enforcement provided, and penalties established.

**HF1592—Kuisle (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Rochester personal rapid transit study money appropriated.

**HF1593—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Iron ore mining company employees provided exemption from MinnesotaCare barriers.

**HF1594—Mares (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Special veterans license plate design specified.

**HF1595—Holsten (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Forest resources partnership members reporting requirements created, forest resource committees duties added, Minnesota Forest Resources Council authorization extended, and money appropriated.

**HF1596—Workman (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Metropolitan area taxicab service wheelchair-accessible vehicles authorized.

**HF1597—Walz (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
District court access to conditional release data permitted.

**HF1598—Swenson (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Federal dairy regulations uniformity provided.

**HF1599—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Head Start fund distribution modified.

**HF1600—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Pollution Control Agency emissions information dissemination required.

**HF1601—Carlson (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Metro homework hotline grant authorized and money appropriated.

**HF1602—Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Medical assistance eligibility temporarily extended.

**HF1603—Dibble (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**  
Specified labor councils and boards exempted from expiration.

**HF1604—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Liability waiver for certain agricultural landowners provided related to trespassers, and feedlot requirement exemption provided.



Schedule is subject to change.  
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## MONDAY, March 12

8:15 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF1179 (Lieder) Public safety employees assigned to state patrol to enforce motor vehicle size and weight laws defined as public safety officers for purposes of survivor benefits.

HF518 (Rhodes) St. Louis Park firefighters' civil service commission abolition authorized.

HF1080 (Thompson) Gender-specific language replaced with gender-neutral language in the constitution, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** HF1068 (Bradley) Crisis nurseries development and expansion funding provided and money appropriated.

HF854 (Huntley) HIV; education and awareness activities in Greater Minnesota funded, and money appropriated.

HF522 (Huntley) Adolescent compulsive gambling prevention and education project grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF603 (Abeler) Council on Disability sunset extended.

HF703 (Goodno) Senior service corps volunteer programs; foster grandparent and senior companion program funding provided and money appropriated.

HF330 (Abeler) Nonprofit agency grant provided to agency currently serving deaf and hard-of-hearing adults with mental illness.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** HF1252 (Pawlenty) Veterans; homeless or at-risk veterans housing projects loans and grants provided, and money appropriated.

Budget Review of the Minnesota Film Board.

Review of the Department of Labor LEAP Grantees: Women Venture; Anishinabe, Inc.; St. Paul Urban League; Minneapolis Urban League.

HF23 (Mullery) Work first; nontraditional career assistance training programs TANF block grant funding authorized, and programs required to make available information about nontraditional women's opportunities.

HF41 (Mullery) Nonprofit organization grants provided to encourage women to enter nontraditional careers, and money appropriated.

### Joint House and Senate Children's Environmental Health Working Group

123 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Kathy Tangelstad, Sen. Jane Krentz  
**Agenda:** Paula Maccabee, Air Toxics Report (continued from Feb. 12 agenda).

Indoor Air Quality in Schools:

Tim Strom and Danyell Punelli, House Research.  
Laura Oatman, Health Department, Environmental Health Division.

Phil Allmon, Department of Children, Families and Learning.

Bill Angell, University of Minnesota Indoor Air Quality Project.

Katy Boone, President, Clean Air Group.

10:15 a.m.

### CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF935 (Goodno) Automatic external defibrillator; liability immunity for persons rendering emergency care clarified.

HF1260 (Dawkins) Custodial and noncustodial parent terminology neutralized relating to family law.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources Forestry Management budget presentation continued.

Department of Natural Resources Operations Support budget presentation (Day 1).

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** HF147 (Carlson) Relating to education finance; increasing the general education basic formula allowance.

HF744, (Anderson, I.) Relating to education; modifying the general education revenue formula; modifying the referendum allowance for the referendum revenue program.

HF1032 (Bernardy) Relating to education; increasing the equalization amount for operating referendums.

HF825 (Peterson) Relating to education finance; creating a bus purchase levy.

HF740 (Sertich) Relating to education finance; increasing funding for districts with declining enrollment.

HF728 (Sertich) Relating to education finance; using a five-year average enrollment to calculate declining pupil revenue.

HF1088 (Seagren) Relating to education; general education. Article Four, the Governor's Budget.

### Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

**Agenda:** HF573 (Finseth) Land payments in lieu of taxation provisions modified.

HF1059 (Erhardt) Property tax refund provided for specified homeowners age 65 or over.

HF1178 (Lenczewski) Metropolitan fiscal disparities program study required and money appropriated.

HF1202 (Westrom) Poultry litter biomass electrical generating facility property tax exemption provided.

### Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

**Agenda:** HF32 (Wenzel) Changes the general sales tax rate to 6.0%.

HF315 (Kubly) Changes the general sales tax rate to 5.0%.

HF431 (Vandever) Changes the general sales tax rate to 5.5%.

HF824 (Winter) Changes the general sales tax rate to 6.0%.

HF956 (Wasiluk) Changes the general sales tax rate to 5.5%.

HF1010 (Thompson) Changes the general sales tax rate to 6.0%.

HF1211 (Daggett) Provides that materials and equipment used for production of water are exempt from the sales tax.

HF843 (Haas) Exempts sales and use taxes for construction materials used for building an Osseo public works facility and a community and senior activity center.

12:30 p.m.

## **FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD**

### **EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** HF1170 (Dawkins) Relating to early childhood education; establishing pilot projects to provide early childhood care and education for every child birth to age five in designated neighborhoods; appropriating money.

HF1165 (Gray) Relating to early childhood education; increasing the hold harmless provision for Head Start grantees; appropriating money.

Additional to be announced.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT &**

### **METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** HF180 (Ruth) Medford economic development district fund uses authorized.

HFXXXX (Ruth) Relating to the city of Waseca; authorizing certain expenditures by a tax increment financing district in the city.

HF1041 (McElroy) Workforce development tax increment financing districts authorized.

HF1143 (Knoblach) Local tax increment financing contribution modified to avoid state aid offset.

HF1233 (Haas) Brooklyn Park city economic development authority tax increment use authorized.

HF1153 (Mulder) Local government building project architect requirement exemption provided.

HF610 (Solberg) Local public officer's conflict of interest law exception provided.

HF866 (Opatz) St. Cloud area joint planning district plan transportation component development grant provided and money appropriated.

## **REGULATED INDUSTRIES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

**Agenda:** HF118 (Kielkucki) Resolution memorializing television networks to reduce violent and sexually explicit material and produce material that promotes wholesome family values. Continuation of Public Testimony on Committee Energy Bills (if necessary):

HF659 (Wolf) State energy plan established, energy conservation promoted, and conforming, technical and clarifying changes provided (Governor's Proposal).

HF1323 (Jennings/Wolf) Energy Reliability and Regulatory Flexibility Act.

3 p.m.

## **THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

6 p.m. or after session  
(whichever is later)

## **Elections Subcommittee/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Eric Lipman

**Agenda:** HF966 (Erickson) Voting in the wrong precinct penalties increased, automatic and optional recount provisions modified, and presidential electors meeting procedures modified.

HF901 (Anderson, B) Voting provisions for overseas voters clarified.

HF234 (Goodwin) Legislative day definition modified.

HF1214 (Lipman) Election provisions clarified, and specified election procedures and requirements modified.

HF908 (Dehler) Independent expenditures by political parties on behalf of their own candidates limited as a condition of receiving a public subsidy.

6 p.m.

## **Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement**

112 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Dean Johnson

**Agenda:** SF53 (Kleis); HF95 (Opatz) PERA; Retroactive Payment of Bounce Back Annuity to Deceased Former St. Cloud City Employee.

SF77 (Wiger) PERA; Exclude Certain St. Paul City Trades Personnel and Metropolitan Airports Commission Plumbers From PERA Coverage.

SF804 (Kleis) MSRS-Correctional; Correctional Plan Coverage for Reshape Program Director.

SF1096 (Pogemiller); HF1334 (Kahn) MSRS; University Hospital Employee Disability Benefits Continuation.

SF1124 (Chaudhary); HF514 (Carlson) Teacher Plans; Provide Continued Spouse Insurance Coverage.

SF841 (Kiscaden) TRA; Exempting Certain Teachers From Post-Retirement Earnings Limits and Reductions.

SF1129 (Johnson, Dean); HF968 (Juhnke) Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations; Provide Ambulance Service Personnel State Supplemental Benefits, and Increase Amount and Limits On Supplemental Benefits.

SF810 (Pogemiller) PERA; Contribution Increases, Benefit Modifications, and Coverage Changes.

HF855 (Mares): PERA; Contribution Increases, Benefit Modifications, and Coverage Changes.

7 p.m.

## **Compensation Council**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. to be elected

**Agenda:** Organizational matters including introduction of members, election of chair, and administrative matters. Review of Compensation

Council responsibilities. Salaries for Constitutional Officers, Judges and Legislators. Agency head salary ranges. Testimony. Council discussion.

## **TUESDAY, March 13**

8:15 a.m.

## **EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** HF1149 (Mares) Educational data classification and dissemination provided.

HF788 (Greiling) Children's mental health disorder prevention and treatment outcomes required, school pre-assessment teams role expanded to mental health reporting, school grants provided for developing mental health plans, and money appropriated.

HF1207 (Pugh) Special School District No. 6, South St. Paul, chemical and alcohol-free school grant provided and money appropriated. Other items to be determined.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF478 (Sykora) ADD; parents and providers required to evaluate programs prior to prescribing drugs to children with attention deficit disorder, educational neglect definition clarified, number of children affected determined, and money appropriated.

HF450 (Skoglund) Medical malpractice statute of limitations statutory reference clarified.

HF886 (Mulder) Immunization schedule established annually for persons enrolled in schools, child care facilities, or post-secondary institutions, and task force established.

HF962 (Cassell) County hospital board membership provisions modified, and county hospital borrowing authority provided.

HF967 (Mulder) School-sponsored potluck events authorized.

HF1123 (Mulder) Nonmetropolitan county prepaid medical assistance program capitation rates increased.

HF1124 (Mulder) Nonmetropolitan inpatient hospital rates for certain diagnosis-related groups adjusted.

More bills may be added.

## **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** Continuation of Courts budget.

Budget overview for the Legal Professional Board.

Budget overview for the Gang Strike Force.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** HF69 (Howes) Portion of motor vehicle sales tax dedicated to highway user tax distribution fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1300 (Jacobson) Motor vehicle sales tax funds deposited in the highway user tax distribution fund and constitutional amendment proposed.  
HF927 (Kuisle) Motor vehicle sales tax proceeds portion dedicated to highway user tax distribution fund, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF972 (Jennings) Local highway assistance fund created and portion of revenues from the motor vehicle sales tax credited to the fund.

10:15 a.m.

## CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** HF699 (Sykora) Domestic abuse criminal penalties and procedures modified and money appropriated.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** SF615/HF255 (Seifert) Environment; obsolete rules repealed.

HF1188 (Gunther) Fire training exercise ash disposal regulated.

HF1354 (Holsten) Petroleum tank release cleanup provisions modified.

HF877 (Bakk) Specified solid waste transfer station project repayment obligations waived.

HF1305 (Hackbarth) Environmental assistance revolving loan account established and money appropriated.

HF1264 (Kahn) Urban rivers act draft preparation required.

HF1386 (Ozment) Shoreland protection program established, grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF819 (Kielkucki) Wright County Board authorized to rename a body of water.

**Note:** If agenda is not completed, committee will recess until 4 p.m.

## STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

Section 13, continuation of proposed budget for Department of Employee Relations.

Section 16, proposed budget for Department of Revenue.

## TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF92 (Daggett) Increases the maximum long-term care insurance credit.

HF179 (Abrams) Extends the exemption from the corporate franchise tax for foreign insurance companies to all insurance companies.

HF458 (Penas) Provides that land enrolled in certain conservation programs may qualify as a special agricultural homestead.

HF271 (Anderson, B.) Authorizes Wright County to impose an aggregate materials tax.

HF1077 (Rukavina) Extends the aggregate removal tax to counties that vote to impose the tax; increases the rate of tax increases.

12 noon

## Major Transportation Projects Commission

400N State Office Building

Chr. David Jennings

**Agenda:** Presentations on 2001 legislative session funding proposals.

Setting of time, place and agenda for next meeting.

12:30 p.m.

## AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knobloch

**Agenda:** Overview of Best Management Practices, Department of Agriculture, by Paul Burns, Assistant Director, Development Division.

Overview of Rural Finance Authority Loan program, Department of Agriculture, by Curtis Pietz, Director, Finance Division.

## COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF1053 (Abrams) Relating to insurance; revising certain provisions involving state regulation of private health coverage; transferring certain regulatory control; establishing requirements for managed care plans.

HF905 (Haas) Relating to insurance; simplifying regulation of health insurers and health maintenance organizations; establishing a task force on small business health insurance; providing appointments; amending Minnesota Statutes 2000

HF694 (Davids) Relating to insurance; no-fault auto; regulating income loss benefits to senior citizens.

HF1338 (Haas) Relating to insurance; regulating insurers, agents, coverages and benefits, costs, claims, investments, and notifications and

disclosures; prescribing powers and duties of the commissioner; eliminating the regulation of nonprofit legal services plans.

HF1293 (Davids) Relating to state government; codifying reorganization order No. 181; transferring the remaining duties of the commissioner of public service to the commissioner of commerce.

HF1245 (Stang) Relating to commerce; amending provisions relating to charges recipients of dishonored checks may collect from persons who write the checks.

HF618 (Kubly) Relating to tornado relief; providing disaster relief and other assistance for counties designated a major disaster area due to the July 25, 2000, tornado.

1 p.m.

## Joint House and Senate Solid Waste Working Group/ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

400S State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Tom Hackbarth,

Sen. David Tomassoni

**Agenda:** To be announced.

2 p.m.

## RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Pawlenty

**Agenda:** Amendments to Permanent Rules of the House.

2:30 p.m.

## Subcommittee on Gaming/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Osskopp

**Agenda:** HF1267 (Kahn) Sports wagering games authorized, sports bookmaking licenses provided, and Minnesota active recreation fund established.

HF1284 (Rhodes) Lottery funds not dedicated to natural resources trust fund allocated to arts fund and amateur sports fund.

## WEDNESDAY, March 14

8:15 a.m.

## GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Paulsen) Low voltage.

HF1250 (Rhodes) Military discharge certificates classified as private data.

HF1391 (Solberg) Resolution urging the United States Postal Service to create a postage stamp reproducing Eric Enstrom's photograph "Grace."

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** HF1132 (Goodno) Medical assistance income standard and asset limitations for medical assistance eligibility for the elderly and disabled increased, and basic needs benefits disregarded as income for TEFRA medical assistance eligibility.

HF818 (Goodno) Medical assistance eligibility asset limitations modified relating to employed persons with disabilities.

HF1075 (Boudreau) Home-sharing grant program funded and money appropriated.

HF488 (Davids) Ambulance services medical assistance payments paid at Medicare reimbursement rate.

HF574 (Davids) Public assistance eligibility irrevocable trust funds asset exclusion limits modified.

## **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** HF400 (Pawlenty) Property tax free zones established, individual and business tax incentives provided, tax benefits repaid under specific circumstances, tax free zone aid provided, and money appropriated.

HF402 (Pawlenty) Disaster relief and flood mitigation measures provided counties designated a major disaster area and money appropriated.

## **TRANSPORTATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** HF1197 (Hackbarth) Metropolitan Council demonstration project funding provided for express bus service between downtown Minneapolis and one or more cities located outside the transit taxing district, and money appropriated.

Association of Minnesota Counties presentation, Greg Isakson, Goodhue County Engineer.

Minnesota Safety Council Budget presentation, Carol Bufton, Executive Director.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **CIVIL LAW**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF1446 (Smith) Family law recodification provided for marriage dissolution, child custody, support, and maintenance provisions, and conforming changes provided.

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources

Operations Support budget presentation (Day 2).

## **HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** HF1414 (Cassell) Alexandria Technical College post-secondary outreach grant provided and money appropriated.

Witness: John Seim, Instructor, Alexandria Technical College.

HF350 (Seifert) Minnesota State Colleges and Universities appropriations distribution provided.

Witnesses: Doug Sweetland, Former President, Southwest State University;

Laura King, Chief Financial Officer, MnSCU; Judy Borgen, Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Negotiations, MnSCU.

## **TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

**Agenda:** HF1002 (Ness) Allows an additional member on the Agriculture Utilization Resource Institute (AURI) board of directors.

## **Economic Development and Tourism Division/COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

**Agenda:** HF739 (Oskopp) Grand Excursion 2004 planning and promotion funded, and money appropriated.

HF808 (Dempsey) Mississippi River Parkway Commission promotion of tourism and economic development along Great River road provided and money appropriated.

HF182 (Paymar) Neighborhood Development Center, Inc., entrepreneur training and staffing grant provided, and money appropriated.

## **FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE**

\*\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\*\*

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** HF141 (Mulder) Relating to education; appropriating money for early childhood family education.

HF591 (Slawik) Relating to education; appropriating money for early childhood family education.

HF677 (Mulder) Relating to family and early childhood education; modifying school readiness aid; appropriating money.

HF1456 (McGuire) Relating to early childhood education; expanding eligibility for school

readiness programs; expanding services offered by school readiness programs; appropriating money.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** HF326 (Ozment) Local and state government agency denial of requests for action clarified (continued from Feb. 12).

HF570 (Hilstrom) Peace officer license revocation, suspension, and denial grounds prescribed; peace officer standards and training board minority recruiter reporting removed, and city council member peace officer empowerment repealed.

HF1290 (Howes) County offices made appointive positions under certain circumstances.

HF1298 (Jennings) Joint powers wastewater treatment boards authorized to issue bonds.

HF1350 (Ozment) Dakota County authorized to provide services to Metropolitan Inter-County Association, Dakota County Agricultural Society, and specified employees included in PERA.

HF62 (Kubly) Yellow Medicine and Chippewa counties disaster relief provided for July 25, 2000 tornado, and money appropriated.

**1:45 p.m.**

## **Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

**Agenda:** HF981 (McElroy) Legislative commission on metropolitan government established, oversight of Metropolitan Council provided, and legislative authorization required for council budget and programs (continued hearing from Mar. 7).

Other business.

**3 p.m.**

## **Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Rob Eastlund

**Agenda:** HF1023 (Biernat) Merchant Marine and Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) service plaques authorized on capitol grounds.

HF214 (Anderson, B.) National Guard member allowable tuition reimbursement increased, and money appropriated.

HF481 (Greiling) Combat wounded veterans day designated as August 7.

HF1247 (Eastlund) Veterans home board administration of planned giving donations provided.

HF1248 (Eastlund) Veterans homes resident deposit accounts modified.

HF1439 (Anderson, B.) National Guard



eligibility and rank designation requirements clarified, unused armory site disposal authorized, and other armory provisions clarified.

**6 p.m.**

**Service Credit Purchase Subcommittee/  
Legislative Commission on Pensions and  
Retirement**

125 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Don Betzold

**Agenda:** One Person/Small Group Service Credit Purchases

1. S.F. 59 (Foley); H.F. 87 (Koskinen): MTRFA; TRA; Service Credit Purchase For Omitted Contributions Caused By School District Error (Sandra Lenarz)
2. S.F. 106 (Belanger); H.F. 163 (Seagren): MTRFA; Service Credit Grant To Certain MTRFA Member (Pamela Trutnau)
3. S.F. 205 (Berg); H.F. 316 (Peterson): PERA; PERA Service Credit Purchase For Former Lac Qui Parle County Employee (Lori Schwendemann)
4. S.F. 215 (Oliver); H.F. 60 (Workman): TRA; Service Credit Purchase For Uncredited Leave Period
5. S.F. 314 (Larson); H.F. 295 (Cassell): TRA; PERA; Service Credit For Former St. Paul Police Officer, Wilkin County Attorney, and Alexandria Technical College Faculty Member (Daniel Sandell)
6. S.F. 315 (Oliver); H.F. 356 (Workman): TRA; Service Credit Purchase For Leave, ISD No. 270-Hopkins (Joan Hagburg)
7. S.F. 329 (Johnson, Debbie); H.F. 134 (Tingelstad): MSRS; Service Credit Purchase For Prior State Highway Department Employee (Alan Chapman)
8. S.F. 371 (Anderson); H.F. 907 (Osthoff): TRA; Service Credit Purchase By Teacher Injured In Auto Accident, ISD No. 12-Centennial (Daniel Kennedy)
9. S.F. 435 (Dille); H.F. 527 (Ness): TRA; Service Credit Purchase For Extended Leave Of Absence, ISD No. 423-Hutchinson (Bruce Petterson)
10. S.F. 438 (Foley); H.F. 537 (Koskinen): TRA; Service Credit Purchase Due To Clerical Error For Sabbatical Leave, ISD No. 11-Anoka (John Georgopolos)
11. S.F. 656 (Rest); H.F. 732 (Thompson): PERA; Service Credit Purchase For Former Minneapolis Park Board Employees (Virginia Rootes & Loris Longie)
12. S.F. 732 (Neuville); H.F. 142 (Boudreau): MSRS; Prior DOT Service Credit Purchase For Corrections Employee (Mark Miller)
13. S.F. 737 (Cohen); H.F. \_\_\_\_ ( ): PERA; Service Credit Purchase For Former St. Paul City Council Member (Len Levine)
14. S.F. 928 (Oliver); H.F. 982 (Sykora): MSRS; Service Credit Purchase For Specified DOT Employee (Clint Bucher)
15. S.F. 1114 (Sabo); H.F. 726 (Skoglund): MSRS; Service Credit Purchase For University of Minnesota Carlson School Of Management

Temporary Full-Time Employment (Judith Johnson)

16. S.F. 1273 (Ring); H.F. 1215 (Jennings): TRA; Service Credit Purchase For Prior University of Minnesota Teaching Service, ISD No. 279-Osseo (Joe Pung)

17. S.F. 1327 (Bachmann); H.F. 1326 (Mares): PERA; Service Credit Purchase For Individual Employed By ISD No. 624-White Bear Lake (Ruth Lindbeck)

Generalized Service Credit Purchases

18. S.F. 313 (Larson); H.F. 303 (Cassell): PERA-P&F; Service Credit Purchase For Prior Police Or Paid Firefighter Service

19. S.F. 370 (Wiger); H.F. 465 (Marko): PERA; PERA-P&F; PERA-P&F Prior Military Service Credit Purchase Authorization Modifications & PERA Prior Military Service Credit Purchase Authority Elimination

20. S.F. 409 (Solon); H.F. 619 (Swapinski): Various; Public Pension Plans Prior Military Service Credit Purchase

21. S.F. 517 (Betzold); H.F. 122 (Skoglund): Various; Service Credit Purchase For Parental Or Family Leaves Of Absence Or Breaks In Service

22. S.F. 611 (Betzold); H.F. 1240 (Bernardy): Various; MSRS, PERA, TRA, & State Troopers Prior Military Service Purchase Restrictions Elimination

23. S.F. 1321 (Pogemiller); H.F. 1462 (Mares): TRA; Prior Service Credit Purchase Payment Amount Determination Procedure Expiration Date Extension

## **THURSDAY, March 15**

**8:15 a.m.**

### **EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** HF1280 (Seagren) Elementary reading specialist licensure provided, and elementary school teacher license requirements modified. HF1192 (Abeler) Applicants for temporary limited teaching license or personnel variance permitted to submit applications by July 1, and conforming rule changes provided.

HF1366 (Buesgens) School district contracts with teachers required to be structurally balanced.

Other items to be determined.

### **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF1004 (Abeler) Supportive housing and managed care pilot project county and individual eligibility provisions modified and money appropriated.

HF1288 (Daggett) Living-at-home block nurse program numbers and funding increased and money appropriated.

HF1064 (Bradley) Consumer support grant services expanded, waivers provisions clarified, and developmental disabilities services

provisions modified.

HF1193 (Goodno) Home and community-based options for individuals with disabilities access improvements provided, consumer control provisions modified, and consumer-directed home care demonstration project established.

HF1307 (Bradley) Guardianship service providers defined, duties specified, and money appropriated.

### **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** Overview of agencies' (under jurisdiction of the Judiciary Finance Committee) federal and state grants.

### **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** HF1314 (Mares) Seat belt offense designated as a primary offense.

HF735 (Leppik) Seat belts; passenger restraint requirements for minors prescribed, booster seat requirements provided, seat belt requirement extended to all passengers in vehicle, certain exemptions eliminated, and penalties increased.

**10:15 a.m.**

### **CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** To be announced.

### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** HF1071 (Bakk) State park and recreation area boundaries modified and boathouse lot leases in Soudan Underground Mine State Park administration provided.

HF980 (Osthoff) Park buildings construction and remodeling projects exempted from legislative notice and review requirements.

HF94 (Haas) Fish and game law gross overlimit violations criminal penalties established, and restitution values determined.

HF697 (Holsten) Reduced property tax rate provided for specified class 2c land bordering public waters.

HF1302 (Hackbarth) Natural resources; specified advisory committee expiration dates extended, hunting stamp provisions modified, snowmobile safety grants carry forward provided, and money appropriated.

HF268 (Mulder) Murray County; Currant Lake level maintenance required.

HF834 (Walz) Triploid grass carp use permitted for aquatic vegetation control, rulemaking required, and criminal penalties ruled.

**Note: If agenda is not completed, committee will recess until 15 minutes after floor session.**

## **Property Tax Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

**Agenda:** HF832 (Daggett) Reduces gambling tax rate & modifies reporting requirements.

HF841 (Dorman) Reduces gambling tax rate and modifies reporting requirements.

HF948 (Winter) Reduces gambling tax rate and modifies reporting requirements.

HF885 (Buesgens) Relating to casino sales tax revenues, modifying payments to counties with tribal casinos.

HF838 (Ozment) Exempts sales and use taxes for construction materials used for the Dakota County Rosemount highway shop.

HF676 (Wenzel) Allowing expanded individual income tax deductions for medical care and health insurance.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

Section 16, proposed budget for Department of Revenue.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** HF724 (Rhodes) Regarding Qualification-Based Selection for state contractual services.

## **COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF323 (Haas) Relating to motor vehicle fuel franchises; removing an expiration date; amending Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 80C.147.

HF1007 (Davids) Relating to trade regulations; prohibiting gasoline sales below cost; providing enforcement authority.

**2 p.m.**

## **"Chamber Music"**

**Minnesota Artists Perform at the Capitol House Chamber**

**3 p.m.**

## **THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

## **FRIDAY, March 16**

**8:15 a.m.**

## **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF1021 (Buesgens) Casino licensee authorized to detain persons suspected of cheating.

HF1070 (Osskopp) Lawful gambling premises permits to run concurrently with license of organization and permit fees clarified.

HF995 (Buesgens) Horse racing license applicant requirements modified, and anti-inflammatory medication content maximum amount increased.

HF894 (Osskopp) Casino; card club wagering system definitions modified.

HF1069 (Osskopp) Lawful gambling organization annual audit requirements modified, noon hour bingo authorized, and natural disaster relief expenditures permitted from gambling proceeds.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** HF1216 (Mulder) Comprehensive advanced life support educational program funding provided and money appropriated.

HF13 (Abeler) Prescription drug program income limit raised, enrollees required to satisfy monthly deductibles, enrollment timeline for disabled individuals shortened, and money appropriated.

HF332 (Nornes) Nursing facility case mix transition plan established and fine imposed for noncompliance.

HF648 (Abeler) Birth centers regulatory system study required.

HF526 (Kubly) Compulsive gambling treatment and education; Granite Falls project turnabout reconstruction grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1273 (Goodno) Nursing facility operating cost reimbursement floor established.

## **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy (Rep. Arlon Lindner will chair this meeting)

**Agenda:** HF590 (Gunther) Extended employment program hourly reimbursement rates increased, welfare-to-work extended employment partnership program funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF523 (Gunther) Economic development

redevelopment grants authorized and money appropriated.

HF800 (Wenzel) Camp Ripley Minnesota military museum operating funds provided and money appropriated.

HF964 (Gunther) Minnesota Investment Fund appropriated money.

HF957 (Gunther) Minnesota computers for schools program appropriated money.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: Remediation Fund and Solid Waste Fund.

Office of Environmental Assistance budget presentation.

## **K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF15 (Pawlenty) Modifies the subtraction for charitable contributions.

HF26 (Pawlenty) Provides that the location of financial accounts may not be considered in determining residency.

HF1017 (Walker) Appropriates money for grants to nonprofit entities to facilitate the delivery of volunteer assistance to low-income taxpayers for income tax administration.

HF1129 (Abrams) Sales tax recodification.

**12:30 p.m.**

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**12:30 p.m. or immediately following possible full Local Government committee meeting**

## **Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

**Agenda:** HF1218 (Rhodes) Metropolitan Radio Board expiration date extended to 2005.

HF1322 (Buesgens) Metropolitan Council and other related commissions abolished, ownership of metro sports facilities transferred to Minneapolis, wastewater control commission established, duties transferred, and money appropriated.

Other business.

Continued from page 17

express concern the state election laws were too prohibitive. She said voters showed up with mortgage documents and marriage licenses hoping to demonstrate their residence and identity. Since state law doesn't accept those documents as acceptable forms of validation, those voters either had to have someone vouch for them or they were unable to vote.

Caucutt said in many of the state's smaller communities where judges know everyone living in the town, voters would now have to go out and for the first time get an approved form of identification to vote. She said requiring people to purchase a state ID for \$18 "sounds like a poll tax."

"We have a number of people who are elderly, and who are incredibly committed citizens that have never had a drivers license," she said. "You wouldn't believe the number of people who walk two blocks pushing a walker to come and vote." 🏴‍☠️

Continued from page 18

determination, to bring a message of world peace through his long life's purpose to that achievement."

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) told a story about a legislative retreat he attended where a snowstorm kept most legislators and other guests away.

However, Stassen made it and wowed the crowd with his warmth and brilliance, Skoglund said.

"The best perk of this job is the people you meet," Skoglund said. "I learned more from Governor Stassen than I did from any other governor."

"I'm just sorry that more of you didn't have the opportunity to be snowbound with him, as I was."

Stassen's death leaves five living former Minnesota governors: Orville Freeman, Elmer L. Andersen, Wendell Anderson, Al Quie and Arne Carlson.

He is survived by a daughter, Kathleen Esther Berger of New York; son, Glen Harold Stassen of California; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The former governor will lie in state in the Capitol March 9, and the public is encouraged to attend. His funeral is set for March 10 at the Riverview Baptist Church in West St. Paul.



# Reflections

The Minnesota Supreme Court and Legislature are about to lose one of their long-time staffers. State Law Librarian Marvin Roger Anderson plans to retire at the end of this year.

Anderson took over the state library's lead position in 1980 when he was appointed by the state Supreme Court. Since then, he has provided a high level of traditional and electronic services to judicial, governmental, professional, and general public patrons.

Anderson's life and career have come full circle since the time he was born and attended school in St. Paul's old Rondo Avenue neighborhood where he could see the Capitol just a few blocks away. The neighborhood lost its uniqueness when Interstate 94 was constructed through it and between the Capitol complex and downtown St. Paul.

For many years Rondo Avenue was the heart and soul of a larger African-American and Jewish community. Anderson received some societal basics about loyalty and pride from his family, but also learned about fairness, justice, and respect for preserving history from them and the community.

Anderson refined such positive attitudes at Morehouse — an Atlanta college which produced such notables as Martin Luther King, Jr., Maynard Jackson, and Louis Sullivan — under the leadership of the legendary preacher, teacher, and educator Dr. Benjamin E. Mays.

After law school, Anderson joined the Peace Corps and served in Senegal. He returned to Minnesota where he joined the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights and a law firm, before returning to Africa as an import-export consultant for a year.

With his law degree in hand and a deeper sense of preserving the past, Anderson returned and earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Minnesota.

Anderson presently supervises the state's largest law library, one he helped to refine. Over the years he organized and managed the state Appellate Court research libraries and established the County Law Library Program.

He also implemented a service to archive the records and briefs of the state's Appellate Courts, a Law Library to Prisoners Project, and a Shared Government Documents program.

Anderson directed many state government innovations for the law library, while maintaining his dedication to the community and neighborhood he grew up in.

He founded the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers, the annual Remember Rondo celebration, and continues to conduct research and lend assistance to preserving the history of St. Paul's African-American community.

Among Anderson's many contributions to his work and community are numerous law and law library publications, service on the

boards of the state and national law library associations, and other city and community groups. He is co-chairing plans for a national law library conference at the State Capitol in 2002.

Of note is his long-time association as vice-chair for the Archie Givens Harlem Renaissance Rare Books Collection at the University of Minnesota. He now serves as chair of its Foundation for African-American Literature.

A basis for Marvin Anderson's unselfish dedication to his work at the Capitol and in the nearby community, is likened to an often stated quote by Minnie Grier, this writer's grandmother: "Never forget from whence you've come."

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



Marvin Roger Anderson

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### School safety

Number of secondary students who received the survey from the State Attorney General's Office in January and February 2000 .....	1,500
Number who returned it .....	1,060
Percent of respondents who attend urban schools .....	15
Percent who attend suburban schools .....	40
Percent who attend schools in Greater Minnesota .....	45
Percentage of respondents who felt "very safe" at school in 1998 .....	28
Percentage of respondents who felt "very safe" at school in 1999-00 .....	19
Percentage of suburban students .....	17
Percentage of rural students .....	23
Percentage of urban students .....	24
Percentage of respondents who felt "safe" at school in 1999-00 .....	48
Percent of respondents who perceive that school violence increased the previous year .....	22
Percentage of African-American students who said this .....	43
Asian students .....	31
Seventh graders .....	30
Rural students .....	25
Percent of respondents who indicated the level of violence in their school remained the same .....	53
Has decreased .....	18
Percentage of respondents harassed by verbal insults .....	66
Percent who were pushed, shoved or grabbed .....	45
Percent who had items stolen .....	37
Percent of respondents who say a violent act was committed because a peer was provoked .....	24
Because they want to impress their friends .....	23
Because they have been insulted .....	21
Percent of respondents reporting that peers carry knives (the most reported weapon) to school .....	24
Percent of respondents who believe students at their school do not carry weapons .....	35
Percent in 1995 .....	27
Percent of respondents who report students try to find an adult if a violent act occurs at school .....	2
Percent of respondents who reported a violent incident that happened to them .....	9
Respondents who feel the effort spent addressing violence is adequate or more than adequate, as percent .....	58

Source: 2000 Minnesota Student Survey, report from the Minnesota Attorney General's Office.

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# SESSION Weekly

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MARCH 16, 2001  
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In this issue:

NONTRADITIONAL JOBS FOR WOMEN

RITALIN USE QUESTIONED, SPORTS WAGERING PLAN, AND MORE

HF1605-HF1872

# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Crime • 5  
Development • 6  
Education • 6  
Elections • 7  
Energy • 8  
Environment • 8

Family • 8  
Gambling • 9  
Government • 10  
Health • 10  
Higher Education • 11  
Human Services • 12

Industry • 13  
Local Government • 13  
Military • 14  
Taxes • 14  
Transportation • 15

### FEATURES

**At Issue:** Children — Parents and school officials are questioning the potential overuse of Ritalin to control behavioral disorders. • 17

**At Issue:** Crime — A proposal to remove law enforcement discretion in granting permits to carry concealed weapons in public has cleared one House committee. • 18

**At Issue:** Employment — Proposals providing incentives for programs to attract women into nontraditional jobs and industries were approved by a House committee. • 19

**At Issue:** Government — Legislators have developed a plan to change the process for establishing administrative rules that may result in more legislative oversight. • 20

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Lights, camera, action	4	Reflections: Getting there	35
Bill Introductions (HF1604-HF1872)	21	Minnesota Index: Minnesota Weather	36
Committee Schedule (March 19-23)	28		

**On the cover:** Three-year-old Sara Plan peeks between the committee table and chair to watch as her father, Dave, testifies before the House Family and Early Childhood Finance Committee, March 14. Dave Plan testified for a bill that would appropriate money for early childhood family education. He and his daughter attend the North St. Paul/Maplewood ECFE program.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid



# Don't bet on it

Plan to legalize sports bookmaking in Minnesota faces difficult odds, but could receive further consideration during the interim

BY DAVID MAEDA

**B**ookies might start taking bets on the battle that could occur between the state and the federal government if a bill legalizing sports betting makes its way through the Legislature.

HF1267, sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), would make Minnesota the second state to legally allow wagering on sports events.

"This bill has to do with my dislike of seeing lots of money being spent that we don't get our part," Kahn told the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Subcommittee on Gaming March 13.

The subcommittee referred the bill to the full committee without recommendation. But committee leaders suggest the bill might have

sports," she said. "One of the most American things to do is bet on sports teams."

In 1992 a federal law known as the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act banned all sports wagering in states other than Nevada. It is estimated that legal sports betting in Las Vegas totals between \$2 billion and \$3 billion every year.

She said there will undoubtedly be much illegal wagering occurring during the next few weeks since the NCAA men's basketball tournament is the single most popular sporting event for people to wager on, followed by the Super Bowl.

HF1267 would authorize the state lottery director to adopt rules and game procedures for sports wagering. Retailers authorized to sell lottery tickets would be allowed to offer sports betting under the measure.

Revenues generated by the wagering would be deposited in a new Minnesota Active Recreation Fund created by the bill. Money from the fund would go toward children's sports programs, amateur sports facilities, and hiking and biking trails.

The idea behind the new fund appealed to Kahn because she appreciates the "juxtaposition" between funding children's sports with the groups most likely to oppose the bill — those representing the "big Vegas scene" and illegal bookmakers.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), chair of the subcommittee, said he had heard that Gov. Jesse Ventura would sign the bill if it reached his desk. Osskopp said the governor is anxious to challenge the legality of the federal sports betting ban on states and would like to see the state's attorney general argue the case.

Kahn said an attorney general opinion determined the state could not challenge the legality of the federal law. But if the bill should become law and the federal government were to take action to stop sports wagering in Minnesota, then the case could go to court.

She said state's rights issues could be argued in light of the United States Supreme Court decision in the Florida election case that raised the visibility of the Equal Protection clause of the United States Constitution. She said that clause might also apply to the legality of allowing sports betting in one state but not others.

The state of Oregon does allow a lottery-type wagering on football games. In that state a bettor fills out a card provided by the Oregon Lottery. The minimum bet per game is \$2 with a \$20 maximum. Bettors must wager on at least



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Betting on sports events taking place in the Metrodome, such as the NCAA men's basketball tournament which tips off this week, would be legal in Minnesota under a bill introduced March 13 to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.**

to wait for more hearings to be scheduled about legalized gambling after the 2001 Legislature has adjourned.

"I don't know many people that gamble a lot, but I do know a lot of people that bet on

Kahn said there is an estimated \$380 billion illegally bet on sporting events throughout the country each year, and in Minnesota alone the number may be \$1 billion to \$2 billion annually.

three games or special selections such as the point spread or whether a team scores more points or fewer points than predicted. Winners are those that win all of their bets.

Existing law is unclear regarding whether sports' wagering on the Internet is a legal or illegal activity.

Osskopp said even though he was a co-sponsor of the bill, he had some concerns with the way it was drafted. He had originally envisioned the sports wagering occurring in state casinos, but the Minnesota Indian Gaming Commission had not expressed an interest in the bill.

He said it would be a "logistics nightmare" to run the betting through convenience stores where inexperienced sales clerks would have to handle the bets.

Another concern, Osskopp said, was that if betting were allowed on local sports teams, a large number of winners could result in a huge bill for the state to pay. He said he was inclined to vote against the bill but that he doesn't believe three legislators (a majority of the subcommittee) should kill the measure, especially since the governor had expressed interest in the bill.


George Andersen, director of the Minnesota State Lottery, said that currently there is a prize reserve for the Powerball game that can be tapped in the instance of a high payout. He likened the betting on one specific team with current Powerball practice where many people choose the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Andersen said that legal and illegal sports betting in the country is "an extremely lucrative venture" and that even with an occasional large payout, the house/state would still always come out ahead.

Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) said he was concerned that because not every bar could likely be equipped to handle the wagering, some would be placed at an economic disadvantage. He also said it was unlikely that people would change their betting habits on sporting events, particularly when the legalized wagering would have a maximum cap amount.

Osskopp agreed and said he had an aversion to allowing sports betting "in every corner of the state even though it's already being done now."

Kahn said that one of the major reasons she was offering the bill was to stop the illegal sports betting in the state. She said many people would choose to place legal bets because they prefer not to engage in illegal activity.

Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), the chair of the full government operations committee, said he would consider holding further hearings on the bill this summer. Rhodes has already committed to holding hearings on bills proposing a state-run casino, and though he said the issues involved are separate, more information on legalizing sports betting might be useful. 



## Lights, camera, action

**Leaders have long thought Minnesota a great location for the movies**

Back in the early days of filmmaking in the United States, Minnesota had a few notable production companies that primarily made their living from doing educational, industrial, and promotional films.

But that was still small time, compared to the vision community leaders had for the opportunities that the television and film industries provided.

A February 1983 report from the Advisory Commission on Film, Video, and Graphic Arts, presented to Gov. Rudy Perpich, strongly advised the Legislature and the governor to promote Minnesota as both a great location for films and for the film industry.

At the time, the report said, Minnesota was already among the top states for promotional and educational film and slide production. But 47 of the 50 states in the nation — not including Minnesota — had committed both funds and personnel resources to attracting big name producers and films, which could mean millions of dollars in economic benefit, the report said.

The commission said it was time for Minnesota to catch up.

Chaired by John Stout of Minneapolis, the group gave several recommendations, including establishing a motion picture and television advisory board and creating a business climate to attract producers and businesses.

"The commission members believe strongly that the communications industries are important to Minnesota's economic future, and that the recommendations made in the report are important steps towards that future," the report said.

The commission noted the industry was primarily producing public relations and training films, television commercials, and educational productions.

The state had a handful of feature and non-feature films to its credit, as well as large corporate producers and educational institutions such as the University of Minnesota feeding the film industry.

The commission estimated large growth in the film industry due to 1982 trends

indicating 16 percent more people were attending movies and as many as 72 percent of Americans watched television daily.

The commission recommended that the state establish a non-profit, private sector organization, serving as a film and video board, to solicit film producers. To that end the Legislature should appropriate \$200,000 in 1984-85, and at least \$50,000 per year thereafter.

The governor and lieutenant governor should then raise \$100,000 combined for

those two years and \$100,000 each year following from local governments, public and private foundations and any other funding source, the group concluded.

Both officials should sit on the board and appoint a member of the administration to serve as a liaison to the board. They should also actively promote the mission of the board upon every opportunity.

"The governor and Lt. governor should be available

to receive and meet with ranking industry management and professionals, and make at least one trip annually to New York and Los Angeles to promote film and video production within the state," the report said.

And in nearly the same breath, the report warned against imposing the sales tax to services such as advertising, public relations, and similar service businesses.

The commission was instrumental in convincing the Legislature that the board was needed. The 1983 Legislature appropriated \$120,000, through the commissioner of economic development, to create the Minnesota Motion Picture and Television Board. In its first report for fiscal year 1984, it boasted economic benefit from television and films at \$6.71 million — including nearly \$5 million from the film *Purple Rain*, made famous by pop singer Prince.

The board would eventually become the Minnesota Film Board, still a private, non-profit entity. The board's Web site now boasts that feature film projects in the past decade have brought \$115 million to Minnesota.

(M. KIBIGER)



**Film crew from Mills and Bell Motion Pictures, Inc. on University Avenue, St. Paul in the 1920s.**

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society



## ★ CRIME

**Pornography crackdown**

Responding to improvements in computer technology that makes existing child-protection laws difficult to enforce, lawmakers are considering a bill aimed at easing the work of law enforcement officials in their attempts to prosecute creators and distributors of child pornography.

HF848, sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), would require corporations based in other states that provide electronic communication services in Minnesota to comply with search warrants issued by judges in other states. Likewise, Minnesota corporations would be required to comply with warrants issued by other states' judges.

Law enforcement officials in other states now must find a Minnesota judge to issue a search warrant before corporations within the state are subject to a search. Under the new legislation, Minnesota would enter into a reciprocity agreement with other states that have passed this legislation.

Skoglund told the March 15 meeting of the House Crime Prevention Committee that the rise in Internet popularity has increased the availability of child pornography.

"In the 1980s, we were catching (perpetrators)," he said. "These days, wires can carry images, and we are seeing new images online daily."

HF848 would also increase the penalty for disseminating child pornography from a five-year to a seven-year maximum sentence for the first offense, and raise the penalty for a second offense from 10 years to 15 years. The penalties for knowingly possessing child pornography would also be increased by the bill. A first offense would be raised from three to five years, and a second offense from five to 10 years.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) asked if there is some evidence that additional penalties could reduce the likelihood of additional offenses. Skoglund said, "The tougher we are, the more likely we are to deter."

He also assured the committee that innocent people receiving unsolicited e-mail would not find themselves searched or prosecuted under the new HF848.

Assistant Attorney General Tim Rank testified that any such search powers would have to be part of an ongoing criminal investigation, and would not be available for civil suits.

The committee approved the bill and referred it to the House Civil Law Committee.

**Gang strike force**

Officials with the Minnesota Gang Strike Force appeared briefly before the House Judiciary Finance Committee March 13 to present its annual report and discuss its budget request.

The group, which provides grants to local law enforcement agencies through the Department of Public Safety to fund gang crackdown initiatives, requested about \$2.4 million, as budgeted for 2001, from Gov. Jesse Ventura for each year of the 2002-03 biennium.

However, the governor recommended funding at about \$1.6 million annually, which reflected a base-level funding, according to budget documents.

Committee Chair Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) said the committee will hear a bill in coming weeks that would include funding to restore the strike force's funding level to about \$2.4 million per year for the biennium. He asked department officials what the original request to the governor was and why it was cut.

Sara Schlauderaff, assistant commissioner with the department, said the group's initial request was \$2.4 million, but that was reduced during the prioritizing process at the Department of Finance. She said officials discussed the issue at length, but in the end decided to only fund the base.

"I know that they are committed (to this project)," Schlauderaff said. "It was a difficult decision but it was about priorities."

She also said there really aren't additional

resources the department can draw from internally. The CriMNet plan is the department's top priority, she said, and any additional funds will go there.

"To me it sounds like you're waiting to see if the Legislature will bail out the Department of Public Safety and the governor's office," Stanek responded.

The strike force was established by the Legislature to identify, investigate, arrest, and prosecute gang members engaged in crimes throughout the state.

Chair of the strike force, Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher, said the program has been very successful in reducing gang violence throughout the state.

"What you've created is something to be proud of," Fletcher said. "Coming here every two years to beg for money is no fun."

## ★ DEVELOPMENT

**Tax-free zones**

Rep. Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) has introduced a bill that may spur economic development in parts of Greater Minnesota, a plan he estimates would cost up to \$25 million, but would bring much more benefit and prosperity to the state in the long run.

"The incentives are far greater than anything

**PUBLIC FAREWELL**

PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Two-year-old Daniel Harold Stassen crawls across the State Capitol Rotunda as his great-grandfather, former Gov. Harold Stassen, lies in state March 9.

the state has attempted before,” Pawlenty told members of the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee March 14.

The bill will be considered for inclusion in the committee’s omnibus bill and was referred to the House Taxes Committee without recommendation.

Pawlenty said HF400, which calls for tax-free zones in distressed parts of the state, could bring thousands of jobs and major dollars in private investments, as has resulted in Michigan and Pennsylvania under similar legislation in the last few years.

Modeled after statutes in those states, it would create up to 10 zones free of the individual income tax; property tax, though not exempt from the cost associated with financing general obligation bonds; corporate franchise tax; state sales tax and local tax on purchases; and the state sales tax on motor vehicles.

Pawlenty said zones would be put into places that are economically declining, and only in regions outside the metropolitan area. “We don’t want things to be ‘metro-centric,’” he said.

However, members argued territory within the Twin Cities that is economically strapped, such as the Phillips neighborhood in Minneapolis and the Frogtown area of St. Paul, may benefit from development prompted by a tax-free zone. Pawlenty said he would be open to amendment to include the metro area, but no action was taken.

Under the bill, local governments would apply to the commissioner of the Department of Trade and Economic Development for designation of an area as a tax-free zone. The maximum size of a zone would be 5,000 acres, which could incorporate non-contiguous zones of at least 20 acres. Maximum duration of a zone would be 12 years.

Rep. Arlon Linder (R-Corcoran) asked how the bill would affect established businesses. Pawlenty said the best use for a zone would be in an area that is not very developed and county boards and city councils would have to decide how zones are configured.

Pawlenty said the estimated cost of \$25 million is speculative; the bill gives no exact cost. Committee Chair Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) said it would be necessary to have a cap, which could be monitored by the department.

“We need a new approach to our statewide economy,” said Rep. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook), a co-sponsor of the bill. Rural areas need to be rebuilt so they can retain kids he says they export every May. “There’s nothing there for them to stay.”

## A funding fix

Existing state law prohibits elected officials from taking part in a sale, lease, or contract as a part of their official duties, if that person has a personal financial interest.

But for some officials, especially those serving smaller communities, that may put them on unequal terms with others in the community.

HF610, sponsored by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), would allow public officials to apply for a community development block grant or federal economic development administration funds as long as the officer discloses that he or she has applied for the funds and abstains from voting on the measure.

Jeff Kletscher, a city council member from Floodwood, told the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 12 that business owners who serve on the city council cannot apply for the same grants that every other main street business owner is entitled.

He said that in rural communities like Floodwood, located 45 miles west of Duluth, many who serve on city councils are small business owners.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) expressed concern about expanding the state’s conflict of interest laws for public officials. He said to allow elected officials to receive public

funds for their personal business would lead to the perception there is an unfair advantage in the process of deciding upon the grants and loans.

“In politics, perception is reality,” Krinkie said.

Solberg said if community residents question the propriety of a loan or grant, they could always vote the official out of office.

Rep. D. Scott Dibble (DFL-Mpls) said he supported the bill because the current restrictions might be a disincentive for qualified people to serve in public office.

But he agreed with some of Krinkie’s concerns. Dibble offered an amendment that would have prohibited public officials from participating in the discussion or debate either in public or in private when personally involved with a loan or grant.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) expressed concern that Dibble’s amendment would violate first amendment, freedom of speech rights.

Dibble withdrew his amendment.

Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings), the committee chair, decided to postpone a vote on the bill so Solberg could work to make the bill apply more specifically to the concerns raised by the Floodwood situation.

## DEAF SERVICES



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Valerie Fuechtmann, a member of the deaf community, testifies in front of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee March 12 with the aid of sign language interpreter Lauri Krouse in support of HF330. The bill would provide nonprofit agency grants to agencies currently serving deaf and hard-of-hearing adults with mental illness.**

## ★ EDUCATION

### Audit raises more questions

An investigation into the allegation that the Department of Children, Families and Learning inappropriately handled a grant contract has uncovered other possible infractions of state rules.

Legislative Auditor James Nobles presented a brief report on the investigation, performed by his office, to the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee March 12. A more comprehensive hearing will be held in coming weeks.

Conclusions of the investigation were as follows:

- The Department of Children, Families and Learning “inappropriately initiated” a grant agreement with the United Way of Olmsted County to avoid returning unexpended funds to the Pew Charitable Trusts. It then filed an inaccurate financial report to the Trusts stating the funds had been spent by June 30, 1998.
- As a result of the United Way grant, the department was able to use an outside bank account to administer the grant funds, thus “circumventing” state policies and procedures. This situation created conflicts of interest and resulted in

“questionable financial reimbursements” to employees.

- The department established “inappropriate” arrangements with other counties and nonprofit organizations to avoid returning unexpended funds to grantors or to the state’s general fund.

“This is a serious problem,” Nobles said. “There were false statements and dishonest dealings. It raises questions about management practices at the (department).”

“I apologize to all of you and take responsibility for this,” said Barbara Yates, deputy commissioner of the department. “We take this very, very seriously. It’s important to us to prevent this from ever occurring again.”

Yates assured the committee the department had accepted all the auditor’s recommendations and was proceeding to make corrections.

“We cannot tolerate this,” said Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin). “We must have internal management controls and reviews.”

### Technology in education

Teachers from all corners of the state testified March 9 before the House K-12 Education Finance Committee as to the benefits of technology funding.

The committee is considering a bill (HF1217) that would allocate nearly \$20.7 million for the 2002-03 biennium to continue supporting technology such as telecommunications, interactive television, and the Internet.

Rep. Robert Ness (R-Dassel), the bill’s sponsor, said he has carried legislation the last six years for technology in education.

“We are part-way there but certainly not all the way,” he said.

The majority of the funds would go toward continuing costs of a telecommunications network for schools and public libraries initiated by the Legislature three years ago. Today there is “more connectivity between districts than ever before,” according to Steve Jatczak, telecommunications coordinator for a northwestern Minnesota school district.

Renee Klinkner, a principal in the Granada-Huntley-East Chain School District in south-central Minnesota, said interactive television (ITV) gives “a completeness to our curriculum,” by allowing schools to offer classes such as foreign languages and advanced math.

“We would never get a teacher because we would only offer the class for one hour a day,” she said.

Deb Thompson, who teaches Spanish via interactive television in Braham, echoed the importance of offering distance learning courses. “If it weren’t for ITV I wouldn’t be a

full-time teacher in east-central Minnesota,” she said.

Video conferencing that allows students to “visit” zoos across the country and take art classes from instructors hundreds of miles away is not just for the taking, says Tracy Baxter, technology coordinator for Hawley Public Schools in northwestern Minnesota. Her school also gives back by conducting classes on subjects such as nature.

HF1217 will be considered for inclusion in the committee’s omnibus bill.

### Mental illness education

When Roseville High School students wanted to do a presentation to educate their peers about mental illness after a fellow student committed suicide, school administrators worried that the students would be glorifying the death and there might be copycat suicides, according to Jenny Holm, a senior at Roseville.

“It was a big struggle to get students to do the presentation in front of the whole school,” Holm said. Even after getting permission, they still were restricted as to what they could say.

Under a bill sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) to help identify, treat, and create awareness of mental health disorders, screening for mental health disorders would be part of a preschool screening program. Through prevention and early intervention, challenges and disabilities in mental health might be reduced, she said.

The goal of bill “is to point to kids who need help,” Greiling said. “This is to get people talking about this so schools don’t feel alone.”

The bill was presented to the House Education Policy Committee March 13 and will be sent to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

Under HF788, children’s mental health disorders would be evaluated and treated in schools in an attempt to reduce suicides and school shootings, which are sometimes attributed to mental illnesses.

Glenace Edwall, director of children’s mental health at the Department of Human Services, said mental illness is common but treatable. “Education is a critical player,” she said, so that children’s needs are met.

Willard Harley, a licensed psychologist who has spent most of his career in suicide prevention, found several problems with the bill.

With screening, he said, “you get a lot of false positives,” and diagnosing someone is very difficult. Students who don’t need help might be treated, and that treatment may leave them worse off, he said.

The mental health community can work

with schools effectively without the law, he said. “Schools becoming mental health centers is the problem.”

Harley would prefer that treatment were done through a mental health center where privacy could be maintained.

Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato) asked if this is an “all-or-nothing” situation. Harley replied education about common symptoms of mental health disorders might be a better solution.

Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township) said he has received several calls from people asking him not to support the bill. Greiling, who noted she is working on revising and clarifying the bill, said she thinks there are a lot of misperceptions about bill.

## ELECTIONS



### Voting penalty

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee’s Election Subcommittee approved a bill March 12 that would re-establish a felony penalty for those who vote in the wrong precinct.

The bill, which also makes changes to the state’s recount procedures, now goes to the full committee.

HF966, sponsored by Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), would establish a sliding scale of penalties for those who are caught voting in the wrong precinct.

The first violation would result in election officials mailing the voter a notification letter stating the correct precinct location. The letter would also notify the voter of a requirement to show proper identification to the election judges at the next election.

A second violation would be a misdemeanor, and subsequent violations would be felonies.

Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer said that from 1981 to 1999, it was a felony in the state to vote in the wrong precinct. The severity of the penalty made county attorneys reluctant to charge offenders since many of the voters may have accidentally voted at the wrong precinct.

In 1999 the law was changed requiring counties to send out notification to those that voted in the wrong precinct and reduced the penalty from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Kiffmeyer said by establishing a sliding scale of penalties it will send a message to those who are intentionally violating the law. No statistics were presented on the numbers of those voting in the wrong precinct.

“This helps ensure the integrity of elections,” she said.

The bill also establishes a different standard

for when an automatic recount takes place following an election.

Under current law there is a sliding scale based on the total number of votes cast. For example, in contests where more than 10,000 votes are cast, an automatic recount takes place when the difference between candidates is 100 votes or less. For contests where there are 100 votes cast, the automatic recount is required when the candidates are five votes or less apart.

Under HF966, an automatic recount would occur when candidate totals are within one-half of one percent of each other. An exception is in races where 400 votes or less are cast, the recount would occur if the difference is 10 votes or less.

## ★ ENERGY

### Exemption extension requested

The 1999 omnibus tax bill included a sales tax exemption for materials used in the construction of a biomass power plant proposed for a northern Minnesota community.

That exemption is due to expire July 1, and owners of the facility are still working on permit issues. Thus, HF545 sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) would extend the sunset of the exemption until July 1, 2003.

Dean Sedgwick, president of Itasca Power Company, told the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee March 8 that the 15-megawatt electrical generation facility in Northome, a rural city in north central Minnesota, would use tree bark, sawdust and other wood waste as fuel.

Construction of the plant, Sedgwick said, would help a struggling economic area of the state by creating jobs. He said the plant would also help address some of the state's energy issues.

Sedgwick said the permit to construct the facility has already been granted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, but inside the permit are provisions that would put the plant in violation the day it opened.

The plant will use "cutting edge technology," Sedgwick said, and a lack of understanding of that technology by the PCA was one of the reasons the permit was delayed.

It will take six to nine months to sort out the permit issues and 10 to 12 months to complete construction of the facility, he said.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) said he supports the measure and expects that it will be included in the final omnibus tax bill. But he questioned why the Department of Revenue estimates the cost of the measure to be \$200,000 during the biennium when the cost was already included in the 1999 tax bill.

A response is expected at a future meeting.

The division took no action on the bill but Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the division chair, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### Saving shoreland

A bill that would establish a shoreline protection program was presented March 13 to the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee by sponsor Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount).

The committee approved HF1386 and referred it to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

Non-point source pollution, often caused by disturbances from development, is the greatest threat to Minnesota's lakes and rivers, Whitney Clark, executive director of Friends of the Mississippi River, told committee members.

Several state and national programs address the problem with regard to current or former agricultural land, but none specifically targets shoreland, he said.

Ozment's bill would appropriate \$5 million for the next biennium from the general fund to create a cost-share grant program for private landowners to restore shoreland or establish conservation easements. The bill would require landowners to use native plants when practical.

To participate in the program, counties would have to set up working groups to establish criteria for grants together with county boards and local soil and water conservation districts.

"This bill offers tools that can be used by local soil and water conservation districts where agricultural land is not a criteria," said Rick Hanson from the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) said he believed the bill would duplicate programs already in existence, such as Reinvest in Minnesota.

"In many of these cases RIM would not be able to be used because it's underfunded," said Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus).

"It's an investment," said Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul). "We help a private landowner make an improvement, and everyone downstream benefits."

### A thorny Capitol issue

When Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) was out door knocking last fall, she was surprised to learn from a constituent that there is not only a noxious plant growing on the Capitol grounds, but that the state

groundskeepers groom and nurture the plant.

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill, sponsored by McGuire, March 13 requiring the Department of Administration to remove all European Buckthorn from the Capitol area grounds by Nov. 1.

HF684 now goes to the House State Government Finance Committee.

McGuire said a Minnesota Interagency Exotic Species Task Force identified European Buckthorn as one of the most severe and harmful exotic plants. The plant was once popular because of its easy maintenance and leaves that remain green far into autumn. However, because of its invasive qualities, it is now banned from nursery sales.

According to the Department of Natural Resources, Buckthorn was introduced to North America from Eurasia as an ornamental shrub. The berries cause a laxative effect, quickly distributing the seeds quite literally through birds.

Nancy Stark, executive secretary of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, said it would cost around \$164,000 to remove approximately 2,400 linear feet of Buckthorn and replace it around the mall area. She said the hedge would need to be replaced to maintain the mall's aesthetics.

A plan for landscaping around the Capitol was developed in the late 1980s and included the removal of all Buckthorn. Because of the costs, the plant prominently remains between the Capitol and the Veterans Service Building.

Bernie Steele, a complex services manager of the Department of Administration, said the plant has been removed incrementally whenever landscape projects are done around the Capitol. Steele said the plant is not allowed to spread because it is trimmed back before it can bear berries.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) found it difficult to believe the \$20,000 cost stated to remove the hedge. Osskopp said he could bring up a Boy Scout troop that could remove the plant for a lunch at White Castle.

McGuire said because of the importance of removing the Buckthorn, she would work on the funding issue to assist the board.

## ★ FAMILY

### Child support law

Lawmakers have begun work on legislation that many agree will make Minnesota's laws regarding marriage dissolution and child support more fair, enforceable, understandable, and consistent with other states' practices.

HF1446, sponsored by Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound), makes several significant changes to existing law.



First, courts would consider the gross incomes of both parents when setting a child support amount. Currently, only the non-custodial parents' net earnings are included in the calculation.

Christa Anders of the Minnesota Department of Human Services Child Support Enforcement Division endorsed the change during a March 14 House Civil Law Committee meeting. She said calculations using gross income are more fair than those employing net income are because most child-support payments are tax-deductible.

Anders described the shift from considering only the non-custodial parent's income to both parents' income as "the right thing to do." This income-share model would make Minnesota law consistent with most other states. Anders said adopting the change would help family law practitioners deal with the reality that most adults work outside the home.

Judge Dennis Murphy from Thief River Falls endorsed the bill. He said guaranteeing such a change would lead to a "better disposition" for all involved, and would likely increase the respect that family law litigants would feel for the final outcome. Anders echoed his comments, saying, "if the amount of child support is not perceived as fair, we have a difficult time collecting."

Another change is that the bill would mandate the use of federal data on actual costs of child rearing in the Midwest to set child support payment amounts. Minh Ta, public policy director for the Children's Defense Fund, said his group anticipates that setting the figures will "help avoid undue litigation." The cost of childcare is currently set by a formula established in a 1983 statute.

The bill will appear again before the Civil Law committee, which may approve the bill and refer it to the Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

### Prevention methods planned

Legislators are moving toward appropriating money to address domestic violence.

On March 13, the House Crime Prevention Committee approved HF699, sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), and referred it to the House Civil Law Committee.

The bill would appropriate \$5 million to the Department of Corrections to reduce the number of high-risk domestic assailant offenders supervised by an individual probation officer to an average of 35. Sykora said that figure is often more than 100 today.

HF699 also appropriates \$7.5 million to the Department of Public Safety for per diem funding for battered women's shelters and safe homes, an additional \$546,000 in grants to

## ARTS CELEBRATION



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Andrea Conger and Donald LaCourse of the Ethnic Dance Theatre perform "Dances from Bohemia" March 15 in the House Chamber as part of "Chamber Music and More," a celebration of Minnesota's cultural treasures. Several music, dancing, and theatrical groups performed at the event.**

organizations for the tracking of judicial responses to domestic assault cases, and to provide "advocacy and outreach programs for battered women" in Greater Minnesota.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) expressed approval for an additional \$100,000 for organizations to provide safe housing services to men and their children who are victims of domestic abuse. "This addresses abusers as abusers," he said, referring to the bill's mostly gender-neutral language.

Expressing concern that recipient programs be well-managed and fiscally accountable, Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), chair of the committee, asked, "Where are the safeguards so that practitioners (of safehouse management and victim advocacy) use a best-practices approach?"

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) said the community of individuals and institutions that respond to domestic violence is developing a set of minimum standards independent of legislation. "We are setting this up without a bureaucracy. It behooves judges to have a list of programs to which they can refer victims," he said.

Representatives expressed concern about a provision that would change the rules of evidence in domestic violence cases so judges could elevate "out-of-court" statements to the level of admissible evidence. Currently, statements not made in court are considered hearsay, except in some child abuse cases.

Advocates of the provision argue that changing evidentiary rules will help prosecutors win guilty verdicts against abusers whose victims decline to testify because of their ongoing relationship. That matter will likely be the focus of attention during the bill's Civil Law hearing.

## GAMBLING



### 'Wanna bet?'

This is the first generation of Minnesota teenagers to be exposed to widespread and easily accessible gambling. And while the danger of gambling for adolescents is rarely in the news, research indicates that teens are twice as likely as adults to become compulsive gamblers.

On March 12, the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee heard a bill that would provide funding for a compulsive gambling education and prevention program for Minnesota teens.

HF522, sponsored by Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth), would take \$175,000 from the lottery prize fund each year of the biennium and transfer it to the general fund for the purpose of a grant to the Minnesota Council on Compulsive Gambling.

The committee will consider including the bill in its omnibus bill.

The council, a nonprofit organization located in Duluth, was established at the request of the Legislature in 1988. It has been cited as the leader in teen gambling prevention and education in North America.

The council has developed an anti-gambling curriculum called "Wanna Bet?" and a Web site, [www.wannabet.org](http://www.wannabet.org), which is designed by teens for teens.

Identifying a gambling problem early is critical to successful treatment, according to Elizabeth George, executive director of the council. To that end, in addition to promoting its curriculum package to state teachers, the council trains counselors in treating gambling addiction.

George said gambling has become a "rite of passage" into adulthood for some teens. One of the lawmakers said he had personal experience with the phenomena — his "otherwise sensible" son went to a casino on his 18th birthday.

Of course, not everyone who gambles becomes an addict anymore than does everyone who drinks alcohol become an alcoholic. Variables associated with excessive teenage gambling include alcohol use, tobacco use, antisocial behavior, and gender — they're most likely to be boys.

"A lot of people don't realize what an insidious disease compulsive gambling is," Huntley said. "Those who get that rush in their brain are the same as alcoholics."

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### ★ Eliminating gender-specific language

Minnesota voters would be asked to approve a constitutional amendment changing the state's constitution to a gender-neutral document under a bill approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee March 12.

The bill now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Rep. Mark Thompson (DFL-New Hope), the sponsor of HF1080, said five other states already use gender-neutral language in their constitutions. In Florida, changes to the constitution become effective in 2003.

He said eight other states are now considering similar bills.

Currently, the language in the Minnesota Constitution refers to repeated mentions of the constitutional officers and legislators by using masculine pronouns. The bill would change that by referring to the officer's job title — so instead of "He vetoes a bill..." it would now read "The governor vetoes a bill."

Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) said that as an English teacher she was concerned some of the changes make the constitution less grammatically correct and that, in general, diminishes the flow of the language in the document.

Erickson said historic documents like the state constitution can be read as great literature.

Thompson said that he would answer concerns with tampering with a "very old document" by reiterating that the constitution has been greatly changed twice in recent history, in 1964 and 1974.

In 1964 the changes included the removal of restrictions for women's right to vote, and in 1974 the number of articles was reduced from 21 to 14 and much of the document was rearranged.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) said he supported the bill but was concerned it would become a vehicle on the House floor for other changes to the constitution.

Thompson said he would pull the bill if it were greatly expanded.

"I don't intend to change the meaning of the state constitution," he said.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said she was surprised to learn that the language in the constitution was not made gender neutral at the same time that the state's statutes were changed to remove gender-specific language.

## ★ HEALTH

### ★ Transport services at risk

Ambulance services took a double hit when Congress passed the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Non-emergency medical transportation services are in even more dire straits.

Two bills before the Legislature are designed to help these critical providers survive.

A federal rules change that bars ambulance services from billing Medicare patients for unpaid balances and a restrictive new national fee schedule will become effective April 1. Combined, the changes will cost state ambulance services almost \$37 million, according to the Minnesota Ambulance Association.

"A volunteer ambulance service in Minnesota cannot cover its costs now by taking medical assistance patients," said O.J. Doyle, a lobbyist for the association.

Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) presented HF488 to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee March 14. The bill would increase medical assistance reimbursements to ambulance services retroactive to July 1, 2000.

Davids' bill, estimated to cost the state about \$625,000 per year, would mandate that reimbursement be no less than what Medicaid is paying now. HF488 will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) presented a bill (HF1014) to the Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 8 that would increase medical assistance reimbursement to companies who transport disabled and elderly people. The bill was approved and referred to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

"This is desperately needed legislation," said John Dundon, of MODE Transportation Services in Minneapolis.

"Special" or non-emergency medical transportation helps non-ambulatory people access medical care by taking them to doctor appointments.

Medical assistance reimbursements for the service have not kept up with costs. "I can't make the numbers work," said Steve Elwood,

of R&S Transport from Rochester. He said insurance premiums on transport vehicles have tripled this year.

The bill would increase reimbursement rates by \$5 for wheelchair clients and 50 cents for non-wheelchair clients. Mileage reimbursement would go from \$1.20 to \$1.30 per mile.

"Without this legislation we will be forced to cease operating by June of this year," said Dundon. "I'm begging for your help before costs force us out."

### ★ Keeping children healthy

A bill that would authorize the commissioner of health to annually establish a school immunization schedule was heard by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 13.

"I think we're setting up the best system we can," said Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), sponsor of HF886. The bill was held over for further discussion.

Existing state law gives the Legislature the power to establish immunization requirements. The Minnesota Department of Health has requested this power instead be given to the commissioner of health, who would base decisions on recommendations from the Minnesota Immunization Practices Task Force.

The argument they proffer is the legislative process is too slow to respond to changes in state and national vaccination recommendations or to rapid advancements in new, safer, and more effective vaccines.

"A host of new vaccines are becoming available," said Scott Giebink, director of pediatric infectious disease for the University of Minnesota, and task force chair. "It is simply not effective to require the Legislature to approve these changes every year."

"Immunization is one of the most important public health measures," State Epidemiologist Harry Hull said. "For every dollar spent on immunization, the medical system saves as much as 15 dollars."

Immunizations have not been a success for everyone. Mary Therneau, from Grand Rapids, told the committee about the devastation wrought on her family by a vaccination administered to her daughter when she was a baby.

The child had mild seizures after the first vaccination, but the doctor administered another at six months over Therneau's objections. Her daughter is now 20 years old and has "intractable epilepsy."

"I had a normal healthy child at four months of age," Therneau said. "It has stripped our lives of any normalcy. It's not a life I'd want



Mary Therneau from Grand Rapids, tells the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 13 of the catastrophic reaction her daughter, Dyane, had to an immunization when she was 4 months old. Her testimony was in opposition to a bill that would establish an annual immunization schedule for persons enrolled in schools, child care facilities, or post-secondary institutions.

to see anyone else ever go through.”

The law does not require a parent to have their children immunized. Medical reasons or “conscientiously held beliefs” are sufficient for exemption from immunization. Therneau said she was never told she had an option.

“If we can get 95 percent of the population immunized it benefits the 5 percent who aren’t immunized,” Hull said. “But if we stop immunization, we will see these diseases come back with a vengeance.”

### Dental care access

Barriers to dental access for disadvantaged people in Minnesota are almost insurmountable, according to experts who testified before the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 8.

After listening to the discouraging results of the Department of Human Services’ dental access report, committee members heard from sponsors of two bills that attempt to begin tearing down the barriers.

HF693, sponsored by Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), would establish a dental loan forgiveness program and a dental services demonstration project. It would also increase reimbursement for specified dental services and providers.

HF278, sponsored by Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls), would set up a grant program for nonprofit community dental clinics, expand the role of dental hygienists, and allow for an increase in medical assistance reimbursement.

Both bills were approved with amendments

and referred to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

People on Minnesota health care programs are having serious trouble accessing dental care, according to Jim Chase, director of health care purchasing for the Department of Health. When they do get dental care, they have significantly more restorative work.

The Health Department report detailed the extreme difficulties people on medical assistance face in getting dental care. Rural, racial, and ethnic disparities are significant and worsening.

The reasons behind the problem include low reimbursement rates to dentists, who often choose not to serve these populations, and a shortage of dentists, especially in rural areas.

“My concern is that this bill is ‘dental lite.’ I feel like we can go further,” said Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins).

“No doubt this is a baby step toward solving the problem,” Goodno said. “But we need to take the steps we can.”

### Increased tax credit

There would be an increased tax incentive for those who purchase long-term care insurance, under a measure heard by the House Taxes Committee March 13.

Existing law allows a 25 percent tax credit for premiums not deducted federally. The maximum amount of credit is \$100 for individuals and \$200 for those filing joint returns.

HF92, sponsored by Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee), would increase the maximum credit to \$250 per individual and \$500 for married couples.

The Department of Revenue estimates the bill would cost about \$8.4 million in the next biennium and \$10.1 million during 2004-05. There were 16,765 returns claiming the credit in 1999, with an average credit amount of \$132.

The committee took no action on the bill, but Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Daggett said Minnesota has one of the lowest numbers of people enrolled in long-term care coverage plans.

She said in Gov. Jesse Ventura’s budget proposal there is recognition of rapidly increasing health care costs.

“For health and human services, the governor is increasing funding by 18 percent, the largest increase for one particular issue,” Daggett said.

She said the average annual nursing home cost for an individual is now around \$50,000. Medicaid currently pays two-thirds of the cost for those living in nursing homes.

Steve Nelson, an actuary from Lutheran Brotherhood, said a 30-year projection, using the increased credit amounts and assuming a growth in the number of people who purchase long-term care insurance with a corresponding reduction in Medicaid expenses, shows that in six years the state would actually save money.

Nelson said by 2006 the state would save \$2.53 on every dollar paid out for the credit.

## HIGHER EDUCATION



### Camp funding sought

A plan that would allocate state funds to expose middle school age girls to certain career possibilities may be included in the omnibus bill of the House Higher Education Finance Committee.

HF1414, sponsored by Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria), seeks \$30,000 in each of the next two years for a Science Technology and Engineering Preview Summer Camp for Girls at Alexandria Technical College.

Cassell presented his bill to the committee March 14.

The one-week camp exposes girls entering seventh grade to the possibilities of a career in a technical field. The goal is to interest them early enough so the girls take the proper math and science classes in middle and high school, which, in turn, prepares them to enter and succeed in college level programs, such as engineering.

Stephanie Maras, assistant camp coordinator, told the committee that 152 girls from



around the state took part in last year's inaugural event, divided over four weeks, and that the camp can accommodate 160 campers.

"We expect a waiting list this year," she said. Tuition is free, and Maras said some girls were only able to participate because there is no fee.

Last year's camp cost \$93,392 to operate, and was funded by seed money from private donations designed to get the camp started, including more than \$56,000 from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation through a grant provided by the Bush Foundation. However, that grant will be reduced to 50 percent this year, 25 percent in 2002 and zero in 2003.

Maras said camp leaders have pursued other funding sources, but have found some Minnesota companies aren't willing to contribute because they do not have any operations in the Alexandria area.

Committee Chair Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) said the program is important as it encourages young women to choose careers in the sciences. "It sounds like an interesting program, and I hope that it succeeds."

## HUMAN SERVICES

### Helping children in crisis

A bill that would appropriate \$1 million to expand existing crisis nurseries to meet increased need and another \$1 million to develop new crisis nurseries for unserved areas of the state was heard by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 12.

HF1068, sponsored by Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), would appropriate money from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the biennium beginning July 1. The bill will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

In addition to the state, funding for crisis nurseries comes from a variety of sources, such as the United Way, the Children's Trust Fund, various foundations, and local governments.

Crisis nurseries help prevent child abuse and neglect by providing short-term care for children from birth to age 12. Experts who spoke in support of Bradley's bill said their goal was to have these programs available for all Minnesota families.

The first crisis nursery in Minnesota was established in Minneapolis in 1983. Since then, the program has grown to 20 sites throughout the state, serving families in 26 of Minnesota's 87 counties. More than 1,600 families and 3,200 children were served in 1999.

The services provided by crisis nurseries include:

- Emergency short-term care for children up to 72 hours;
- Assessments to identify families' needs and strengths;
- Referrals to appropriate agencies and community resources;
- 24-hour phone and service availability;
- Crisis counseling and information;
- Transportation services; and
- Advocacy for children.

"These programs are a very cost effective way of preventing child abuse and neglect," said Stephanie Tribby-Wallbridge, program director for the Anoka County Crisis Nursery.

Studies show a 72 percent reduction in the involvement of Child Protection Services for families who have used the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. The average cost per family for crisis nursery services is \$120, while a child protection assessment costs \$630 per family.

"Some of the benefits of crisis nurseries are not quantifiable," said Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka). For example, "less harm to the child, less emotional damage to families."

### Citizen watchdog

Who do you turn to when government or its agencies are unresponsive or unfair? An ombudsman.

A what? The term ombudsman is a gender-neutral term derived from the Swedish word for representative. In the public sector, an ombudsman is an independent representative who receives and investigates citizens' complaints, concerns, or questions about government agencies in a confidential way.

Minnesota has 10 ombudsman offices, which cover areas from agriculture to taxpayer rights. With relatively small budgets, those who work in these offices attempt to accomplish a lot.

In an effort to stretch those budgets, Gov. Jesse Ventura has recommended the state establish a Center for Ombudsman Services. This center would begin by placing three ombudsman offices — Mental Health and Retardation, Corrections, and Crime Victims — in one location. A one-time budget request of \$250,000 accompanies the governor's proposal. No action has yet been taken on the proposal.

"We think this will allow us to serve more people with the same amount of staff," Roberta Opheim, ombudsman for mental health and mental retardation, told the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee March 9.

"There is nothing more frustrating for a person who is trying to help people than to



**Edwina Garcia, former legislator and ombudsman for families, speaks before the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee March 9 during a budget overview.**

say, 'Yes, your problem is a serious one but we don't have the resources to help you,'" Opheim said.

The plan is to share operational expenses, pool administrative resources and personnel, and improve collaboration. Other ombudsman programs would be invited to join the center. Each group would retain its statutory authority and funding.

Representatives from the Office of Ombudsperson for Families also reported to the committee. This office helps to ensure that children and their families who are covered by child protection services are given fair treatment.

"We strive to see that laws are implemented in a culturally sensitive manner," said ombudsman Edwina Garcia. "Our goal is to help families be whole and self-sufficient."

The office includes representatives for African-American, Asian-Pacific, Hispanic, and American Indian families.

The four core principles by which all Minnesota ombudsman offices are guided were first outlined in the 1997 Model Ombudsman Act: independence, impartiality and fairness, credible review process, and confidentiality.

### Moving?

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## ★ INDUSTRY

### Installation inequities

The way existing Minnesota law is interpreted, a person is allowed to install his or her own garage door opener but cannot install the device for another person without a license.

That is one of the issues behind HF1683, sponsored by Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie).

Paulsen told the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee March 14 that the bill clarifies what electrical installation activities require a licensed master electrician to perform and what activities can be performed by other technicians.

He said the bill is similar to one that passed the committee last year, although he incorporated some changes to address concerns that were raised at that time.

The committee failed to approve the measure this time however by a 9-9 vote.

Paulsen said the bill attempts to address a problem of unnecessary burdens facing many of the state's companies, particularly some in high-tech industries. He said the state's Board of Electricity has interpreted law and imposed rules requiring those who install low voltage connections to have the same license as installation of high voltage connections.

The bill would require that certain technology-based businesses register with the Department of Administration and would be exempt from licensing requirements of the board.

The installation activities covered under the bill would be: alarm and security, telecom, irrigation and landscaping, central vacuum, building automation, power-limited lighting, automatic door, heating, venting, air conditioning or refrigeration, and other control systems that the department considers appropriate.

Rep. Rob Eastlund (R-Isanti) supports the bill because, as a building manager, he said one of the biggest problems is the amount of time it

takes to find a licensed electrician to do work.

"The electrician is the guy we always end up waiting for," he said.

Building managers are concerned with the safety of work being done, Eastlund said. "We don't want to have to deal with the consequences of shoddy workmanship."

John Schultz, executive secretary of the Board of Electricity, spoke against the bill, saying the "fragmenting of authority" would create more bureaucracy. He said the measure is unclear regarding what enforcing agency would ensure that work being done is up to standard.

## ★ LAW

### Judicial branch budget

Officials from the Minnesota Supreme Court and Court of Appeals presented their budget requests to the House Judiciary Finance Committee March 13.

The Supreme Court is requesting \$85 million for the 2002-03 biennium, including about \$53 million for state court administration, \$4 million for the state law library, nearly \$17 million for civil legal services, and about \$11 million for the operation of the Supreme Court.

The request reflects an increase of about \$31 million over the biennium. The governor recommended a total of about \$58 million for all Supreme Court operations for the biennium, which included none of the requested increases.

The Court of Appeals is asking for about \$16 million for the biennium, an increase of about \$2 million.

Officials from both entities testified that, like the district courts, the higher courts in the state need more money to cover base costs. In addition, they are requesting funds to increase salaries in the branch so it can compete for qualified applicants.

"This is work that is absolutely basic to the essential functioning of the Judicial Branch," said State Court Administrator Sue Dosal.

Judge Edward Toussaint, chief judge for the Court of Appeals, said the court needs more staff attorneys and law clerks to handle the volume of case files coming.

He showed a picture of the filings for one case that fit into nine large boxes. He said the clerk assigned to the case needed two weeks to digest all the information.

"We are running out of places for the files to go," he said of the workload current clerks are carrying.

Several judges and attorneys also testified for the Civil Legal Services portion of the budget.

Judge Larry Cohen from Ramsey County said the services provide a valuable role in that

they keep people from filing frivolous lawsuits and help people navigate their way through the judicial system.

He described a case he had once worked on while a lawyer, and the professional way lawyers handled the case on behalf of nursing home residents.

"Without legal aid, those people would not have had any representation," he said. "And while I was on the other side, I appreciated them because they served as a buffer."

Civil Legal Services has been state-funded since 1981, said Bruce Beneke, executive director of Southern Minnesota Regional Service, Inc. They're also requesting some additional funding for salaries, which one witness said are so low, they could almost qualify for legal aid themselves.

## ★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Appointing local officers

The House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee approved a bill March 14 that could reduce the number of elected county officials in the state.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

HF1290, sponsored by Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker), would allow county boards by a four-fifths vote to make the positions of the county recorder, auditor, treasurer, or auditor-treasurer appointed rather than elected positions.

Howes said that eight years ago the Legislature passed a similar bill that was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson. He said about 20 counties have had special legislation passed allowing them to convert the positions.

Under current law counties may change the positions if a referendum passes allowing the change.

Ken Jude, a Wright County commissioner, said the bill would allow counties greater flexibility in structuring their services. He said although the elected positions make decisions about operations within their offices, they have no policy-making authority.

Gary Iocco, a Goodhue County commissioner, said the recorder recently retired in his county. The replacement upset local realtors by enforcing laws that had not been previously enforced. As a result, the person felt she could not be elected and eventually accepted a job elsewhere.

"We can't have a popular person running an office that does not have the experience," he said.

Pat Soberg, the Grant County treasurer, spoke against the bill. She said appointed officials would not only be reluctant to challenge county



Jon Mastel from Minneapolis, holds up a low voltage irrigation master control and control valve while testifying March 14 in front of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee in support of HF1683, a bill that would free low voltage electrical workers from local permitting processes.

board policies, but would probably remain silent on issues in order to keep their jobs.

She said many of the current office holders support the change from elected to appointed positions because it ensures greater job security.

"This is self-serving and not in the best interest of the public," Soberg said.

## ★ MILITARY

### **Making absentee votes count**

For military personnel serving overseas, casting a ballot that is sure to be counted can sometimes be a difficult proposition.

"There is no mail or fax machine on a submarine," Michael Kodluboy, a Navy veteran who served 22 years on a submarine, told the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Election Subcommittee March 12. The bill now moves to the full committee.

Kodluboy was speaking in favor of HF901, sponsored by Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township). The bill would lessen some of the restrictions on election officials accepting military absentee ballot applications, which allow them to process requests in a more timely manner.

"This bill would help alleviate problems that could occur similar to what happened in Florida," Anderson said. Part of that state's 2000 presidential election problems stemmed from absentee ballots that arrived from overseas without a postmark.

Under the measure election officials would be allowed to accept applications from service personnel by fax.

Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer said the bill would make absentee election laws consistent. Voters who live in Minnesota currently are allowed to fax applications for absentee ballots.

The bill also clarifies that election officials can accept an application with a military person's social security number listed on the application instead of a military identification number.

Kiffmeyer said in 1972 the military identification number became identical to the person's social security number.

All voters are required to submit an application to the appropriate election official before receiving an absentee ballot. For those who live overseas, Kiffmeyer said time can be a problem since the completed ballot has to be at the polling place on Election Day.

According to information provided to the committee by Samuel Wright, a Washington D.C. attorney who specializes in military election issues, a United States Department of Defense survey showed that approximately 200,000 military personnel who tried to vote

in the 1996 presidential election were unable to do so because they received their ballot late, or did not receive one at all.

Kiffmeyer said the issue was personally important to her since six of her 13 siblings had served in the military.

"We need to count their vote not just their years of service," she said.

## ★ TAXES

### **Capital gains savings**

The ideal state tax system would be one that does not distort financial decisions, an economics professor from the University of Minnesota told the House Taxes Committee March 14.

Speaking in support of three bills that would increase a tax subtraction on capital gains, V.V. Chari said there is no methodical formula to determine what the proper balance is between a family's spending and savings needs.

"Families have a much better idea of that than economists," he said.

Chari said income taxes "distort" work and savings decisions people make. As an example, he said, if the state decided to tax economic professors more than lawyers many of the educators would leave the profession and become attorneys.

Currently in Minnesota, capital gains, or money earned from investments, is treated the same as other income.

HF10, sponsored by Rep. Jeff Johnson (R-Plymouth), would allow a 50 percent capital gains subtraction in determining individual income tax. The bill would also allow a subtraction both for the regular income tax and the alternative minimum tax.

Johnson said the bill would move the state closer to what Wisconsin's tax treatment is. That state allows a 60 percent subtraction. He said the bill addresses competitive issues, as well as equity issues.

"This is sound public policy long term," he said.

The Department of Revenue estimates the cost of the bill would be around \$794 million in 2002-03.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, is sponsoring a similar measure (HF73). That bill would allow a 60 percent subtraction and make corresponding reductions in the alternative minimum tax rate, decreasing it from 6.4 percent to 5.0 percent.

HF337, sponsored by Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), would allow a 50 percent subtraction or \$10,000 of adjusted net capital gain, whichever is greater.

The committee adopted a technical amend-

ment to Erhardt's bill but took no further action on any of the measures. Abrams said each would be considered for inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

### **Sextet of savings**

The House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division heard six bills March 12 that would reduce the state's sales tax rate by varying amounts.

HF32, sponsored by Rep. Stephen Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), HF824, sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), and HF1010, sponsored by Rep. Mark Thompson (DFL-New Hope), all would reduce the rate from the current 6.5 percent to 6 percent.

HF431, sponsored by Rep. Ray Vandever (R-Forest Lake), and HF956, sponsored by Rep. Scott Wasiluk (DFL-Maplewood), would reduce the rate to 5.5 percent.

HF315 sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), would reduce the rate to 5 percent.

Wenzel said HF32 was the first piece of legislation he sponsored this session, an indication of the importance he gives to reducing the sales tax rate.

The rate was increased from 6 percent to 6.5 percent in 1991 to help balance the state budget. Wenzel said that with current budget surpluses it is time to reduce the rate.

Kubly said the sales tax "imposes a form of double taxation" because businesses pass the cost along to consumers. Thus consumers pay the additional cost of products plus the sales tax.

Vandever said although he supports reductions in the state's income tax rates, information provided by the nonpartisan House Research department, shows that nearly 20 percent of those reductions eventually go toward paying more federal income tax.

"The important thing is the net impact of tax reductions," he said. "We have to (cut taxes) in a way that benefits the most Minnesotans."

The committee approved amendments to HF32, HF431, and HF956 that would replace revenue lost in the state's highway user tax distribution fund caused by the sales tax reduction with money from the general fund.

Amendments were also approved to the three bills that would raise the rate of the tax imposed on rental cars from 6.2 percent to 7.2 percent.

No further action was taken on any of the bills but the division chair, Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), said each would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

### Sweet tax tunes

The musical tones echoing through the hallways of the state's schools might have a more permanent ring under two bills heard by the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division March 8.

HF499, sponsored by Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), and HF548, sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), would give families who purchase musical instruments used for school music classes a tax break.

The committee took no action on either bill but Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the division chair, said both would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax package.

Currently, instruments that are rented qualify under the state K-12 education tax credit and subtraction but instruments that are owned do not qualify. John Haugen from the Department of Revenue said although this distinction does not appear in the state statutes, the state's 1981 tax instructions established a precedent the department has since held to.

Haugen said it was his guess that the reason the state made the distinction is people who buy an instrument have something of value that can be resold but people who rent an instrument do not.

HF499 would allow purchases of musical instruments to qualify for both a tax subtraction and credit that rental instruments now enjoy. The Department of Revenue estimates its cost would be about \$1.6 million over the biennium.

HF548 would allow the purchases to qualify for the subtraction only. The department estimates it would cost approximately \$120,000 in 2002-2003.

Cynthia Smith, a parent from St. Louis Park, said she recently purchased a violin for her daughter and was surprised to find out that because she purchased the instrument she did not qualify for either the education credit or subtraction.

Rep. Connie Bernardy (DFL-Fridley) echoed a similar experience saying she recently purchased a flute for her daughter. Bernardy said the cost to buy the flute was \$300, but had the family decided to enter into a rent-to-buy agreement the cost would have been \$725.

### Rate reductions requested

For the third consecutive year Minnesotans would see a decrease in their state income taxes under three bills heard by the House Taxes Committee March 14.

HF1, sponsored by Rep. Carl Jacobson (R-Vadnais Heights), and HF554, sponsored by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), would reduce the state's lowest and highest tax bracket rates by 0.50 percent. The middle rate would be lowered by 0.75 percent.

HF74, sponsored by Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), would reduce all three rates by 0.50 percent.

Jacobson said his bill would result in a 9.5 percent tax cut for a family of four with an income of \$50,000. He said that although the state couldn't do anything about those leaving Minnesota because of the weather, an income tax cut would provide an incentive to stay.

"This will reduce the flow of good paying jobs and businesses out of Minnesota," he said.

Dorman said an accountant recently told him more people are leaving the state to receive more favorable tax treatment elsewhere.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) said in his six years in the Legislature he has never heard a constituent calling for an income tax cut, but rather he gets more calls for other tax reductions.

Leighton said in rural Minnesota few make high incomes and proposals that would increase personal exemptions would be more

beneficial to more people.

David Strom from the Minnesota Taxpayers League spoke in support of all three bills. He said there has been a "dramatic growth" in state spending over the past few years and that family budgets are more important than the state budget.

"Government programs don't have the track record of individuals or communities in solving social problems," Strom said.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) said income tax cuts should focus on reducing taxes for the people who pay them.

"The people who pay taxes are the ones that make money," he said.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said he had a differing philosophy and that relieving the tax burdens on those in the middle and lower brackets "creates the environment to allow people to be successful."

The committee took no action on any of the bills, but Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, said all will be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

## TRANSPORTATION



### Road funding plans

Legislators are moving through a number of bills that could change the way the state funds road projects.

On March 13, the House Transportation Policy Committee approved three bills that would propose constitutional amendments guaranteeing 32 percent, 50 percent, and 75 percent respectively, of motor vehicle sales tax revenue to the highway user tax distribution fund. The Minnesota constitution may be amended only by a popular vote.

The bills now move to the House Transportation Finance Committee.

Currently, state law appropriates 32 percent of tax revenue from the sale of motor vehicles to a fund that aids county and municipal street projects. Lawmakers are proposing the bills as a response to a decline in revenue from recently reduced license plate tab fees.

In addition to proposing constitutional amendments, one of the bills also appropriates \$170 million over two years, most of which would be spent on Twin Cities freeways and buses.

HF927, sponsored by Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester), would devote \$42 million to "projects that efficiently give the greatest number of people reliable, safe, alternative transportation options."

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) expressed concern that restricting transit funds

### W.A.S.P. TALE



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Elizabeth Strohhus, 82, originally from Faribault, testifies in front of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs March 14 in support of HF1023, a bill that would authorize Merchant Marine and Women Airforce Service Pilots (W.A.S.P.) plaques on capitol grounds. Strohhus began flying in 1942 when she joined the Civil Air Patrol and served as a W.A.S.P. from 1943 until she was de-activated on Dec. 20, 1944. In September 2000 Strohhus was voted into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame.



to buses could drive funding away from projects such as light rail or commuter trains. "I'm worried about the unintended consequences of such limitations," she said.

While Kuisle's bill proposes devoting the current percentage of the motor vehicles sales tax to the highway user transportation fund, HF69, sponsored by Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker), would propose setting the figure at 50 percent, and HF1300, sponsored by Rep. Carl Jacobson (R-Vadnais Heights), would devote 76 percent.

### 'Kings' funding crowned

A House committee has approved the dedication of a state highway as the "King of Trails," but rejected an amendment that would have required the state to fund the placement of signs designating a highway as such.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) sponsored HF757 memorializing state Highway 75 from the Manitoba border to Iowa. Mulder told a March 8 meeting of the House Transportation Policy Committee the proposed ceremonial name is derived from the route's history as a American Indian fur trading route stretching from Winnipeg, Canada to Galveston, Texas.

Mulder endorsed an amendment, proposed by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), that would have mandated the signs be funded by Department of Transportation. State policy says the responsibility for paying for such memorial signage rests with the groups sponsoring the special designation.

He said the exemption from normal policy was appropriate because "not a cent of money was spent (to build new roads) in my district last year." Mulder represents a district through which Highway 75 runs.

Mulder expressed hope the signs would attract media attention and increase tourism, which he said has declined in recent years.

Betsy Parker, representing MnDOT, estimated the initial cost of the signs would be

\$15,000 to \$20,000. She said the department "feared a proliferation" of special signage requests if the Legislature departed from the standing policy of requiring groups to fund memorial signs.

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) said the amendment "is an issue of fairness for the state."

Following the failure of the amendment, Workman suggested the counties through which Highway 75 passes collectively fund the placement of signs.

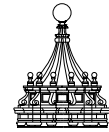
The bill now goes to the House floor.

### POLICE TESTIMONY



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

St. Paul Police Officer Paul Schnell testifies March 13 before the House Education Policy Committee in support of a bill that would require a law enforcement agency to provide written notice to the chemical abuse preassessment team in a student's school when the agency has probable cause to believe the student is using or possessing drug paraphernalia.



### NOTES

The strains of cultural music filled the House chamber before the session March 15. Groups ranging from a boy choir to bohemian dancers to a self-described "one-man acoustic jam" performed on the House floor prior to debate.

And in honor of St. Patrick's Day March 17, members were treated to a special Irish ditty, as well. Some wore six-inch paper clovers that had been left for the members on their desks in honor of the upcoming holiday. Several members, including Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Red Wing) and Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins), addressed the body.

Not to be outdone by the Irish, Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) rose in honor of St. Urho (pronounced with a husky roll of the 'r'), the patron saint of Finnish vineyard workers who is honored March 16.

He explained that Finns on the Iron Range invented the heavenly entity because their Irish neighbors celebrated St. Patrick's Day. Reminiscent of his own mythological ancestor, St. Urho was credited with quixotically chasing grasshoppers from Finland.

Rukavina reminded members of their Finnish heritage. He and three other members are married to Finns and at least four representatives are of Finnish ancestry. He added that Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids) can boast of having the House's only Finnish surname.

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at:  
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#### Index, House

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#### Sergeant at Arms, House

45 State Office Building..... 296-4860

Committee Hotline, House ..... 296-9283

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180 State Office Building..... 296-2803

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## Just say 'no'

Parents, education officials question potential overuse of Ritalin for school children

BY MARY KAY WATSON

It's paradoxical. On the one hand, schools are charged with educating children to say "no" to drugs. On the other, some might encourage medicating students with Ritalin when students exhibit restlessness or a wandering mind — not necessarily associated with a disorder.

A bill that would give parents the right to make the decision as to whether their child should take Ritalin was heard March 13 by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

HF478, sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), would also authorize a study to examine the use of Ritalin and other sympathomimetic drugs in Minnesota. The committee approved the measure, and now it moves to the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.

Increasingly, parents are charging that schools are Orwellian in their demands that children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) take Ritalin. Some parents who do not follow through have been accused of educational neglect.

Sykora said she knows of one instance where a school threatened to call child protection services because the parents refused to put their child on Ritalin. Her bill would give parents the right to make that decision without repercussions.

According to U.S. government statistics, only 4 percent to 6 percent of children need Ritalin; however, 10 percent to 30 percent of American children are taking it. The United States uses 90 percent of the world's supply of Ritalin.

Minnesota is ninth in the nation in the use of Ritalin.

There is no question that Ritalin helps most people who have ADD or ADHD. Studies show it improves attentiveness and reduces restlessness.

"For some parents, putting their child on Ritalin has been a lifesaver," Sykora said. "For others it has not."



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Legislators and officials are questioning the practice of prescribing Ritalin for school children, saying that attention deficit and hyperactivity disorders are overdiagnosed and parents are coerced into giving the drug unnecessarily.**

During the hearing, many expressed distress at anecdotal evidence that increasing numbers of children who do not have these disorders are being given prescriptions for the drug, often at the insistence of teachers and schools.

Ritalin, known generically as methylphenidate, is a stimulant in the same class of drugs as amphetamines and cocaine. In short, it has addictive qualities. Parents are understandably reluctant to put their child on such a drug.

Michele Nash, a parent from Blaine, testified that she was called by her first-grade son's teacher within a few weeks of his starting school and told she should have him tested for ADHD. Nash said she believed her son's behavior was normal for a first-grader, but she felt intimidated and reluctantly went along with the assessment.

The assessment found her son to be normal. Yet, the psychologist recommended that Nash

see a doctor about getting her son on Ritalin.

"This is the most disturbing encounter I've had in nine years of parenting," Nash said. "I experienced aggressive coercion."

"I can accept diagnoses by medical professionals, but not by teachers. They wanted to medicate him to fit their needs."

Some legislators spoke about experiences of friends and family members who were "brow-beaten" by schools to put a child on Ritalin.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), the committee chair, said members of his family whose school wanted their child on Ritalin asked the child why he thought he was at the assessment. "Because I'm stupid," the child replied.

"Teachers need to be educated about this," Goodno said. "It's completely inappropriate."

Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls) said Ritalin was the "first drug of choice in dealing with children of color."

Sykora's bill provides for training teachers in both basic educational training and in-service education to use "positive behavior interventions." These interventions would have to be part of an individual education plan for students with ADD or ADHD.

When a child has symptoms suggestive of these disorders, it is important to investigate other possible causes, such as food or ecological allergies, said Bob DeBoer, founder of New Visions Charter School in Minneapolis.

"Ritalin doesn't change the underlying problem," DeBoer said. "It can cause a child to have a flat affect. And if you have a flat affect during developmental years, you have no experience dealing with emotional highs and lows."

Even when the drug is called for, there may be reasons not to use it. Some of Ritalin's side effects include loss of appetite, anxiety, headaches, and sleeplessness. And its long-term effects are unknown.

There are alternatives to medication. One, in use at New Visions, is a method of biofeedback that uses computer technology. Some physicians recommend nutritional supplements or a change in diet.

Clearly, more information is needed. HF478 would appropriate \$50,000 from the general fund to the commissioner of Children, Families and Learning for a study on the use of Ritalin and similar medications in Minnesota. The report would be due Feb. 15, 2002.

# Concealed carry concerns

Differing opinions and high emotions regarding whether Minnesotans should be able to legally carry handguns

By JONAS M. WALKER

**Y**ears ago, one woman in Texas and another returning from a vacation in Chicago lost their parents in violent, stomach-churning shootings. Despite their experiences, the two developed diametrically opposite opinions as to the role legal, concealed weapons could play in such horrific situations.

One felt resentment at her state legislature for forbidding her to carry a handgun she would have used to return fire, and then went on to win a seat in her state legislature; the other joined an organization aimed at “protecting our communities from gun-related trauma.”

Texas Rep. Suzanna Gratia Hupp and Gay Trachsel were among many testifiers before House members considering a bill intended

chiefs discretion in determining whether applicants meet the legal requirements for a concealed weapon and demonstrate “an occupational or personal safety hazard” that would necessitate being armed.

Under HF1360, sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), county sheriffs would be required to issue a permit within 15 days of receiving an application unless the applicant fails a background check. The bill would officially designate county sheriffs as the sole authority to issue permits.

Under Boudreau’s plan, a successful applicant must be at least 21 years old, compared to the current age limit of 18; have successfully completed a training course or demonstrated experience in handling a pistol; have

sons authorized to carry pistols that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to law enforcement agencies.”

Boudreau said HF1360 “will not make it easier” to carry a pistol in public. Instead, she argues, applicants who meet the existing standards regulating permit issuance would be guaranteed a fair process.

Passage of the bill would add Minnesota to the 31 states that currently use a “shall issue” standard in determining which applicants will be granted permits. The bill is similar to others offered during the previous three biennial sessions of the Minnesota Legislature.

Proponents at the meeting included those who felt discriminated against under existing law.

Minneapolis resident Joel Rosenberg told the committee that he was first granted a permit in 1997 after documenting “repeated anti-Semitic and racist death threats.” Two years later, he was denied a permit because, he was told, he had not properly reported the threats.

“Despite my having reported each and every threat and incident to the Minneapolis Police Department precisely in the way the MPD Licensing Division had instructed me to, I was told they had no record of these threats.” Rosenberg described his experience as “the sort of unfairness and wrongness that the present system lends itself too.”

Police response to the bill was mixed. Major law enforcement organizations, including the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association and the Minnesota State Sheriffs Association, expressed disapproval. Meanwhile, Boudreau characterized their opposition as “politically-motivated” and produced a letter from two Minneapolis police officers endorsing the proposal.

Hupp, whose parents were killed by a gunman at a restaurant in 1991, said violent crimes immediately dropped after Texas began permitting residents to carry concealed weapons.

Opponents of the bill include Trachsel, whose parents were shot while sitting in a car in Chicago and Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul). At the hearing, he said, “It is simply not true that (increasing handgun permits) reduces violent crime. The more handguns we have, we are going to see more assault, more deaths.”

Paymar cited his experience working with



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TOM OLMSCHEID

**A bill to remove law enforcement discretion for granting permits to legally carry a concealed weapon in the state is moving through House committees.**

to make granting of concealed weapons permits more consistent — a process proponents now characterize as “arbitrary and capricious.”

The House Crime Prevention Committee approved HF1360 after nearly four hours of testimony March 8, referring it to the House Civil Law Committee.

Existing law grants local sheriffs and police

not been convicted of a felony; and not be listed in the state criminal gang registry. Sheriffs would be forbidden from considering any other information and would be required to explain in writing a decision to deny a permit application.

Another significant element of HF1360 is that it creates an “automated database of per-

Continued on page 35

## Trading places

Two bills would provide funding for women in nontraditional workplace settings

BY THERESA STAHL

Jeanine, a single mother of three, was working at a dead-end job for \$8 an hour when she saw a flyer in a local grocery store for WomenVenture, an organization that helps women achieve economic success and prosperity in nontraditional occupations.

After looking into the organization, Jeanine decided to begin training to become a bricklayer. She needed to work part-time throughout the program, so WomenVenture, a statewide program, helped her find work that would coordinate with her training schedule.

Upon completion of the training, she was selected for the bricklayers apprenticeship program and now earns more than \$15 an hour.

Jeanine's story is one of many Jan Jordet told the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee March 12. Jordet, vice president of WomenVenture, and other representatives of grantees of the Labor Education Advancement Program (LEAP) funding came to testify to the program's success.

"Through LEAP funding we are able to produce capable, job-ready applicants and provide excellent career paths for our clients," Jordet said.

At the committee's second meeting of the week on March 14, Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls)

introduced two bills that would allocate money to programs that encourage women to enter nontraditional careers in the trades through organizations such as WomenVenture. The trades employ few women and there is much demand for highly skilled people to take the good-paying jobs the industry offers.

Terry Clements, executive director of Women in Trades, told the committee a career qualifies as "nontraditional" if less than 25 percent of a

particular profession is made up of women. Trades include plumbing, drywall, painting, insulation, cement masonry, pipefitting, carpentry, printing, automotive service and repair, welding, heating and cooling systems, and low-voltage wiring.

HF23 would amend statutes to "require all general employment and training programs that receive state funds to make available information about opportunities for women in nontraditional careers in the trades and technical occupations."

The bill would also appropriate \$1 million of federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds for grants for nontraditional career assistance training programs in the 2002-

03 biennium. (TANF funds help families with children move from welfare to work.) HF23 next travels to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

HF41 would earmark \$900,000 for "grants to nonprofit organizations for programs that encourage and assist women to enter nontraditional careers in the trades and in manual and technical occupations."

To be eligible for the grants, a program must meet specific qualifications. One set of criteria says a program must perform outreach to girls and women through schools, community organizations, or state employment and training programs.

The bill continues saying, "The outreach must consist of general information concerning opportunities for women in the trades, manual, and technical occupations, including specific fields where worker shortages exist and specific information about training programs offered."

The other option to qualify for grant money under HF41 would be to provide assistance for women entering careers in the trades. The program must include "training designed to prepare women to succeed in nontraditional occupations."

The bill lists specific training requirements for women to be prepared to enter the trades in today's work environment, including "information about on-the-job realities for women in the particular trade, physical strength, and stamina training as needed, opportunities for developing workplace problem-solving skills, and information about the current and projected future job market and likely career paths."

The program must also provide:

- Assistance with childcare and transportation during training, job searching, and the first two months of employment for low-income women;
- Assistance with job placement during and for at least two years after completion of the training program; and
- Job retention support, such as mentorship programs, support groups, or ongoing staff contact.

"Job retention support is very important because they may be the only woman on a worksite," Mullery said.

Clements, of Women in Trades, said there are two reasons women leave the trades: isolation and the "daily psychological grind."

She talked about the YWCA Girl Power program that gives hands-on experience in

Continued on page 35



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Terry Clements, executive director of Women in Trades, testifies for a pair of bills that would provide grants encouraging women to enter nontraditional careers. Her testimony came March 14 before the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee.



# Clarifying changes

Task force recommends bill that would change the way state departments develop administrative rules

BY DAVID MAEDA

**A**fter the Legislature passes a bill and the governor signs it into law, the lawmaking process isn't always complete. Many bills that are more technical in nature require state agencies administering the changes to develop rules for implementation.

Administrative rules have the force of law, and thus there is a legal process that state agencies must go through before the rules are adopted.

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill March 9 that makes several changes to the state's rulemaking process.

The bill now goes to the House Civil Law Committee.

HF667, sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), results from a 2000 law that established a Rules Reform Task Force to make recommendations on how the state could improve its rules making process.

The task force, which met between the 2000 and 2001 sessions, was composed of members of the House and Senate, representatives from state agencies, Gov. Jesse Ventura's staff, business people, and citizens. Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr. (DFL-Winona) chaired the task force.

Seifert said the task force tried to find balance between allowing agencies to interpret and implement the Legislature's intent when developing rules, while maintaining legislative oversight. He pointed to rules involving the

Profile of Learning standards and feedlot regulations as examples where the adopted rules overstepped the Legislature's intent.

Under existing law, agencies draft proposed rules and then publish them in the State Register. A 30-day comment period is then required. If 25 people request a hearing on the proposed rules, a public hearing before an administrative law judge must then be held.

HF667 establishes a process for the Legislature to delay implementation of rules until it adjourns an annual session. The provision would give the House and Senate standing committees with jurisdiction over the subject matter the opportunity to review new rules and to delay the adoption of rules by a majority vote of the entire committees.

The bill also allows any person to petition a state agency for a variance of a rule. Agencies are allowed to grant the variance with conditions attached or if the rule causes undue hardship.

Seifert said the variance section was meant to give agencies flexibility.

"The feedlot rules are an example — where compliance with the rules meant some would have to go out of business," he said.

People may also petition the Office of Administrative Hearings when they feel an agency is enforcing, or attempting to enforce a policy, guideline, bulletin, criterion, or manual as though it were an adopted rule.

Patti Cullen from the Care Providers of Minnesota, said that provision was "a well-needed section." She said the nursing home industry is among the most heavily regulated in the state.

HF667 also establishes a process to repeal obsolete rules. Under the process an agency would identify obsolete rules in its annual report. The agency would be required to publish a legal

notice and notify those that might be affected of the rules' repeal. If 25 or more people request in writing that they want a more thorough examination, the customary rulemaking process would need to be followed.

The bill further repeals the June 30, 2001 sunset of the governor's rule veto authority.

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) offered an unsuccessful amendment to that section of the bill. His amendment would have established that the governor could not veto a rule or a portion of a rule promulgated by a constitutional officer.

Lipman said there should be separation between the constitutional officers of the state, and that the governor does not have jurisdiction over the attorney general, state auditor, secretary of state, or state treasurer.

"This is really, really important stuff," he said. "Constitutional officers are not serving at the pleasure of the governor."

Laura Offerdahl from the governor's office said the veto serves an important function by allowing a final forum to be in place.

"It is the last opportunity for the stakeholders to express concerns," she said.


Lipman said the governor has never vetoed a proposed rule but had threatened to do so last year to the election administration rules proposed by the secretary of state. The state's chief election official, among other changes, had proposed modifying the state's Election Day registration requirements.

Seifert opposed the amendment even though he had sympathy for Lipman's concerns. He said the amendment could jeopardize the work put in by the task force, and it was likely the governor would veto the bill without the rule veto authority included.

The amendment failed by a 10-6 vote.

Duane Benson, executive director of the Minnesota Business Partnership, said the bill continues efforts begun in the mid-1990s to engage the public in the state's rule making process. In 1995 the Legislature passed a law that required agencies to make reasonable efforts to notify people who may be significantly affected by proposed rules.

Benson said he supported maintaining the governor's rule veto authority and the bill in general.

"This is a big step in the right direction," Benson said. "It's consistent with more active participation by the Legislature and in fixing accountability." 

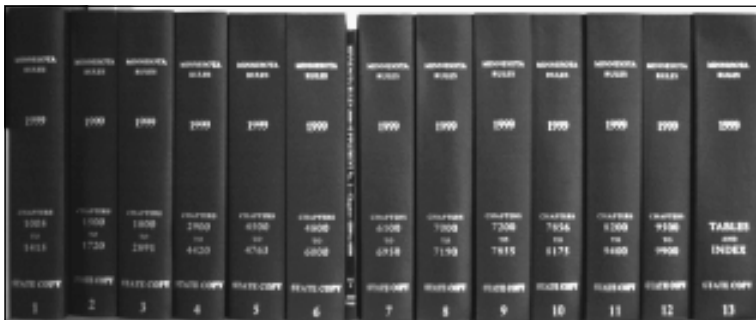


PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

An administrative rule, destined for future versions of these books, might have a different path to take, including a stop at the Legislature, under a bill heard by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee March 9.



## Monday, March 12

### HF1605—Harder (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

School district emergency fuel assistance revolving loan fund established and money appropriated.

### HF1606—Holberg (R)

#### Civil Law

Public data requests; advisory opinion issuance authorized regarding overly burdensome requests and security information and applicant data provisions clarified.

### HF1607—Tuma (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Residential and day habilitation service costs county responsibility eliminated.

### HF1608—Tuma (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Repeat offenders prior offenses committed considered when sentencing specified offenders, and consecutive sentences provided for dangerous and repeat offenders.

### HF1609—Dehler (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

State personnel system provisions modified.

### HF1610—Jennings (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Resolution relating to treatments for congestive heart failure.

### HF1611—Rukavina (DFL)

#### Taxes

Taconite production tax distribution provided.

### HF1612—Kelliher (DFL)

#### Civil Law

Public waters administrative penalty orders authorized, water appropriation permit provisions modified, fees established, and civil penalties imposed.

### HF1613—Wagenius (DFL)

#### Taxes

Low-income housing owned by a qualified nonprofit exempted from property taxation, construction and rehabilitation exempted from sales tax, payments in lieu of taxes provided.

### HF1614—Gerlach (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Compensatory revenue concentration factor eliminated.

### HF1615—Entenza (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Liquidations and investments of insurers regulated.

### HF1616—Thompson (DFL)

#### Transportation Policy

Emergency vehicle siren standards obsolete rules repealed.

### HF1617—Walker (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Five-year limit on assistance to needy families repealed.

### HF1618—Koskinen (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

MFIP noncompliance sanctions modified, and report on past sanctions required.

### HF1619—Dawkins (DFL)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

New and existing housing program funding provided, programs created, and money appropriated.

### HF1620—Howes (R)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Orderly annexation agreements strengthened.

### HF1621—Dehler (R)

#### Taxes

Sartell public facilities construction materials and supplies sales tax exemption provided.

### HF1622—Goodno (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Health care safety net preservation program established and voluntary agreements to expand intergovernmental transfers allowed.

### HF1623—Mullery (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Voluntary paid parental leave program established and money appropriated.

### HF1624—Pawlenty (R)

#### Taxes

Conservation lands; income tax credit created for land donated to the state for conservation purposes.

### HF1625—Wolf (R)

#### Regulated Industries

211 telephone human services-related referral and information system established.

### HF1626—Haas (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Independent expenditures by political parties on behalf of candidates limited as a condition of receiving a public subsidy, additional public disclosure required, multi-candidate expenditures limited, and contribution refund increased.

### HF1627—Workman (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Major transportation project fund established, motor vehicle sales tax proceeds allocated, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF1628—Huntley (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Finance

Brain injury support pilot project grants continued and money appropriated.

### HF1629—Tingelstad (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Uniform Parentage Act study and report required.

### HF1630—Ness (R)

#### Education Policy

Secondary school science teacher alternative licensure requirements established.

### HF1631—Mullery (DFL)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Hennepin County Southeast Asian collaborative transitional employment training project funded and money appropriated.

### HF1632—Mullery (DFL)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Blind; job assistance training provided for counselors for the blind, and money appropriated.

### HF1633—Boudreau (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Hennepin County group residential housing supplementary rate modified for specified facilities.

### HF1634—Mahoney (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Duty to warn law applied to social workers, and social workers allowed to form and participate in professional firms.

### HF1635—Daggett (R)

#### Taxes

Subwatershed unit tax levies authorized, and ad valorem tax levy authorized for watershed management cost increases.

### HF1636—Huntley (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

MFIP participant performance bonuses provided.

### HF1637—Buesgens (R)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

County licensure of hawkers and peddlers repealed.

### HF1638—Skoglund (DFL)

#### Civil Law

Name change affidavits accepted in lieu of court hearings.

### HF1639—Wolf (R)

#### Regulated Industries

Telecommunication services purchasing cooperatives regulated.

### HF1640—Buesgens (R)

#### Taxes

Shakopee library and police facility construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

### HF1641—Cassell (R)

#### Education Policy

Educators required to display license or credential in school.

### HF1642—Erickson (R)

#### Family & Early Childhood

#### Education Finance

State agency library on-line computer-based library catalog system funded and money appropriated.

### HF1643—Kahn (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

State and local government sustainability-based government procurement policies created, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

### HF1644—Kahn (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Capital improvement project and public building energy efficiency impact statement and energy efficiency standards required.

### HF1645—Rhodes (R)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

St. Louis Park additional on-sale intoxicating liquor licenses authorized.

**HF1646—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Labor organization employee teacher retirement provisions modified.

**HF1647—Mares (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Ramsey and Washington counties trail engineering study provided and money appropriated.

**HF1648—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
St. Paul Raspberry Island capital improvement grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1649—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Resident tuition rates for certain non-resident students provided and tuition reciprocity program phased out.

**HF1650—Penas (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Teacher mentoring pilot program created and money appropriated.

**HF1651—Olson (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Annandale City Hall construction materials and supplies sales tax exemption authorized.

**HF1652—Mares (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Ramsey County Bruce Vento Regional Trail grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1653—Gleason (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Crime—related costs levy increased to provide for criminal background checks on new school district employees.

**HF1654—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Little Falls Pine Grove Park Zoo improvements provided and money appropriated.

**HF1655—Dorn (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Civil actions against the state authorized under the federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act and the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

**HF1656—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Teacher purchase of developmental achievement center or day activity center teaching service credit under certain conditions authorized.

**HF1657—Haas (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Group long-term care insurance purchase authorized for retired state employees.

**HF1658—Bradley (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Nursing facilities, ICF/MRs, and community—based providers 3.5 percent rate increase authorized.

**HF1659—Daggett (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Solid waste management tax revenue usage requirements provided.

**HF1660—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Foster care reimbursement provisions modified.

**HF1661—Tuma (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities credit transfer required for specified lower-division courses.

**HF1662—Workman (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Board established, one-half cent metro sales tax election required, one-half cent metro sales tax and motor vehicle excise tax authorized, revenue dedicated, and money appropriated.

**HF1663—Mahoney (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Second Judicial District Court administration costs payment provided and money appropriated.

**HF1664—Kalis (DFL)**  
**Agriculture and Rural Development Finance**  
FarmAmerica—Minnesota's agricultural interpretive center in Waseca capital improvements grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1665—Mahoney (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
RiverCentre arena loan repayment directed to St. Paul Economic Development Fund.

**HF1666—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Ramsey County board tax-forfeited land sale, valuation, and use regulations provided and census reference updated.

**HF1667—Entenza (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Charter school financial reporting and management practices improvements specified.

**HF1668—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Hennepin County Southeast Asian collaborative transitional employment training project federal TANF funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1669—Krinkie (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Ramsey and Hennepin counties local public corporations and municipalities public notice publication provided on Web sites.

**HF1670—Cassell (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Previous wastewater infrastructure funding program provision effective date applied.

**HF1671—Holsten (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Heritage enhancement fund and council established, sales tax revenue dedicated, lottery ticket payments in lieu of sales tax disposition modified, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1672—Koskinen (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Local government aid for mutual aid and emergency medical communication services provided from 911 fees.

**HF1673—Stang (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Fire department equipment purchases exempted from sales tax.

**HF1674—Paulsen (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Hennepin County nursing facility rate increase provided and money appropriated.

**HF1675—Wasiluk (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Maplewood historic Bruentrup farm restoration grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1676—Wasiluk (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
North St. Paul provided tax increment financing grant.

**HF1677—Hackbarth (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Educational agencies and institutions required to provide student information to military recruiting officers, notice required, and right to refuse specified.

**HF1678—Otremba (DFL)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Central Lakes Agricultural Center educational and research program grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1679—Paulsen (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Retailers provided deduction in sales tax remittance to compensate for costs of collecting the tax.

**HF1680—Howes (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Cass Lake spear fishing authorized.

**HF1681—Dehler (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
State hiring process pilot project extended, employee identification numbers classified as public, human services chief executive officers placed in the unclassified service, and other technical housekeeping changes provided.

**HF1682—Kubly (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 2159, Buffalo Lake-Hector, additional disabled access levy authority provided.

**HF1683—Paulsen (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Technology business and activity definitions and regulation provided.

**HF1684—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
First and second degree criminal sexual conduct offenders provided indeterminate sentencing.

**HF1685—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Crookston; Rural Minnesota technology service center funding provided to University of Minnesota and money appropriated.

**HF1686—Kuisle (R)**  
**Taxes**  
State high school league event admissions exempted from sales tax.

**HF1687—Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Indian Affairs Council membership expanded to include a member from Bemidji.

**HF1688—Clark, J. (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Seasonal highway weight restriction exemptions provided for vehicles transporting livestock or feed.

**HF1689—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Casino; state lottery authorized to operate a casino in the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and money appropriated.

**HF1690—Dibble (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Metropolitan disposal system cost allocation system modified.

**HF1691—Sykora (R)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Head Start fund services and eligibility expanded.

**HF1692—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
First class city teacher pension funds modified; lump sum benefit payments, reporting and remittance requirements provided, and authority to amend articles of incorporation to Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Fund Association granted.

**HF1693—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Correctional employees plan service credit provided.

**HF1694—Lieder (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 593, Crookston, severance levy authorized.

**HF1695—Mulder (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales made by certain small town businesses exempted from taxation.

**HF1696—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
St. Louis County Partridge River wood products plant employees provided extra unemployment benefits.

**HF1697—Smith (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Dismissal of nonsupport of spouse or child charges authorized under certain circumstances.

**HF1698—Smith (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Local authority concerning regulation and causes of action by political subdivisions against firearms industry limited.

**HF1699—Wilkin (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Radiation therapy facility major spending commitments prospective review provided.

**HF1700—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Student worker program to encourage employment of protected groups and economically disadvantaged persons created and money appropriated.

**HF1701—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Voter's guide for primary and general elections provided and money appropriated.

**HF1702—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Fireworks; sparklers legalized.

**HF1703—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Vehicle license plate costs revolving appropriation established.

**HF1704—Larson (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Dissemination of certain juvenile data authorized.

**HF1705—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Driver's license account in special revenue fund created, proceeds of fees relating to functions of Department of Public Safety allocated, and money appropriated.

**HF1706—Wasiluk (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Prescription drug rebate program established and money appropriated.

**HF1707—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
St. Paul Como Park remote parking shuttle and internal transit system planning grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1708—Haas (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Long-term care employee health insurance assistance program established and money appropriated.

**HF1709—Abeler (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Emergency financial assistance to needy pregnant women or families with children extended.

## Thursday, March 15

**HF1710—Dibble (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Minor political party definition clarified, secretary of state required to notify parties of their status, and Progressive Minnesota tax check-off provided.

**HF1711—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Light rail; commuter rail funding provided for design costs, engineering, and environmental analysis for specified transit corridors, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1712—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Minnesota rural partners grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1713—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Voting age lowered to 16 and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1714—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Smoking prohibited in workplaces, smoke-free areas provided in multi-tenant buildings, littering of cigarettes defined, and criminal penalties imposed.

**HF1715—Dorn (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Railroad improvement tax increment financing districts authorized and TIF requirement exemptions provided.

**HF1716—Workman (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Law enforcement agencies required to return seized property under the forfeiture law if criminal charges are not filed within 30 days.

**HF1717—Workman (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Trunk highway turnbacks rehabilitation funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1718—Rhodes (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Spousal maintenance orders provisions limited.

**HF1719—Hilty (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Water and soil resources board duties modified to include providing operating grants, local water planning base grants increased, and money appropriated.

**HF1720—Erickson (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Retired teachers provided lifetime short-call substitute teaching licenses.

**HF1721—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Medical education program distribution formula modified.

**HF1722—Mahoney (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Landlord authority to apportion utility payments among residential units repealed.

**HF1723—Nornes (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Home school pupils counted in pupil units for basic school district revenue.

**HF1724—Holsten (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Stillwater historic territorial prison wall renovation funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1725—Gunther (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
WomenVenture business development programming grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1726—Sertich (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Metropolitan economic development association grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1727—Anderson, B. (R)**  
**State Government Finance**  
Camp Ripley National Guard Youth Camp operation and staffing assistance provided and money appropriated.

**HF1728—Workman (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Transit assistance fund expenditures restricted to operating and capital assistance to public transit systems, motor vehicle sales tax revenue dedicated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1729—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Senior congregate dining and home-delivered meals funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1730—Molnau (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Metropolitan Council required to contract for bus maintenance.

**HF1731—Kuisle (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Transit vehicles and parts sales tax and motor vehicle sales tax exemptions provided.

**HF1732—Evans (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Mounds View and New Brighton housing replacement tax increment financing projects authorized.

**HF1733—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Uniform Commercial Code Article 9 revision corrective and conforming amendments provided and money appropriated.

**HF1734—Kuisle (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Feedlots; level one feedlot inventory provided.

**HF1735—Johnson, S. (DFL)**  
**Judiciary Finance**  
St. Paul victim intervention project grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1736—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Taconite plant capital improvements loan fund established and money appropriated.

**HF1737—Kelliher (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Minneapolis parks grant provided for Bassett's Creek Trail construction and money appropriated.

**HF1738—Wilkin (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Public subsidies prohibited to candidates who fail to file a campaign report within five days.

**HF1739—Molnau (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
State agency head salary recommendation provisions specified, and agency head, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities administrator, and government engineer salary recommendations ratified.

**HF1740—Clark, J. (R)**  
**Taxes**  
State tax share payments to counties with tribal casinos increased.

**HF1741—Gunther (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Biogas recovery facilities included in the renewable energy production incentive program.

**HF1742—Mares (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Municipal employee salary compensation limit increased.

**HF1743—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Tribal police departments exercising state arrest powers authorized to receive police state aid.

**HF1744—Entenza (DFL)**  
**State Government Finance**  
State Employee Combined Charities Campaign administered by Department of Employee Relations and money appropriated.

**HF1745—Nornes (R)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Accredited child care centers annual bonus incentive established and money appropriated.

**HF1746—Nornes (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
After-school enrichment grant program organizations required to be charitable, grant priority established, and money appropriated.

**HF1747—Solberg (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Itasca County chemical dependency demonstration project rule exemption extended.

**HF1748—Harder (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board authorized to grant staffing variances for basic life support ambulances operated rural ambulance services.

**HF1749—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Cook, Lake, and St. Louis counties emergency communications equipment funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1750—Gunther (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Renewable energy production incentive payments provided.

**HF1751—Rhodes (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Child support calculation modified, custodial parent required to submit declaration of a child's residence, occupational and driver's license suspension process modified, and criminal penalties imposed.

**HF1752—Solberg (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
County-provided detoxification services reimbursed by the state.

**HF1753—Sertich (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Hibbing Community College central campus building purchase provided and money appropriated.

**HF1754—Kuisle (R)**  
**Taxes**  
County purchases exempted from sales tax and county aid payments reduced to reflect reduced county spending.

**HF1755—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Speed limits reduced for vehicles within 1,000 feet of stopped emergency vehicles, and public awareness plan developed.

**HF1756—Sertich (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Natural Resources Research Institute grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1757—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Prior service credit purchase authorized for Minnesota correctional retirement plan member.

**HF1758—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Raymond Street reconstruction project materials and supplies sales tax exemption provided.

**HF1759—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Greater Minnesota and metropolitan transit funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1760—Mulder (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Independent School District No. 671, Hills-Beaver Creek, school year start prior to Labor Day authorized.

**HF1761—Holsten (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Stream protection and improvement loan program grant funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1762—Howes (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Longville City Hall ambulance building construction completion grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1763—Olson (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Water management authority public drainage system transfer allowed and water management authority defined.

**HF1764—Gleason (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Coldwater Springs Camp Coldwater area historical preservation ensured.

**HF1765—Abrams (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Election equipment upgrades authorized, obsolete language eliminated, voting instructions translated, more accurate election results provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1766—Holberg (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Legislative and congressional districts coordinated and size of legislature reduced.

**HF1767—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
High school driver education classroom instruction on interactive television allowed and rulemaking provided.

**HF1768—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Minneapolis Police Relief Association voluntary employee benefit organization establishment required.

**HF1769—Stanek (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Metropolitan Council express bus service to downtown Minneapolis demonstration project provided and money appropriated.

**HF1770—Finseth (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Ring dike construction grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1771—Finseth (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Red River Basin flood hazard mitigation grants provided, references to subwatershed projects removed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF1772—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Supplemental pension plan contribution restriction exception provided.

**HF1773—Swenson (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Minnesota rail service improvement program money appropriated.

**HF1774—Clark, J. (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Trunk highway right-of-way advance acquisition money appropriated.

**HF1775—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Metropolitan Transit operating and capital assistance provided, commuter rail project and Greater Minnesota transit operating funded, and money appropriated.

**HF1776—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Trunk highway bridge construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation money appropriated.



**HF1777—Walz (R)****Judiciary Finance**

Methamphetamine lab law enforcement cost grant money appropriated.

**HF1778—Walz (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Bataan Death March commemorative plaque placement in the State Capitol provided.

**HF1779—Westrom (R)****Regulated Industries**

411; immediate credit provided for calls made to directory assistance when incorrect information is given.

**HF1780—Rhodes (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

St. Louis Park Westwood Hills Nature Center grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1781—Walz (R)****Crime Prevention**

Corrections policies relating to chemical dependency treatment, background studies, inmate deaths, sexual activities with inmates, and HIV testing established.

**HF1782—Otremba (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Long Prairie River declared a canoe and boating route.

**HF1783—Smith (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minnesota State Retirement System correctional plan contribution rates increased.

**HF1784—Skoglund (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Controlled substance analogue treatment defined and amphetamine and gamma hydroxybutyric acid sale and possession penalties provided.

**HF1785—Ozment (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Science Museum of Minnesota operating expenses provided and money appropriated.

**HF1786—Kubly (DFL)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Upper Minnesota Valley travel information facility construction grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1787—Walker (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

MinnesotaCare tax exemption provided for direct payments not involving a third party insurer.

**HF1788—Lindner (R)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Rental housing assistance program for persons with mental illness program funded and money appropriated.

**HF1789—Lindner (R)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Employment support services for persons with mental illness grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1790—Workman (R)****Civil Law**

Facility maltreatment of a child provisions established, maltreatment investigation access to medical records access clarified, appeal rights provided, facility operator duties expanded, training required, and criminal penalties imposed.

**HF1791—Otremba (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Ambulance staffing requirements waiver provided.

**HF1792—Otremba (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Referendum revenue stabilized in districts with declining enrollment.

**HF1793—Kahn (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minneapolis Police Relief Association member referendum authorized.

**HF1794—Otremba (DFL)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Nursing facility emergency energy assistance provided and money appropriated.

**HF1795—Eastlund (R)****Transportation Finance**

Transportation revolving loan funds transferred from the general fund.

**HF1796—Otremba (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Insurance information reporting regulated and credit scoring prohibited.

**HF1797—Peterson (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 378, Dawson-Boyd, fund transfer authorized.

**HF1798—Wenzel (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Sentencing to service crew leaders included in correctional employees retirement plan, and coverage provided for prior state service for specified employees.

**HF1799—Sertich (DFL)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Centers for independent living grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1800—Stang (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and Bloomington hotel on-sales at hotels authorized and exempted from on-sale hours restrictions.

**HF1801—Clark, K. (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

“Nickel-a-drink” tax on alcoholic beverages imposed, deposit of revenues provided, aftercare services revenues earmarked.

**HF1802—Johnson, R. (DFL)****Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Manure methane digester loan funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1803—Walker (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

MFIP unearned income provision relating to public housing and assisted rental subsidies repealed.

**HF1804—Winter (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Hospital, nursing facility, ICF/MR, and home/community based provider automatic annual inflation adjustments provided and rate increase provided.

**HF1805—Folliard (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

MFIP assistance 60-month time limit exemptions and extensions provided.

**HF1806—Knoblach (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

St. Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, St. Joseph, and St. Augusta local sales and use tax imposition authorized to pay for costs of regional airport and library.

**HF1807—Skoglund (DFL)****Civil Law**

Child support collection and enforcement improvement measures and civil penalties provided.

**HF1808—Clark, J. (R)****Crime Prevention**

Methamphetamine; MDMA added to list of schedule I controlled substances and MDMA and MDA added to controlled substance penalty enhancement provisions.

**HF1809—Fuller (R)****Crime Prevention**

Impaired driving consecutive sentencing provisions clarified.

**HF1810—Fuller (R)****Civil Law**

Health professionals required to report injuries resulting from alcohol- or controlled substance-related accidents when asked by a peace officer, and civil and criminal immunity granted.

**HF1811—Anderson, I. (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Judges retirement plan modifications effective date clarified.

**HF1812—McGuire (DFL)****Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Basic sliding fee child care program parent fees reduced and money appropriated.

**HF1813—McGuire (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Alcohol retailer compliance grant program established, reports required, and money appropriated.

**HF1814—Swenson (R)****Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Agricultural society exhibitor award indexed funding levels provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1815—Dorman (R)****Agriculture Policy**

Feedlot permit requirements specified.

**HF1816—Seifert (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Community support services expanded by waiver for persons with brain injuries or who otherwise would be in a health facility.

**HF1817—Workman (R)****Transportation Policy**

Utility facilities regulation modified in railroad rights-of-way.

**HF1818—McGuire (DFL)****Civil Law**

Alcohol retailer compliance checks grant program established, minimum civil and license penalties imposed for underage sale violations, reports required, and money appropriated.

**HF1819—Nornes (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Alcohol and drug counselor licensure reporting requirement repealed, and exchange of information provided for investigations of counselors.

**HF1820—Clark, J. (R)****Taxes**

New Ulm public building improvements construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

**HF1821—Kuisle (R)****Transportation Policy**

Motor vehicle dealers allowed temporary licensing exemption for sale of horse trailers and recreational vehicles.

**HF1822—Ozment (R)****Education Policy**

Environmental fund revenues dedicated and expenditures authorized, remediation fund established, and money appropriated.

**HF1823—Holberg (R)****Judiciary Finance**

Prostitution; residential rehabilitative program grant provided for chemically dependent women leaving prostitution, and money appropriated.

**HF1824—Stanek (R)****Judiciary Finance**

Reimbursement grants provided for organizations that have contributed to the criminal gang strike force.

**HF1825—Harder (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 173, Mountain Lake, fund transfer authorized.

**HF1826—Erickson (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Veterans educational assistance provisions modified.

**HF1827—Swenson (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Pollution Control Agency authority to expedite permits clarified.

**HF1828—Ozment (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Wetland replacement and classification provisions modified, wetland delineator certification program established, rulemaking authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF1829—Larson (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Autistic children intensive early intervention behavior therapy medical assistance coverage provided.

**HF1830—Workman (R)****Transportation Policy**

Public access to specified motor vehicle accident data granted.

**HF1831—Anderson, B. (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Instant runoff voting system adopted and money appropriated.

**HF1832—Goodno (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

MFIP sanctions and program eligibility requirements for non-compliant recipients modified, and hardship extensions established.

**HF1833—Goodno (R)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Multiple Sclerosis services nursing facility reimbursement pilot project authorized and money appropriated.

**HF1834—Marquart (DFL)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Breckenridge and East Grand Forks grants provided to reimburse temporary financing in anticipation of FEMA financing for 1997 flood recovery projects and money appropriated.

**HF1835—Tuma (R)****Crime Prevention**

Local financial crimes investigation units authorized and money appropriated.

**HF1836—Westrom (R)****Transportation Policy**

Permits authorized for vehicles and combinations up to 88,000 pounds gross weight on interstate highways and fees provided.

**HF1837—Clark, K. (DFL)****Civil Law**

Voluntary landlord and tenant mediation programs authorized.

**HF1838—Koskinen (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Long-term care facility employee health coverage account established, task force created, and money appropriated.

**HF1839—Mares (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Volunteer firefighter relief associations allowed to pay service pensions to former members who are full-time employees of the fire department.

**HF1840—Slawik (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Human services advisory councils and committees expiration dates extended.

**HF1841—Kelliher (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Minneapolis maximum total sales tax increased.

**HF1842—Westerberg (R)****Taxes**

Long-term capital gain income tax exclusion provided.

**HF1843—Mullery (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Geographic restriction standards provided for offenders on probation and supervised release.

**HF1844—Mullery (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Gang loitering definitions, enforcement, and penalties provided.

**HF1845—Marquart (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Red River Basin water management grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1846—Mullery (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Passenger and driver safety improvements provided on MCTO buses and money appropriated.

**HF1847—Wilkin (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Basic formula allowance increased and compensatory revenue eliminated.

**HF1848—Knoblach (R)****Taxes**

Marriage; income tax penalty for marriage reduced.

**HF1849—Mullery (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Prostitution solicitation, inducement, and promotion subject to increased sentences for dangerous and repeat offenders.

**HF1850—Abeler (R)****Education Policy**

Flexible learning year program expansion three-year pilot project established.

**HF1851—Abeler (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

State health care program provider participation non-financial barrier identification required.

**HF1852—Abeler (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Referendum offset adjustment continued until a district's referendum is renewed.

**HF1853—Abeler (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Special education; 100 percent state funding provided over a seven year period and money appropriated.

**HF1854—Abeler (R)****Education Policy**

Special education services developed and access to information provided.

**HF1855—Knoblach (R)****Capital Investment**

Design-build contracts and exempt rules provided.

**HF1856—Mullery (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Cockfighting, dogfighting, and other domestic animal fighting criminal penalties imposed, disposition and care of animals provided, hearings specified, and evidence admissibility clarified.

**HF1857—Smith (R)****Civil Law**

Uniform Arbitration Act adopted providing for arbitration of disputes.

**HF1858—Cassell (R)****Education Policy**

Technical college printing and publishing program created and reports required.

**HF1859—McElroy (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Department of Economic and Workforce Development created; certain duties of the departments of trade and economic development, economic security, and labor and industry transferred, and money appropriated.

**HF1860—Bishop (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Sexual assault victim emergency contraception and information provided by hospital emergency rooms, and penalties provided.

**HF1861—Holberg (R)****Transportation Policy**

General obligation bonds authorized to be issued for trunk highway construction, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1862—Seagren (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Advanced placement and international baccalaureate program provisions clarified and money appropriated.

**HF1863—Leppik (R)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Mental health services rate increase provided and money appropriated.

**HF1864—Huntley (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

General assistance and general assistance medical care ineligibility provision removed.

**HF1865—Milbert (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

School District No. 199, Inver Grove, full-day kindergarten program grant authorized and money appropriated.

**HF1866—Kelliher (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Parenting leave unemployment insurance benefit eligibility specified and solvency assessments regulated.

**HF1867—Walker (DFL)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Minneapolis health education and promotion program on food safety in the Latino, Somali, and Southeast Asian communities grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1868—Davids (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Mandatory statewide health insurance plan for school district employees established, post-retirement health insurance coverage provided through individual trust funds, labor management design team established, and money appropriated.

**HF1869—Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Expiration dates of various advisory councils, committees, and other multimember entities changed.

**HF1870—Otremba (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

MinnesotaCare 18-month employer-subsidized coverage barrier exclusion provided for certain families and individuals.

**HF1871—Huntley (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Supplementary service rates for mental illness or chemical dependency facilities not to exceed the nonfederal share for case mix A.

**HF1872—Marquart (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Vocational rehabilitation facilities grant procedures technical changes provided.

## Minnesota House and Senate Membership

**1** A • Rep. Maxine Penas-(R)  
B • Rep. Tim Finseth-(R)  
Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-(DFL)

**2** A • Rep. Bernie L. Lieder-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Rod Skoe-(DFL)  
Sen. Roger D. Moe-(DFL)

**3** A • Rep. Irv Anderson-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Loren A. Solberg-(DFL)  
Sen. Bob Lessard-(IP)

**4** A • Rep. Doug Fuller-(R)  
B • Rep. Larry Howes-(R)  
Sen. Anthony G. "Tony" Kinkel-(DFL)

**5** A • Rep. Tom Rukavina-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Anthony "Tony" Sertich-(DFL)  
Sen. David J. Tomassoni-(DFL)

**6** A • Rep. Thomas (Tom) Bakk-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Thomas Huntley-(DFL)  
Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-(DFL)

**7** A • Rep. Dale Swapinski-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Mike Jaros-(DFL)  
Sen. Sam G. Solon-(DFL)

**8** A • Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL)  
Sen. Becky Lourey-(DFL)

**9** A • Rep. Kevin Goodno-(R)  
B • Rep. Paul Marquart-(DFL)  
Sen. Keith Langseth-(DFL)

**10** A • Rep. Bud Nornes-(R)  
B • Rep. George Cassell-(R)  
Sen. Cal Larson-(R)

**11** A • Rep. Roxann Daggett-(R)  
B • Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba-(DFL)  
Sen. Dallas C. Sams-(DFL)

**12** A • Rep. Dale Walz-(R)  
B • Rep. Stephen G. Wenzel-(DFL)  
Sen. Don Samuelson-(DFL)

**13** A • Rep. Torrey Westrom-(R)  
B • Rep. Doug Peterson-(DFL)  
Sen. Charles A. Berg-(R)

**14** A • Rep. Steve Dehler-(R)  
B • Rep. Doug Stang-(R)  
Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-(R)

**15** A • Rep. Al Juhnke-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Gary W. Kubly-(DFL)  
Sen. Dean E. Johnson-(DFL)

**16** A • Rep. Joe Opatz-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Jim Knobloch-(R)  
Sen. Dave Kleis-(R)

**17** A • Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R)  
B • Rep. Leslie J. Schumacher-(DFL)  
Sen. Dan Stevens-(R)

**18** A • Rep. Rob Eastlund-(R)  
B • Rep. Loren Geo Jennings-(DFL)  
Sen. Twyla Ring-(DFL)

**19** A • Rep. Mark Olson-(R)  
B • Rep. Bruce Anderson-(R)  
Sen. Mark Ourada-(R)

**20** A • Rep. Robert "Bob" Ness-(R)  
B • Rep. Tony Kielkucki-(R)  
Sen. Steve Dille-(R)

**21** A • Rep. Marty Seifert-(R)  
B • Rep. Richard Mulder-(R)  
Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-(R)

**22** A • Rep. Ted Winter-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Elaine Harder-(R)  
Sen. Jim Vickerman-(DFL)

**23** A • Rep. James T. Clark-(R)  
B • Rep. Howard Swenson-(R)  
Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-(R)

**24** A • Rep. John Dorn-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Ruth Johnson-(DFL)  
Sen. John C. Hottinger-(DFL)

**25** A • Rep. John Tuma-(R)  
B • Rep. Lynda Boudreau-(R)  
Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-(R)

**26** A • Rep. Bob Gunther-(R)  
B • Rep. Henry J. Kalis-(DFL)  
Sen. Chuck Fowler-(DFL)

**27** A • Rep. Dan Dorman-(R)  
B • Rep. Rob Leighton-(DFL)  
Sen. Grace S. Schwab-(R)

**28** A • Rep. Connie Ruth-(R)  
B • Rep. Steve Sviggum-(R)  
Sen. Dick Day-(R)

**29** A • Rep. Jerry Dempsey-(R)  
B • Rep. Mike Osskopp-(R)  
Sen. Steve Murphy-(DFL)

**30** A • Rep. Fran Bradley-(R)  
B • Rep. Dave Bishop-(R)  
Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-(R)

**31** A • Rep. William Kuisle-(R)  
B • Rep. Gregory M. Davids-(R)  
Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-(R)

**32** A • Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Michelle Rifenberg-(R)  
Sen. Bob Kierlin-(R)

**33** A • Rep. Arlon Lindner-(R)  
B • Rep. Rich Stanek-(R)  
Sen. Warren Limmer-(R)

**34** A • Rep. Steve Smith-(R)  
B • Rep. Jeff Johnson-(R)  
Sen. Gen Olson-(R)

**35** A • Rep. Carol L. Molnau-(R)  
B • Rep. Mark Buesgens-(R)  
Sen. Claire A. Robling-(R)

**36** A • Rep. Chris Gerlach-(R)  
B • Rep. Dan McElroy-(R)  
Sen. David L. Knutson-(R)

**37** A • Rep. Dennis Ozment-(R)  
B • Rep. Mary Liz Holberg-(R)  
Sen. Pat Pariseau-(R)

**38** A • Rep. Tim Wilkin-(R)  
B • Rep. Tim Pawlenty-(R)  
Sen. Deanna L. Wiener-(DFL)

**39** A • Rep. Thomas W. Pugh-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Bob Milbert-(DFL)  
Sen. James P. Metzen-(DFL)

**40** A • Rep. Dan Larson-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Ann Lenczewski-(DFL)  
Sen. David H. Johnson-(DFL)

**41** A • Rep. Alice Seagren-(R)  
B • Rep. Ken Wolf-(R)  
Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-(R)

**42** A • Rep. Ron Erhardt-(R)  
B • Rep. Erik Paulsen-(R)  
Sen. Roy Terwilliger-(R)

**43** A • Rep. Tom Workman-(R)  
B • Rep. Barb Sykora-(R)  
Sen. Edward C. Oliver-(R)

**44** A • Rep. Betty Folliard-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Jim Rhodes-(R)  
Sen. Steve Kelley-(DFL)

**45** A • Rep. Ron Abrams-(R)  
B • Rep. Peggy Leppik-(R)  
Sen. Martha R. Robertson-(R)

**46** A • Rep. Mark Thompson-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson-(DFL)  
Sen. Ann H. Rest-(DFL)

**47** A • Rep. Darlene Luther-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Debra Hilstrom-(DFL)  
Sen. Linda Scheid-(DFL)

**48** A • Rep. Bill Haas-(R)  
B • Rep. Connie Bernardy-(DFL)  
Sen. Don Betzold-(DFL)

**49** A • Rep. Jim Abeler-(R)  
B • Rep. Luanne Koskinen-(DFL)  
Sen. Leo Foley-(DFL)

**50** A • Rep. Tom Hackbarth-(R)  
B • Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-(R)  
Sen. Debbie J. Johnson-(R)

**51** A • Rep. Andrew Westberg-(R)  
B • Rep. Ray Vandever-(R)  
Sen. Jane Krentz-(DFL)

**52** A • Rep. Barbara Goodwin-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Geri Evans-(DFL)  
Sen. Satveer Chaudhary-(DFL)

**53** A • Rep. Philip Krinkie-(R)  
B • Rep. Carl Jacobson-(R)  
Sen. Mady Reiter-(R)

**54** A • Rep. Mary Jo McGuire-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Mindy Greiling-(DFL)  
Sen. John Marty-(DFL)

**55** A • Rep. Harry Mares-(R)  
B • Rep. Scott Wasiluk-(DFL)  
Sen. Charles W. Wiger-(DFL)

**56** A • Rep. Mark William Holsten-(R)  
B • Rep. Eric Lipman-(R)  
Sen. Michele Bachmann-(R)

**57** A • Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Sharon Marko-(DFL)  
Sen. Leonard R. Price-(DFL)

**58** A • Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Gregory Gray-(DFL)  
Sen. Linda Higgins-(DFL)

**59** A • Rep. Len Biernat-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL)  
Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-(DFL)

**60** A • Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Scott Dibble-(DFL)  
Sen. Myron Orfield-(DFL)

**61** A • Rep. Karen Clark-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Neva Walker-(DFL)  
Sen. Linda Berglin-(DFL)

**62** A • Rep. Jim Davnie-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Wes Skoglund-(DFL)  
Sen. Julie A. Sabo-(DFL)

**63** A • Rep. Jean Wagenius-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Mark S. Gleason-(DFL)  
Sen. Jane B. Ranum-(DFL)

**64** A • Rep. Matt Entenza-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL)  
Sen. Richard J. Cohen-(DFL)

**65** A • Rep. Andy Dawkins-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL)  
Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-(DFL)

**66** A • Rep. Tom Osthoff-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Alice Hausman-(DFL)  
Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-(DFL)

**67** A • Rep. Tim Mahoney-(DFL)  
B • Rep. Sheldon Johnson-(DFL)  
Sen. Randy C. Kelly-(DFL)

Schedule is subject to change.  
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## MONDAY, March 19

8:15 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF857 (Kielkucki) Election day registration to require picture identification, additional registration information required, certain felony convictions reported, and rulemaking authorized.

HF479 (Lipman) Election day voter registration identity and residence requirements modified, election administration practice study requested, election equipment purchase revolving loan fund created, and money appropriated.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF1123 (Mulder) Nonmetropolitan county prepaid medical assistance program capitation rates increased.

HF1124 (Mulder) Nonmetropolitan inpatient hospital rates for certain diagnosis-related groups adjusted.

HF281 (Greiling) Civil commitment mentally ill definition and emergency hold standard modified, early intervention hospital stay extended, and specified hearings on medications combined with commitment proceeding.

HF812 (Bradley) Suicide prevention goals, programs, duties and studies required; mental illness transition plans established; provider payment rates adjusted; mental health services and treatment coverage requirements provided; and money appropriated.

HF1531 (Bradley) Young adult transitional services provided and community-based mental health services increased.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** HF1003 (Gunther) Displaced homemakers program funding provided and money appropriated.

HF387/SF142 (Walker/Higgins) Black Minnesotans council membership increased.

HF1038 (Clark, J.) Minnesota Inventors Congress grants provided and money appropriated.

Review of Occupational Industrial Center (OIC) programs.

### TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** HF1773 (Swenson) Minnesota rail service improvement program money appropriated.

HF1520 (Kuisle) County and municipal state-aid street fund restrictions modified, highway safety center grant authority transferred, and state rail bank lease provisions modified.

HF672 (Hausman) Railroad bridge expansion financial assistance authorized.

10:15 a.m.

### CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF1446 (Smith) Family law recodification provided for marriage dissolution, child custody, support, and maintenance provisions, and conforming changes provided. HF1360 (Boudreau) Minnesota Citizens' Personal Protection act of 2001 adopted recognizing the right to self-defense, providing permits to carry a pistol, and imposing criminal penalties.

**Note:** Any unfinished business will be conducted in 500S State Office Building at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: Remediation Fund and Solid Waste Fund.

Office of Environmental Assistance budget presentation.

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** HF1661 (Tuma) Minnesota State Colleges and Universities credit transfer required for specified lower-division courses.

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** HF1372 (Erickson) Relating to education; appropriating money for electronic continual learning plans.

HF1351 (Abeler) Relating to education; allowing local learn and earn programs to add up to five additional program slots; providing for a subsequent evaluation of student outcomes; appropriating money.

HF1434 (Juhnke) Relating to education finance; extending the metropolitan magnet school grant program statewide; appropriating money.

HF1052 (Leighton) Relating to education finance; extending the disabled access levy for Independent School District No. 500, Southland.

HF1601 (Carlson) Relating to education funding; authorizing a grant for the metro homework hotline; appropriating money.

HF1575 (Carlson) Relating to education finance; continuing the same level of compensatory revenue for districts that reduce the concentration of students eligible for free or reduced price meals by closing a school facility.

### Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

**Agenda:** HF1398 (Dorman) Residential rental property class rates reduced, and homestead and agricultural credit aid computation adjusted to compensate for lost revenue.

HF1035 (Peterson) Agricultural homestead property residency location requirement exception provided for employer-provided housing.

HF1461 (Marquart) Agricultural homestead classification maximum distance from residency extended.

HF1187 (Mulder) Education agricultural property tax credit increased.

### Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

**Agenda:** HF1559 (Sviggum) Exempts construction materials and equipment for a fire hall in the city of Dodge Center from sales and use taxes.

HF931 (Cassell) Extends the same sales tax and motor vehicle excise tax exemptions applicable to nonpublic schools to school districts.



HF946 (Winter) Eliminates the special sales and use tax rates on motor vehicle rentals and alcohol sales.

HF947 (Winter) Extends the exemption for the construction of an agricultural processing facility by one year.

HF1190 (Dorman) Exempts construction materials and equipment for certain agricultural processing facilities from the sales and use taxes.

**12:30 p.m.**

#### **FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD**

##### **EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** Child Care, Gerald Cutts, Development Corporation for Children.

Fiscal Overview of Child Care, Katherine Schill, House Fiscal Analyst.

HF1515 (Sykora) Relating to family and early childhood education finance; consolidating MFIP and basic sliding fee child care assistance programs; modifying income eligibility.

HF504 (Mulder) Relating to family and early childhood education; modifying the at-home infant child care program.

HF1449 (Swapinski) Relating to early childhood; creating a grant program to increase the education and retention of child care providers and staff.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** HF1340 (Anderson, B.) Wright County recorder appointment permitted.

HF1589 (Howes) Bid and performance bond thresholds modified for economic development projects.

HF1465 (Stanek) Police civil service periodic examinations permitted and clarifying changes provided.

HF1077 (Rukavina) Aggregate material removal tax extended to counties that vote to impose the tax and rate of tax increased.

HF610 (Solberg) Local public officer's conflict of interest law exception provided (continued hearing).

#### **REGULATED INDUSTRIES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

**Agenda:** Mark-up of Committee Energy Bills:

HF659 (Wolf) State energy plan established, energy conservation promoted, and conforming, technical and clarifying changes provided (Governor's Proposal).

HF1323 (Jennings/Wolf) Energy Reliability and Regulatory Flexibility Act.

**Note:** Meeting will be continued at 7 p.m. in 118 State Capitol if agenda is not finished during our regular meeting.

**3 p.m.**

#### **THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

**After session at the call of the chair  
(approx. 6 p.m. — monitor schedule)**

#### **Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

**Agenda:** HF1690 (Dibble) Metropolitan disposal system cost allocation system modified.

Other business: Consider previously heard bills (HF46, HF444, HF1218, HF1322).

**6 p.m.**

#### **Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement**

107 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Dean Johnson

**Agenda:** Update briefing on Minnesota retirement building project.

S.F. 53 (Kleis); H.F. 95 (Opatz): PERA; Retroactive payment of bounce back annuity to deceased former St. Cloud city employee.

S.F. 77 (Wiger); H.F. XXXX: PERA; Exclude certain St. Paul city trades personnel and Metropolitan Airports Commission plumbers from PERA coverage.

S.F. 1096 (Pogemiller); H.F. 1334 (Kahn): MSRS; University hospital employee disability benefits continuation.

S.F. 841 (Kiscaden); H.F. XXXX: TRA; Exempting certain teachers from post-retirement earnings limits and reductions. S.F. 1129 (Johnson, Dean); H.F. 968 (Juhnke): Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations; Provide ambulance service personnel state supplemental benefits, and increase amount and limits on supplemental benefits.

S.F. 695 (Vickerman); H.F. 597 (Evans): Various; Automatic joint and survivor annuities.

S.F. 777 (Tomassoni); H.F. 1161 (Sertich): MSRS; Refund eligibility.

S.F. 24 (Wiger); H.F. XXXX: Volunteer Fire; Service pension payment upon fire department reemployment.

S.F. XXXX; H.F. 855 (Mares): PERA; Contribution increases, benefit modifications, and coverage changes.

S.F. 810 (Pogemiller); H.F. XXXX: PERA; Contribution.

#### **TUESDAY, March 20**

**8:15 a.m.**

#### **EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** HF1366 (Buesgens)/HF 1470 (Kuisle) School district contracts with teachers required to be structurally balanced.

HF1192 (Abeler) Applicants for temporary

limited teaching license or personnel variance permitted to submit applications by July 1, and conforming rule changes provided.

HF1231 (Erickson) School media program staff position established, school media center study initiated, and money appropriated.

HF1280 (Seagren) Elementary reading specialist licensure provided, and elementary school teacher license requirements modified.

HF923 (Skoe) Repealing mandated three additional days of student instruction or staff development training.

#### **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF1658 (Bradley) Nursing facilities, ICF/MRs, and community-based providers 3.5 percent rate increase authorized.

HF1522 (Bradley) Full-time nursing home administrator requirements modified.

HF985 (Knoblach) Respite care for family adult foster care providers program established.

HF994 (Dorn) Hospitals operation, construction and equipment rules variance or waiver request procedure.

HF424 (Greiling) Mental retardation and related conditions waiver recipients authorized access to respite care in intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation and related conditions (ICF/MR).

HF886 (Mulder) Immunization schedule established annually for persons enrolled in schools, child care facilities, or post-secondary institutions, and task force established.

HF729 (Ozment) Nursing grant program for persons of color established, summer health care interns and nursing loan forgiveness programs modified, nursing scholarship and health care planning programs established, study required, and money appropriated.

HF1440 (Mulder) Nurse licensure compact enacted.

HF976 (Abeler) Chiropractors; licensing requirements and grounds for disciplinary action modified.

HF1067 (Boudreau) Social work licensure examination requirement exception provided for certain persons who are refugees or immigrants to the United States and for whom English is a second language.

HF1151 (Mulder) Psychologist disciplinary actions penalty provisions modified.

More bills may be added.

**Note:** If necessary, this meeting will continue at 4 p.m. in Room 5 of the State Office Building.

#### **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** HF678 (Bishop) Community corrections; sex offender treatment corrections and productive day initiative programs grants provided, and money appropriated.

Others to be announced.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** HF1314 (Mares) Seat belt offense designated as a primary offense.

HF735 (Leppik) Seat belts; passenger restraint requirements for minors prescribed, booster seat requirements provided, seat belt requirement extended to all passengers in vehicle, certain exemptions eliminated, and penalties increased.

**10:15 a.m.**

## CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** HF1007 (Davids) Relating to trade regulations, prohibiting gasoline sales below cost; providing enforcement authority [pending rereferral]

HF748 (Sykora) Attention deficit disorder(ADD), parents and providers required to evaluate programs prior to prescribing drugs to children with ADD, educational neglect definition clarified; [pending rereferral]

HF1519 (Clark, J.) Sex offender DNA submission requirements expanded; penalty increased for fleeing a peace officer resulting in death; crime of aiding an offender expanded; and domestic abuse case evidence provisions modified;

HF1427 (Fuller) DWI technical bill: preliminary screening test results deemed admissible for implied consent prosecution; certain first-time offenders prohibited from receiving reduced revocation period; plate impoundment law amended, and criminal penalties enhanced;

**Note:** Additional DWI technical bills and other bills will be added.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** HF1306 (Howes) Minnesota Conservation Corps program and decorative forest products provisions modified, sustainable forest resources provisions repeal delayed, study required, civil penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

HF925 (Bakk) Logging; master logger certification program developed, and money appropriated.

HF529 (Workman) Hennepin County land conveyance to city of Eden Prairie, and money appropriated.

HF1591 (Ozment) Aquatic restoration grants authorized, administrative penalty orders provided for commercial aquatic activity, decoy regulations and turtle licensing modified, conservation law enforcement provided, and penalties prescribed.

HF362 (Westrom) Diesel fuel minimum biodiesel fuel content specified.

## STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

Section 16, proposed budget for Department of Revenue.

## TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF562 (Goodno) Authorizes allocations for certain border city enterprise zones.

HF503 (Pawlenty) Increases the research credit and extends it to individual income tax; allows and investment credit; imposes application fees; provides a sales tax exemption for certain purchases.

HF400 (Pawlenty) Authorizes the establishment of a tax free zone; provides tax exemptions for individuals and business entities in the tax free zone; provides for repayment of tax benefits under certain circumstances.

**12:30 p.m.**

## AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knobloch

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF694 (Davids) Relating to insurance; no-fault auto; regulating income loss benefits to senior citizens.

HF916 (Erhardt) Relating to commerce; regulating securities; modifying certain fees for securities issued by open-end management companies and unit investment trusts.

HF1493 (Davids) Relating to commerce; regulating the privacy of consumer financial and health information.

HF1428 (Davids) Relating to insurance; credit; regulating rates and coverages; establishing minimum anticipated loss ratios for certain policies.

HF1336 (Mulder) Relating to insurance; creating a stop-loss fund account.

HF1337 (Mulder) Relating to insurance; creating a purchasing alliance stop-loss fund account.

HF1311 (McElroy) Relating to commerce; providing for the licensing of money transmitters; prescribing the powers and duties of the commissioner.

HF933 (Gunther) Relating to commerce; providing buyback requirements related to the sale of farm implements and outdoor power equipment.

HF1283 (Seagren) Relating to commerce; regulating Internet sales and leases; providing for the disclosure of information relating to the ownership of domain names and agents for service of process.

HF1104 (Vandever) Relating to real estate; providing for the electronic filing of real estate documents; implementing the work plan of the task force.

HFXXXX (Paulsen) Contractor license revocation bill.

HF1219 (Gunther) Relating to insurance; removing certain state involvement with the state fund mutual insurance company.

HF1045 (Olson) Relating to insurance; automobile; requiring a premium discount for seatbelt use; eliminating the mandatory seatbelt law for adults.

HF828 (Mullery) Relating to Hennepin County; authorizing disaster volunteer leave.

HF1489 (Hilty) Relating to economic development; creating Northern Technology Initiative, Inc.

Other bills may be added.

**2 p.m.**

## GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

316 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF479 (Lipman) - carry over if needed.

HF966 (Erickson) Voting in the wrong precinct penalties increased, automatic and optional recount provisions modified, and presidential electors meeting procedures modified.

HF901 (Anderson, B.) Voting provisions for overseas voters clarified.

HF234 (Goodwin) Legislative day definition modified.

HF1214 (Lipman) Election provisions clarified, and specified election procedures and requirements modified.

**2:30 p.m.**

## REDISTRICTING

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Erik Paulsen

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**3:30 p.m.**

## EDUCATION POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** Office of Legislative Auditor/ Department of Children, Families and Learning. HF1015 (Mares) Family, early childhood, and K-12 education programs administrative and funding provision modifications.

Continuation of morning meeting if necessary.

**WEDNESDAY, March 21**

**8:15 a.m.**

**8 a.m.**

**\*\*\*NOTE TIME\*\*\***

**HEALTH & HUMAN  
SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** HF126 (Wenzel) Morrison County nursing home rate increase provided, and money appropriated.

HF426 (Knoblach) Sherburne County nursing home medical assistance rate increase provided and money appropriated.

HF576 (Thompson) Hennepin County nursing home rate increase provided and money appropriated.

HF1005 (Marquart) Becker County nursing facility rate adjustment provided.

HF1020 (Wagenius) Hennepin County nursing facility rate increase to median provided.

HF1113 (Clark, J.) Brown County nursing facility rate increase provided and money appropriated.

HF1227 (Carlson) Hennepin County nursing facility rate increase authorized and money appropriated.

HF1332 (Daggett) Becker County nursing facility rate increase provided.

HF1530 (Penas) Roseau County nursing facilities rate increase provided.

HF1545 (Wasiluk) Ramsey County nursing facility rate increase provided.

HF1674 (Paulsen) Hennepin County nursing facility rate increase provided and money appropriated.

HF876 (Jacobson) Ramsey County single ICF/MR funding provided for field audit disallowances, and money appropriated.

HF128 (Nornes) Nursing facility technology room grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF279 (Huntley) MinnesotaCare premium and other provider taxes repealed, pass-through of savings required, tobacco settlement disposition provided, health care access fund contingent repeal provided, and civil penalties imposed.

HF325 (Daggett) Medical assistance funding provided from general fund, hospital surcharge for medical assistance repealed, and money appropriated.

HF380 (Kubly) MinnesotaCare provider tax and health plan premium taxes repealed, health care access fund eliminated, hospital surcharge repealed, and money appropriated.

HF383 (Haas) Health insurance premium tax and premium tax on nonprofit health plan companies repealed.

HF814 (Winter) Medical assistance hospital surcharge repealed and money appropriated.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &  
VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF525 (McElroy) Public employees prohibited from state board and council compensation except under specified conditions and daily payment standards required.

HF446 (Solberg) Unilateral modification of benefits received by retired employees defined as unfair labor practice.

HF775 (Boudreau) Day training and habilitation service variance request mediation process established, rate structure pilot project provided, county responsibilities defined, task force extended, and money appropriated.

HF1025 (Entenza) State board of investment member disclosure provisions expanded.

HF1272 (Jaros) Administration department directed to decentralize state agencies and departments.

HF1504 (Mahoney) Departments of administration and health directed to adopt current electrical, mechanical, and plumbing standards.

HF1537 (Lipman) State agency rule-making housekeeping and technical changes bill.

**JOBS & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** HF624 (Seagren) Light rail; requiring route to be identified before spending appropriations to study light rail transit and commuter rail.

HF625 (Seagren) Trunk Highway No. 62 in Minneapolis and Richfield construction project restrictions imposed.

HF137 (Erhardt) Light rail; commuter rail corridor plans physical design component local approval required.

HF1060 (Erhardt) Light rail; local approval required for location of commuter rail through residential areas.

HF1054 (Johnson) I-394 "sane lanes" use by single-occupant vehicles study and report required, and money appropriated.

**10:15 a.m.**

**CIVIL LAW**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF667 (Seifert) Administrative rules procedures modified.

HF1466 (Holberg) St. Paul housing and redevelopment authority data regulations

extended to all housing and redevelopment authorities.

HF1638 (Skoglund) Name change affidavits accepted in lieu of court hearings.

HF1283 (Seagren) Internet sales and leases regulated, and domain names and agents for service of process information disclosure provided.

HF699 (Sykora) Domestic abuse criminal and civil penalties and procedures modified, and money appropriated.

HF1245 (Stang) Dishonored check collection charges provisions modified.

**Note:** Any unfinished business will be conducted in 500S State Office Building at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL  
RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Office of Environmental Assistance budget presentation continued.

**HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** Library Day: The Effect of Technological Change on Libraries.

HFXXXX (Bishop) Post-secondary educational institutions instructional services appropriations expansion.

HF1649 (Opatz) Resident tuition rates for certain nonresident students provided and tuition reciprocity program phased out.

**K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** Presentation of incidence data on HF511 (Sviggum), Governor's Tax Bill, by Commissioner Matt Smith, Department of Revenue.

HF1321 (Ruth) Provides for an imposition of a tax on aggregate materials.

HF1316 (Dawkins) Clarifies that publicly owned parking facilities are exempt from tax.

HF1425 (Hilty) Changes the sales ratio study for purposes of certain aid formulas.

HF1511 (Westerberg) Provides income tax credits for telework assessment and telecommuting expenses.

**12:30 p.m.**

**AGRICULTURE POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

**Agenda:** HF1529 (Tingelstad) Regulating pesticide application in certain schools.

HF1604 (Peterson) Providing an exemption from certain regulations.

HF1524 (Leppik) Regulating the use of certain fertilizers containing phosphorus.  
 HF1604 (Erickson) Recodifying rules and pesticide rules with federal regulations.  
 HF1502 (Evans) Extending certain advisory committees and a review board.  
 HF1282 (Osskopp) Modifies provisions related to the Rural Finance Authority (RFA).  
 HF1547 (Finseth) Eliminating the late fee for renewal of a license to use the Minnesota grown logo or labeling.  
 HF1598 (Swenson) Providing for uniformity with certain federal dairy regulations.  
 HF1356 (Dorman) Expanding nuisance liability protection for ag operations.  
 HFXXXX (Dorman) Modifying provisions relating to feedlots.  
 HF1241 (Ness) Requiring delegation of feedlot permitting in certain counties, providing funds.  
 HF1243 (Ness) Establishing feedlot specialist program, providing funds.  
 HFXXXX (Kuisle) Providing for a level 1 inventory.  
 HF495 (Finseth) Transferring authority for the regulation of feedlots from the MPCA to MNDA.  
**Note:** The committee will meet from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. and reconvene in 5 State Office Building from 5 p.m. until business is finished or midnight, whichever comes first.

**Economic Development and Tourism  
 Division/COMMERCE, JOBS &  
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Basement Hearing Room  
 State Office Building  
 Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner  
**Agenda:** HF969 (Clark, K.) Rental housing pilot program established to encourage landlords to rent to high-risk tenants in specified counties, and money appropriated.  
 HF1065 (Walker) Rental application fees prohibited.  
 HF1147 (Mullery) Landlord and tenant property covenant clarified.

**FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD  
 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
 Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora  
**Agenda:** HF1642 (Erickson) Relating to education; funding the on-line computer-based library catalogue system in state agency libraries; appropriating money.  
 HF1242 (Nornes) Relating to libraries; appropriating money for library basic support grants.  
 HF1234 (Eastlund) Relating to libraries; appropriating money for regional library telecommunications aid.  
 HF1378 (McGuire) Relating to education; appropriating money for multicounty, multitype library systems.  
 HF1568 (Kelliher) Relating to education; establishing the mighty books grant program; appropriating money.  
 HF835 (Walz) Relating to capital improvements; authorizing state bonds; appropriating money for a library for the city of Crosslake.

HF880 (Solberg) Relating to libraries; authorizing additional levy for Independent School District No. 319, Nashwauk-Keewatin.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
 METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
 Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey  
**Agenda:** HF949 (Rifenberg) Local public officer's conflict of interest law exception provided.  
 HF1236 (Rhodes) House and Senate confirmation of members of the Metropolitan Airports Commission required.  
 HF1424 (Krinkie) Metropolitan Airports Commission capital improvement program legislation required and legislative approval of individual capital projects required.  
 HF1507 (Bishop) Treatment of legal nonconforming uses of land clarified.  
 HF635 (Opatz) St. Cloud authorized to file notice regarding potential activity at regional airport.

**3 p.m.**

**HEALTH & HUMAN  
 SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
 Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley  
**Agenda:** HF1303 (Boudreau) Children's health insurance provisions modified.  
 HF1397 (Tingelstad) Child placement provisions modified and definitions provided.  
 HF1660 (Goodno) Foster care reimbursement provisions modified.  
 More bills may be added.

**4:30 p.m.**

**Land Subcommittee/ENVIRONMENT &  
 NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

400N State Office Building  
 Chr. Rep. Howard Swenson  
**Agenda:** HF873 (Howes) Hubbard County tax-forfeited land conveyance authorized free of the tax-forfeited trust.  
 HF72 (Mares) Washington County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.  
 HF154 (Ness) Meeker County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.  
 HF199 (Rukavina) St. Louis County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.  
 HF491 (Jacobson) Ramsey County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.  
 HF613 (Rukavina) Private easements across tax-forfeited land authorized.  
 HF688 (Bakk) St. Louis County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.  
 HF863 (Hilty) Aitkin County tax-forfeited land sales authorized.  
 HF1226 (Sertich) State lands exchange requirements modified.  
 HF1401 (Bakk) Cook County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.  
 HF1459 (Lipman) Washington County tax-forfeited land conveyances and public and private land sales authorized.  
 HF1538 (Evans) Ramsey County tax-forfeited land conveyance authorized.

HF1552 (Bakk) Lake County tax-forfeited land sales authorized.

**5 p.m.**

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &  
 VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

200 State Office Building  
 Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes  
**Agenda:** Carry-over from morning agenda.

**6 p.m.**

**Service Credit Purchase Subcommittee/  
 Legislative Commission on Pensions and  
 Retirement**

316 State Capitol  
 Chr. Sen. Don Betzold  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**THURSDAY, March 22**

**8:15 a.m.**

**EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building  
 Chr. Rep. Harry Mares  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**HEALTH & HUMAN  
 SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
 Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley  
**Agenda:** HF560 (Goodno) Patient protections provisions modified.  
 HF1053 (Abrams) Private health care coverage regulations revised, specified regulatory controls transferred, and managed care plan requirements established.  
 HF905 (Haas) Health insurer and health maintenance organization regulation simplified, small business health insurance task force established, and appointments provided.  
 HF926 (Goodno) Uniform health care identification cards content and format modified, prescription drug information required on cards, and issuance requirements established.  
 HF1115 (Haas) Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association regulated, contributing member definition modified, writing carrier contract period extensions permitted, subsidies provided, and money appropriated.  
 HF1155 (Abeler) Health care provider affirmative consent to participate in a network under a category of coverage and disclosure of provider's contract changes required.  
 HF1212 (Bradley) Health maintenance organizations authorized to offer greater flexibility in enrollee cost-sharing.  
 HF1291 (Boudreau) Health plan subrogation clause limitation provisions modified.  
 HF1580 (Bradley) Health care coverage product regulation simplified and regulatory reform process established.  
 HF1144 (Wilkin) Attorney general access to health data limited.  
 More bills may be added.



**Note:** If necessary, this meeting will continue in Room 10 of the State Office Building at 6 p.m. or 15 minutes after session.

#### **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** HF319 (Bishop) Trial court judgeships increased in specified judicial districts and money appropriated.

HF764 (Swapinski) Hazardous materials emergency response/chemical assessment teams operation provided and money appropriated.

HF617 (Jacobson) Ramsey County - St. Paul joint domestic abuse prosecution unit continued, and money appropriated.

#### **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** HF1188 (Workman) Design-build method of state transportation project delivery provided.

HFXXXX MnDOT's design build bill.

**10:15 a.m.**

#### **CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** HF1261 (Bishop) Department of Corrections housekeeping.

**Note:** Additional Department of Corrections bills and other bills affecting the Department of Corrections will be added.

#### **ENVIRONMENT &**

#### **NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **Property Tax Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

**Agenda:** HF1535 (Ruth) Agricultural education property owned by nonprofit entity property tax exemption provided.

HF1518 (Clark, J.) Homestead property classification provided individuals residing in elderly assisted living facilities.

HF1494 (Skoe) Agriculture preservation organizations property tax exemption provided.

#### **Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

**Agenda:** HF1183 (Nornes) Exempts ambulance service supplies, equipment, and repair and replacement parts for ambulances from sales and use taxes.

HF938 (Boudreau) Exempts the purchase of construction materials and equipment used in constructing an outdoor swimming pool in Faribault from sales and use taxes.

HF1057 (Seifert) Exempts materials used in

constructing a regional emergency response and fire training center from sales and use taxes.

HF1090 (Smith) Exempts the purchase of construction materials and equipment used in constructing a public safety center in the city of Independence from sales and use taxes.

HF1495 (Lenczewski) Exempts the purchase of construction materials and equipment used on constructing a joint public safety training facility for the cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, and Edina, and the Metropolitan Airports Commission from sales and use taxes.

HF1501 (Lenczewski) Exempts the purchase of construction materials and equipment used in constructing or renovating various city facilities for the city of Bloomington from sales and use taxes.

#### **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

Section 16, proposed budget for Department of Revenue.

Other sections may be added.

**12:30 p.m.**

#### **AGRICULTURE & RURAL**

#### **DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knobloch

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **COMMERCE, JOBS &**

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** MCHA Presentation.

HF1169 (Dorman) Relating to occupational safety and health; modifying safety committee requirements.

HF1543 (Holsten) Fireworks limited personal use authorized, affidavit of safety guidelines required, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF1513 (Westerberg) Relating to employment; providing for the designation of telecommuting days.

HF514 (Carlson) Relating to retirement; providing continued insurance coverage for spouses of certain retirees.

HF1147 (Mullery) Relating to employment; providing for the designation of telecommuting days.

Other bills may be added.

**1 p.m.**

#### **Legislative Coordinating Commission**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Sviggum

**Agenda:** Review/approve resolutions establishing subcommittees: LCC Subcommittee on Administrative Rules, and LCC Subcommittee on Employee Relations. Review/approve resolution appointing members of commissions and subcommittees. Receive report on financial audit. Review/approve resolution on Technology Use Policy. Presentation of compensation evaluation by HayGroup. Ford Foundation Innovations in American Government grant. Other business as approved by the chair.

**3 p.m.**

#### **THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

**After session**

#### **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

316 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF214 (Anderson, B.) National Guard member allowable tuition reimbursement increased, and money appropriated.

HF481 (Greiling) Combat wounded veterans day designated as August 7.

HF1023 (Biernat) Merchant Marine and Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) service plaques authorized on capitol grounds.

HF1247 (Eastlund) Veterans Home board administration of planned giving donations provided.

HF1248 (Eastlund) Veterans homes resident deposit accounts modified.

HF1439 (Anderson, B.) National Guard eligibility and rank designation requirements clarified, unused armory site disposal authorized, and other armory provisions clarified.

HF1468 (Jaros) Veterans' unemployment benefits provided to qualified veterans currently receiving federal military pension.

**After session at the call of the chair**

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** HF1505 (Lenczewski) Pre-1990 tax district five-year rule applied and time limitations provided.

HF1557 (Milbert) Inver Grove Heights tax increment financing district local distribution for designated parcels authorized.

HF1676 (Wasiluk) North St. Paul provided tax increment financing grant.

Other Business.

**After session at the call of the chair  
(after full committee meeting —  
monitor schedule)**

**Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council  
and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

7 p.m.

**Compensation Council**

118 State Capitol  
Chr. John Stanoch  
**Agenda:** Continue testimony. Council discussion  
regarding salaries.

**FRIDAY, March 23**

8:15 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &  
VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes  
**Agenda:** HF977 (Leppik) Minnesota State  
Colleges and Universities technical and  
community college employee unions merged.  
HF1103 (Gleason) Agencies assessed for cost of  
administrative hearings not covered by general  
fund appropriations.  
HF1104 (Vandever) Real estate task force work  
plan funded and electronic filing of real estate  
documents initiated.  
More to be announced.

**JOBS & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

10:15 a.m.

**K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**Liquor Subcommittee/COMMERCE, JOBS &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Doug Stang  
**Agenda:** HF1205 (Sykora) Relating to alcoholic  
beverages; authorizing off-sale wine licenses for  
supermarkets.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** HF1120 (Pugh) Dakota County tax  
forfeited land conveyance free of trust in favor of  
tax district.  
HF1176 (Vandever) Modifies electronic filing  
requirements.  
HF961 (Wagenius) Exempts certain energy  
efficient products from the sales tax.  
HFXXXX (Abrams) Exempts certain energy  
efficient products from the sales tax.  
Additional bills may be added.

10:30 a.m.

**Board of Trustees Candidate Advisory  
Council**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Ben Vander Kooi  
**Agenda:** Staff updates on council appointments.  
MnSCU board member status and recruitment  
timeline. Review of council procedures and  
report on Regent Candidate Advisory Council  
procedures. Appointment of subcommittees.  
Election of officers. Program planning.

12:30 p.m.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey  
**Agenda:** HF981 (McElroy) Legislative  
commission on metropolitan government  
established, oversight of Metropolitan Council  
provided, and legislative authorization required  
for council budget and programs.  
HF829 (Boudreau) Local building department  
professional activity funds authorized.  
HF192 (Goodno) Emergency medical services  
special taxing districts and property tax levies  
authorized.  
HF1026 (Kielkucki) County boards and  
municipalities prohibited from adopting official  
controls that conflict with local land use plans.  
HF1320 (Lindner) Hassan township economic  
development authority authorized.  
HF730 (Hausman) St. Paul park roads transit  
regulated.  
HF1099 (Osthoff) St. Paul technology  
infrastructure bonds authorized.  
Other business.

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## Constitutional Officers

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130 State Capitol  
75 Constitution Ave.  
St. Paul 55155 ..... (651) 296-3391

**Lieutenant Governor**

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Continued from page 18

victims of domestic violence. "When passions occur in those households, the last thing you want is an accessible handgun. We are trying to solve a problem, and we are going the wrong way. This is bad policy."

Committee Chair Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) sought to allay critics' objections.

"I assert that there are some things in this bill that should attract the support of some" opponents of the measure. He cited the bill's requirement that permit holders renew their certification every three years in regulated safety courses and the increase in minimum age. "This is just the beginning of the process," he said.

Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth) rejected the placation. "Characterizing certain elements of the bill as appealing to gun control interests is disingenuous at best," he responded in a subsequent e-mail interview. "This illogical reasoning does not ameliorate the fact that more handguns will be on the streets with passage of the bill."

Boudreau noted that the bill increases the statutory maximum penalty for felonies involving a handgun that are committed by permit holders. Under the bill, a permit holder who uses a pistol to facilitate the commission of a felony may be sentenced to 125 percent of the maximum sentence otherwise provided in statute.

"I just have a philosophical difference with some opponents," Boudreau explained. "I don't believe that guns cause violence." 🐼

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Continued from page 19

nontraditional careers, such as plumbing and motorcycle painting. "The girls were fascinated," she said of a recent experience, and they were also making a career connection, realizing this was something they could make money doing.

Representatives of WomenVenture said their program is working. Of the 95 women who graduated from training programs in 2000, 76 percent were low-income women and 67 percent were women of color. Two-thirds of those graduates entered the trades, and the rest were employed in traditional jobs. Since 1991 WomenVenture has had more than 500 graduates.

With projects such as light-rail transit and University of Minnesota construction projects, "Contractors are hurting for workers," Jordet said.

And programs like those through WomenVenture can provide workers by training women for good-paying careers.

"We understand the particular challenges and obstacles facing women and know ways to overcome them," Jordet said. 🐼

# Reflections

Many legislative staff and visitors to the Capitol use public transportation to get to and from the complex. While Monday, March 12, was no exception, an early morning deluge of thick, wet snow disrupted normal activity.

In spite of the excellent job bus drivers perform as they maneuver their large vehicles through traffic, movement from downtown St. Paul was delayed by thick slush. For the first time in a few years, buses had trouble getting up the hill on Constitution Avenue.

By early afternoon, when buses could not move forward after they stopped a block southeast of the State Office Building, some passengers got off and walked two blocks to more level ground at University Avenue. Others boarded buses that took them back downtown or on an alternate route.

While 'getting there' was unusually difficult for bus riders last Monday, mass transportation to the Capitol has been convenient for many years. The extended accordion-type buses don't usually get stuck, and express buses get people to the Capitol from other parts of St. Paul, Minneapolis and the near suburbs in about 30 minutes or less.

Even so, Monday's inconvenience cannot compare to early overland transportation in the state by oxcart. And in the middle-1800s, legislators who lived the farthest away, came by dog sled.

One such lawmaker was Joe Rolette, who traveled from the most northwestern part of the Minnesota Territory to St. Paul. He was the noted legislator who later disappeared with a bill that was to make the city of St. Peter the capital city. According to one story, the most exciting part of his first journey from Pembina township in 1852 was reaching St. Paul.

When Rolette arrived, he drew a crowd.

People came out to see him dressed in furs and leather with his sled and dogs decked out in brightly colored ribbons and tinkling bells.

In the late-1800s, the horse and buggy was replaced by motorized and electric vehicles. Even travel by railroad from distant places west of Minneapolis brought people to the Capitol. And when more direct routes like University Avenue were built between the Twin Cities and outlying areas, streetcars became the popular means of public transportation.

Mass transportation was even popular in northern Minnesota in 1914 when mine



workers on the Iron Range needed a cheap way to get to work in Hibbing. They traveled from the outlying small town of Alice in a seven-passenger "Hupmobile," owned by a Swiss immigrant, Carl Eric Wickman, and a car salesman, Andy Anderson. Their business eventually stretched to Minneapolis and Detroit, then later became the Greyhound Corporation.

Buses that pass through the Capitol complex are an efficient way to get to work. But last Monday's snowfall must have caused some mistrust in one legislative staffer who was seen late Tuesday morning struggling on a bicycle, up the hill and through the snow.

Maybe for some, getting to work is always an adventure and a challenge.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

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# MINNESOTA INDEX

## Minnesota Weather

Hottest temperature in state history, (July 29, 1917 at Beardsley and July 6, 1936 at Moorhead), in degrees .....	114
Coldest (Feb. 2, 1996 at Tower), in degrees .....	-60
Maximum 24-hour temperature change, (April 3, 1982 at Lambertson), in degrees ....	71
Maximum 24-hour snowfall in the state (Nov. 1, 1991 at Cook), in inches .....	29
Maximum number of inches from single storm (Oct. 31 to Nov. 3, 1991 at Duluth) .....	36.9
Maximum amount of snowfall inches in one season (July 1949 to June 1950 in Cook County) .....	170.5
Maximum snow depth (March 28, 1950 in Cook County) .....	75
Maximum 24-hour rain total (July 22, 1972 at Fort Ripley), in inches .....	10.84
Maximum inches from single storm (July 17-19, 1867 at Sauk Centre) .....	36
Least annual rainfall (Ortonville, 1976), in inches .....	6.37
Most annual rainfall (St. Francis, 1991), in inches .....	53.52
Longest dry period (Beardsley, Canby, Marshall and Dawson from Nov. 9, 1943 to Jan. 26, 1944), in days .....	79
Maximum wind gust (Aug. 20, 1904 tornado at Minneapolis/St. Paul), in miles per hour .....	110
Amount of snow on ground as of March 8, 2001 in Park Rapids, in inches .....	22
On March 9, 2000 .....	1
Amount of snow on ground as of March 8, 2001 in Duluth, in inches .....	23
On March 9, 2000 .....	0
Average snowfall for the Twin Cities during March, in inches .....	9.3
Total snowfall March 2000, in inches .....	1
Average annual snowfall for Twin Cities, in inches .....	45.4
In Duluth, in inches .....	79.5
Average temperature in International Falls in January 2001, in degrees .....	14.1
In 2000 .....	4.9
At Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, January 2001, in degrees .....	20.0
In 2000 .....	15.9
Average March 2000 temperature in International Falls, in degrees .....	32.2
At Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport .....	41.0
Average July 2000 temperature in International Falls .....	66.2
At Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport .....	72.4

Source: Minnesota Climatology Working Group

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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MARCH 23, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 12



In this issue:

AMENDING SEAT BELT LAWS

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS, AND MORE

HF1873-HF2174

# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Budget • 5	Energy • 9	Higher Education • 11
Children • 5	Environment • 10	Human Services • 13
Crime • 6	Gambling • 10	Industry • 14
Education • 7	Government • 10	Taxes • 14
Employment • 9	Health • 11	Transportation • 16

### FEATURES

**At Issue:** Greater Minnesota — Legislators propose a plan providing tax-free zones to stimulate development in distressed communities. • 17

**History:** The debate over one legislative session or two dates back more than 100 years, but the Legislature has employed the same practice of annual sessions since 1973. • 18

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Women in the workforce	4	Resources: Name Pronunciation Guide	34
Bill Introductions (HF1873-2174)	20	Reflections: Dome overhead	35
Committee Schedule (March 26-30)	27	Minnesota Index: Tournament time	36
Resources: Minnesota House of Representatives members 2001	33		

**On the cover:** Vince and Larry the "Crash Test Dummies" listen along with Rep. Andy Westerberg (R-Blaine), front, as the House Transportation Policy Committee took testimony March 20 on a bill that would make failure to wear a seat belt a primary offense.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid



# Buckle up

Lawmakers consider a bill that would allow law enforcement to pull drivers over for not wearing a seat belt

By JONAS M. WALKER

**A**mid a host of initiatives aimed at changing the way Minnesotans move are two whose authors want to capitalize on a simple, yet all-too-often ignored, vehicle safety device: the seat belt.

Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) is sponsoring legislation to designate driving without wearing a seat belt a primary offense, meaning police officers could stop a driver specifically for that infraction.

His bill, HF1314, was amended by the House Transportation Policy Committee March 20 so that only people under age 18 could be ticketed as a primary offense. It was referred to the House Crime Prevention Committee.

Committee Chair Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) proposed the amendment, explaining in a later interview that “our

passengers under age 18 to buckle up. Under existing law, only the driver, front passenger, and children under age 11 in the back seat must use safety belts. Drivers violating the law are subject to a \$25 fine, a figure that Workman said is often less than additional administrative fees added by prosecuting counties.

A complimentary bill sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) would expand the laws requiring the use of child restraint systems.

HF735 would increase the penalty for failing to use a child car seat from \$50 to \$75 and clarifies the type of restraint systems needed. The bill has been referred to the House Transportation Policy Committee, which has yet to discuss the matter.

According to the nonpartisan House Research Department, lawmakers have introduced bills similar to Workman’s seatbelt

had primary enforcement laws as of February 2001.

Mares said HF1314 is designed to accomplish three goals: save lives, reduce injury, and decrease health care spending by reducing the severity of crash-related injuries. He said proper seat belt usage reduces the risk of fatal injury to front seat passengers by 45 percent. He added that unbelted crash victims incur medical bills 50 percent higher than those wearing belts, of which “society pays 85 percent.”

State Patrol Sgt. Don Schmalzbauer told the committee police need not intentionally increase enforcement of seat belt laws for the legislation to effectively increase seat belt usage. He said as few as 20 percent of drivers used seat belts in 1985, a figure that has risen to 73 percent today despite a prohibition of police stopping motorists solely for failure to buckle up.

Mares said seat belt usage in Michigan rose 13 percent after that state made driving unbelted a primary offense, although law enforcement did not intentionally target enforcing the change. He calculated the Legislature could prevent 51 deaths, 979 injuries, and save \$88 million annually by increasing seat belt usage by that percentage.

Echoing Workman’s observations about parent-child power struggles over seat belt use, Rural Health Association President Gary Wingrove said the “best way to get kids to use seat belts is to get adults to use seat belts.”

Wingrove endorsed the bill in its original form, explaining his group took interest in the legislation because the costs of car crash deaths are “disproportionately rural.” Because of the severity of crashes at high speeds and the distance to medical facilities, rural crashes comprise 76 percent of all crash deaths.

Proponents emphasized that creating a primary offense would not necessarily increase law enforcement activity, a phenomenon for which legislators expressed concern. Noting that the House Crime Prevention Committee recently approved a statewide policy against racial profiling, some lawmakers were concerned that allowing police to stop unbelted motorists could aggravate existing tension between law enforcement and the public.

In response, the Department of Public Safety released a document addressing that concern. It cited, for example, a National Black Caucus of State Legislators finding in October 1999 that “African-Americans in states



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Gary Wingrove, president of the Rural Health Association, along with Vince and Larry the “Crash Test Dummies,” testifies for a bill that would make failure to wear a seat belt a primary offense during a March 20 meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee.

constituents are not begging us to do this to them, but to do this to their children.” He added his own reluctance to create a primary seat belt offense stemmed from a “strong civil libertarian” sensibility.

The bill would also require all backseat

proposal every year since 1988, when failure to wear a safety belt was made a secondary offense subject to a \$10 fine. It was legal to drive without a safety belt in Minnesota prior to 1986. According to the Department of Public Safety, 17 states and the District of Columbia

with primary seat belt laws reported fewer problems” with police harassment.

Additionally, the Minnesota Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) expressed support for HF1314 in its original form, saying its safety benefits far outweigh any potential risks regarding racial profiling.

Proponents also produced a letter from San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, a prominent African-American democrat. While a state representative, Brown sponsored legislation allowing police officers to stop and issue citations to drivers not wearing safety belts.

“The law, now in effect for seven years, has been entirely successful. Seat belt use has increased dramatically,” he wrote. “I have not heard of a single case of police officers using this life-saving law as an excuse to stop motorists to harass them.”

Brown also wrote, “Police officers have issued fewer seat belt citations each year,” a trend proponents claim demonstrates additional police effort need not be appropriated to increase seat belt usage.

State Patrol Chief Anne Beers predicted “people will wear seatbelts just because they want to avoid being pulled over.” She added that she does anticipate the number of police stops increasing.

Opponents complained that the bill would give police another reason to snoop in citizens’ cars and could potentially exacerbate conflict between urban residents and police.

Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver described the seat belt requirement as “the only traffic law we don’t let cops enforce.” While serving as a representative, he said, he was a longtime opponent of the measure, but now said the bill could save “twice as many lives as (lowering the legal blood-alcohol concentration level to) .08.”



## Clarification

A story explaining a bill that proposed changes to Election Day registration procedures in the March 9 issue of *Session Weekly* inadvertently suggested that the last four digits of a voter’s Social Security number would be listed on polling place rosters. Testimony at the hearing suggested those numbers would be treated like dates of birth, which are listed on rosters. While no testimony refuted the suggestion, no testimony confirmed it, either. However, a provision in the bill prohibits printing any part of a social security number on a public document, which polling place rosters become after an election.

We apologize for any confusion that may have resulted.

## Corrections

A story in the March 16 issue of *Session Weekly* addressing a bill that would help eliminate barriers to dental access for disadvantaged people suggested the bill would also expand the role of dental hygienists. An amendment had removed that provision from the bill.

Also, a story about potential changes to child support law in the March 16 issue of *Session Weekly* suggested that witnesses at a House hearing testified child support payments are tax-deductible. That information was misattributed to Christa Anders from the Department of Human Services; she did not offer such testimony. Some income from child support is exempt from taxes but not deductible.

We regret these errors.

IT’S A FACT



## Women in the workforce

### Early labor report uncovers dissatisfaction in urban industry

Back in the days when industry in major Minnesota cities was just on the rise, an exhaustive report of labor practices in those cities revealed a series of undesirable choices for women entering the workforce.

The report, the first biennial report of the Minnesota Bureau of Labor Statistics published in 1888, contained a chapter on “Wage Working Women,” explaining the labor market situation for women in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

In its opening remarks, the report said many women are unable to find wages that will support even the basic necessities of room and board. But the report also expressed concern regarding women’s wages in comparison to men’s, and that women were not making what they were worth.

The report gathered data from women in various sectors of the workforce, their employers and employment counselors. Analysis of the data showed women involved in household duties were dissatisfied with both working conditions and pay. However, there was also a predominant public perception that household “girls,” as they were called, were somehow inferior socially — thereby making the profession even less desirable.

But those who worked in factories were only slightly less satisfied with their working conditions.

“There was much complaint about low wages, and in some establishments quite a bitter feeling seemed to exist between employer and employee,” said the report.

Overall, the analysis spent the most time on household workers, which employed many women at the time, since the work was relatively easy to obtain. However, both workers and their bosses voiced displeasure regarding the state of the industry.

On average, household workers earned between \$2 and \$3 per week in addition to their room and board. Furthermore, an experienced, qualified woman could receive up to \$5 per week.

Other industries paid women as much as

\$40 per month, depending on the skill level of the worker. However, such wages were not the norm and the most basic quarters would cost a woman about \$25 a month.

“This estimate gives an allowance for only the plain clothing, and no provision for luxury or refinements,” the report said.

The report does not elaborate further on the pay disparity between men and women, however.

Hiring household workers frustrated many people because the large immigrant population unable to speak English posed difficulty for them, they questioned the character of many applicants, and they demanded high wages and didn’t deliver.



Women carding wool in the 1890’s

“The majority of girls are incompetent, unreliable, and impertinent. They want to run the house,” said one employer. “Competent help can be obtained by paying high wages — much more than they are worth,” said another.

Workers complained

that household work never allowed them any free time and families would not treat them well, requiring them to eat inferior food, never use the front door, board them in poor quarters, and never allow them free time or space to receive visitors.

“It’s degrading, the way girls are treated,” one worker said. And from another, “I worked for one family who used me like a dog around the house. I will never do that kind of work again.”

The primary conclusion drawn in the report was that a training school for household workers needed to be established. Such an establishment would help overcome cultural boundaries and maintain standards in the workforce.

In addition, the report concluded that workers should be given adequate quarters, allowed to eat the same food as the regular family, and be given a proper place to receive guests. Dealing with these issues would breed goodwill between employer and employee, and prompt workers to be more loyal and productive.

(M. KIBIGER)

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society



★ **BUDGET****Maximum spending debate**

Each odd year of a legislative session, the House Ways and Means Committee is required to adopt a budget resolution setting the maximum amount that can be spent from the state's budget over the next fiscal biennium.

The committee adopted two resolutions March 20 that would establish that amount.

One resolution would set the amount at \$25.8 billion. The other would set the figure at \$27 billion. There was a lengthy debate during the previous day's floor session on whether tax cuts should be counted as expenditures, thereby accounting for two resolutions.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) said previous tax cuts have counted in the figure and the proposal to not count the reduced revenue was an attempt by Republicans to make it appear the House is reducing the size of government more than when the DFL was in the majority.

House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) said most Minnesotans do not consider tax cuts as government spending and the revised method for determining the resolution's amount was an attempt to more accurately reflect the true amount of government spending.

Both approved resolutions would allow for \$714 million in additional spending along with \$1.2 billion for tax cuts.

Gov. Jesse Ventura has proposed the same \$714 million expenditure amount with \$1.1 billion in tax relief.

A change to the House rules would have to be adopted in order to remove the amount of tax cuts to the budget figure.

The committee took testimony from several people speaking both in support and

opposition to the amount in the resolutions.

Former state Sen. Linda Runbeck (R-Circle Pines) said government should be expected to operate within a budget with only inflationary increases. She said state agencies and other constituencies have gotten too used to double-digit increases in their budgets.

Bernie Brommer, president of the state AFL-CIO, said the amount of the budget shouldn't be determined by the percentage it will increase but by the amount necessary to adequately address the needs of the state.

"Every one dollar I pay in taxes in the state I consider to be the best investment I make on behalf of myself and my family."

★ **CHILDREN****Childcare consolidation**

A bill that would create a single consolidated program for childcare assistance was heard by the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee March 19.

"This is the most important thing we'll do this session in how we deal with childcare," said Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), sponsor of HF1515.

The bill would consolidate the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) Childcare, Basic Sliding Fee Childcare, and At-Home Infant Childcare (AHIC). It would also repeal Transition Year childcare.

There would be no change to the Higher Education Services Office (HESO) childcare program.

Under HF1515, maximum income eligibility would be based on federal poverty guidelines instead of state median income, as it is now. According to existing law, the maximum

income for program eligibility is 75 percent of the state median income. Under this bill it would be 250 percent of federal poverty guidelines in 2002, dropping to 225 percent in 2003.

For example, under HF1515 a family of four would be eligible for childcare assistance if the total family income was less than \$44,125. That figure is \$50,355 under present rules.

The new program would have a capped allocation instead of the current forecasted appropriation. This is intended to keep the costs from escalating out of control.

If there is a funding shortfall, the waiting list will be prioritized.

HF1515 is similar to, but not the same as, the governor's proposal for childcare consolidation. Some differences include: keeping HESO childcare, using a capped rather than a forecasted allocation, and using different eligibility guidelines with the governor's proposal establishing the maximum entry level income at 50 percent of state median income, or \$33,570 for a family of four.

HF1515 will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

**Aiding more families**

A bill that would increase the number of families eligible for the At-Home Infant Care Program (AHIC) was heard by the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee March 19.

Established by the Legislature in 1997, the program allows families eligible for Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Assistance to receive a subsidy in lieu of child care assistance when a parent stays at home with an infant under age one.

HF504, sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), would make three changes to current law:

- Increase the lifetime limit for a family from 12 months to 36 months, with a maximum of 12 months per child;
- Change the calculation of income to actual

**First committee deadline this week**

The first deadline for bills to advance from committee in the House and Senate is March 30.

By that date, bills must have advanced beyond policy committees in their house of origin.

Of course, there are exceptions to the rule. The Taxes committees and Rules committees in both houses may continue to hear bills beyond that deadline.



Members of the House Ways and Means Committee take up a resolution March 20 setting the maximum limit on general fund expenditures for the biennium.

income while the family is participating in the AHIC program, rather than while both parents are working;

- Increase the payment to families from 75 percent to 90 percent of the Basic Sliding Fee rate.

The changes would not have a financial component because the program currently has a capped allocation. Any increase in costs would be absorbed by providing service to fewer families.

HF504 will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

### Childcare provider education grants

The rate of employee turnover in childcare has become a "mass exodus," according to Karen Diver, executive director of the Duluth YWCA.

In hopes of slowing this exodus, Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth) is sponsoring a bill that would create a grant program aimed at increasing the education and retention of childcare providers.

HF1449 was heard March 19 by the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee. It will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

The bill would appropriate \$8 million a year for the next two years to create a Teacher Education and Compensation Helps, or "TEACH" program, based on a successful program that originated in North Carolina.

The program would provide tuition scholarships and bonuses for specialized training and retention to childcare staff and providers who meet established criteria.

TEACH would be administered by a non-profit organization contracted by the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The McKnight Foundation and the Bush Foundation have each promised financial support of \$1 million for the program contingent on public funding.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for state money to be leveraged," Swapinski said.

Nancy Lattimer from the McKnight Foundation said the organization has been "very concerned" during the last several years with the turnover in childcare of 30 percent to 40 percent annually.

"It's very important for children to have a stable relationship with a caregiver," Lattimer said. "If they are not getting that stability, they are not able to form attachments."

"We see TEACH as an opportunity for a very productive private-public relationship," she said.

## ★ CRIME

### Concealed carry carries on

A bill sponsors say is intended to make the issuing of permits to carry handguns in public more consistent continues to move through the House.

The House Civil Law Committee approved HF1360 March 19 and referred it to the House Judiciary Finance Committee, which some legislators believe will be its final stop before appearing on the House floor.

Sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), the bill would require county sheriffs to issue a permit within 15 days of receiving an application unless the applicant fails a background check. The bill would designate sheriffs as the sole authority to issue permits.

Currently, police chiefs also have that authority.

Boudreau said her bill would help Minnesota "recognize the human right to self-defense" by eliminating the "arbitrary and unfair" discretion held by local law enforcement officials in granting or denying permit applications.

Some members expressed concern about a provision creating an automated database with information collected on a permit application. The database could be used by law enforcement agencies to "verify permit status."

Don Gemborling, director of information policy analysis at the Department of Administration, said all information collected on the application is already considered private and can be disseminated only for what he described as "compelling reasons."

Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth), referring to a backlog now plaguing criminal history record-keeping in Minnesota, asked if sheriffs would have sufficient knowledge of an applicant's true history. Boudreau responded they would through other local law enforcement agencies, but she elaborated no further.

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) expressed concern about the bill's "very broad" description of the groups that may legitimately certify permit-holders.

HF1360 would include "any national, state, or regional nonprofit organization that certifies firearms safety trainers" as legitimately meeting the bill's requirement that permit holders be certified by an instructor. Boudreau said existing national handgun safety standards exist and reassured the committee her bill was sufficient to uphold them.

### Funding community corrections

In 1973, the Legislature passed a law to create a partnership between the state and county governments to give judges more sentencing options and more evenly distribute the costs associated with incarcerating criminals.

But officials say the state isn't holding up its end of the bargain anymore, and they're asking for more money.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) has proposed a bill that would increase subsidies under the 1973 Community Corrections Act, expand a program to reduce sex offender caseloads for probation officers, and fund a statewide program to keep inmates busy while in jail.

Bishop presented his bill (HF678) before the House Judiciary Finance Committee March 20. It will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

County officials say the amount the state Department of Corrections has spent on community corrections has increased several million dollars during the past 20 years. However, during the same time frame, the state subsidy for community corrections has remained relatively stable.

Dave Rooney from Dakota County Corrections testified that the partnership was the right idea 28 years ago and continues to be a workable solution. He said before the act, judges did not have as many options for sentencing offenders.

"Judges had no place except the prisons and the juvenile institutions to send offenders," Rooney said. "We have the right pieces and we're proud of it."

But the system the act created in 1973 is in danger of crumbling, Bishop contends. Many of the 31 counties in the community corrections program are considering opting out because they're not getting the financial help they need from the state, though the state maintains some administrative control.

Fred LaFleur from Hennepin County Corrections said the partnership in 1973 gave the state primary funding responsibility for community corrections.

"That has not occurred, without question," LaFleur said. "We're asking the state to uphold their commitment to fund this partnership."

He said counties want more say in how the system operates if they are maintaining most of the costs.

Bishop said it would take an extra \$60 million in grants for 2002-03 to bring the subsidy up to the appropriate level.

In addition, the bill would provide \$5 million in grants for the biennium to reduce caseloads for officers handling the supervised release of sex offenders. Several people from Dodge, Fillmore, and Olmsted

county community corrections testified that a pilot program there is working.

"We are able to intervene where we are able to save identified victims," said Tom Rime, probation officer. "The first time it happened, we couldn't believe it. Now it happens all the time."

Officials estimate the program, which reduces sex offender caseloads to 35 per agent and 15 per agent for high-risk offenders, would save more than \$50 million statewide in costs associated with each victim.

In addition, the bill would provide \$3.4 million for "productive day" programs, involving education plans to help inmates achieve high school diploma, and work programs. The idea is to give inmates life skills and help them be productive while behind bars.

### Strike force funding

A bill that would increase the base funding amount for the Minnesota Gang Strike Force was heard in the House Judiciary Finance Committee March 20.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), the committee chair, will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

The bill would appropriate a total of \$5.7 million from the general fund for grants to local agencies through the strike force, established in 1997 to identify, investigate, arrest, and prosecute gang members involved in criminal activity. The grants are administered by the Department of Public Safety.

Gov. Jesse Ventura recommended reducing base funding amounts for the program from \$2.4 million to about \$1.6 million per year through 2005.

Stanek's bill would provide \$2.78 million in 2002 and \$2.88 million in 2003 for the program. The money would be available in either year of the biennium. Also, those figures would be added to the base funding in subsequent years.

At a March 13 hearing, Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher, chair of the council that oversees the strike force and its grants, said there are already many more requests for dollars than the board can disburse.

## EDUCATION



### Board of education approved

A bill to reinstate the state board of education was approved March 22 by the House Education Policy Committee. It will next travel to the House Governmental Operations and Veteran Affairs Policy Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), HF770 was introduced to the committee earlier in the session, along with another bill to reinstate the board, which was sponsored by Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan). The two representatives together revised HF770 to make it possible to pass this year, Buesgens said.

Under the bill, the governor, with the recommendation of the Senate, would appoint 10 members, one from each congressional district and two who would serve as members at-large. Half the members would serve two-year terms and the other half would serve four-year terms to stagger members' terms.

The bill restricts members from holding any public office, representing any other board of education or school district, or holding any other position, public or private, that might be a conflict of interest.

One member at-large must be a full-time student in a public school at the time of the appointment. This would allow the student to still serve after he or she has graduated high school.

Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) asked if student government positions are considered a public office. Buesgens said he would change wording in the bill so as not to restrict student council members, who may likely be candidates for the board.

HF770 instructs the board to select the commissioner of the reinstated Department of Education to serve as the secretary of the state Board of Education. The bill does not establish term limits for the commissioner or board members.

The bill also would change back all references to the Department of Children, Families and Learning to the Department of Education. The department was renamed in 1995.

### Balancing school budgets

A bill that would ensure school districts would not promise employee salaries they could not afford was approved March 20 by the House Education Policy Committee.

"The bill asks that school boards do in-depth analysis to make sure contracts are in structural balance," said Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), sponsor of HF1470. The bill, introduced to the committee March 15, was

approved as amended and sent to the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.

Paul Bourgeois, director of business services for Rochester schools, said under the bill districts wouldn't have budget reductions and a constant laying off of teachers.

"The Legislature would be assured money would be accounted for and (school districts would) be fiscally solid," he said.

Currently, schools have to request additional funds every year, Bourgeois says. Salaries are generally the largest expense of any school district budget. The bill, he said, wouldn't take away their collective bargaining rights.

"School boards don't feel like they could stand up to the pressure of the community if there was a strike," he said. "The bill levels the playing field."

The Lakeville School District recently cut 57 full-time employees due to a \$3.5 million deficit because of mistakes in their budget, said school board member Michelle Volk. She spoke in support of the bill and said that fortunately Lakeville passed a levy referendum, but it was only able to restore \$2 million of the \$3.5 million.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) said the real culprit might not be school boards. The bill is "conceptually all right," he said, as long as the Legislature does its part by providing guidelines far enough in advance.

"You can't expect districts to operate in a fiscally responsible way when we give them their budget one month before school starts," he said.

Buesgens said the issue is "not so dramatic," but that Biernat had a point.

The chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) is responsible for ensuring the House budget proposal is structurally balanced. "We have to have the same level of discipline for such a major expenditure," he said.

### Computers for schools

A recycling program that benefits prisons and schools would receive a \$2 million matching grant under a bill introduced by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont).

Computers for Schools refurbishes donated computer systems from corporations by bringing them to prisons, such as the Stillwater facility, where inmates repair and reinstall programs for student use.

HF957 would appropriate \$1 million in each year of the 2002-03 biennium, providing the organization matched the money through private funding. The House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee

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heard testimony March 16 from teachers who say they are grateful the program makes it possible to have computers in their classrooms.

"They have allowed greater access to technology," said Gene Berg, technology coordinator for the Lewiston School District. The computers are replacing 10- to 12-year-old machines in Lewiston schools. Throughout the district, he said, about five students use each computer every day.

Jon Scholten, a teacher at Como Park High School in St. Paul, said his school has received 80 computers, and 79 are in use. "We don't have funds to spend on computers," he said.

The program gives computers to schools primarily in the metropolitan area, but has donated to schools throughout the state. Dave Kettering of the Minnesota Computers for Schools program said businesses receive tax credits for donating computers to the program, and the computers go to schools with a one-year warranty.

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), co-sponsor of the bill, asked if language in the bill limits donations to only public and private schools, or if the computers could be given to organizations that support programs such as literacy projects.

Kettering said they currently do not, but want to in the future.

The bill will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

### Legislators respond to audit

Members of the House Education Policy Committee voiced specific concerns with the way allegations of misconduct of employees at the state's education department are being handled.

Five workers at the Department of Children, Families and Learning have been accused of depositing money from a grant into a private account and withdrawing the funds for personal use. Barbara Yates, deputy commissioner at the department, apologized for actions of the department at the committee's March 20 meeting.

Three of the workers, Yates reported, are still employed at the department and another is still employed elsewhere with the state. Members asked why they haven't been placed on leave. Yates said the employees aren't working with money, and the investigation is not complete.

Rep. Barbara Goodwin (DFL-Columbia Heights) said when illegal activity is suspected a company or organization has the ability to put employees on leave.

A letter from Bob Wedl, who was commissioner of the department when the alleged actions took place, addressed to House and Senate committee chairs, was distributed to committee members. (Rep. Harry Mares, R-White Bear Lake, chairs the education committee in the House and Sen. Sandy Pappas, DFL-St. Paul, chairs the equivalent committee in the Senate.)

In the letter, Wedl stated he had "no knowledge regarding this activity," and that he "accept(s) responsibility" because he was commissioner during that time.

Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan) questioned what "taking responsibility" means. "Is he going to take responsibility for the felony?"

Yates also said the department "takes responsibility" for what the investigation has revealed.

"The letter illustrates a problem that for over two years wasn't caught," said Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr. (DFL-Winona).

Members asked Yates how the \$600 million the department receives annually in grant awards is handled and how this sort of situation could be prevented.

She said they have begun an internal grant review and are working on a better system for

grants. "We're trying to get more eyes on grants and grant processes," Yates said.

Legislative Auditor James Nobles said his office has long considered doing a broader examination of agencies and departments. Later this year, he said, his office will conduct an extensive examination of grant administration. He said they will not only be looking at inappropriate use of funds but other issues as well.

There has not been any legislation to deal with current findings, but Nobles said the Senate has introduced a bill to conduct a study.

### Learn and Earn

Before Andryaelle Jackson of Minneapolis started in the Learn and Earn program, she wasn't looking forward to college, or even high school. But since the Washburn High School junior started it, she has participated in educational programs, personal and skill development, and community service, which have given her a better outlook on school.

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) is sponsoring a bill to continue funding for the graduation incentive program to give more students like Andryaelle a better chance of completing high school and furthering their education.

HF1351 would allocate \$2.5 million to Learn and Earn to expand existing programs, begin new programs through grants, and evaluate outcomes. The House K-12 Education Finance Committee heard the bill March 19 and will consider including it in the committee's omnibus bill.

Learn and Earn was piloted by the Legislature in 1998 as an after-school, weekend, and/or summer school program for at-risk ninth- through 12<sup>th</sup>-graders. Schools must meet all requirements to be eligible for the program, which include having a high juvenile crime rate and 80 percent of students with incomes at or below the poverty level.

Students join in their freshman year, remain in the program for four years, and leave with a scholarship for post-secondary education or training. Program Director Polly Harrison told members of the committee the scholarship makes the dream of college more of a reality. For many students, they are the first in their family to attend.

Presently 200 to 250 students are enrolled. Last year a bill to continue funding was not passed, but this year proponents came with more statistics showing progress of the students.

Harrison said there has been a decrease in detentions of students in the program. She admitted she "wasn't proud" of numbers that showed after the program's first two years that

### ASTHMA RELIEF



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Taylor Orr, a fifth-grader at Richfield Intermediate School, demonstrates for the House Education Policy Committee what breathing is like during an asthma attack. Orr testified March 22 in support of HF1394, a bill that would authorize asthma inhaler possession and use for public elementary and secondary school students.



59 percent of participants are on track to graduate in 2002. But then she looked at the graduation rate in Minneapolis, which is 44 percent in four years, and 31 percent for African-American students, so she decided Learn and Earn's numbers were pretty good.

Students are getting on the honor roll, attending national conferences, earning awards, and many have emerged as leaders in their communities, Harrison said. "These students would certainly fall through the cracks in their school districts."

## ★ EMPLOYMENT

### Funding in question

Armed with three-foot wide scrolls of 2,400 names of supporters of displaced homemakers programs, executives and participants of the programs testified at the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee March 19 for the program's continued funding.

Gov. Jesse Ventura has recommended discontinuing the program, saying other workforce programs in the state could meet the needs of displaced homemakers.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), and three of its co-sponsors sit on the committee.

Proponents of HF1003, which would allocate \$4 million in the 2002-03 biennium to displaced homemakers programs, say the programs cost much less than government assistance programs.

"The real expense would be to take away funding from displaced homemakers programs and put back costs on taxpayers," said Daniel Swalm, career counselor and trainer for Working Opportunities for Women.

The programs help rebuild the lives and economic underpinnings of homemakers who have been widowed, abandoned, divorced, or their partners have become disabled. Typically, these are homemakers who have been out of the traditional workforce for many years and are forced to re-enter it without certain work skills.

The Minnesota Displaced Homemaker Programs Network estimates a person who is unemployed and living on public assistance could cost taxpayers up to \$30,000 a year.

Forty percent of displaced homemakers turn to welfare, said Tsippi Wray, family law attorney and contract child support magistrate for Ramsey County. Most are more than 45 years old, an age where it's hard to enter the workforce.

Displaced homemaker organizations are the only programs that combine all their needs,

Wray said. Such organizations offer battered women's programs, sexual assault programs, and displaced homemaker programs.

Jack Uldrich, deputy director of Minnesota Planning, spoke on behalf of the governor's administration. He said the economic environment has changed since the program's inception in 1978; today there are more jobs, and Minnesota has one of the lowest unemployment rates.

The governor wants to focus on workers that are underemployed and have no lobbying group, Uldrich said.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) said he was concerned about domestic violence victims, that if displaced homemaker programs were eliminated there may not be others that would address those types of needs. Uldrich said the governor would want to make sure other programs had resources for specific needs of women, but did not know if any other programs currently exist.

HF1003 will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

### WORKING OUT THE DIFFERENCES



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Dave Walkama of Aurora, a 30-year employee of LTV Mining in Hoyt Lakes, brought his sign of support to the front of the House Chamber March 19, as the House debated a bill that would extend unemployment benefits for laid off employees of the mine. The House and Senate have appointed a conference committee to work out language discrepancies in the bill.**

## ★ ENERGY

### Energy bills charge ahead

Two bills that would provide energy security and reliability were approved by the House Regulated Industries Committee March 20.

HF659, said Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville), committee chair and sponsor of the bill, combines the best aspects of three energy bills introduced by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Commerce, and the POWER (People Organized for Workers, the Environment and Ratepayers) Campaign.

The committee has spent weeks listening to testimony and drafting amendments for the bill. It has now been sent to the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

HF659 would summon public participation in early stages of the infrastructure planning process to help create an "energy security blueprint," a long-term plan of the state's regional needs. A state reliability plan prepared by the commissioner of commerce would give a short-term outlook of energy projects.

Applying for and receiving infrastructure approvals would be simpler, only needing review from one organization. Currently, proposals must be reviewed by three different agencies.

The bill introduces more incentives for conservation and renewable energy. One of several efficiency provisions requires utilities to offer customers the option to request that a certain amount of electricity came from a renewable or high efficiency/low emissions source.

HF1323, which has also been sent to the environment policy committee, introduces legislation to create incentives to put energy generation on the ground. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Loren Geo Jennings (DFL-Harris).

The bill defines an "electric generation park," and would require the Public Utilities Commission to decide whether to approve a certificate of need for a generation park within 120 days.

A Minnesota Reliability Surcharge would be used to encourage new generation facilities to serve Minnesota consumers. Portions of the surcharge would be used to purchase public right of ways; provide incentives for reducing emissions from, and increasing efficiency of, existing power plants; and issue grants for business energy conservation.

Lastly, the bill would exempt all new power plants from the personal property tax.

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### Master logger certification

Certified wood products are in demand in the retail marketplace, both as lumber and in finished products. Loggers, mills, and manufacturers who cannot supply these products are increasingly at a disadvantage, according to people in the timber industry.

A bill that would create an educational program to certify loggers was heard by the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee March 20.

"We have a lot of small mills that can't afford to go through the process of certification," said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), sponsor of HF925. "This bill would help the small mills to stay in the market."

The bill would appropriate \$302,000 from the general fund in fiscal year 2002 for the development and implementation of a master logging certification program.

The commissioner of natural resources would contract with the Associated Contract Loggers of Minnesota to develop the program, under the bill. The commissioner would then appoint a committee to oversee the process.

Under this bill, the certification program must rely on existing logger education programs; its standards for performance and enforcement must be consistent with current state statutes; and it must be consistent with other forest certification programs in Minnesota. The program would be available to all loggers in the state.

"The certification program guarantees wood is harvested correctly and manufactured correctly," said Jerry Bircham, executive director of Associated Contract Loggers. "It would give Minnesota's private timber the ability to be certified."

According to Bircham, master logger certification is a national trend. It has been endorsed by the American Loggers Council and the Forest Resources Association. He said Minnesota is at a disadvantage because there is currently no mechanism for private timber harvesters to be certified.

"We have to go further away to procure our logs," Leah Kuyava, of Hill Wood Products in Cook, told the committee. "Our customer is telling us that by 2002 they will take no products not made of certified wood."

Not everyone in Minnesota's timber industry agrees on the importance of such a program, however.

Ray Killmer, president of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, said currently existing programs, such as the Minnesota Logger Education Program and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, are sufficient.

Bakk disagreed. "The sooner we get on board, the better off our economy will be," he said. "And our environment."

HF925 was approved and sent to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

## ★ GAMBLING

### Cutting gambling taxes

The state's lawful gambling tax rates would be reduced for a fourth consecutive year under three bills heard by the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division March 15.

Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) said each would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

HF832, sponsored by Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee), HF841, sponsored by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), and HF948, sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), would reduce taxes on raffles, paddlewheels, bingo, tipboards and pull-tabs.

In total, each bill would reduce charitable gambling taxes by around 12 percent.

Daggett said the state began taxing charitable gambling organizations back when there was a budget deficit and it makes sense to now reduce the taxes to allow more money to stay within the communities.

King Wilson, executive director of Allied Charities, said that in 1999 charitable gambling organizations such as Lions Clubs, VFWs and church organizations contributed more than \$78 million for charitable purposes. Those groups also paid in excess of \$62 million in gambling taxes.

Maureen Vachuska, gambling chair of the Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights, said that out of the \$3.4 million in revenue raised by the organization last year \$175,000 was paid in taxes. She said the remaining profits went towards the parish's elementary school, public library donations, and programs like Meals on Wheels.

She said money that now goes towards taxes could be spent towards updating the school's computers and other programs.

Dean Keller from the Spring Lake Park Lions Club said his organization contributed \$382,000 last year, much of it spent on building an athletic field at the city's high school. He said the club paid \$495,000 in taxes.

John Vaydich from the Duluth Softball Players Association, said his organization is involved in a project that would consolidate two underused and inadequate fields into a single improved field. He said the organization paid \$96,900 in taxes last year, more than enough to finish the project.

"Every dollar that does not come to St. Paul stays in the community," Vaydich said.

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### Disclosing outside compensation

Many of the state's constitutional officers would be subject to greater disclosure on outside income under a measure approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee March 21.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

HF1025, sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), would require members of the State Board of Investment to disclose any contract or other arrangement that involves providing outside services for compensation.

The board, which is composed of the governor, state auditor, secretary of state, and attorney general, administers the investment of state funds, primarily retirement funds.

Entenza called the bill a "compromise" proposal to other bills concerning Gov. Jesse Ventura's outside employment. He said the board invests more than \$53 billion annually and the bill would make board members' disclosure of outside incomes similar to what is already required by corporate board members and larger nonprofit organizations.

The bill would require disclosure of the identity for whom the services will be performed, as well as the duration of the arrangement and the amount of compensation involved.

Entenza said he agreed with Ventura's assertion that it is appropriate to let the people of the state decide whether the governor's non-state employment activities is an ethics issue. The bill would give people more information on the state's constitutional officers, he said.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), a cosponsor of the bill, said with the amount of money the board is responsible for, greater disclosure requirements are appropriate.

"In today's multi-national, mega-merger world, it's very difficult for the public to understand investments the state is making," he said.

The committee adopted an amendment offered by Rep. Mark Thompson (DFL-New Hope) eliminating the section of the bill that would have made it retroactive to Jan. 1, 2000. The bill now would be effective Aug. 1, 2001.

Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield) said because "creative attorneys" could find ways to make compensation not look like compensation, the scope of the bill should be broader and should include disclosure not only of compensation but also financial interests such as royalties and the sale of property.

Entenza said he agreed with Gleason and would accept an amendment broadening the scope of the bill on the House floor.

### Decentralizing government

Most state agency headquarters are located in St. Paul. The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill March 21 that may spread them throughout Greater Minnesota.

HF1272, sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), would establish a legislative policy to "bring government closer to all people of our state in order to serve them better." The bill directs the commissioner of the Department of Administration to decentralize state agencies so the agencies are located in rural as well as metropolitan areas of the state.

The bill would further require the department to explore the possibility of using existing local government buildings to help save money.

The committee adopted an amendment offered by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) requiring the department to study the issue and report back to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 2002.

Jaros said currently there are a few agencies, such as the Pollution Control Agency and the Natural Resources and Transportation departments, that have offices throughout the state. But he said he was surprised to learn that the Department of Trade and Economic Development had very few employees from their economic development division or the trade office outside St. Paul.

"It's very important for the department to help people throughout the state," Jaros said. "Non-metropolitan areas need an economic development and trade presence."

Kath Ouska, an assistant commissioner from the Department of Administration, said the bill would require a "large undertaking." She said state agencies are best at determining how to improve and administer services.

Ouska said that when comparing the demographics of the state population with the square foot physical space of agencies including higher education facilities, the various parts of the state are pretty well represented.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) said to include the MnSCU colleges "skewed" the demographics because most agencies are located in St. Paul. He said when the Department of Revenue opened an office in Ely, management was opposed to the idea and reluctantly went along "kicking and screaming."

"After they got there they found it worked pretty well," Solberg said.

Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield) said when a bill to move the Department of Agriculture campus to Greater Minnesota was debated on the House floor last year, concerns were raised about families in the Twin Cities having to move to other parts of the state and the availability of jobs for spouses. Gleason said those concerns should be part of the report required by Kahn's amendment.

## ★ HEALTH

### Training health professionals

Rural Minnesotans would have access to more medical equipment and better-trained personnel under a bill sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe).

HF1216 seeks nearly \$2.6 million in increased funding for the 2002-03 biennium to help fund the Comprehensive Advanced Life Support (CALS) Course. The bill further seeks approximately \$2.4 million for the 2004-05 biennium. The program now receives an appropriation of \$100,000 per year and an additional \$8,000 for administration purposes.

The bill was held over for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

"CALS is specifically designed for rural communities that must deal with a broad range of medical emergencies utilizing very limited hospital and equipment resources and without specially-trained personnel," Dr. Darrell Carter, program director for the course in Granite Falls, told the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee March 16.

He said rural doctors must be able to deal with a variety of medical problems or conditions, while in urban hospitals there are often specialists for each area. "CALS provides health care teams with the tools to care for and

stabilize critically ill or injured patients, and thus improves patients' chances of survival in less technical settings."

Sponsored by the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians, the primary focus of a CALS Course is a team approach to anticipate, recognize, and treat life and organ threatening emergencies.

As of March 16, 589 providers, including 235 physicians and 287 registered nurses, have been trained in 30 CALS courses.

Jane Curran, a 28-year nursing veteran, including 18 in emergency services at Faribault, took a course. "It is important to have all your staff trained in CALS. It can make a difference," she said.

An Office of Rural Health survey in 1999 showed that approximately 12,000 medical personnel are in rural Minnesota. Assuming 25 percent of those want to take a CALS Course and remain current in methods (recertification every four years), 40 classes would be needed annually.

Mulder said 11 more two-day courses are scheduled throughout the state by May 2002, with five already full. Five communities are on a waiting list to host a class. "Because so many people want to be involved we need more money," he said.

Present fees for the program are \$590 for physicians, \$370 for physician assistants and nurse practitioners, and \$320 for nurses, paramedics, and others. The appropriation would provide the program at no charge.

## ★ HIGHER EDUCATION

### Reciprocity re-evaluation

A plan proponents say will save money and create equal academic opportunities was introduced at the March 21 meeting of the House Higher Education Finance Committee.

### PIGSKIN PROPOSAL



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

At a March 22 press conference Mike Kelly, executive vice president of the Minnesota Vikings, stands among architectural drawings of a proposed football stadium for the Vikings and Minnesota Gophers to be constructed on the Twin Cities campus.

Held over for consideration in the committee's omnibus bill, HF1649, sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), would call for reciprocity agreements between Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota to require the payment of Minnesota resident tuition rates. The bill would also prohibit general fund payments for the program.

Under current reciprocity agreements students pay what they would pay at a similar school in their home state. Opatz said, for example, a Wisconsin student attending the University of Minnesota pays approximately \$800 less than a Minnesota student does at the same institution. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a Minnesota student pays \$1,100 more than a Wisconsin student does.

Opatz said this agreement costs the University of Minnesota \$3.7 million per year and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities approximately \$500,000 annually.

"We are now a net exporter of students," Opatz said noting 20,485 Minnesota students are now attending college in Wisconsin or North and South Dakota with tuition incentives, but only 16,667 students from those states are at a Minnesota college or university. He added that, "9,451 students from reciprocity states pay lower tuition than Minnesota students at the same institution."

The bill would not affect students now in college or those that will be freshmen in the fall.

Current agreements also have the state forecasted to pay \$10.5 million in the next biennium to North Dakota and Wisconsin using a formula agreed upon by the Higher Education Services Office. According to Minnesota law, "the formula shall recognize differences in tuition rates between the two states and the number of students attending institutions in each state under the agreement."

Opatz said his bill would help the state's workforce situation because "evidence suggests that for a time there is a tendency for students to work in the state where they graduated." He said Minnesota is expected to have a shortfall of 200,000 skilled workers by 2008, with 59 percent of those positions requiring some college.

Peter Zetterberg, director of the University of Minnesota's Office of Institutional Research and Reporting, said he was confident the net migration for employment is not true. "At the Twin Cities campus 50 percent of students from out of state stay here."

He also said the University of Minnesota graduates 1,000 engineers per year and without reciprocity agreements that number would be lower.

Roland Barden, president of Minnesota State University, Moorhead, also spoke against the bill, in part because he is fearful a Minne-

sota student wanting to study a certain area would be forced to pay more if they had to go out of state for that program, such as pharmacy at North Dakota State University.

Opatz said the state would need to develop targeted things to help students in those situations.

### **Credit transfer troubles**

Schools within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system are struggling with the ability for students to freely transfer lower division credits from one institution to another.

A bill, sponsored by Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), addresses the problem by allowing automatic transfer grades for lower division classes typically taken in the first two years of school. HF1661, heard March 19 by the House Higher Education Finance Committee, will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

"If a student takes English 101 at Ely Community College and gets a grade of C or better, it will automatically transfer to another MnSCU institution, such as Minnesota State University, Mankato," Tuma said of the bill's provisions. The bill would require that for the credit to transfer, a student must be in an associate degree program.

Under the present system, officials of the receiving institution review the course description of the attending institution and see where, or if, it fits in their framework.

"If there is a 70 percent overlap we accept it," said Bette Midgarden, vice president of academic affairs at Minnesota State University, Moorhead. She said students completing specified transfer curriculum at one institution, upon transfer to another, will be deemed to have satisfied the general education requirement of the latter.

Much of the debate centers around students transferring from technical schools.

"This is baby steps for what we need for the future," said Larry Shellito, president of Alexandria Technical College. He said some students have 64 or more credits on their transcript, but less than one-third are accepted at other MnSCU institutions.

William Bieber, transfer specialist at Minnesota State University, Mankato, said of the 40 classes he has reviewed from technical colleges, 30 have had no problem being accepted, more information has been requested for a few, and five or six were rejected.

Before enrolling in classes, he said students seeking to transfer need to do homework by talking to transfer advisors, looking at transfer guides, or looking on a state Web site containing that information.

However, Mike Lehn, legislative co-chair for the Minnesota State College Faculty, said there has been a lack of education about transfers and that faculty need skills to determine if a transfer will be accepted and if it applies to a program at another institution.

Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria) wondered why some officials are against this bill if all is going well. "What's the harm if this passes?"

Linda Baer, senior vice chancellor of academic and student affairs for MnSCU, said, "The problem is that the receiving institution grants the degree, and we need to make sure all the parts are there."

### **Welcome to Minnesota**

A bill that would help those transplanted in Minnesota send their children to state colleges and universities will be considered for inclusion in the House Higher Education Finance Committee's omnibus bill.

Sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), HF2001 would expand the capability for state aid to public post-secondary institutions by exempting that group of people from the one-year residency requirement for the funding.

Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester), who is sponsoring the bill in the Senate, told the House committee March 21 that it is aimed at people who have relocated to Minnesota for employment purposes and accepted a full-time job in the state before applying to a college or university.

"This is just a tiny piece of recruiting people to come to Minnesota and work," she said.

HF2001 would allow people in these situations to be charged in-state tuition even though they may not have lived in the state for one year prior to applying for admission to a state school.

"It's not fair for them to pay taxes here, but need to pay out-of-state tuition," Kiscaden said.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) asked what classifies someone as a full-time employee. He said depending on the employer, that could range from 26 hours per week to 40 or more.

"It should be full-time as defined by the applicant's employer," Bishop said.

Kiscaden said the bill has little, if any, fiscal impact. "It just gives us consistent policy."

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## ★ HUMAN SERVICES

### Civil commitment concern

A bill that would modify existing law to make it easier to have a mentally ill person committed for treatment was approved by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 20. The bill was sent to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

"This bill makes it easier for families to get help for a family member who has a mental illness but does not recognize they have it, which is the case with 40 percent of people with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder," said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), sponsor of HF281.

The bill would modify the definition of "mentally ill person" in the Civil Commitment Act and would include the following as evidence of mental illness:

- The inability or failure of a person to care for him or herself "for reasons other than indigence;"
- The probability a person "will suffer substantial harm, significant psychiatric deterioration or debilitation, or serious illness, unless appropriate treatment and services are provided;" or
- "Recent and intentional conduct involving significant damage to substantial property."

HF281 would also delete the word "imminent" from the phrase "is in imminent danger of causing injury to self or others."

This word has been a "bottleneck for people who would otherwise qualify for civil commitment, but they can't get in to be evaluated," Greiling said.

The bill would allow the maximum duration of hospitalization to be 21 days rather than 10 days.

Finally, the hearing for civil commitment would, whenever possible, be held concurrently with the hearing for medication.

"In Minnesota we would not let an elderly friend with Alzheimer's go out alone into the freezing cold," said John Milton, legislative co-chair of the National Alliance for Mentally Ill of Minnesota. "But we do allow people with serious brain disease to make the decision not to take medication, even though nearly half of them are not competent to make that choice. This is nothing short of inhumane."

Nancy Schumacher, director of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights, said the bill has "disturbing" flaws. "It offers no protection against someone being wrongly committed," she said.

"When it's a mental illness, I believe there should be a way to intervene," said Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids). "The person doesn't see that they're ill."

### A financial lesson

The House Health and Human Services Policy Committee has been engaged in an ongoing struggle to reduce the waiting list for home and community-based waivers for people with mental retardation or related conditions.

On Jan. 1, 1999, there were 3,300 people on the waiting list with many families waiting several years to get a waiver for services.

"We applied in 1990 for a waiver and we're still waiting," said Glen Johnson, parent of a 24-year-old developmentally disabled daughter. "You wouldn't believe the amount of time and effort it takes — and there's no end in sight."

In response to this dilemma, the Legislature passed a law in 1999 with the intent of reducing or eliminating the waiting list by June 30, 2003. To that end, the law specified that money allocated but not expended on those who meet priorities must go back into the program to serve others on the waiting list.

In 2000, the Department of Finance put the unspent portion of the appropriation, approximately \$66 million, into the surplus. Committee members expressed their anger and frustration at the March 15 meeting.

"It's an obscenity what the Department of Finance did with those funds," said Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids).

"The Department of Finance clearly disregarded what this Legislature wrote into statute," added Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan). "They treat what we write into statute as a suggestion box."

Frank Hutchinson, from the Department of Finance, said he "listened to and understood" what the legislators said.

"Let March 15<sup>th</sup> go on record as the day the Department of Finance acknowledged they must not fool around with our budget," Koskinen said.

A bill that would make legislative intent clear on the matter of waivers was proffered to the committee by its sponsor, Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester).

HF1064 states unequivocally "the commissioner of finance shall not reduce the spending forecast for the coming biennium," and specifies that any unspent funds must be used to serve persons with mental retardation or related conditions waiting for home and community-based waivers. The bill was approved and sent to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

Among the bill's provisions are an expansion of the availability of services to people with mental retardation or related conditions and permission for conservators to serve as personal care assistants to recipients.

"I want us to celebrate for having unlocked the waiting list," Bradley told the committee. Because of the previous legislation, he said 1,835 new people had been authorized to receive waivers.

### Long-term care reform

A consolidated long-term care bill was presented to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 20.

"I think when we look back this will be seen as a historic moment," said Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), sponsor of HF1658, and of the three bills that are its components. The bill was approved and referred to the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Committee.

HF1658 details a "fundamental strategy to allow people to age in place," Bradley said, referring to a shift in focus from nursing home care to community-based care.

Minnesota's system has been biased toward nursing homes, he said. However, given affordable alternatives, people are choosing to stay in their homes as long as possible. HF1658 is an attempt to provide people of Minnesota with what they want in long-term care, he said.

### ABUSE PENALTIES



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Cyndi Cook, representing the Coalition for Battered Women, testifies before the House Civil Law Committee March 21 in support of HF699, a bill that would modify domestic abuse criminal and civil penalties.

The bill incorporates recommendations from the long-term task force, the long-term care imperative, and the Department of Human Services, including:

- Consumer information and assistance and community-based care;
- Long-term care system reform and reimbursement;
- Workforce recruitment and retention provision;
- Regulation of supplemental nursing services agencies; and
- Long-term care insurance.

"This is a decade-long commitment as we begin to transform the system," Bradley said. "I'm proud to be a part of it."

## ★ INDUSTRY

### **Selling gas below cost**

Alan Merschman, owner of a Bemidji Amoco gas station that has been in his family since 1954, fears he may soon become a victim of predatory pricing.

"This is big businesses going after small businesses," he told the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee March 15.

Although he might lose money under a bill (HF1007) that would prohibit gasoline retailers from selling gas below cost, Merschman says he would see a base margin and he may not be forced to close his store.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), committee chair, defines "cost" as the average terminal price, plus state and federal taxes, plus six percent. Davids said he is concerned about predatory pricing by large retailers that are putting gas stations in small Minnesota towns.

"This would go a long way to ensure these businesses stay open," Davids said.

Ted Brausen, president of the Minnesota Service Station Association and an independent dealer, said he and other dealers would have a chance to survive if they came in at six percent over the market.

"We are not asking to be profitable; we are asking to be competitive," he said.

Annette Henkel, lobbyist for the Minnesota Retailers Association, said HF1007 is "anti-consumer because it restricts consumer's choices," and that it "affects all independent retailers."

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) pointed out that milk and cigarettes are priced in the same way, and asked Henkel if the association had any interest in repealing those laws. Henkel replied no, noting the laws have been in place for 40 years. McElroy said he was

concerned about the inconsistency on the association's stance.

The committee left questions unanswered regarding predatory pricing enforcement, green stamps, and other discounts, but passed the bill and said the numbers would be worked out at the bill's next stop, the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee. The bill will also likely be heard in the House Crime Prevention and Civil Law committees.

### **Steel crisis resolution sent**

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a resolution March 15 to send an official message to President George W. Bush requesting that his administration immediately investigate illegal dumping of steel products in the United States. The House and Senate overwhelmingly approved the resolution.

"Illegal dumping" refers to the practice of other countries exporting their excess steel into the United States and selling it at a lower price than American manufacturers.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm), maintains that a "crisis has been generated by surges in United States imports of steel."

Officials say illegal imports of steel products have been the cause of more than 7,000 job losses for steelworkers across the nation in the last six months, including 1,500 in Minnesota.

The resolution implores Bush "to immediately impose a one-year ban on imports of all steel products that are the products of, or are manufactured in, Australia, China, South Africa, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Mexico, or Brazil if the President finds that the governments of those countries are not abiding by the spirit and letter of international trade agreements with respect to imports of steel products into the United States."

Sen. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF219/SF258\*/R1

## ★ TAXES

### **Cashing in on charitable contributions**

It may pay to be more charitable under a measure heard by the House Taxes Committee March 16.

HF15, sponsored by House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), would allow a 100 percent subtraction of charitable contributions greater than \$500 for people who do not itemize on their federal taxes.

The committee took no action on the bill,

but Committee Chair Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) said it would be further considered for inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Taxpayers are now allowed a 50 percent subtraction for contributing to charity. Pawlenty said Minnesota was the first state to allow the subtraction.

The Department of Revenue estimates the bill would cost approximately \$3.8 million in 2002 and \$4 million in 2003. It is estimated around 95,600 Minnesotans took advantage of the subtraction in tax year 1999 saving a total of about \$53.1 million.

Pawlenty said those that took advantage of the subtraction contributed significantly to the nonprofit charitable sector in the state. He said the Minnesota initiative is being adopted by many other states and is part of President George W. Bush's federal tax proposal.

Carol Berde, executive vice president of the McKnight Foundation, said the more diverse a charity's funding base the more likely it is that the foundation's dollars will be leveraged. She said the number of individuals contributing has increased due in part to the tax subtraction.

The committee considered an amendment Pawlenty said would address a "glitch" in current law that exists because state taxes can be itemized on the federal return but must be added back to the state taxable income when figuring out the state tax liability.

According to information provided by the nonpartisan House Research staff, a married couple with \$70,000 in income that itemize their federal return have the same Minnesota tax on any charitable contributions up to \$1,600.

The committee took no action on the amendment that the Department of Revenue estimates would cost around \$30 million a year.

### **Low income assistance**

Lawmakers are used to being under the watchful eye of their constituents. But Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls) might have felt a little more added pressure when her mother testified before the House Taxes Committee March 16.

HF1017, sponsored by Walker, would provide \$200,000 for nonprofit organizations to provide volunteer tax preparation service to low income people.

Walker said last year that the Legislature appropriated \$100,000 for the program. Along with the appropriation, the Department of Revenue was directed to study the availability of taxpayer assistance services.

That study indicates that in 2000 more than 96,000 people received free tax assistance. As a result, \$57.1 million in tax refunds was generated and \$1.9 million in balance due payments were made.



Clarissa Walker of Sabathani Community Center tells the House Taxes Committee March 16 how volunteers were able to help low income taxpayers with their income tax preparation. The committee was hearing a bill sponsored by Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls), Clarissa's daughter, that would appropriate money for grants to nonprofits to deliver volunteer assistance to low-income taxpayers for income tax preparation.

Clarissa Walker, Rep. Walker's mother, is a program manager for Sabathani Community Center in Minneapolis. She said that last year the center's tax preparers helped low-income taxpayers claim more than \$779,000 in federal and state tax refunds. She said without the volunteer service, many people would not have been aware of the credits and refunds that were available.

Deb Schowalter, a benefactor of the volunteer services, described her situation two years ago when she was in the final year of nursing school. A mother of two boys and on welfare, she was told of the free tax services. The tax preparer helped her claim a refund of nearly one-half of her income for the year.

"Without the help I probably wouldn't have had that big of a return. I didn't know what credits were. It is very important to have this kind of help out there," she said.

The committee adopted an amendment that would make the appropriation available for fiscal years 2002 and 2003 but not part of the department's overall base budget.

No further action was taken but the committee chair, Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

## A parting gift

A Minnesotan may not always be a Minnesotan for tax purposes. The House Taxes Committee heard a bill March 16 that would change one of the factors used in determining residency for income tax purposes.

HF26, sponsored by House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), would prohibit the Department of Revenue from using the location of financial accounts in determining when somebody owes the state income tax.

Pawlenty said people leaving the state to seek more favorable tax treatment in other states often leave assets in Minnesota banks and other financial institutions. He said the bill would allow the state to continue to benefit from assets even after the person has chosen residency elsewhere.

"Even though they may go, keeping their money here is a good thing," he said.

John Haugen from the Department of Revenue, said the department uses 26 factors including whether a person has a house, owns homestead property, and whether they are filing income taxes in another state, in determining if they owe Minnesota income taxes.

He said people generally have a more difficult time explaining to the department why they do not have financial accounts in the state they are claiming residency rather than explain why they do still have a Minnesota savings account.

Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) said he has heard the opposite side of the issue. He has been told how easy it is to "beat Minnesota taxes" because the department is required to disprove a person's claim of residency in another state.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) said perhaps the best way to address the issue is to come up with a clear definition in the statutes of when someone is a Minnesota resident and when they are not.

The committee took no action on the bill, but Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

## Apartment breaks

Apartment owners would see their property tax bill decrease under a measure heard by the House Taxes Committee Property Tax Division March 19.

HF1398, sponsored by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), would reduce the tax rate on residential rental housing to equal that of residential homestead property.

Dorman said the bill addresses an "equity issue," that it is not fair to tax those starting out and those with lower incomes at a higher rate than homeowners.

The committee took no action on the bill but Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), the division chair, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Currently the tax rate on rental property varies. For most properties the rate is 2.4 percent. For property in qualifying small cities the rate is 2.15 percent for buildings with four or more units and 1.65 percent for buildings with less than four units. The rate for qualifying low-income housing is 1 percent.

The class rate for residential homestead property is 1 percent on the first \$76,000 and 1.65 percent on the amount greater than \$76,000.

Under the measure the tax rate would be reduced to 1 percent on all rental housing up to \$76,000. The class rate would remain the same as current law for any value over \$76,000.

Stuart Nolan, a developer with more than 35 years in the industry, said current tax policy discourages builders from building more apartments in the state.

He said the only developments that work now are subsidized units with tax credits, and luxury property where the owner can charge high rents.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) said he could not support the bill unless there could be some guarantee that lowering the tax rate would guarantee the building of apartments in the middle range and that not all the savings would go towards the profits of apartment owners.

McElroy said the high price of building apartments is due not only to taxes, but also to other fees charged by municipalities.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) said information provided to him by the nonpartisan House Research department shows that taxes on apartments have remained relatively flat over the past decade. He said that despite rate reductions the supply has remained low while rents have increased.

## Cause and effect

Officials from the Department of Revenue provided the House Taxes Committee March 21 with an analysis on how Gov. Jesse Ventura's tax reform and relief program might affect businesses and households in the state.

But committee members expressed concerns with whether the findings of the department staff accurately reflect how the bill (HF511) will change the state's tax system.

Dick Gebhart, a research director from the department, said the analysis was based on the assumption that the state's tax system will remain in a similar position as compared to other states and the rest of the world. It also



assumes the other jurisdictions will change their systems to address changing economic conditions.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) said that because people's behavior would change and adapt to the major tax reforms, the static analysis that doesn't factor in those types of changes was not that useful.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, agreed with Milbert and said he was further concerned that it took the department two months to develop the statistical analysis of the possible impact of the governor's proposal and that the nonpartisan House Research staff still doesn't completely understand all the details of the bill.

According to the department's report, the bill would reduce the overall tax burden on Minnesotans by \$1.2 billion in 2003. The governor's proposal would make the state's overall tax system slightly more progressive, Gebhart said.

A progressive tax is considered one in which the more you earn the higher your tax rate. Likewise a regressive tax is defined as one in which less income earned leads to a higher percentage of income being paid in taxes.

Abrams encouraged the governor and the department to work with the Legislature to find a tax plan that can be passed into law. He said that just because lawmakers disagree with portions of the plan doesn't mean they lack "political courage" or are "career politicians."

"It means we have a differing view of the future," he said.

He asked Matt Smith, the commissioner of the department, if the governor would veto an omnibus tax bill that didn't contain the proposed expansion of the sales tax to more services.

"What we heard, commissioner, is a resounding 'no' (about the expansion) from the people of Minnesota," Abrams said.

Smith said Ventura remains committed to reforming the state's tax system to conform to the changing economy that is based more on the purchasing of services.

## DAN PATCH LINE



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Laurie McNamara, who would live along the proposed Dan Patch commuter rail line, testifies March 21 for a bill that would require local approval of any light-rail physical design plans for a commuter rail corridor during a hearing of the House Transportation Policy Committee. Others testifying who would live along the rail line are; Brien Martin, Jim Welby, Dave Plant and Paul McCullough.

## TRANSPORTATION



### Riding the rails

Two bills dealing with railroads have chugged through a House committee and are now waiting at the station.

After discussion at a March 19 meeting, the House Transportation Finance Committee will consider both for inclusion in its omnibus bill later this session.

The first, HF1773, sponsored by Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet), would devote \$7 million for 2002 to the rail service improvement account, a fund used to pay the state share of contracts between the state, rail users, and railroads for infrastructure improvements.

The fund was first established in the 1970s, and rarely requires an appropriation because it receives repayment from loans made to in-

dustries which do the construction. Gov. Jesse Ventura's proposed budget included no money for the account.

A second bill, HF672, would give local agencies the ability to enter into partnerships with railroads so public money could be used to lengthen bridges. Sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), the plan would prevent local taxpayers from having to purchase an entire bridge simply to expand the roadway beneath it.

Ken Haider, Ramsey County Department of Public Works director and engineer, told a Feb. 22 House Transportation Policy Committee that public funds would still be appropriated by the state and authorized by county regulators.

"This is not free reign to funnel money to railroads," he said.

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# Stress relief

Plan would create tax-free zones to stimulate development for economically distressed parts of the state

BY DAVID MAEDA

**T**raditionally the state's economic development strategy has been twofold: either spend dollars to restore older areas in hopes that will attract new businesses or give grants or loans to businesses with the goal of creating new jobs.

But some lawmakers say the conventional ways of doing things aren't proving effective for some struggling areas of the state, particularly rural areas in Greater Minnesota.

Calling it a "bold, provocative, dramatic, and think-out-of-the-box" economic development approach, House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) presented a bill to the House Taxes Committee March 20 that would establish up to 10 tax-free zones in the state.

HF400 would authorize the commissioner of the Department of Trade and Economic Development to designate economically distressed rural areas where qualifying businesses would be exempt from income, sales, and property taxes. Residents also would be exempt from owing any individual income or sales tax within the zones.

"There are parts of the state in dire economic circumstances that have experienced dramatic job loss and dramatic population loss," Pawlenty said. "As we travel to different parts of the state we hear, 'What is the hope for our region?' and we don't always have a good answer."

He said though the bill might seem like a radical idea, it is already successful in two other states.

Michigan and Pennsylvania have adopted similar legislation and Pawlenty said it has worked so well in both states they are considering expanding their legislation. He cited a recent article that showed the Pennsylvania initiative has led to 5,000 new jobs. The magazine cited the program as the nation's number one economic development tool.

Pawlenty said the primary focus of the measure was to attract businesses to distressed areas, but some areas of the state, like west-central Minnesota, would benefit from a population migration.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Mike Larson, community development director for the IRRRB, testifies for a bill creating 10 tax-free zones in Greater Minnesota during a March 20 House Taxes Committee hearing.**

Rep. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook), one of the bill's co-sponsors, said traditional economic development strategies are not working in many rural areas of the state and the recent LTV steel plant closing in Hoyt Lakes is one indication that something new needs to be attempted.

A \$7 million Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board project in Hoyt Lakes to revitalize the infrastructure to an old industrial park has failed to have the impact that was hoped for, Bakk said. But with a strong workforce in the region, perhaps the tax-free

measure would be an added incentive for businesses to locate there.

He said the Iron Range fits many of the criteria in the bill, an indication of the difficult times that region has faced.

"I wish we didn't fit," Bakk said.

And Bakk noted that in the past the Twin Cities metropolitan area was defined as a seven-county region, but now with the growth around the St. Cloud area, it sometimes includes as many as 13 counties.

He said that as the metropolitan areas of the state thrive, the rest of the state is becoming more and more "a retirement area."

Under the measure, the maximum size of the zone would be 5,000 acres. A zone could be subdivided to allow noncontiguous zones. There could be up to six subdivided zones within the acreage, but the minimum size of the subdivided zones would be 20 acres.

The bill requires that all the tax-free zones be located outside the seven-county metropolitan area.

Pawlenty said in previous committee hearings for the bill that there was discussion about expanding the bill to include distressed metropolitan areas. He said he would consider expanding the scope of the bill to help certain areas of the Twin Cities — pointing to struggling efforts to revitalize the area around the former Lake Street Sears location in the Phillips Neighborhood of Minneapolis as an example.

Expressing concern with some of the decisions made by the Minneapolis Community Development Agency and St. Paul Port Authority, Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), chair of the taxes committee, said there would be less chance for the measure to be included in the omnibus tax bill if it were expanded to the Twin Cities area.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) said he was intrigued by the bill but had a concern it would create intrastate battles with cities and counties competing against each other while vying to attract businesses.

Abrams also said he was concerned about the approach being "TIF on steroids." He said tax-free zones, like tax increment financing, would allow for the government to pick "winners and losers" between businesses receiving different tax treatments.

Continued on page 35

# One session or two?

Debate about number of sessions during a biennium has been going on since the start of statehood

BY BRENDA VAN DYCK

Is one session long enough for the Legislature to get its work done? For most of the state's history, arguably, it was. From 1879 to 1973, the Legislature met only once during biennial sessions, but for the last 28 years sessions have been an annual occurrence.

When Minnesota became a state in 1858, there was a lot of work for legislators, which meant they met every year with no limits on the length of the session. But that did not last long. In 1860 the constitution was amended to limit each session to 60 days.

As the state reached its late teens, some thought the Legislature didn't need to meet every year. In 1877, the Legislature proposed a constitutional amendment that would make legislative sessions biennial and limit them to 60 days. Unlike a similar amendment that was offered in 1873, but was not ratified by voters, this one was approved by a substantial majority.

But it wasn't enough.

A decade later the Legislature proposed another amendment to extend the length of legislative sessions to 90 days; it passed in 1888. This amendment also introduced the term "legislative day." It was 80 years later, in 1962, before the constitution was again amended to lengthen legislative sessions to 120 days.

During those eight decades, the Legislature would use some trickery by "covering the clock" to ignore the constitutional deadline for completing its work.

Someone would actually cover the clock with a piece of cloth or stop it to prevent the arrival of the 90<sup>th</sup> day of the session — the last day — on which a bill could be passed. With the Legislature covering the clock, it would pass a flurry of bills, often leaving the governor with little time to consider bills. By law, the governor had three days to consider and sign bills after the last day.

In 1961, Gov. Elmer L. Andersen ended the practice by telling the Legislature he wouldn't consider any bills passed after midnight of the last day for passing bills.

While an every-other-year Legislature

worked for many years, the times were changing and so were House and Senate rules.

With issues of modern society growing more complex, by the late 1960s, people began proposing the Legislature go back to meeting annually.

Proponents said the Legislature didn't have enough time to get its work done. They argued that important bills were brought to the floor late in session and legislators didn't have enough time to properly consider them. If those bills didn't pass, they were dead and would have to be reintroduced two years later.

In addition, when new legislators were elected, there was a sharp learning curve during their first session, so with just one session

under their belts, they had to run for re-election before coming back and using that knowledge. Flexible sessions, proponents said, would permit a more efficient use of time.

Other problems cited with biennial sessions included difficulty in budgeting accurately for a two-year time period, the inability for the state to respond to federal initiatives, and difficulty in hiring staff for short sessions. Proponents said a Legislature that met annually would be better able to respond to emerging needs.

Change was on the horizon once again.

In 1968, the Citizen's League released a study which recommended the Legislature meet in annual flexible sessions, spreading its 120-day limit over two years. During recess periods, committees could hold hearings and work on bills, and the legislative bodies could focus on research for future legislation.

A 1970 Minnesota Poll found that 74 percent of Minnesotans supported yearly legislative sessions. In response to that, the 1971 Legislature approved a bill that would



Former Speaker of the House Martin Sabo, who was the first to preside over annual sessions, convenes a session



put a constitutional amendment for annual sessions on the 1972 ballot. The amendment kept the number of meeting days at 120 during the biennium, and it stipulated the Legislature would not be able to meet after the first Monday after the third Saturday in May.

Also in 1971, a legislative study group, the Joint Committee on Flexible Sessions, released a set of recommendations on how the Legislature should operate if the amendment was approved.

The committee said that not having enough time to do its work was the Legislature's greatest problem. "The constitutional constriction on the session time frame automatically lays a foundation supporting the inefficient use of time in the first six to 10 weeks and fails to provide enough time for the last 10 to 12 weeks of session."

The committee proposed that the major sessions should occur in odd-numbered years and use 90-100 legislative days. In these sessions, the Legislature would make major spending decisions. The second year of the biennium would consist of reviewing budgets, acting on the results of interim studies, and finishing any leftover business.

Furthermore, annual sessions were supposed to reduce the need to meet in special session to finish business. From 1955 to 1971, the Legislature met in special session after each of its regular sessions, including a record 53 days in 1971.

Several legislators traveled around the state lobbying for the meeting yearly amendment. "We feel very strongly that this amendment must pass to give us flexibility," said Sen. Harmon T. Ogdahl (Conservative-Minneapolis), who co-chaired the joint committee on flexible sessions.

Former Senate Majority Leader Stanley W. Holmquist (Conservative-Grove City) said, "There is no question that the enormous workload of the Legislature requires yearly sessions. But by going to flexible sessions, instead of annual sessions, we can still do the bulk of our work in the odd-numbered year and use the second year for unfinished business."

Their lobbying worked as voters approved the amend-



**House staff point to a cloth covering the chamber clock, extending the legislative day in the 1930's.**

*Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society*

ment, and the Legislature began meeting annually in 1973.

When the Legislature started its annual sessions, it started a pattern that has been largely followed since.

Instead of using most of the legislative days in the first year as recommended by the joint committee, the 1973 Legislature met for 66 legislative days and the 1974 Legislature met for 50 days. Since then, the Legislature has stuck to the original proposal of doing its major budgeting in the first year of a biennium.

Still, the 1974 Legislature heard some of the same complaints about the length of the sessions and not having enough time to complete its work.

A news report from the final week of that session said lawmakers were in the same scramble to get work done before adjournment as they had been in 1973. "The main problem seems to be the compulsion of lawmakers to introduce bills, the compulsion of committee chairmen to hold hearings on them, and general unwillingness of all lawmakers to say 'no' to their colleagues."

One lawmaker, Sen. C. R. "Baldy" Hansen (DFL-Austin) said the Legislature left too much over from the 1973 session. "There was just no pressure to finish up," he said.

**Brenda van Dyck is the editor/publications manager for the nonpartisan House Research Department.**

## What is a legislative day?

Even before proposing a constitutional amendment to change when the Legislature could meet, lawmakers explored whether they could recess indefinitely.

One problem with this was the lack of a statutory definition of "legislative day." In fact, the term wasn't even in the original constitution before being incorporated in an 1888 amendment extending the length of sessions to 60 legislative days.

Before the constitution was amended to allow for annual sessions in 1972, it stipulated that the Legislature meet biennially for no more than 120 legislative days.

For most of the state's history, "legislative day" had been construed to mean any day the Legislature could meet, excluding Sundays and holidays. In 1959, this was changed to include holidays. But this understanding of legislative day meant time ticked off the clock, regardless of whether either body of the Legislature actually met.

In a routine notice to the Legislature in January 1969, Attorney General Douglas Head said a provision in the constitution allowed the Legislature to extend the session indefinitely beyond its May 26 end date, if both the Senate and House "lawfully agreed" to do so. Legislators thought this could possibly open the door to allow for flexible sessions without changing the constitution.

As the 1969 session wore on, Sen. Nicholas D. Coleman (DFL-St. Paul) proposed that lawmakers recess for most of April and later reconvene to finish business. Senate Majority Leader Stanley W. Holmquist (Conservative-Grove City) requested the attorney general's opinion on the matter. In March, Head said the Legislature must interpret "legislative day" as it had for the previous 80 years, thereby strengthening the need for a constitutional amendment to allow for flexible sessions.

That same year the Legislature enacted a law that said "legislative day" meant any day either body of the Legislature met in session, from Jan. 1 to June 1. To test the law, the Legislature passed a bill on the 120th legislative day, which, under the new definition, was the 102nd day the Legislature met in session. A separate provision in the constitution prohibited the Legislature to pass bills on the last day of session.

The issue went to court, with lawmakers arguing the bill was constitutional because it was not passed on the last day of session. The court rejected that argument, stating the Legislature couldn't reinterpret the meaning of legislative day by statute in order to lengthen legislative sessions.

The session could only be lengthened by amending the constitution.

When the Joint Committee on Flexible Sessions made its recommendations to the Legislature in 1972, it recommended that the Legislature enact legislation defining "legislative day." The Legislature defined it in statute in 1973 to mean any day when either body was actually called to order. The statute also defined the length of a legislative day to mean 7 a.m. to 7 a.m. the following calendar day.

**(B. VAN DYCK)**



*PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED*

of the House.

## Monday, March 19

### HF1873—Howes (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Upper Mississippi comprehensive plan implementation grant provided and money appropriated.

### HF1874—Abrams (R)

#### Civil Law

Tax data classification and access provided, and seized property and civil and criminal penalty provisions modified.

### HF1875—Wilkin (R)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Minneapolis and St. Paul mayors removed from Metropolitan Airports Commission.

### HF1876—Wilkin (R)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan Council professional services contracting reports required.

### HF1877—Wilkin (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

University of Minnesota prohibited from receiving AIDS prevention grants.

### HF1878—McGuire (DFL)

#### Crime Prevention

Local correctional fees definition modified to include post-prison supervision.

### HF1879—Paymar (DFL)

#### Transportation Policy

Advertising adjacent to highways and political advertisement regulated.

### HF1880—Gunther (R)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Travel information franchise program authority transferred to the Department of Trade and Economic Development and money appropriated.

### HF1881—Ness (R)

#### Agriculture Policy

Agriculture best management practices loan program provisions modified.

### HF1882—Swenson (R)

#### Agriculture Policy

Shared savings loan program and sustainable agriculture demonstration grant program provisions modified.

### HF1883—Ness (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Telecommunication access revenue program expanded to intermediate school districts, improved technology and curriculum development grant program established, and money appropriated.

### HF1884—Workman (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Solid waste collectors provided notice or reasonable compensation for displacement of collector's business.

### HF1885—Workman (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Licensed motor vehicle dealer bonding requirements clarified.

### HF1886—Kahn (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Genetic testing prohibited as condition for employment and civil remedies provided.

### HF1887—Abeler (R)

#### Education Policy

Autism-related disorders regional centers established.

### HF1888—Ozment (R)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Annexation decision moratorium established.

### HF1889—Lipman (R)

#### Civil Law

Uniform Partnership Act of 1994 transition issues regulated.

### HF1890—Seagren (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Collaborative urban educator training program grants provided and money appropriated.

### HF1891—Workman (R)

#### Transportation Policy

I-494 construction project advanced, I-35W/Trunk Highway 62 improvement project temporarily suspended, available funds redirected, and permit and ordinance moratorium imposed.

### HF1892—Clark, K. (DFL)

#### Civil Law

Creditor discriminatory practices definition extended to include discrimination based on receipt of public assistance including medical assistance or housing assistance.

### HF1893—Sertich (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Employers prohibited from requiring employees or applicants to pay for background checks or training.

### HF1894—Thompson (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Nonprofit lawful gambling expenditures expanded to include support of honor guard or marching units in contiguous states.

### HF1895—Dibble (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan Airports Commission membership restructured.

### HF1896—Skoglund (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Legislators' retirement plan second social security referendum provided, coordinated program created, and money appropriated.

### HF1897—Wasiluk (DFL)

#### Environment &

#### Natural Resources Policy

Solid waste council and prevention, reduction, and recycling advisory council expiration dates extended.

### HF1898—Dibble (DFL)

#### Civil Law

Edvest, human rights intake, and automobile insurance financial data classified as nonpublic.

### HF1899—Workman (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Design-build contracts provided for transportation projects.

### HF1900—Dibble (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan Council transfer or disposal of sewage interceptor facilities provided.

### HF1901—Mullery (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

MFIP auto lease program established and money appropriated.

### HF1902—McGuire (DFL)

#### Crime Prevention

Challenge incarceration program placement eligibility determined by the courts.

### HF1903—Tingelstad (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Relative custody assistance payment and adoption assistance provisions modified, and difficulty-of-care rates equalized.

### HF1904—Mahoney (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

St. Paul sales tax neighborhood investments citizen review panel membership and appointment process modified.

### HF1905—Davnie (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Legislative commission on the metropolitan airports established, oversight provided, and budget authorization required.

### HF1906—Mullery (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

North and northeast Minneapolis industrial emissions cumulative impact study provided and money appropriated.

### HF1907—Biernat (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

General education levy provided as a state-determined, state-collected levy.

### HF1908—McGuire (DFL)

#### Crime Prevention

Gunshot wound reporting requirements modified.

### HF1909—Stanek (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

State patrol retirement plan coverage extended to officers employed by the Office of Special Investigations of the department of corrections, and transfer of prior service credit authorized.

### HF1910—Tuma (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Corrections obsolete provisions repealed relating to reports, food products, and parole agent residency requirements.

### HF1911—Tuma (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Minimum custody correctional facility values-based prerelease program proposal requests established and money appropriated.



<b>HF1912—Pugh (DFL)</b> <b>Governmental Operations &amp; Veterans Affairs Policy</b> Pension fund members authorized to designate a new beneficiary at the time of marriage dissolution.	<b>HF1924—Mares (R)</b> <b>Education Policy</b> Technology for improving learning grants provided and money appropriated.	<b>HF1935—Clark, K. (DFL)</b> <b>Governmental Operations &amp; Veterans Affairs Policy</b> Self-sufficiency family income standard established.	<b>HF1947—Mulder (R)</b> <b>Health &amp; Human Services Policy</b> Vital statistics act modified, access to adoption records modified, and criminal penalties imposed.
<b>HF1913—Wenzel (DFL)</b> <b>K-12 Education Finance</b> General education formula allowance increased and levy for districts in statutory operating debt authorized.	<b>HF1925—Walker (DFL)</b> <b>Crime Prevention</b> Crime victim services center director authorized to adopt rules to administer the battered women's shelter per diem program.	<b>HF1936—Seagren (R)</b> <b>Education Policy</b> Charter school contract, board membership, evaluation, and building lease aid provisions modified.	<b>HF1948—Molnau (R)</b> <b>Transportation Policy</b> Highway construction bids authorized electronically or over the Internet.
<b>HF1914—Erickson (R)</b> <b>Governmental Operations &amp; Veterans Affairs Policy</b> Technology enterprise fund and board created and money appropriated.	<b>HF1926—Biernat (DFL)</b> <b>Education Policy</b> School technology standards required, staff development grant technology established, statewide audit of technology required, and money appropriated.	<b>HF1937—Mulder (R)</b> <b>Civil Law</b> Voluntary environmental cleanup by person not responsible for release provided liability protections under the state superfund statute.	<b>HF1949—Westerberg (R)</b> <b>Transportation Policy</b> Trunk highway bond proceeds and highway bond-financed property governing provisions modified.
<b>HF1915—Jaros (DFL)</b> <b>Governmental Operations &amp; Veterans Affairs Policy</b> Office of Technology advertising revenue solicitation permitted.	<b>HF1927—Koskinen (DFL)</b> <b>Health &amp; Human Services Policy</b> MFIP family child support percentage excluded from income determination.	<b>HF1938—Kahn (DFL)</b> <b>Commerce, Jobs &amp; Economic Development</b> Administration department provisions modified.	<b>HF1950—Gunther (R)</b> <b>Commerce, Jobs &amp; Economic Development</b> Employment agencies law references to search firms removed.
<b>HF1916—Jennings (DFL)</b> <b>Taxes</b> Nonprofit historical society-owned property tax exemption provided.	<b>HF1928—Walker (DFL)</b> <b>Health &amp; Human Services Policy</b> Health care access programs provisions modified.	<b>HF1939—Carlson (DFL)</b> <b>Education Policy</b> Charter school sponsor fiduciary responsibility imposed and legislative auditor requested to study and report on charter school operations.	<b>HF1951—Goodno (R)</b> <b>Commerce, Jobs &amp; Economic Development</b> HIV and bloodborne pathogen test use regulated.
<b>HF1917—Kelliher (DFL)</b> <b>Environment &amp; Natural Resources Finance</b> Brownfield assessment for potential redevelopment by community nonprofits grants provided and money appropriated.	<b>HF1929—Huntley (DFL)</b> <b>Health &amp; Human Services Policy</b> MFIP; county agency requirement to count part of rental or housing subsidies as unearned income deleted and provisions related to the September Alien Verification for Entitlements federal program repealed.	<b>HF1940—Sertich (DFL)</b> <b>Commerce, Jobs &amp; Economic Development</b> Capital access economic development program provisions modified.	<b>HF1952—Rhodes (R)</b> <b>Local Government &amp; Metropolitan Affairs</b> Affordable housing requirements authorized in subdivision regulations, regulatory relief required to housing developers who voluntarily meet affordability thresholds, and money appropriated.
<b>HF1918—Tuma (R)</b> <b>Crime Prevention</b> State public defender salary provided.	<b>HF1930—Rukavina (DFL)</b> <b>Jobs &amp; Economic Development Finance</b> Northeast Minnesota economic protection trust expenditures limited.	<b>HF1941—Gunther (R)</b> <b>Commerce, Jobs &amp; Economic Development</b> Job Skills Partnership program provisions clarified.	<b>HF1953—Rhodes (R)</b> <b>Local Government &amp; Metropolitan Affairs</b> State building code final interpretation provided, construction codes advisory council technical group authorized, building standard for state provided, and affordable housing requirements authorized.
<b>HF1919—Penas (R)</b> <b>K-12 Education Finance</b> Career and technical education programs ongoing funding provided and money appropriated.	<b>HF1931—Davnie (DFL)</b> <b>Commerce, Jobs &amp; Economic Development</b> Occupational safety and health investigations data practices requirements provided.	<b>HF1942—Ozment (R)</b> <b>Environment &amp; Natural Resources Policy</b> Wastewater infrastructure funding program provisions modified.	<b>HF1954—Kuisle (R)</b> <b>Local Government &amp; Metropolitan Affairs</b> Volunteer firefighters relief association general fund municipal contributions authorized.
<b>HF1920—Rhodes (R)</b> <b>Commerce, Jobs &amp; Economic Development</b> Employees authorized to receive employment termination information within 15 days.	<b>HF1932—Goodwin (DFL)</b> <b>Transportation Policy</b> Multimodal transportation fund established, portion of metropolitan area sales tax dedicated, and money appropriated.	<b>HF1943—Stang (R)</b> <b>Commerce, Jobs &amp; Economic Development</b> Civil service pilot project extended.	<b>HF1955—Davids (R)</b> <b>Commerce, Jobs &amp; Economic Development</b> Insurance producer licensure procedures and qualifications provided and criminal penalty prescribed.
<b>HF1921—Workman (R)</b> <b>Transportation Policy</b> Bus transit study authorized and bus transit way within part of the southwest light rail transit corridor prohibited.	<b>HF1933—Rukavina (DFL)</b> <b>Governmental Operations &amp; Veterans Affairs Policy</b> Life-cycle costing required in state contracts.	<b>HF1944—Holberg (R)</b> <b>Transportation Policy</b> Light rail; special taxing districts created to finance operating costs of light rail transit.	<b>HF1956—Goodno (R)</b> <b>Health &amp; Human Services Policy</b> Program options for certain persons with developmental disabilities provided, and money appropriated.
<b>HF1922—Mulder (R)</b> <b>Education Policy</b> School districts authorized to determine school year start date.	<b>HF1934—Stanek (R)</b> <b>Crime Prevention</b> National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact ratified providing for an electronic information sharing system between state and federal government to access criminal history data.	<b>HF1945—Mulder (R)</b> <b>Governmental Operations &amp; Veterans Affairs Policy</b> Health care nonprofessionals defined as essential employees.	
<b>HF1923—Mulder (R)</b> <b>Education Policy</b> Small school districts located on state border authorized to employ teachers licensed in a contiguous state under a short-term contract.		<b>HF1946—Cassell (R)</b> <b>Agriculture Policy</b> Value-added agricultural product processing and marketing grant program provisions modified.	

**HF1957—Goodno (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Medicare payment rate established as rate for all nursing facility residents for the first 100 days, and money appropriated.

**HF1958—Goodno (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Resolution memorializing the president and Congress to take action to reduce or eliminate disparities between the states in Medicare+Choice benefits.

**HF1959—Holberg (R)****Civil Law**

Edvest, human rights intake, and automobile insurance financial data classified as nonpublic, computer data definitions provided, reporting redundancy eliminated, and administrative remedies abolished.

**HF1960—Stanek (R)****Crime Prevention**

Sex offender and other offender registration law provisions clarified, DNA offender testing requirement expanded, and criminal penalties imposed.

**HF1961—Davnie (DFL)****Education Policy**

Non-licensed community experts encouraged to obtain licensure, and school districts required to notify parents of instruction from non-licensed community experts.

**HF1962—Marquart (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Wilkin County nursing facility bed moratorium exception provided.

**HF1963—Abrams (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Local government referenda on bonding and levies authorized only at the general election, information about ballot questions regulated, and spending reports required.

**HF1964—Haas (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Small employer alternative benefit plan clarified and authorized to exclude maternity benefits.

**HF1965—Vandever (R)****Transportation Finance**

Greater Minnesota interregional corridor improvements, metropolitan area bottlenecks, and transit advantages funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF1966—Mulder (R)****Family & Early Childhood****Education Finance**

Head Start program modified, and money appropriated.

**HF1967—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Social worker regulation transferred to health department, and licensure system replaced with a registration system.

**HF1968—Marquart (DFL)****Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

Red River of the North designated a canoe and boating route and money appropriated.

**HF1969—Westrom (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Nonresidential child care programs and services that are provided by unrelated individuals to children from two or three unrelated families exempted from licensure.

**HF1970—Solberg (DFL)****Civil Law**

Supreme Court requested to establish a task force to develop a state-funded central office for court-appointed civil counsel for specified sex offense and juvenile protection matters.

**HF1971—Abeler (R)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Victims of torture center funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF1972—Koskinen (DFL)****Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Mississippi riverbank stabilization project grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1973—Workman (R)****Transportation Policy**

State highways in municipalities regulated and conforming changes provided.

**HF1974—Gray (DFL)****Taxes**

Education income tax credit and deduction modified, specified credits assigned, and commissioner's powers and duties provided.

**HF1975—Stang (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Pooled collateral method authorized for protecting deposits of public funds, and collateral percentage required modified.

**HF1976—Knoblach (R)****Taxes**

Waite Park water treatment facility construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

**HF1977—Holberg (R)****Civil Law**

Commissioner of administration opinions language clarified, and statutory remedies abolished.

**HF1978—Erhardt (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Voters required to provide picture identification.

**HF1979—Erhardt (R)****Taxes**

Property tax class rates reduced for commercial and industrial, utility, and apartment property, and education homestead credit increased.

**HF1980—Peterson (DFL)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Individuals providing services under contract at nursing facilities provided eligibility for compensation-related increases.

**HF1981—Schumacher (DFL)****Taxes**

Sunset on limited market value eliminated.

**HF1982—Peterson (DFL)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Nursing facility wage increases for employees providing certain services under contract provided.

**HF1983—Davids (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Financial Information Privacy Model Act adopted.

**HF1984—Olson (R)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Wright County Indian Lake aeration treatment grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF1985—Pelowski (DFL)****Taxes**

General sales and use tax allocation to cities for transportation purposes provided and money appropriated.

**HF1986—Rukavina (DFL)****Transportation Policy**

Pilot project to study application of anticorrosion substances to trunk highways and bridges established.

**HF1987—Anderson, I. (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Legislature authorized to call special sessions and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF1988—Davids (R)****Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Motor vehicle sales and distribution regulated.

**HF1989—Davids (R)****Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Flood mitigation and prevention grants provided to southeastern Minnesota counties and money appropriated.

**HF1990—Stang (R)****Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

Watershed district borrowing restrictions modified.

**HF1991—Stang (R)****Commerce, Jobs &****Economic Development**

Motor vehicle sales and distribution unfair and illegal manufacturer, distributor, and factory practices specified.

**HF1992—Bernardy (DFL)****Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Clean water partnership grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF1993—Johnson, S. (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Second Judicial District criminal offender mental health court pilot program established, corrections and detention data sharing authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF1994—Stang (R)****Commerce, Jobs &****Economic Development**

Use of machines to premix and dispense intoxicating liquor authorized.

**HF1995—Bernardy (DFL)****Taxes**

Full deductibility of health insurance premiums allowed.

**HF1996—Sertich (DFL)****Commerce, Jobs &****Economic Development**

Claims against the recovery portion of the real estate education, research, and discovery fund regulated; and accelerated claims payment required.

**HF1997—Hilstrom (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Weapons training requirements listed in rules of the board of private detective and protective agent services modified.

**HF1998—Goodwin (DFL)****Taxes**

Long-term care individual income tax credit expanded and money appropriated.

**HF1999—Johnson, S. (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Public post-secondary system funding reallocation provided.

**HF2000—Goodwin (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Correctional employees plan service credit provided for a specified former corrections employee.

**HF2001—Bishop (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Higher education enrollment appropriations expanded.

**HF2002—Howes (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Mercury reduction provisions modified and money appropriated.

**HF2003—Evans (DFL)**  
**State Government Finance**  
Subregional comprehensive planning funding for the N.M. I-35 Corridor Coalition provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2004—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Bioengineered-free food optional labeling protocol advisory task force established and money appropriated.

**HF2005—Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Buffalo Civic Center addition construction materials and equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF2006—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
State employee protection against genetic discrimination provided.

**HF2007—Wagenius (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
English language learner education review required.

**HF2008—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Eritrean Community Center of Minnesota language services and job training grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF2009—Tuma (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Legislative approval of sentencing guideline modifications required.

**HF2010—Gunther (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Home ownership assistance and home buyer education funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2011—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Urban Indian housing program funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2012—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
State commitment to the debt service equalization aid program increased, initial local levy reduced, equalizing factor to the average statewide tax base adjusted, and money appropriated.

**HF2013—McElroy (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Good cause for failure to renew a franchise and notice of action to be taken by a franchiser required.

**HF2014—Smith (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Permits for retired peace officers to carry pistols authorized.

**HF2015—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Organic farmer cost-share payments provided and money appropriated.

**HF2016—Winter (DFL)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Soybean oilseed processing facility funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2017—Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Deaf and hard of hearing employment center grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF2018—Krinkie (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Counties authorized to contract with commissioner of transportation to maintain trunk highways.

**HF2019—Sykora (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Elementary classroom web site grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF2020—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Agricultural parcel homestead classification allowed.

**HF2021—Workman (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Vehicle insurance policy discrimination and collection and use of personal information prohibited.

**HF2022—Paulsen (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Notification to customers required of residential building contractor licensees against whom enforcement actions are taken.

**HF2023—Kuisle (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Telecommunications machinery and equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF2024—Osskopp (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Community-based planning provisions modified.

**HF2025—Kuisle (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Projection of hand-held light from moving vehicles prohibited.

**HF2026—Otremba (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Hearing instrument dispenser fee and reimbursement provisions modified and certain rule amendments required.

**HF2027—Jacobson (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Obsolete cigarette and tobacco products tax rules repealed.

**HF2028—Nornes (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Environmental audit provisions modified and Pollution Control Agency annual performance reporting date changed.

**HF2029—Haas (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Public employee post-retirement health care account administration authorized.

**HF2030—Krinkie (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Business data submitted to and collected by government entities uniform treatment provided.

## Wednesday, March 21

**HF2031—Johnson, J. (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Contracts between school boards and exclusive representative of teachers allowed to be up to five years.

**HF2032—Seifert (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
School districts allowed to expend reasonable funds concerning ballot measures and initiatives, and policy on expenditures and voter notification required.

**HF2033—Workman (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Radio communication operators defined as essential employees and radio communications operators unit established.

**HF2034—Fuller (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Beltrami trust fund land bordering public waters acquisition by transportation department by eminent domain authorized.

**HF2035—Westerberg (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Sales tax on motor vehicles allocated to highway user tax distribution fund and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF2036—Dempsey (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Goodhue County auditor-treasurer appointment authorized.

**HF2037—Abrams (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Public finance provisions technical modifications specified.

**HF2038—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Metropolitan area waste disposal fee increase authorized.

**HF2039—Gunther (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Obsolete and unnecessary agriculture provisions repealed.

**HF2040—Penas (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Malt liquor brand registration prohibition relating to American Indians repealed, and other specified public safety provisions relating to emergency management and fire alarms eliminated.

**HF2041—Cassell (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
National and community service commission funding provided for the service learning program and money appropriated.

**HF2042—Abrams (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Insurance premiums tax rate reduced.

**HF2043—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Transportation commissioner directed to study feasibility of assuming or sharing jurisdiction of major river crossings.

**HF2044—Krinkie (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Administration commissioner authorized to enter into agreements with cooling utility services.

**HF2045—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Biomass electrical generating facility machinery and property exempted from property taxes.

**HF2046—Walker (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Family and adult self-sufficiency provisions modified.

**HF2047—Ozment (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Recycled materials promotion provided for public entity bid specifications and commodity and services procurement.

**HF2048—Ness (R)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Feedlot upgrade environmental compliance grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF2049—Davids (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Insurance producer licensing qualifications and procedures provided and criminal penalty prescribed.

**HF2050—Molnau (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Carver County nursing facility rate increase provided.

**HF2051—Ozment (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Cannon Falls water treatment facility construction and utility facility improvement construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

**HF2052—Ness (R)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Agricultural trade specialist position funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2053—Ness (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Ethanol market development fund established.

**HF2054—Holberg (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Sexual assault response teams grant program established and money appropriated.

**HF2055—Mares (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Junior Achievement programs expanded and money appropriated.

**HF2056—Larson (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Orthopedic physician assistant practice requirements established, title protected, and disciplinary action grounds provided.

**HF2057—Kielkucki (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Profile of Learning repealed, local academic achievement testing established, local testing revenue provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2058—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Campaign finance and public disclosure board lobbyist reports published electronically, and data privacy provided.

**HF2059—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
DWI; schools notified of student driving while impaired violations.

**HF2060—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Child care improvement grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF2061—Abrams (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
County capital improvement bonding authority sunset repealed.

**HF2062—Tuma (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Parole board established; membership, duties, and powers specified; parole eligibility prescribed; and money appropriated.

**HF2063—Osskopp (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Managed grazing systems assistance provided and money appropriated.

**HF2064—Buesgens (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Profile of Learning revision task force established to develop statewide testing consistent with revised profile and money appropriated.

**HF2065—Finseth (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Red River north of East Grand Forks hydraulic study grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF2066—Finseth (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Northwest Minnesota open learning network for agriculture and natural resources education established and money appropriated.

**HF2067—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Firearm safety requirements provided and criminal penalties imposed.

**HF2068—Kelliher (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Pharmacist scope of practice expanded to include emergency contraception.

**HF2069—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Section 8 home ownership program grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF2070—Gunther (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Economic security statutory provisions modified and repealed.

**HF2071—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Minneapolis and St. Paul Teachers Retirement Association normal retirement age established, and annuity fund modified by allowing a partial post-retirement adjustment.

**HF2072—Biernat (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Absentee ballot eligibility expanded.

**HF2073—Evans (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Resolution memorializing the president and Congress to promptly provide aid to the victims of the Jan. 26 earthquake in India.

**HF2074—Clark, J. (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Public works contracts regulated.

**HF2075—Kelliher (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Phosphorous lawn fertilizer sale and use limitations provided and money appropriated.

**HF2076—Larson (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Metropolitan Airports Commission membership expanded to include mayors of specified cities.

**HF2077—Lenczewski (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Hennepin County design-build contracts provided.

**HF2078—Lieder (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 593, Crookston, fund transfer authorized.

**HF2079—Lieder (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 600, Fisher, renovation grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF2080—Mariani (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
St. Paul; Great American History Theater and Flanagan's Wake at the Palace Theatre on-sale wine and malt liquor licenses authorized.

**HF2081—Biernat (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Debt redemption fund excess calculations specified and fund transfers authorized.

**HF2082—Mulder (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Independent School District No. 2689, Pipestone-Jasper, school construction materials and equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF2083—Mulder (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
School districts allowed to employ licensed teachers in fields other than the ones in which they are licensed.

**HF2084—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Single license plate for a registered motor vehicle required.

**HF2085—Knoblach (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales tax rebate provided, automatic sales tax rebate triggered, unclaimed rebates transferred to fund education, and money appropriated.

**HF2086—Abrams (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Energy-efficient products sales tax exemption provided.

**HF2087—Pelowski (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
MnSCU central office restructuring feasibility study authorized.

**HF2088—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Rural hospital or nursing home health professionals loan forgiveness program established and money appropriated.



**HF2089—Dibble (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Minneapolis board and care facility rate increase provided.

**HF2090—Howes (R)**

**Transportation Finance**  
Highway maintenance and program delivery personnel, equipment, and supplies funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2091—Olson (R)**

**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
All-terrain vehicle registration procedures modified.

**HF2092—Olson (R)**

**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
State park fees modified, camping facilities required to remain open as scheduled, and report required.

**HF2093—Wenzel (DFL)**

**Transportation Policy**  
Religious organization buses authorized to be painted yellow and equipped with stop arms and flashing lights.

**HF2094—Dorman (R)**

**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Albert Lea Port Authority grant to remodel a building for use as a business incubator authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2095—Dorman (R)**

**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Albert Lea Port Authority grant provided to remodel a building for use as a business development center, and money appropriated.

**HF2096—Mariani (DFL)**

**State Government Finance**  
St. Paul soccer exhibition center pre-design grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF2097—Slawik (DFL)**

**Agriculture Policy**  
Pesticide application on golf courses regulated.

**HF2098—Murphy (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Group residential housing supplementary service rate modified for facilities serving persons with mental illnesses or chemical dependencies modified.

**HF2099—Kelliher (DFL)**

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Minneapolis; Brave New Institute on-sale wine and malt liquor license authorized.

**HF2100—Workman (R)**

**Transportation Policy**  
I-494 construction project advanced, construction of I-35W/Trunk Highway 62 improvements suspended, redesign of projects required, funds redirected, and money appropriated.

**HF2101—Workman (R)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Regular legislative sessions in even-numbered years prohibited, constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF2102—Workman (R)**

**Transportation Policy**  
Speeding violations less than 18 percent greater than the lawful speed not recorded on the violator's driving record.

**HF2103—Hilty (DFL)**

**Regulated Industries**  
Cold weather protection for consumers of delivered fuels established.

**HF2104—Finseth (R)**

**Agriculture Policy**  
Ethanol; second-generation ethanol development program provided, research and demonstration project grants provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2105—Greiling (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Public disclosure of economic interests of independent campaign consultants and total costs of lobbying provided.

**HF2106—McElroy (R)**

**Taxes**  
Legal incidence of mortgage registry tax transferred.

**HF2107—Johnson, J. (R)**

**Education Policy**  
Student conduct considered grounds for dismissal or removal from class specified.

**HF2108—Greiling (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Independent expenditures by political parties on behalf of their own candidates limited as a condition of receiving public subsidies.

**HF2109—Johnson, J. (R)**

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Child care assistance payments authorized for all day kindergarten tuition payments.

**HF2110—Howes (R)**

**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Limited exemption to local government gift policy provided to attendees at a national or international conference or event.

**HF2111—Greiling (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Legislative open meeting law expanded to include caucuses and conference committee negotiations.

**HF2112—Smith (R)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Hennepin County Medical Center protection officer local government correctional service retirement plan coverage provided.

**HF2113—Gunther (R)**

**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 2752, Fairmont, interactive television grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF2114—Greiling (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Election and campaign finance spending and reporting provisions regulated, public subsidies increased, political contribution refund increased, criminal penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

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**Thursday, March 22**


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**HF2115—McElroy (R)**

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Biomedical innovation and commercialization initiative established between University of Minnesota and the medical technology industry, and money appropriated.

**HF2116—McElroy (R)**

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Obsolete trade and economic development department programs and duties repealed.

**HF2117—Rhodes (R)**

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Raw food cost adjustment excluded from nursing facility rate computations.

**HF2118—Haas (R)**

**Transportation Finance**  
Interregional trunk highway corridor coalitions grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF2119—Erickson (R)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Charitable organization report filing requirements modified.

**HF2120—Dehler (R)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Public safety police dispatchers at the University of Minnesota defined as essential employees.

**HF2121—Daggett (R)**

**Taxes**  
Minnesota environmental preservation property tax law enacted.

**HF2122—Leppik (R)**

**Crime Prevention**  
Counterfeit driver's license and identification production and possession of materials provided criminal penalties.

**HF2123—Sykora (R)**

**Judiciary Finance**  
Battered women shelters and safe homes funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2124—Stang (R)**

**Taxes**  
Classroom materials sales tax exemption expanded.

**HF2125—Dawkins (DFL)**

**Taxes**  
Education expense income tax credit and deduction applied to pre-kindergarten expenses and membership at institutions providing educational programs for children.

**HF2126—Leppik (R)**

**Taxes**  
Taxpayers authorized to request revenue department notices and correspondence be given to holders of powers of attorney.

**HF2127—Pawlenty (R)**

**Taxes**  
Biomedical innovation and commercialization initiative established between the University of Minnesota and the state's medical technology industry and money appropriated.

**HF2128—Anderson, I. (DFL)**

**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Northern counties land use coordinating board grant provided for land use project and money appropriated.

**HF2129—Westerberg (R)**

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Blaine additional on-sale liquor licenses authorized.

**HF2130—Larson (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Life and health guaranty association regulation of coverages, assessments, rights, and duties provided.

**HF2131—Mares (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Public employees insurance program health coverage enrollment during open enrollment period permitted for retired employees.

**HF2132—Harder (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Marriage license fee reduced for couples who obtain premarital education, funding for MN ENABL program and parenting time centers modified, and money appropriated.

**HF2133—Gunther (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Waste tire-fueled electric generation facility tax exemptions provided.

**HF2134—Johnson, J. (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Statewide elementary and secondary test requirements prescribed.

**HF2135—Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Sale of property acquired by eminent domain to a private person restricted.

**HF2136—Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Private property rights protected from state agency action, guidelines assisting agencies in evaluating proposed actions established, and consideration of effects of a taking for tax evaluation purposes required.

**HF2137—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Minnesota grown food project expanded and money appropriated.

**HF2138—Mahoney (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
St. Paul Phalen Boulevard construction grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF2139—Winter (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Travel information center operation funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2140—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Incarcerative sanctions to be imposed only for defined crimes of violence or when public safety is served, sentencing hearing provided, sentencing

guidelines modified to conform, and money appropriated.

**HF2141—Kielkucki (R)**  
**Judiciary Finance**  
County retention of probation fees provided, county probation reimbursements provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2142—Gleason (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Low-income rental housing class rate established.

**HF2143—Holsten (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Survivor benefits under Public Employees Retirement Association provided to spouse of a firefighter.

**HF2144—Holsten (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Annexation of urban towns limited.

**HF2145—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Older adult services grant program established, moratorium exception process funded, and money appropriated.

**HF2146—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
South St. Paul nursing home bed moratorium exception provided and money appropriated.

**HF2147—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
South St. Paul transfer of a certain parcel of real estate to a private entity for construction of single-family housing declared a public purpose.

**HF2148—Holberg (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Drug and alcohol testing by motor carriers and for commercial motor vehicle operators federal conformity provided.

**HF2149—Evans (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Mounds View Trunk Highway 10 noise barrier construction provided and money appropriated.

**HF2150—Thompson (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Homeowner's insurance non-renewals regulated and various discriminatory practices in homeowner's and automobile insurance prohibited.

**HF2151—Hilstrom (DFL)**  
**Judiciary Finance**  
Camp Ripley program for at-risk youth continued, and money appropriated.

**HF2152—Folliard (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Hopkins food and beverage tax authorized.

**HF2153—Seifert (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Profile of Learning repealed.

**HF2154—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Scalping of tickets prohibition repealed.

**HF2155—Swenson (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Liability of certain investment officials clarified.

**HF2156—Howes (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Legislators entitled to their own legislative assistant.

**HF2157—Swenson (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Gaylord tax increment financing law approval time extended.

**HF2158—Abrams (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Metropolitan area transit and para-transit annual funding capital expenditures provided.

**HF2159—Gerlach (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Health maintenance organization contract data classified as nonpublic.

**HF2160—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Property tax public hearings requirements modified, and reverse referendum required for property tax increases in counties and certain cities.

**HF2161—Stanek (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
State Trooper Theodore "Ted" Foss Memorial Highway designated on I-90 in Winona County.

**HF2162—Gray (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Physicians required to disclose all information regarding errors in diagnosis and treatment of patients, and civil penalties and remedies provided.

**HF2163—Kalis (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Compulsive gambling prevention and treatment comprehensive approach provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2164—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Marijuana; Compassionate Use Act adopted protecting seriously ill patients from prosecution for physician-supervised medicinal use of marijuana, and criminal penalties imposed.

**HF2165—Evans (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Mounds View pathway system grant provided to connect to Rice Creek, and money appropriated.

**HF2166—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Pine City; North West Company Fur Post operation funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2167—McElroy (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Municipality land use plan and transportation plan standards provided.

**HF2168—Vandever (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
City charters authorized to prohibit members of governing body from serving on the charter commission.

**HF2169—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Payments in lieu of taxation provided for certain wetlands acquired by the department of transportation.

**HF2170—Davids (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Nonpublic personal information disclosure by insurance companies prohibited.

**HF2171—Skoe (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Northwest Technical College programs in Indian reservations funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2172—Clark, J. (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Nursing facility separate therapy billing requirement exemption provisions modified and money appropriated.

**HF2173—Howes (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Park Rapids tax increment financing district requirement extension provided.

**HF2174—Osskopp (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Gambling control board authorized to use unmarked vehicles and registration tax exemption provided.

Schedule is subject to change.  
For information updates, call House Calls at (651) 296-9283.

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## MONDAY, March 26

8:15 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF1280 (Seagren) Education; providing for an elementary reading specialist licensure, rulemaking.

HF1310 (Abrams) Construction; giving the state building official final authority for interpreting the state building code and prescribing its enforcement.

HF1764 (Gleason) Historical preservation; ensuring protection for the historic Camp Coldwater Springs area.

HF910 (Dempsey) Education; establishing a board for educational administrators; rulemaking.

HF1742 (Mares) Local Government; modifying the compensation limit for political subdivision employees.

HF1869 (Anderson, B.) State Government; changing the expiration dates of certain advisory councils and committees.

HF2074 (Clark) Contracts; regulating public works contracts.

HF1219 (Gunther) Insurance; removing certain state involvement with the state fund mutual insurance company.

HF1778 (Walz) Providing for placement in the Capitol of a plaque commemorating the soldiers who participated in the Bataan Death March.

HF1826 (Erickson) Veterans; certain educational assistance provisions.

HF1302 (Hackbarth) Natural Resources; extending certain advisory committees.

**Note:** The committee will reconvene after session in 5 State Office Building to complete the morning agenda.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF282 (Knobloch) Truancy prevention pilot program provided and money appropriated.  
HF1292 (Goodno) Family and adult self-sufficiency program provisions modified.

HF1832 (Goodno) MFIP sanctions and program eligibility requirements for noncompliant recipients modified, and hardship extensions established.

HF917 (Rhodes) Council of health boards established.

HF924 (Nornes) Residential mental health grant program for facility upgrades established and money appropriated.

HF1043 (Bishop) Health care provider tax research credit increased.

More bills may be added.

**Note:** If necessary, this meeting will continue in Room 10 of the State Office Building after session at the call of the chair.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Administration discussion concerning the Department of Economic Security and the Department of Trade and Economic Development Reorganization Proposal.

**Note:** Public testimony will be taken. If interested in testifying, please contact Ann Matuella, Committee Legislative Assistant, at (651) 296-5999.

### TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** HF1795 (Eastlund) Transportation revolving loan funds transferred from the general fund.

HF1717 (Workman) Trunk highway turnbacks rehabilitation funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1774 (Clark, J.) Trunk highway right-of-way advance acquisition and construction provided and money appropriated.

HF1179 (Lieder) Public safety employees assigned to state patrol to enforce motor vehicle size and weight laws defined as public safety officers for purposes of survivor benefits.

10:15 a.m.

### CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF245 (Juhnke) Licensed peace officers authorized to determine necessity of patient restraints.

HF1629 (Tingelstad) Uniform parentage act

study and report required.

HF1857 (Smith) Uniform Arbitration Act adopted providing for arbitration of disputes.

HF1291 (Boudreau) Health plan subrogation clause limitation provisions modified.

HF177 (Molnau) Recreational motor vehicle tort immunity provided for use on a highway right-of-way.

HF1889 (Lipman) Uniform Partnership Act of 1994 transition issues regulated.

HF1898 (Holberg) Edvest, human rights intake, and automobile insurance financial data classified as nonpublic.

HF1959 (Dibble) Edvest, human rights intake, and automobile insurance financial data classified as nonpublic, computer data definitions provided, reporting redundancy eliminated, and administrative remedies abolished.

HF1655 (Entenza) Civil actions against the state authorized under the federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act and the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

HF1270 (Entenza) Currency exchanges, real estate brokers, real property appraisers, residential contractors, and collection agencies continuing education, fees, costs, duties, rights and recovery fund amounts regulated.

HF1634 (Mahoney) Duty to warn law applied to social workers, and social workers allowed to form and participate in professional firms.

HF1104 (Vandever) Real estate task force work plan funded and electronic filing of real estate documents initiated.

HF1306 (Howes) Minnesota Conservation Corps program and decorative forest products provisions modified, sustainable forest resources provisions repeal delayed, study required, civil penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

**Note:** The Civil Law Committee will reconvene in room 500S at 4 p.m. to conclude any unfinished business.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** HF1177 (Gunther) Blue Earth County board grant provided for study of Rapidan Dam, and money appropriated.

HF1127 (Mulder) Lewis and Clark Joint Powers Board rural water system funded, and money appropriated.

HF1011 (Walker) Powderhorn Lake in Minneapolis restoration and aeration provided and money appropriated.

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** HF2087 (Pelowski) MnSCU central office restructuring feasibility study authorized.

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** HF422 (Seagren) Relating to education; improving recruitment of excellent teachers in science, math, industrial technology, and special education and in rural areas; establishing a loan repayment program.

HF82 (Seagren) A bill for an act relating to education finance; concentrating a portion of the reserved revenue for staff development on induction and mentorship activities for new teachers.

HF1558 (Abeler) Relating to education; employing multiple strategies to recruit qualified school administrators; appropriating money.

HF1852 (Abeler) Relating to education finance; continuing the referendum offset adjustment until a district's referendum is renewed.

HF1377 (Abeler) Relating to education finance; increasing and indexing the general education basic formula allowance.

HF1341 (Davnie) Relating to education finance; increasing special education revenue; broadening funding for the first grade preparedness program; increasing funding for English language learners; fully funding transportation services for nonpublic and charter school pupils; modifying a hearing request; making permanent the 5 percent reallocation of compensatory revenue; authorizing the sale of bonds by the St. Paul school district; appropriating money.

HF93 (Entenza) A bill for an act relating to education; establishing a school guidance counselor to student ratio.

#### **Property Tax Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

**Agenda:** Presentation on limited market value by House Research.

HF1981 (Schumacher) Sunset on limited market value eliminated.

HF1331 (Skoe) Designated housing projects within Native American Indian reservations exempted from property taxes.

HF1916 (Jennings) Nonprofit historical society-owned property tax exemption provided.

#### **Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

**Agenda:** HF1200 (Tingelstad) Provides an individual income tax credit for expenses incurred in the process of adopting a child.

HF1199 (Tingelstad) Allows a subtraction from individual income taxes for adoption expenses.

HF1523 (Tingelstad) Exempts the purchase of certain property used in constructing a fire department facility in the city of Ham Lake from sales and use taxes.

HF1621 (Dehler) Exempts the purchase of materials and supplies used in constructing public facilities in the city of Sartell.

HF1673 (Stang) Exempts purchases by fire departments from the sales and use taxes.

HF1758 (Kubly) Exempts the purchase of construction materials and supplies used in a street reconstruction project in the city of Raymond.

#### **FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** HF835 (Walz) Relating to capital improvements; authorizing state bonds; appropriating money for a library for the city of Crosslake.

Department of Children Families and Learning Initiatives (found in HF1088), Karen Carlson, Assistant Commissioner, Children, Families and Learning.

HF1476 (Nornes) Relating to family services; appropriating money for Minnesota economic opportunity grants.

HF1542 (Eastlund) Relating to children; appropriating money for the lead hazard reduction project.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** HF192 (Goodno) Emergency medical services special taxing districts and property tax levies authorized.

HF1218 (Rhodes) Metropolitan Radio Board expiration date extended to 2005.

HF1298 (Jennings) Joint powers wastewater treatment boards authorized to issue bonds (continued hearing).

HF1637 (Buesgens) County licensure of hawkers and peddlers repealed.

HF1954 (Kuisle) Volunteer firefighters relief association general fund municipal contributions authorized.

HF2077 (Lenczewski) Hennepin County design-build contracts provided.

HF266 (Swapinski) Lake Superior center authority enabling law modified, contract and agreements made conditional, and status as a political subdivision clarified.

HF2036 (Dempsey) Goodhue County auditor-treasurer appointment authorized.

HF2110 (Howes) Limited exemption to local government gift policy provided to attendees at a national or international conference or event.

**Note:** Some of these bills, plus other bills to be announced, will be heard when the committee reconvenes at the call of the chair, after session, in 200 State Office Building. Watch for updated notices.

#### **REGULATED INDUSTRIES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

**Agenda:** HF429 (Bakk) State agencies authorized to allow commercial wireless equipment on state-owned property.

HF1817 (Workman) Utility facilities regulation modified in railroad rights-of-way.

2:30 p.m.

#### **THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

**After session at the call of the chair**

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** Continuation of hearings from earlier session, and hearings on additional bills to be announced. Watch for revised notices.

**After Local Government meeting, at the call of the chair (monitor schedule)**

#### **Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

**Agenda:** To be announced.

6 p.m.

#### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** Committee will meet only if the agenda from March 22 is not completed.

#### **Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement**

316 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Dean Johnson

**Agenda:** Report of the prior service credit purchase subcommittee.

S.F. 313 (Larson); H.F. 303 (Cassell): PERA-P&F; Service credit purchase for prior police or paid fire employment.

S.F. 370 (Wiger); H.F. 465 (Marko): PERA-P&F; Prior military service credit purchase. S.F. 409 (Solon); H.F. 619 (Swapinski): Various plans; Prior military service credit purchase.

S.F. 517 (Betzold); H.F. 122 (Skoglund): Various plans; Parental or family leave service credit purchase.

S.F. 611 (Betzold); H.F. 1240 (Bernardy): Various plans; Prior military service credit purchase restriction elimination.

S.F. 1321 (Pogemiller); H.F. 1462 (Mares): TRA & MnSCU IRAP; Prior service credit purchase provisions.

S.F. 1676 (Tomassoni); H.F. 1656 (Rukavina): TRA; Day activity center teaching service purchase.

S.F. 1362 (Pogemiller); H.F. 1646 (Wenzel): TRA; Membership modifications for employees of labor organizations.

S.F. 849 (Vickerman); H.F. 1410 (Gunther): MSRS; Rural policy center employees program participation eligibility.

S.F. 641 (Pogemiller); H.F. 695 (Osskopp): MSRS; Health care reimbursement plan.

S.F. 1322 (Stumpf); H.F. 1294 (Mares): MSRS; Postretirement health care savings plan.

S.F. 1484 (Pogemiller); H.F. 1768 (Mullery): MPRA; Minneapolis Police Relief Association voluntary employee benefit organization.

S.F. XXX; H.F. 2029 (Haas): Department of employee relations health care account establishment.

12:30 p.m.



S.F. 1755 (Stumpf); H.F. 1868 (Davids): School employee health care accounts.

7 p.m.

#### **Subcommittee on Employee Relations/ Legislative Coordinating Commission**

300S State Office Building

Chr. to be elected

**Agenda:** Elect officers. Adopt Subcommittee rules. Review/approve Subcommittee budget. Review/approve ratification bill (HF1739/SF1438). Review/approve 95% salary cap bill (HF1742/SF1437). Receive report by HayGroup on agency head salary range evaluation. Other items as approved by the chair.

### **TUESDAY, March 27**

7 a.m.

#### **\*\*\*NOTE TIME\*\*\***

#### **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** HF1830 (Workman) Public access to specified motor vehicle accident data granted. HF625 (Seagren) Trunk Highway No. 62 in Minneapolis and Richfield construction project restrictions imposed. HF797 (Erhardt) Minneapolis and Richfield Trunk Highway No. 62 reconstruction project restrictions imposed. HF1498 (Larson) Minneapolis and Richfield Highway No. 62 construction and reconstruction delayed and report required.

8:15 a.m.

#### **EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** HF2032 (Seifert) School districts allowed to expend reasonable funds concerning ballot measures and initiatives, and policy on expenditures and voter notification required. HF2107 (Johnson, J.) Student conduct considered grounds for dismissal or removal from class specified. Additional items to be determined.

#### **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF262 (Boudreau) Abortion informed consent required and civil remedies provided. HF1304 (Nornes) Lead poisoning prevention provisions modified, property sellers required to provide well water test results, and obsolete laws repealed. HF1622 (Goodno) Health care safety net preservation program established and voluntary agreements to expand intergovernmental transfers allowed. HF1531 (Bradley) Young adult transitional services provided and community-based mental health services increased.

More bills will be added.

**Note:** This meeting will continue in Room 10 of the State Office Building at 3 p.m.

#### **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** HF528 (Murphy) Carlton County criminal prosecution and investigations extraordinary expenses reimbursed, and money appropriated. HF912 (Murphy) Arson strike force sunset extended. HF1055 (Mares) Peace officers' overtime grants provided for St. Paul, Minneapolis, and statewide departments, and money appropriated. HF1735 (Johnson, S.) St. Paul victim intervention project grant provided and money appropriated. HF136 (Fuller) Fire protection industry licensing fees deposited in State Fire Marshal account, and money appropriated.

10:15 a.m.

#### **CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** HF812 (Bradley) Suicide prevention goals, mental illness transition plans, mental health services, etc. (criminal penalty provisions) [Re-referral from H&FS]. HF1021 (Buesgens) Casino licensee authorized to detain alleged cheaters [Re-referral from Gov Ops]. HF1874 (Abrams) Department of Revenue tax data classification and access provided, seized property and civil and criminal penalty provisions [Re-referral from Civil Law]. HF1499 (Osskopp) Auto theft prevention program repeal. HF1911 (Tuma) Faith-based programming in prison facilities. HF1835 (Tuma) Local financial crimes investigation units authorized and money appropriated. HF1353 (Stanek) Interstate compact for adult offenders. HF1373 (Stanek) Authorizing the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to charge a fee for Internet access to criminal histories. HF1228 (Paymar) Ramsey County All Children Excel program and Hennepin County Delinquents under age 10 program appropriations. **Note:** Additional re-referrals and other bills may be added.

#### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** HF1091 (Johnson) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Advisory Committee sunset repealed and task force created. HF873 (Howes) Hubbard County tax-forfeited land conveyance authorized free of the tax-

forfeited trust.

HF1497 (Nornes) Lake County state land sales authorized, lakeshore land exchange terms modified to include wild rice lands, Hill Lake wildlife management area established in Aitkin County, state forest addition provided, and certain charges exempted.

HF1481 (Cassell) Landowner definition modified for participation in the RIM program. HF659 (Wolf) State energy plan established, energy conservation promoted, and conforming, technical and clarifying changes provided. HF1323 (Jennings) Minnesota Energy Security and Reliability Act enacted.

#### **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill Section 15, proposed budget for Department of Finance. Section 27, proposed budget for Contingent Accounts. Section 28, proposed budget for Tort Claims. Additional bills may be added.

#### **TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF1000 (Erickson) Provides for imposition of the production tax on aggregate materials. HF1613 (Wagenius) Exempts low-income housing owned by a qualified nonprofit agency from property tax; exempts construction and rehabilitation of low income housing owned by a qualified nonprofit agency from sales tax; provides for payment in-lieu of taxes. HF1841 (Kelliher) Increases the maximum sum of the rates of certain sales tax imposed by the City of Minneapolis. HF1293 (Davids) Public service commissioner remaining duties transferred to the commissioner of commerce; light capacity scales inspection provided; unfair cigarette sales act administration transferred to commerce. HF2042 (Abrams) Reduces the rate of the insurance premiums tax. HF2106 (McElroy) Transfers the legal incidence of the mortgage registry tax from the mortgagee to the mortgagor. **Note:** Bills not heard on this day will be heard on Wednesday, March 28, 2001, if needed.

12:30 p.m.

#### **AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** HF1855 (Knoblach) Design-Build contracts and exempt rules provided.

#### **COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF1955 (Davids) Relating to insurance; providing qualifications and procedures for the licensing of insurance producers; prescribing a criminal penalty.

HF175 (Ozment) Relating to fire safety; requiring the state fire marshal to adopt rules for fire retardant standards for cigarettes.

HF1988 (Davids) Relating to commerce; regulating motor vehicle sales and distribution; specifying legislative purpose and intent.

HF1940 (Gunther) Relating to economic development; modifying the capital access program.

HF1941 (Sertich) Relating to economic development; clarifying provisions in the job skills partnership program.

HF1152 (Mulder) Relating to appropriations; appropriating money for construction of local public service facilities.

HF1615 (Entenza) Relating to insurance; regulating liquidations and investments of insurer.

HF1409 (Jacobson) Relating to employment; adding an alternative form for minor age certification.

HF1392 (Gunther) Relating to economic development; modifying provisions of the Minnesota investment fund.

Other bills may be added.

**1:30 p.m.**

#### **Revisor's Subcommittee/Legislative Coordinating Commission**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. to be elected

**Agenda:** Election of chair.

Presentation of the proposed budget for the Office of the Revisor of Statutes.

**2:30 p.m.**

#### **REDISTRICTING**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Erik Paulsen

**Agenda:** To be announced.

### **WEDNESDAY, March 28**

**7 a.m.**

#### **\*\*\*NOTE TIME\*\*\***

#### **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** HF1944 (Holberg) Light rail; special taxing districts created to finance operating costs of light rail transit.

HF1730 (Molnau) Metropolitan Council required to contract for bus maintenance.

HF1949 (Westerberg) Trunk highway bond proceeds and highway bond-financed property governing provisions modified.

HF1973 (Workman) State highways in municipalities regulated and conforming

changes provided.

**8:15 a.m.**

#### **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF1446 (Smith) Family law recodification provided for marriage dissolution child custody, support, and maintenance provisions, and conforming changes provided.

HF1517 (Wilkin) Swimming pool requirements established for family day care homes and municipalities provided immunity from claims based on provider's failure to comply.

HF1833 (Goodno) Multiple Sclerosis services nursing facility reimbursement pilot project authorized and money appropriated.

HF1956 (Goodno) Program options for certain persons with developmental disabilities provided, and money appropriated.

More bills will be added.

**Note:** This meeting will continue in Room 10 in the State Office Building after session at the call of the chair.

#### **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** HF1619 (Dawkins) New and existing housing program funding provided, programs created, and money appropriated.

HF1368 (Westerberg) Manufactured home park redevelopment program established and money appropriated.

HF969 (Clark, K.) Rental housing pilot program established to encourage landlords to rent to high-risk tenants in specified counties, and money appropriated.

HF1164 (Gray) Homeless prevention school stability project funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1380 (Dibble) Section 8 home ownership assistance provided and money appropriated.

HF1788 (Lindner) Rental housing assistance program for persons with mental illness program funded and money appropriated.

**10:15 a.m.**

#### **CIVIL LAW**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF1397 (Tingelstad) Child placement provisions modified and definitions provided.

HF1471 (Boudreau) Alternative response programs for child protection or assessments data privacy provided.

HF1051 (Smith) Medical malpractice expert review certifications regulated.

HF1276 (Mullery) Crane operator certification and regulation provided, rulemaking required and civil penalties imposed.

HF1283 (Seagren) Internet sales and leases regulated, and domain names and agents for service of process information disclosure provided.

HF1837 (Clark, K.) Voluntary landlord and tenant mediation programs authorized.

HF464 (Wilkin) Specified litigation and settlements by state officials prohibited, and funds recovered through litigation and settlements deposited in the general fund.

**Note:** The Civil Law Committee will reconvene in room 500S at 5 p.m. to conclude any unfinished business.

#### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** HF86 (Jennings) Taylors Falls fire and rescue operations grant provided in support of Interstate park, and money appropriated.

HF723 (Finseth) Big Bog and Red River state recreation area operating costs funded, and money appropriated.

HF725 (Tingelstad) Metropolitan regional parks system operation and maintenance provided and money appropriated.

#### **K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** Presentation by the Office of the State Auditor on Local Government Lobbying Expenditures.

**12:30 p.m.**

#### **AGRICULTURE POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

**Agenda:** HF551 (Finseth) Providing a second-generation, targeted ethanol development program for wheat or barley.

HF1396 (Wenzel) Extending date of the sunset of the dairy producers board.

#### **COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF932 (Swenson) Relating to appropriations; appropriating money for a regional sludge management demonstration project.

HF986 (Holsten) Relating to capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for stage II of the reconstruction of the state-owned storm sewer

system from the prison pond in Bayport to the St. Croix river.

HF675 (Swenson) Relating to environment; providing funding for the St. George community wastewater treatment system in Nicollet County; appropriating money.

HF1157 (Dehler) Relating to capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for municipal water and wastewater systems in St. Stephen.

HF1994 (Stang) Relating to liquor; authorizing the use of machines to premix and dispense intoxicating liquor (Omnibus Liquor Bill).

HF1309 (Dibble) Relating to liquor; allowing licensed brewers to make retail and wholesale sales of the brewer's own products under certain circumstances.

HFXXXX (Nornes) Workers' Compensation Advisory Council Bill.

HF1943 (Stang) Relating to state employment; extending a civil service pilot project.

HF1354 (Holsten) Relating to the environment; modifying provisions relating to petroleum tank release cleanup.

Other bills may be added.

## **FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD**

### **EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** HF1162 (Swapinski) Relating to early childhood and family education; authorizing a grant to the City of Duluth for a community recreation, service, and learning center; appropriating money.

HF1691 (Sykora) Relating to early childhood; expanding services and eligibility for state Head Start funds.

HF1966 (Mulder) Relating to family and early childhood education finance; modifying Head Start; appropriating money.

HF2109 (Johnson, J.) Relating to children; child care assistance; allowing child care assistance payments to be used for all day kindergarten tuition payments.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** HF1806 (Knoblach) St. Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, St. Joseph, and St. Augusta local sales and use tax imposition authorized to pay for costs of regional airport and library.

HF2061 (Abrams) County capital improvement bonding authority sunset repealed.

HF1904 (Mahoney) St. Paul sales tax neighborhood investments citizen review panel membership and appointment process modified. HF1841 (Kelliher) Minneapolis maximum total sales tax increased.

HF1368 (Westerberg) Manufactured home park redevelopment program established and money appropriated.

**Note:** Additional bills to be announced will be heard when the committee reconvenes after session at the call of the chair in 200 State Office

Building. Watch for updated notices.

**2:30 p.m.**

## **RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

118 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Tim Pawlenty

**Agenda:** Calendar for the Day for Thursday, March 29, 2001.

HF643 (Paulsen) A bill for an act proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution; adding a section to article IV to provide for initiative and referendum.

**3 p.m.**

## **THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

### **After session at the call of the chair**

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** Continuation of hearings from earlier session, and hearings on additional bills to be announced. Watch for revised notices.

### **After Local Government meeting, at the call of the chair (monitor schedule)**

## **Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **THURSDAY, March 29**

**7 a.m.**

### **\*\*\*NOTE TIME\*\*\***

## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** HF1817 (Workman) Utility facilities regulation modified in railroad rights-of-way. HF429 (Bakk) State agencies authorized to allow commercial wireless equipment on state-owned property.

HF595 (Ozment) Railroads; local governments authorized to establish quiet zones regulating or prohibiting locomotive warning devices.

More to be added later.

**8:15 a.m.**

## **EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF1581 (Goodno) Healthy kids learn endowment fund established, radioactive and special nuclear materials fees regulated, immunization data use criteria provided, health related programs modified, tobacco settlement fund modified, and money appropriated.

HF1376 (Abeler) Human services licensing background studies provisions modified.

HF1381 (Wilkin) Human services licensure background studies requirements modified.

HF1406 (Mulder) Maternal death review and study provided.

HF787 (Abeler) Nursing home moratorium exception priority for Anoka area extended, and money appropriated for moratorium exceptions.

HF1319 (Huntley) Nursing home pass-through reimbursement extended.

HF1747 (Solberg) Itasca county chemical dependency demonstration project rule exemption extended.

More bills may be added.

**Note:** This meeting will continue in Room 10 of the State Office Building after session at the call of the chair.

## **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** HF505 (Stanek) Racial profiling study; statewide model policy and local agency policies required, peace officer training objectives developed, and money appropriated.

HF1490 (Tuma) Center for reducing rural violence program continued and money appropriated.

Others to be announced.

**9 a.m.**

## **Legislative Audit Commission**

316 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Election of Legislative Audit Commission Officers.

Remarks by the Legislative Auditor.

Report on Program Evaluation Topic Selection.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** HF1918 (Tuma) State Public Defender salary.

HF696 (Stanek) Correctional officers disciplinary procedures established.

HF2054 (Holberg) Sexual assault response teams grant program established.

HF1411 (Stanek) Predatory offender provision rewritten.

**Note:** Additional bills will be added.

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** HF819 (Kielkucki) Wright County board authorized to rename a body of water.  
HF1591 (Ozment) Omnibus Game & Fish bill  
HF1146 (Ozment) Salt distribution stockpiles design, construction, and use requirements established.  
Other bills may be added.

#### **Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

**Agenda:** HF1624 (Pawlenty) Creates a credit for land donated for conservation purposes.  
HF839 (Milbert) Exempts sales and use taxes for construction materials used for the Dakota County Northern Service Center.  
HF960 (Milbert) Exempts admissions to high school league tournaments from the sales tax.  
HF1686 (Kuisle) Exempts admissions to events sponsored by the state high school league from the sales tax.  
HF2023 (Kuisle) Exempts certain machinery and equipment used to provide telecommunications services.  
HF1357 (McElroy) Authorizes the commissioner of revenue to reissue checks or warrants for refunds and requires certain uncashed tax refunds to be listed as unclaimed property.

#### **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.  
Section 12 Subd. 7, proposed budget for Public Radio.  
Section 12 Subd. 6, proposed Fiscal Agent budget.

**12:30 p.m.**

#### **AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF1205 (Sykora) Relating to alcoholic beverages; authorizing off-sale wine licenses for supermarkets.  
HF1155 (Abeler) Relating to insurance; requiring an affirmative provider consent to participate in a network under a category of coverage; requiring disclosure of changes in a provider's contract.  
HF404 (Wagenius) Relating to nonprofit corporations; specifying voting rights and meeting notice requirements for nonprofit

corporations that are neighborhood organizations.

HF608 (Harder) Relating to economic development; providing money to promote wireless Internet access in rural southwestern Minnesota.  
HF1147 (Mullery) Relating to landlord and tenant; clarifying the applicability of a covenant involving certain kinds of property.  
HF888 (Olson) Relating to insurance; prohibiting certain discriminatory charges.  
HF1886 (Kahn) Relating to employment; regulating the use of genetic testing in employment; providing penalties.  
HF1338 (Haas) Relating to insurance; regulating insurers, agents, coverages and benefits, costs, claims, investments, and notifications and disclosures; prescribing powers and duties of the commissioner; eliminating the regulation of nonprofit legal services plans.  
Other bills may be added.

**3 p.m.**

#### **THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

**After session at the call of the chair**

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**After Local Government meeting, at the call of the chair (monitor schedule)**

#### **Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **FRIDAY, March 30**

**8:15 a.m.**

#### **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** HF686 (Jaros) Duluth technology village grant provided, and money appropriated.  
HF258 (Swapinski) Additional unemployment insurance benefits provided specified employees on layoff from M. E. International.  
HF259 (Swapinski) Duluth aerial lift bridge repair and restoration authorized, and money appropriated.  
HF1756 (Sertich) Natural resources research institute grants provided and money appropriated.  
HF483 (Solberg) Floodwood business and industrial park grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.  
HF1658 (Bradley) Long-term care provisions modified, senior services pilot project established, long-term care revolving fund and loan forgiveness program created, nursing agency registration required, and money appropriated.  
HF963 (Sykora) Microenterprise grants provided and money appropriated.

**10:15 a.m.**

#### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** HF517 (Osthoff) St. Paul grant provided to restore East Como Lake Trail and lakeshore, and money appropriated.

HF859 (Bakk) Knife River harbor of refuge and marina improvements provided and money appropriated.

HF145 (Abrams) Lake Minnetonka multiuse water access site preparation and construction appropriation provided.

HF146 (Abrams) Lake Minnetonka multiuse water access site preparation and construction bonds issued, and money appropriated.

#### **K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**12:30 p.m., at the call of the chair**

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** To be announced.

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# Minnesota House of Representatives 2001 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
District/Member/Party	Room*			District/Member/Party	Room*		
49A	Abeler, Jim (R)	581	1729	40B	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	337	4218
45A	Abrams, Ron (R)	585	9934	45B	Leppik, Peggy (R)	485	7026
19B	Anderson, Bruce (R)	411	5063	2A	Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	323	5091
3A	Anderson, Irv (DFL)	343	4936	33A	Lindner, Arlon (R)	417	7806
6A	Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	345	2190	56B	Lipman, Eric (R)	567	4244
48B	Bernardy, Connie (DFL)	329	5510	47A	Luther, Darlene (DFL)	349	3751
59A	Biernat, Len (DFL)	303	4219	67A	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	377	4277
30B	Bishop, Dave (R)	453	0573	55A	Mares, Harry (R)	401	5363
25B	Boudreau, Lynda (R)	473	8237	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	203	9714
30A	Bradley, Fran (R)	559	9249	57B	Marko, Sharon (DFL)	279	3135
35B	Buesgens, Mark (R)	445	1072	9B	Marquart, Paul (DFL)	311	6829
46B	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	283	4255	36B	McElroy, Dan (R)	437	4212
10B	Cassell, George (R)	421	4317	54A	McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	259	4342
23A	Clark, James T. (R)	551	9303	39B	Milbert, Bob (DFL)	243	4192
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	307	0294	35A	Molnau, Carol L. (R)	443	8872
11A	Daggett, Roxann (R)	439	4293	21B	Mulder, Richard (R)	515	4336
31B	Davids, Gregory M. (R)	549	9278	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	387	4262
62A	Davnie, Jim (DFL)	335	0173	8A	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	357	2676
65A	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	215	5158	20A	Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	509	4344
14A	Dehler, Steve (R)	491	7808	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946
29A	Dempsey, Jerry (R)	575	8635	19A	Olson, Mark (R)	501	4237
60B	Dibble, D. Scott (DFL)	369	9281	16A	Opatz, Joe (DFL)	277	6612
27A	Dorman, Dan (R)	579	8216	29B	Osskopp, Mike (R)	521	9236
24A	Dorn, John (DFL)	201	3248	66A	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	273	4224
18A	Eastlund, Rob (R)	449	5364	11B	Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	393	3201
64A	Entenza, Matt (DFL)	261	8799	37A	Ozment, Dennis (R)	479	4306
42A	Erhardt, Ron (R)	591	4363	42B	Paulsen, Erik (R)	545	7449
17A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	407	6746	38B	Pawlenty, Tim (R)	459	4128
52B	Evans, Geri (DFL)	211	0141	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	209	4199
1B	Finseth, Tim (R)	517	9918	32A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	295	8637
44A	Folliard, Betty (DFL)	281	3964	1A	Penas, Maxine (R)	553	9635
4A	Fuller, Doug (R)	525	5516	13B	Peterson, Doug (DFL)	287	4228
36A	Gerlach, Chris (R)	531	5506	39A	Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	267	6828
63B	Gleason, Mark S. (DFL)	313	5375	44B	Rhodes, Jim (R)	409	9889
9A	Goodno, Kevin (R)	563	5515	32B	Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	423	1069
52A	Goodwin, Barbara (DFL)	353	4331	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	375	0170
58B	Gray, Gregory (DFL)	327	8659	28A	Ruth, Connie (R)	415	5368
54B	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	253	5387	17B	Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	217	5377
26A	Gunther, Bob (R)	379	3240	41A	Seagren, Alice (R)	477	7803
48A	Haas, Bill (R)	569	5513	21A	Seifert, Marty (R)	593	5374
50A	Hackbarth, Tom (R)	577	2439	5B	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL)	233	0172
22B	Harder, Elaine (R)	583	5373	2B	Skoe, Rod (DFL)	321	4265
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	245	3824	62B	Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	251	4330
47B	Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	227	3709	57A	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	359	7807
8B	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	207	4308	34A	Smith, Steve (R)	503	9188
37B	Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	433	6926	3B	Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	309	2365
56A	Holsten, Mark William (R)	381	3018	33B	Stanek, Rich (R)	543	5502
4B	Howes, Larry (R)	431	2451	14B	Stang, Doug (R)	597	4373
6B	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	351	2228	28B	Swiggum, Steve (R)	463	2273
53B	Jacobson, Carl (R)	429	7153	7A	Swapinski, Dale (DFL)	331	4282
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	291	4246	23B	Swenson, Howard (R)	539	8634
18B	Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	237	0518	43B	Sykora, Barb (R)	403	4315
34B	Johnson, Jeff (R)	487	5511	46A	Thompson, Mark (DFL)	223	4176
24B	Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	241	7065	50B	Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	507	5369
67B	Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	229	4201	25A	Tuma, John (R)	533	4229
15A	Juhnke, Al (DFL)	371	6206	51B	Vandeveer, Ray (R)	529	4124
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	255	4257	63A	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	239	4200
26B	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	317	4240	61B	Walker, Neva (DFL)	213	7152
60A	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)	231	0171	12A	Walz, Dale (R)	527	4333
20B	Kielkucki, Tony (R)	367	1534	55B	Wasiluk, Scott (DFL)	225	1188
16B	Knoblach, Jim (R)	451	6316	12B	Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	389	4247
49B	Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	301	4231	51A	Westerberg, Andrew (R)	523	4226
53A	Krinkie, Philip (R)	365	2907	13A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	557	4929
15B	Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	315	4346	38A	Wilkin, Tim (R)	413	3533
31A	Kuisle, William (R)	565	4378	22A	Winter, Ted (DFL)	247	5505
40A	Larson, Dan (DFL)	221	7158	41B	Wolf, Ken (R)	571	5185
27B	Leighton, Rob (DFL)	289	4193	43A	Workman, Tom (R)	537	5066

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

List as of January 24, 2001

\*All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted,  
St. Paul, MN 55155

# Name Pronunciation Guide

## 2001 Minnesota House of Representatives

Abeler, Jim ..... ABE-ler	Holberg, Mary Liz	Osthoff, Tom ..... AHST-hoff
Abrams, Ron	Holsten, Mark William	Otremba, Mary Ellen ..... oh-TREM-ba
Anderson, Bruce	Howes, Larry	Ozment, Dennis ..... AHZ-ment
Anderson, Irv	Huntley, Thomas	Paulsen, Erik
Bakk, Thomas (Tom) ..... BOCK	Jacobson, Carl	Pawlenty, Tim ..... paw-LENTY
Bernardy, Connie	Jaros, Mike ..... YAHR-ohs	Paymar, Michael
Biernat, Len ..... BE-AIR-nat	Jennings, Loren Geo	Pelowski Jr., Gene
Bishop, Dave	Johnson, Jeff	Penas, Maxine ..... PEN-nas
Boudreau, Lynda ..... boo-DROH	Johnson, Ruth	Peterson, Doug
Bradley, Fran	Johnson, Sheldon	Pugh, Thomas W. .... PEW
Buesgens, Mark ..... BISK-ens	Juhnke, Al ..... JUNK-ee	Rhodes, Jim
Carlson, Lyndon R.	Kahn, Phyllis	Rifenberg, Michelle ..... RIFF-en-berg
Cassell, George ..... CASTLE	Kalis, Henry J. .... KAH-liss	Rukavina, Tom ..... roo-ka-VEEN-a
Clark, James T.	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson ..... KELL-a-her	Ruth, Connie
Clark, Karen	Kielkucki, Tony ..... keel-COO-ski	Schumacher, Leslie J. .... SHOE-mocker
Daggett, Roxann ..... DAG-et	Knoblach, Jim ..... NOB-lock	Seagren, Alice
Dauids, Gregory M.	Koskinen, Luanne	Seifert, Marty ..... SY-fert
Davnie, Jim ..... DAV-nee	Krinkie, Philip	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" ..... SIR-tich
Dawkins, Andy	Kubly, Gary W. .... KOO-blee	Skoe, Rod ..... SKOY
Dehler, Steve ..... DAY-ler	Kuisle, William ..... KWEEZ-lee	Skoglund, Wes ..... SKOHG-lund
Dempsey, Jerry	Larson, Dan	Slawik, Nora ..... SLAH-wick
Dibble, Scott	Leighton, Rob ..... LAY-ton	Smith, Steve
Dorman, Dan	Lenczewski, Ann ..... len-CHESS-key	Solberg, Loren A.
Dorn, John	Leppik, Peggy	Stanek, Rich
Eastlund, Rob	Lieder, Bernie L. .... LEED-er	Stang, Doug
Entenza, Matt	Lindner, Arlon	Sviggum, Steve ..... SWIG-um
Erhardt, Ron ..... AIR-hart	Lipman, Eric	Swapinski, Dale
Erickson, Sondra	Luther, Darlene	Swenson, Howard
Evans, Geri	Mahoney, Tim	Sykora, Barb ..... sick-OR-ah
Finseth, Tim	Mares, Harry ..... MAIRS	Thompson, Mark
Folliard, Betty ..... FOLLY-ard	Mariani, Carlos ..... ma-ree-AH-nee	Tingelstad, Kathy
Fuller, Doug	Marko, Sharon	Tuma, John ..... TOO-ma
Gerlach, Chris ..... GER-lock	Marquart, Paul ..... MAR-qwort	Vandever, Ray
Gleason, Mark S.	McElroy, Dan ..... MACK-el-roy	Wagenius, Jean ..... wa-GHEEN-yus
Goodno, Kevin	McGuire, Mary Jo	Walker, Neva
Goodwin, Barbara	Milbert, Bob	Walz, Dale ..... WALLZ
Gray, Gregory	Molnau, Carol L. .... MOLE-now	Wasiluk, Scott ..... WAH-si-luck
Greiling, Mindy ..... GRY-ling	Mulder, Richard	Wenzel, Stephen G. .... WEN-zel
Gunther, Bob	Mullery, Joe	Westerberg, Andrew
Haas, Bill ..... HAHZ	Murphy, Mary	Westrom, Torrey
Hackbarth, Tom	Ness, Robert "Bob"	Wilkin, Tim
Harder, Elaine	Nornes, Bud ..... NOR-ness	Winter, Ted
Hausman, Alice	Olson, Mark	Wolf, Ken
Hilstrom, Debra ..... HILL-strum	Opatz, Joe ..... OH-patz	Workman, Tom
Hilty, Bill	Osskopp, Mike ..... AHZ-cop	

He also said those who complain loudest about high state taxes are often those that benefit from being in a TIF district and such tax policy means higher taxes for other property owners to make up.

Pawlenty said the bill would require all local units of government in the tax-free zone to give approval before it could be established. It also includes a requirement that qualified businesses operating within the zone either increase employment by 20 percent in the first full year of operations, or make a capital investment equal to 10 percent of gross revenues from the prior year.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) said the bill could offer hope to pockets of the state that have suffered large population losses. He said the incentives in the bill would mean more people returning to areas they left because of a lack of economic opportunity.

"You wouldn't have to convince people to come home," he said.

The committee took no action on the bill, but Abrams said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill. 🐼

## Minnesota State Agencies

(Area code 651)

Administration .....	296-6013
Agriculture .....	297-2200
Children, Families and Learning .....	582-8200
Commerce .....	296-4026
Corrections .....	642-0200
Economic Security .....	296-3644
Employee Relations .....	297-1184
Job Information .....	296-2616
Finance .....	296-5900
Health .....	215-5803
Human Rights .....	296-5663
Toll Free .....	1-800-657-3704
Human Services .....	296-6117
Labor and Industry .....	296-6107
Military Affairs .....	282-4662
Natural Resources .....	296-6157
Pollution Control Agency .....	296-6300
Public Safety .....	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services ...	296-6911
Fire Marshal .....	215-0500
Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division .....	296-6979
State Patrol .....	297-3935
Public Service .....	296-5120
Revenue	
Taxpayer Assistance .....	296-3781
Toll Free .....	1-800-652-9094
Trade and	
Economic Development .....	297-1291
Office of Tourism .....	296-5029
Transportation .....	296-3000
Veterans Affairs .....	296-2562
State Information .....	296-6013

# Reflections

An architectural marvel in any city is a building with a dome on top. Fabric covered sports stadiums are innovative, but domes made from tons of metal and granite or marble are man-made wonders. St. Paul has two right down the street from each other.

On one of the capital city's seven hills sits the copper-domed Cathedral of St. Paul, home to the Catholic Archdiocese for the Twin Cities and a 12-county area. The State Capitol and its dome of white marble rests on another hill four blocks to the northeast. Both command a major view of downtown and surrounding neighborhoods.

The Capitol dome is the highest point of the building at 223 feet. It was built in 1905 to stand alone above the businesses of downtown St. Paul.

But when the cathedral and its dome were built later in 1915, it was made taller on purpose and closer to the heavens — 83 feet higher.

Architect Cass Gilbert designed the Capitol dome based on Michelangelo's plan for St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Like many domes, it sits on a drum from which stone ribs arch up to join at the top, with some ornament usually placed above.

The Capitol dome's highest point is a gold sphere, with 12 carved American Eagles perched atop double columns around the drum. The St. Paul Cathedral dome is adorned with a sculptured angel, while a cross completes St. Peter's Basilica.

Other domes of note are found at America's most famous landmark, the U.S. Capitol building in Washington; the Taj Mahal mausoleum in India; Jerusalem's golden Dome of the Rock; The onion-shaped domes of Russia; Le Pantheon in Paris; and the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis.

Domes mostly lend themselves aesthetically to governmental and religious structures. Many are functional, while others serve a more ornamental purpose. Most tend to portray a place of authority or power. And those who are responsible for the upkeep of such architectural phenomena make major efforts to preserve their exterior and interior for posterity.

The U.S. Capitol dome and its Statue of Freedom high above have both undergone rehabilitation. The Dome of the Rock had

its original gold patina replaced. Funds are now being raised to preserve the Taj Mahal. Rome's Basilica, Le Pantheon in Paris, and the Basilica of St. Mary have also been restored.

Now it is the St. Paul Cathedral's turn. A two-year replacement of its dome, turned green by oxidation over the years began recently. Its identifying color will not be seen again for at least 25 years as the new copper oxidizes.

And while the state of Washington just completed a restoration phase of its State Capitol in Olympia, it needs new repair to mend the crack made in its dome during a recent earthquake.

Minnesota's Capitol dome has also been restored. It thereby maintains what art theorists call "a time-honored standard of beauty" making it one of the most magnificent structures in the nation.

Different art forms so represented by the presence of the two domes of the capital city are likened to a quote by poet John Keats, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



Minnesota State Capitol dome built in 1905.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Tournament time

Year the nonprofit Minnesota State High School League was formed to promote amateur sports for boys .....	1916
Year its scope was broadened to include speech and debate .....	1929
Music .....	1965
Girls' athletics .....	1969
Approximate number of schools that are league members .....	500
Number of actual high schools .....	435
Approximate number of students taking part in league-sponsored activities .....	200,000
Number of athletic and fine arts activities the league sponsored in 1999-2000 for member schools .....	34
Approximate number of contest officials and judges of speech, music, drama and debate trained by the league .....	4,500
Number of schools in the Good Sports program that challenges schools to implement year-round sportsmanship programs .....	160
Average grade point average of a Minnesota high school student on a 4.0 scale .....	2.68
Of a student athlete .....	2.84
Of a student involved in fine arts .....	2.98
Average amount of days a high school student is absent .....	8.76
An athlete .....	7.44
A fine arts participant .....	6.94
Percent of Minnesota high school students who believe "how you treat others" is more important than winning .....	95
Percent who believe participants of school activities tend to be school leaders ....	91
Percent who think sportsmanship is more important than winning .....	86
Percent who believe their school places the right amount of emphasis on sports .....	73
Percent of high school dropouts who were not involved in extracurricular activities .....	95
Days of high school athletic tournament events in St. Paul between Feb. 22 and March 24 .....	13
Amount the St. Paul Convention and Visitors Bureau estimates each high school student spends at the state tournament per game or session, in dollars .....	23
Adults, in dollars .....	39
Percent of attendees who are students .....	65
Estimated total dollars spent by people attending the high school tournaments in St. Paul, in millions .....	8.3
Average amount between 1989 and 2000 the league returned to its membership to offset tournament expenses .....	\$600,000

Source: Minnesota State High School League Web site ([www.mshsl.org](http://www.mshsl.org)) and news accounts.

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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MARCH 30, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 13

In this issue:

WINE IN GROCERY STORES

MILK PRICE BOARD, PROFILE PROPOSALS, AND MORE

HF2175-HF2353

# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5  
Budget • 5  
Crime • 6  
Education • 7  
Energy • 8  
Environment • 9

Family • 9  
Government • 9  
Health • 10  
Higher Education • 11  
Human Services • 12  
Law • 12

Local Government • 13  
Metro Affairs • 13  
Military • 14  
Safety • 15  
Taxes • 16  
Transportation • 16

### FEATURES

**At Issue: Agriculture** — Legislators are debating a bill that would create ways to regulate dairy industry matters, particularly milk prices. • 17

**At Issue: Education** — A plan that effectively freezes the Profile of Learning graduation standards until an alternative can be developed was approved by a House committee, while members approved another plan that would scrap the Profile altogether. • 18

**At Issue: Government** — In an effort to focus more on building a skilled and sustainable workforce, members are considering merging the state Department of Economic Security with the Department of Economic Trade and Development. • 19

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Insane practices	4	Reflections: House staff dedication	31
Bill Introductions (HF2175-2353)	20	Minnesota Index:	
Committee Schedule (April 2-6)	25	Minnesota Census 2000	32

**On the cover:** The illuminated murals on the ceiling of the House chamber shine down on the body as the first committee deadline passes and action shifts from committees to the House Floor.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

# Wine with dinner

Sale of wine in grocery stores debate pits consumer convenience against potential increased youth access

BY THERESA STAHL

Displaying grocery bags loaded with thousands of responses from customers wanting to permit the sale of wine in grocery stores, proponents of a bill for the provision claimed it is what the people are asking for.

Members of the Liquor Subcommittee of the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee responded, approving the measure March 23 that would allow the sale of wine in grocery stores in the seven-county metropolitan area. The bill was scheduled to be voted on March 29 by the full committee, after this edition went to press.

Opponents argued the bill would increase alcohol availability to youth and would increase drinking in society as a whole.

"The expansion of alcohol adds to the problems in our community," said Jaime Martinez of Action on Alcohol and Teens.

It is a "responsible proposal," said Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), sponsor of the bill. In fact, her proposal is legal in 33 other states, including Wisconsin, Iowa, and South Dakota. "If youth access would increase dramatically due to wine being sold in grocery stores, why haven't these other states changed their law back?"

HF1205 would permit supermarkets of at least 10,000 square feet to sell wine with up to 15 per-

cent alcohol. These table and dinner wines would only be sold during the same hours wine is presently sold at liquor stores.

Sykora anticipated concerns of increased

underage access and included language in the bill requiring mandatory identification checks on all wine purchases, mandatory training of managers and employees on state laws regulating the sale of wine, and mandatory annual compliance checks.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) said the bill might place additional costs on cities in order to have officers conduct the required compliance checks. Sykora disagreed.

"It will not be a big burden on police departments because there are already mandatory compliance checks for tobacco sold in grocery stores," she said.

HF1205 would also require store clerks selling wine to be 18 years of age or older. Clerks under

18 must call a manager to complete the sale, Sykora said.

Martinez said the provision might lead to further legislation to allow the sale of liquor and spirits in grocery stores. Nancy Christensen, executive director of the Minnesota Grocers Association and supporter of the bill, said her organization "would oppose amendments to include regular beer or spirits."

Christensen said grocery stores would adhere to the same penalties as liquor stores for violations of the law.

Terry Maglich from the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association doesn't know if cities will implement the same penalties as liquor stores, which is to close the store for one to 30 days.

Gordon Farrington, regional vice president for Cub Foods, described to committee members the sort of training employees of the grocery chain receive, including time spent on age restrictions and what they can and can't sell to minors. The company fires employees who fail to ask for identification for 3.2 beer or tobacco products, he said.

Grocery stores historically have very low profits due to competition, said Randy Chambers, vice president of operations for Twin Cities Rainbow Foods stores, and therefore have a lot of programs to combat theft.

Rainbow employs a loss prevention force and has video surveillance that the company uses to audit cashiers for theft and compliance with laws, Farrington said.

With an actual register checkout, complete with conveyor belt and scanner, he conducted a demonstration for the committee. When a bottle of wine is scanned, the computer gives a prompt to enter a birth date. The cashier then asks for identification, Farrington explained, and without it the sale cannot be completed.

The computer also accounts for the time of sale, and will display an error message if the purchase is attempted after legal hours to sell liquor. Farrington, who has been a manager at grocery stores in states that do permit the sale of wine, said these security procedures have worked.

Rep. Jeff Johnson (R-Plymouth) asked if security systems for theft prevention would be left up to each grocery store. Christensen said they would be required to have a theft prevention program before wine would be sold in the store. Individual cities would decide whether the program is acceptable, she said.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Terry Maglich, left, president of MGM Liquors in St. Paul, testifies March 23 against a bill that would allow the sale of wine in Twin Cities metropolitan area grocery stores during a hearing of the Liquor Subcommittee of the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Committee. Jim Farrell, right, of the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association also testified in opposition. Brian Sayles, center, a grocery manager at Rainbow Foods in Maplewood was at the hearing in support of the bill.

Johnson inquired about statistics from states that have passed laws to permit the sale of wine in grocery stores, saying it would be persuasive evidence either way. Neither side produced any data.

Brenda Visnovic of the Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association argued liquor retailers can monitor buyers and their companions much more closely than grocers. Liquor stores don't let people in the store if they are not at least 21 years old, she said.

Judy Johnson, a Plymouth city council member who considers herself pro-business, objected to the bill for a number of reasons. "Groceries are valuable assets, and I appreciate that they're trying to bring in new ways to (make money), but this bill will have a price," she said.

She produced data from the city of Plymouth that showed grocery stores fail compliance checks for 3.2 beer and tobacco sales about twice as often as liquor stores. She also said grocery store clerks are a high turnover position, and many of them are high school students.

"This is one more venue that young people will gain access to alcohol," Johnson said. "It isn't worth the risk to the community."

Selena Reilly, youth coordinator at Mothers Against Drunk Driving, said her main concern with the bill is increased underage access. She said students have gotten excited about easier access and have said to her "the only people who would benefit would be youth."

Reilly said she is worried about added peer pressure, that the measure would result in increased drinking problems later in life, and would put people more at risk for rape and violence.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), a grocer, said he doesn't believe youth go to stores to buy alcohol that much, but believes they get it from parents.

Rukavina said he "doesn't care if you sell alcohol in hardware stores," but opposes the bill because it would entice youth to buy alcohol and because of the impact it could have on small liquor stores. He said he hasn't heard from any privately owned grocery stores in his district.

He also mentioned the jail in St. Louis County is full of drunken drivers. (Part of St. Louis County is in Rukavina's district.) The jail budget has soared and the number of sheriffs have doubled.

He said this legislation might be the start of allowing all alcoholic beverages to be sold in grocery stores. "It's only a matter of time that you will be here pushing for everything," said Rukavina, and he asked what people are supposed to do when they want to drink liquor or beer with dinner.

Christensen of the Minnesota Grocers Association replied, "If they do they could go to their liquor store." 🐼

IT'S A FACT



## Insane practices

### Mentally ill, deaf, and blind institutionalized together in early days

Since early statehood, the Minnesota Legislature has taken steps to help citizens who couldn't help themselves.

In the 19th Century, the accepted method in public welfare was to isolate people who were seen as "defective" or "insane" in institutions. The intent was to protect society from them, while at the same time hoping to cure them. Both the methods and terminology were primitive by today's standards.

The first such institution operated by the state, opened in 1864 in Faribault. Geared primarily for the care of children, the Minnesota State Institute for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb was built on 40 acres of land donated by the city.

At the time, Gov. Henry A. Swift told the Legislature: "The care and education of this unfortunate class of our people is a sacred trust, which this state will never hesitate to accept and discharge, much less abandon, after having entered upon the work."

However, as the state's population grew and its need for care became more diverse, hospitals were required to handle everything from blind and deaf children to mentally handicapped individuals, all in the same place.

Though early reports focus only on the administration and costs of institutions, they hint at the difficulty of dealing with patients of such varying needs. Often people with very different disabilities were lumped together in the same institution.

That created communication problems between hospital staff and patients, plus as feelings of isolation among patients who could not relate to one another, according to reports.

These early days are chronicled in *The Minnesota Department of Human Services, Memories of our past*, published in 1998.

In the state's early years, some of Minnesota's mentally ill were sent to Iowa or Missouri hospitals, others were locked up in the state's jails. In 1866, the Legislature established the Minnesota State Hospital for the Insane in St. Peter.

In 1879 a second Hospital for the Insane

was opened in Rochester. Initially, the facility was intended to be an "inebriate asylum," but overcrowding at the St. Peter institution led the Legislature to abandon that plan. Nonetheless, "inebriates" were admitted to the Rochester institution along with the "insane."

That same year, the Legislature formed the Minnesota State Lunacy Commission to "weed out the idiots" from the insane asylums and put them into an experimen-

tal school. Apparently the school was a success — in 1881 the state established a School for Idiots and Imbeciles.

However, the Legislature directed the new school be connected with the Institute for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind in Faribault. In 1885, the institute's name was

changed to the Minnesota School for the Feeble-Minded, or mentally retarded. Two years later the school became a department of the Minnesota Institute for Defectives.

The first state agency for overseeing these institutions was established in 1883 and was known as the State Board of Correction and Charities. Today's Department of Human Services has evolved through the years from that first agency. In 1901, it was renamed the State Board of Control; in 1939, the Department of Social Security; and in 1953, the Department of Public Welfare.

The institution in Faribault has gone through many metamorphoses and is known today as The Faribault Regional Center.

Today, the actions of the Department of Human Services reflects its culture just as the State Board of Correction and Charities did in the 1800s. Institutionalization is now reserved for the very ill. And the agency's goal is to keep persons with illness or disabilities in their homes and communities as much as possible.

People with disabilities and illness are often fully participating members of society, and the deprecatory terminology of the past is gone.

(M.K. WATSON)



The first institution for the deaf at Faribault in 1863.



## ★ AGRICULTURE

### County feedlot management

The House Environment and Natural Resources Committee heard several bills pertaining to feedlots March 26.

HF1241 would make it mandatory for all counties except Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington to operate feedlot and manure management programs on behalf of the state. Currently 50 of the 87 counties are performing those duties voluntarily. The bill would also appropriate funds to help pay for feedlot inspectors.

"This bill will help expedite environmental concerns," said Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), the bill's sponsor. "So far it has not been funded adequately."

Dave Weirens, speaking for the Association of Minnesota Counties, argued that making the feedlot program mandatory would be counterproductive. "We support the current feedlot program," he said.

"I don't think the current program is working," Ness said.

HF1241 was approved and sent to the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Ness also sponsors HF1243, which would establish a feedlot specialist program to assist farmers through the permitting process, which he characterized as confusing and expensive.

"There is a decline of hope in our rural economy," Ness said. "Before they give up, I want someone there to give them a hand."

The bill would appropriate \$1 million for the biennium to the commissioner of agriculture to contract for feedlot specialists.

HF1243 was approved and sent to the House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee.

A third bill, HF1734, sponsored by Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester), was also approved, but it was sent to the House floor.

It would ease the current standards requiring operators of feedlots with more than a certain number of animal units to register with the county or the state Pollution Control Agency, unless they are located in a county that has conducted level two or level three feedlot inventories, which are more detailed.

The bill would require the PCA to allow counties to submit a level one inventory, which would be sufficient to exempt feedlot operators from registering their individual feedlots.

A level one feedlot inventory is an inventory of animal units, by animal type, in each watershed area of a county.

## ★ BUDGET

### Budget targets approved

The House approved a budget resolution March 26 setting the overall amount that can be used in determining committee budget proposals for the next biennium.

The resolution, which passed on a 75-56 vote, includes \$25 billion for expenditures carried over from last session. It sets \$714 million as the amount that can be appropriated for new expenditures in 2002-03 and \$1.2 billion for tax reductions, an amount that is not counted as expenditure.

The total does not include a one-time general fund appropriation of \$1.6 million to transfer money from the Motor Vehicle Sales Tax Fund to the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund caused by the license tab reduction fee approved last year.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, said the resolution establishes a budget that includes a "consistent, adequate increase in discretionary spending" for the next biennium.

"We have had sequential large surpluses we've had to deal with last session and this

session because of our dynamic economy, because of our productive people, and because of our tax structure that seems to produce surpluses in spite of the adjustments we make from session to session," Bishop said.

DFL members argued the budget resolution provides an inadequate amount for education, affordable housing and health care issues facing the state.

Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget proposal includes the same \$714 million amount for additional spending measures and sets aside \$1.1 billion for tax reductions.

House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) said the resolution lacks a balanced approach to the future health of the state.

"Probably 80 to 90 percent of the resources of this state would be devoted to the tax relief at a time when investments in education, transportation, our environment, health care, our seniors are urgently needed. We can balance these needs," Pugh said.

House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) said the resolution preserves the surplus for tax relief while allowing for inflationary increases in spending.

"We are going to reallocate money within the governor's number to address many of the key priorities that have been mentioned here today," Pawlenty said during the floor debate. "I think it's a prudent measure that's in line with the governor, that's in line with where most Minnesotans are."



House Speaker Steve Sviggum, right, and Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty discuss a budget resolution with members of the press in the House gallery prior to the March 22 floor session.

The Ways and Means Committee will establish the specific target amounts for each House finance committee in the coming weeks.

## ★ CRIME

### Racial profiling bill advances

A measure that addresses racial profiling might be included in the omnibus bill from the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

The committee heard the bill March 29 and amended it. It will be considered for inclusion in the omnibus bill.

The bill (HF505), sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), defines racial profiling, requires the establishment of a state-wide model policy, mandates training requirements, and provides for administrative oversight of police departments by the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training.

It does not require mandatory collection of racial profiling data or of the badge numbers of officers involved in possible racial profiling.

Instead, it places the onus for training of officers and making sure they comply with regulations on individual departments. Any disciplinary measures or other violations would be handled administratively within the department, under the supervision of the POST Board. It also makes data collection voluntary.

The bill would appropriate \$400,000 to the POST Board for training reimbursement to local communities, and \$100,000 to the Department of Public Safety for a public awareness campaign, which is aimed at explaining the complaint process to citizens who feel they have been racially profiled.

Neil Melton, executive director of the POST Board, said he researched training methods surrounding racial profiling and found that other states have had success with small group, interactive training, rather than mass seminars via video or satellite.

He said estimated cost for training is about \$500,000. It would involve about 225 seminars statewide of 40 officers each.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) questioned the substantial cost for an issue that's not a secret and should not be treated as a new thing.

"A simple watching of the video may not give us the results we've wanted," Melton said.

The committee amended the bill to require jurisdictions to report the number of racial profiling complaints they collect and the disposition of each complaint. The data would be collected by the POST Board and if a jurisdiction did not report its complaints, it could

not receive its training reimbursement, Melton said. The board also conducts unannounced annual audits to ensure compliance on about 10 percent of the agencies statewide, he added.

Stanek proposed the amendment after hearings in the House Crime Prevention Committee.

"I heard loud and clear from the Crime Prevention committee and others that we need to have an evaluation piece included in this," Stanek said. "I'm trying to bring forward a fair and balanced bill."

### Victims support services

When Jim Basta's son Tony was shot while riding his bicycle in a St. Paul neighborhood in April 2000, life as he and his family knew it dissolved, and they felt like they had no one to turn to.

But a St. Paul program intended to offer families support when their loved one has been a victim of homicide, suicide or accidental death stepped up and gave the Basta family the direction they needed to carry on.

Basta testified March 27 before the House Judiciary Finance Committee in support of a bill (HF1735) that would increase state funding for the Victim Intervention Project Institute. The bill will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

"I find that the service they provided could not be replaced, and there's no price you could put on it," Basta said. "We are not weak people. We just needed some help."

Rep. Sheldon Johnson (DFL-St. Paul), the bill's sponsor, said the bill would provide \$600,000 for 2002-03 to provide support services for families in both St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Margaret McAbee from the institute said her budget for this year is \$100,000. About \$41,000 of that money came from the Crime Victims Services Center in the Department of Public Safety.

In addition, the state has appropriated \$30,000 in each of the last four years for the institute.

Many committee members wondered why there was a need for both the crime victims center and the intervention institute. Both McAbee and the witnesses said the institute fills an important role early on that the services centers cannot provide.

The institute serves as an initial point of contact for survivors of these crimes. It offers support groups and other crisis situation services. It also makes referrals for counseling if necessary.

Several other people emotionally retold their tragic stories of loss and heartfelt support for the institute.

Lt. Dan Grout from the Minneapolis Police Department said families of victims need a place to turn so they can express their feelings of remorse, guilt, anger, and other emotions. Many people, especially when the crimes are not solved, have no way to work that out.

Betty Nachtsheim said she didn't have anyone who could really relate to the pain she suffered when her husband was murdered, until she went to the institute in 1992 — 19 years after the crime.

And for other family members, like Sue Maher whose 21-year-old son was murdered, they just need to see that other people have made it through. She said she was particularly thankful for the help her other son received from the institute.

"There's no way I could be here or be safe and productive today without VIPI," Maher said. "I was so relieved to know that we could get through this."

### 'Values-based' prison programming

"Values-based" pre-release programs for minimum-security state prisoners could receive state funding.

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) is sponsoring legislation he says would help inmates "stay out of trouble and perform better in society."

HF1911 would allow the commissioner of corrections to solicit proposals from private vendors through a competitive bidding process for the value-based programs, focusing on a smooth transition for inmates back into the community. The program would be funded partially by public dollars and would affect inmates nearing release.

Tuma said the program would be located in one of the state's existing prison facilities. His bill would appropriate \$200,000 to start the project, most of which would cover initial operating expenses.

The House Crime Prevention Committee unanimously approved and referred the bill to the House Judiciary Finance Committee March 27, where it will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

Tuma said he was inspired by a similar program in Iowa, which in turn was motivated by a Texas "faith-based" program. Asked about his decision to adopt the term "values-based," he explained he found the Iowa language "more Midwestern."

Tuma described visiting the Iowa prison where a similar program was in operation. "I felt like I was walking into a collegiate dormitory," he said. "This is an excellent program and its worth a try."

Unlike boot camps, Tuma's proposal would

not reduce offenders' sentences. Instead, inmates would agree to take part in classes so as to establish relationships with private groups, such as churches, outside the prison.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) suggested the U.S. Constitution's prohibition against the state establishment of religion would be violated "if a committee designates which church a released prisoner would attend." Tuma responded the Texas program had avoided challenge because it was entirely voluntary.

He added he intended to include the American Civil Liberties Union in designing the funding request form. "We are trying to achieve consensus going in," said Tuma. Any group could apply to run such a program.

Department of Corrections Commissioner Sheryl Ramstad Hvaas said she "would envision as much private funding as possible." She emphasized that Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget appropriates no money for such initiatives. "We are not requesting this funding," she said.

Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth) encouraged Tuma to examine the importance of Native American spirituality, in addition to Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Tuma agreed, saying, "We as a government should encourage people to seek religion and spirituality as part of their rehabilitation."

### Funding COPS overtime

A bill that would provide \$1 million in grants to help Minnesota communities fund overtime for community-oriented policing (COPS) was heard in the House Judiciary Finance Committee March 27.

The bill (HF1055), sponsored by Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

The money would be split so that 50 percent goes to Minneapolis and St. Paul, while the other 50 percent would be allocated to all other parts of the state.

In 1999, the Legislature appropriated \$500,000 for COPS grants, \$30,000 of which went to pay for drug dogs. Of the remaining \$470,000, \$235,000 went to St. Paul and Minneapolis, and 13 other jurisdictions split \$235,000. Six of those jurisdictions were in Greater Minnesota.

The COPS program began in the mid-1990s when Congress began appropriating money to increase the number of law enforcement officers in the United States, in hopes of reducing crime rates. Local jurisdictions are allowed either one-time grants for various purposes, or three-year grants for new officer positions that the municipality must fully fund at the end of the grant.

Mares said it was important that the money be earmarked for COPS overtime so that the department does not merely use the grant for overall overtime.

The grants would likely be administered by the Office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention, which oversees such grants, in the Department of Public Safety.

### County probation officer salaries

The requests for more salaries for local probation officers are piling up before the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

Members heard a bill (HF2141), sponsored by Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), March 27 that would allocate nearly \$3.8 million for 2002-03 to counties not governed by the Community Corrections Act.

The bill will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

The Community Corrections Act, enacted in 1973, is a partnership between the state and local county governments to provide various corrections services at the local level. The counties are allowed significant leeway in programming for inmates and probationers. In return, the state provides funding for those programs.

Currently, 56 of Minnesota's 87 counties are not part of community corrections. The state Corrections Department provides all court services to 26 counties, and the remaining 30 only rely on the state to provide court services for adult felons. Those counties provide

juvenile and misdemeanor services themselves.

State law requires a 50 percent salary reimbursement to non-CCA counties. Kielkucki said the current state funding level is about 44 percent.

His bill would appropriate the money so counties can be reimbursed to the full 50 percent level for probation officer expenses.

Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget also recommended the funding.

"There's some concern that we feel we're fulfilling our end of the deal and the state is not," said Kevin Corbid from the Association of Minnesota Counties.

The bill would also allow counties to retain probation fees. Under existing law, those fees are deposited in the state's general fund.

## ★ EDUCATION

### Loan forgiveness for teachers

Future science, math, industrial technology, and special education teachers may receive a monetary break in paying for their education.

HF422, sponsored by Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), reflects the forecasted shortage of teachers in the state especially in science and math areas, which is mostly due to retirements. The bill was heard in the K-12 Education Finance Committee March 26. Seagren is chair of the committee.

Her bill offers loan forgiveness for science, math, industrial technology, and special

### EDUCATION RALLY



PHOTO BY SARA KIRK

Shayna Anderson (from left), Lindsay Madson, Jenna Goss, Laura Meyer, and Drew Krings, all freshmen from Winona Senior High School, display signs March 27 during an education rally on the steps of the Capitol.

education teachers in amounts of up to \$1,000 at the end of the first successful school year, up to \$3,000 after the second, and up to \$5,000 after the third. The same teachers in rural areas would see up to \$3,000, \$5,000, \$7,000, respectively.

Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) asked why the bill says “up to” the reimbursement amount, and who would determine the amount.

Seagren said the Higher Education Services Office would manage the loan forgiveness program. Phil Lewenstein, communications and legislative representative for the office, said they would determine the repayment sum based on the amount of the teacher’s existing loan.

Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato) wondered if the program would reimburse teachers in other fields of great demand, such as reading and English as a Second Language.

“These (fields) have been documented to be most critical at this time,” Seagren replied.

The bill was referred to the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee.

### Asthma relief

Asking members of the House Education Policy Committee to plug their noses and put a straw to their mouths, fifth-grader Taylor Orr instructed them to breath through the straw for 10 seconds.

This is what an asthma attack feels like, said Taylor, a student at Richfield Intermediate School.

She testified March 22 for a bill (HF1394) that would allow students, with parental permission, to carry inhalers with them in school. Presently, students can leave them with the school nurse, but sometimes a child, like Taylor, needs an inhaler before they can make it to the nurse.

Taylor told members of a time in class when she felt an asthma attack coming on but didn’t want to be a disturbance to the class by leaving. By the time she received her inhaler it was too late and she had to go to the doctor.

Taylor was lucky, said Cheryl Sasse, respiratory therapist at the American Lung Association, who told stories of children who have died from not having an inhaler on hand when they needed it.

Rep. Kathy Tingstad (R-Andover), sponsor of the bill, said 10 states have passed laws allowing students to carry inhalers.

“If children can carry their inhalers during other occasions” like after-school sports, church activities, and visits to friends houses, then why not school, asked Sasse. Asthma is the number one reason for school absences, she noted.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) asked what age children are when they usually know how to use the inhalers. Sasse said probably eight years old, but that’s where parental consent comes in. The bill requires districts to have received written authorization from the student’s parent permitting the student to self-administer the medication.

Some schools currently allow students to carry inhalers, but in an informal survey, said Sasse, 42 percent did not allow students to carry them.

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) asked if separate legislation was needed to address medication for diabetes and bee stings. Bob Meeks, a lobbyist for the Minnesota School Board Association, said the use of a needle would bring up other issues that would take more time.

Meeks supported the legislation in HF1394. “We have to allow the medication to get to the children,” he said.

The bill was referred to the Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

### Alternative education model

The traditional school year — nine months on, three months off — may be a thing of the past for some schools in the state.

Flexibility in school plans might help aid districts in parts of the state where monies are strained and distances are growing, said Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka).

HF1850, sponsored by Abeler, would establish a three-year pilot project to allow schools to evaluate, plan, and use flexible learning year programs to meet the educational needs of their students, which may result in four-quarter plans, all-year plans, or four-day week plans.

The bill, heard March 22 in the House Education Policy Committee, was approved and sent to the House floor.

Under HF1850, school districts and school sites would apply to the commissioner of the state’s education department after their local school board and a majority of teachers approved the plan. At project’s end, participants would be required to submit a comprehensive evaluation to the commissioner.

Abeler said the bill would reduce transportation costs for districts that sometimes bus students from more than one hour away. Schools, he said, would possibly introduce 10-hour days where an evening meal is served, or allow teachers to teach some material over the Internet so students could learn from home.

HF1850 reads, “The project is intended to explore effective alternatives for delivering education, with the goal of improving instruction and students’ educational outcomes and opportunities and increasing the cost-effectiveness of educational programs.”

The bill would waive the provision in state law that schools cannot start before Sept. 1, but Abeler said he would be open to amend the bill back to the current start date.

The nine-month school calendar always felt like a marathon, said Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato), a former English teacher. He acknowledged extra curricular activities would be a problem, but said he was interested in what the bill could do.

Rep. Robert Ness (R-Dassel) said schools need to function on their original schedule structure. He said he has other serious reservations about the bill, but appreciates the creativity and initiative taken by Abeler.

The bill has no fiscal note, but Abeler said he believes it will result in savings.

### CRUNCH TIME



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Committee tables fill with paperwork as legislators scramble to have their bills heard before the March 30 deadline when bills must pass through a policy committee. Pictured is the House Education Policy Committee March 29.

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## ★ ENERGY

### Tax savings

The House Taxes Committee heard two bills March 23 that might energize more Minnesotans to buy certain energy efficient products.

HF961, sponsored by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), and HF2086, sponsored by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, would provide sales tax exemptions to products such as furnaces, water heaters, refrigerators, and automobiles that meet certain energy saving criteria.

Wagenius said the sales tax exemption would encourage consumers to purchase energy efficient products, and also encourage businesses to develop new technologies to meet the energy demands of the state.

The committee adopted an author's amendment to Wagenius' bill that would limit the scope and thus lower the cost of the measure. Originally the Department of Revenue estimated HF961 would cost \$36.5 million in 2002 and around \$40 million in subsequent years. The amendment made HF961 similar to Abrams' bill, which the department estimates would cost \$3.7 million in 2002 and around \$4 million per year thereafter.

Both bills establish criteria for products that would be exempt. For example HF2086 would exempt natural gas water heaters with an energy factor of at least 0.65.

Each bill requires the exempt products have an Energy Star Label. Energy Star is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency labeling program designed to identify and promote energy efficient products.

Automobiles that achieve a fuel efficiency level greater than 45 miles per gallon in highway use, and 35 miles per gallon in city use, would also be exempt in both bills.

Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester) expressed concern that an increase in sales of cars able to attain greater gas mileage will have an impact on the amount the state collects in gasoline taxes.

Abrams said that since both bills contain sunset provisions — 2005 in HF2086 and 2007 in HF961 — it is doubtful the number of cars sold during that time achieving the standard will be that significant.

Former Speaker of the House Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) spoke in support of the proposals and said while researching the issue she was surprised to learn that 30 other states offer some type of incentives for energy efficient product purchases.

"We're a little bit behind the curve in doing something in this area," she said. "This may be a small step but it is a step in the right direction and it is good public policy."

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### Lake improvement districts

In Minnesota, lake associations are a common way for people who live on a lake to get together, plan for the future, and make decisions about rules. But their decisions have no legal bite.

An option that would give their decisions weight is the Lake Improvement District, an entity that, among other things, can regulate water surface use, construct water and sewer systems, and conduct water improvement and conservation projects.

Lake Improvement Districts are government entities that can raise money for projects through ad valorem taxes, bonds, service charges and access fees.

A bill (HF891), sponsored by Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) that would increase the percentage of property owners necessary to petition for the creation (or termination) of a district, was heard March 22 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

"Increasing the number of property owners needed to create (a lake improvement district) forces a situation where everyone has to be on board," said Carl Swanson, representing the Minnesota Lake Association.

County boards approve the creation of the districts, but only 14 have been approved statewide since 1976.

One reason for such a low approval rate is the low percentage of property owners required by current law to sign the petition, Olson said.

He added that county boards are more likely to turn down petitions with less than a majority of signatures. His bill would require 51 percent of property owners to sign the petition, instead of the current requirement of 26 percent.

"Can't you accomplish everything you want under current law?" asked Rep. Rod Skoe (DFL-Clearbrook).

"Yes, but this bill would make LIDs more effective," said Olson.

HF891 was approved and sent to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

## ★ FAMILY

### Funding for community agencies

Community action councils, tribal governments, and other economic opportunity programs help meet the basic needs of low-income people in Minnesota while helping them move toward greater self sufficiency.

These agencies provide a number of programs at the local level, including Head Start, youth programs, nutrition, literacy, housing, crisis assistance, and job training. They are supported in part by the Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant (MEOG) program.

Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) is sponsoring a bill (HF1476) that would increase the funding for this program from its current appropriation of \$18 million to \$25 million for the biennium. The bill was heard March 26 by the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee.

"This increase is needed," said Patrick McFarland, from the Anoka County Community Action Council. He said financial pressures have stressed action councils' ability to serve their clients. Among the factors he cited were: no increase in funding in four years, increasing costs, increasing numbers of immigrant refugees, and an increase in the cost of "welfare-to-work" programs.

The core funding for community action councils comes from economic opportunity grants, according to McFarland. "We get funding from competitive grants too," he said. "But this is the glue that holds it all together."

The strength of community action councils, he added, is that they are locally planned, flexible solutions to people's problems.

The advantage of the economic opportunity grants, according to Tarryl Clark, executive director of the Minnesota Community Action Association, is their flexibility. Other grants are usually very specifically targeted.

"In order to meet the needs of families we serve, we need some flexible funding," said Davis Leino-Mills, of the Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council. "The Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant and the Community Services Block Grant are the only flexible funds we get."

HF1476 will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### Which year to meet?

The Legislature would go back to meeting every other year under a measure approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee March 28.

The committee approved an amendment to the bill that greatly changed the original proposal. The bill now goes to the House floor.

As it was originally introduced, HF2205, sponsored by House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), would have required the Legislature to get the bulk of its work done in the odd-numbered years. The bill would have allowed the

Legislature to meet up to 14 days during even-numbered years to deal with budget deficits.

The governor would still be able to call the Legislature into special session. In addition, the leaders from both the House and Senate, or a two-thirds majority vote could also lead to an even-year session.

Pawlenty said the bill would help the Legislature get back to its original focus of being a citizen body. He said that currently three-fourths of the membership are full-time legislators and the makeup of people who can afford the time to hold office was not representative of the state's population.

"We need to make this the type of place where people can come and serve," he said. "We need to get the insights, talents, and qualities that are now not here."

Dean Barkley, head of the Minnesota Planning agency, said Gov. Jesse Ventura supports the proposal because the current system has strayed from the intent of the constitutional amendment approved by voters in 1972 that led to annual sessions.

At that time, Barkley said, meeting every year was supposed to provide more in-depth study of issues, prevent the logjam of activity at the end of session, and avoid expensive special sessions.

The bill would encourage more controlled spending by the Legislature who would have to live within a budget established for the two-year period, Barkley said.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) said it did not make sense for legislators to get all the work done in the five months following the election and then have nothing else to do for the next 17 months.

He offered a successful amendment that switched the two years around. Under the amended bill the Legislature would be allowed to meet for 14 days in the odd numbered years to establish committee structures and get other organizational work done. Osskopp said the rest of the time could be spent holding committee hearings as well as meeting with constituents.

### Professional contract concerns

The state of Minnesota has about 400 building projects going on at any given time, according to Kent Allin of the Department of Administration.

Before construction on these projects can begin, the state must contract with a team of professionals, including architects, engineers, surveyors, landscape architects, and interior designers. State law establishes how these professionals are to be selected.

On March 15 and 22, the House Capital Investment Committee heard discussion on a

bill that would change that selection process to "qualifications-based selection" or QBS.

"QBS gives state agencies the opportunity to hire someone qualified to do the job rather than just the lowest bidder," said Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), sponsor of HF724.

Qualifications-based selection is currently used by 36 states. Minnesota uses a process known as "best value selection."

The bill, as amended, was approved and sent to the House floor over the objections of Department of Administration officials.

The proposal would require state agencies, when seeking professional design services, to first rank prospective contractors on the basis of qualifications. Only after that ranking, could the agency negotiate for price. The bill does not include building contractors.

An intense and protracted discussion of the merits of knowing price comparisons up front occupied the committee for two hearings.

"To not allow us to ask about price early is asking us to make decisions with blindfolds on," Allin said.

Representatives of the professional trades responded that they cannot give a price until they know the scope of the services.

The Department of Administration provides oversight on all government building projects. Allin said the department looks for conflicts of interest and makes certain the contracts are awarded on a competitive basis.

"We want to give our agencies and taxpayers the best deal possible," said Kath Ouska from the department. She said she believes the current process supports selecting contractors based on qualifications, adding that agencies are not required to accept the lowest bid, only that price must be a factor in selecting a contractor.

The Minneapolis public school system has been using the qualification-based system since 1994. It has been "instrumental" in the success of the system's management of its deferred maintenance and new school construction, according to Clyde Kane, interim director of facilities for the school system.

"With QBS the state will get the best services over the long haul," said Jeff Coleman, a member of the Consulting Engineers Council of Minnesota. "The amount paid to the designer is a small fraction of the total."

## ★ HEALTH

### Abortion consent measure

A bill that would prohibit a woman from having an abortion unless the woman gives "voluntary, informed consent" was approved March 27 by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee. The bill was sent to the House Civil Law Committee.



**Jennifer Draper, who was 22 when she had her first pregnancy aborted and is now a mother of five, testifies before the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 27 in support of a bill that would require women to give specific consent 24 hours before they can obtain an abortion.**

"I believe this is a moderate, bipartisan piece of legislation that encourages choice," said Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), sponsor of HF262.

"This bill personifies 'big daddy' government telling the little woman what to do," said Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins). "I would say you're ratcheting back women's rights."

For a woman's consent to be informed, HF262 would require that she be given specified information by phone or in person at least 24 hours before an abortion. This would include: the name of the physician to perform the abortion, the medical risks associated with the abortion as well as the medical risks of carrying the child to term, and the probable gestational age of the fetus.

Existing law requires "the consent of the woman after a full explanation of the procedure and effect of the abortion."

The measure is similar to a bill passed by both houses during the 2000 Legislature and later vetoed by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The Minnesota Department of Health would be charged with compiling a comprehensive, geographically indexed list of public and private agencies available to help women through pregnancy, childbirth, and child-rearing, as well as detailed descriptions of the anatomical and physiological characteristics of a fetus at two-week gestational increments.

The bill would also provide that lawsuits could be brought against physicians by women or the parents of minors, if a physician performs, or attempts to perform, an abortion without complying with the informed consent law.

Sue Rockne, from the Midwest Health Center for Women, said legislation already exists that requires informed consent.

The decision to have an abortion "should not be a legislative decision," Rockne said. "I think HF262 is designed to harass the clinics and provide directive counseling to scare a woman away from an abortion."

Andrea Rau from Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life disagreed. "This bill does not prevent a woman from getting an abortion," she said. "It doesn't intend to harass physicians."

Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth) spoke in opposition to the bill. "Many women have to travel a great distance for an abortion. They've given a lot of thought to this before they ever get into their car," he said.

"Any woman in a crisis pregnancy is vulnerable," said Boudreau. "I believe it is the proper role of the government to protect her."

### Autism assistance

A bill that would fund intensive behavior therapy for children with autism was heard March 28 by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

Autism is a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain, according to the National Autism Society of America. It typically appears during the first three years of life and affects approximately 15 of every 10,000 people. Children with autism have difficulty with both verbal and nonverbal communication and in relating to the world around them.

"Historically, children suffering from autism have made no real progress," said Rep. Dan Larson (DFL-Bloomington), sponsor of HF1829.

"To date, the only clinical intervention to show success has been intensive behavioral intervention with very young children," said Gail Peterson, a psychologist with the University of Minnesota. Without this therapy, also known as "applied behavioral analysis" (ABA), Peterson said 90 percent of these children would be placed in long-term care by adulthood.

Mary Norby, a St. Paul resident, gave tearful testimony of how this therapy has helped her son. She said he was diagnosed with autism at age four and was "aggressive, violent, and self-injurious." After several years of intensive behavior therapy, her son is now a



**St. Paul resident Mary Norby, a parent of an autistic child, gives emotional testimony March 28 during the House Health & Human Services Policy Committee in support of HF1829. The bill would provide intensive early intervention behavior therapy medical assistance coverage for autistic children.**

sixth-grade honor student.

"I firmly believe if we hadn't done ABA, he would not be living with us," Norby said. "If we had not done ABA, he would now be costing the state a whole lot of money."

"We're not offering a cure," Peterson emphasized. He said approximately 200 children in Minnesota suffer from autism, and about 150 of those have tried some form of ABA. About 50 percent of children who receive these services "return to normalcy by age six or seven."

The therapy requires about 40 hours a week of one-on-one treatment by a therapist trained in the method. The duration of therapy is about three years, and the cost is approximately \$60,000 a year, according to Diane Halpin from Eden Prairie.

Ann Graves' son was diagnosed with autism when he was two years old. She told the committee her family reluctantly moved from Minnesota to Wisconsin because Minnesota denied them funding for therapy, and Wisconsin funds it.

"One of the scariest things we learned was that 75 percent of autistic children never learn language," Graves said. After intensive behavioral therapy, her son started to use functional language.

"One day he looked at me and said 'Mom I want to go outside, please,'" Graves said. "Not that long ago, he didn't even know I was 'Mom.'"

HF1829 would expand medical assistance to cover home-based intensive early behavioral intervention for children with "autistic spectrum disorders." The cost of the program has not yet been determined.

The bill was approved and sent to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

## ★ HIGHER EDUCATION

### Allocation study

A bill requiring a study of the methods used by the central office of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to deliver services to member institutions is being debated.

HF2087, sponsored Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr. (DFL-Winona), will be considered for the House Higher Education Finance Committee's omnibus bill.

The bill, heard by the committee March 28, states it is "an ongoing effort to provide greater autonomy for campuses and accountability at the system level." It requires the board of trustees of MnSCU to "direct the council of presidents of MnSCU institutions to study the feasibility of restructuring central office services to better reflect the needs of college and university campuses."

Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) wondered if the campus presidents can be objective enough and can work through disagreements they may have such as, for example, some smaller campuses may like the way the central office does something but larger institutions may not.

"I can't think of better people than those who get the brunt of what the central office says," Pelowski said.

The study would assess funding core services several ways: through payment of a fee paid by all campuses; allowing campuses to contract for services from the central office; the impact of service delivery mechanisms on various institutions, such as two-year versus four-year; the feasibility of more market sensitive service delivery methods; and streamlined delivery methods. As for the last matter, Pelowski said he has heard of campuses doing the same things that are being done at the central office.

Committee Chair Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) asked if a study is needed. A similar one, involving presidents from four campuses, was released in February 2000.

Pelowski said he would like such a study to be ongoing, and Larry Shellito, president of Alexandria Technical College who helped produce the previous study, noted the players would be different this time.

If approved, a report must be submitted to the chairs of the higher education finance committees in the House and Senate by Feb. 15, 2002.

## HUMAN SERVICES



### Welfare worries

A bill that would modify the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), granting hardship extensions and tightening sanctions, was heard March 26 by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

The welfare program offers public assistance to low income families and provides incentives for recipients to work toward self sufficiency. It took the place of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) on Jan. 1, 1998.

Current law limits program participants to a maximum lifetime eligibility period of 60 months. In the coming biennium, about 5,000 people face losing their benefits.

"Some people have life barriers that prevent them from moving on," said Verona Martin, executive director of Paradigms of Success in St. Paul. "It will take more than five years for some people to be weaned off the system."

"I'm trying to find a balance," Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) told an emotional, standing-room-only crowd. "I know there are people who try as hard as they can who cannot get off welfare and become self-sufficient."

Goodno sponsored HF1832 that would provide for an annual adjustment to ensure most participants would not lose eligibility until their income is 120 percent of the federal poverty guideline.

It would also establish hardship extensions for certain participants, for example, people who are ill or incapacitated, hard to employ, or primary caregivers of a child or parent with a disability.

The contentious issues for audience members were the bill's sanctions, in particular a 30 percent sanction for second and third occurrences of noncompliance, and disqualification from the program for a fourth occurrence.

The bill would also increase the sanctions for convicted drug offenders, providing a 30 percent sanction for a participant who fails a drug test once and permanently disqualifying the participant for failing a drug test twice.

"There have got to be better solutions," the Rev. David McCauley, executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference, told the committee. "Stricter sanctions have been demonstrated to be noneffective in moving people from welfare to work.

"We do not simply cast off" those who are mentally ill, chronically addicted, or disabled, McCauley said.

"The people I work with are not so much noncompliant as completely overwhelmed," said Char Kerelko, from the Memorial Family Resource Center in Duluth.

Yuann Kim, a mother of five from Cambodia, spoke through an interpreter: "I don't want to ask for help but I must," she said. "I know some day I will not need help. I have tried to do everything required because I want to maintain myself."

Mina Wilson, director of the Olmsted County Community Support and Assistance Division, said: "Emerging from welfare dependency and poverty is not an event but a process. There is no evidence that this process takes only 60 months."

A number of amendments were offered by DFL legislators in an attempt to soften the bill. All failed to pass.

"I have a difficult time with this bill because I don't know where the safety net is for the children," said Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids).

HF 1832 was approved by a vote of nine to five. It now goes to the Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

### Capital improvement grants sought

Some of the most vulnerable adults in Minnesota could receive more assistance under a bill sponsored by Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls).

HF924 would appropriate \$1 million from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the 2002-03 biennium to establish a grant program for residential mental health program facility upgrades.

The House Health and Human Services Policy Committee heard the bill March 26 and referred it to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

Known as Rule 36 facilities, those affected by this bill are group homes which provide residential services to people with serious and persistent mental illness, said Hugh Aylward, president of the Minnesota Association of Mental Health Residential Facilities. He said 72 facilities exist in Minnesota, serving approximately 1,300 patients.

"Staff at Rule 36 facilities assist these residents by teaching independent living skills, helping to prepare residents for a more independent placement in the community," Aylward said.

The problem is that funding limitations have not allowed the facilities to upgrade their physical plants. Previous funding increases

approved by the Legislature have only been used for staff salaries, and have not included money for facility upgrades.

Aylward said that outside of Hennepin County, many Rule 36 facilities do not have sprinkler systems. "Given that our programs are mostly located in older buildings, and many residents smoke, this is important." He said some substances in cigarettes lessen auditory hallucinations for schizophrenia patients.

"In early 2000, a Hennepin County facility had a client set fire in his room, but the sprinkler system, which was funded through the county, put it out and prevented a lot of damage before the fire department arrived," Aylward added.

Other areas the money could be used for include: purchasing air conditioners, making roof repairs, updating carpeting and other flooring, and purchasing a vehicle making it easier to transport residents to medical appointments, shopping, or activities.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) asked if any matching grants have been discussed. Aylward said they had not.

Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids) wondered why this request was not held until a bonding bill year. Nornes said it is possible, but that would only delay things another year.

## LAW



### New judgeships pitched

A bill that would increase the number of judgeships in the state by nine will be considered for inclusion in the omnibus bill for the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), sponsor of HF319, said at the March 22 meeting that judges' workloads are becoming so large they aren't able to spend as much time as needed on cases.

Of the two million filings in Minnesota during 2000, about 10 percent involved major criminal and civil cases. According to Sue Dosal, state court administrator, judges spend about 80 percent of their time on those major cases.

The new judgeships — distributed throughout the First, Third, Seventh, Ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts — actually involve three new positions each: a judge, a law clerk, and a court reporter. The appropriation for new judges is not specified in the bill. However, the Department of Finance estimates the new judgeships would cost nearly \$6 million in the 2002-03 biennium and subsequent biennia.

Representatives from the State Board of Public Defense, who have previously testified



to their need for more funds in the coming biennium, did not speak against the proposal, but noted it would merely exacerbate the problem. They estimated extra costs of more than \$900,000 for public defense through 2003 with the new judgeships.

However, judges testified the legal system would simply slow down without more support and personnel.

Judge Leslie Metzen from the First Judicial District said many people do not feel they've been afforded justice because judges don't have time to hear them and because it takes a long time for their cases to be resolved.

"What I hope you realize is that these numbers translate into real people, real cases and real problems," she said. "We are efficient, we are well-managed, we are doing a good job. I don't know how else we can justify our jobs to you. ... Without additional funding, it will all slow down."

Particularly of concern to judges is the increase in juvenile cases traveling through the court system. Statistics show they increased 88 percent from 1990 to 2000.

Judge Gerard Ring from the Third Judicial District told the committee about two success stories from early in his career, where he was able to invest time in the boys who came before him.

But that time is precious now, and hard to find.

"Without the time that is necessary to review these cases," he said, "I'm not sure what would have happened. It's very easy to turn the situation the other way."

## ★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Lobbying logistics

Local units of governments spent more than \$4.1 million lobbying the Legislature in 1999 according to a report prepared by the State Auditor's office.

Jennifer Mohlenhoff, assistant state auditor, and John Jernberg, a research analyst with the office, presented the report to the House Taxes Committee March 28.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, has been critical in committee hearings of bills proposing to eliminate the sales tax on local government purchases because most of the local officials have testified the money saved would be spent on services rather than property tax reductions.

Abrams has also questioned the large number of bills introduced this session asking for sales tax exemptions on local government projects.

The auditor's report examined both the



John Jernberg and Jennifer Mohlenhoff from the Office of the State Auditor give a presentation on local government lobbying expenditures to the House Taxes Committee March 28.

direct and indirect lobbying expenditures reported to the office. Direct expenses were defined as money paid directly to lobbying firms while indirect expenses encompass dues paid to associations who represent cities, counties, school districts, townships, and other units of government.

Jernberg said the amount spent on direct lobbying in 1999 represented a 13.9 percent increase from the previous year. He said the pattern over the years was for more lobbying money to be spent in odd-numbered years when the Legislature sets its budget.

Abrams asked if tax money was the only revenue source being spent by local governments on lobbying and if that meant money could have been available for property tax relief.

Mohlenhoff said that a conclusion could not be determined from the data collected for the report.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) said he was concerned about the unfair playing field created by one local government unit spending more per capita than another for lobbying efforts.

"It just doesn't make any sense to me that we allow governmental entities to use tax money that they use to come up here and lobby us," Milbert said. "It's just a great big public trough that thousands and thousands of people are feeding on and it's all fueled by public property tax dollars."

Abrams said because the local governments often belong to different associations and hire different lobbyists they can sometimes have people arguing different sides of the same issue.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) said the lobbyists representing local units of government often support important causes and it was unfair to single them out as opposed to those who lobby in support of private interests.

"They're doing the citizens of the state a lot of good," he said.

## ★ METRO AFFAIRS

### Metropolitan Council concerns

The House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill March 23 that would change legislative oversight of the Metropolitan Council.

HF981, sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), would establish a legislative commission to oversee the council's operating and capital budgets and the work and capital improvement programs.

Under the measure, the commission would be composed of seven members from the House and seven members from the Senate. The speaker and minority leader would appoint House members. The Senate majority and minority leaders would appoint that body's members. The committee chair would alternate each year between the two bodies.

McElroy said the relationship between the Legislature and the metropolitan area's planning agency has become strained over the years because of a lack of communication and collaboration.

He said in past years both the House and Senate had separate committees for local

government and metropolitan affairs issues and the decision to merge those two committees into one has meant less time to oversee the Metropolitan Council's activities.

The new commission would also monitor and make recommendations on appointments to the council.

McElroy said the joint commission idea came out of conversations he had with Jim Solem, the council's former regional administrator. He said the two agreed that greater legislative oversight of the council was needed but it was important not to cross the line into micro-management.

Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Cottage Grove) asked if a better approach might not be returning to the old legislative committee structure or going to an elected Met Council that might be more accountable to the region's voters.

McElroy said the joint commission would foster a more collaborative effort, and he would strongly oppose a bill that would change the Met Council to an elected body because it would add a layer of government.

The bill now goes to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

### **Closing Crosstown for construction**

Lawmakers recently approved three bills regarding the proposed closure of Trunk Highway 62, the Crosstown Highway in the Twin Cities. All three were referred to the House Transportation Finance Committee.

During a March 27 House Transportation Policy Committee meeting, Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington) predicted "a huge amount of gridlock" if the state Department of Transportation proceeds with a plan to close the Crosstown Highway for four years in the final stage of Interstate 35W reconstruction.

Seagren sponsored HF625 to prohibit the department from beginning Crosstown construction projects until Interstate 494 has been improved to provide at least three multi-use lanes in each direction between Trunk Highways 5 and 100. Seagren has expressed concern that closing Highway 62 could exacerbate existing congestion in I-494.

Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina) sponsored similar legislation (HF797) that would prohibit the Crosstown's closure only between France and Portland avenues in Minneapolis. Erhardt said the Highway 62/I-35W interchange is "one of the 10 worst in the country" and that MnDOT's proposed change would "spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to repeat the flawed design."

A bill sponsored by Rep. Dan Larson

(DFL-Bloomington) would keep the Crosstown open between Trunk Highway 100 and Portland Avenue and require MnDOT to report to the Legislature on the present and future traffic levels and adequacy of the Crosstown. "This gives us a chance to look at other freeway design," said Larson.

Eight House DFLers wrote to MnDOT Commissioner Elwyn Tinklenberg urging "that there be no delay in the reconstruction of I-35W from the Crosstown area to 46<sup>th</sup> Street" in Minneapolis. The project to reconstruct the freeway through the core city has been ongoing for several years and lawmakers want to see its completion. They added that "four years is too long and is unacceptable."

MnDOT Metro Division Engineer Dick Stehr testified in opposition to the bills, emphasizing that additional delays could jeopardize federal funds for the project and would be inconsistent with the project's goals of reducing crashes and traffic bottlenecks.

### **Proper planning**

Local units of government would have the final say in planning decisions under a measure approved by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 26.

HF46, sponsored by Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo), would repeal the state's Metropolitan Land Planning Act enacted in 1976. It established requirements and procedures for comprehensive local planning with the goal of a planned, orderly, and staged development in the region.

Local units of government are now required to develop a comprehensive plan including objectives and standards to guide public and private land use, development, redevelopment, and preservation for the land and water within the jurisdiction.

The Metropolitan Council reviews and comments on the consistency of the comprehensive plans and capital improvement programs with the adopted plans of the council. Local units of government may be required to modify their plan if the council decides that it may have a substantial impact on, or contain a substantial departure from, metropolitan system plans.

The bill would repeal requiring mandatory comprehensive planning by communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area but would continue to allow them to develop plans if they chose to do so.

Lipman said the bill addresses the appropriate role for the council in the regional planning process. He said the intent of the Legislature was never to give the council the

"veto" power over local planning decisions.

"There isn't a need for a 'big planning brother,'" Lipman said.

He said the council should be able to comment on plans but not delay implementation and that it should play more of a facilitating role in getting communities to agree to joint powers agreements.

Eagan Mayor Patricia Awada spoke in support of HF46 saying zoning and other planning decisions are best made at the local level and not by a central governing authority.

She said Eagan works closely with its neighboring communities in providing services for its residents.

Jay Lindgren, a regional administrator of the Met Council, said the issue was whether it is important to have a regional vision and "have a tool in place so there can be a significant form of regional planning."

The bill was approved by a 10-8 vote and now goes to the House floor.

## **MILITARY**



### **Releasing student data**

Legislators are considering a bill that would require both public and private schools to release to military recruiters the names, addresses, and home phone numbers of all students in grades 11 and 12. Education officials would have 60 days to act upon a recruiter's request.

After a March 26 hearing, the House Civil Law Committee approved HF1677. It now moves to the House floor.

Under the bill, sponsored by Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar), schools would be required to give parents and students the opportunity to prohibit the dissemination of such information. He said he intended to compel high schools to provide the same access to student information as is now provided to colleges.

The data would be available "only for the purpose of providing information to students about military service, state and federal veterans' education benefits, and other career and educational opportunities provided by the military."

Capt. Richard Clifton, Jr., a St. Paul Army recruiter, said all public schools in his district now afford him "at least quarterly" access to students on campus, but that at least one private school completely bars him from recruiting.

Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) expressed concern that the military would be granted special access to student data. "I am having a tough time making an exception here."



**Lt. Col. Steven L. Shea from the U.S. Army's Minneapolis Recruitment Battalion testifies in support of HF1677, a bill that would require an educational agency or institution to release to military recruiting officers the names, addresses, and home telephone numbers of students in grades 11 and 12.**

There was some confusion as to whether student data is routinely made available. Capt. Jo Phillips of the U.S. Army Minneapolis Recruiting Company told the committee that he was not aware of any difference between military and educational efforts to collect student data. Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) told the committee that colleges normally receive information when students voluntarily contact colleges or register for the ACT, a standardized test.

Lt. Col. Steven L. Shea of the Army's Minneapolis Recruiting Battalion told the committee he thought the "best way" to provide students the opportunity to bar their schools from releasing information was to give them that choice during class registration.

## ★ SAFETY

### Up in smoke

A bill that would require the state fire marshal to adopt rules regarding fire retardant standards for cigarettes was shot down for the second time this session.

The House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee voted 14-12 against the bill March 27 after it failed in the Governmental Operations and Veterans

Affairs Policy Committee by a tie vote, but was brought back to life after reconsideration.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), a former firefighter, sponsored the bill. The leading cause of fire deaths is careless smoking, he said.

HF175 would allocate \$23,000 to pay for rulemaking. The fire safe cigarettes would not be required as the only type of cigarette sold in the state until a bill stating so received legislative approval.

The industry has been working on fire retardant cigarettes since the 1980s, but has consistently met much opposition, said Mike Stockstead, representing the Minnesota Professional Firefighters. The federal government was asked but never mandated the cigarettes.

Ozment said a resolution sent from the state to the federal government would not be effective, rather the state needs to create rules so the federal government can see what states are doing. "We're still in limbo unless we have a standard," he said. "We have waited long enough."

The fire retardant cigarettes are made with a special paper that some worry might be toxic. Jim Gould, a Washington D.C. attorney, distributed several documents, the majority dated in the early 1990s, from groups stating problems with the fire-safe cigarettes. Most of the reports concluded that smoke from the cigarettes produced dangerous levels of toxicity.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) countered Gould's claims, producing his own documents making similar claims that he said were drafted by "professionals" who had billed the tobacco industry. Entenza said Gould's information was "old data on the issue of toxicity," and now they are not found to be toxic and do reduce the risk of fire.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) said he supports the idea of the fire-safe cigarettes. However, 85 percent of the state's population lives along state borders, and he fears people will go to other states to purchase cigarettes, and possibly gas, which would result in the state losing taxes and retail sales.

### Safety seat progresses

A proposal to expand child safety seat requirements now advances to the next stop in the committee process.

HF735, sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), would require the use of a child restraint system for children age 8 and under, weighing fewer than 80 pounds.

The House Transportation Policy Committee approved the measure March 23 and referred it to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

The bill would increase the penalty for violating this provision from \$50 to \$75. Leppik said, "We are not here to penalize, but to educate parents about the best way to keep kids safe." HF735 would allow the waiving of the fine if the parent demonstrates the acquisition of an approved child-safety seat.

The bill would also require children less than 12 months old be transported in a rear-facing child restraint system. Leppik said more children between the ages of 4 and 8 die in automobile crashes than from any other accidental injury.

Leppik said most states "are behind the times" in requiring only that safety seats be used for only the first few years of childhood. "This is a very good place to lead," she said.

### Emergency response teams

A bill that would increase the proposed level of funding for emergency response teams in the state stirred much debate among members of the House Judiciary Finance Committee March 22.

HF764, sponsored by Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth), would appropriate about \$2.2 million during the 2002-03 biennium to the Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management for Emergency Response Teams.

Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget recommended reducing funding for the teams by \$345,000 during the biennium.

Currently, the state has four emergency response teams that are trained and ready to be deployed in the event of a major disaster, such as a chemical spill. Part of those larger teams are smaller chemical response teams whose job is to consult on the best course of action for a local fire department and its hazardous materials team.

The four large teams are located in the Twin Cities, Duluth, Rochester, and Moorhead.

According to the department, a study of needs throughout the state determined the chemical response teams are used on a regular basis, and the department should invest more time and resources to beef up those teams.

Statistics show the smaller chemical teams were used 70 times last year. The large emergency response teams have only been deployed twice since 1995.

But Swapinski and other witnesses said the teams need to be there in case of an emergency.

Duluth Fire Chief Dan Haus testified that the larger response teams are able to go into the "hot zone" of an incident and take care of the problem. The chemical teams cannot.

But it's the training and preparedness that

are important.

"One (hazardous materials) incident in the state of Minnesota is tens of millions (of dollars in cost) if we're not prepared," Haus said.

Several legislators questioned the teams' usefulness if they've only been deployed twice in five years.

"I'd like that chart to say zero every year," responded Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls). "I don't buy the numbers of two here and four there. I want zero."

Charlie Weaver, commissioner of public safety, said the budget request was a result of plans to respond more efficiently, not budget cuts.

"Thank you, but we can't accept it," Weaver said of the increased funding offered in Swapinski's bill. "And we don't think we need it. We think we can do better."

"I think it's a small price to pay to have those teams in place, in case," Swapinski concluded. "If something happens we're all going to pay the price."

The bill will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

## TAXES

### Adoption assistance

Families who adopt children would be eligible for a tax break under two measures heard by the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division March 26.

HF1200, sponsored by Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover), would allow an individual income tax credit of up to \$5,000 for adoption expenses. The credit amount for special needs adoptions would be \$8,000.

HF1199, also sponsored by Tingelstad, would allow an income tax subtraction for expenses equal to the amount allowed under the federal tax adoption credit.

Tingelstad said that prior to her election to the House she voluntarily helped work on the state's adoption laws for 15 years.

Currently, federal law allows an adoption credit for the first \$5,000 for qualifying expenses and \$6,000 for special needs adoptions. The credit will only be available for special needs adoptions at the end of this year. According to the nonpartisan House Research staff, it is unclear whether federal tax laws will extend the credit for all adoptions following 2001.

Margi Miller, an international adoptions supervisor from the Children's Home Society of Minnesota, said last year the organization helped Minnesota families adopt 386 children and families outside the state adopt 280 youth. She said the costs for the adoption ranged from \$7,000 to \$40,000.

Miller said complexities in adoption laws, the travel necessary to pick up the children, and medical expenses are among the factors involved in high costs of adoptions. She said agency fees account for about 25 percent of the overall costs.

Scott Parker, an adoptive parent of twin daughters from Vietnam, said he had to take out a second mortgage to help pay for the \$30,000 cost of adopting the girls.

"Whatever sacrifices were worthwhile. But the cost is a big obstacle for families," Parker said.

The committee took no action on the bills, but Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the division chair, said both will be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Pro-life plates

A plan to create license plates bearing the expression "choose life" that would contribute money for adoption agencies was passed by a House committee.

HF2193, sponsored by Rep. Ray Vandever (R-Forest Lake), creates an "adoption support account" in the state's general fund and transmits money from that account to counties.

It specifies that "each county receiving funds shall distribute the funds to nongovernmental, nonprofit agencies whose services are limited to counseling and meeting the physical needs of pregnant women who are committed to placing their children for adoption. Funds may not be distributed to any agency that is directly or indirectly involved in or associated with abortion activities."

Vandever testified before a March 27 House Transportation Policy Committee meeting that "at least 70 percent (of a \$25 fee in addition to normal charges for special plates) would provide for the material needs of pregnant women who have made the choice to put their child up for adoption." The committee approved the measure, referring it to the House Transportation Policy Committee.



House members have proposed creating a "Choose Life" license plate, like the one pictured here, the proceeds from which would benefit women who choose to give their children up for adoption.

Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life Executive Director Jackie Schwiertz said HF2193 is modeled after a Florida plate first made in 1999. She said it is the most popular special plate in that state, having raised \$317,000 for adoption agencies by selling an average of 105 daily. Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) emphasized that "there is no state tax money donated" under the bill.

Connie Perpich, director of public affairs for Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, objected to what she described as the measure's "extremely odious gag rule," which would prevent any receiving agency from offering, in the bill's language, "counseling for or referrals to abortion clinics" or "pro-abortion advertising." Perpich went on to suggest the state could better promote the bill's intent by increasing the tax deduction for adoption.

Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) said, "I hate to be in this position. I am pro-life, but we're setting up the state to be a collection agency for private organizations." Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester) made reference to the state's existing special-interest plates. "I sort of agree with you that this is a bad idea, but we have been doing this for a while."

### Bonding options explored

Legislators are moving forward with a proposed constitutional amendment allowing general obligation bonds to be sold for the construction of trunk highways.

HF1861, sponsored by Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville), would eliminate the constitutional requirement that bonds sold for trunk highway improvements must be designated "trunk highway bonds" and repaid directly into the constitutionally dedicated trunk highway fund.

Holberg told the House Transportation Policy Committee March 22 that bonding allows the state to completely fund large transportation projects before construction begins, rather than building piecemeal as the Legislature slowly appropriates money over the course of several years. The bill was approved and referred to the House Capital Investment Committee.

The alternative to increased bonding, officials say, is to raise the gas tax in order to adequately fund transportation needs.

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) said, "We already have trunk highway bonding. We ought to increase the gas tax to pay off those bonds."

Chair Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) expressed interest in exploring "alternatives to get these projects done." He asked for an

Continued on page 30



## Got relief?

State may create a board to aid dairy farmers in getting top dollar for their product

By JONAS M. WALKER

In the wake of what some farmers describe as the lowest milk prices in 20 years and the subsequent exodus of dairy production from the state, lawmakers are advancing legislation to create a Milk Control Board that would establish minimum prices for raw milk.

The House Agriculture Policy Committee approved HF1238, sponsored by Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie), in a March 27 hearing. The bill was referred to the House Civil Law Committee without recommendation.

The federal government currently regulates milk prices via the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) Program, under which farmers are guaranteed a minimum price for the milk they produce. The program dates back to the 1920s, when dairy processing and transportation technology necessitated federal intervention to assure a consistently safe and affordable supply of milk nationwide.

According to the USDA Web site, the milk program protects both farmers and consumers by legally mandating a minimum price that milk processors, such as cheese or butter manufacturers, must pay farmers for milk. Consumers are protected from “wild fluctuations in price through periods of heavy and light milk production” by ensuring farmers will have a reliable source of income. Likewise, farmers are insulated from economic or environmental variables beyond their control.

Critics claim the system is outdated and inconsistent with technological advances and economic conditions that permit the production and processing of milk in almost any region. For example, the federal milk program has always determined the price of milk by calculating a given area’s distance from Eau Claire, Wis., once the center of American dairy production.

The farther from Eau Claire, the higher the price a farmer is guaranteed. The program was successful in encouraging fledgling local dairies to support large populations far from

Wisconsin. The restrictions, though, have remained salient largely because of the strong political power of dairy producers outside the Upper Midwest.

Otremba said five other states have similar boards, including Wisconsin, and her bill is based on a similar panel in Montana.

The plan calls for the governor to appoint five members, none of whom could be “connected in any way with the production, processing, distribution, or wholesale or retail sale of milk or dairy products.” No public official could hold a board seat within two years of leaving office.

In addition to setting milk prices guaranteed to farmers, the board could institute a quota system limiting the growth in the quantity of milk that any farmer could produce. Producers could sell, barter, or otherwise exchange the quotas that would permit the production of only as much milk as was being produced when the quotas were set.

Otremba offered an amendment removing provisions that, according to nonpartisan House Research, may have been unconstitutional.

In its original version, HF1238 would have set a state minimum price on raw milk purchases by Minnesota processors, even when those purchases are made from an out-of-state

farmer. This would have the effect of extending state-regulated prices to commerce in other states, which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1986 is a violation of the U.S. Constitution’s Commerce Clause.

According to House Research, that part of the constitution has been interpreted “as prohibiting states from passing laws which discriminate against interstate commerce by favoring in-state economic interests over out-of-state economic interests.”

In addition, experts say, the bill’s original form could be unconstitutional because it “has the

purpose and effect of shielding Minnesota dairy farmers from out-of-state price competition for the purpose of promoting their economic welfare.”

According to State Attorney General Mike Hatch, “The main thrust of the act is to set a minimum price to be paid to the dairy producers of Minnesota. Courts have routinely confirmed that state minimum milk prices do not offend the federal commerce clause.”

About 10 years ago, a federal district judge struck down a Minnesota law establishing a minimum milk price because it required processors to pay out-of-state producers a minimum price. Hatch wrote that the amended bill “should survive Constitutional scrutiny because it does not disadvantage

out-of-state dairy producers.”

As amended, the bill would still create a board based on Montana’s regulatory authority. Unlike a small number of other states, Minnesota would remain part of the federal milk program. The price set by the Minnesota Milk

Continued on page 31



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Perham dairy farmer Karl L. Hanson testifies before the House Agriculture Policy Committee March 27 in support of a bill that would establish a milk price control board, provide for minimum pricing of raw milk and maximum pricing of milk at wholesale and retail, create the option for a milk supply quota system, and allow for pooling of milk payments.**

# Profile of Learning

House committee approves bills that would revise or abolish Minnesota's high standards for graduation

BY THERESA STAHL

**A**lthough members of the House Education Policy Committee haven't decided whether to eliminate or revise the Profile of Learning, they took action to revamp Minnesota's graduation standards.

Two bills were approved March 28 after testimony of a student and parents pleading for a change. "This educational experiment needs to stop now," said Gina Fitzsimmons, mother of three children and co-chair of a learning committee.

Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) sponsored HF2057, a bill that would repeal the Profile of Learning and establish new statewide tests in third, fifth, and 10th grades.

HF2064, sponsored by Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), would establish a task force to work with the Council for Basic Education to create new standards in English, math, science, history, and geography.

Both bills just met the March 30 deadline for initial committee hearings. Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato) asked how bills for the Profile of Learning showed up on the calendar just now when passage will be much more difficult and unlikely.

Kielkucki said he was waiting to receive a report on the standards and for the Department of Children, Families and Learning to respond to an information request. He has been working on the bill since last session, he said, and it took him this long to figure out what to do.

More than an hour of testimony supported his plan. Fitzsimmons explained she hasn't been able to help her kids with their homework since the implementation of the Profile because of how they are now expected to show they have learned.

"Parents have been alienated and left in the dark," she said. "If HF2057 became law, I would feel like my input would matter again.

"It's the only bill with local control," she continued. "Other bills are a fix."

Barbara Cook Smith saw a "strong difference" in what her second child was bringing home compared to what her older child had

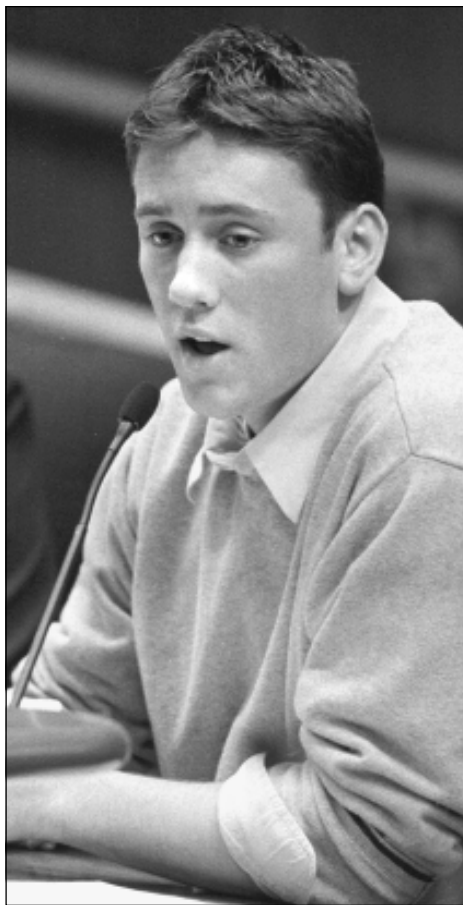


PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Joshua Robinson, an 11<sup>th</sup> grader from Forest Lake High School, testifies in front of the House Education Policy Committee March 27 in support of HF2057, a bill that would repeal the Profile of Learning graduation standards.**

for homework before the Profile. The content, she said, was endlessly repeated questions.

"There was no testing, just a check-off list of what they had learned," said Cook Smith, parent of students attending Southwest High School in Minneapolis and former PTA president. "Learning had become secondary to processing paperwork."

"We have a diverse state — the Profile of Learning is 'one size fits all,'" said William Wenmark, a parent of two and member of the Minnetonka School Board.

Rep. Paul Marquart (DFL-Dilworth) questioned Kielkucki's bill. He was worried that "by scrapping the Profile, how do we ensure we can measure results to see if students can be successful?"

Kielkucki said he is taking a different approach of allowing teachers to decide what's best rather than creating a mandate for every classroom.

"I really have a problem putting every student through the same loophole," he said. "I think the system is ultimately flawed. We need to let every district make up its mind."

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) said teachers are compromising academic and instruction time to do paperwork, but it bothers him that the thrust of the bill is to repeal the Profile and require a significant amount of testing. "Is there a reason why you want to focus on testing?" he asked.

Kielkucki replied the only difference is how the test is designed. "If we teach to the test, then we've lost our ambition as educators."

Barbara Devlin, superintendent of Richfield Public Schools, testified against the bill. Richfield schools were a pilot site for the Profile, helping to develop, test, and implement the graduation standards.

"The State of Minnesota has invested years of time, human energy, and financial resources in the development and implementation of the Profile of Learning," she said.

HF2057 was sent to the K-12 Education Finance Committee.

Buesgens' bill attempts to address the problems of the Profile, he said. "We do not have standards that are academic, rigorous, or measurable."

The committee approved an amendment by Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton) that would prohibit schools from making the Profile a condition for graduation. In essence, it does what Kielkucki's bill does until new standards are created by the state-appointed task force and adopted by the Legislature.

"The amendment will allow the task force to move forward through a fundamentally flawed system," she said.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) offered an amendment to remove the Council for Basic Education as the contracted organization to develop the content standards and let the department seek requests for proposals. Buesgens and Rep. Sondra Erickson

**Continued on page 31**

# Help wanted

Legislators consider a plan to merge two state agencies that focus on workforce issues and economic development

BY DAVID MAEDA

**M**any of the state's workforce programs have traditionally been geared toward unemployment issues. But a proposed merger between the Department of Economic Security and Department of Trade and Economic Development would shift focus to the development of skilled workers.

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill (HF1859) March 23 that would combine the functions of the agencies responsible for the state's workforce and economic development programs. The bill was referred to the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee.

That committee approved the bill March 26 and referred it to the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Committee, where it was scheduled to be heard while this issue of *Session Weekly* went to press.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), the sponsor of the measure, said the legislation comes as a result of Gov. Jesse Ventura's mini-cabinet and advisory council's recommendations to merge the state's employment related programs.

McElroy said unlike the merger between the departments of Commerce and Public Service, the proposed reorganization is not being done by executive order but with collaboration between the administration and the Legislature.

He said the Department of Economic Security was created in the days when unemployment was a major concern. The agency administers the state's unemployment compensation system.

"We've operated with the belief that there are more workers than jobs," McElroy said. "But now we have more jobs than workers."

Although the state's unemployment rate continues along at an all time low, McElroy said of the 2.5 million workers, around one million have jobs that pay less than \$10 an hour. To continue to compete in the national and global economies, the state has to focus its attention on creating a highly skilled, and highly paid workforce.

He said as part of the merger, some func-



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**MnSCU Chancellor Morrie Anderson testifies in front of the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee March 26 during a discussion concerning proposed reorganization of the Department of Economic Security and the Department of Trade and Economic Development.**

tions that have been traditionally housed in St. Paul would be spread across the state to the 16 local workforce councils to move more control to the community level.

"The departments haven't responded very rapidly to the changing economy," McElroy said, pointing to rigid federal regulations. "We need to move control closer to the people and the community."

The workforce councils established by state law are responsible for assessing community

workforce development needs and coordinating services to best meet those needs. They are comprised of business leaders, organized labor representatives, economic development agencies, community organizations, and educational institutions.

Morrie Anderson, chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and head of the governor's transition team, said the top goal of the reorganization is to build the best possible workforce in the state. He said the new approach would link workforce and economic development together, and "aggressively develop" partnerships with business, nonprofit and education institutions.

The bill would create a new department called the Department of Economic and Workforce Development, which would be responsible for administering the state's job training and placement programs. Unemployment compensation service would be transferred to the Department of Labor and Industry.

McElroy said he did not expect to see layoffs because of the merger but that over time the department probably would have fewer employees due to attrition.

The transition team would be required to report back to the Legislature by March 15, 2002 with its recommendations for the implementation of the merger that would take place on July 1, 2002.

Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) expressed concern about primarily focusing on developing the "best workforce possible," saying a narrow approach would lead to the creation of a workforce composed of "worker bees" that are skilled but lacking in necessary knowledge. She said a knowledge-based education is crucial to workforce development.

Comprehensive workforce development, Anderson responded, requires involvement from all sectors of the community including government, educational institutions, parents and families, businesses and the nonprofit sector.

Rep. Tony Kielucki (R-Lester Prairie) said he was concerned that combining workforce and economic development would lead to the government choosing winners and losers among the state's varying industries.

He said the state's largest employer — the state of Minnesota — would now also be involved in picking industries that will be targeted for the developing workforce.

**Continued on page 31**

## Monday, March 26

**HF2175—Swenson (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
 Natural resources citizen oversight committees provisions modified.

**HF2176—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
 Non-mixed municipal solid waste disposal tax rate clarified.

**HF2177—Mahoney (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
 Long-term vocational rehabilitation services for persons with brain injuries pilot program established and money appropriated.

**HF2178—Kielkucki (R)**  
**State Government Finance**  
 Government Training Service grant provided to Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning, and money appropriated.

**HF2179—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
 Welfare-to-work transportation funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2180—Kielkucki (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 Independent School District No. 2687, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted, grant provided for development of an agricultural high school, and money appropriated.

**HF2181—Workman (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
 School buses; pilot project established to allow specified type A school buses to be operated by holders of Class D driver's licenses under limited conditions, and misdemeanor penalty provided.

**HF2182—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
 Local road improvement fund established, expenditure criteria specified, and money appropriated.

**HF2183—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
 Courts required to destroy investigatory files when child protection petitions are dismissed, and background studies of relatives required prior to placement of juveniles.

**HF2184—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
 Martin Luther King Jr. nonviolent institutional child development program authorized and money appropriated.

**HF2185—Jacobson (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 Independent School District No. 621, Mounds View, parallel block schedule pilot project grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF2186—Erickson (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
 Diabetes; care requirements provided for students with diabetes.

**HF2187—Kelliher (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
 Minneapolis Coldwater Springs area property acquisition by the Metropolitan Airports Commission authorized.

**HF2188—Leppik (R)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
 Adult Basic Education supplemental service grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF2189—Molnau (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
 Local road improvement program established, motor vehicle sales tax proceeds dedicated to the highway user tax distribution fund, Greater Minnesota transit appropriations provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF2190—Wilkin (R)**  
**Taxes**  
 Taxable income definition and rates modified.

**HF2191—Ozment (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
 Local road wetland replacement funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2192—Gunther (R)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
 Pseudorabies in swine continued testing and vaccination funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2193—Vandever (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
 Special "choose life" motor vehicle license plates authorized, adoption support account established for grants to counties, and money appropriated.

**HF2194—Fuller (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
 Profile of Learning; school districts authorized to implement profile or offer other learning experiences, state and local testing provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2195—Abeler (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 School finance simplification, clarification, and equity provided.

**HF2196—Abeler (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 Legislative task force on reducing the complexity of K-12 education funding statutes and rules created.

**HF2197—Winter (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
 Discrimination by processors prohibited against producers who exercise rights, including joining producer associations; enforcement provided, and criminal penalties imposed.

**HF2198—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
 Community approval required before naming or renaming a school facility.

**HF2199—Stanek (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
 Workers compensation coverage provided for bomb disposal unit employees when acting outside the state, and liability limited for bomb disposal personnel and equipment suppliers.

**HF2200—Wagenius (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
 Arsenic-treated wood disclosure required in real estate transactions.

**HF2201—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
 Bicycle commuting by state agency employees promoted.

**HF2202—Dibble (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
 Classification of electronic access, Edvest, human rights intake file, and automobile insurance financial data provided, reporting redundancy eliminated, and administrative remedies provided.

**HF2203—Clark, J. (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
 Judicial review of public purpose and necessity for taking property for county highways or town roads allowed.

**HF2204—Wagenius (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
 Arsenic-treated wood use notice required by retailers and contractors.

**HF2205—Pawlenty (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
 Even-year sessions convened by the Legislature authorized if a budget deficit is forecast, and agenda limited.

**HF2206—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
 Low-cost deep rural facilities rate increases modified and money appropriated.

**HF2207—Mulder (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
 Family support payment dates clarified.

**HF2208—Ness (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
 Profile of Learning amended to focus on core academic content areas, "A to F" grading system allowed, statewide software package to record student performance recommended, and nationally norm-referenced proficiency tests required.

**HF2209—Tingelstad (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
 Health coverage outreach campaign established, preventive services pool created, income verification requirements for medical assistance reduced, continuous coverage provided, MinnesotaCare premiums limited, and money appropriated.

**HF2210—Ness (R)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
 Agricultural product shipper organization grants provided and money appropriated.



**HF2211—Osskopp (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 806, Elgin-Millville, fund transfer authorized.

**HF2212—Wagenius (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Arsenic-treated wood; state purchase prohibited, grants provided for corporations that convert their treatment operations, and money appropriated.

**HF2213—Gray (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Home Mortgage Market Predatory Lending Act adopted and money appropriated.

**HF2214—Mares (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Major league professional baseball stadium financed, private funding required, interest-free loans and temporary tax-free zone provided, site selection commission created, disposition of the Metrodome provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2215—Mares (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Retirement contribution payment provided at Frederick Douglass and other specified charter schools and money appropriated.

**HF2216—Bradley (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Mental health crisis services provided, mobile mental health crisis teams established, mental health emergency triage protocols required, mental health crisis plans developed, crisis line established, and money appropriated.

**HF2217—Marquart (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
School districts encouraged to devote a staff development day for teacher workshops on assessment packages.

**HF2218—Kuisle (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 535, Rochester, integration revenue specified; special education cross-subsidy aid provided; referendum revenue restoration authorized; and money appropriated.

**HF2219—Kuisle (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Olmsted County; metropolitan public safety radio system expanded into Olmsted County, and money appropriated.

**HF2220—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Benton County land conveyance to county historical society authorized.

**HF2221—Otremba (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Minnesota universal health board, universal health program, and health care trust fund established; statewide and regional health care budgets provided; and money appropriated.

**HF2222—Dehler (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
MnSCU state share of expenditures provision modified, fee collection procedures modified, purchasing and contracting requirements provided, tuition refunds clarified, reporting requirements abolished, and obsolete references deleted.

**HF2223—Tuma (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Minnesota Valley Academy grant provided for a residential academy, and money appropriated.

**HF2224—Bakk (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Individual sewage treatment system funding provided.

**HF2225—Nornes (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Workers' compensation technical provisions modified, special compensation fund interest revenue deposited in fund, pilot program extended, and penalties paid to Department of Labor and Industry.

**HF2226—Seagren (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Advance placement and international baccalaureate students merit grant established and money appropriated.

**HF2227—Stanek (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Gang prevention and intervention grant pilot project authorized and money appropriated.

**HF2228—Stanek (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Pension coverage extended to part-time metropolitan transit police officers.

**HF2229—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Early childhood education definition of child modified, and pool of up to 2 percent of annual appropriation for child care assistance established for assistance to children age 13 and 14.

**HF2230—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Higher education asset preservation and replacement funding provided for University of Minnesota and MnSCU, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2231—Slawik (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Nursing facility, ICF/MRs, and other programs 5 percent rate increase provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2232—Larson (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
School bus driver's endorsement cancellation authorized in the case of a gross misdemeanor conviction or series of violations that show the person represents a risk to public safety.

**HF2233—Kelliher (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Watercraft restricted to slow-no wake speed within 150 feet of shoreline.

**HF2234—Erhardt (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Long-term care insurance income tax credit maximum increased, lifetime benefit requirement reduced, credit extended to employers, and credit sunset provided.

**HF2235—Bakk (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 696, Ely, transitional transportation grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF2236—Mulder (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Wind energy electricity production tax provided in lieu of property tax.

**HF2237—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Dependent care income tax credit expanded.

**HF2238—Bradley (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Olmsted County transferred to geographic group III for nursing facility reimbursement, Olmsted County facilities rate increase provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2239—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
Student release time from school for religious instruction repealed.

**HF2240—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Nonprofit organizations authorized to receive funding under the contamination cleanup, livable communities tax base revitalization, and livable communities demonstration account programs.

**HF2241—Stang (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Stadium review commission established to evaluate sports stadium construction proposals.

**HF2242—Hilty (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Radioactive material prohibited in recycled materials.

**HF2243—Pelowski (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Midwest regional rail initiative preliminary engineering and environmental analysis provided and money appropriated.

**HF2244—Abrams (R)**  
**Judiciary Finance**  
State funding of trial courts provided in unfunded judicial districts.

**HF2245—Bradley (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Olmsted County nursing facilities rates increased and money appropriated.

**HF2246—Bradley (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Nursing facility operating rates compensation-related portion increased and money appropriated.

**HF2247—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Teachers' purchase of classroom materials income tax deduction provided.

**HF2248—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
MFIP and basic sliding fee child care assistance programs consolidated.

**HF2249—Leighton (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Adverse medical examinations regulated.

**HF2250—Abeler (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Alternative facilities program and aid provisions modified.

**HF2251—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Passing on the Farm Center continued funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2252—Hilstrom (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Hennepin County Soil and Water Conservation District supervisor appointment and transition from an elected to an appointed board provided.

**HF2253—Davids (R)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Insurance agent minimum education requirements modified.

**HF2254—Tingelstad (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Andover water treatment facility construction materials and equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF2255—Tingelstad (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Tobacco settlement and medical education endowment funds modified, healthy kids learn endowment fund created, and money appropriated.

**HF2256—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Education subtraction and income tax credit authorized for extracurricular activities and musical instruments.

**HF2257—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Nicollet County Onan Power Electronics employees provided extra unemployment insurance benefits.

## Wednesday, March 28

**HF2258—Lindner (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Housing finance and development programs consolidated, loan forgiveness time period lengthened, tenant income limits eliminated, project-based rental assistance authorized, aggregation of earnings authorized, and technical changes provided.

**HF2259—Gunther (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Martin County nursing home rate increase provided and money appropriated.

**HF2260—Gunther (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Martin County nursing home rate increase authorized and money appropriated.

**HF2261—Daggett (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Charitable organizations sale of personal property sales tax exemption provided, and lottery definition clarified relating to employer distributions to persons who have made charitable deductions.

**HF2262—Fuller (R)**  
**State Government Finance**  
Bemidji Headwaters Science Center construction provided and money appropriated.

**HF2263—Erickson (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Tribal identification cards usage for Election Day registration authorized.

**HF2264—Walz (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Mandatory minimum sentences provided for offenders convicted of first and second degree criminal sexual conduct crimes.

**HF2265—Skoe (DFL)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Fosston Public Library accessibility project grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF2266—Jacobson (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Beverage container mandatory deposit required, redemption centers established, report required, and money appropriated.

**HF2267—Lipman (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Maximum residential density requirement of long-term agricultural land exception permitted in metropolitan counties.

**HF2268—Skoe (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Small resorts included in limited market value.

**HF2269—Gunther (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
State equalization aid for school district debt service levies and operating referendum revenue increased.

**HF2270—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Judgement creditor disclosure provided.

**HF2271—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Violent video games; juvenile access report required, and scientific study on how violent video games encourage aggressive acts by juveniles provided.

**HF2272—Abeler (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Anoka County nursing facility rate adjustment provided.

**HF2273—Knoblach (R)**  
**Capital Investment**  
Capital improvements corrective amendments reenacted.

**HF2274—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Adult Basic Education programs authorized to apply for telecommunications access grants and revenue, and money appropriated.

**HF2275—Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
United States flag etiquette, display, and respect education provided.

**HF2276—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Outdoor light pollution restricted.

**HF2277—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
Learning year program required with sufficient time to complete district graduation requirements, continual learning plan described, and audit penalty prohibited for Independent School District No. 138, North Branch.

**HF2278—Otremba (DFL)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Mental health consulting support to farm families and business operators provided and money appropriated.

**HF2279—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
St. Paul housing district authorized and income limits prescribed.

**HF2280—Milbert (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
MSRS general state employees retirement plan service credit purchase authorized for a specified Department of Transportation Laborer 1.

**HF2281—Swenson (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 2589, Glencoe-Silver Lake, fund transfer and additional levy authorized.

**HF2282—Osskopp (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Hastings and Lake City city halls improvements construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

**HF2283—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Strontium 90 level in teeth of small children study provided and money appropriated.

**HF2284—Stanek (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Hennepin County tax-forfeited land sale bordering public water authorized.

**HF2285—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Fund Association prior service credit purchase authorized for a former teacher.

**HF2286—Erickson (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Mentoring program for probationary teachers established; loan repayment program created for recruitment of excellent teachers in science, math, industrial technology, and special education and in rural areas; and money appropriated.

**HF2287—Smith (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Corrections agents included in correctional employees retirement plan, and coverage for prior state service provided.

**HF2288—Ness (R)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Feedlots; state cost-share money provided for environmental review expenses, and money appropriated.

**HF2289—Osskopp (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
United States flag etiquette, display, and respect instruction provided.

**HF2290—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
MnSCU facilities acquisition provisions and prior St. Cloud State University capital improvements funding source modified.

**HF2291—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Automated victim notification system implemented, report required, and money appropriated.

**HF2292—Stanek (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Metropolitan Council demonstration project funded to provide express bus service between downtown Minneapolis and locations outside transit taxing district, and money appropriated.

**HF2293—Leighton (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Manufactured homes utility services rates limited to actual amount billed to the owner.

**HF2294—Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Pre-adoption health care coverage regulated.

**HF2295—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Tax court jurisdiction provided in specified Hennepin County property tax cases.

**HF2296—Otremba (DFL)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Parent education pilot program for parents of children ages 5 to 18 created and money appropriated.

**HF2297—Marquart (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Limited market value formula modified, and sunset date on limited market value extended.

**HF2298—Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Opportunities Industrialization Center programs funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2299—Davnie (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
Special education caseload rules prohibition repealed, and special education caseloads measurement established.

**HF2300—Haas (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Health coverage mandate proposal assessment provided.

**HF2301—Rhodes (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Investment coins and bullion sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF2302—Ness (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Deer hunting limit imposed of one deer annually.

**HF2303—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Duluth nursing home moratorium exception provided.

**HF2304—Kielkucki (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Non-public school students required to be fully eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

**HF2305—Hausman (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
I-94 directional signs required for colleges and universities in St. Paul.

**HF2306—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Wastewater and drinking water funding requests coordinated and rulemaking authorized.

**HF2307—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Firefighter probationary period extended to 12 months.

**HF2308—Kuisle (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Road project purchases sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF2309—Kuisle (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Trunk highway project construction considerations clarified.

**HF2310—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Video game sale and rental restricted to persons under age 17, public display of restricted games prohibited, study required, and penalty provided.

**HF2311—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Early childhood developmental screening provisions expanded.

**HF2312—Walker (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Parental rights termination proceeding presumption modified.

**HF2313—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
Tenth grade college readiness statewide testing provided.

**HF2314—Schumacher (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Reshape program director correctional plan retirement coverage provided.

**HF2315—Knoblach (R)**  
**Judiciary Finance**  
St. Cloud Police Department crime lab equipment grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF2316—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Attorney fee lien provisions modified.

**HF2317—Knoblach (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
St. Cloud State University and Independent School District No. 742, St. Cloud, teacher recruitment collaborative program funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2318—Rhodes (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Political party expenditures limited, additional public disclosure required, public subsidy distribution procedures changed, multi-candidate expenditures limited, contributions limited, civil penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

**HF2319—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Dislocated homemaker program funded and money appropriated.

## Thursday, March 29

**HF2320—Knoblach (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Job training program grants made available to employers who hire qualified low-income graduates of non-profit job training programs.

**HF2321—Erickson (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Milaca street reconstruction project construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

**HF2322—Penas (R)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Livestock farmers reimbursed for losses due to anthrax.

**HF2323—Penas (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Fuel tax partially refunded for commercial owners of recreational fishing launches, and money transferred from the general fund to the water recreation account in the special revenue fund.

**HF2324—Kuisle (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Professional and technical services contracts for state transportation projects regulated.

**HF2325—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
West St. Paul authorized to implement ordinance amortizing certain signs.

**HF2326—Milbert (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 199, Inver Grove, grant provided for a library of computer on-line courses, and money appropriated.

**HF2327—Evans (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Mounds View park shelter replacement grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF2328—Walz (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Woodland education publication grant provided for use in sixth-grade classrooms, and money appropriated.

**HF2329—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Pine County Government Center and jail construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

**HF2330—Howes (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Property tax payment by commissioner of natural resources required in counties having a reduced tax base due to acreage in state ownership.

**HF2331—McElroy (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
High technology; investment tax provisions modified, seed capital fund created, industry in rural areas promoted, out-of-state tuition waived, lifetime learning grants and North Star Research Coalition created, and money appropriated.

**HF2332—Stanek (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Government agencies exempted from court fees for civil and criminal instrument proceedings.

**HF2333—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
St. Paul Osceola-St. Clair housing tax increment financing district authorized.

**HF2334—Thompson (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Vending machine items sold for 50 cents or less exempted from sales tax.

**HF2335—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Higher education expenses tax credit authorized.

**HF2336—Harder (R)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Child care assistance employment eligibility modified.

**HF2337—Greiling (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Teacher grant program to promote professional teaching standards matching funds requirement modified, school district program to promote professional teaching standards provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2338—Osthoﬀ (DFL)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

St. Paul Port Authority customized job training funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2339—McElroy (R)****Taxes**

Utility generation property tax provisions modified, utility rate adjustments provided, trust fund established, rebate authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2340—Penas (R)****Taxes**

Roseau County mixed municipal solid waste transfer station construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

**HF2341—Davnie (DFL)****Education Policy**

School district flexibility provided in determining eligible students' level of performance.

**HF2342—Osthoﬀ (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Empire Builder property in St. Paul compensation for environmental contamination remediation provided, claim priority provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2343—Jennings (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Lower St. Croix Wild and Scenic River Act implemented and money appropriated.

**HF2344—Goodno (R)****Taxes**

Property tax class rates reduced, debt service and operating referendum equalization revenues increased, general education levy decreased, local government unit purchases sales tax exempted, and money appropriated.

**HF2345—Abeler (R)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Oral language interpreter services coverage required of health plans.

**HF2346—Daggett (R)****Taxes**

Income tax deduction provided for health insurance premiums.

**HF2347—Evans (DFL)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Existing and new housing programs funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2348—Mulder (R)****Taxes**

Small scale wind energy conversion system property tax exemption modified.

**HF2349—Davnie (DFL)****Taxes**

Fort Snelling upper bluff area project construction materials sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF2350—Lenczewski (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Hennepin County multi-jurisdictional programs financing means specified.

**HF2351—Carlson (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Higher education grant stipends calculation modified.

**HF2352—Bishop (R)****State Government Finance**

Rochester National Volleyball Center grant provided, matching in-kind grants required, and money appropriated.

**HF2353—Seagren (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Alternative teacher compensation program system created to enhance student performance, and money appropriated.

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## MONDAY, April 2

8:15 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF1938 (Kahn) Administration department provisions modified.  
HF1379 (Krinkie) Modifying state procurement provisions.  
HF1914 (Erickson) Creating the technology enterprise fund and board.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** HF7 (Eastlund) Nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation and related conditions (ICF/MR), and direct care provider rate adjustments provided.  
HF1064 (Bradley) Consumer support grant services expanded, waivers provisions clarified, developmental disabilities services provisions modified, and money appropriated.  
HF1193 (Goodno) Home and community-based options for individuals with disabilities access improvements provided, consumer control provisions modified, and consumer-directed home care demonstration project established.  
HF1288 (Daggett) Living-at-home block nurse program numbers and funding increased and money appropriated.  
HF1729 (Kubly) Senior congregate dining and home-delivered meals funding provided and money appropriated.  
HF1721 (Goodno) Medical education program distribution formula modified.

HF1622 (Goodno) Health care safety net preservation program established and voluntary agreements to expand intergovernmental transfers allowed.

HF711 (Penas) Rural hospital grants provided and grant provisions modified, health care technician and rural hospital nurse loan forgiveness programs established, telemedicine coverage sunset repealed, and money appropriated.

**Note:** Meeting will continue in the evening at the call of the chair.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** HF1736 (Bakk) Taconite plant capital improvements loan fund established and money appropriated.  
HF235 (Rukavina) Minnesota Investment Fund targeted funding provided for specified areas, and money appropriated.  
HF1105/SF960 (Rukavina/Tomassoni) Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation commissioner authorized to acquire discontinued mining property.  
HF157 (Bakk) LTV mining specified employees and suppliers extra unemployment compensation benefits provided.

### TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** HF2118 (Haas) Inter-regional trunk highway corridor coalitions grants provided and money appropriated.  
HF1776 (Lieder) Trunk highway bridge construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation provided and money appropriated.  
HF1281 (Holberg) Light utility trailers lifetime registration provided.  
HF1277 (Molnau) Inter-regional transportation corridor financing procedures, statewide communications system, and transportation revolving loan fund provisions modified, and clarifying changes provided.

8:30 a.m.

### Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

316 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Dean Johnson

**Agenda:** SFXXX; HF855 (Mares) and SF810 (Pogemiller); HFXXX: PERA; Funding deficiency correction. Consideration of other PERA funding deficiency correction options.

10:15 a.m.

### CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF245 (Juhnke) Licensed peace officers authorized to determine necessity of patient restraints.

HF1892 (Clark, K.) Creditor discriminatory practices definition extended to include discrimination based on receipt of public assistance including medical assistance or housing assistance.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** HF1071 (Bakk) State park and recreation area boundaries modified and boathouse lot leases in Soudan Underground Mine State Park administration provided.  
HF240 (Rukavina) Mesabi station on Mesabi trail construction completion provided, and money appropriated.  
HF853 (Ozment) State park land acquisition provided and money appropriated.  
HF1269 (Kahn) Mississippi Whitewater Trail funding provided and money appropriated.  
HF529 (Workman) Hennepin County land conveyance to city of Eden Prairie, and money appropriated.  
HF2092 (Olson) State park fees modified, camping facilities required to remain open as scheduled, and report required.

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** HF328 (Dorman) Relating to education finance; increasing the amount of referendum revenue subject to equalization.  
HF1907 (Biernat) Relating to education finance; making the general education levy a state-determined, state-collected levy.  
HF1534 (Tingelstad) Relating to education; creating high performance school facilities pilot projects in Independent School Districts Nos. 728 and 535, Elk River and Rochester; requiring an integrated facilities plan.  
HF1605 (Harder) Relating to education finance; creating a revolving loan fund for school district emergency fuel assistance.  
HF1723 (Nornes) Relating to education finance; authorizing school districts to include home school pupils in their pupil counts for certain funding purposes.  
HF1650 (Penas) Relating to education; providing for a new teacher mentoring pilot program.

HF1890 (Seagren) Relating to education; authorizing grants for collaborative urban educator training programs; appropriating money.

HF1653 (Gleason) Relating to education; increasing the crime-related costs levy.

HF1371 (Dehler) Relating to education finance; authorizing an increase in referendum authority without an election in certain circumstances.

HF1370 (Dehler) Relating to education finance; authorizing a school board to transfer excess revenue in the debt redemption fund to the operating capital account in the general fund.

HF2081 (Biernat) Relating to education finance; specifying the calculation to determine an excess in the debt redemption fund; authorizing certain fund transfers.

HF2079 (Lieder) Relating to education; providing for a grant to Independent School District No. 600, Fisher.

HF1430 (Winter) Relating to education; appropriating money for a grant to Independent School District No. 175, Westbrook, for a student entrepreneurship project.

HF1682 (Kubly) Relating to education; providing for additional disabled access levy authority for Independent School District No. 2159, Buffalo Lake-Hector.

HF893 (Sertich) Relating to education; providing for historic building revenue.

HF1420 (Sertich) Relating to education finance; extending the school district levy for retired employee health benefits.

HF1253 (Ness) Relating to education; authorizing the establishment of reserve accounts.

HF93 (Entenza) Relating to education; establishing a school guidance counselor to student ratio.

**Note:** The committee will reconvene in 10 State Office Building after session. All bills after HF1653 will probably be heard post-session (about 6 p.m.)

#### **Property Tax Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

**Agenda:** HF2020 (Kubly) Agricultural parcel homestead classification allowed.

HF2142 (Gleason) Low-income rental housing class rate established.

HF2169 (Lieder) Payments in lieu of taxation provided for certain wetlands acquired by the department of transportation.

#### **Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

**Agenda:** HF1679 (Paulsen) Provides retailers a deduction from the amount of sales tax remitted to compensate for costs of collecting the tax.

HF583 (Hackbarth) Exempts sales tax on diesel fuel used to operate commuter rail systems.

HF584 (Hackbarth) Exempts sales tax on materials and equipment used to provide commuter rail service.

HF1731 (Kuisle) Exempts transit vehicles and parts for transit vehicles from the sales tax and the motor vehicle sales tax.

HF1985 (Pelowski) Provides that a portion of the general sales and use tax be paid to cities for transportation purposes.

**12:30 p.m.**

#### **FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD**

##### **EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** HF2248 (McGuire) Relating to family and early childhood education; consolidating the MFIP and basic sliding fee child care assistance programs.

HF1429 (Sykora) Relating to child care; requiring annual market rate surveys; appropriating money.

HF1437 (Skoe) Relating to family and early childhood education finance; modifying child care market rate survey.

HF1745 (Nornes) Relating to children; child care; creating an annual bonus for accredited child care centers.

HF1548 (Nornes) Relating to early childhood; appropriating money for child care resource and referral programs.

HF1478 (Wagenius) Relating to children; requiring notice to parents and employees when a Head Start program or child care provider plans to use certain pesticides.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** To be announced. Monitor paper and electronic bulletins.

**After Local Government meeting at the call of the chair**

#### **Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/ LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**3 p.m.**

#### **THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

**Immediately following session**

#### **RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Pawlenty

**Agenda:** Calendar for the Day for Thursday, April 5, 2001.

House Budget.

## **TUESDAY, April 3**

**8:15 a.m.**

#### **EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF1947 (Mulder) Vital statistics act modified, access to adoption records modified, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF322 (Rhodes) Minnesota utilization review act and practice of medicine definition modified.

HF1255 (Haas) County social service agencies reimbursed for out-of-home juvenile placement costs and money appropriated.

More bills may be added.

#### **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**10:15 a.m.**

#### **CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** HF1330 (Clark, J.) Felony penalty for aggravated cruelty to pets.

SF7/HF165 (Wasiluk) Killing or harming animals trained to assist persons with disabilities; criminal penalties imposed.

HF1925 (Walker) Crime victim services director authorized to adopt rules to administer the battered women's shelter per diem program.

HF1808 (Clark, J.) Methamphetamine; MDMA added to list of Schedule I controlled substances; MDMA and MDA added to controlled substance penalty enhancement provisions.

**Note:** Additional bills will be added.

#### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** HF790 (Davids) Blufflands trail system requirements modified.

HF1146 (Ozment) Salt distribution stockpiles design, construction, and use requirements established.

HF1782 (Otremba) Long Prairie River declared a canoe and boating route.

HF1827 (Swenson) Pollution Control Agency authority to expedite permits clarified.

HF1968 (Marquardt) Red River of the North designated a canoe and boating route and money appropriated.

HF1491 (Fuller) Environmental review concerning sunken log removal clarified, local approval required, and money appropriated.

**Note:** If agenda is not completed, the committee will meet in 5 State Office Building at 2:30 p.m.

#### **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF351 (Stanek) DWI; felony level driving while impaired offense established.

The following bills are for discussion only:

HF673 (Stanek) Emergency 911 telephone services maximum allowable fee increased.

HF389 (Dempsey) Mississippi River Parkway Commission extended and membership modified.

HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill. Section 12, Department of Administration.

Additional bills may be added.

#### **TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF1120 (Pugh) Dakota County tax-forfeited land conveyance free of the trust in favor of tax district authorized.

HF2121 (Daggett) Provides for valuation and deferral of certain property whose current use and potential alternative use are not the same.

HF2126 (Leppik) Allows taxpayers to request notices be given to holders of powers of attorney.

HF2160 (Milbert) Makes certain property tax public hearings optional; requires a reverse referendum for property tax increases in counties and certain cities.

HF2152 (Folliard) Authorizes the city of Hopkins to impose a food and beverage tax.

**12:30 p.m.**

#### **AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** HF1814 (Swenson) Providing inflationary increases for County Ag Societies.

HF2048 (Ness) Providing environmental compliance grants for feedlot upgrades.

HF2052 (Ness) Providing for an agricultural trade specialist within the Department of Agriculture.

HF2192 (Gunther) Pseudorabies prevention in Minnesota's swine herd.

HF2210 (Ness) Providing for market expansion through a shippers cooperative of identity preserved commodities.

#### **COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF661 (Stang) Relating to professions; creating the Accountancy Act of 2001; authorizing rulemaking; imposing penalties.

HF1467 (Holberg) Relating to payment bonds; regulating notices of claims.

HF1086 (Gunther) Relating to community development; providing management and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations.

HF1951 (Goodno) Relating to insurance; regulating the use of HIV and bloodborne pathogen tests.

HF1615 (Entenza) Relating to insurance; regulating liquidations and investments of insurers.

HF632 (Luther) Relating to employment; requiring paid leave for organ donation.

Other bills may be added.

**6 p.m.**

#### **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** HF1311 (McElroy) Minnesota Money Transmitters Act established.

HF1408 (Gunther) Minnesota State University, Mankato, rural policy and development center funding provided and money appropriated.

HF916 (Erhardt) Securities fees modified for certain securities issued by open-end management companies and unit investment trusts.

HF2017 (Clark, K.) Deaf and hard of hearing employment center grants provided and money appropriated.

HF2010 (Gunther) Home ownership assistance and homebuyer education funding provided and money appropriated.

HF2094 (Dorman) Albert Lea Port Authority grant to remodel a building for use as a business incubator authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2095 (Dorman) Albert Lea Port Authority grant provided to remodel a building for use as a business development center, and money appropriated.

### **WEDNESDAY, April 4**

**8:15 a.m.**

#### **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF2241 (Stang) New sports facilities; creating a proposal review and recommendation process.

#### **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** HF23 (Mullery) Work first; nontraditional career assistance training programs TANF block grant funding authorized, and programs required to make available information about nontraditional women's opportunities.

HF1004 (Abeler) Supportive housing and managed care pilot project county and individual eligibility provisions modified and money appropriated.

HF1832 (Goodno) MFIP sanctions and program eligibility requirements for noncompliant recipients modified, and hardship extensions established.

**Note:** If needed, the meeting will continue at 4 p.m. in 10 State Office Building.

#### **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** HF467 (Hilty) Moose Lake Area History museum addition grant provided and money appropriated.

HF475 (Wenzel) Little Elk Heritage Preserve designated as a historic preserve, and money appropriated.

HF892 (Kahn) Mill City museum operation funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1675 (Wasiluk) Maplewood historic Bruentrup farm restoration grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2166 (Jennings) Pine City; North West Company Fur Post operation funding provided and money appropriated.

Presentation on the Agricultural Interpretative Center (FarmAmerica).

#### **TRANSPORTATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** HF204 (Molnau) Bridges; payment of engineering costs authorized from town bridge account.

HF2193 (Vandever) Special "choose life" motor vehicle license plates authorized, adoption support account established for grants to counties, and money appropriated.

HF2138 (Mahoney) St. Paul Phalen Boulevard construction grant provided and money appropriated.

**10:15 a.m.**

#### **CIVIL LAW**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF411 (Clark, K.) Retaliatory eviction defense limitation extended.

HF1807 (Skoglund) Child support collection and enforcement improvement measures and civil penalties provided.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL  
RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** HF532 (Harder) Minnesota river basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program easements acquired and conservation practices implemented, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** HF2226 (Seagren) Advance placement and international baccalaureate students merit grant established and money appropriated.

Witnesses: Duane Benson, MN Business Partnership; Jim Bartholomew, MN Business Partnership; Stu Lade, AP Teacher; Kathy Fleming, IB Teacher.

HF428 (Gunther) Minnesota talented youth math project expanded and money appropriated.

Witness: Quintin Pettigrew, Program Director, Minnesota Talented Youth Math Program, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

HF2222 (Dehler) MnSCU state share of expenditures provision modified, fee collection procedures modified, purchasing and contracting requirements provided, tuition refunds clarified, reporting requirements abolished, and obsolete references deleted.

Witness: John Ostrem, Deputy to the Chancellor for Legislation and Policy, MnSCU.

**K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF880 (Solberg) Authorizes additional levy for Independent School District 319, Nashwauk-Keewatin.

HF2037 (Abrams) Public finance bill.

**12:30 p.m.**

**COMMERCE, JOBS &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF2258 (Lindner) Housing finance and development programs consolidated, loan forgiveness time period lengthened, tenant income limits eliminated, project-based rental assistance authorized, aggregation of earnings authorized, and technical changes provided.

HF1541 (Mullery) Relating to landlords and tenants; requiring landlords to accept current tenant reports on prospective tenants if available.  
HF608 (Harder) Relating to economic development; providing money to promote wireless Internet access in rural southwestern Minnesota.

HF1182 (Clark) Relating to commerce; modifying requirements for invention developers.

Other bills may be added.

**FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD**

**EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** HF1746 (Nornes) Relating to education; providing that a community or nonprofit organization in the after-school enrichment program must be a charitable organization; establishing an additional priority for applicants of after-school enrichment grants; appropriating money.

HF2188 (Leppik) Relating to family and early childhood education; appropriating money for adult basic education.

Continued discussion of Governor's initiatives (found in HF1088).

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** To be announced. Monitor paper and electronic bulletins.

**After Local Government meeting at the call  
of the chair**

**Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council  
and Agencies/ LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**2 p.m.**

**Legislative Reference Library**

**Subcommittee/Legislative Coordinating  
Commission**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. to be elected

**Agenda:** Introductions.

Selection of subcommittee chair.

Library background and review of library 2002-2003 budget.

**THURSDAY, April 5**

**8:15 a.m.**

**EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**HEALTH & HUMAN  
SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**10:15 a.m.**

**CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** House Resolution #10 (Molnau) Commending Chaska Police Officers Brady Juell and Mike Kleber.

SF229/HF372 (McGuire) Crime victim notice of expungement proceedings [continued from March 1 hearing]

SF773/HF782 (McGuire) Electronic alcohol monitoring recidivism and conditional release violation rates study required.

HF1315 (Fuller) State Fire Marshal additional duties specified; Fire Marshal account created; and money appropriated.

**Note:** Additional bills will be added.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL  
RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**Property Tax Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

**Agenda:** HF2133 (Gunther) Waste tire-fueled electric generation facility tax exemptions provided.

HF2045 (Dawkins) Biomass electrical generating facility machinery and property exempted from property taxes.

HF2236 (Mulder) Wind energy electricity production tax provided in lieu of property tax.

**Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

**Agenda:** HF1848 (Knoblach) Reduces the marriage penalties on individual income taxation.

HF1976 (Knoblach) Exempts the purchase of construction materials and equipment used in construction of a water treatment facility in the City of Waite Park from sales and use taxes.

HF1995 (Bernardy) Allows the full deductibility from individual income taxes of health insurance premiums.

HF1695 (Mulder) Sales made by certain small town businesses exempted from taxation.

HF2082 (Mulder) Exempts the purchase of construction materials and equipment used in construction of a school in Independent School District No. 2689, Pipestone-Jasper from sales and use taxes.

## STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill, Section 12, Department of Administration.

Additional bills may be added.

**12:30 p.m.**

## AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF1950 (Gunther) Relating to employment; removing references to search firms in the employment agencies law.

HF1931 (Davnier) Relating to occupational safety and health; providing data practices provisions for occupational safety and health investigations. HF1893 (Sertich) Relating to employment; regulating payment of wages; prohibiting employers from requiring employees or job applicants to pay for background checks or training.

HF1369 (Leighton) Relating to economic security; exempting certain advisory councils from expiration; modifying requirements for the rehabilitation council for the blind.

HF1872 (Marquart) Relating to vocational rehabilitation; making technical changes; modifying procedures for grants to rehabilitation facilities.

Other bills may be added.

**3 p.m.**

## THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

**After session at the call of the chair**

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** To be announced. Monitor paper and electronic bulletins.

**After Local Government meeting, after session, at the call of the chair**

## Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/ LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## FRIDAY, April 6

**8:15 a.m.**

## GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** HF985 (Knoblach) Respite care for family adult foster care providers program established.

HF1607 (Tuma) Residential and day habilitation service costs county responsibility eliminated.

HF713 (Boudreau) Day training and habilitation services medical assistance coverage provided, waiver request required, and money appropriated.

HF2272 (Abeler) Anoka County nursing facility rate adjustment provided.

HF2259 (Gunther) Martin County nursing home rate increase provided and money appropriated.

HF2260 (Gunther) Martin County nursing home rate increase authorized and money appropriated.

HF2098 (Murphy) Group residential housing supplementary service rate modified for facilities serving persons with mental illnesses or chemical dependencies modified.

HF2050 (Molnau) Carver County nursing facility rate increase provided.

HF2089 (Dibble) Minneapolis board and care facility rate increase provided.

HF1633 (Boudreau) Hennepin County group residential housing supplementary rate modified for specified facilities.

HF2238 (Bradley) Olmsted County transferred to geographic group III for nursing facility reimbursement, Olmsted County facilities rate increase provided, and money appropriated.

HF2245 (Bradley) Olmsted County nursing facilities rates increased and money appropriated.

## JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** HF224 (Anderson, I.) Koochiching County; Big Bear Country Education Center construction appropriation provided.

HF609 (Anderson, I.) Koochiching County Big Bear Country Education Center construction grant authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF664 (Anderson, I.) Koochiching County regional cold weather testing facility construction grant provided, bonds issued, and money.

HF1475 (Walz) Iron County; Cuyuna Range technology center grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1670 (Cassell) Previous wastewater infrastructure funding program provision effective date applied.

HF1741 (Gunther) Biogas recovery facilities included in the renewable energy production incentive program.

HF1750 (Gunther) Renewable energy production incentive payments provided.

HF1712 (Kubly) Minnesota rural partners grant provided and money appropriated.

**10:15 a.m.**

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** HF2065 (Finseth) Red River north of East Grand Forks hydraulic study grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1770 (Finseth) Ring dike construction grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1771 (Finseth) Red River Basin flood hazard mitigation grants provided. references to subwatershed projects removed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1989 (Davids) Flood mitigation and prevention grants provided to southeastern Minnesota counties and money appropriated.

## K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF1012 (Buesgens) Scott County Housing and Redevelopment Authority references clarified and economic authority powers specified.

HF1099 (Osthoff) Authorizes the issuance of G.O. bonds to finance and implement improvements to the city's technology infrastructure.

HF1298 (Jennings) Authorizes a joint powers board that owns and operates sewage treatment facilities to issue G.O. bonds backed by the full faith and credit of the member governmental units.

HF1320 (Lindner) Authorizes an economic development authority in Hassan township.

HF962 (Cassell) Provides for county hospital borrowing authority; establishes uniform approach to governmental borrowing; modernizes hospital board membership.

**12 noon**

## Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

316 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Dean Johnson

**Agenda:** To be announced.



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey**Agenda:** To be announced. Monitor paper and  
electronic bulletins.**Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council  
and Agencies/ LOCAL GOVERNMENT &  
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens**Agenda:** To be announced.**Moving?****Please help save postage costs by**  
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unofficial count of those interested in considering raising the gasoline tax, prompting about half the members to raise their hands.

Fred Corrigan, speaking on behalf of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance, said additional bonding is necessary to compensate for a recent license tab fee reduction, a change he estimated reduced trunk highway revenue by \$175 million.

Richard Thomas, representing Associated General Contractors, described the arguments in favor of increasing the gas tax as "obvious," and emphasized that his organization does not oppose such an increase.

Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Cottage Grove) expressed concern that additional bonding would push the state into dangerous financial arrangements. "I go out on the trunk highways every spring, and I am horrified by the condition of the roads. I would hate to think that they aren't paid for yet."

Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Wells) described the measure as "more a liability than an asset," charging that the bill's sponsors were "looking for an easy way out."

**Taxing along the tracks**

A plan to pay for operating costs of light-rail transit lines was heard March 28.

HF1944, sponsored by Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville), would create a special taxing district to pay operating deficits for a light-rail line.

Holberg told the House Transportation Policy Committee the idea came from thinking about how to fund the Hiawatha Line from downtown Minneapolis to the Mall of America in Bloomington. She said the line will not pay for itself, with necessary subsidies forecast to increase to approximately \$14 million by 2010.

Her plan calls for a special taxing district to be created for all commercial/industrial developments and apartments within 1,000 feet of the light-rail right-of-way. "No residential taxing units will be affected," she said.

Holberg said this is important since anticipated economic development along the line will likely equal 10 structures like the IDS Center in Minneapolis and four projects like Southdale Center in Edina.

Revenues will be based on a formula involving tax increments in the established districts.

As an example Holberg said that if the city of Minneapolis sees a 5 percent increase in tax base as a whole, but the area near the Hiawatha line sees a 15 percent increase, the 10 percent

difference would go towards funding the line. "Minneapolis, Richfield, and Bloomington should not see all the profits while the state continues to subsidize the line," she said.

Reaction among her committee colleagues was mixed.

"The problem is that legislators from all over the state voted for this, and for us to now pay for it isn't fair," said Rep. Dan Larson (DFL-Bloomington).

On the other hand, Rep. Ray Vandever (R-Forest Lake) said the state needs "an extraordinary way" to help pay for subsidies. "It's better than taking from the general fund."

Other legislators were just happy a funding proposal has been put forth, even if Holberg's plan may not be the answer.

"I think it's good we have a bill here finally," said Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar). "All rural people are wondering why they will pay for a Twin Cities train. I hope this is the first of many ideas over the next year or two on how to fund this thing."

Noting roads are also an economic development component, Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Cottage Grove) asked, "Do we then do the same for them?"

The bill was approved and referred to the House Transportation Finance Committee.

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Continued from page 17

Board would prevail for dairy farmers except when the federally mandated minimum exceeded the state board's price. Unlike Montana's system, Minnesota's board would not be required to position milk prices only a certain level above the federal price, but instead would have broad discretion in the creation of price formulas.

Otremba said Montana's board has not been legally challenged in the 10 years since its inception. In the same time, she said, milk prices have risen for producers in that state although consumers pay 23 percent less. Critics point out that consumer prices reflect more the federal rules than the health of the local dairy market.

Speaking on behalf of the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council, an organization representing commercial agricultural processors, Myron Just said, "We all wish that it would be easy to save the milk price problem." He argued that price controls "defy the basic law of supply and demand."

Unless the bill were approved by all necessary policy committees by March 30 deadline, the only way it could reach the House floor is via the Rules Committee or as an amendment to another bill. 🐼

Continued from page 18

(R-Princeton) said the council has background of the Profile, and the report that evaluated it, which will be used to create new standards. Carlson's amendment failed.

Recognizing that only one of the bills can be passed into law, Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) asked, "Can we support both bills? The committee is not making a decision."

But committee members emphasized the need for action.

"We've created something that simply doesn't function," said Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr. (DFL-Winona), a teacher. He said he wants to go back to his classroom with something he can teach from.

The bill has been sent to the Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee, where it was scheduled for a hearing March 30. 🐼

Continued from page 19

McElroy said at the core of the reorganization proposal was an effort to find a better way of doing things than has been done in the past. He said, in particular, moving some of the functions of workforce development into all areas of the state so regional differences could be better addressed was an idea he thought was important.

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) said the

# Reflections

As session deadlines approach and bills get passed out of committees, it is a time when legislative staff know their work can be compared — albeit unfavorably — to the Vernal Equinox. During spring, daylight hours get longer, as do the work days of House employees.

Lawmakers meet more often in the chamber, finance and conference committee meetings last later into the night, and staff work harder to meet the needs of members.

Staffers understand "overtime" is not part of their vocabulary, although work is done until it is finished. For example, on any given day those in the Chief Clerk's Office may still be at work two hours after a House session has adjourned for the evening — a time that can only be approximated.

After-session committee meetings and other legislative business require the presence of staff to assist the members, while those in other departments like supply, duplicating, and other support staff normally put in a 60- or 70-hour work week.

While hard work and dedication behind the scenes is commonplace for staff in the House and Senate, they are always available to take on extra assignments.

As a result of that camaraderie and the many hours staff members spend working together, it comes as quite a shock when a long-time staffer decides to retire or resign.

Such is true for the announcement by Richard A. Newcomb that his last day at the House is March 31. He is leaving to complete his degree in philosophy and to pursue a long-time dream — traveling to Egypt to visit the tombs of the Pharaohs, then sail up the Nile.

Most know Newcomb by his nickname, Dick. He spent 14 years in the Capitol Complex, including the last three-plus as the administrative aide and assistant manager in

House Supply. Dick began his House career as a page, then as assistant coordinator for educational programs. He also worked at the front desk in the Chief Clerk's Office, and as an assistant sergeant-at-arms.

Not too many people know the ins and outs of proceedings or actions taken by the House as he does. If anything obscure is needed, Dick knows where to find it in the nooks and crannies of the basements or hidden closets in the Capitol and State Office Building.

His interest in the legislative process was stimulated in a high school class taught by Sen. Len Price (DFL-Woodbury) when the lawmaker was a House member. Another mentor for Dick was former Rep. Pat Beard (DFL-Cottage Grove). In 1991-92 Dick served as Beard's committee administrator on the General Legislation/Veterans Affairs Committee.

Dick's talents are many. They range from building an intricate doll house for his niece, creating teddy bears of exceptional quality from old mink coats, to being a star player on the legislative staff's softball team.

The hard-working legislative "family" is losing a key individual as it begins to put in longer hours. Dick's presence — particularly his offbeat humor and unique life stories — will be missed through the end of the legislative session and beyond.

As staff, members, and others at the Capitol continue the diligent work on the business of the people, the thought of Richard Newcomb's dedication and hard work will be greatly appreciated. For unsolicited praise is "that which makes good men better."

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



Dick Newcomb

transition team may want to come up with a better acronym because the pronunciation of DEWD may lead to people not taking an important issue seriously.

In the March 26 hearing of the bill, Anderson said the new department would probably be renamed.

Brian Bergson, a lobbyist for the Minnesota

Association of Professional Employees, said it was important to include representation from the labor community on the workforce transition team.

Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul) echoed Bergson's comments. "The more people from the bottom making policy, the better the policy is," he said. 🐼

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

# MINNESOTA INDEX

## Minnesota Census 2000

State population in 2000 .....	4,919,479
In 1990 .....	4,375,099
Increase as percent .....	12.4
State rank .....	21
Most populous state (California) .....	33,871,648
Least populous (Wyoming) .....	493,782
Minnesota's population in 1980 .....	4,075,970
In 1900 .....	1,751,394
In 1850 .....	6,077
Number of Caucasians in Minnesota in 2000 .....	4,400,282
As percent of total population .....	89.4
Number of African-Americans .....	171,731
As percent of total population .....	3.5
Increase since 1990, as percent .....	80.9
Number of Hispanics or Latinos .....	143,382
As percent of total population .....	2.9
Percent increase since 1990 .....	166.1
Number of Asians .....	141,968
As percent of total population .....	2.9
Percent increase since 1990 .....	84.5
Number of American Indians or Alaska Native .....	54,967
As percent of total population .....	1.1
Percent increase since 1990 .....	10.1
Number of people of other race .....	67,789
As percent of total population .....	0.5
Percent increase since 1990 .....	196
Number of Minnesotans age 18 and older .....	3,632,585
Population of largest county (Hennepin) .....	1,116,200
Percent change from 1990 .....	8.1
Population of second largest county (Ramsey) .....	511,035
Percent change from 1990 .....	5.2
Population of largest county in Greater Minnesota (St. Louis) .....	200,528
Percent change from 1990 .....	1.2
Population of largest city (Minneapolis) .....	382,618
Second largest, St. Paul .....	287,151
Third largest, Duluth .....	86,918
Fourth largest, Rochester .....	85,806
Fifth largest, Bloomington .....	85,172
10 <sup>th</sup> largest, St. Cloud .....	59,107

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce

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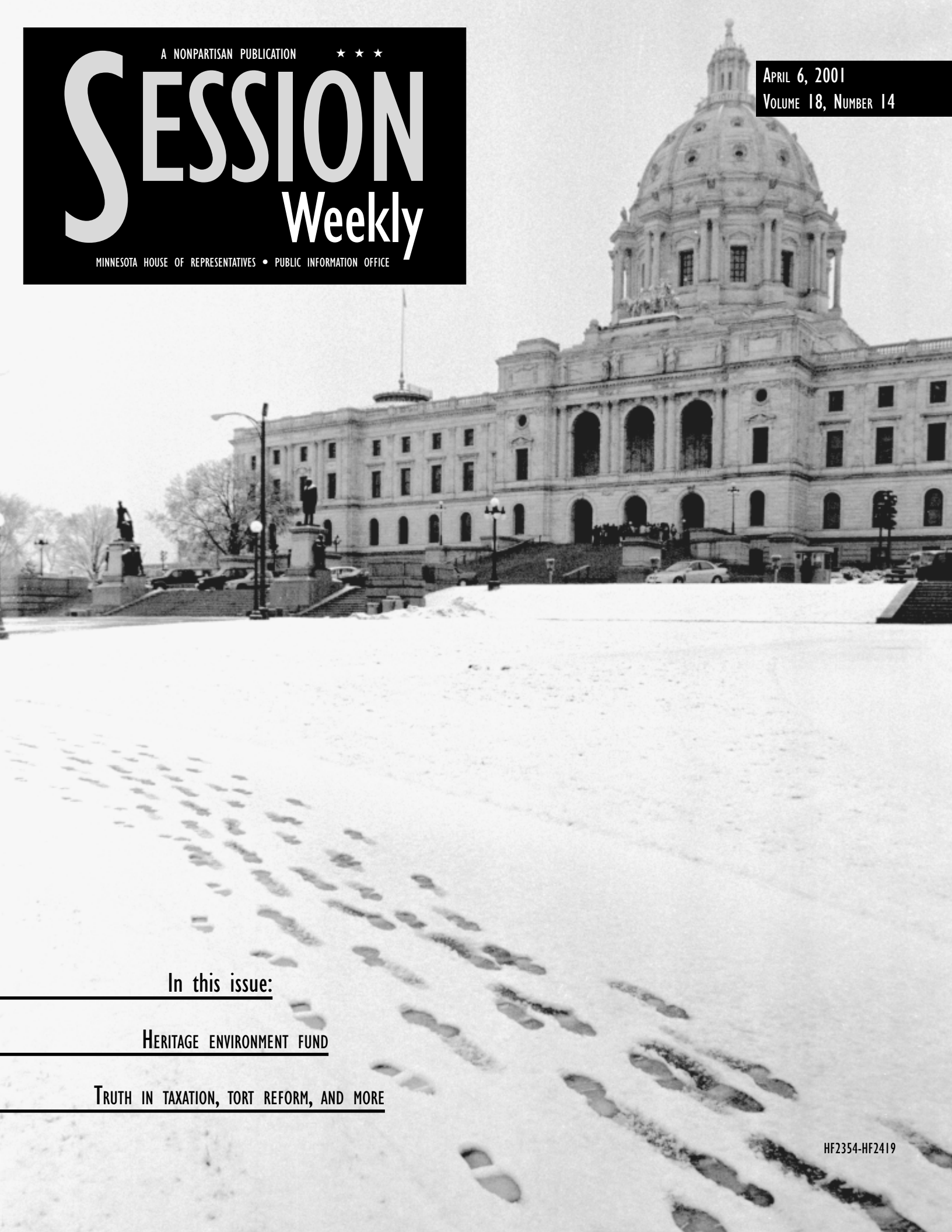
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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

APRIL 6, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 14



In this issue:

HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT FUND

TRUTH IN TAXATION, TORT REFORM, AND MORE

HF2354-HF2419

# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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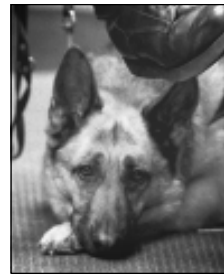
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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Consumers • 5  
Crime • 5  
Education • 6  
Employment • 8  
Environment • 8

Government • 9  
Health • 10  
Higher Education • 10  
Industry • 11

Law • 12  
Recreation • 12  
Taxes • 13  
Transportation • 14

### FEATURES

**At Issue: Crime** — Legislators have proposed more than \$1 million in grants to local law enforcement to combat clandestine methamphetamine labs in Minnesota. • 16

**At Issue: Education** — A plan allocating money to three programs that train future teachers in cultural and social methods to help them teach in urban and urban-like schools will be considered for the K-12 omnibus bill. • 17

**At Issue: Law** — A bill that amends civil case law with regard to the damages defendants must pay passes the House, but awaits action in the Senate. • 18

**At Issue: Taxes** — Lawmakers are debating a measure that would allow taxpayers a direct mechanism to vote down property tax increases. • 19

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: How high's the water?	4	Reflections: Teachers everywhere	27
Governor's Desk (CH1-CH12)	20	Minnesota Index: Local government	
Bill Introductions (HF2354-HF2419)	21	lobbyist expenditures	28
Committee Schedule (April 9-13)	23		

On the cover: A brief blanket of snow and slush covered the Capitol lawn early April 2. Marks of the snow disappeared by afternoon when temperatures reached the mid-40s.

—Photo by Sara Kirk



# A rich heritage

Bill proposes a constitutional amendment to establish a permanent natural resource fund from sales tax proceeds

By MARY KAY WATSON

**T**he possibility of long-term funding for natural resources got a high-five from representatives of public and private environmental organizations April 3 at a meeting of the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) presented the committee with a bill that would ask voters to consider a constitutional amendment to dedicate three-sixteenths of 1 percent of state sales tax revenue for natural resources.

"The environment, though culturally important to us, gets put on the back burner when it comes time for the Legislature to budget," Holsten said.

"To me it's a no-brainer," said Kent Hrbek, former Twins first baseman. "I'm looking at the long run. I want my 9-year-old daughter to understand the outdoors."

HF1671 would place the proposal on the 2002 ballot; if approved by the voters, it would go into effect July 1, 2005.

Holsten estimated the amount raised by this amendment would be in the neighborhood of \$115 million. The proposal would replace current funding from lottery receipts of about \$22 million.

The bill is similar to a proposal from the 2000 legislative session that stalled in the House Ways and Means Committee. At the time, proponents included former Minnesota Vikings Coach Bud Grant.

If the constitutional amendment were passed, the bill and its Senate counterpart sponsored by Sen. Bob Lessard (Ind.-Int'l Falls) would dedicate the funds as follows:

- 45 percent to improve, enhance, or protect fishing and hunting resources;
- 25 percent for state parks and trails;
- 25 percent for metropolitan parks and trails;
- 3 percent for grant-in-aid trails; and
- 2 percent for the Minnesota Zoo, Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, and the Duluth Zoo.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Former Minnesota Twin and avid outdoorsman Kent Hrbek testifies before the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee April 3 in support of HF1671, a bill that would create a constitutional amendment to dedicate sales tax revenue for the environment.**

The 45 percent set aside for fishing and hunting would be placed in a separate fund, to be called the Heritage Enhancement Fund. This fund would be overseen by the Heritage Enhancement Council, which would decide how money in that fund would be allocated.

The 11-member council would include four legislators, six representatives of hunting and fishing interests, and one citizen appointed by the governor. This is a departure from the way

fish and game funds are currently budgeted, which is the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources commissioner.

People who testified at the meeting were unanimous in their support of the constitutional amendment. However, there was disagreement over who should oversee the expenditure of the resulting funds.

"The DNR wants nothing more than to support this effort by people who believe earnestly in what they are doing," DNR Commissioner Alan Garber said. "At the same time we believe it is our responsibility to see to it that funds from our citizens are wisely spent."

Frank Schneider, representing Muskies, Inc. and the Bass Federation, thanked Holsten for "having the courage for bringing this to the electorate." While supportive of the funding initiative, Schneider expressed reservations about the oversight committee. "I don't want to see a second DNR," he said.

"Let's first secure the funding, then decide how it shall be overseen," said Harvey Nelson, a retired DNR employee who spoke in support of the bill for the Minnesota Waterfowl Association.

Holsten said the creation of a citizen's council was a way to profit by the expertise of the many outdoors groups that have evolved over the last 20 or 30 years.

"Private groups have access to lands we don't," Holsten said. "This bill will bring some new, different ideas to the table."

HF1671 provides for grants "to improve, enhance, or protect fish and wildlife resources." Those grants could go to fishing and hunting groups, environmental groups, or the DNR. Ninety percent of the money from the Heritage Enhancement Fund must be spent on game and fish projects on public and private lands. Up to 10 percent may be used for administrative expenses, such

as hiring consultants.

Tom Meyers, vice president of the Minnesota Conservation Federation, said his group was enthusiastic about the bill and the opportunities it offers for public-private partnerships.

"The things we do on private land affect public land," Meyers said. "We have an opportunity to do something here that's landmark legislation."

Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher

(DFL-Mpls) said she was disappointed that non-game wildlife was not mentioned in the bill.

"I drafted this bill specifically for fish and game habitat, partly because all wildlife will benefit," Holsten said. "If we dedicate these revenues, that would relieve the Environmental Fund and free up a whole lot of money."

While the fish and game groups were the most vocal in their support, representatives of parks, trails, and zoos also spoke in favor of Holsten's bill.

"Last year we had over 29 million visitors to metro parks," said Mary Merrill Anderson, superintendent of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. "We know we have trails that are falling apart and shorelines that are crumbling."

"We need to preserve this park system for our children and grandchildren," she added. "I urge your support of this bill."

Judy Erickson of Minnesota Parks and Trails agreed. "Parks and trails are truly representative of what is best in Minnesota," she said.

Victor Camp, director of the Como Zoo, said the zoos of Minnesota also support the proposal. "Wild places and the wild things that live in them are continually under pressure, and zoos get that message out to people," Camp said. "If we pass this amendment we will be a powerful force for saving those wild places and the wild things that inhabit them."

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) agreed that funding for natural resources was an ongoing problem but said there were other ways to get the money than a constitutional amendment.

"I don't like constitutional amendments and I hate dedicated funds," Osthoff said. "Every time the state dedicates funds, they take money away through the general fund."

Holsten's bill addresses that concern with a provision clarifying that the dedicated fund would not be a substitute for "traditional funding sources" but would be a supplement to them.

"The public is ready for this," said Kevin Auslund, executive director of the Game and Fish Coalition. "Its time has come."

HF1671 was approved and sent to the House Rules Committee. 🐾

### Clarification

A story in the March 30 issue of *Session Weekly* about the Faribault state hospital should have clarified that the hospital was closed in 1998, and the facility now belongs to the state Department of Corrections.



## How high's the water?

### Legislature studies river management after series of '100 year' floods

Every spring, communities along Minnesota's rivers await predictions regarding whether the waters will merely lap along the banks or overflow them and envelop everything within the river's floodplain.

With the high value of property within the floodplains, leaders 35 years ago were concerned that people did not know enough about the risks and costs of flood damage.

When rivers fill the floodplain, hydrologists call it a "100-year" or "regional" flood because they, don't occur frequently. But in the late 1960s, studies showed the recurrence rate of such substantial floods was less than five years.

The 1965 floods will long be remembered in Minnesotans' minds as one of the worst years ever. That year, urban flood damage in the state was estimated at nearly \$40 million, however, total damage was just more than \$70 million. Add in the damage to roads and transportation facilities, and the costs exceeded \$90 million.

Though cities along the Mississippi River bore most of the urban damage — \$23.6 million — the Minnesota River flooding tallied the most overall damage, including agricultural and rural, of more than \$35 million.

Several studies, intended to help better manage waters and prevent extensive damage caused by floods, followed the 1965 flood. The state and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were involved.

In 1969, Gov. Harold LeVander submitted a report on flood damage to the Legislature, expressing concern that no effective solution to the problem had been proposed. In his letter, he suggested legislation should be developed and introduced as a result of the findings in the report.

The report encouraged the Legislature to develop a flood management plan and find ways to limit development along floodplain land.

Though the report suggested that cooperative measures from the standpoint of preventing future damage and correcting existing problems would help, it warned flooding will always exist along major rivers.

"Too often the public is unaware that a flood control project, which provides a certain degree of protection from floods in a limited area, is not a project which will eliminate floods," the report states. "People erroneously feel that a flood

control project will provide unlimited protection from all floods.

"Experience in the United States has shown that property values increase greatly in areas of protected flood plain and when unpredicted floods occur in excess of the flood protection limits of a project, the damage and hazards to life and property are often greater than would have occurred if the project had not been constructed."

The 1969 report concluded there were several methods "to keep

man away from flood water." Among them were zoning, subdivision regulations, and building codes.

Main suggestions encouraged government to acquire property within the floodplain through a combination of nego-

tiated purchase, condemnation, or gift.

In addition, the report suggested locating public facilities outside the floodplain to draw private development away.

In response, the 1969 Legislature passed a law that would encourage local units of government to develop flood management plans, working in conjunction with surrounding communities and state planning agencies.

Two years later, a 1971 interim report from a subcommittee on flood control claimed the Legislature provided the right mechanism with the 1969 law, particularly with regard to Minnesota residents' ability to obtain federal flood relief. But the measure required many different local, state, and federal agencies to work together, which was not happening.

"In the judgment of the subcommittee, the flood plain problems of the Minnesota — and other rivers — will not be solved until some degree of harmony can be brought into river management planning by all levels of government with basic direction and policy being provided by the state," the report said.

The report encouraged the state to take a more active role in planning dam systems and other flood mitigation methods, so local communities could have an adequate voice. In addition, the state needed to do a better job educating the local governments about the federal insurance and other resources available.

(M.KIBIGER)



A bridge at Granite Falls during the 1969 flood.

## ★ CONSUMERS

### No chardonnay at the checkout

Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) withdrew her bill to allow the sale of wine in grocery stores March 29, an unexpected move after an aggressive lobbying effort. The action effectively killed the legislation for this year.

HF1025 had been approved by the Liquor Subcommittee of the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee but was stopped without a vote by the full committee.

After complimenting Sykora on her professionalism, Committee Chair Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) drastically changed his tone, saying he was disgusted with the way liquor lobbyists had harassed and threatened members.

Davids said he used to be a "no vote" on the bill, but now is "a free market" with regard to the proposal.

Making final comments on her bill, Sykora contended that people are stressed for time, and that floral shops, bakeries, and pharmacies, which exist in many grocery stores, still flourish in independent shops.

She maintained her bill was "a responsible proposal." HF1025 would put tight restrictions on the sale of wine in grocery stores of at least 10,000 square feet, including identification checks on every purchase, annual compliance checks, and a theft management program in every store.

Opponents claimed the legislation would increase alcohol availability to youth, would increase drinking in society as a whole, and might harm the business of independent liquor stores.

The bill is technically alive for the biennium and could be reconsidered sometime during 2002.

## ★ CRIME

### Felony DWI costs

The House State Government Finance Committee approved a bill (HF351) authorizing a felony drunken driving penalty April 3 after amending out the only financial implication to the committee's budget.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), would create a felony drunken driving penalty for offenders who receive a fourth conviction within 10 years. The bill provides a maximum penalty of up to seven years

in prison and up to a \$14,000 fine, or both.

The bill has now passed through three committees and will be sent to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

Committee Chair Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) offered the amendment, which would distribute a \$138,000 annual cost to counties for appeal services provided by the Attorney General's office.

The amendment instructs the attorney general to bill the county in which the offense occurred for the cost of its services for felony drunken driving offenses. Payments would be issued from nearly all counties outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Attorney General's office handles felony appeals for most Greater Minnesota counties.

Stanek said he "doesn't feel one way or another" about the amendment.

Rep. Mark Thompson (DFL-New Hope) asked if counties may intentionally "not find" any drunken driving offenses due to a tight budget. Paul Skoggin, representing the state County Attorney's Association, said a county would probably keep the appeal quiet rather than submit it to the Attorney General's office.

Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth) said he was opposed to the amendment even though it wouldn't affect his district, because it would be shifting the cost from the state to local governments, therefore increasing the property tax, he said.

"We should try to keep those costs down," Jaros said.

Jaros also wanted to know if there was a "less damaging and less costly way to deal with this."

"The purpose of the legislation is to say (drunken drivers) have had three chances to deal with (law enforcement) and they continue to drive while intoxicated," Stanek said. "We're not looking to lock up people for a long, long time. We want them to know the state of Minnesota is taking this seriously."

### Animal cruelty measure

Responding to what one legislator described as an increase in the number and severity in incidents of unkindness to animals, legislators are bringing forward legislation to increase criminal penalties for those convicted of animal cruelty.

Rep. James T. Clark (R-New Ulm) is sponsoring HF1330 to create increased penalties for repeated or especially severe cruelty to animals. He told an April 3 meeting of the House Crime Prevention Committee that current law provides only for misdemeanor penalties for animal cruelty. The committee approved the measure and referred it to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

He said 31 other states have created animal



Tessa, a German Shepherd service dog, lies at the feet of her owner, Tom Heintz of the American Council of the Blind of Minnesota, as he testifies for a bill making it a crime to kill or harm animals trained to assist persons with disabilities. His testimony was during a hearing an April 3 meeting of the House Crime Prevention Committee.

cruelty felony penalties and seven others are doing so now.

HF1330 specifies that engaging in torture that results in "substantial bodily harm" is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year imprisonment and a fine up to \$3,000. A second violation within five years would be a felony, carrying up to a two-year prison sentence and \$5,000 fine.

That same penalty would be imposed for torturing a pet to the point of death or "great bodily harm," defined as "creating a high probability of death, or which causes serious permanent disfigurement, or which causes a permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or other serious bodily harm."

Acting on an initiative by Rep. Scott Wasiluk (DFL-Maplewood), the committee amended HF1330 to create especially severe penalties for cruelty to service animals, such as seeing-eye dogs. Torturing, killing, or causing great bodily harm to a service animal would carry up to a four-year prison term.

Clark said his bill would "direct courts to look at psychological or behavioral counseling," especially for cruel juveniles.

Keith Streff, a humane agent for the Animal Humane Society, said current penalties are ineffective deterrents. "I clean cats out of microwaves, and people just ask me 'What's it going to cost me?'" he said.

The Animal Humane Society wrote a letter of support, citing a "well-documented link between animal abuse and violence towards humans. Early intervention and penalties for violence against animals can often prevent further crimes towards people."

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) expressed doubt that increased penalties can prevent undesirable activity. "I have yet to see any evidence that increasing penalties decreases instances (of crime)," he said.

### Grants for crime prevention

A bill that would appropriate \$1 million in the 2002-03 biennium for Asian-American juvenile crime intervention and prevention grants will be considered by the House Judiciary Finance Committee for its omnibus bill.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Sheldon Johnson (DFL-St. Paul), was heard by the committee April 3.

The intent of the bill, Johnson said, is to allow agencies providing services to Asian-American youth and their families to continue bridging inter-generational gaps that often lead to truancy, gang violence and crime.

Naly Yang from the Women's Association of Hmong and Lao told the committee that many of the people she works with are struggling to



**Naly Yang, with the Women's Association of Hmong and Lao, testifies before the House Judiciary Finance Committee April 3 in support of a bill that would provide grants for Asian-American juvenile crime intervention and prevention.**

be good parents while working long, irregular hours.

Yang said she remembers how strong the influence of the gang world and running away is on young Asian people in the Twin Cities. She said she tries to help her younger cousins who are going through those same things.

"The issues of crime and violence are very real," she said. "It's a very, very easy decision to make."

Yang's organization particularly works with parents to help guide them through the school system and legal system. Sometimes they only need referrals.

David Zander from the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans emphasized the need for Asian-born social workers in the state to deal with some of the cultural boundaries. Yang agreed.

"Theories that people apply (as) social workers do not always work on our people," she said.

The state has been providing funding for Southeast Asian nonprofit organizations for many years. For the upcoming biennium, the Department of Public Safety will administer the grants, and therefore the programs fall under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Finance Committee.

## ★ EDUCATION

### Assistance for advanced classes

Advanced placement and international baccalaureate teachers and students might get a little help from the Legislature.

Since 1992, the state has assisted with teacher training and student testing fees for the programs except during the current biennium. Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), sponsor of HF1862, is hoping to regain \$2 million in each year of the 2002-03 biennium.

Seagren is chair of the House K-12 Education Finance Committee, where HF1862 was heard April 4. It will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

The bill explains the need for both advanced placement and international baccalaureate programs: "These programs, in addition to providing academic rigor, offer sound curricular design, accountability, comprehensive external assessment, feedback to students and teachers, and the opportunity for high school students to compete academically on a global level."

Teacher training for both programs is critical, the bill states. In addition to teachers, the bill has added language to include "other interested educators," which would likely be school administrators.

Marlys Peters-Melius, director of advanced placement programs at the Department of Children, Families and Learning, said administrators were added to interest principals or superintendents in the training so they may be prepared to better inform students who want to take advanced placement courses.

Advanced placement and international baccalaureate teachers, as well as other educators wanting to receive training, must first enroll at a college offering the program and would later be compensated. Support would be available on a first-come, first-served basis, but Peters-Melius said colleges are instructed to hold spaces for beginning teachers and then admit teachers who have already had some training in the area.

### Second committee deadline approaches

With about five weeks left in the 2001 legislative session, members are facing the second of three committee deadlines this week.

All bills must be through policy committees in both the House and Senate by Wednesday, April 11. The Legislature will break for the Easter and Passover holidays from Thursday, April 12 through Monday, April 16. House committees will not meet until after noon Tuesday, April 17 and the House will meet in session at 3 p.m. that day.

The final deadline, when all omnibus finance bills must be approved by committees, is Wednesday, April 25.

## Special education funding requested

The House passed a resolution April 2 urging Congress to fulfill its promise to fund 40 percent of the cost of special education.

Rep. Andrew Westerberg (R-Blaine), sponsor of HF456/SF647\*, told House members that the lack of funding is “hurting our education system,” explaining that Minnesota has to subsidize education funds to afford special education expenses.

“The resolution will go a long way in filling those holes in funding education,” he said.

Federal allocations for special education funding have averaged 13 percent annually for the past few years.

The bill reads: “Over 25 years ago, the federal government required states to provide children with disabilities an appropriate education, and for 25 years, the government has failed to meet its promise to pay 40 percent of the cost.”

“Our intent is to call upon Congress to make good on their promise,” Westerberg said.

The House passed the resolution with a 123-1 vote.

Sen. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) sponsored the bill in the Senate, where it received a 64-0 vote March 5.

The bill now awaits the governor’s signature.

## Levy clarification

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) is seeking to clarify one of the sources of funding for public schools.

He says many property taxpayers assume a large portion of overall levy, called the general education levy, is set by local school districts, when it is actually set by the state.

Biernat, the sponsor of HF1907, presented the bill April 2 to the House K-12 Education Finance Committee. It was referred to the House Taxes Committee without recommendation.

He said he wants to change the perception of the tax from the “misconception” that local school boards are changing this property tax when the reality is the state sets the levy amounts.

The bill does not raise taxes or change the amount a district can levy, but would create an additional line item on tax forms, indicating the state sets and collects this levy.

On average, the general education levy is about one-half of a person’s education tax dollars. Other education tax dollars are levied and collected by districts. References for the general educational levy would be renamed the statewide school property tax levy.

“It will show that Minnesota has a high percentage of state education funding,” Biernat said.

The way the tax is now set allows the Legislature to avoid accountability, he said. “As long as we have school board’s to blame, we don’t take a close look at our actions.”

## Pesticide manager defeated

Finding several problems with a bill that would create a “school pest management coordinator,” the House Education Policy Committee defeated the measure April 3.

Under HF1529, sponsored by Rep. Kathy Tinglestad (R-Andover), a “point person” at each school would apply or supervise the application of nonrestricted pesticides, and would belong to a registry of coordinators managed by the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture. The coordinator would receive information and instructions for pesticide use.

The Senate companion awaits action of the floor of that body.

The committee first found problems with the bill where it states the school pest management coordinator must be an employee of the school. Paul Liemandt of the Agriculture Department said 75 percent of schools in an informal survey reported they had a person to designate for the task.

But Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said he has small schools in his district, including parochial schools, which have few employees. In some cases, volunteers tend to the school’s lawn. He said he knows of two schools that would be out of compliance with law because they couldn’t afford a pest management coordinator.

“I don’t think the bill is as flexible as you want it to be,” Seifert said.

Liemandt said the coordinator could be a principal or someone in charge.

After some discussion, the bill was amended to only require school districts to have a coordinator, hence excluding nonpublic schools.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) offered a successful amendment to delete the registry from the bill to “get rid of some expensive bureaucratic hassle.”

Members then began questioning the need for the bill. Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) pointed out a law passed last year requires parent notification when the school uses pesticides.

“This would help schools with the legislation we gave last year,” Tinglestad said.

“This is already in law,” said Rep. Rob Eastlund (R-Isanti) “Why do we need a statute?”

Tinglestad said she carried the bill as a courtesy to the department. “My experience with pesticide issues has concluded,” she joked.

Tinglestad said Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights), the only committee member who spoke in favor of the bill, could carry it next year.

## Reading competency

Using a successful pilot program as a model, a bill heard in the House K-12 Education Finance Committee would replicate the reading competency program in schools throughout the state.

Committee Chair Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), sponsor of HF1136, said she is impressed with the statistical findings of a St. Croix River Education District model that presented its results to the committee March 30. Using the model, Taylors Falls Elementary School far surpassed its target rate of words correctly read per minute.

“St. Croix wants to spread this training and assessment model to other sites because of the phenomenal success they have had,” Seagren said in an e-mail interview.

HF1136 aims to ensure Minnesota’s children are able to read by the end of the third grade as measured by state testing. It would award \$2 million in grants in each year of the 2002-03 biennium to three districts that could distribute funds to at least 50 sites, a portion of those to have one-fourth of students in kindergarten through third grade eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. The St. Croix district would receive one-half the funds each year.

The bill requires clear goals of grant recipients, who “must reach an agreement with a site on the reading results the site will achieve over a three school year period and on the assistance with reading competency the grant recipient will provide.”

Former Department of Children, Families and Learning Commissioner Bob Wedl, representing the Minnesota Consortium for Evidence in Education, said what needs to change is the instruction process between teachers and students.

Reading competency needs to be measured three times each year, he said, by one-minute “tests” where students read aloud.

Sherryl Johnson, principal of Taylors Falls Elementary School, said these practices do work. The reading competency program measures the same cohort of students instead of different groups.

“We know exactly where our students are,” said Pat Almos, reading specialist at Hinckley Elementary School. She told committee members she can’t imagine going back to the former methods and not having the data they have now.

HF1136 will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee’s omnibus bill.



## Special education spending

Two bills that would appropriate funds for adult basic education (ABE) special needs aid were heard April 4 by the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee.

ABE provides educational opportunities for adults who lack basic academic skills and need specialized education to help them find and keep employment.

"Many ABE participants would qualify for special education if they were in school," said Carlye Peterson, ABE director for the Minneapolis Public Schools. "These are not supplemental services, they are essential services."

HF2188, sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), would appropriate \$700,000 per year for ABE supplemental service grants.

These grants would be available to nonprofit organizations statewide for services not offered by a district ABE program, such as the training of ABE teachers and volunteers, provision of interpreters, and adapted technology.

"Many of the people who serve our learners are volunteers, and to ask them to pay for their own training could be burdensome," Peterson said.

In previous years, these services were fully supported through federal money. That funding source ended in 2000 and the state picked up the loss, but the allocation was not included in the governor's budget for the coming biennium.

HF2274, sponsored by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights), includes a provision that matches Leppik's bill but McGuire's bill goes further to include an appropriation for \$250,000 per year for ABE special needs aid.

It would also extend telecommunications access grants and provide funding of \$180,000 per year to pay for 60 percent of the costs of general equivalency diploma (GED) tests.

The telecommunications grants would go to make information, courses, and degrees available to more people across the state, especially in Greater Minnesota where access to educational resources is more limited.

The GED testing reimbursement program would make it easier for students to complete the test by paying for a portion of their testing fees.

"Some of us go on to post-secondary education, some even end up in a chair like this," said Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth), referring to his personal experience of obtaining his high school diploma through adult basic education. "These dollars will be well spent."

## EMPLOYMENT



### Nontraditional training

Women trying to get off welfare face the problem that most jobs for which they are qualified pay too little to support them and their children.

Helping women find opportunities in non-traditional, higher paying careers is a goal of Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of HF23. His bill was approved by the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee April 4 and will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

HF23 would appropriate \$1 million for the 2002-03 biennium for grants for nontraditional career assistance training programs.

It would also direct the commissioner of economic security to require those employment and training programs that receive state funds to inform women about careers in the trades and technical occupations.

"These are jobs that pay very well," Mullery said. "They get people into a livable wage situation in just a few months."

Ethel Washington went from welfare to being the first African-American woman in the state to get an electrician's license. Through a similar program to that in Mullery's bill, she

attended Minneapolis Technical College for two years, and received an electrical apprenticeship within one week of graduation.

"I received \$621 a month from AFDC," Washington said. "As an apprentice I took home \$621 a week after taxes. Now, I take home close to \$900."

"I see a significant difference in my life and the lives of my children because of my nontraditional job," she said.

## ENVIRONMENT



### Let sleeping logs lie

A law passed last year that allows the commercial removal of sunken logs from Minnesota lakes has stirred up more than the muck on lake bottoms.

"We have concluded the costs to the public are much higher than the benefits to either the public or the contractor," said Michelle Beeman of the Department of Natural Resources.

A bill that would impose a moratorium on the removal of sunken logs was heard April 3 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

HF1491, sponsored by Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji), addresses concerns of the DNR and lake associations that raising century-old logs may cause environmental damage. The bill was approved and sent to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

The bill would do two things. First, it would require the department to cancel contracts already made for log removal and refund the application fee. Second, it would establish a pilot project, to be conducted by the DNR, to study the effects of contaminants that might be released from disturbances to the lake bottom.

The bill would appropriate \$100,000 for the pilot project. Some of the contaminants under study would include mercury, nitrates, PCBs, phosphorous, and blue-green algae. A peer-reviewed report would be due to the Legislature by Jan. 1, 2003.

"We believe the results of the study will prove environmental destruction with long-term negative effects," said Pat Delmore, speaking for the Lake Plantagenet Association.

Beeman said the department would prefer to cut its losses. "Our perspective is to repeal and prohibit," she said.

Craig Waddell, a logging contractor who would be affected by the moratorium, said his tests showed no more turbidity from pulling up a sunken log than from pulling up an anchor.

"I'm astounded that we're discussing this again," Waddell said. "There's 10,000 years of

## PREVENTING GANG MEMBERSHIP

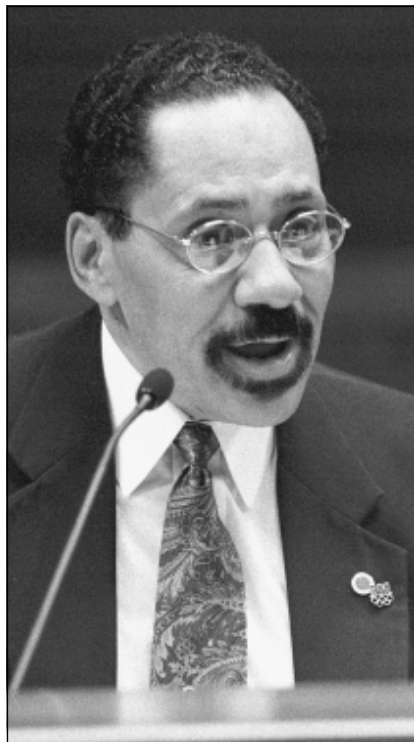


PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Boys & Girls Club Board Member Wendell Butler testifies before the House Judiciary Finance Committee April 5 in support of a bill that would authorize a pilot project grant for gang prevention and intervention.

history out there. It's the last unexplored area of the state."

Fuller said the questions that have been raised need an answer. "Otherwise every time we go to another lake we'll have to answer these questions all over again," he said.

### Minnesota River State Trail

The House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee approved a bill March 29 that would establish a multi-use trail along the Minnesota River Valley from Big Stone Lake State Park to LeSueur where it would connect with the Minnesota Valley Trail.

"This trail has been under discussion since the 1930s," said Geoff Hathaway, from the Minnesota Trails Initiative. "It's time for this legislation to move forward."

HF1073, sponsored by Rep. James T. Clark (R-New Ulm), would appropriate \$1.4 million from the general fund to the commissioner of natural resources to establish the trail. The bill was approved and sent to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

Hathaway said the goal is to connect a series of state parks and wildlife areas along the river under the auspices of the Department of Natural Resources.

The Minnesota Trails Initiative has been working on a segment from Montevideo to Granite Falls. Other groups are working to connect their communities with nearby state parks. The proposed trail would connect these segments.

Work would proceed over a number of years on a section-by-section basis. The total costs are not known at this time. Funding would come from foundation grants as well as state and federal funds.

Supporters of the trail include the McKnight Foundation, the National Audubon Society, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Minnesota Horse Council.

A group of property owners opposed to the bill said they were frustrated because they had not been involved in the planning process. "We are not opposed to a bike trail," said Donna Halvorson. "We are opposed to the route they want to take."

Mark Wegner, comptroller of the Twin Cities and Western Railroad Company in Glencoe, also spoke in opposition to the trail, citing safety and liability concerns.

"I'd be happy to work with the landowners and the railroad," Clark said. "This should be a positive thing for these communities."

## GOVERNMENT



### Census chatter

Minnesota's minority population nearly doubled during the past decade, but the state's percentage of minorities is still far below the national average.

According to the recently released United States Census data, the share of the state's minority population grew from 6.3 percent in 1990 to 11.8 percent in 2000. Nationally, minorities comprise 30.9 percent of the population.

"We're substantially more diverse than in 1990 but substantially less diverse than the rest of the country," State Demographer Tom Gillaspy told the House Redistricting Committee April 3.

Gillaspy said data from those who listed a single race on their census forms indicates that the state's Hispanic population grew by 166 percent. The number of Asians grew by 87 percent, the African-American population by 81 percent, and the number of American Indians by 8 percent.

This census was the first that allowed people to identify themselves as members of multiple races. Gillaspy said 1.7 percent of census participants chose the multiple race category, and the percentage increases for those that selected that category are all higher when compared to the single race category. For example, the number of those saying they are part American Indian increases to 57 percent.

The fastest growing region of the state was the suburban area surrounding Minneapolis

and St. Paul. Cities such as Eden Prairie, Eagan and Woodbury saw large population increases during the 1990s.

Gillaspy said one of the surprises from the census was that Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth all saw population increases. He said most officials had predicted a drop in the number of people in the state's three largest cities. The increase reversed trends of a half-century when Minneapolis hit its population peak in the 1940s, and St. Paul in the 1950s.

Rochester is now the state's fourth largest city, but Gillaspy said part of that growth can be attributed to annexation activity that occurred in the 1990s.

Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), the committee chair, said he expects the committee will develop the principles and standards that will be used in drafting the redistricting bill later this month.

### Contract changes

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill April 2 that would clarify what constitutes a conflict of interest in state purchasing contracts.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

HF1379, sponsored by Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), would define an "organizational conflict of interest" when a vendor is unable, or potentially unable, to render impartial assistance or advice to the state because of existing or planned activities or because of existing relationships.

### DRUG DEMONSTRATORS



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Charlotte Fisher of Sauk Rapids, right, wears a top hat with her hands full of money to portray "big drug companies," while Lorraine Schreyer of Bloomington wears a pill bottle during an April 4 rally for affordable prescription drugs in the Capitol Rotunda.

The new definition further clarifies that a conflict would exist when the vendor's objectivity in performing the contract work might otherwise be impaired or when a vendor has an unfair advantage over others vying for the contract.

Kent Allin, an assistant commissioner with the Department of Administration, said the bill partially addresses an issue that arose last fall when the Federal Transit Administration required the Metropolitan Council to re-bid a contract involving the Minneapolis light-rail project. In that case, the selected vendor worked as an interim project manager and may have had an unfair competitive advantage.

The bill would make other changes to the state's purchasing laws, including increasing the threshold amount from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for instances when a state agency is required to go through the formal contracting process. The bill also would increase from \$10,000 to \$75,000 the value of a contract that requires a performance and payment bond from the contractor.

Allin said that 328 out of 2,300 professional technical contracts in 2000 went through the formal bidding process and they would fall under the threshold proposed in the bill. He said likewise 2,015 commodity contracts out of 424,000 would have fallen beneath the \$50,000 amount proposed in the bill.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) said he was concerned that by allowing more informal contracts to be executed between state agencies and vendors, there was potential for increased instances of conflicts of interest.

Allin said there was a "slight increase" in the chances of misuse of the process but state agencies are currently having a difficult time finding qualified contractors, especially in the information technology sector.

## ★ HEALTH

### Limiting family planning services

The House Health and Human Services Policy Committee voted March 29 to approve a major health measure that will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

HF1581, sponsored by Committee Chair Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), includes an array of health-care programs and appropriations that legislators have considered this session.

But at this meeting, testifiers and committee members focused on two related provisions: the prohibition of state funding for non-profit organizations that provide family planning, and the exclusion of medical or

contraceptive services from the governor's \$10 million-a-year teenage pregnancy prevention program.

According to the state Department of Health, 32 percent of family planning grants now go to non-profit community clinics. HF1581 would redirect that funding to local governments.

"This takes money away from programs that work and gives it to cities and counties, many of which have no experience in this area," said Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth). "I don't see why we would want to do this."

Arguing his intent was to narrow the focus, Goodno said the original bill had a "shotgun approach," and he preferred to "specifically target certain areas."

Sections of the bill are aimed at health care disparities by making block grants available to community organizations. Money for family planning is specifically excluded.

Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls) protested these exclusions. "Let the people in the community decide for themselves where to put this money," she said.

"Family planning clinics prevent a large number of teen pregnancies," said Michael Resnick, director of the National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Research Center at the University of Minnesota. "Availability of contraceptives and clinic services do not increase the number of sexual partners or cause an earlier age of first sex."

"I want to know that the values I teach as a parent aren't going to be undermined when some clinic sets up down the street," said Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan).

"Clinics make every effort to connect young people back with their parents," Resnick said. "If that isn't possible, they connect them with another responsible adult."

"We will pay now or we will pay later," he said. "If we pay later, we will pay much, much more."

## ★ HIGHER EDUCATION

### Aid for grades

Students willing to take challenging courses in high school may be entitled to more financial aid for college, under a plan heard by the House Higher Education Finance Committee April 4.

Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington) is sponsoring HF2226 as a way to encourage high school students who take advanced placement and international baccalaureate classes to attend a post-secondary institution in Minnesota. It will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

Her bill creates a new post-secondary grant program that will be funded with a 1 percent allocation of the appropriations for the state grant program. A grant "may be made for a maximum of four years or until the student receives a baccalaureate degree," the bill states.

To be eligible for the funding, a student must attend a four-year college or university following high school graduation. They must also achieve a score of three or higher on five or more advanced placement exams for full-year courses or achieve a score of four or higher on five or more international baccalaureate exams for full-year courses.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), a former teacher, said sometimes his top students would attend a two-year college initially after high school. He asked if this could be expanded to include those institutions. Seagren said she is open to the idea.

Marlys Peters-Melius, director of advanced placement and international baccalaureate programs at the Department of Children, Families and Learning, said approximately 210 high schools in Minnesota offer advanced placement programs and 11 have international baccalaureate programs, with four or five more expressing an interest. The advanced placement numbers represent about one-half of the state's high schools. She said 7-10 new schools have been added during the past few years, but more students are taking advanced classes.

"Students want this type of rigorous academic experience," said Stu Lade, advanced placement coordinator at Brainerd High School.

Seagren said the bill would help the workforce situation in Minnesota. She said Wisconsin offers a similar program because officials believe students attending college in that state will remain after graduation. She said officials with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities report that 84 percent of their graduates stay in the state.

Peters said about 80 percent of international baccalaureate students and 60 percent of students taking advanced placement classes stay in Minnesota for college.

No cost was given, as appropriations are yet to be made, but Peters said giving each qualifying student \$1,000 would cost about \$230,000 in year one, increasing to \$1 million annually by year four.

### Math help

Officials with the Minnesota Talented Youth Math Program are used to working with numbers. Now they seek more money from the state.

HF428, sponsored by Rep. Bob Gunther

(R-Fairmont), was held over April 4 for consideration in the House Higher Education Finance Committee's omnibus bill.

Funded by \$40,000 from Minnesota State University, Mankato, the program allows students in south central Minnesota to take math classes at an accelerated rate. The program began in 1983.

The 60 students now in the program spend two hours per week in class and then do five to 10 hours of homework each week. Starting in grade six, students take full Algebra I and II classes in one year, followed by geometry in the second year, and advanced algebra and precalculus in year three. In years four, five, and six students take Calculus I, II, and III for university credit. Less than 1 percent of the student population qualifies for this program.

Program Director Quintin Pettigrew said a classroom of students meet with an instructor in Mankato with interactive television classes set up in Fairmont, Madelia, Blue Earth, or Owatonna, depending on the class.

"We'd like to see the program available in all of rural Minnesota," Pettigrew said. "We want this available to students in Pipestone and International Falls, as well as the Twin Cities and Rochester." Larger metropolitan areas have a similar program funded through the University of Minnesota.

Expansion plans call for interactive television links at 21 sites, which would allow students in more than 100 school districts the opportunity to take part. Districts included in that number are within one hour of the interactive television site.

The bill requests \$250,000 in fiscal year 2002 and \$318,000 in fiscal year 2003 to expand the program statewide. Pettigrew expects 350 to 400 participants once the program is fully implemented.

Richard Rush, president of Minnesota State University, Mankato, said the university will be unable to fund the program in coming years due to its own budget constraints.

Jon Ostrem, deputy to the chancellor for legislation and policy of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, said their board has not taken a position on the bill.

"This program would help with workforce development," Gunther said, noting many new jobs in the state will require "lots of math mastery."

If you have Internet access, visit the  
Legislature's web page at:  
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

## ★ INDUSTRY

### Taconite plant loan fund

A request for a \$100 million revolving loan fund for taconite plant capital improvements might sound shockingly high. The same could be said for the industry's expenses: \$2 million for a dump truck; \$4 million for hydraulic shovel; and \$6 million to \$7 million for a conveyor.

Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) is sponsoring a bill to ease some of the financial strain on Minnesota mining companies. Under HF1736, presented to the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee April 2, mining companies would submit proposals for capital improvements to the Department of Trade and Economic Development. The maximum duration of the loan would be 30 years.

"Banks are not very friendly to people in our industry right now," said Charles William, vice president of Forbes-based EVTAC Mining.

William was referring to the nearly 1,400 steel worker layoffs within the past year, mostly from LTV Steel Mining Co. in Hoyt Lakes, which declared bankruptcy. The entire United States steel industry is under stress, however, due to other countries illegally selling steel in the U.S. below cost, he said.

"A bill of this type sends a strong message to our bankers or lenders that the state of Minnesota is supportive of this industry and willing to take a chance on it," William said.

During 2000, mining companies on the Iron Range spent \$68.5 million on capital products, Bakk noted. Now, parent companies are strapped for cash and can't invest in improvements necessary to provide a good product.

Under the original bill, the loan was interest free. However, Committee Chair Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) offered an amendment to charge interest on the loan "at a rate set by the commissioner." McElroy reasoned other business loans managed by the department charge interest, usually at a rate below market. The amendment was approved.

Rep. Dale Walz (R-Brainerd) asked what changes would be needed to make Minnesota's steel companies more competitive with other countries.

The real solution to today's problems, Bakk replied, can only be solved in Washington D.C.

Gov. Jesse Ventura recently signed a resolution to send an official message to President George W. Bush requesting that his administration immediately investigate the illegal sale of steel products in the country.

Bakk hopes the Bush administration will heed the resolution "to make sure we're on a level playing field with the rest of the world."

The bill will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

### Radio requests heard

Public radio stations took their turn testifying about HF218, a bill which proposes to completely cut funding.

Sponsored by Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview), chair of the House State Government Finance Committee, HF218 proposes to cut more than \$100 million from the governor's total recommendations for state agencies.

Minnesota's two public radio groups — the Association of Minnesota Public Educational Radio Stations (AMPERS) and Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) — testified to the committee March 29. Both received a recommendation for their base allocation from Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Krinkie asked AMPERS representatives what would happen if they receive none of their \$640,000 base funding request for the 2002-03 biennium. Barry Tilley, a lobbyist for AMPERS, said he doesn't know if some of the association's 13 stations would go off the air, but it would put additional strain on all stations, including some that are already stressed.

All stations, ranging from jazz to classical to college rock, are community-based, non-commercial radio stations. Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park) said it is the only place to hear some types of music. "It serves a need," he said.

Ventura did not recommend funding the AMPERS request of a \$150,000 biennial increase in their base primarily to cover expenses related to the conversion from analog to digital broadcasting. The association's request for \$174,000 in equipment grants would also contribute to the conversion.

"It's a process of becoming digital, because when the system becomes digital we'll have to be ready," said Maggie Montgomery, president of AMPERS.

Minnesota Public Radio broadcasts news and information that reaches 98 percent of state. Their request to the state only pays for capital expenses; MPR covers operating expenses through donations from approximately 90,000 members.

The \$814,000 base request includes \$614,000 for a generator in St. Paul and \$200,000 for a new tower in Bemidji.

The generator, explained Don Heppelmann, co-chair of the Minnesota State Emergency Communications Committee, is needed for emergency messages for local, national, or international emergencies. There is a federal mandate to receive the signal, he said.

The committee has taken no action on the bill.

## LAW

### ★ Permit measure heads to floor

A bill that would change the way concealed weapons permits are issued and require holders to be certified has made its way to the House floor.

HF1360, sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), was approved by the House Judiciary Finance Committee March 29 and by the House Ways and Means Committee April 2.

The bill would require sheriffs in Minnesota to issue a concealed weapon permit to people within 15 days of application as long as they do not fail a background check. In addition, it would require that each permit holder be trained in firearms safety and receive re-certification upon each renewal.

Existing law gives sheriffs and police chiefs discretion regarding whether the applicant actually needs to carry a concealed weapon publicly. Sheriffs would be the sole granting authority for permits under the bill.

The bill also creates a statewide system that keeps track of all the people legally permitted to carry a concealed weapon.

HF1360 provides a \$45 fee for new permit applications, \$35 of which would go to the state. Permits would have to be renewed every three years at a cost of \$15, \$3 of which would go to the state.

Those costs are higher than reflected in the original bill.

In addition, the bill has been amended to grandfather in existing permit holders. They must still re-apply when their permits expire, but Boudreau said they would come in gradually over the course of the first year rather than all at once.

Boudreau said officials anticipate 50,000 permit applications the first year and 20,000 each subsequent year. She said fees would cover the costs of administering the bill, though an up-front appropriation of \$1.6 million is required to begin.

In the Ways and Means hearing, Committee Chair Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) asked whether sheriffs will be able to conduct accurate background checks, given that there are several thousand criminal records in suspense that do not register in the state system.

"I find that troubling," Boudreau said, "a problem I'm hopeful that we can find a way to correct."

Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) expressed concern whether the bill's fees will cover costs, especially given the fees for other state permits and licenses.

"We ask people to pay more for a fishing license than we are for obtaining a gun

permit," she said. "I'm not sure I'm comfortable going in that direction."

## ★ RECREATION

### Skol Vikings

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill April 4 that would establish a task force to study issues relating to a new football stadium for the Minnesota Vikings and University of Minnesota.

The bill that was approved by a 13-5 vote now goes to the House floor.

HF2241, sponsored by Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring), would create a 17-member task force composed of six legislators, five members appointed by the governor, two members appointed by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, two representatives of business interests and two representatives of labor interests.

There would be no state money involved in funding the task force. The task force would issue its report by Oct. 31, 2001 after studying issues related to proposals to construct a new facility.

The committee adopted an amendment offered by Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) that



Mike Kelly, left, executive vice president of the Minnesota Vikings, testifies April 4 before the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee for a bill that would establish a panel to review proposals and make recommendations for new sports facilities. Richard Pfitzenreuter, associate vice-president of the University of Minnesota's Office of Budget and Finance, sits to his right.

would require at least one member of the task force represent views of those who oppose either a direct state appropriation or tax incentives for a new stadium.

Stang said it was important for the Legislature to be involved from the beginning of the process since ultimately lawmakers are going to have to decide if public money will be spent on a new stadium.

Mike Kelly, executive vice president of the Vikings, said the goal is for the new facility to be flexible enough to accommodate other events such as soccer, high school athletic events, and a national tournament like the NCAA Final Four men's basketball event.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) said a new study was not needed because a study commissioned by former Gov. Arne Carlson was done five years ago and every city that eventually has funded a sports stadium began its process with a study.

Krinkie said the study was just the first step in finding a way to come up with public funding for the stadium.

"We all know this study could be conducted by the Vikings without legislative involvement," he said. "This is not just the camel's nose under the tent. This is the camel in the tent."

Krinkie also was critical of the university being involved in the proposal since it has 10 years left on its Metrodome lease.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) said he has opposed public funding for stadiums in the past but the study would ensure that the Legislature be involved in "every inch of this thing."

"If the bill was proposing even 10 cents of taxpayer funds I'd be leading the charge against it," Osskopp said.

### Mississippi Whitewater Trail

An urban whitewater trail created by the Legislature in 1998 is ready for the next stage of development.

A bill that would provide pre-construction funding for the Mississippi Whitewater Trail was heard by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee April 2.

HF1269, sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), would appropriate \$683,000 — about one-half of which would be earmarked to secure federal funding of \$1 million. The bill will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus finance bill.

The trail, to be built below the Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis in the lower St. Anthony Falls area, will run through a river channel bordered by a newly created island across from the University of Minnesota steam plant. This channel will be 2,000 feet long and 40 feet wide with a vertical drop of 25 feet.





**Bill Tilton of the Mississippi Whitewater Park Development Corporation uses a drawing April 2 to show members of the House Environment and Natural Resource Finance Committee where the 2,000-foot long, 40-foot wide whitewater channel along the east side of the Mississippi River would be located below the Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis.**

The re-creation of a rapids below St. Anthony Falls will be controlled by a headgate so water levels can be adjusted for different activities and levels of skill. The trail will accommodate whitewater rafting, canoeing, and kayaking for people of all skill levels. Plans include the creation of a green space along the trail with walkways, picnic areas, and a fishing pier.

A feasibility study projected an economic impact of \$2 million to \$2.5 million annually.

The overall cost of the trail and surrounding park is estimated to be about \$15 million. Federal funding of \$10 million has already been authorized for the design and construction of the trail under the Water Resources Development Act of 2000.

"This is both a recreational project and a river restoration project," said Bill Tilton, chair of the Mississippi Whitewater Park Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization that has spearheaded the project. "It gives us a chance to get back to the falls."

The park and trail would be managed by the Department of Natural Resources. "This is a new kind of venture for us," said Dennis Asmundson, of the DNR Trails and Waterways Division, speaking in support of the bill.

## ★ TAXES

### Check again

Because the topic is taxes it might be tempting to throw material received in the mail from the Department of Revenue into a drawer. But sometimes that doesn't pay off.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) said he is sponsoring HF1357 on behalf of a develop-

mentally disadvantaged constituent who received a \$193 property tax refund check from the department and promptly filed it away only to rediscover the check three years later.

Under current law the right to the property tax refund lapses if the check is not cashed within two years after it is issued.

McElroy told the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division March 29 that his bill would allow the department to re-issue tax refunds to an individual taxpayer who demonstrates there is reasonable cause to do so.

The bill also would require the department to report to the Department of Commerce any tax refund checks more than one year old that have not been cashed so they can be listed as unclaimed property.

According to the Department of Revenue, 1998 property tax refund checks totaling \$549,000 have yet to be cashed and have thus lapsed. For the 1999 sales tax rebate, checks worth a total of \$458,000 have not been cashed.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) asked the likelihood of uncashed checks of large amounts still being out there, making the possible cost of the bill unexpectedly expensive.

McElroy said the bill is limited to personal refund checks and does not apply to businesses.

The committee adopted an amendment clarifying the "reasonable cause" standard that would allow the department to re-issue a check. In the original bill, the criteria were based upon "the disability or diminished capacity of the taxpayer, extreme hardship, or other good cause."

The committee took no further action on the bill, but Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the division chair, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

## High school savings

In the past few weeks, thousands of fans have made their way to St. Paul to watch the many high school athletic tournaments that take place in March. Some might have been surprised at the cost of tickets.

The House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division heard two bills March 29 that would exempt events sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League from sales tax.

HF960, sponsored by Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), and HF1686, sponsored by Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester), would expand a current sales tax exemption on regular season games to regional and state tournament athletic and academic competitions.

According to information provided by the high school league, \$491,645 was the amount of sales taxes collected between July 1999 and July 2000. Attendance at those events during the same time period was more than 500,000 people.

Milbert said there was no good reason for differing treatment in current law that exempts regular season games but taxes tournament games.

"This is a very significant and unexpected expense for a family. It is very reasonable of us to remove the discrimination," he said.

Kuisle said he talked with his brother, who is a high school athletic director in Rochester, and said the sales tax exemption would generate enough savings to allow the school to hire an assistant coach.

"The cost is getting almost prohibitive in going to these events," he said.

Although both bills were similar, the Department of Revenue preferred the language of HF1686; therefore, Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) said it would be considered further for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

## Preferred rate

Existing state tax law provides that the value of land is based on its "highest and best" use.

The House Taxes Committee heard a bill April 3 that would establish the "Minnesota Environmental Preservation Property Law" that would allow certain property owners to apply for preferential valuation of their land.

Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee), the sponsor of HF2121, said the bill's provisions were patterned after the state's current Green Acres tax program.

That program allows owners of certain agricultural land to pay property taxes on the land based on agricultural use rather than the commonly higher market value.

Daggett said several property owners in

Otter Tail County received a letter from the county assessor informing them that in determining the value of their property containing lakeshore or river frontage, the influence of that water frontage had to be taken into account.

Previously that frontage had not been considered due to the size and use of the property.

Daggett said the lakeshore involved was more of a slough or swamp and that the body of water could not be used for recreational purposes.

In order to qualify for the lower valuation provided in the bill, the land would have to be homesteaded by the owner, his or her spouse, or a child of the owner. The bill also requires that the property owner has owned the land for at least seven years prior to the application for benefits.

Land that qualifies for the program would have to consist of forestland, woodland, meadowland, slough, or a wasteland. The revenues derived from the property in the previous year could not exceed \$5 per acre and would have to continue to be less than \$5 per acre in each year that the property is enrolled in the program.

Jenny Engh, an assistant commissioner with the Department of Revenue, said the department is concerned about equity issues that could occur because the taxes would be shifted onto other properties within the jurisdiction.

Keith Carlson, a lobbyist for the Metropolitan Inter-County Association, spoke against the bill saying it would provide tax reductions to individuals who own an asset that is rapidly appreciating.

The committee took no action on the bill, but Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### 'Modernizing' waterways

The full House adopted a non-binding resolution urging Congress to authorize federal funding "for the modernization of waterways" during the April 4 floor session.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) sponsored the resolution, which neither appropriates money, nor changes state law. It does encourage Congress to spend millions of dollars updating the "Upper Mississippi River System."

Workman emphasized that HF208 has received the support of U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar (DFL-Chisholm). "(He) believes this should be distributed and passed in all states around the Mississippi River."

Workman explained that one barge can carry the same load as 58 trucks, and that waterway improvements could therefore remove traffic from more expensive highways.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) offered an amendment that would have included language encouraging Congress to appropriate funds only after "a thorough and completed review of the scientific and economic data regarding the lock and dam system."

Countering assertions by proponents that the matter had been sufficiently studied, Kahn said doubt had been cast upon a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' study promoting waterway expansion. She said a member of the Corps had been fired after publicly denouncing the study's methodology and that several independent analyses concluded waterway companies had unduly influenced the results. "We want Congress to consider accurate information," she said.

Workman, who chairs the House Transportation Policy Committee, and Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee, each denied having studied alternative strategies for increasing river traffic volume, the ultimate goal of additional expenditure.

### LIVING DONOR



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Randall Callies of Stillwater tells the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee April 3 how he donated a kidney and strongly urges them to pass a bill requiring employers to give paid leave for organ donation.**

Kahn suggested Congress examine the using better equipment and scheduling as ways the shipping industry could improve its efficiency without requiring increased spending.

Workman accused opponents of trying to forestall waterway expenditure indefinitely with disingenuous calls for study. "I'm not the most fiscally conservative member in the body," retorted Kahn. "But this is like throwing money into the river to see if the problem goes away."

In the Senate, the bill awaits a hearing in the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

### Railroad quiet zones

Cities and towns may soon have the option of creating railroad "quiet zones" within which locomotives would be forbidden to blow whistles. Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) is sponsoring HF595 to "try to make it clear that local communities can make quiet zones."

He told a March 30 meeting of the House Transportation Policy Committee meeting that some local jurisdictions declined to create such zones out of concern that doing so would violate the law. The committee approved the bill and referred it to the House Transportation Finance Committee.

Also of concern is that quiet zones might require the construction of expensive traffic barriers at railroad intersections with streets. The bill would permit local governments to spend county state-aid and municipal state-aid funds to buy, construct, and install grade crossing signals and barriers on county state-aid highways and municipal state-aid streets.

Brian Sweeney of the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railroad endorsed the bill. He explained that forthcoming federal rules would soon require locomotives to sound their horns at every public intersection other than those designated "quiet zones."

Ozment said that decisions about railroad quiet zones under his bill should and would be "between local communities, railroads, and the federal government."

### Lifetime trailer registration

A plan to limit the number of times a person must pay for registering a trailer with the state will be considered for possible inclusion in the House Transportation Finance Committee's omnibus bill.

At the April 2 meeting, committee members evaluated a proposal that would allow owners of trailers weighing 3,000 pounds or less to register them for the life of the vehicle. Currently those trailers must be registered

with the state every two years with the fee based on total gross weight.

Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville) is sponsoring HF1281, which would provide for a one-time registration tax of \$55 for trailers when registered in the state for the first time.

The bill provides that the tax for a currently registered trailer is \$25 if the owner wishes to register it for the remaining life of the trailer.

If an owner does not want permanent registration, the first biennial tax is \$10 through June 30, 2003. After that, trailers must be issued permanent registration at the first opportunity, at a cost of \$20, according to the bill.

For owners of trailers whose registration does not need to be renewed until after July 1, 2003, the tax would be \$20 and permanent registration must be issued.

The state Department of Transportation estimates that income from trailer registration would exceed \$20 million in the upcoming biennium, more than double the figure that would be collected if lifetime registration were not adopted. Projected revenue under the proposed change would remain greater than revenue under the current system until approximately 2020. In that year, the two trailer registration plans are forecast to generate the same revenue.

Driver and Vehicle Services, a subdivision of the Department of Public Safety, released a statement explaining official support for the bill. "The change will simplify the registration process for owners, provide a more efficient system for collecting taxes, as well as reduce staff time needed to process registrations," it said.

Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Wells) predicted that permitting one-time registration could jeopardize long-term registration revenue. "Some states did it, and are sorry," he said.

Committee Chair Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) reassured Kalis, saying the Legislature could raise registration fees on approximately 800,000 such trailers in Minnesota.

### Shifting left

Drivers on roads with more than one lane in the same direction might soon be required to move left when passing an emergency vehicle parked on the right shoulder.

Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester) is sponsoring legislation in memory of Minnesota State Patrol Cpl. Ted Foss, who was killed during a routine traffic stop on Interstate 90 near Lewiston in August 2000. Foss was speaking with the occupants of a minivan he had just pulled over when a semi-tractor trailer slammed into him and the minivan.

At the April 3 meeting of the House Transportation Policy Committee, Kuisle described HF801 as "an attempt to look at a serious situation." The bill was approved and now moves to the House floor.

The bill would also permit drivers on two-lane roads to move into the left lane while passing stopped emergency vehicles. Under existing law, drivers may operate vehicles on the left side of a road only to pass or to avoid a road closure.

"As vehicles get bigger and bigger, it gets harder and harder to see officers along the side of the road," Kuisle said. He added that police officers are especially concerned about drivers unable to see officers around large trucks and sport utility vehicles.

Failing to move over into available lanes would be a petty misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$300. If the same offense

endangers people or property, it would be a misdemeanor punishable by 90 days in jail and up to a \$1,000 fine.

### ALCOHOL MONITORING



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

A device that electronically monitors alcohol levels is displayed before the House Crime Prevention Committee April 5 as Stephen Simon, director of the DWI Task Force, testifies for a bill that would fund a study of electronic alcohol monitoring recidivism and conditional release violation rates.

## Minnesota's U.S. Senators

### U.S. Senators

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# Stopping trafficking

Legislators propose grants for local law enforcement to curb the growth of clandestine methamphetamine labs in Minnesota

BY MICHELLE KIBIGER

**W**hen a 12-year-old girl stumbled upon a portable methamphetamine lab in the woods near Baxter a couple summers ago, Rep. Dale Walz (R-Brainerd), the police officer the girl's father called, was thankful that it hadn't been a young child who found it.

A smaller child, Walz testified at the April 3 hearing of the House Judiciary Finance Committee, might have tasted the volatile chemicals, which can kill if ingested.

Walz says that because methamphetamine can be so easily made, labs are popping up across the state and the problem is getting out of hand for law enforcement. He proposed a bill (HF1777) intended to buffer some of the costs local governments incur when they have to take down a meth lab, investigate the case, and prosecute the perpetrator.

"Law enforcement has to get on top of it," Walz said. "The only thing we can do is control it, and the only thing I can think to do is appropriate money to local governments to control it."

However, other members are concerned that by appropriating money for local law enforcement to complete specific types of investigations, such as gang strike forces, narcotics enforcement, and others, the state is merely setting up a series of specialized police forces.

"I guess it's old fashioned to think that the sheriff would have enough money to do all law enforcement," said Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester).

Walz's bill would appropriate \$1.096 million during the 2002-03 biennium in the form of grants to local law enforcement for the purpose of paying costs related to clandestine methamphetamine labs. The money could be used for increased law enforcement or investigation costs and training courses, materials or public awareness campaigns.

According to the bill, the money could not be used to clean up a lab site or dispose of the chemicals seized. In addition, it could not supplant local spending related to labs.

The bill provides that grants be distributed in a balanced manner among rural, suburban, and urban drug task force agencies. Most of the state's counties participate in the statewide narcotics task force.

Statistics show that nationally, law enforcement seized eight times as many labs in 1999 as they did in 1995. In Minnesota, agencies seized 13 labs in 1995, compared to 134 in 2000.

Tim O'Malley, special agent with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, testified that through March 26, agencies in the state had seized 62 labs, placing them on a track to seize as many as 300 statewide this year.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Duluth Police Chief Scott Lyons testifies before the House Judiciary Finance Committee April 3 in support of a bill that would provide methamphetamine lab law enforcement grants.**

O'Malley said methamphetamine manufacturing has progressed gradually from California to the Midwest in recent years. It settled first in Missouri and spread quickly to Kansas, Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois.

It's now spreading north to Minnesota, O'Malley said, because Iowa officials have been successfully curbing behavior with public awareness campaigns and enforcement methods.

As a result, meth "cookers" are moving north.

Recipes are relatively easy to obtain. In fact, step-by-step instructions are available on the Internet. In addition, those who make the drug successfully tend to share their success with others.

Duluth Police Chief Scott Lyons testified that an important part of the bill allows for the money to pay for public awareness campaigns. He said law enforcement needs to inform discount and hardware stores, where many of the ingredients for methamphetamine manufacturing are available, to watch out for people buying large quantities of certain materials.

In addition, law enforcement agencies need to educate the public about what goes into the manufacturing process, in case they stumble upon a lab, like the girl in Walz's district did.

Lyons said there are so many methods — both hot and cold — that a lab can literally pop up anywhere.

"It's like a hotdish," he said. "There isn't one specific way to make methamphetamine."

The costs associated with taking down a clandestine lab are difficult to determine, O'Malley said, because of the variables that exist. He said the clean up alone can cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000 per lab. However, each case requires different levels of investigation, prosecution, and involvement of different government agencies.

Each lab bust requires 40 trained law enforcement officers, O'Malley said. Sometimes they obtain the help of a chemical assessment team from the state to determine what is in the lab, and the damage associated with it. Fire crews often stand by in case of fire or explosion.

If children are involved, the Department of Human Services comes along.

If the lab is self-contained and has not

**Continued on page 22**

# Educating teachers

Licensure programs at three colleges recruit minorities to teach minorities

BY THERESA STAHL

**A**fter a few years of teaching, Roxanne Glawe considered leaving the St. Paul school system — maybe even teaching altogether.

Many of her students needed intensive reading instruction, a high level of consistency in the way they were taught, and teachers who were empathetic and didn't come and go each year. It was a demanding environment that caused many teachers, including Glawe, to burn out.

Then Glawe decided to participate in the Center for Excellence in Urban Teaching, a 20-credit series of classes at Hamline University that aims to increase the number of new minority teachers and help teachers of any background succeed in urban or urban-like classrooms.

Completing the certificate program helped Glawe understand poverty, diverse ethnic groups, and how to make diversity a benefit rather than a problem. She emphasizes that she has higher expectations for her students now, and as a result they perform at a higher level.

Glawe said all teachers who work in an urban environment need some type of training similar to what the center offers.

"It's so frustrating to watch teachers treat kids in ways they shouldn't," she said. "It's young teachers without much experience who get hired in urban settings. We need to make them positive influences and get them to stay in the profession."

Hamline's program, which started in 1998, offers graduate-level courses to new and veteran teachers to help them, like Glawe, become more effective in urban-like settings. Two other programs at colleges in the Twin Cities metropolitan area have similar missions, one at Concordia University-St. Paul and the other at the University of St. Thomas.

A bill (HF1890), sponsored by Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), would distribute \$2.7 million to the programs in the 2002-03 biennium: \$500,000 each year for Concordia,

\$450,000 each year for St. Thomas, and \$400,000 each year for Hamline.

"The need for teachers like these is growing all around us," said William Staley, director of Concordia's program. Staley testified April 2 to the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.

Concordia's Southeast Asian Teacher Licensure program, with enrollment at 37 people, has surpassed expectations of its founders, according to preliminary analysis. Ten to 15 graduates are expected each year, and the first seven graduates are teaching in metro-area schools.

Irene Jelacic, principal of Parkway Elementary School in St. Paul, wrote a letter to Seagren in support of the legislation. Nearly 50 percent of Parkway's students are Southeast Asian children, she said. Jelacic hired three new Hmong teachers from Concordia's program in 2000.

"The Concordia students come to us

well-prepared academically, and they are exceptional teaching candidates," she wrote. "They are also wonderful role models for our students."

St. Thomas' Collaborative Urban Educator program places people of color in urban or urban-like public elementary or middle schools, and offers specialized programs in science and math education licensure. Nearly two-thirds of program participants are African-American, one in five is Asian, and one in nine is Hispanic. The program has licensed almost 200 people from under-represented populations.

Marcus Moten is currently student teaching as an intern from the St. Thomas program at Washington Middle School in St. Paul. An African-American man, he said he has been educated in both an all minority, or black, classroom and a predominantly white setting.

"Now with me being in the classroom, I can see that I am having a really different impact on a lot of the students," he wrote to Seagren. "I have noticed that some of the kids who are labeled as 'problems' are following the directions that I am giving them without

Continued on page 22



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

A bill being considered by the House K-12 Education Finance Committee, would support teaching programs to help new teachers better understand cultural and social differences in urban school settings, like this third-grade classroom at John A. Johnson Achievement Plus Elementary School in St. Paul, being taught by See P. Vang.



# Tort reform

Legislators seek to amend civil case law that some say is unfair to defendants

By JONAS M. WALKER

Acting on one of the most contentious and long-standing, yet least commonly understood legal issues, the full House adopted a tort reform measure March 29 by a 68 to 62 vote.

HF369, sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), would modify the system of joint and several liability, which permits courts to hold defendants in civil actions responsible for a greater share of a plaintiff's cost than the proportion of damage for which they are responsible.

Bills such as HF369 are known as "tort reform" because they amend the civil law system used to compensate those injured by the actions of others. A tort is defined as "a private or civil wrong, other than a breach of contract, for which the court will provide a remedy in the form of an action for damages."

Under the House bill, defendants found liable for 40 percent or less of the damages in a civil case would be responsible for only the percentage of the plaintiff's damage that they caused. Current law sets that proportion at 15 percent.

The following scenario demonstrates how the changes in HF369 would affect a civil case.

Three defendants are found 55, 35, and 10 percent at fault, respectively, in damaging a plaintiff.

Current law would allow the court to order both defendants one and two to compensate the plaintiff for up to 100 percent of the damages. Because the third defendant is less than 15 percent at fault, he or she could be held accountable for up to four times their actual liability. In this case, defendant three could be ordered to pay up to 40 percent of damages.

Courts would do this generally when defendants one or two were unable to pay or had inadequate insurance coverage. No more than 100 percent compensation of a plaintiff's actual damage can be awarded. However, plaintiffs are still eligible for additional funds awarded to punish defendants or compensate plaintiffs for pain or emotional distress.

The bill maintains existing law regarding environmental torts, but eliminates a provision preventing government entities from

being ordered to pay more than \$300,000 per person or \$1 million per incident. Joint and several liability is upheld for persons committing intentional wrongs.

Ideally, courts would only order compensation proportional to the amount of each defendant's fault. But given that many defendants are unable to adequately meet the financial demands on their own, for example due to inadequate insurance, courts sometimes

Legislators have struggled to balance the need to reasonably compensate victims with the desire to not unduly burden defendants who may only be marginally at fault.

In Bishop's original version, defendants found less than 50 percent responsible could be held liable for no more than their proportion. Those more than one-half at fault could have been required to pay for all damages.

Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) proposed amending that figure to 40 percent during floor debate. He summarized the tension expressed by many legislators. "Do we err on the side of the victim and make a new victim, or do we err on the side of the defendant and fail to make the victim whole?"

Bishop sponsored the same amendment on an identical bill two years ago. He later explained he supports the amendment because he wants to ensure the bill's success. Last year, the House approved the measure but the Senate declined to follow suit.

This year, Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) is sponsoring the Senate version, SF629. It has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which as of April 4 had not taken any action on the matter.

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*"Do we err on the side of the victim and make a new victim, or do we err on the side of the defendant and fail to make the victim whole?"*

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—Rep. Joe Opatz


order other defendants to compensate victims beyond their own proportional fault. This is to prevent injured people from having to pay expenses unfairly incurred to them because of others' negligence.

Critics of joint and several liability point out the unfairness that defendants can be held liable for more than their share of a tort.

Regarding that point, the American Tort Reform Association wrote that "modern joint and several liability can be inequitable because a defendant with only a small percentage of fault can be liable for 100 percent of the plaintiff's damages. Joint and several liability leads to a search for 'deep pockets' and had made governments, large corporations, and other insured entities bear the greatest burdens of liability when their involvement in an injury is minimal."

Bishop's bill has been a target for criticism in part because of the difficulty in predicting its economic impact. He said the Department of Finance was unable to forecast the impact to Minnesota because doing so would require forecasting the number of lawsuits.

Some representatives objected to the bill's failure to be reviewed by any finance committee, arguing that state and local governments could be required to cover costs, which would no longer be born by defendants.

However, the chair of the committee most likely to have an interest, Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee, opposed both the bill and two attempts to refer it to his committee. "This is bad public policy, but I see no fiscal impact," he said. 

## Tax transformation

Legislators are considering a plan that would allow voters to have a mechanism to vote down property tax increases

BY DAVID MAEDA

Some consider 1971 as the year of the “Minnesota Miracle” in which a major reform to the state’s tax system was passed into law.

At the heart of the change was a reduction in the reliance on local property taxes with a corresponding increase in sales and income taxes and increased state funding for education. As a result, the state became the primary revenue collector and local units of government became more reliant on state aid to meet their needs.

Now some lawmakers are revisiting issues of local control and accountability as the state once again considers changes to its tax system.

The House Taxes Committee heard a bill April 4 that would attempt to provide more accountability to local spending decisions by allowing voters to have a direct mechanism to vote down property tax increases.

HF2160, sponsored by Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), would allow voters to request a reverse referendum when a county or city adopts a property tax levy that has increased over the certified levy amount for the previous year.

If the referendum were to pass, the previous year’s levy would be certified for the current year.

The bill only applies to counties or cities with a population greater than 500, and requires a petition be signed by a number equal to 5 percent of the votes cast at the previous general election before a referendum would take place.

The bill would also eliminate the requirement for cities and counties with populations less than 500 from holding Truth-in-Taxation hearings and exempt those with populations greater than 500 from holding a hearing if the property tax levy has not increased over its previous year’s levy.

The committee took no action on the bill, but it will be considered for inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Information provided that was compiled from state auditor reports shows a 90.8 percent growth in city expenditures from 1985 to 1996. During



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Rep. Bob Milbert, sponsor of HF2160, presents the bill that would allow voters to have a direct mechanism to vote down property tax increases. The bill was heard in the House Taxes Committee April 4.**

that same period, total state aid to cities increased by 62.5 percent and property taxes grew by 29 percent. The rate of inflation was 39 percent.

County expenditures from 1985 to 1996 increased 68.8 percent, while state aids to counties increased 48.9 percent and property taxes grew by 56.2 percent.

Milbert said that with the removal of levy limits last year local spending increased even more on top of city imposed fees that he said have grown at an alarming rate.

An owner of a water device business, Milbert said inspection fees are disproportionate with the cost of installation. The cost of installing devices such as water heaters and softeners is usually between \$50 to \$115 for a couple hours of work. A residential plumbing permit application from the city of Eagan shows a \$50 permit cost, a 1,000 percent in-

crease from the \$5 it cost 10 years ago.

He said the cost of inspection fees are “grossly unfair” considering it isn’t unusual for the inspections to last a matter of minutes and there is no guarantee to the inspection.

He said municipal fees are one reason that there is a shortage of building of affordable housing in the state.

“The public sector is doing a terrific job of driving up housing costs,” he said.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) said it wasn’t fair to blame local government for spending increases. He said the state too often mandates local spending such as increasing penalties for crimes without weighing costs of the legislation and without providing any more funding.

“We’re part of the problem. A lot of our laws are way too extreme and we’re not being honest about costs,” Rukavina said.

Keith Carlson, representing the Metropolitan Inter-County Association, said the current system already ensures accountability, because county commissioners must answer to voters.

He said a reverse referendum would complicate and delay an already lengthy process. Currently, the county budget and levy adoption process takes place from August through December. A successful petition to force a referendum would stretch the process through January, Carlson said.

He said county auditors already struggle to meet the March 31 deadline to mail tax statements and late mailings can affect the cash flow of local governments.

Kevin Corbid from the Association of Minnesota Counties said that property taxes are used to pay for too many things. He said Minnesota counties are responsible for the costs for child welfare programs and out-of-home health care costs more than any other state.

Corbid said that last year 80 new county commissioners were elected and that fewer are running unopposed—a sign that voters are paying more attention to local spending decisions.

Milbert said the trend towards city council terms being increased from two-year terms to staggered four-year terms, along with the increasing reliance on professional city management staff has also contributed to less accountability when it comes to the costs of local government.

“What do we have to fear about letting people who have to pay taxes the right to vote on increases?” he asked. 🐼

## Tracking new laws, vetoes

Once a bill has passed both the House and Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor, who has several options when considering a bill, can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill;
- or do nothing, which can have two different effects. The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is that the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor

doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of

the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

This information is also available on the governor's Web site ([www.governor.state.mn.us](http://www.governor.state.mn.us)). Select the "Legislative Initiatives" link, then click on "Legislative Log 2001."

Key:

CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
Res.1	219	258*	Resolution requesting a ban on the importation of certain steel products.	3/15/01	
1	34	28*	Teacher licensing under current licensure rules.	1/16/01	
2	421*	460	Energy assistance program federal fund expenditure authorized.	2/2/01	
3	213	201*	Physicians assistants infection control continuing education requirements repeal.	2/15/01	
4	181	43*	Adult foster care license capacity age requirement and maximum admissions variances.	2/28/01	
5	817	376*	City contract limit increases.	3/2/01	
6	106*	47	Minnesota agricultural education leadership council replacement members authorized	3/8/01	
7	656*	231	Revisor's Bill.	3/15/01	
8	80*	79	Coon Lake water level control.	3/16/01	
9	393*	155	Ramsey County and St. Paul employees allowed equal competition for county jobs in city-county departments.	3/16/01	
10	357	289*	Alcohol and drug counselors licensing requirements modified.	3/16/01	
11	487	433	Townships health, social, and recreational services contracts amounts increases.	3/21/01	
12	320*	399	Property casualty insurance agents surplus lines insurance procurement authority.	3/29/01	

\*The legislative bill marked with an asterisk denotes the file submitted to the governor.

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## Monday, April 2

### HF2354—Olson (R)

#### Education Policy

Teacher contract qualified economic offer labor requirements provided.

### HF2355—Hausman (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

St. Anthony Park nursing facility moratorium exception provided.

### HF2356—Bakk (DFL)

#### Higher Education Finance

Competitive bidding and prompt payment requirements extended to University of Minnesota.

### HF2357—Mariani (DFL)

#### Higher Education Finance

United family medicine residency program grant provided and money appropriated.

### HF2358—Nornes (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Vehicle registration 60-day exemption for new residents "residence" definition modified.

### HF2359—Stang (R)

#### State Government Finance

State government finance, budget, and highway bond provisions modified, and property tax reform account repealed.

### HF2360—Wasiluk (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Public Employees Retirement Plan exclusion provided specified trades employees.

### HF2361—Kubly (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 2190, Yellow Medicine, lease levy authorized.

### HF2362—Davids (R)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Resolution memorializing Congress to pass legislation requiring cigarettes that are less likely to start fires.

### HF2363—Gunther (R)

#### Transportation Finance

Previous local bridge replacement and rehabilitation funding usage expanded.

### HF2364—Mulder (R)

#### Education Policy

School start prior to Labor Day authorized for certain school districts.

### HF2365—McElroy (R)

#### Taxes

High technology business investment capital gains tax exemption provided, research and development activities credit refund provided, and money appropriated.

### HF2366—Harder (R)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Connected communities grants provided and money appropriated.

### HF2367—Ness (R)

#### Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

Agricultural products and production certification program established as permanent program, fees and licensing provisions modified, penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

### HF2368—Kuisle (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Olmsted and Dodge counties solid waste recovery facility grant provided and money appropriated.

### HF2369—Kuisle (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Olmsted and Dodge counties solid waste recovery facility grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2370—Wenzel (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 482, Little Falls, state aid repayment period extended.

### HF2371—Nornes (R)

#### Higher Education Finance

Independent School District No. 544, Fergus Falls, and Fergus Falls Community College joint grant provided for a tech center, and money appropriated.

### HF2372—Juhnke (DFL)

#### Crime Prevention

Feasibility of placing felony DWI offenders at existing surplus state facilities determined and cost-benefit analysis required.

### HF2373—Hausman (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Finance

Ramsey County nursing facility rate increase provided.

### HF2374—Rhodes (R)

#### Judiciary Finance

Clergy compensation provided for imparting religious rites or instruction at correctional facilities.

### HF2375—Erhardt (R)

#### Taxes

Deed taxes definition of consideration clarified.

### HF2376—Carlson (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Truancy reduction activities funding provided.

### HF2377—Pawlenty (R)

#### Higher Education Finance

University of Minnesota Excellence Commission established, report required, and appointments provided.

## Wednesday, April 4,

### HF2378—Paulsen (R)

#### Regulated Industries

Telecommunications access to multiple-resident dwellings provisions clarified.

### HF2379—Kielkucki (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Property owners reimbursed for damage caused by snowmobiles.

### HF2380—Sykora (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Reading program grants provided for school district Internet-delivered reading courses.

### HF2381—Stang (R)

#### Higher Education Finance

Medical education funding and endowments increased.

### HF2382—McElroy (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Building lease levy use expanded.

### HF2383—Seifert (R)

#### Taxes

School districts required to report lobbying and other expenditures used to support or oppose government-proposed initiatives.

### HF2384—Kalis (DFL)

#### Judiciary Finance

Town road maintenance revolving loan fund established and money appropriated.

### HF2385—Westrom (R)

#### Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

Feedlots; hog feedlots environmental issues study provided and money appropriated.

### HF2386—Solberg (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Genealogy researchers authorized to obtain certified copies of birth certificates for specified deceased individuals.

### HF2387—Daggett (R)

#### Taxes

Sebeka Fire Hall construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

### HF2388—Tuma (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Northfield nursing home moratorium exception provided and money appropriated.

### HF2389—Finseth (R)

#### Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

Agricultural processing revolving loan account established, germ and fiber recovery process funding provided at an existing ethanol facility, bonds authorized, and money appropriated.

### HF2390—Goodno (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Targeted case management services medical assistance coverage provided for services for vulnerable adults and persons with developmental disabilities.

### HF2391—Westrom (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Grant County Church Lake exempted from public access while in use for aquaculture.

### HF2392—Huntley (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Internet access catalyst grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF2393—Finseth (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Lottery ticket in lieu tax disposition modified, state forest land additions provided, land exchanges specified, and Roseau County consolidated conservation land sale authorized.

**HF2394—Winter (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Worthington nursing facility rate increases provided.

**HF2395—Hilty (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Cromwell emergency medical services special taxing district authorized for Carlton and Aitkin counties, and property tax levies provided.

**HF2396—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Judicial system obsolete references updated and repealed.

**HF2397—Daggett (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Maple syrup added to definition of agricultural products relating to property taxation.

**HF2398—Seifert (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Yellow Medicine County redevelopment tax increment financing district extension authorized.

**HF2399—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Pupil transportation categorical aid restored and money appropriated.

**HF2400—Rhodes (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Affordable housing county and municipal requirements provided and money appropriated.

## Thursday, April 5

**HF2401—Davids (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Ostrander wastewater treatment system construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

**HF2402—Pugh (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
State primary election moved from September to June.

**HF2403—Fuller (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Alcoholic beverages sales tax paid to counties, revenues dedicated to alcohol abuse-related costs of local governments, and money appropriated.

**HF2404—Abeler (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Early graduation and half-time school attendance provided for 12th grade students completing all standards, and general education revenue reallocated to all-day kindergarten.

**HF2405—Hilty (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Banning Junction area wastewater collection system construction materials and supplies sales tax exemption provided.

**HF2406—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Homestead property tax classification provisions expanded relating to family farms.

**HF2407—Ness (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Equity revenue definition modified to include small schools factor and money appropriated.

**HF2408—Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Nicollet County courthouse construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided and money appropriated.

**HF2409—Krinkie (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Ad valorem taxes on real and personal property prohibited and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF2410—Dempsey (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Hastings Veterans Home tunnel renovation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2411—Kuisle (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Southeastern Minnesota public safety radio system construction funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2412—Solberg (DFL)**  
**Judiciary Finance**  
Aitkin County homicide trials and investigations expenses reimbursed and money appropriated.

**HF2413—Boudreau (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Group residential housing monthly rates provided.

**HF2414—Otremba (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
United States Department of Agriculture financing program for cities, counties, and towns fund uses updated to include child care facilities.

**HF2415—Dorman (R)**  
**Taxes**  
General education tax rate reduced, property tax class rates reduced, market value homestead credit provided, and education homestead credit and education agricultural credit eliminated.

**HF2416—Kalis (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Minnesota Safety Council traffic safety training and education funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2417—Abeler (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Minnesota commission serving deaf and hard of hearing people funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF2418—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Cemetery registration required with health commissioner and money appropriated.


**HF2419—Davnie (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Housing program funding provided for new and existing programs, programs created, and money appropriated.

## Continued from page 16

contaminated the surrounding area, environmental impact might be relatively minor. However, if chemicals have been dumped down the drain or on land somewhere, or have otherwise escaped, the Pollution Control Agency gets involved.

In addition, the Department of Health might be required to determine whether the home where the lab was can be inhabited or requires further cleanup.

The state expects to get about \$2.6 million during the 2002-03 biennium in federal grants for drug task forces, as well.

Walz's bill will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill. 

## Continued from page 17

much argument. They are also doing the work that is being assigned and they seem to enjoy having me around to answer their questions.

"I believe just my presence at the school is helping the kids to realize that there is hope for them in the future to reach their goals as a professional."


John Dunham, an English teacher at Southwest High School in Minneapolis, wrote to Lillian Baker-Kent, executive director of Hamline's program, about what he learned in a class through a licensure program.

"The Real World, Social and Environmental Issues Affecting Urban Learners' (course) gave me useful insight into the backgrounds, poten-

tials, and needs of many of the high school students I teach in Minneapolis," he said.

Hamline's program offers courses such as: Framework for Teaching: Changing Paradigms to a New Way of Thinking, Seeing, and Doing; Literacy and Learning for Urban Students; The Roots of Violence; Linking the Urban Community to the Classroom.

"Because of this class," Dunham said, "my exposure to real life experiences of different cultural groups (in my case, African-American, Latino-Hispanic, and Tibetan students) has proved invaluable."

HF1890 will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill. 



Schedule is subject to change.  
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**(651) 224-6548 v/tty**.

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## MONDAY, April 9

7:30 a.m.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** HF1053 (Abrams) Private health care coverage regulations revised, specified regulatory controls transferred, and managed care plan requirements established.

HF1581 (Goodno) Healthy kids learn endowment fund established, health department provisions and programs modified, and money appropriated.

HF1123 (Mulder) Nonmetropolitan county prepaid medical assistance program capitation rates increased.

HF2373 (Hausman) Ramsey County nursing facility rate increase provided.

HF2394 (Winter) Worthington nursing facility rate increases provided.

HF1658 (Bradley) Long-term care revolving fund and loan forgiveness program created, nursing agency registration required and money appropriated.

**Note:** Meeting will continue after session in 10 State Office Building at the call of the chair.

8:15 a.m.

### CIVIL LAW

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF1898 (Holberg) Edvest, human rights intake, and automobile insurance financial data classified as nonpublic.

HF1704 (Larson) Bureau of Criminal Apprehension dissemination of certain juvenile data authorized.

HF1100 (Smith) Government Data Practices Act expanded to include metropolitan area towns.

HF490 (Kuisle) County economic development assistance application data designated nonpublic

until approved.

HF830 (Slawik) Ramsey and Washington counties property owner personal information disclosure notice continued.

HF440 (Knoblach) Probate; background investigations provided on guardians and conservators, access to data on maltreatment of vulnerable adults authorized, and court procedures and requirement authorized.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF1019 (Workman) State contract procedures modified, highway construction and maintenance bids and records posted electronically or over the Internet, seasonal highway weight limitations modified, and clarifying changes provided.

HF1938 (Kahn) Administration Department provisions modified.

HF2201 (Kahn) Bicycle commuting by state agency employees promoted.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** *Morning Hearing (8:15-10 a.m.) in Room 200 State Office Building*

HF846 (Clark, K.) HIV/AIDS general education in the workplace funding provided and money appropriated.

HF182 (Paymar) Neighborhood Development Center, Inc., entrepreneur training, operation, and staffing grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1631 (Mullery) Hennepin County Southeast Asian collaborative transitional employment training project funded and money appropriated.

HF1632 (Mullery) Blind; job assistance training provided for counselors for the blind, and money appropriated.

HF1726 (Sertich) Metropolitan economic development association grants provided and money appropriated.

HF2366 (Harder) Connected communities grants provided and money appropriated.

**Note:** Morning hearing will recess and reconvene in 400N State Office Building at 7 p.m.

*Evening Hearing (7-10 p.m.) in Room 400N State Office Building*

HF1311 (McElroy) Minnesota Money Transmitters Act established.

HF1859 (McElroy) Department of Economic and Workforce Development created; certain duties of the Departments of Trade and Economic Development, Economic Security, and Labor and Industry transferred, and money appropriated.

HF1293 (Davids) Public service commissioner's

remaining duties transferred to commissioner of commerce, light capacity scales inspection provided, unfair cigarette sales act administration transferred to commerce, and money appropriated.

HF1955 (Davids) Insurance producer licensure procedures and qualifications provided and criminal penalty prescribed.

HF1007 (Davids) Gas sales below cost prohibited and enforcement authority provided.

HF2258 (Lindner) Housing finance and development programs consolidated, loan forgiveness time period lengthened, tenant income limits eliminated, project-based rental assistance authorized, aggregation of earnings authorized, and technical changes provided.

HF1589 (Howes) Bid and performance bond thresholds modified for economic development projects.

HF2225 (Nornes) Workers' compensation technical provisions modified, special compensation fund interest revenue deposited in fund, pilot program extended, and penalties paid to Department of Labor and Industry.

HF422 (Seagren) Loan repayment program established to improve recruitment of excellent teachers in science, math, industrial technology, special education and in rural areas, and money appropriated.

HF1259 (Erickson) Fingerhut, Inc., of Mora employees provided extra unemployment benefits.

HF564 (Rhodes) Neighborhood home improvement loan pilot project established and money appropriated.

### TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** HF1365 (Dorman) Clean fuel use required in state vehicles, grants provided motor fuel retailers who install pumps to dispense cleaner fuel, and money appropriated.

HF51 (Goodno) DWI; maximum blood alcohol level lowered for impairment offenses involving driving motor vehicles, recreational vehicles or watercraft, hunting, handling explosives, or operating military vehicles.

HF1921 (Workman) Bus transit study authorized and bus transit way within part of the southwest light rail transit corridor prohibited.

HF595 (Ozment) Railroads; local governments authorized to establish quiet zones regulating or prohibiting locomotive warning devices.

HF2309 (Kuisle) Trunk highway project construction considerations clarified.

HF429 (Bakk) State agencies authorized to allow commercial wireless equipment on state-owned property, and money appropriated.

10:15 a.m.

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** HF1761 (Holsten) Stream protection and improvement loan program grant funding provided and money appropriated.  
HF1073 (Clark, J.) Minnesota river trail established and money appropriated.  
HF691 (Hackbarth) Motor vehicle transfer fee eliminated.  
HF2191 (Ozment) Local road wetland replacement funding provided and money appropriated.  
HF1612 (Kelliher) Water appropriation permit provisions modified and fees established.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** HF2377 (Pawlenty) University of Minnesota excellence commission established, report required, and appointments provided.  
HF2371 (Nornes) Independent School District No. 544, Fergus Falls, and Fergus Falls Community College joint grant provided for a tech center, and money appropriated.  
HF2290 (Opatz) MnSCU facilities acquisition provisions and prior St. Cloud State University capital improvements funding source modified. Witnesses: Laura King, Chief Financial Officer, MnSCU; Roy Saigo, President, St. Cloud State University; Kurt Kalm, Chair, St. Cloud State Foundation Board.

## **K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** HF2376 (Carlson) Relating to education finance; promoting school success through enhanced pupil attendance; providing funding for truancy reduction activities.  
HF1887 (Abeler) Relating to special education; establishing regional centers on autism-related disorders.  
HF2041 (Cassell) Relating to education; appropriating money for the commission on national and community service for the service learning program.  
HF2382 (McElroy) Relating to education; expanding the use of the building lease levy.  
HF2235 (Bakk) Relating to education; appropriating money for Independent School District No. 696, Ely, for a transitional transportation grant.  
HF2361 (Kubly) Relating to education; authorizing a lease levy for Independent School District No. 2190, Yellow Medicine East.  
HF731 (Pugh) Relating to education finance; increasing the funding for debt service equalization aid; lowering the property tax levy for new school buildings; appropriating money.  
HF2012 (Bernardy) Relating to education finance; increasing the state commitment to the debt service equalization aid program; lowering the initial local levy; fixing the equalizing factor to the average

statewide tax base; appropriating money.

HF1079 (Slawik) Relating to education finance; providing for a grant to school district No. 6067, Tri-District; authorizing state bonds; appropriating money.  
HF951 (Slawik) Relating to education; increasing equity revenue.

## **Property Tax Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

**Agenda:** HF1402 (Erhardt) Homestead, agricultural, and seasonal recreational property exempted from general education tax; property tax class rates reduced; homestead credit program established, school district levy computation modified, and money appropriated.  
HF2330 (Howes) Property tax payment by commissioner of natural resources required in counties having a reduced tax base due to acreage in state ownership.  
HF2295 (Mullery) Tax court jurisdiction provided in specified Hennepin County property tax cases.  
HF2397 (Daggett) Maple syrup added to definition of agricultural products relating to property taxation.

## **Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

**Agenda:** HF2237 (Bernardy) Expands the dependent care credit on individual income taxes.  
HF377 (Harder) Extends credit for taxes paid to other states to taxes of German Lander.  
HF2308 (Kuisse) Exempts purchases for certain road projects from sales and use taxes.  
HF2346 (Daggett) Provides an individual income tax subtraction for health insurance premiums.  
HF2261 (Daggett) Exempts certain sales to benefit certain charitable organizations from the sales and use tax; provides that certain employer distributions to persons who have made payroll or retirement deductions for combined charitable organizations are not lotteries.  
HF2387 (Daggett) Exempts the purchase of construction materials and equipment used in constructing a fire hall in the city of Sebeka from sales and use taxes.  
HF2176 (Milbert) Clarifies the taxation of certain nonmixed municipal solid waste disposed of in a landfill.  
HF2234 (Erhardt) Increases the maximum long-term care insurance credit, reduces the lifetime benefit requirement, and extends the credit to employers.

12:30 p.m.

## **FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** New Life Academy student presentation.  
HF680 (Rhodes) Relating to appropriations; Children, Families and Learning; appropriating money for a grant to provide transitional housing services.

HF2336 (Harder) Relating to family and early childhood education; modifying child care assistance employment eligibility.

HF2229 (Bernardy) Relating to education; early childhood; modifying the definition of child; establishing a pool of up to 2 percent of the annual appropriation to provide assistance to children age 14.

HF206 (Opatz) Relating to education; appropriating money for an after-school educational enhancement pilot program for low-income youth in the St. Cloud area.

HF2265 (Skoe) Relating to libraries; providing a grant for the Fosston Public Library accessibility project; appropriating money.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** Not in final agenda order.

HF2214 (Mares) Major league professional baseball stadium financed, private funding required, interest-free loans and temporary tax-free zone provided, site selection commission created, disposition of the Metrodome provided, and money appropriated.

HF1952 (Rhodes) Affordable housing requirements authorized in subdivision regulations, regulatory relief required to housing developers who voluntarily meet affordability thresholds, and money appropriated.

HF1146 (Ozment) Salt distribution stockpiles design, construction, and use requirements established.

HF2403 (Fuller) Alcoholic beverages sales tax paid to counties, revenues dedicated to alcohol abuse-related costs of local governments, and money appropriated.

Other business.

**Note:** The committee may hear other bills on Monday; watch electronic and paper bulletins. If there are bills not heard by 2:15 p.m., the meeting will recess and reconvene in 500N State Office Building after session, at the call of the chair.

## **REGULATED INDUSTRIES**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

**Agenda:** HF1817 (Workman) Utility facilities regulation modified in railroad rights-of-way.  
HFXXXX (Paulsen) Multiple dwelling unit complexes television services providers access rights clarification.

And other bills to be announced.

**After Local Government meeting, at the call of the chair**

## **Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

**Agenda:** To be announced.

3 p.m.

## THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

### TUESDAY, April 10

8 a.m.

#### \*\*\*NOTE TIME AND ROOM\*\*\*

##### TRANSPORTATION POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** HF1054 (Johnson); SF257 (Day) I-394 "sanelanes" use by single-occupant vehicles study and report required, and money appropriated.

HF852 (Howes) Motor vehicle filing fees modified and clarifying changes provided.

HF1728 (Workman); SF1986 (Kelly, R.C.) Transit assistance fund expenditures restriction; motor vehicle sales tax revenues allocation modification, constitutional amendment.

HF362 (Westrom); SF326 (Vickerman) Diesel fuel minimum biodiesel fuel content specified.

8:15 a.m.

##### EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** HF1015 (Mares) Family, early childhood, and K-12 education programs administrative and funding provision modifications.

##### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

#### \*\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\*\*

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF702 (Goodno) Local intervention grants for self-sufficiency formula modified.

HF918 (Ottremba) Alzheimer's Disease care facilities patient disclosures required, and money appropriated.

HF919 (Dawkins) Civil commitment definitions and procedures modified, patient rights specified, coverage and cost of care provided, voluntary consent procedures expanded, and court records sealed.

HF2345 (Abeler) Oral language interpreter services coverage required of health plans.

More bills may be added.

**Note:** If necessary, this meeting will continue past the normal meeting time of 10 a.m. and go no later than 12 noon.

##### JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** HF351 (Stanek) DWI; felony level driving while impaired offense established.

10:15 a.m.

##### CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

**Agenda:** HF2122/SF1711 (Leppik) Crime of counterfeit drivers license and identification cards and materials.

HF1289/SF1274 (Dawkins) Prostitution crimes aggressive initiative; increased criminal penalties; money appropriated.

HF1908/SF1297 (McGuire) Gunshot wound reporting requirement modified.

HF2291/SF1727 (Skoglund) Implementing an automated crime victim notification system.

**Note:** Additional bills may be added.

##### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** HF110 (Wagenius) Water quality standards risk evaluation and report required.

HF2306 (Jennings) Wastewater and drinking water funding requests coordinated and rulemaking authorized.

SF266/HF371 (Workman) Aggregate resource protection and development included in local government land use comprehensive plans.

HF877 (Bakk) Specified solid waste transfer station project repayment obligations waived.

HF1782 (Ottremba) Long Prairie River declared a canoe and boating route.

##### STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill. Section 12, Subd. 8, proposed budget for Department of Administration's Office of Technology.

HF260 (Stanek) Criminal justice information system improvements provided including fingerprinting, collection of aliases, and suspense file reporting, and money appropriated.

Additional bills may be added.

**Note:** Additional meetings may be scheduled outside of the committee's regularly scheduled meeting time.

##### TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF2127 (Pawlenty) Creates the Biomedical Innovation and Commercialization Initiative; provides a tax credit.

HF192 (Goodno) Authorizes special taxing districts for emergency medical services.

HF1806 (Knoblach) Allows St. Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, St. Joseph, and St. Augusta to impose a local sales and use tax to fund certain projects.

\*HF1451 (Larson) Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport expansion impact provided, airport mitigation planning authorized and airport impact zones established, mitigation fund created, and money appropriated.

\*This bill will be heard for informational purposes only.

**Note:** If the agenda is not completed, it will be continued at 3 p.m. in 200 State Office Building.

12:30 p.m.

##### AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** To be announced.

##### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** To be announced.

##### COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF1821 (Kuisle) Relating to commerce; allowing licensing exemption for certain sales of horse trailers and temporary sales of recreational vehicles.

HF322 (Rhodes) Relating to health; modifying the Minnesota Utilization Review Act.

HF1953 (Rhodes) Relating to housing; streamlining the residential development process; authorizing the state building official to have final interpretive authority of the State Building Code; authorizing the construction codes advisory council to establish a technical advisory group; requiring a report; establishing the State Building Code as the building standard for the state of Minnesota; authorizing municipalities to require developers to include affordable housing; modifying the requirements for adoption or amendment of zoning ordinances.

HF2362 (Davids) A resolution memorializing Congress to pass legislation requiring cigarettes that are less likely to start fires.

Other bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

##### REDISTRICTING

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Erik Paulsen

**Agenda:** Testimony on the Minneapolis and St. Paul Latino community.

##### Salary and Budget Subcommittee/ Legislative Coordinating Commission

400N State Office Building

Chr. Sen. Roger Moe

**Agenda:** Review/approve recommendations regarding compensation evaluation. Review/approve biennial budget proposal. Other business as approved by the chair.

**Immediately following the Salary and Budget Subcommittee meeting (approximately 3:15 p.m.)**

## **Legislative Coordinating Commission**

400N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Sviggum

**Agenda:** Report from the Subcommittee on Salary and Budget regarding adoption of compensation evaluation recommendations. Report from the Subcommittee on Salary and Budget regarding biennial budget proposal. Other business as approved by the chair.

**3 p.m.**

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**After Local Government meeting, at the call of the chair**

## **Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**4 p.m.**

## **\*\*\*NOTE TIME AND LOCATION\*\*\***

## **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** HF2298 (Clark, K.) Opportunities industrialization center programs funding provided and money appropriated.

HF2320 (Knoblach) Job training program grants made available to employers who hire qualified low-income graduates of nonprofit job training programs.

HF739 (Osskopp) Grand Excursion 2004 planning and promotion funded, and money appropriated.

HF675 (Swenson) West Newton reimbursed for costs of St. George community wastewater treatment system, and money appropriated.

HF932 (Swenson) Regional sludge management demonstration project appropriated money.

HF700 (Lieder) Ada 1997 flood recovery work bond interest reimbursement grant provided and money appropriated.

HF721 (Larson) Richfield redevelopment grants provided and money appropriated.

HF2011 (Dawkins) Urban Indian housing program funding provided and money appropriated.

HF2306 (Jennings) Wastewater and drinking water funding requests coordinated and rulemaking authorized.

HF2338 (Osthoff) St. Paul Port Authority customized job training funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1930 (Rukavina) Northeast Minnesota economic protection trust expenditures limited.

## **WEDNESDAY, April 11**

**7:30 a.m.**

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** HF1303 (Boudreau) Commissioner of Human Services authorized to collect drug rebates, medical assistance provisions modified, demonstration project for family services established, and MinnesotaCare coverage extended to Indian health service facilities.

HF812 (Bradley) Suicide prevention goals, programs, duties and studies required; mental illness transition plans established; provider payment adjusted; mental health services and treatment coverage requirements provided; and money appropriated.

HF1531 (Bradley) Young adult transitional services provided, community-based mental health services for adults increased, and adult rehabilitative and crisis stabilization provider qualifications and established.

**8:15 a.m.**

## **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** To be announced.

## **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** HF1725 (Gunther) WomenVenture business development programming grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1270 (Entenza) Currency exchanges, real estate brokers, real property appraisers, residential contractors, and collection agencies continuing education, fees, costs, duties, rights and recovery fund amounts regulated.

HF1789 (Lindner) Employment support services for persons with mental illness grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1799 (Sertich) Centers for independent living grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1872 (Marquart) Vocational rehabilitation facilities grant procedures technical changes provided.

HF1834 (Marquart) Breckenridge and East Grand Forks grants provided to reimburse temporary financing in anticipation of FEMA financing for 1997 flood recovery projects and money appropriated.

## **TRANSPORTATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** HF1306 (Howes) Minnesota Conservation Corps program and decorative forest products provisions modified, sustainable forest resources provisions repeal delayed, study required, civil penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

HF9 (Ruth) Motor vehicle sales tax revenue dedicated to highway user tax distribution fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1286 (Ruth) Traffic flow improvements funded to eliminate bottlenecks in metro area, at-risk interregional corridors outside metro area improved, annual reports required, and money appropriated.

HF1965 (Vandever) Greater Minnesota interregional corridor improvements, metropolitan area bottlenecks, and transit advantages funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1944 (Holberg) Light rail; special taxing districts created to finance operating costs of light rail transit.

HF1498 (Larson) Minneapolis and Richfield Highway No. 62 construction and reconstruction delayed and report required.

**10:15 a.m.**

## **CIVIL LAW**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF1169 (Dorman) Employer safety committee requirements modified and penalty limits for violations increased.

HF205 (Nornes) Gas theft from motor fuel retail business civil remedies provided.

HF1145 (Boudreau) Veterinary medicine cease and desist orders authorized.

HF661 (Stang) Accountancy act of 2001 established, rulemaking authorized, and penalties imposed.

HF2244 (Abrams) State funding of trial courts provided in unfunded judicial districts.

HF1256 (Holberg) Best interests of the child factors clarified relating to custody proceedings.

**Note:** Any unfinished business will be conducted at 5 p.m. in 500S State Office Building.

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** HF94 (Haas) Fish and game law gross overlimit violations criminal penalties established, and restitution values determined.

HF1591 (Ozment) Aquatic restoration grants authorized, administrative penalty orders provided for commercial aquatic activity, decoy regulations and turtle licensing modified, conservation law enforcement provided, and penalties prescribed.

**Note:** If agenda is not completed, the committee will reconvene after session in the Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** HF2241 (Stang) Stadium review commission established to evaluate sports stadium construction proposals.

## K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** HF2158 (Abrams) Met Council Transit funding.  
HFXXXX (McElroy) Abolishes the property tax levy for transit.  
HF697 (Holsten) Provides a class rate reduction for certain property bordering public waters.  
HF2339 (McElroy) Exempts current value of utility generation personal property from the general education levy; reduces the class rate on utility generation personal property; exempts certain new increased capacity and increased efficiency utility personal property from property tax; requires the PUC to adjust utility rates for reduced utility property taxes; establishes an electric utility generation attached machinery personal property tax replacement trust fund; provides for a rebate if an electric generation facility shuts down; authorizes issuance of bonds; provides a state guarantee on certain local bonds; appropriates money.  
HFXXXX (McElroy) Provides that certain personal property of an electric utility is exempt from taxation; provides state aid payments to replace the revenue loss by local governments; provides a state guarantee for certain bonds; appropriates money.

12:30 p.m.

## AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth  
**Agenda:** HF1763 (Olson) Relating to drainage by transferring a public drainage system to a public water management authority.

## FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD

**EDUCATION FINANCE**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey  
**Agenda:** To be announced.  
**Note:** The committee will reconvene in 200 State Office Building after session at the call of the chair.

3 p.m.

## THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

## THURSDAY, April 12

No committee hearings scheduled.

## FRIDAY, April 13

House offices closed.

# Reflections

The art of teaching is too often taken for granted. If not for teachers like Socrates, Plato, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Leonardo da Vinci, the creation of ideas and imparting them would still be in the Dark Ages of disbelief.

Of the 134 legislators in the House, 20 list their occupation as teacher or educator. While all become “teachers” to the general public by the end of session, lawmakers begin as students who must learn as they debate and decide what should become law.

Laws are the outcome of what lawmakers have learned through instruction, study, and commitments to voters. Not unusual are many legislators who on occasion initiate “teaching the class” during a House session to educate or clarify issues for their peers. Among them are: Reps. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul), Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), and Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown).

Others include Reps. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), and Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton).

Teachers — whether by profession or duty — are the very core and foundation of all society. Good teachers are passionate, caring, objective, fair, dedicated, and committed to imparting true and universal knowledge — not the propaganda of what they think truth should be.

Most teachers are unique idealists who are strongly dedicated to sharing and improving the knowledge of others. For example, New York teacher Ruth Morgan, through her own stamina and drive, got an entire senior class of near dropouts from the inner city to attend college.

Another example is House page Robert Cook’s professor of culture and mythology who had such a manic demeanor and passion for his job that he garnered strong writing skills and a love for the written word from most of the 22 students and a few slackers in the class.

Page coordinator Andrew Padula, who speaks Japanese, dedicated time in Japan to teaching English and grammar. Meanwhile, Susan Moore, reading coordinator at Rosemount Middle School, gets seventh and eighth-graders committed to noteworthy topics of importance to a larger world around them. Likewise, Kate North at Black Hawk Middle School in Eagan is devoted

to energizing creativity in her art students and others.

One of Minnesota’s first teachers, Harriet Bishop, came from Vermont in 1847 to educate Kaposia Indian youth and others in South St. Paul.

A long-time teacher of note, retired 83-year-old Ruth Bethel of Miami, Fla., nurtured thousands of wary students to lead fruitful lives.

Furthermore, today, Joyce Burnham of Pelican Rapids High School, gives speech students opportunities to learn more about lesser known women of Minnesota.

Many teachers are volunteers — like House staff members Edward Burdick and Patrick Duffy Murphy who teach the legislative process to new members and interns, or the father of a House staffer who taught his daughter to play golf, and another who gives free piano lessons.

Good and honest teachers are noble. They are to be held in high esteem and commended for their devotion and dedication to society.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society



A group of teachers poses for the camera circa 1900.



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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Local government lobbyist expenditures

Amount of dollars spent in 1999 by local governments in direct and indirect lobbying, .....	4,101,192
Increase over 1998, as percent .....	13.9
Dollars spent in 1998, in millions .....	\$3.6
Number of cities that directly employed staff and/or contracted with professional lobbyists, in 1999 .....	28
Amount they spent .....	\$1,038,130
Largest amount (Minneapolis) .....	\$213,501
Second largest (Richfield) .....	\$191,919
Number of counties that directly employed staff and/or contracted with professional lobbyists, 1999 .....	12
Amount they spent .....	\$907,960
Largest amount (Hennepin) .....	\$324,728
Number of school districts that directly employed staff and/or contracted with professional lobbyists, 1999 .....	10
Amount they spent .....	\$372,697
Number of metropolitan agencies that directly employed staff and/or contract with professional lobbyists, 1999 .....	4
Amount they spent .....	\$320,548
Largest amount (Metropolitan Airports Commission) .....	\$148,573
Amount paid in 1999 by local governments to associations that represented their interests .....	\$6,015,709
Numbers in 1998 respectively .....	\$5,488,216
Portion of the 1999 dollars spent on lobbying activities, as percent .....	24
In 1998 .....	24
Number of local units of government who relied entirely on their employees to represent them at the Legislature .....	7
Number that relied on contract lobbyists .....	41
Number that had both .....	6
Amount spent in 1999 on lobbying expenditures by associations representing local governments, in millions .....	\$1.8
Percent funded through dues of association members .....	77.8
Most dollars spent by a local government organization lobbying in 1999 (League of Minnesota Cities) .....	\$216,599
Second (Metropolitan Inter-County Association) .....	\$160,482
Third (Minnesota School Boards Association) .....	\$145,247

Source: 1999 Local Government Lobbying Expenditures report, Office of the State Auditor, March 2001.

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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

APRIL 13, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 15

In this issue:

BIODIESEL DEBATE

OBSELETE LAWS, TOBACCO ENDOWMENT, AND MORE

HF2420-HF2453



# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5  
Children • 5  
Crime • 6  
Development • 8  
Education • 9  
Employment • 10  
Energy • 10  
Environment • 11

Game & Fish • 12  
Government • 13  
Higher Education • 13  
Housing • 14  
Human Services • 14  
Immigration • 15  
Industry • 15  
Law • 16

Local Government • 17  
Metro Affairs • 17  
Recreation • 17  
Safety • 18  
Taxes • 18  
Transportation • 19

### FEATURES

**At Issue:** Education — A plan to increase student attendance and reduce truancy is being considered by the House K-12 Education Committee. • 21

**At Issue:** Government — Legislators have proposed a number of bills that would repeal obsolete laws and rules, ranging from the regulation of trackless trolleys to itinerant carnivals. • 22

**At Issue:** Health — Several bills proposing long-term goals for mental health care in the state are being heard in a House committee • 24

**At Issue:** Higher Education — Lawmakers are mulling a plan that would dedicate tobacco endowment funds to the University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center. • 25

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Minnesota nice	4	Committee Schedule (April 16-20)	28
Governor's Desk (CH13-23)	26	Reflections: Natural disasters	31
Bill Introductions (HF2420-HF2453)	27	Minnesota Index: Teens and tobacco	32

**On the cover:** The Capitol quadriga sits amid gray rainy skies the first full week of April.

—Photo by Andrew Von bank

# Fueling the debate

Proponents of biodiesel fuel plan call it good for the environment, while opponents say it is bad public policy

By JONAS M. WALKER

**F**ollowing one of the most visible public lobbying campaigns of the legislative session and the indefatigable efforts of its sponsor, a bill to require the inclusion of biological material in diesel fuels has earned the approval of four House committees.

HF362, sponsored by Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake), would require the sale of so-called “biodiesel” fuels in Minnesota, a mandate proponents say would spur the development of “home-grown,” ecologically-friendly fuels and bolster the state’s sagging rural economy. Opponents,

including the trucking and airline industries, say biodiesels are insufficiently tested and decry the measure as “good farm politics but bad public policy.”

Biodiesel fuel is just like regular diesel fuel, but it includes a biodegradable, combustible liquid fuel derived from organic oils for use in internal combustion engines. According to the National Biodiesel Board, a nonprofit industry association, soybeans provide 90 percent of the biological component of biodiesel fuels. Other sources include recycled oils from restaurants and even animal fats, although those are less commonly used.

The House Transportation Policy Committee amended and approved the bill April 10 after one of the longest debates the measure has yet seen. It will now go to the House Transportation Finance Committee.

In its original form, HF362 would require that all diesel fuel sold in Minnesota after July 1, 2002 contain at least 2 percent biodiesel; that would increase to 5 percent by 2006.

In response to concern that Minnesota would isolate itself by becoming the first state to adopt such a move, the committee amended the bill to stagger the implementation until significant production facilities exist in the state. In the new language, the 2 percent requirement would take effect no sooner than 180 days after the commissioner of agriculture announces that Minnesota producers can generate at least one-half the amount needed.

The amended bill also stipulates all diesel would have to be at least 5 percent biological



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Bill Frank of Lawrence Transportation testifies before the House Transportation Policy Committee April 10 in opposition to HF362, a bill that would specify minimum biodiesel fuel content.**

material in the same period of time after Minnesota producers could generate a quantity equal to 2.5 percent the amount of diesel fuel sold the previous year. By that second date, though, the commissioner may only count biological material toward that minimum if

the production facilities are farmer-owned.

The committee adopted a second amendment requiring the Department of Agriculture to study the “feasibility and desirability” of providing tax credits benefiting biodiesel producers.

Westrom told the committee that HF362 is “all about three E’s: environment, economics, and energy.” The middle factor determines stakeholders’ perceptions of the other two.

The debate surrounding the environmental benefits of biodiesel takes place in the context of new federal rules requiring diesel fuel to reduce its sulfur component by 95 percent by 2000. The National Biodiesel Board wrote, “Sulfur emissions are essentially eliminated with pure biodiesel.”

Opponents, however, argue that fuel companies will make the necessary improvements in fuel at the refinery level.

John Hausladen of the Minnesota Trucking Association said any additive intended to reduce sulfur emissions would be “a redundant product.”

A National Biodiesel Board study concluded that biodiesel fuels yield significantly less soot and carbon monoxide, both of which are regulated pollutants. Additionally, biodiesels contribute 93 percent fewer hydrocarbons, which contribute to smog.

However, the same study also found that biodiesel fuels can produce more nitrogen oxides (NOx), a compound that Runge says is a “major contributor” to nitrous ground-level ozone emission.

A report issued by University of Minnesota Professor C. Ford Runge concluded that “the Twin Cities area has the potential to exceed EPA standards for ozone” and that “any increase in NOx emissions is a potential source of environmental costs of compliance.”

Proponents counter that “biodiesel’s lack of sulfur allows the use of nitrogen oxide control technologies that cannot be used with conventional diesel. Biodiesel nitrogen oxide emissions can be effectively managed and efficiently eliminated as a concern of the fuel’s use.”

Westrom’s second “E,” economics, proved among the most contentious. Hoping for a financial windfall, farmers seek to create a new market for a bountiful product. Truckers and other industries see themselves as being forced to pay for a lopsided mandate benefiting some



farmers at the expense of all other economic sectors.

The biodiesel debate is often compared to the ethanol controversy of the mid-1980s. Ethanol is a corn byproduct that reduces pollutants when added to gasoline. Building on its green record and wishing to nurture a fledgling market, Minnesota began financially subsidizing ethanol production in the state in 1987, an incentive that the United States also began providing.

Ten years later, Minnesota became the first state to require that all gasoline sold within its borders contain ethanol. It remains the only state to have done so.

The Runge report concludes that Minnesota soybean farmers stand to earn \$7.5 million per year were the state to adopt the biodiesel mandate, while the added yearly costs to diesel fuel users add up to \$16 million at 2 percent and \$48 million at 5 percent.

Hausladen estimated that biodiesels would cost truckers about 4 cents per gallon, a figure that, magnified over hundreds of gallons consumed, and in the context of already slim operating budget, could amount to one-third to one-half of a trucker's funds.

This constitutes a financial "risk that no industry should be forced to take," said Bill Frank, speaking on behalf of the Lawrence Transportation Company. He characterized the proposed requirement as "a statewide research project paid for by (diesel) users."

Frank and others raised technical concerns about the reliability of biodiesel fuels.

Westrom told the committee biodiesel fuels have proven safe and reliable after being "tested in many, many engines for many, many miles."

Proponents characterize biodiesel fuels as functional at all temperatures and characterize the infrastructure upgrades necessary to physically combine diesel and biological material as negligible. Opponents disagree, arguing that biological additives contribute to diesel's propensity to gel at low temperatures and warning that equipment improvements could prove devastatingly costly to diesel retailers.

Finally, Westrom argued that adopting biodiesel could serve American strategic interests by reducing reliance on Middle Eastern oil. Even this, though, attracted criticism from the bill's opponents, a number of whom said that most diesel fuel refined in the United States is drawn from South American, Southeast Asian, and Alaskan wells. 🐼

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## Minnesota nice

### A look at tourism in the 1940's

Though times have changed, one thing is for sure in Minnesota: vacationers still come to the state mainly for its fishing as they did 50 years ago.

But the scenery, atmosphere, and the state's people have also lured both in-state and out-of-state enthusiasts.

*Steps to Better Vacations in Minnesota: A survey of Minnesota's vacation industry*, which was compiled in 1948, was the first comprehensive examination of tourism in Minnesota.

The Department of Business Research and Development surveyed vacationers during the months of June through September with the intent of learning the number of vacationers in Minnesota during the summer season, where they come from, how much they spend on their vacation, and what they thought about their Minnesota vacation.

The department estimated nearly 860,000 out-of-state residents and nearly 800,000 Minnesotans spent their vacations at one or more Minnesota resorts during the summer of 1948. Illinois and Iowa vacationers comprised almost one-half of Minnesota out-of-state visitors, while Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas combined sent another 25 percent.

Summer vacations were generally family affairs, with both resident and non-resident vacation parties averaging 3.5 people. But the true cash-generating activities came from non-residents of the state, who spent an average of \$274.15 per trip compared residents who spent \$159.29.

Forty-two cents of every vacation dollar were spent on resorts; 13 cents on food; 10 cents on transportation; 10 cents on retail stores; and 8 cents on sports and recreation.

The survey wanted to know who could afford vacations and what their incomes were. Responses for the survey were kept anonymous. The highest percentages of those surveyed earned the following annual incomes: 34 percent earned between \$2,000 to \$3,500; 23 percent earned between \$3,500 to \$5,000; and 19 percent \$5,000 to \$7,500. The highest income bracket category was listed as "over \$25,000."

The average length of vacation stay during

1948 was between 12 and 13 days. The fisherman tended to spend more time in Minnesota than the non-fisherman, the report stated. Ninety percent traveled by automobile, while others traveled by train, bus, or private airplane.

About 60 percent of vacationers occupied "housekeeping cabins" during their stay, while most of the rest lodged in resorts, and a small percentage in "overnight cabins" or hotels. Just 2 percent camped in a tent.

"Better than three out of every four vacationists in Minnesota purchased a fishing license during the 1948 season," the report states. The survey concluded that fishing is the most popular form of recreation and is "en-

joyed extensively by both Minnesota residents and our non-resident visitors."

The survey rated fishing as 46 percent of "what vacationists liked most about Minnesota." Thirty-three percent chose "scenery"; 26 percent reported "climate and weather"; 15 percent

for "fellowship and friendliness"; and 6 percent said for "peace and quiet."

Vacationers rated their dislikes as 20 percent for poor fishing (the publication notes there are probably as many definitions of poor fishing as there are fishermen); 11 percent for mosquitoes; 7 percent for "having to go home"; and another 7 percent for poor cabins and lack of facilities.

Interestingly, the report makes reference to something the state is known for today as "Minnesota nice." It noted that residents and non-residents listed primarily the same "likes" about their vacations, with one exception. "The latter group (non-residents) placed much more emphasis on fishing, on fellowship, and friendliness than did Minnesotans. The friendly attitude ... apparently is a very desirable characteristic to the visitor.

"It might be advisable, therefore, that we make a conscious effort to cultivate our hospitable atmosphere so that 'Minnesota Smiles' might become the national ideal."

(T. STAHL)



A 1940's era postcard promoting vacations in the Gull Lake area of Minnesota.

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society



## ★ AGRICULTURE

**Milk board approved**

A plan to create a milk price control board has received its first recommendation to pass from a House committee.

HF1238, sponsored by Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie), would create a five-member board appointed by the governor to levy fees on milk producers and distributors. The bill is intended to assist dairy farmers by bolstering milk prices, which have been declining for many years.

The House Civil Law Committee unanimously approved the bill April 6 and referred it to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee. The House Agriculture Policy Committee approved the bill Feb. 26, but declined to recommend its passage out of concern that other committees could perceive the bill as too extreme.

The committee's approval came after hours of testimony and significant amendment to prevent the bill from being challenged on constitutional grounds. Both opponents and supporters were concerned that the bill's original form could have violated the U.S. Constitution's commerce clause, which gives Congress exclusive purview to regulate interstate trade.

"I have done everything I can to make this constitutional," Otremba said.

Specifically, the committee removed a provision that would have required Minnesota milk distributors to purchase milk from Minnesota producers "whenever possible." Another amendment cut a section that would have allowed the board to bring civil action against any party that failed to comply with "an order or rule of the board."

Wy Spano, a lobbyist for the Dairies Federation of Minnesota, opposed the bill "in sorrow." He described the measure as the "fourth permutation of legislation" intended to assist struggling dairy farmers. He warned its adoption could have the unintended consequence of decreasing milk sales in Minnesota, especially since the amended bill could not prevent producers from seeking less expensive milk produced in Wisconsin or Iowa.

**Fair value**

Calling it a "sticky bill" but one with a "wonderful flavor," Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee) presented a bill to the House Taxes Committee Property Tax Division April 9 that would add maple syrup to the state's definition of agricultural products.

Daggett said HF2397 literally adds just two words, "maple syrup" to the statutes. By being included in the definition, maple syrup producers would benefit from the tax rates applied to agricultural property.

In current law property that is classified as agricultural must be used for the "raising or cultivation of agricultural products." Those products include livestock, dairy animals, dairy products, poultry and poultry products, fur-bearing animals, certain horticultural and nursery stock, fruit, vegetables, forage, grains, bees, and apiary products.

Agricultural land by definition must be 10 acres or more of contiguous acreage.

Under current law for agricultural property, similar to residential homestead property, the market value on the house and garage and the immediately surrounding one acre of land has a class rate of 1 percent on the first \$76,000 of market value. The rate is 1.65 percent on property greater than the \$76,000 threshold.

The value of the remaining land including improvements up to \$115,000 has a class rate of .35 percent of market value. The value of property between \$115,000 and \$600,000 has a rate of 0.8 percent and the rate increases to 1.2 percent on property greater than \$600,000.

Jerry Jacobson, a maple syrup producer in Otter Tail and Becker counties, said he contacted the Department of Agriculture to determine whether his land could be classified as agricultural. He was told that because it wasn't included in the definition, the land did not qualify.

"We are as dependent on trees as farmers are on their fields," Jacobson said.

John Hagen from the Department of Revenue said the department is concerned there is no quantifying mechanism in the bill that establishes how much syrup has to be produced to qualify.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) said he shared the concern because under the bill producers of any dollar amount could qualify.

Jacobson said the costs of the equipment and process that ensure a safe and healthy product would discourage hobby farmers

from becoming maple syrup producers.

The committee took no action on the bill, but it will be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

## ★ CHILDREN

**Homework helpers**

The House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee has been spending a great deal of time making sure children have constructive activities after school. They have considered several bills that would fund after-school enrichment programs.

On April 9, they heard a proposal for a pilot program that would pair St. Cloud State University students with at-risk children in a nearby neighborhood.

"This is the most stressed neighborhood in the state outside the Twin Cities," said Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), sponsor of HF206. "It happens to be the neighborhood I grew up in, and it's a very different place than when I grew up in the '60s and '70s."

The bill would appropriate \$100,000 for a grant to the St. Cloud Southside Boys and Girls Club for an after-school computer skills program for youth from low-income families. HF206 will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

The funds would pay for an education and career development coordinator for two years. The program, to take place after school, would serve about 100-150 children and provide internship opportunities for college students who would teach the children computer and homework skills.

"The partnership with St. Cloud State University is integral to the success of the project," said Mark Sakry, executive director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota.

The new club opened in January after a successful fundraising effort that netted \$4.7 million. Contributors included the city of St. Cloud and many individuals, foundations, and corporations.

"About five years ago I noticed a build-up of children in the neighborhood who had no place to go after school," said Larry Haws, St. Cloud city park director. "Now volunteers are saying this is the best group of children they've ever worked with."

## Examining felony DWI costs

The House Judiciary Finance Committee spent the majority of its April 10 and 11 hearings discussing the fiscal note for a bill that would institute a felony-level drunken driving penalty.

The bill (HF351), sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), would make a person's fourth drunken driving conviction within 10 years a felony. The committee will consider the measure for inclusion in its omnibus bill.

Stanek said he planned to spend a substantial amount of time scrutinizing the fiscal note so the committee could include a fair amount of funding for the plan, while still meeting other obligations under its spending target.

Fiscal staff from the House and various state agencies testified to the difficult nature of pinning down drunken driving costs. They said there are so many variables and different assumptions, it's hard to settle on one standard.

According to the fiscal note, the bill would increase budgets for state criminal justice agencies by \$5 million in the first year and between \$10 million and \$11 million in subsequent years. Impact on local government agencies would be about \$632,000 in the first year, \$1.4 million in the second year and nearly \$2 million in the third year.

However, Stanek questioned many of the

assumptions in the fiscal notes because of inconsistencies in some of the averages used.

For example, different agencies did not agree on the increase in trials a felony penalty would create. In addition, officials said given the serious nature of a felony and the rights lost, defendants will be more likely to contest the gross misdemeanor drunken driving cases, as well as the felony penalties.

"As you have enhanced penalties," said Maj. Mike Asleson of the State Patrol, "when you have the possibility of prison time versus jail time, there's simply going to be some additional work."

Both the State Patrol and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension stated in the fiscal note they anticipate more court time for officers and scientists with the felony penalty. Local costs also reflected high overtime for officers to appear in court.

Stanek and other committee members questioned the assumptions department officials used and in some cases asked them to return with different numbers.

Several officials agreed if some assumptions were changed, the costs would likely decrease.

The committee will continue discussing the potential fiscal impact and determine a recommendation to include in the bill with the committee's omnibus spending package.

"I do think this is good legislation," said Rep. Sheldon Johnson (DFL-St. Paul). "I don't think this legislation is going to have a deterrent effect on the chronic alcoholic. It's just the nature of the disease, and these people need to be taken off the streets. This bill effectively does that, and I appreciate it."

## Forging identification cards

Legislators have approved a plan to stiffen penalties regarding the for-profit manufacture of fraudulent driver's licenses and identification cards.

Sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), HF2122 would create felony-level penalties for multiple offenses against laws prohibiting making false identification cards.

The House Crime Prevention Committee approved the bill April 10. It goes now to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

Leppik said the manufacture of false identification cards "is a huge problem for alcohol and tobacco retailers. These producers are getting more and more sophisticated, and it's becoming increasingly difficult to trust identifications."

Reflecting the technological sophistication of contemporary forgers, the bill specifically criminalizes the use of digital cameras, computer software, and paper "adapted and

designed" for the making of a fraudulent identification cards.

Current law provides for imprisonment of not more than one year and up to a \$3,000 fine. The committee amended the bill's original felony penalty of not more than five years and/or a fine of up to \$10,000. First time offenders will face only the current penalty. Any future offenses would be a felony, carrying up to a four-year prison term and \$10,000 fine.

"I don't want to advocate kids making ID's for their buddies," commented Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul). "But I don't think a kid making a mistake should be charged with a felony."

The bill does not affect the penalty for using a fraudulent identification card, up to 90 days in jail and up to a \$1,000 fine.

In another provision, the bill makes illegal the possession of "any device, gear, or instrument designed to assist in shoplifting or defeating electronic surveillance systems." Such systems are commonly used in retail stores selling items such as compact discs or clothing. Offenders could be punished by up to three years in prison and a fine of \$5,000.

## Alcohol monitoring

Legislators are moving forward with a plan to study the effectiveness of remote alcohol monitoring in reducing recidivism among repeat drunken driving offenders.

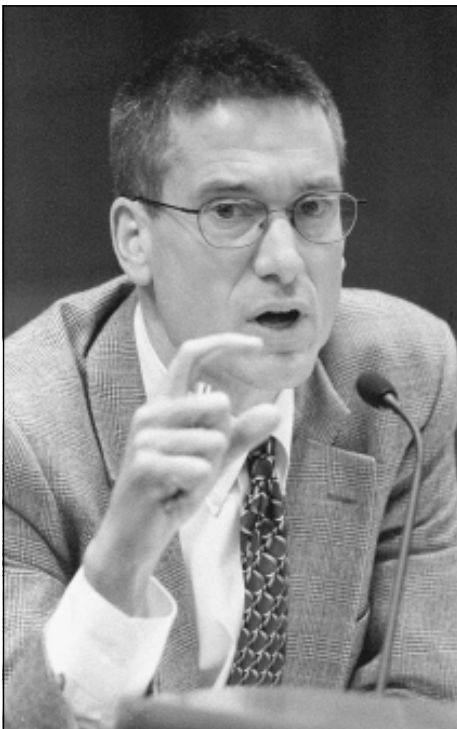
Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) sponsors SF773, which the House Crime Prevention Committee approved April 5. The bill now moves to the House floor.

University of Minnesota Law School Professor Steve Simon, a member of the state-mandated DWI Working Group, told the committee that most drunken driving offenders repeatedly drink and drive. "Because chemical dependency is involved, the simple threat of punishment is ineffective."

Simon endorsed the proposed study, drawing attention to the bill's demand that a group not assigned home breathalyzers be included as a control group. "The state would like accurate data" he said.

The bill calls for the commissioner of corrections to report the results of the study "to the chairs and members of the Senate and House committees and divisions having jurisdiction over impaired driving policy and funding" by Feb. 15, 2002.

Courts can order offenders to use remote alcohol monitoring systems at home. The systems use a computer, phone, and camera to measure blood-alcohol concentration, and then communicate that information to a



Kevin Kajer from the State Public Defender's Office testifies before the House Judiciary Finance Committee April 10 on HF351, a bill relating to felony DWI penalties.

# Concealed weapon permit measure passes House

The House passed a contentious bill April 9 regarding the state guidelines for issuing and receiving concealed weapons permits. The vote was 85-46.

HF1360, sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), would require sheriffs in Minnesota to issue a permit to anyone who meets various criteria contained in the bill. Currently, police chiefs and sheriffs have the discretion to grant or deny permits.

Requirements to obtain a permit include being at least 21 years old, completing firearms safety training from a certified instructor, passing a criminal background check, and applicants must not be mentally ill, chemically dependent, or known criminal gang members.

The bill would also create a statewide registry of permit holders, who would be required to undergo a background check annually. It would further enhance penalties for carrying a gun without a permit and for felonies committed by permit holders using a pistol.

The fee for a new permit would be \$45 under the bill. A permit would be good for three years and renewals would cost \$15.

The bill was amended several times on the floor to answer concerns expressed by members of the House Ways and Means Committee April 2. Amendments addressed specific requirements for who is allowed to provide certified training and would allow sheriffs to contract with police departments to process permit requests.

Permit holders would not be allowed to carry their weapon under the influence. An amendment, offered by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) and adopted by the House, defines "under the influence" as having a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.04 or higher, having consumed a con-



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Rep. Wes Skoglund holds a cutout of a semi-automatic weapon as he speaks against the bill that would allow Minnesotans to more easily obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon. The House voted 85-46 April 9 to approve the measure.**

trolled substance, or otherwise being influenced by a hazardous substance.

To violate that provision could ultimately result in permanent revocation of a permit.

Another amendment, offered by Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka), would require anyone carrying a concealed weapon at a school with a permit to notify the school's principal, but would not require the principal's permission to do so. It was approved.

Boudreau and other supporters of the measure said the bill is about protecting people's rights to defend themselves and their families. Boudreau called it a "basic civil right."

Opponents emphasized their belief that it

would merely increase the number of guns in Minnesota communities and would not necessarily make citizens safer.

Discussion also surrounded the effectiveness of background checks, particularly when thousands of records, called "suspense files," are currently unable to be matched by the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and therefore do not show up on background checks.

"Almost 50,000 of these are felonies," said Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls). "So if some sheriff does a background check, even if there's a conviction ... there are 50,000 felonies that aren't even tappable by the sheriff."

Nevertheless, proponents said without the bill, there's no guarantee of annual background checks and there's nothing providing that the state have a central registry of permit holders.

"A vote against this bill is a vote against a bill that creates centralized data system so that our police officers know who's carrying and who doesn't," said Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), "so they can do the background checks and so they can find the bad guys that are carrying permits. So we know who they are, so they can track them."

The Senate version of the bill, sponsored by Sen. Pat Pariseau (R-Farmington) was defeated in that body's Crime Prevention committee April 6. Though it's not impossible for the bill to become law, the action does severely hamper that reality.

"We are spending hours and hours of our time debating a bill that will not become law," said Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul). "And what we are succeeding in doing is making the public just that much more cynical. With the defeat in the Senate Crime Prevention committee, it is absolutely clear that the bill will not advance."

(M. KIBIGER)

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central facility that can alert parole officers if a violator has violated a court order.

Simon said home breathalyzer units generally cost about \$10 to \$12 per day, an expense often borne by offenders themselves. If they are unable to pay, the court can provide money for the devices.

### Preventing gang violence

A bill that would appropriate \$750,000 during the 2002-03 biennium for a gang intervention pilot project in Minneapolis and St. Paul will be considered for inclusion in the omnibus bill for the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

The bill (HF2227), sponsored by Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls), was heard by the committee April 5.

Several representatives from the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities testified that their programs of gang intervention, including tattoo removal, are working.

"They go where the kids are," said Wendell Butler, board member of the clubs. "They go in the housing projects. They go into (American) Indian land. They go into military installations."

Though Gray said the bill is a "pilot project," the intent of the bill is to give successful programs some financial support so they can grow and spread to other areas, much like the philosophy behind pilot projects.

Enrique Estrada who works with the Boys and Girls Clubs, said he took what he learned there and tries to help keep kids out of gangs today.

"I grew up in Boys and Girls Clubs," Estrada testified. "I have older brothers who were in gangs and went to prison.... Because of the Boys and Girls Clubs, I did not get involved in gangs."

Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) asked Gray whether permanent state funding is necessary for projects like this one to continue when they receive private funding as well.

Butler said about 26 percent of the program funding is from government sources.

"Government certainly has an interest in providing for an alternative to gangs, if only for its own self interest," Gray said. "I don't anticipate that problem is going to go away. Private funding is good, but in times of economic downturn, like we're experiencing now, those funds tend to dry up."

### Saving Camp Ripley program

Thirteen-year-old Jasmy Williams recalled the "rap sessions" at the Camp Ripley weekend camp for at-risk youth as the most meaningful to her because the children there were

honest about their lives. She could relate to them, she said.

Williams testified April 5 before the House Judiciary Finance Committee in favor of a bill that would keep the Camp Ripley camp open for at least two more years. Gov. Jesse Ventura did not recommend funding for the program in his 2002-03 budget.

"The people on this program are my family," Williams said. "They were there for me when my regular family were not."

The bill (HF2151), sponsored by Rep. Debra Hilstrom (DFL-Brooklyn Center), would appropriate \$1.25 million during the biennium for the program. It would also establish a goal for the camp of serving 500 youths per year.

The committee will consider the bill for possible inclusion in its omnibus bill.

Lori Roberson, a mother whose 11-year-old son with Attention Deficit Disorder attended the camp two years ago, testified the program made a remarkable difference in her son and has contributed to better grades in school.

"At 11, he was headed in a direction where his teachers didn't want to deal with him," Roberson said. "I didn't want to deal with him."

Roberson's son has improved attention, is succeeding in his public school classes after struggling in private school, and says positive things about his Camp Ripley experience, she testified.

## DEVELOPMENT



### Entrepreneur program funding

An entrepreneur program designed to assist low-income, inner-city neighborhoods through training, lending, and support might receive funding, under a bill sponsored by Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul).

HF182 would allocate \$96,500 to the Neighborhood Development Center, Inc. in St. Paul specifically for "entrepreneur training programs, development and operation of a Somali marketplace and business assistance to Somali entrepreneurs, American Indian classes, staffing for the emerging businesses and emerging neighborhoods program, and alumni training programs."

The bill was heard April 9 in the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee, and will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

Since 1993, the center has taught entrepreneurship in four ethnic communities — Hmong, Latino, Somali, and American Indian — and 12 low-income neighborhoods. The center's training program alumni have started more than 280 businesses and created 1,200 jobs, according to Mara O'Neill, chief operating officer.

Tsong Sawh Lo, president of Hmong Diversified Industries, Inc., testified to the committee in support of the center. Lo started his

### WOMENVENTURE TOUTED



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Tene Heidelberg, president of WomenVenture, holds 3-month-old Rosalie McGough-Pose April 11 as her mother, Maureen, tells the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee about her business, Noble Birth, that was helped by a grant from WomenVenture.

company in 1999 after completing the entrepreneur program.

Located in the Frogtown Neighborhood in St. Paul, Hmong Diversified Industries, Inc. is a light manufacturing business that provides distribution services to organizations and manufacturing companies. Lo's company currently has 14 employees directly from the neighborhood it serves.

Besides creating jobs, businesses such as Lo's return thousands of dollars back to the community. Graduates of the center are most likely to open stores in vacant storefronts, thereby improving the general image in neighborhoods, O'Neill said. Entrepreneurs have also become role models in their communities by helping to educate others, providing needed services and goods, and by stabilizing the community's financial base.

A loan from the state would contribute to new work the center wishes to achieve. The center receives the majority of its support from foundations and corporations. The center charges for services depending on the income level of the emerging entrepreneur. O'Neill said most pay \$50; the full fee is \$550.

## ★ EDUCATION

### Analyzing returns

Amid every report, survey, and assessment of Minnesota's schools, there is not one that objectively and comprehensively evaluates the financial and academic performance of schools, said House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan). In other words, one that calculates the return on the investment of education.

Pawlenty is sponsoring a bill (HF71) that would hire an outside consultant to analyze Minnesota's schools for the benefit of taxpayers, educators, school board members, and state and local officials.

"There's often a disconnect between policy makers and education leaders," Pawlenty told the House K-12 Education Finance Committee April 11. The bill will be considered for the committee's omnibus finance measure.

A specific consultant to perform the evaluation is not named in the bill. However, William Cox, managing director at Standard and Poor's, an internationally recognized financial analysis company, gave a presentation of S&P's School Evaluation Services. Two other states, Michigan and Pennsylvania, have contracted with the company for the services.

Cox claimed findings of the report would not be a ranking or a rating, but instead a management tool to determine financial and academic strengths, weaknesses,

improvements, and risks. Compiled data would be available to the public on a "user-friendly" Web site, he said.

HF71 allocates an initial \$2.5 million in 2001, though officials suggest it might take more than one year to be effective. HF71 states the contractor would submit a written report of its findings to the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning within one year of the contract signing. Cox said the cost is comparable with Michigan and Pennsylvania, who have approximately the same number of school districts as Minnesota.

Rep. Barb Goodwin (DFL-Columbia Heights) questioned the need for spending money on another consultant. She said the department already plans to spend \$25 million on consultants in the 2002-03 biennium.

"There is a lot of oversight of school expenses already," Goodwin said, citing financial managers, regular audits, and state legislative auditors. She said the evaluation in the bill would add another layer, but wouldn't take anything away.

But Pawlenty said it is not easy for a citizen or policy maker to access information on schools. "There is no one place where you can quickly and coherently" receive impartial data, he said. "What we have now is not effective."

### WEAR'N THE PLAID



PHOTO BY SARA KIRK

Tad Myers from the Twin Cities Pipe Band, left, plays his bagpipe along with 10 other performers April 7 prior to a parade leading to the State Capitol in remembrance of Tartan Day. Tartan Day is a Scottish holiday celebrating the Declaration of Arbroath, signed in 1320, that provides freedom from English rule for Scotland.

### Teacher mentoring program

A comprehensive plan designed to transform teacher compensation and help retain teachers was introduced to the House K-12 Education Finance Committee April 6.

Committee Chair Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), sponsor of HF2353, said the intent of the bill is "to try to recruit teachers and retain them." The bill would give school districts the option to create "accountability and educational improvement plans" for districts, school sites, teachers, and students.

If school districts so choose, Seagren's bill provides incentives for those that would restructure teacher compensation systems "for teachers to continuously improve their knowledge and skills," the bill reads.

In order to be approved for a new pay system, districts must add an extra 10 days of staff development activities. The additional time would be dedicated to a new teacher induction and mentoring program, which participants would be compensated for, providing all conditions are met.

Probationary teachers would receive \$2,000 in compensation, and mentoring teachers would receive \$500. One-third of the overall funds would go to districts in Greater Minnesota, one-third to the metropolitan area, and the remaining one-third would be available for either area.

The bill was a collaborative project among several education groups in the state.

Jan Alswager, a lobbyist for Education Minnesota, said her organization supports Seagren's bill, but isn't sure if there will be sufficient dollars to support it. Alswager also pointed out if large school districts such as Minneapolis or St. Paul were to use the program there wouldn't be enough money. She added the \$500 teacher mentor compensation could be increased.

Julie Kalnin, assistant professor of education at the University of Minnesota, emphasized to the committee the importance of mentoring.

"Mentoring programs are designed to make sure teachers are more productive in the classroom," she said. "There must be active engagement from learning (to) teaching."

Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato) asked what has been recognized as to why so many new teachers leave the profession. Kalnin said support for new teachers causes them to stay or leave, noting that many feel isolated. "Salary and broader working conditions" also influence the decision, she said.

In programs where universities work with mentoring programs, the "attrition rate is sincerely reduced," she said. "These mentoring programs do have an effect."

The bill will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.



## Charter school oversight

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill April 10 without recommendation that would establish a state board for charter schools.

The bill now goes to the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.

HF1265, sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), would expand the list of accountability factors for charter schools and establish a board that would perform the state's role in sponsoring charter schools. The board would also administer state and federal start-up aid.

The governor, with the Senate's advice and consent, would appoint the seven-member board. Members would serve staggered six-year terms.

Greiling said the bill would be considered for inclusion in the omnibus education finance bill along with another that would establish a state board of education. She said if the decision was made to establish a board of education, that board could also oversee charter schools and thus HF1265 would not be needed.

Greiling said she is offering the bill because she believes greater oversight is needed for charter schools.

"There's been a lot in the news about charter schools having problems, and it's the contention of this bill that if there was some prevention ahead of time and more focus on responsible sponsoring as well as help along the way, which this board could provide, then some of those problems could be headed off," Greiling said.

Jessie Montano, an assistant commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning, said the administration opposes the bill because it would create a new level of bureaucracy.

Montano said when charter schools first started in Minnesota, the idea was for the state to "step aside" and let the schools move along and learn from their mistakes. But she said that with the recent problems the department has taken a more proactive approach.

There is one staff member for every 10 schools and extensive training is provided before the school is open, Montano said.

Rep. Tony Kielucki (R-Lester Prairie) said he thought the department should be focused on providing services and not on regulating activities.

"When you meld things together you create problems," Kielucki said.

## KidClub



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Phyllis O'Brien from Kid Key Club testifies for a bill that would expand the dependent care credit on individual income taxes from 12-year-olds to 14-year-olds to cover more children in after school programs like hers. Her testimony came during an April 9 hearing of the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division.**

## Ventura signs request

A resolution urging Congress to fulfill its promise to fund 40 percent of the cost of special education was signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura April 6.

As a result, the resolution will now officially be sent to both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

Rep. Andrew Westerberg (R-Blaine), sponsor of the bill in the House, said the lack of funding is "hurting our education system" and explained that Minnesota has to subsidize education funds to afford special education expenses.

Federal allocations for special education funding have averaged 13 percent annually for the past few years.

The resolution reads: "Over 25 years ago, the federal government required states to provide children with disabilities an appropriate education, and for 25 years, the government has failed to meet its promise to pay 40 percent of the cost."

The House passed the resolution with a 123-1 vote April 2.

Sen. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) sponsored the bill in the Senate, where it received a 64-0 vote March 5.

HF456/SF647\*/R2

## EMPLOYMENT



### HIV/AIDS workplace education

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) is requesting a \$300,000 one-time grant to help educate and increase HIV/AIDS awareness in small businesses.

Clark, sponsor of HF846, said the last grant awarded for HIV/AIDS business education 10 years ago went to major corporations. Her bill would be focused on helping small businesses "to provide education and awareness and to improve capacities to manage HIV in the workplace," the bill states.

Under the bill, a community-based organization would use at least one-half of the allocation for education and legal and technical assistance for employers and their employees.

Bob Tracy, director of community affairs and education at the Minnesota AIDS Project, spoke to the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee April 9. He said a national study found about one-half of people surveyed thought they could contract HIV from a sneeze, cough, or touch from a person with the virus.

(HIV is the virus that can develop into the disease AIDS.)

"When people don't have the facts they still act on what they don't know," he said.

Tracy sees lots of discrimination, partly because of a lack of information, he said. HF846 would provide businesses with resources to give help before they get into trouble, he said.

"This is to reduce the risk and cost to Minnesota employers," Tracy said.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) asked if employment agencies could do HIV/AIDS education for businesses. Tracy said companies need more than just a handout, they need peer-to-peer interaction, an expense that would be covered by the bill's allocation.

The bill will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

## ENERGY



### From waste to watts

Anaerobic digester systems — transforming manure into renewable energy — might qualify for an incentive program that would pay 1.5 cents per kilowatt hour, under a House bill.

Besides producing energy, such systems provide several environmental benefits, including odor control, pathogen reduction, weed seed destruction, and greenhouse gas reduction.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), sponsor of HF1741, presented the bill to the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee April 6. It will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

HF1741 would provide reimbursement to facilities that begin generating electricity after July 1, 2001. Qualified facilities would receive funds through 2015. Hydroelectric and wind energy conversion facilities are currently eligible for the incentive payment.

The bill would cost \$80,000 in the 2002-2003 biennium. The Department of Finance estimates funds for the program would gradually climb to \$361,200 by 2016. The Department of Commerce, which would manage the program, assumes that two 150 kilowatt systems will be installed each year during the 15-year period for the subsidy, and each system will be subsidized for 10 years.

Estimates are based on the Haubenschild Dairy Farm in Princeton — the only operational anaerobic manure digestion facility in the state. Haubenschild is a 1,000-acre, family owned and operated farm that processes manure from more than 400 cows, and plans to expand to 900 cows by this summer.

According to the Minnesota Project, which compiled a report on the performance of the Haubenschild Farms, before the digester was built, Haubenschild entered into a contract with a local electric cooperative. Now, "enough electricity is being produced to provide all the electric needs on-farm, plus enough surplus electricity to power about 45 average homes."

The report cautions future anaerobic digester systems that cooperation and financial support from agencies is essential for success. However, it notes payback of five years or less on the investment is possible.

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### St. Paul greenway

More than five years in the planning, the Trout Brook Greenway in St. Paul is coming together.

"This is truly an impressive partnership of neighbors, corporations, and government at all levels," said Susan Schmidt of the Trust for Public Lands.

A bill that would provide funding for the project was approved April 6 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee. HF1225 will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), would allow for a bond sale and appropriation of \$8 million as a grant to the city of St. Paul for the acquisition and development of approximately 58 acres, including the Trout Brook/Trillium site and the Lower Phalen Creek Greenway.

"We believe we can open this up and make it an area the whole state can be proud of," Osthoff said.

The site forms a natural buffer of open space between neighborhoods and industry, bounded by Maryland Avenue, the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks, Interstate 35E, and Cayuga, Agate, and Jackson streets.

The concept plan shows a greenway corridor that will include the restoration of woodlands, prairies, and a brook; the creation of wetlands; a series of small pools and waterfalls; an interpretive trail; and an interpretive center. It will form a connecting link to 130 miles of trails, according to Schmidt.

"It's a visionary plan," said Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls).

Osthoff gave much of the credit to St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman, who "kept us all together on this."

### Lead poisoning in eagles

A young bald eagle paid a visit to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee April 11. The eagle was a member of a delegation from the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center, which is seeking state funding for a study of lead poisoning in the birds.

"Despite the ban on lead shot in 1991, we see as much lead poisoning in eagles now as before the ban," said Patrick Redig, executive director of the center, which has been treating and studying bald eagles and other raptors for 27 years.

HF785, sponsored by Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover), would appropriate \$270,000 for the 2002-03 biennium for the proposed study. The bill will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus finance bill.

The Raptor Center study would consist of trapping 75 bald eagles and taking blood samples, which would be analyzed for lead residue. Twelve of the birds, six with high lead levels and six without, would be outfitted with satellite tracking units. The birds would be tracked to determine where they are feeding so the sources of contamination might be pinpointed.

The goal of the study would be to determine the incidence, the potential sources, and the impact of lead exposure in the bald eagle population in Minnesota.

Information gained from the study would be shared with the Department of Natural Resources and other government agencies to facilitate management of the eagle population and help ensure the species' long-term survival.

"The continued presence of lead in the ecosystem is an ongoing threat to wild bald eagles in Minnesota," said Mark Martell, coordinator of conservation programs for the center. "When we know where it's coming from, hopefully we can do something about it."



Gladdie, a 5-year-old bald eagle, is perched on the hand of Nell Henry as Mark Martell and Pat Redig of the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center testify for an appropriation to do research on lead poisoning in bald eagles. Their testimony came April 11 before the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee

## Fighting the flames

"Minnesota's being stripped of experienced firefighters," Dana Linscott, a firefighter from Side Lake, told the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee April 5.

Linscott was testifying in support of a bill (HF382), sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), that would require the Department of Natural Resources to maintain a sufficiently large trained force of firefighters to handle the annual demands of Minnesota's fire season.

He said "smokechasers," seasonal wildland firefighters, have been treated by the DNR as emergency employees, which means they do not have the usual workplace rights and are not qualified for unemployment compensation.

Trained smokechasers have been leaving Minnesota in recent years for more lucrative offers with other states or the federal government, Linscott said. As a result, Minnesota has had to train and rely on "green" recruits every year.

"Fire season is not an emergency," Linscott said. "Fire season comes around every year like clockwork."

Linscott said the goal of the Minnesota Wildland Firefighters Association is to provide the state with a committed, professional cadre of firefighters who can respond quickly to both predictable and emergency wildfires.

The smokechasers can be on the job very quickly and are often relied on for emergencies other than fires. In recent years they were on the scene to deal with the tornado in St. Peter, the Red River flood, and the search for Katie Poirier.

The DNR has made some changes in response to requests from the firefighter's association, creating 45 seasonal positions, but Linscott said that is not enough.

Peggy Adelmann, budget director for the DNR, attended the meeting to explain the agency's financial position on the bill, but was unable to answer policy questions.

"This is much more than a budget issue," Rukavina said. "It's a policy issue. Why aren't the officials who run the firefighter program here?"

"This is a fairness issue," he said. "These firefighters should be treated the same as any other working people."

The bill was approved and sent to the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Committee.

## Water warnings

Scientists and policymakers continue to grapple with the effects of water contamination on humans, nearly four decades after Rachel Carson sounded the warning about the risks of pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) is especially concerned about the vulnerability of children and frail adults. She has drafted a bill (HF110) that would require the state Pollution Control Agency to adopt water quality standards that would "adequately protect fetuses, children, and adults."

"The current standard is a 160-pound male," Wagenius told the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee April 10. "We have to look at the effects of environmental contaminants on children's development."

The bill would require that the agency take into account the following risks in setting water quality standards: adverse reproductive outcomes, respiratory disease, cancer, immunologic suppression, neurological development, endocrinal functioning, and infant and child development.

"You wouldn't think of giving a child the same dose of medicine that you would give an adult," said David Wallinga, a physician and senior scientist at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy in Minneapolis.

"Children are not little adults," Wallinga said. "They have unique behaviors, physiology and development and for those reasons they're more vulnerable."

Fetuses, infants, and children experience "discrete windows of time" during which exposure to contaminants can cause serious long-term problems, he said.

Existing guidelines rely on cancer or acute poisoning as evidence of environmental contamination. They do not take into account neurological risks.

Wagenius said the guidelines are too narrow. "This bill proposes that when you don't have all the information you need, you build in a margin of safety," she said.

Speaking for the Pollution Control Agency, Marvin Hora, agreed that infants and children were more affected by pollutants than adults. However, he objected to HF110 on two points: "It sends us off on a search for information that I believe does not exist; and you cannot develop appropriate risk standards when there's no data on which to base them."

Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) was "shocked" at Hora's testimony and apparent lack of willingness to work with Wagenius.

Other lawmakers expressed dismay, as well. Regarding Hora's implication that costs would run too high, Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-

St. Paul) said, "There is another, perhaps uncounted, cost in the lives of children who may be physiologically damaged by the chemical pollutants in our water."

HF110 was approved and sent to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

## ★ GAME & FISH

### Turtle limits

The commercial fishing of turtles dominated discussion regarding a comprehensive game and fish bill in the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee meeting April 5.

HF1591, sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), contains a number of provisions and clarifications to game and fish laws. The bill was approved and sent to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee, which sent it to the House floor April 11.

Ozment's bill would restrict the sale of turtle licenses to Minnesota residents, who would also be required to have a fishing license. Currently fewer than 100 licenses are sold annually, many of which go to people who trap turtles for their own use. None of the states adjacent to Minnesota allow turtle trapping.

The bill specifies the number and type of traps allowed, but sets no limit on the number of turtles that can be taken. It would establish minimum sizes of 10 inches in width for snapping turtles and five inches for painted turtles.

"Unlimited harvest will insure that turtle populations will continue to dwindle in Minnesota," wrote Robert Hay, a herpetologist who was consulted on the bill. "The lack of a limit poses a significant threat to turtle populations."

Experts who testified at the meeting said there is no good data on the populations of most turtle species in Minnesota. However, the Department of Natural Resources does keep data on the number of turtles harvested commercially, which over the past eight years have averaged about 3,500 snapping turtles and 32,000 painted turtles per year.

Legislators voiced concern over the effects of turtle trapping and offered amendments ranging from increasing the number of traps allowed to prohibiting all turtle trapping. None of the amendments passed.

Testifiers at this and a previous meeting said there are relatively few commercial trappers.

"These people's entire livelihood and their families' welfare depend on this income," said Rex Campbell, a commercial turtle trapper

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from Grey Eagle. "The people in this industry are too old to change their line of work and find good employment elsewhere in their small communities."

Steve Hirsch, of the DNR Fisheries Division said, "It certainly wasn't the intent of our legislation to put turtle trappers out of business."

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### Returning alcohol-related fees

A bill that would help local governments cover alcohol-related costs was given a hearing, but might not have much life this session.

HF2403, sponsored by Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji), would dedicate a portion of the sales tax collected in each county on retail sales of alcoholic beverages to an account for local governments to use the money for costs related to alcohol abuse.

Fuller presented his bill before the House Judiciary Finance Committee April 11. Committee Chair Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) said he thinks the bill needs more discussion and may be reconsidered at a later date.

"It's an idea as we're talking about felony DWI," Fuller said. "This was an idea that I wanted to throw out there and toss around."

In its current form, the bill would take all alcohol taxes and make them available to the counties. Fuller said the statistics he has are several years old, but he estimated the bill would take about \$110 million per year from the general fund.

The bill would allow counties to spend the money on any costs related to alcohol abuse, including chemical dependency treatment, law enforcement and public safety, corrections, social services, and cities in the county.

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), asked if cities could be included or if under the bill they had to go to the county boards to ask for money. Fuller said they would, and Tuma suggested amending the bill so counties and cities could benefit directly.

Several members expressed interest in the bill, but only if Fuller would be willing to amend the bill to increase the tax rate on alcohol to compensate for the lost revenue from the general fund.

"If you don't like to raise taxes on liquor, then I don't like your bill at all," said Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester).

Fuller said he was not interested in raising sales taxes on alcohol, currently at a rate of 9 percent, but merely wanted to introduce the idea as a way to help local governments buffer the costs of such measures as felony DWI.

The committee officially entertained no amendments or other matters associated with the bill.

## ★ HIGHER EDUCATION

### Stadium discussion

Many can remember crisp fall days when the University of Minnesota Marching Band would strut down University Avenue before the Gopher football team battled a foe at Memorial Stadium.

Some would like to see a similar scenario re-created.

HF2241, sponsored by Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring), may accomplish that. It was before the House Higher Education Finance Committee April 11 for an informational hearing.

The bill would create a 17-member task force to study proposals to construct a new sports facility on the university's Twin Cities campus or renovate the Metrodome to be used as a joint college and professional football facility. If a new facility is approved, the stadium would be home to the Gophers and Minnesota Vikings.

Members would look at programmatic, operational, and financial issues. Stang said private financing would pay for the study, and a report would be requested by Oct. 31, 2001.

University officials emphasized to the committee that the stadium is not a priority for them.

"We want to make sure our needs and desires are considered and we want to be part of the debate, not an afterthought," said Eric Kruse, vice president of University Services. "We are here because others asked us to be here. Academics is our top priority."

Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr. (DFL-Winona) questioned that statement, saying the Board of Regents has a position on the stadium issue but not on a Commission on University of Minnesota Excellence proposed by House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan). He further noted regents were present for the stadium discussion but not the commission discussion two days prior.

Board of Regents Chair Patricia Spence said the board already had the stadium on its agenda for the last meeting and was not aware of the Pawlenty proposal until just before the hearing. She reiterated that the stadium is not a priority for the university.

University representatives also showed a list of 10 principles given to the Vikings that were conditions of its support.

Among them are: the project cannot detract

from current or future investment by the state in academic programs or capital projects, it cannot have a negative effect on the university's balance sheet or debt capacity, the university will not be responsible for any capital project costs, and the university will participate in the management and oversight of daily operations.

Committee Chair Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) asked if the university is only contributing land for the stadium, won't it be tough to have management say.

Richard Pfitzenreuter, CFO/Treasurer of the university, said that is something the task force will need to address. "We don't have the answers today."

### Tech center request

Wanting a place to teach lifelong learning skills, leaders of two Minnesota schools are seeking legislative help.

Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls), sponsor of HF2371, told the House Higher Education Finance Committee April 9 that his bill would appropriate \$80,000 from the state's general fund in fiscal year 2002 to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees for a grant to Fergus Falls Community College and the local school district.

The funds would be used to plan and implement pilot programs in a combined vocational training center of the college and school district. The two entities would operate the center.

Monies would be spent between a facility use study, curriculum development, computer connections between the college and school district, and a pilot program to begin in the fall. The bill specifies the appropriation would be available until the end of the 2002-03 biennium.

High school juniors would be the minimum age eligible to participate in the program. Ken Peeders, president of Fergus Falls Community College, said students could potentially be ready to go to work after high school or pursue an advanced degree at a MnSCU two- or four-year institution. "There are some real opportunities for economic development," he said.

Bob Duncan, Fergus Falls school district superintendent, said: "We are looking to salvage opportunities for students. This is a win-win for our high school and our graduates in this area."

"It's innovative programs like this that keeps things going," said Rep. Paul Marquart (DFL-Dilworth).

No action was taken on HF2371, but it will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

## University commission considered

Members of the House Higher Education Finance Committee heard a bill April 9, intended to aid the decision-making process at the University of Minnesota.

The bill (HF2377), sponsored by House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), would establish a Commission on University of Minnesota Excellence to examine and make recommendations to the university.

The bill will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

"It's often beneficial to have an outside group look in and offer compliments and criticism," Pawlenty said. "The university could benefit from a fresh look."

The commission would be comprised of 15 members with equal numbers appointed by the governor, speaker of the House, and a Senate committee. No current university regent may serve, and the university president, or a designee, is an ex-officio, nonvoting member. All members would serve without compensation.

Pawlenty's bill requires the commission to:

- Review the university's national rankings;
- Review major investment efforts in interdisciplinary initiatives identified by the university;
- Evaluate and recommend how the university can develop five or more additional centers of excellence programs that can achieve a national rank in the top 10 within the next decade;
- Examine the mission, scope, and financing of the university and propose ways to refocus or refinance the mission of offerings; and
- Examine the regent selection process.

In looking at centers of excellence, Pawlenty said, "I'm concerned the rankings are not as good or as frequent as they should be." He also was concerned many of Minnesota's gifted students leave the state for college. "We need a magnet to keep them here."

Additional centers of excellence should come from "the programs and departments in which the university is currently considered a national or regional leader and from existing or potential interdisciplinary initiatives at the university," the bill states.

The commission must report on the regent selection process by Jan. 15, 2002 and the mission focus and areas of excellence by July 15, 2002. The commission would expire Dec. 31, 2002.

Christine Maziar, vice president for research and dean of the university's graduate school, said the U of M supports the idea. "This promises an exciting way to have further dialogue on what the university needs."

Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) wants the commission to include costs with any

recommendations. Pawlenty responded that in the bill it states "the task force is encouraged to consider operation and capital financing needs, Minnesota economic needs, federal research priorities, and opportunities for private financial support."

Raising a concern about more bureaucracy, Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr. (DFL-Winona) asked why this bill is necessary now but wasn't in the past.

Pawlenty said some people might be happy with where the university is now, but for those that are not "this is worth a try. They can benefit from a constructive nudge now and then."

## HOUSING

### Uniformity of inspection fees

A bill that might bring more uniformity to municipal inspection fees was approved by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee April 6.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

HF1310, sponsored by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), would restrict municipalities from adopting ordinances or developing agreements that differ from the state building code.

The bill also requires that municipal permit and plan review fees be fair, reasonable and proportionate to the actual cost of the service for which the fee is imposed.

Abrams said there is a concern that some inspection fees are being used by municipalities as revenue sources and that in some cities the cost of the regulation is far less than what is being collected. He said the bill strikes the appropriate balance between ensuring public safety needs are met but keeping the fees based on their true costs.

"This is the first step in the process by which the Legislature can get a handle on one of the causes that is driving up housing costs," he said. He added that he believed the vast majority of local officials want to know why their fees differ from other cities.

The bill would clarify that the state's building code supercedes local ordinances. It also would require municipalities to report annually to the Department of Administration all construction and development related fees that are collected.

Thomas Joachim, a state building official with the Department of Administration, said the department is in the process of adopting a new code that will become effective July 1, 2002. He said one of the principle concepts behind the code is that it is applied consistently throughout the state.

Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville)

expressed concern that the bill would restrict some necessary local ordinances. She said that in Lakeville the city has certain requirements dealing with tiling in foundations because of water problems unique to the city.

Abrams incorporated an amendment into the bill that would allow municipalities to adopt ordinances differing from the state building code to account for certain physical conditions.

## HUMAN SERVICES

### Truth in advertising

Finding an appropriate assisted living facility for a family member with Alzheimer's disease is an arduous task on many levels. Making a decision would be easier if you could clearly see how establishments compare.

With that and the protection of vulnerable people in mind, Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) is sponsoring a bill that would establish disclosure requirements for assisted living facilities with special care units for people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.

"Basically, the bill says what you advertise, you must do," Otremba said.

HF918 was heard April 10 by the House Health and Human Services Policy



Deb Peterson from the state Attorney General's Office answers questions from House Health and Human Services Policy Committee members April 10 about a bill that would establish disclosure requirements for assisted living facilities that have special care units for people with Alzheimer's disease.



Committee. It was narrowly approved after a lengthy discussion and sent to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

Iris Freeman, public policy director of the Alzheimer's Association of Minnesota, said there are currently more than 90,000 people in Minnesota with Alzheimer's disease. She characterized HF918 as "a comparison shopping bill that will help families shop wisely."

Areas of disclosure would include such things as: a statement of philosophy; criteria for deciding who may reside in the special unit; the process for assessment; staff credentials, duties, and job descriptions; physical environment characteristics; type and frequency of activities and programs for residents; and fee schedules for additional services.

The bill is a "product of lengthy discussion" by the nursing home industry, the attorney general's office, and the Alzheimer's Association, according to Doug Beardsley, public affairs chair for Care Providers of Minnesota. "It's a delicate balance," Beardsley said. "I believe we've achieved a workable disclosure agreement."

Several lawmakers voiced concerns about Otremba's bill, especially over the role played by the attorney general's office.

"I'm very reluctant to add more regulations when I'm not convinced there's a problem," said Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault).

Assistant Attorney General Deb Peterson said the only power being given to the attorney general was to enforce disclosure violations.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said he was uncomfortable with the bill and suggested waiting until next session to consider it.

"There are thousands and thousands of Alzheimer's patients out there, and some of them are being cared for inappropriately," Otremba said. "I am not willing to wait and sacrifice a few more patients."

Committee Chair Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) said he supported the bill. "It is the right level of compromise."

## ★ IMMIGRATION

### Hispanic population prospers

The 1990 census showed the state's Hispanic population to be 53,884. Ten years later that population grew to 143,382, a 166 percent increase.

The House Redistricting Committee heard from representatives of the state's fastest growing minority community April 10. Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), the committee chair, said the hearing was the first of several in the



Val Vargas of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Minnesota testifies April 10 before the House Redistricting Committee.

next few weeks that will focus on presentations from the state's minority communities.

"It's critically important that we hear testimony from these groups," Paulsen said. He said the committee hopes to learn more about the business and industries of the communities along with their social, cultural, religious, and historical backgrounds.

Rick Aguilar, president of St. Paul-based Aguilar Productions, said the Hispanic community is now the largest minority community nationwide and the state's Hispanic population is changing.

"Immigrants who historically left are staying now," Aguilar said.

Ricardo Vallejos, president of the Minnesota-based International and Ethnic Communications, said there are differences between how traditional America views such concepts as culture and values compared to how those in Hispanic communities view the terms.

Vallejos said the "Anglo" definition of culture has to do with shared beliefs and values, along with ways of thinking and language. But Latinos tend to view culture more in historic terms, as traditions are an important part of life.

Similarly Vallejos said in defining community, the Anglo definition incorporates geographic area into the equation while the Latino

use of the term has more to do with the sharing of identity and interests.

The Latino community had around \$2.8 billion worth of buying power in 1999 according to Val Vargas, the chief executive officer of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Minnesota.

Vargas said that by 2015 one out of every 22 Hispanic adults would own a business. Currently there are more than 2,000 Hispanic businesses in the state. She said there are a large number of Hispanic students in Minnesota and many of them would like to stay because of the economic opportunities found in the state.

Vargas grew up in a Twin Cities suburb where her family was the only Hispanic family in the area. But she said that over the past few years she has seen the rapidly changing face of the area.

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) said historically the state's Hispanic population was found mostly in the western part of St. Paul but now there are significant numbers in places like Moorhead and Willmar.

"It's everywhere and that's a good sign, a healthy thing for this state," he said.

## ★ INDUSTRY

### Governor grants miners benefits

The House passed a conference committee report April 9 that would allow laid-off LTV miners to collect an extra 26 weeks of unemployment benefits when regular benefits expire.

Unemployment benefits are running out for about 30 LTV Steel Mining Co. workers laid off in August 2000. More than 1,300 additional workers of the Hoyt Lakes plant were laid off when the company went bankrupt in February.

The measure (HF47) was passed by the House with a 126-5 vote and passed the Senate April 11. Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) sponsored the bill in the House.

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed the measure into law April 11. It is effective for benefits retroactive to Aug. 1, 2000.

Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) explained to House members the reason they received a conference committee report so early in the session.

"Those 900 people on unemployment benefits are making decisions about how to put their lives back together for themselves and their families," he said.

The former LTV workers are also moving into new careers, and Bakk said in rural

Minnesota one can't go down the street and find another job — especially on the Iron Range. "Their skills are unique to the industry," he added.

HF47 was initially passed by the House earlier in the session. In its original form, it granted an extra 13 weeks of unemployment compensation for those laid off last August. Another bill had been introduced that would have provided a longer extension of benefits for the workers laid off in February.

A Senate version of the bill, however, called for 30 weeks of unemployment compensation for all former LTV workers and therefore a conference committee convened.

HF47, as it was originally drafted, still extends the time a mining plant is kept in operating condition from one year to two years to give the state more time to find a buyer for the facility.

The former workers would be eligible for 26 weeks of compensation in a 95-week window of time. This would allow workers to be employed in temporary positions such as summer construction.

To receive benefits, applicants must be enrolled in an education or job training program. The 95-week period would extend through the end of the 2001-02 school year, allowing time for applicants to complete any training programs while still receiving benefits.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) said with HF47, "the LTV fix," no further unemployment extensions for the workers should be necessary.

Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Tower) sponsored the Senate version.

HF47\*/SF39/CH30

## LAW



### Child support changes

Lawmakers have removed a provision creating driver's license sanctions from a bill intending to streamline child support payments.

The House Civil Law Committee voted unanimously April 6 to delete a section of current law permitting the state to suspend the driver's license of parents whose child support payments are overdue.

Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) proposed the amendment. She had explained previously that the suspension is especially hard on rural parents who need a car to get to work. Committee Chair Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound) agreed, describing the provision as "way too onerous."

In addition to streamlining child support procedures, the bill (HF1807), sponsored by

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), would allow the commissioner of human services to pay a fee to financial institutions for information relating to parents whose child support payments are overdue.

Smith successfully proposed a second amendment reducing a proposed \$700 penalty the state may impose on financial institutions that fail to comply with subpoenas for information regarding the financial resources of parents failing to make child support payments. Under Smith's amendment, employers could be fined up to \$500 per incident and \$25 per day.

Christa Anders, legislative manager for the child support enforcement division at the Department of Human Services, said federal law requires states to impose monetary fines on employers who fail to comply with court-ordered child-support wage garnishment.

"This is the last thing we need to implement the federal mandate," she explained during a telephone interview. She said the federal government would withhold about \$3 million from welfare grants if Minnesota failed to adopt the sanction on financial institutions.

The committee approved the bill and referred it to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

### Premarital counseling

In response to concern over high divorce rates, legislators are moving forward a plan intended to encourage engaged couples to seek premarital counseling.

A bill (HF2132), sponsored by Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), would decrease the marriage license fee from \$70 to \$20 for couples who receive at least 12 hours of premarital education.

Harder told an April 6 meeting of the House Civil Law Committee that premarital education can "have a positive effect on issues we are wrestling with at the Capitol." The committee approved the bill and referred it to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

The bill specifies that counseling could be provided only by a licensed or ordained minister, a person authorized to perform marriage ceremonies, or a licensed marriage or family counselor.

The committee amended the measure to specify that \$15 of the \$20 fee remains with the county in which the license is granted. The remaining \$5 would be deposited into the state's general fund, as are most funds under the existing system.

Of that \$5, the bill would continue an existing appropriation of \$2 to the commissioner

of health for the MN ENABL teen pregnancy program and \$3 to the Department of Children, Families, and Learning for "parenting time centers." The fiscal impact of the bill has not yet been determined.

A similar bill passed both the House and Senate last year but was vetoed by Gov. Jesse Ventura because it increased all marriage license fees to \$75. The Senate overrode the veto, but the House was unsuccessful in its attempt.

William Doherty, a faculty member at the University of Minnesota Law school specializing in family law, said premarital counseling has been shown to increase couples' satisfaction and is associated with decreased divorce rates. He said successful counseling includes conflict management and communication skills and should last at least 12 hours.

### Administering state courts

For the past 10 years, the state has been examining the option of taking over the administration of the court systems in the state. As of July 1, 2000, costs for four of the state's 10 judicial districts were transferred to the state.

A bill, sponsored by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), would continue the process, transferring costs for all 10 districts to the state by 2005.

HF2244 would provide for the state takeover of districts 2 and 4 (Hennepin and Ramsey counties) in 2003, districts 1 and 3 (southeastern and south central Minnesota) in 2004, and districts 6 and 10 (northeastern and east central Minnesota) in 2005.

"We are one state, we ought to have one judicial system," Abrams said before the House Judiciary Finance Committee April 5. Minnesota needs "equality of justice and equality of the administration of justice."

The committee approved the measure, as did the House Civil Law Committee. It now moves to the House Taxes Committee, which Abrams chairs. Members expressed interest in helping craft the final version of the bill that might be included in the omnibus tax measure for 2001.

Abrams said counties are struggling to cover the costs of the judicial system, since costs have increased significantly during the past few years, but Homestead Agricultural Credit Aid (HACA) has only increased at a rate of about 1.6 percent.

The bill would create a formula for determining how much a county's HACA aid should be reduced since the state is taking over the costs of running courts.

The Minnesota Supreme Court, which oversees state court administration, would

determine the county's cost savings (which would take into account the transfer of certain court fines and fees to the state) and then the county's HACA payment would be permanently reduced by 50 percent of the net cost.

The remaining 50 percent of HACA would be reduced in the second calendar year following the state takeover.

Abrams said some counties might not be totally satisfied with the solution initially. But this is a situation, he said, where officials need to evaluate whether the system is better five years down the road.

He challenged members of the committee to view the issue in the long-term context.

Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) agreed the system transfer needs to move forward. She asked Abrams to discuss some of the difficulties the counties already under state jurisdiction have had during the transition.

Abrams said it's important as the plan moves forward to make sure the counties are accurately reporting costs and the state judicial system receives an adequate budget to cover costs.

He also suggested giving chief judges a sufficient check and balance system with the state court administrator in running each district.

## ★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Firefighter aid becomes law

A new law signed April 11 by Gov. Jesse Ventura will give cities the authority to provide housing assistance for volunteer firefighters and ambulance personnel.

HF172/SF9\*, sponsored by Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), allows cities to offer the assistance to attract and retain qualified personnel necessary to ensure timely public safety service.

Mares said he sponsored the bill on behalf of the city of Mahtomedi, which is seeking help in attracting volunteer firefighters to the city.

The legislation was necessary because of a precedent established by a 1952 state attorney general opinion. That opinion held that the city of Newport did not have the authority to provide living quarters to its police chief unless the Legislature granted special authority.

Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) was the Senate sponsor.

The law became effective April 12.

HF172/SF9\*/CH19

## ★ METRO AFFAIRS

### 'Sane Lane' study

Legislators have approved a study of Interstate 394 that could open high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to all traffic for an estimated six weeks.

The House Transportation Policy Committee approved HF1054, sponsored by Rep. Jeff Johnson (R-Plymouth), April 10 and referred it to the House Transportation Finance Committee without recommendation.

The lanes are designated for use only by vehicles carrying more than one passenger. They lead motorists east into Minneapolis from western suburbs in the morning, and are reserved for outbound vehicles during the evening rush.

According to Christine Johnson of the Federal Highway Administration, high-occupancy vehicle lanes are designed to appear underutilized to frustrated commuters, who then feel motivated to carpool or ride the bus. In the long run, she said, the very perception of underutilization is "part of the attraction" for mass transit.

Rep. Johnson described the lanes as "a failed experiment in behavior modification," and described as "purely speculative" concerns that the study's opening the lanes could increase congestion in all lanes. Johnson said he "is generally not a big fan of studies," but that the proposal is "the only way to go with respect to this issue."

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) argued the bill could ultimately hurt commuters by eliminating current mechanisms that make transit more attractive.

George Bentley, acting transit administrator for Plymouth Metrolink, a suburban Minneapolis bus operator, said buses from his agency, Metro Transit, and Southwest Transit all use HOV lanes. He predicted that closing the lanes would encourage suburban bus riders to simply drive themselves, making existing congestion worse.

Rep. Johnson characterized such concerns as "speculative," urging the committee to "see what happens."

Responding to concerns raised by opponents, Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska), chair of the House Transportation Finance Committee, assured members that HF1054 would not pass her committee without assurances that closing HOV lanes would not violate federal contracts as to how the lanes would be used.

The FHA's Johnson suggested a violation could result in a federal funding moratorium for Twin Cities metropolitan area transportation projects.

## ★ RECREATION

### Yer out!

A bill that would have provided a \$140 million loan to the Minnesota Twins to help build a new stadium was tabled by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee April 11.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) made the motion to table the bill. It was approved by a 12-6 vote.

In its original form, HF2214, sponsored by Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), would require that one-half of the stadium costs be financed by the Twins or other private sector contributions. The bill originally had the state contributing a \$100 million interest-free loan.

An amendment supported by Mares increased the amount of the loan by \$40 million but removed a provision that would have allowed the Metropolitan Council to issue up to \$40 million of revenue bonds to help in construction costs.

The bill also would exempt the unspecified stadium site from property and sales tax. Further sales tax exemptions would be applied to the materials and supplies used in construction.

"I firmly believe in the concept of this bill," Mares said at an April 9 hearing. "The Minnesota Twins are a very significant part of life for millions of Minnesotans. They are truly a Minnesota resource — economically, socially, culturally. There is a great deal of support for the Twins."

Mares said the proposal would require no increase in taxes and that the Twins would ultimately be responsible for more than 96 percent of the cost. The bill also requires that Major League Baseball adopt reforms to improve the game's competitive balance.

Karla Blomberg, a local realtor who co-chaired the Twins funded "Committee of Minnesotans for Major League Baseball," said when asked to serve on the committee she let it be known she knew little about baseball and was not interested in serving on a stadium committee.

Blomberg said she was concerned about the challenge to remain independent since the Twins funded the committee. But the integrity of committee members ensured their autonomy, she said.

"Quality of life has long been a source of pride for Minnesota. Beyond having it in our homes and our workplaces and in our education it's outside. It is in the fields. It is recreation and sports facilities and sports teams that make up a big part of that quality of life. These are the things that put us on the map," Blomberg said. "Nobody would have ever heard of Green Bay all around the country if



Wisconsin state legislator John Gard from Peshtigo holds up a newspaper proclaiming the opening of the new Miller Park, home of the Milwaukee Brewers. He told the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee April 9 of the little or no political fallout members received for voting to approve financial assistance for the stadium. Two days later the committee voted 12-6 to table the bill.

it wasn't for the Packers."

Speaking at the April 11 hearing, Tom Goldstein, a publisher of a literary baseball magazine questioned why the issue was even being considered with other issues to address this session and with little public support behind the initiative.

Goldstein said there was nothing in the bill that would prevent the Twins from playing county proposals against each other and ultimately end up responsible for none of the costs. He said the proposed stadium was an effort to cater to the elite at the expense of the true baseball fan.

"Major League Baseball is making a fatal mistake trying to attract customers and not fans," Goldstein said.

## ★ SAFETY

### Resolution for safer cigarettes

After voting down a measure to create rules for fire retardant cigarettes, the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Policy Committee approved a resolution urging Congress to pass legislation requiring only cigarettes that are less likely to start fires to be sold in the United States.

The resolution (HF2362) addresses some concerns of members who voted down the bill for fire retardant cigarettes earlier this session.

It reads, in part: "Whereas, the Minnesota Legislature realizes that a state law may be rendered less effective by the availability of non-complying cigarettes from other states.

"Whereas, the development of appropriate

regulations to reduce the risk of cigarette-related fires and the enforcement of such regulations can be most efficiently and effectively accomplished at the national level through federal legislation."

Committee Chair Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) explained to committee members April 10 why he sponsored the resolution after voting 'no' on the bill (HF175) for safer cigarettes.

Davids said he didn't disagree with the measure, but was concerned about the effect it would have on commerce in Minnesota.

"If there is no movement at the national level ... in a year I will consider where I am on the bill," he said. "Something needs to be done nationwide to make a safer cigarette that reduces fires."

HF175 would have required the state fire marshal to adopt rules regarding fire retardant standards for cigarettes. The fire safe cigarettes would not have been required to be the only type of cigarette sold in the state until a bill stating so received legislative approval.

Only New York has passed legislation on fire safe cigarettes. Six other states have legislation pending on the matter.

Other members also expressed further support for the bill if no federal action results in the coming years. Rep. Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm), a no vote on HF175, said he will keep a close eye on New York and the effects the new laws have on commerce and communities.

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## ★ TAXES

### Wedded tax bliss

The House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division heard a bill April 5 that would further reduce the "marriage penalty" found in the tax code.

In both federal and state tax laws, married couples are sometimes required to pay more income tax than if they were to file as individuals because of the different rates that apply to individuals and joint filers.

Two years ago the state adopted a marriage penalty credit that allowed a deduction for couples who file a joint return equal to the difference they would have paid if they had filed separate returns.

HF1848, sponsored by Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud), would further reduce the marriage penalty by allowing subtractions to five of the state's tax credits, subtractions or exemptions — the working family credit, the dependent care credit, the K-12 credit, the elderly/disabled subtraction, and the alternative minimum tax exemption.

Knoblach said although far fewer people are affected by the inequities in the credits than the penalties that exist in the tax rates, the amount of those who are affected is far greater.

As an example he said currently a single mother of two with an income of \$19,000 would qualify for a \$1,347 working family credit. If that person were to marry an individual with the same income, the couple would lose the credit because the combined income of \$38,000 is over the eligibility amount.

The Department of Revenue estimates the cost of the bill would be around \$45 million in 2002 increasing to \$57 million by 2005. The estimate did not include the administrative costs the department would incur.

"I don't believe we should be penalizing marriage in our tax code," Knoblach said. "Marriage is the foundation of our society."

The committee took no action on the bill, but Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the division chair, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

### Medical research break

Last year an unusual new word made its way into the American lexicon — the genome, also known as the human genetic pattern.

One wouldn't think the word would pop up in a House Taxes Committee hearing. But House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) presented a bill to the committee April 10 that would establish a public/private

partnership designed to develop commercial applications for biomedical research and technologies, including genomics developed in the state.

Pawlenty said HF2127, an initiative of Gov. Jesse Ventura's administration, would direct the Department of Trade and Economic Development to establish a for-profit entity that would pursue biomedical innovation and commercialization initiatives.

The entity would be a joint venture between the state, the University of Minnesota, the medical technology industry, and private investors. The bill would allow a 25 percent credit against the individual income and corporate franchise tax for investments in the initiative. The total cash investment in the entity is capped at \$40 million.

Pawlenty said the bill is an attempt to address Minnesota's ability to continue to compete in a changing economy.

Dr. Mark Paller, assistant vice president of the University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center, said the biomedical industry is rapidly growing.

"This would provide a business opportunity to position the state of Minnesota for a future prominent role in the biomedical industry," Paller said.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), who is sponsoring a similar measure because he believes in the economic development potential, had concerns with the bill. He said that because the state no longer requires corporate bylaws, it wasn't clear how the entity would function.

McElroy also pointed out there was no definition in the bill of what "biomedical" encompasses.

Pawlenty said he wanted to keep the definition as broad as possible, and that he would work on clarifying the way the entity would function.

The committee adopted a couple of technical amendments to the bill clarifying language, but took no further action. Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

### **Stimulating economic development**

Early in the session the House Taxes Committee heard a bill sponsored by Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) that would establish 10 tax free zones in the state to encourage economic development.

The committee's Sales and Income Tax Division heard a bill April 5 that would provide a sales tax exemption on the first \$1 million in sales for small businesses in small cities.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), the sponsor of HF1695, dubbed the bill "Pawlenty-lite."

He said many small cities in his district are losing their populations and are thereby slowly dying. The bill would encourage business creation and retention in those communities.

HF1695 would only apply to cities with populations of less than 1,200. In order for a business to qualify for the exemption it would have to be located more than five miles from any city with a population greater than 10,000, be owned and operated by a person living in the same city, and could not be a franchise or owned by a large corporation.

Mulder said that there is a high risk involved in opening a business in a small community that's losing its population. In order to stop the population loss, he said, communities must retain businesses like hardware and grocery stores.

"Maybe this is the incentive they need," he said.

The Department of Revenue was unable to estimate how much the bill would cost, but Mulder said that because small border cities might attract businesses from other states to come to Minnesota, the impact to the state probably would be small.

The committee took no action on the bill, but Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the division chair, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

"This is one small thing we can do to maintain these communities," Mulder said.

"So it's one small step for the tax committee, one giant leap for rural mankind," Harder quipped.

### **Better health**

A bill that would allow more Minnesotans to subtract health insurance premiums from their taxes was heard by the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division April 5.

The committee took no action on the measure, but Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the division chair, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

HF1995, sponsored by Rep. Connie Bernardy (DFL-Fridley), would expand the current state subtraction for health insurance premiums for the self-employed to include all medical care expenses for all taxpayers.

Bernardy said approximately 90 percent of health care premiums are currently deductible including employer paid or employee paid from pre-tax accounts. There also is a deduction allowed for the self employed.

She added, "6.2 percent of the premiums paid do not receive a tax break or deduction. This is an issue of fairness and would make

health care premiums more affordable."

Mike Burress, a financial planner from Swenson and Anderson, said there is a trend for more businesses to not include one's spouse and dependents in their employee's health care packages.

"It is surprising to me the number of people who we counsel that pay for their own health care," Burress said.

The Department of Revenue estimates the cost of expanding the subtraction would be around \$32 million in 2002, increasing by about \$3 million each year after that. The estimate does not include the administrative costs the department would incur.

Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee), who carried a similar measure that was included in last year's omnibus tax bill but did not survive the conference committee, said she appreciated that Bernardy brought the issue back.

"It seems unfair that a certain few just cannot get this break that others are," she said.

## **★ TRANSPORTATION**

### **.08 shot down**

By an overwhelming margin, a House committee has rejected a plan to reduce the legal blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) for operating vehicles from .10 to .08. The House Transportation Finance Committee voted the bill down April 9 by a 10-4 vote.

Sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) and Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), HF51 was estimated to save the state \$2.4 million in fiscal year 2002, a figure that reflects federal funds expected to be made available as an incentive to states that adopt the 0.08 level. Were the bill adopted, the Department of Revenue estimates the state would save a total of \$24.7 million through different grant programs by fiscal year 2005.

On the other hand, if the state does not move to .08 by 2004 it could lose federal highway dollars.

The Senate version, SF118 sponsored by Sen. Leo Foley (DFL-Coon Rapids), was defeated in the Senate State Government, Economic Development, and Judiciary Budget Division April 5.

The fiscal impact of the bill has been especially difficult to calculate, in part because federal incentive money is dispersed according to the order in which states adopt .08, and other states could do so earlier or later than anticipated.

The bill's genuine cost has also been obscured by confusion regarding federal



funding, other than the incentive dollars, to states adopting the lower limit. The federal government chose to reallocate federal monies from transportation to public safety projects in states with a limit above .08.

However, Committee Chair Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) emphasized that Minnesota appropriated that money specifically to improvements in the driver's license database, and not to what she described as "hazard mitigation," an expenditure more closely related to projects associated with transportation spending.

Kenn Rockler, executive director of the Wine, Beer, and Spirits Federation of Minnesota, warned that dropping the legal blood-alcohol limit would result in a \$20 million loss in state tax revenue. Entenza disagreed, claiming to have data showing an increase in alcohol consumption and tax revenue in states moving from a .10 to a .08 limit.

Goodno said the only fee increase for .08 convicts would be a \$2.50 increase in the \$20 driver's license reinstatement fee.

### Photocop measure fails

Citing potential technical glitches and "philosophical objections," the House Transportation Policy Committee rejected a bill that would have allowed local governments to enforce existing traffic signal laws with photographic evidence.

HF663, sponsored by Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), would have allowed cities to erect "photocop" cameras activated only when cars enter intersections after the stoplight has turned red. Biernat told the committee April 5 that a second photograph is then taken to determine the direction of the car and whether it was stuck in traffic or if the driver waited for other cars before turning left.

Police officers would inspect the images and mail tickets to those drivers who genuinely appear to be running a red light. The bill specifies that photocop systems may photograph only the rear of a vehicle and not drivers.

The bill would have exempted owners of stolen vehicles and car rental companies. It also guaranteed that photocop tickets would not appear on drivers' records.

Biernat said photocop systems are used by 40 foreign countries, at least 14 states, and the District of Columbia.

After using the systems, San Francisco experienced a 40 percent decline in the number of cars running red lights at intersections with the system, while Washington D.C. experienced a 59 percent decline. He said that according to national figures, running red lights yields 89,000 crashes, 80,000 injuries, 1,000 deaths, and \$7 billion in economic loss each year.

Rep. Andrew Westerberg (R-Blaine)

## BIG BEAR COUNTRY PROPOSAL



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Larry Fiegen, chair of the Citizens for Bear Center, describes the Big Bear Country Education Center to members of the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee during an April 6 hearing. Also testifying on the project were Richard Swatek, director of the Koochiching Economic Development Authority, and Mayor Gary Buentemeier of Northome.

explained his opposition to the bill grew from concern that the signals could someday be used to monitor crosswalks and other intersections. He added that were the system to be refined, "people would be cut out completely" from the enforcement process. "Violators would be policed by just a machine," he said.

Tom Trekker, Minnesota Coordinator for the National Motorists Association, said enforcement mechanisms such as proper engineering of intersections, increased yellow-light durations, and public education campaigns are "far more effective than camera enforcement."

"There is absolutely nothing we can accomplish public-safety wise with a camera," Committee Chair Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) said.

### Bottlenecks and regional corridors

Lawmakers are considering devoting hundreds of millions of dollars to eliminating traffic bottlenecks in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and improving "at-risk" regional highway corridors in Greater Minnesota.

The House Transportation Finance Committee heard two bills containing one-time appropriations April 11, choosing to lay both over for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

HF1286, sponsored by Rep. Connie Ruth (R-Owatonna), would devote \$200 million "primarily for the purpose of improving traffic flow and expanding highway capacity" around the Twin Cities. An additional

\$200 million would be devoted to Greater Minnesota trunk highway improvements. She proposed those figures based on a similar proposal made last year.

Ruth said in a later interview that she would "leave up to leadership" the decision whether the \$400 million would be appropriated from the state's estimated \$856 million surplus at the conclusion of the current fiscal year. She suggested bonding, appropriations from future surplus, or eliminating non-highway expenditure from the highway user tax distribution fund could sufficiently cover the appropriation.

Waseca Mayor Tom Hagen testified in favor of HF1286, explaining that "a few years ago, I would have said 'Give back all the surplus.' Having become a public servant, I have seen the unmet needs, particularly in our community."

Hagen specifically mentioned U.S. Highway 14, which runs through his community and which Ruth described as a "death trap," as a likely candidate for improvement. He said the appropriation would allow Waseca to "focus on downtown revitalization" and "help the private economy to flourish."

Rep. Ray Vandever (R-Forest Lake) described his proposed \$60 million appropriation as "a little more modest."

HF1965 would devote \$25 million for each of the appropriations in Ruth's bill, and would provide \$10 million for transit advantages such as park-and-ride lots.

The committee adopted an amendment forbidding the use of the funds for any expenditure related to light rail or commuter rail.

# Truancy prevention

Bill aims to set student attendance goals high and provide rewards for meeting those goals

BY THERESA STAHL

Since he retired from a long teaching career, Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) said he has been asked how things have changed in the classroom. Most changes were positive, he said, but there were also problems, mainly relating attendance and mobility.

The number of students who were frequently absent was minimal in Carlson's early years of teaching, he said. In his last year, however, he said his attendance book was scattered with absences and excuses.

Combining his own experience with the findings of a statewide study on truancy, Carlson is sponsoring a bill (HF2376) that would attempt to reduce truancy by helping schools set attendance goals and providing financial incentives for schools to meet those objectives.

The House K-12 Education Finance Committee heard the bill April 9, and will consider it for inclusion in its omnibus bill.

HF2376 would require school districts to establish a minimum threshold for student attendance of 95 percent. Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) offered an amendment to require a 95 percent student attendance goal for secondary schools and a 97 percent student attendance goal for elementary schools. Carlson did not object to the amendment, which was approved.

Under the bill, school districts would be required to issue an initial report of its truancy goals, as well as its current truancy rates to the Department of Children, Families and Learning. Annual reports on the outcomes of truancy reduction efforts would also be submitted to the department.

The bill would cost about \$8.2 million in each year of the 2002-03 biennium. School districts would receive an additional 4 percent of the district's base compensatory revenue only if its truancy goals are met.

(Compensatory revenue is a portion of school's general education funding. The revenue is based on the number of students who

are eligible for free and reduced price meals.)

Truancy revenue issued to schools would be over and above funds a district is already spending on truancy prevention measures.

Programs to reduce truancy may include "parental involvement programs, programs designed to increase personal contact with stu-



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Stephanie Autumn, staff member at the Council on Crime and Justice, testifies April 9 before the House K-12 Education Finance Committee in support of HF2376, a bill that would promote school success through enhanced pupil attendance, and provides funding for truancy reduction activities.

dents and family, and collaborative activities with other schools or with social service and law enforcement agencies providing truancy reduction activities," the bill states.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) said he appreciates the premise behind the bill, but it may be shifting what is presently counties' responsibility to local school boards. Carlson said language in the bill describes a "community-wide approach" in programs to reduce truancy.

Youth workers testified in support of the bill, telling the committee that truancy workers are spread thin and assistance with this growing problem is greatly needed.

On any given day in Minneapolis or St. Paul, 10 to 15 percent of students miss school, said Susan Carstens, a juvenile specialist with the Crystal Police Department and Truancy Coalition. She explained the bill evolved from findings of a task force to study truancy.

"There is a high correlation with kids who miss school and kids in corrections," Carstens said.

Stephanie Autumn, staff member at the Council on Crime and Justice, has seen the same results in years of work with truants. Autumn, herself an American Indian, said the American Indian community has the lowest high school graduation rate and subsequently the highest dropout rate. However, she said, the problem starts long before high school.

"We're losing children before they get to middle school," Autumn said. She cited poverty, violence, and homelessness as reasons for truancy.

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) said with so many programs from preschool to post-high school, "Where is the disconnect?"

Steven Robinson, associate director of the Youth Intervention Programs Association, who attributed truancy to a "lack of social skills and the issue of mental health," said the lack of connection takes place outside the social structure of school.

"We need to address things going on in families. It is parents' responsibility to get these kids to school, but they need our help," he said.

School officials say they don't have the resources to provide help in addressing issues outside of school, Robinson said. The bill addresses helping community organizations collaborate, something Robinson said "needs to happen."

"When they drop out of school they also drop out of the community and into the justice system," Autumn said. "We need to be making our schools community-based schools." 🐼

# Out with the old

Lawmakers move to repeal obsolete laws dealing with issues ranging from loose cattle to dance marathons

BY DAVID MAEDA

**C**urrent Minnesota law requires that you honk your car horn within 200 feet of any curve on a "mountain highway" where your view is obstructed.

The 1937 law is one of several on the books that do not seem to apply to modern times.

Lawmakers demonstrated April 5 that it might be easier to be in agreement when repealing obsolete laws than it often is when passing new ones.

Much of that day's floor session was devoted to bills repealing old laws. Due to the nature of the bills, a lot of the discussion on the House floor was light-hearted as members found themselves in the unusual position of talking about gypsies, dance marathons, and castrating breachy cattle.

The day was a culmination of an effort by lawmakers this session to take a good look at existing laws and see which ones really are obsolete or outdated. Although the Office of the Revisor of Statutes does propose a bill eliminating obsolete references each year, some things still slip through.

Most of the bills passed April 5 with little dissension and were considered so uncontroversial in the Senate they were placed on the consent calendar where they passed unanimously.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), the House sponsor of SF480 which repealed the

1937 horn honking law, said the bill also repealed laws regulating trackless trolleys and prohibiting an owner of a coach carrying passengers from employing any person who is addicted to the excessive use of intoxicating liquors.

The bill passed by a 130-0 vote. It now awaits the governor's signature.

McElroy also sponsored a bill that repeals a law prohibiting "itinerant carnivals."

The statutes define an itinerant carnival as "a promiscuous gathering of people, as spectators or otherwise, at which lewd or obscene features are a part, or at which any gambling concessions are given or games of chance practiced or in or about which actors or other persons connected therewith are engaged in immoral pursuits, or at which attractions are exhibited which affect the health or morals of the community."

SF971, sponsored by Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul), also passed by a 130-0 vote. Gov. Jesse Ventura signed the bill April 11. It takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

McElroy said other existing statutes regulate the more conventional and traditional circuses held in the state.

Among other obsolete law bills that passed unanimously were SF327, sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), which tosses out a statute that required the chair of town boards to castrate stallions, bulls, boars, or rams



HF1637 — repeals provisions that require counties to license

roaming at large in a town. HF1616, sponsored by Rep. Mark Thompson (DFL-New Hope), would repeal a rule specifying what types of sirens are approved on emergency vehicles.

Gov. Ventura also signed SF327, sponsored by Sen. Arlene Lesewski (R-Marshall). It takes effect Aug. 1.

SF972, sponsored by McElroy and Kelly, would repeal a law prohibiting endurance contests such as dance marathons. It passed 129-2 with Reps. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) casting dissenting votes. The bill, signed by Gov. Ventura on April 11, becomes law Aug. 1.

Rep. Barbara Goodwin (DFL-Columbia Heights) asked McElroy if he would support



SF480 — abolishes statutes that define a trackless trolley car, that regulate driving through rough country (such as having to sound your horn around "mountainous" curves), and that prohibit employment by passenger carriers of persons addicted to liquor.





hawkers and peddlers.

the ban of marathon legislative floor sessions and committee hearings.

McElroy pointed out, to choruses of laughter, that the proposed repealed law had to do with entertainment and he didn't think too many Minnesotans are "entertained" by the Legislature.

Not all the bills were agreed upon so unanimously.

HF1637, sponsored by Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), would repeal licensing of hawkers and peddlers.

Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea) offered an amendment to the bill that would repeal the state's law prohibiting the reselling of tickets above their face value.

"This is going on whether we want to admit it that it's going on or not. People are paying more than face value for tickets all the time," he said. "Right now if someone has



SF327 — repeals a provision about requiring the castration of certain male animals or breachy cattle (those prone to breaking through fences).

enough money that they can afford to go out and afford to buy that ticket they just may not do it from someone in Minnesota. We ought to at least acknowledge what's happening and we should go ahead and repeal this law."

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) spoke against the repealing of ticket scalping saying the law was in place to ensure people of all incomes could afford to go to sporting events.

"I get really upset when I see people charging \$7,000 for tickets that have face value of \$75 or \$150," Osthoff said. "What you're proposing is that only big business or the rich can buy tickets to go into publicly sponsored events in our state. When travel agencies can buy big blocks of tickets and then raise the price to sell them so that average people can't get them, I believe that's a mistake."

Osthoff's comments prompted a lively exchange with Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls).

"Rep. Osthoff do you really believe that the Minnesota law against scalping has prevented the sale of scalped tickets?" Kahn asked.

Osthoff replied, "Rep. Kahn that's a question you ought to ask your chief of police. He said he's made arrests to stop it. But I know we don't have this problem in St. Paul, seems only to be a Minneapolis problem."

"Maybe if you had anything worth going on in St. Paul," Kahn retorted, again answered with good-natured exclamations.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) said he thought that sponsors of major sporting events, such as the NCAA Men's Final Four basketball tournament, would not come to a city that allows scalping.

The amendment failed by a 91-39 vote. The bill passed unanimously.

Another bill that generated discussion was HF615, sponsored by Seifert, that dealt in part with repealing rules of the Pollution Control Agency in abating tire dumps.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) said she opposed the bill because officials from the PCA testified in committee that the counties would become responsible for dealing with waste tires.

"I don't think we want to be shifting this to property taxes," Wagenius said.



SF971 — repeals a law that prohibits holding itinerant carnivals (those that travel from place to place and are engaged in "immoral pursuits").



SF972 — repealing the law prohibiting endurance contests, particularly all-night dance marathons.



HF1616 — repealing obsolete rules of the commissioner of public safety prescribing standards for sirens on emergency vehicles.

Seifert said that even if the bill did not pass, the agency was going to invalidate the rules this summer at a cost of \$6,700 to go through the repeal process. He said the rules have not been used in seven years.

The bill failed by a 66-64 vote. Seifert moved that it be reconsidered and returned to the General Register. That motion was approved and the bill likely will be taken up again later in the session. 🐼

Photos courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

# Forging ahead

A quintet of bills focus on early intervention to prevent long-term mental health problems

By MARY KAY WATSON

**M**embers of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee considered five bills relating to mental illness at their April 11 meeting. All five were laid over for possible inclusion in the committee's finance bill.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) is sponsoring two major mental health bills this year. HF812, the Comprehensive Mental Health Act of 2001, would provide a systematic improvement in the state's mental health system, and HF1531 would allow greater flexibility for provision of mental health services.

But other initiatives, sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) and Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), also make significant adjustments to the mental health system.

Based on recommendations by the Mental Health Legislative Network, a collaboration of 17 nonprofit organizations, HF812 would appropriate approximately \$100 million for the 2002-03 biennium. Among its provisions are the following:

- Funding for suicide prevention planning and community-based programs,
- Establishment of discharge plans and transition services for offenders with mental illness before their discharge from prison,
- Updating reimbursement rates for mental health and psychiatric services,
- Establishment of coverage requirements for mental health services and treatment,
- Appropriation of funds for grants to programs that provide economic support or housing assistance to people with mental illness, and
- Prohibiting health plans from refusing to cover health services that result from suicide attempts.

HF1531 includes mental health initiatives and changes to statutes recommended by the state Department of Human Services. Its fiscal impact would be about \$4.6 million for the 2002-03 biennium.

Some of the provisions included in HF1531 are:

- Authorization of grants for transition services to young adults with severe emotional disturbances to help them live independently,
- Increased coverage for community-based rehabilitative mental health services for adults, and
- Establishment of coverage for adult mental health crisis response services.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), sponsor of HF987, brought to the lawmakers' attention a report by the Citizens League that lambasted the state's efforts in the area of children's mental health.

"More than 10 years after its passage, the mission of the Children's Mental Health Act (of 1989) remains utterly unfulfilled," states the January 2001 report.

HF987 would attempt to help children who are already in crisis. It would appropriate \$2 million to the commissioner of the Department of Human Services for children and adolescents with emotional disturbances who exhibit violent or destructive behaviors, including a pilot project for counties to do mental health screening of youth in the juvenile court system.

Similar projects have shown "significant results," said Glenace Edwall, director of children's mental health for the department. "Results of screening youth from ages 10 to 18 showed substantial reduction in the numbers of incidences of violence, severity of violence, petty offences, and misdemeanors."

In addition to HF987 a second bill, sponsored by Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) also addresses the recommendations of the Citizen League report's that emphasis must be placed on better mental health screening and early intervention for children and adolescents.

HF1221 would appropriate \$1.5 million for grants to school districts to establish pilot programs for integrated service models for children's mental health.

Mares said the current system is fragmented and his bill would attempt to provide a coordinated system that would identify youths with problems at an early stage.

"By intervening early, we hope to reduce the costs of out-of-home placement," said Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhart. "We want to reach children who are having difficulty academically and socially, but may not yet be in crisis."

Greiling also presented HF281, a bill that would modify the legal definition of "mentally ill person" and would revise civil commitment law to help the mentally ill get treatment before a crisis develops.

The fiscal note for HF281 estimates the cost



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

John Milton (right), legislative co-chair of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Minnesota, testifies in front of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee April 11 in support of HF281. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling, left, modifies the definitions of civilly committing mentally ill and emergency hold standards.

Continued on page 31



## Fringe benefits

Plan to transfer state tobacco settlement funds to the University of Minnesota faces a tough road

BY MIKE COOK

**L**egislators have ignited a plan that could aid the University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center, but others want to snuff it out.

Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring) presented HF2381 to the House Higher Education Finance Committee April 6. His bill transfers a portion of the money from one of the two endowments of the annual tobacco payments and gives it to the other, which would produce more money for the university's academic health center.

The academic health center comprises seven schools and colleges of medicine, public health, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine, as well as various allied health programs and the university hospital.

"This is one of the more pressing issues this committee has discussed this session," said Stang, who sits on the committee. "We've heard a lot of testimony from the academic health center, the needs they are facing, and some of their concerns if we don't address some of their funding issues."

The measure will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

Saying this a health issue, not an education one, Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth) tried to move the bill to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee during the April 11 floor session. After a brief discussion, his idea was defeated 69-60.

Under the plan, \$212 million would be transferred on July 1, 2001 and \$38 million one year later from the state's tobacco use prevention endowment fund to the state's medical education endowment fund.

Monies used for the program would come from earnings on the investments of the two endowments established with the tobacco funds, estimated at \$23 million for the biennium.

"We are not touching the local tobacco programs or the local public health. We are only impacting the statewide tobacco money of \$14.1 million (in fiscal year 2002)," Stang said.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Department of Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm testifies before the House Higher Education Finance Committee April 6 in opposition to HF2381, a bill that would increase aid to the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center with proceeds from the tobacco settlement.**

Of the money, \$8 million will meet the U of M's budget request to stabilize the core funding of the medical school, and \$2.6 million will be used for the interdisciplinary academic initiative, including the areas of medical science, nursing, rural dentistry, and pharmacy.

The remaining \$3.5 million would remain for statewide tobacco programs in 2002.

The bill also outlines how money is distributed in future years, with each area projected to receive more annually based on future investment earnings.

"We realize the need for the prevention program, but I believe we as a state have to prioritize where we are spending our dollars, and I think the most pressing issue facing the state right now is in terms of our medical industry providing training for some of those people," Stang said. "It's not that smoking prevention is not important. We do leave local money in there and there is still some money in the statewide prevention as well."

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), a co-sponsor of the bill, said the measure presents a tough choice.

"This is not fun or popular, but it is necessary," he said. "We do not have enough money to provide everything everybody wants. If we don't do this, where do we find the money, or should we just cannibalize the academic health center and not train doctors and pharmacists anymore?"

"If this appropriation prevails it will provide resources for the Board of Regents that will fix the core budget of the medical school, the portion of the budget that pays faculty to teach, that pays staff to support the faculty, and pays for systems such as information technology that support the education of health professionals that supply 60 percent of the health professional workforce to the state," said Dr. Frank Cerra, senior vice president for health sciences at the university.

Without a core funding increase, the university is faced with the following options: a hiring freeze, a tuition increase of at least 10 percent per year — possibly up to 20 percent — starting July 1, and the likelihood of paring down programs. Even with the appropriation, Cerra said a double-digit tuition increase "is very real anyway."

While the university would like to see the plan succeed, a dozen testifiers at the hearing said it is a bad idea.

"I can't tell you strongly enough how much the administration opposes this approach to solving a problem," said Jan Malcolm, state health commissioner. "I'm happy there will be no disruption of local programs, but their effect will be diminished without state support. Tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of not only premature death but illness and disability."

Noting that 38.7 percent of today's 12th-graders have used tobacco once in the past 30 days, Phil Bartusek, a lieutenant with the Albert Lea Police Department who has helped conduct more than 800 compliance checks, said that number is above the national average and growing. "We have work to do. If this passes, tobacco wins and kids lose."

Guy McDonald of Edina gave the most

Continued on page 31

## Tracking new laws, vetoes

Once a bill has passed both the House and Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor, who has several options when considering a bill, can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill;
- or do nothing, which can have two different effects. The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is that the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor

doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special

session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

This information is also available on the governor's Web site ([www.governor.state.mn.us](http://www.governor.state.mn.us)). Select the "Legislative Initiatives" link, then click on "Legislative Log 2001."

Key:

CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
Res.1	219	258*	Resolution requesting a ban on the importation of certain steel products.	3/15/01	
Res.2	670	647*	Resolution memorializing the President and Congress to fund 40 percent of special education costs.	4/6/01	
1	34	28*	Teacher licensing under current licensure rules.	1/16/01	
2	421*	460	Energy assistance program federal fund expenditure authorized.	2/2/01	
3	213	201*	Physicians assistants infection control continuing education requirements repeal.	2/15/01	
4	181	43*	Adult foster care license capacity age requirement and maximum admissions variances.	2/28/01	
5	817	376*	City contract limit increases.	3/2/01	
6	106*	47	Minnesota agricultural education leadership council replacement members authorized	3/8/01	
7	656*	231	Revisor's Bill.	3/15/01	
8	80*	79	Coon Lake water level control.	3/16/01	
9	393*	155	Ramsey County and St. Paul employees allowed equal competition for county jobs in city-county departments.	3/16/01	
10	357	289*	Alcohol and drug counselors licensing requirements modified.	3/16/01	
11	487	433	Townships health, social, and recreational services contracts amounts increases.	3/21/01	
12	320*	399	Property casualty insurance agents surplus lines insurance procurement authority.	3/29/01	
13	1016	509*	City and county obligations payment by electronic transfer or credit card authorized.	4/6/01	
14	368	63*	Stearns County Highway 55 bridge designated as Old St. Anne's pass.	4/6/01	
15	243	346*	Trusts; uniform principal and income act modified, and antilapse law clarified.	4/6/01	
16	556*	756	Federal law enforcement officers authorized to exercise arrest powers in MN under specified circumstances.	4/9/01	
17	416	400*	Hokah authorized to vacate roads if necessary due to extensive damage.	4/9/01	
18	1046	991*	Notifies schools of student possession of drug paraphernalia.	4/11/01	
19	172	9*	Authorizes cities to provide housing assistance for volunteer firefighters or ambulance personnel.	4/11/01	
20	64	971*	Repeals law prohibiting itinerant carnivals.	4/11/01	
21	394	327*	Repealing statutes concerning castrating animals running at large in a town.	4/11/01	
22	466	972*	Repeals law prohibiting endurance contests.	4/11/01	
23	252	570*	Repeals obsolete rules.	4/11/01	

\*The legislative bill marked with an asterisk denotes the file submitted to the governor.

## Monday, April 9

### HF2420—Mares (R)

#### Civil Law

Maltreatment of Minors Act clarified regarding the role of the Department of Children, Families and Learning; and other special programs provided.

### HF2421—Rukavina (DFL)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Virginia central steam heating system repairs provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2422—Mulder (R)

#### Education Policy

Small school districts and school districts on the state border authorized to determine appropriate school guidance counselor to student ratio.

### HF2423—Abeler (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Traumatic brain injury waiver amended to include acquired or degenerative diseases including Multiple Sclerosis.

### HF2424—Hausman (DFL)

#### Health & Human Services Finance

Ramsey County nursing facility rate increase provided.

### HF2425—Clark, K. (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Removal of the word "squaw" from Minnesota geographic features provided.

### HF2426—Tuma (R)

#### Judiciary Finance

Alternative dispute resolution programs established in the third and fifth judicial districts and money appropriated.

### HF2427—Abeler (R)

#### Health & Human Services Finance

Nursing facility construction moratorium exception provided to allow a renovation, operating rate increase and property rate increase for a 64-bed facility for residential rehabilitation operations provided, and money appropriated.

### HF2428—Abeler (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Pupil transportation reserve account established and money appropriated.

### HF2429—Dibble (DFL)

#### Taxes

Metropolitan property tax levies for transit operations eliminated, sales tax rate and motor vehicle sales tax rate reduced, and area transportation partnership sales taxes imposed.

### HF2430—Jaros (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Resolution urging the United States Congress to amend the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

### HF2431—McElroy (R)

#### Taxes

Electric utility property tax exemption provided, state aid payments to local governments provided, bonds guaranteed, and money appropriated.

### HF2432—Winter (DFL)

#### Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

Soybean oilseed processing facility development grant authorized and money appropriated.

## Wednesday, April 11

### HF2433—Osskopp (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Vulnerable adults; assessments and investigation of reports provisions modified, and enforcement authority by the attorney general provided for certain offenses against vulnerable adults.

### HF2434—Dibble (DFL)

#### Transportation Policy

Community preservation routes category established in the county state-aid highway system and municipal state-aid street system.

### HF2435—Gleason (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Richfield; Metropolitan Airports Commission required to transfer Taft Park property to Richfield.

### HF2436—McElroy (R)

#### Taxes

Taconite production tax rate reduced, payment provided in installments, grants provided, distributions of the tax modified, and taconite industry equipment and personal property sales tax exemption provided.

### HF2437—Erickson (R)

#### Education Policy

Wrestling teams required to be gender-separated.

### HF2438—Winter (DFL)

#### Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

Grain inspection fee study provided and report required, and money appropriated.

### HF2439—Gerlach (R)

#### Transportation Finance

Dakota County; Cedar Avenue transportation corridor feasibility and environmental studies, and preliminary engineering, funding provided and money appropriated.

### HF2440—Stang (R)

#### Taxes

Rockville city and fire hall construction materials and supplies sales tax exemption provided.

### HF2441—Dehler (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Video lottery terminals authorized, revenue use specified, penalties prescribed, and local regulatory authority provided.

### HF2442—Gunther (R)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Lewisville wastewater infrastructure grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2443—Vandever (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Lino Lakes Highway 49 speed limit designated.

### HF2444—McElroy (R)

#### Taxes

Tax increment financing consultant registration and regulation provided.

### HF2445—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Education Policy

Students prohibited from enrolling in another school district to avoid being dismissed under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, and behavior agreements applied to new enrolling districts.

### HF2446—Folliard (DFL)

#### Education Policy

Online learning pupil units provided and report required.

### HF2447—Abrams (R)

#### Taxes

Tax increment financing, abatement, and related development statutes minor and technical changes provided.

### HF2448—Davnie (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Permanent resident non-citizens authorized to vote in local elections and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF2449—Daggett (R)

#### Taxes

Income tax return forms to include a line allowing taxpayers to report use tax liability.

### HF2450—Rukavina (DFL)

#### Taxes

Taconite production tax rate modified, tax proceeds distributed, tax relief area definition modified, local government state aid provided, and money appropriated.

### HF2451—Wenzel (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 482, Little Falls, laboratory school established in Randall to develop innovative teaching techniques, facility renovation authorized, and money appropriated.

### HF2452—Folliard (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Toxic pollution prevention plan requirements expanded, surcharge provided on releases of persistent bioaccumulative toxics, related pollution prevention funding provided, and money appropriated.

### HF2453—Davnie (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Local governments authorized to permit permanent resident non-citizens to vote in local elections and constitutional amendment proposed.

## MONDAY, April 16

No committee hearings.

## TUESDAY, April 17

No committee hearings before 12 noon.

12 noon

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

\*\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\*\*

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: \*\*\*NOTE CHANGE\*\*\*

HF1031 (Hackbarth) Local community forest ecosystem health program, community forestry assessments, and tree planting funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1235 (Holsten) Forest management money appropriated.

Department of Natural Resources: Division of Forestry.

### JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: HF1960 (Stanek) Sex offender and other offender registration law provisions clarified, DNA offender testing requirement expanded, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF1353 (Stanek) Recommendation required on impact of entering into interstate compact for adult offender supervision, and commissioner of corrections required to develop a plan to handle interstate transfers of adult offenders.

HF1330 (Clark, J.) Felony penalty for aggravated cruelty to pets imposed.

HF1918 (Tuma) State public defender salary provided.

HF2132 (Harder) Marriage license fee reduced for couples who obtain marital education, and fee disposition provided.

HF2291 (Skoglund) Automated victim notification system implemented, report required, and money appropriated.

HF848 (Skoglund) Electronic evidence search warrants authorized on foreign corporations, Minnesota corporations to provide electronic evidence when served, and specified child pornography penalties enhanced.

12:30 p.m.

### AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: Omnibus Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Bill:

HF1266 (Ness) Dairy diagnostics and modernization program additional funding provided and money appropriated.

### RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Pawlenty

Agenda: Calendar for the Day for Wednesday, April 18, 2001.

Amendment to Joint Rules (Olson, M.).

1:30 p.m.

### Salary and Budget Subcommittee/ Legislative Coordinating Commission

400N State Office Building

Chr. Sen. Roger Moe

Agenda: Review/approve biennial budget proposal. Other business as approved by the chair.

### Immediately following the Salary and Budget Subcommittee meeting

(approximately 2:15 p.m.)

### Legislative Coordinating Commission

400N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Sviggum

Agenda: Report from the Subcommittee on Salary and Budget regarding biennial budget proposal. Other business as approved by the chair.

3 p.m.

### THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

15 minutes after session

### WAYS & MEANS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. David Bishop

Agenda: HF632 (Luther) Organ donors; paid leave required for organ donation.

HF1293 (Davids) Public service commissioner's remaining duties transferred to commissioner of commerce, light capacity scales inspection provided, unfair cigarette sales act administration transferred to commerce, and money appropriated.

HF1080 (Thompson) Gender-specific language replaced with gender neutral language in the constitution, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF156 (Seifert) Barber shop registration fee exception provided for sole operators of multiple shops.

One hour after session

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: HF660 (Anderson, I.) Medical assistance mileage reimbursement increased.

HF706 (Goodno) Breast and cervical cancer treatment medical assistance eligibility established and money appropriated.

HF775 (Boudreau) Day training and habilitation service variance request mediation process established, rate structure pilot project provided, county responsibilities defined, task force extended, and money appropriated.

HF934 (Bradley) Alternative quality assurance licensing system project for programs for persons with developmental disabilities expiration date extended, requirements modified, and money appropriated.

HF1014 (Boudreau) Medical assistance reimbursement for special transportation services provisions modified.

HF1124 (Mulder) Nonmetropolitan inpatient hospital rates for certain diagnosis-related groups adjusted.

HF1829 (Larson) Autistic children intensive early intervention behavior therapy medical assistance coverage provided.

HF1956 (Goodno) Program options for certain persons with developmental disabilities provided, and money appropriated.

HF1957 (Goodno) Medicare payment rate established as rate for all nursing facility residents for the first 90 days, and money appropriated.

HF2179 (Mullery) Welfare-to-work transportation funding provided and money appropriated.

HF693 (Goodno) Dentists loan forgiveness program established, donated dental services program created, dental services and provider requirements modified, reimbursement rates increased, immunities provided, and money appropriated.

HF278 (Nornes) Dentists; medical assistance reimbursement rate increased for specified dentists, dental hygienists permitted to perform services under supervision, grant program for community clinics established, and money appropriated.

HF587 (Huntley) Detoxification services provided by counties reimbursed by state funds and money appropriated.

HF1291 (Boudreau) Health plan subrogation clause limitation provisions modified.

HF1337 (Mulder) Health insurance; purchasing alliance stop-loss fund account created and money appropriated.

HF1668 (Mullery) Hennepin County Southeast Asian collaborative transitional employment training project federal TANF funding provided and money appropriated.

Note: If necessary, agenda will be continued Wednesday, April 18, at 8:15 a.m. in 10 State Office Building.

## WEDNESDAY, April 18

8 a.m.

### JUDICIARY FINANCE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: HF260 (Stanek) Criminal justice information system improvements provided including fingerprinting, collection of aliases, and suspense file reporting, and money appropriated.

Discussion of Judiciary Finance Omnibus Bill.

8:15 a.m.

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** Continuation of Tuesday, April 17, agenda.

HF2427 (Abeler) Nursing facility construction moratorium exception provided to allow a renovation, operating rate increase and property rate increase for a 64-bed facility for residential rehabilitation operations provided, and money appropriated.

HF2424 (Hausman) Ramsey County nursing facility rate increase provided.

HF2303 (Huntley) Duluth nursing home moratorium exception provided.

HF2146 (Milbert) South St. Paul nursing home bed moratorium exception provided and money appropriated.

HF1962 (Marquart) Wilkin County nursing facility bed moratorium exception provided.

HF1117 (Jennings) Pine City nursing facility replacement bed moratorium exception provided.

HF1030 (Lenczewski) Bloomington nursing facility replacement exception to moratorium provided, rate increased, and money appropriated.

HF531 (Johnson, R.) Hospital construction and new nursing facility bed moratorium exceptions provided.

HF787 (Abeler) Nursing home moratorium exception priority for Anoka area extended, and money appropriated for moratorium exceptions.

HF1319 (Huntley) St. Louis County nursing facility laundry costs calculated into total operating payment rate.

HF2117 (Rhodes) Raw food cost adjustment excluded from nursing facility rate computations.

HF124 (Folliard) Home care providers required to provide notice of service termination, and state health care program reimbursement rates increased for home care providers.

**Note:** If necessary, agenda will be continued Thursday, April 19, in 10 State Office Building.

## JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Presentation of the Jobs and Economic Development Finance Omnibus Bill; committee comment and public testimony.

**Note:** If you are interested in testifying, please contact Ann Matuella, Committee Legislative Assistant, no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 17.

## TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** HF2174 (Osskopp) Gambling control board authorized to use unmarked vehicles and registration tax exemption provided.

HF2292 (Stanek) Metropolitan Council demonstration project funded to provide express bus service between downtown Minneapolis and locations outside transit taxing district, and money appropriated.

HF624 (Seagren) Light rail; requiring route to be identified before spending appropriations to study light rail transit and commuter rail.

HF2193 (Vandever) Special "choose life" motor vehicle license plates authorized, adoption support account established for grants to counties, and money appropriated.

HF1527 (Kuisle) Motor vehicle definitions, registration, and dealer regulation provisions

modified, electronic accident reporting authorized, driver instruction requirements modified, and public safety department advertising revenue expanded.

HF1949 (Westerberg) Trunk highway bond proceeds and highway bond-financed property governing provisions modified.

9 a.m.

## STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** Public testimony on HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill: Section 12, proposed budget for Department of Administration.

Additional bills may be added.

10:15 a.m.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** \*\*\*NOTE CHANGE\*\*\*

HF659 (Wolf) Minnesota Energy Security and Reliability Act adopted requiring an energy plan, providing essential infrastructure, regulating conservation expenditures, encouraging flexibility, and providing safety standards.

HF1323 (Jennings) Electric generation parks authorized, Minnesota energy reliability trust fund established, generation facility incentives provided, center for energy security created, tax incentives provided, and money appropriated.

## K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** Governor's Budget - Department of Children, Families and Learning's budget.

HF928 (Abeler) Relating to education; including the removal of architectural barriers for access for disabled persons as a health and safety program expenditure.

HF2428 (Abeler) Relating to education finance; creating a transportation reserve account; appropriating money.

HF1854, (Abeler) Relating to education; developing special education services and access to information.

HF2380 (Sykora) Relating to education; providing students with additional opportunities to learn to read.

HF1470 (Buesgens) Relating to education; requiring that school district contracts with teachers be structurally balanced.

HF601 (Johnson, R.) Relating to education; appropriating money for a grant to Independent School District No. 508, St. Peter, for declining pupil aid.

HF2407 (Ness) Relating to education finance; modifying the definition of equity revenue; adding a small schools factor.

## TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF2339 (McElroy) Exempts current value of utility generation personal property from the general education levy; reduces the class rate on utility generation personal property.

HF2431 (McElroy) Provides that certain personal property of an electric utility is exempt from taxation; provides state aid payments to replace the revenue loss by local government provides a state guarantee for certain bonds; appropriates money.

HF2244 (Abrams) Provides for state funding of trial courts in unfunded judicial districts.

HF2436 (McElroy) Taconite tax reduction.

HF1907 (Biernat) General education levy provided as a state-determined, state collected levy.

HF1874 (Abrams) Department of Revenue penalty disclosure bill.

HF577 (Lenczewski) Amendment to Minnesota Constitution; allows a reverse referendum to rescind increases in certain state tax revenues.

**Note:** Bills not heard today will be heard on Thursday, April 19, 2001, 30 minutes after session in 200 State Office Building.

12:30 p.m.

## AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

**Agenda:** Informational hearing on Foot and Mouth Disease. Representatives of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Board of Animal Health will be discussing tips for farmers on how to prevent the possible spread of the disease and also some security measures the state will be taking.

## FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD

### EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** Walk-through of Committee Omnibus Bill (Delete-all to HF1515).

3 p.m.

## THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

## THURSDAY, April 19

8 a.m.

## JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** Discussion of Judiciary Finance Omnibus Bill.

8:15 a.m.

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** HF795 (Johnson, S.) Ramsey County project ReConnect grants provided and money appropriated.

HF811 (Swenson) Rural hospital capital improvement grant and loan program established and money appropriated.

HF924 (Nornes) Residential mental health grant program for facility upgrades established and money appropriated.

HF1833 (Goodno) Multiple sclerosis services nursing facility reimbursement pilot project authorized and money appropriated.

HF2088 (Kubly) Rural hospital or nursing home health professionals loan forgiveness program established and money appropriated.

HF1376 (Abeler) Human services licensing background studies provisions modified.

HF1851 (Abeler) State health care program provider participation nonfinancial barrier identification required.

HF1307 (Bradley) Guardianship service



providers defined, duties specified, and money appropriated.

More bills will be added.

**Note:** If necessary, agenda will be continued at the call of the chair in 5 State Office Building.

#### **TRANSPORTATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** HF1146 (Ozment) Salt distribution stockpiles design, construction, and use requirements established.

HF852 (Howes) Motor vehicle filing fees modified and clarifying changes provided.

HF1054 (Johnson) I-394 "sane lanes" use by single-occupant vehicles study and report required, and money appropriated.

HF1728 (Workman) Transit assistance fund expenditures restricted to operating and capital assistance to public transit systems, motor vehicle sales tax revenue dedicated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1921 (Workman) Bus transit study authorized and bus transit way within part of the southwest light rail transit corridor prohibited.

HF2309 (Kuisse) Trunk highway project construction considerations clarified.

HF1861 (Holberg) General obligation bonds authorized to be issued for trunk highway construction, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF362 (Westrom) Diesel fuel minimum biodiesel fuel content specified.

**9 a.m.**

#### **\*\*\*NOTE TIME CHANGE\*\*\***

##### **Property Tax Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

**Agenda:** \*\*\*NOTE CHANGE\*\*\*

HF2375 (Erhardt) Deed taxes definition of consideration clarified.

HF1402 (Erhardt) Homestead, agricultural, and seasonal recreational property exempted from general education tax; property tax class rates reduced; homestead credit program established, school district levy computation modified, and money appropriated.

HF187 (Abrams) Specified tax increment financing districts modifications prohibited and expenditures limited.

HF662 (Rukavina) Aurora housing and redevelopment tax increment financing district extended.

HF1505 (Lenczewski) Pre-1990 tax district five-year rule applied and time limitations provided.

HF1676 (Wasiluk) North St. Paul provided tax increment financing grant.

HF2157 (Swenson) Gaylord tax increment financing law approval time extended.

HF2173 (Howes) Park Rapids tax increment financing district requirement extension provided.

#### **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill:

Section 12, proposed budget for Department of Administration

Section 2, proposed budget for the Legislature.

Section 3, proposed budget for the Governor's Office.

Additional bills may be added. Meeting may be continued following session.

**10:15 a.m.**

#### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** \*\*\*NOTE CHANGE\*\*\*

##### **MORNING AGENDA**

HF766 (Holsten) Environment and natural resources appropriation bill.

##### **AFTERNOON AGENDA**

HF1313 (Ozment) Soil and water conservation district grants provided for nonpoint engineering technical assistance, feedlot water quality management program, and special projects cost-share program; and money appropriated.

HF2342 (Osthoff) Empire Builder property in St. Paul compensation for environmental contamination remediation provided, claim priority provided, and money appropriated.

HF83 (Anderson, I.) Deer River fire station addition design appropriation provided.

HF1984 (Olson, M.) Wright County Indian Lake aeration treatment grant provided and money appropriated.

**Note:** Meeting will reconvene immediately following session in 10 State Office Building.

#### **Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

**Agenda:** \*\*\*NOTE CHANGE\*\*\*

HF1974 (Gray) Modifies the education credit and subtraction, allows certain credits to be assigned, and provides duties and powers to commissioner of revenue.

HF2124 (Stang) Exempts certain additional classroom materials from sales and use taxes.

HF2125 (Dawkins) Provides that the education expense credit and deduction apply to certain expenditures for pre-kindergarten expenses and museum memberships.

HF2247 (Bernardy) Allows an income tax subtraction for the purchase of classroom materials for teachers.

HF2256 (Bernardy) Allows the education income tax subtraction and credit for extracurricular activities and musical instruments.

HF1740 (Clark, J.) Increases aid to counties with tribal casinos.

HF1820 (Clark, J.) Exempts the purchase of construction materials and equipment used in constructing or improving certain buildings in the city of New Ulm.

HF1444 (Wilkin) Abolishes withholding taxes on wages, and provides for payment of estimated taxes on wages.

HF2234 (Erhardt) Increases the maximum long-term care insurance credit, reduces the lifetime benefit requirement, and extends the credit to employers.

**12:30 p.m.**

#### **AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**3 p.m.**

#### **THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**

**30 minutes after session**

#### **TAXES**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** Continuation of bills not heard on Wednesday, April 18, 2001.

HFXXXX (Dawkins) Reforms state aid programs; modifies local government aid; adjust HACA.

#### **FRIDAY, April 20**

**7:30 a.m.**

#### **\*\*\*NOTE TIME\*\*\***

##### **JOBS & ECONOMIC**

##### **DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Mark-up of Jobs and Economic Development Finance Omnibus bill.

**Note:** This meeting is scheduled to last until 12:45 p.m.

**8 a.m.**

#### **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** HF699 (Sykora) Domestic abuse criminal and civil penalties and procedures modified, and money appropriated.

Discussion of Judiciary Finance Omnibus Bill.

**8:15 a.m.**

#### **HEALTH & HUMAN**

##### **SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**9 a.m.**

#### **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**10:15 a.m.**

#### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL**

##### **RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** To be announced. Possible a.m. and p.m. meeting schedule.

#### **HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **TAXES**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF1416 (Abrams) Streamlined Sales Tax Bill.

Other bills may be added.

9 a.m.

**STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** To be announced.

10 a.m.

**JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek


**Agenda:** Discussion of Judiciary Finance Omnibus Bill.

**Continued from page 24**

to be \$1.9 million for 2002 and \$3.14 million in future years. The latter amount would be reduced by one-half if HF1531 passes, according to Greiling.

Greiling believes HF281 will save money in the long run, but the Department of Human Services has interpreted the bill as meaning many more people would go to regional treatment centers.

In eight states with similar laws to this bill, admissions actually fell, according to John Milton, legislative co-chair of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Minnesota.

"Mental illness is a medical problem, not a deficiency," Greiling said. "If you put money into early care it clearly does save money in the long run." 


**Continued from page 25**

graphic testimony as to the dangers of tobacco use.

He began smoking at age 15 and did not quit until he was 65. Now at age 76 he has emphysema and must carry an oxygen bottle at all times. Coming in from the parking lot outside the State Office Building, a distance of roughly 100 yards, McDonald said he had to stop twice for rest.

"I can't encourage young people enough to not use tobacco," he said. "My golden years have been tarnished by smoking."

St. Paul's Leo Jackson, a senior at Cretin-Derham Hall High School has lost many family members to cancer related to smoking, and has one uncle who could die anyday. "Please help this cause to keep all of us healthy," he said. "Today's youth do not want to have to worry about carrying oxygen tanks, or if I am going to die tomorrow."

"By taking these funds away we are greatly diminishing (the efforts of anti-tobacco youth) and we are sending the wrong message to youth on their input on tobacco prevention," said Rep. Paul Marquart (DFL-Dilworth). 

# Reflections

More lawmakers and staff are walking outside instead of through the underground tunnel to get to session in the Capitol. This is a sign of better things to come, and a welcome sight as spring arrives in the capital city.

But residents of river towns and the National Guard may have a different view as they are building mounds of sandbags along parts of the Red, Minnesota, and Mississippi rivers should the waters rise above their flood stage.

Many of the river towns have only just recovered from the devastating floods of 1997, but the latest calamity caused by a quick thaw and major rainstorms leads one to think of the words of former New York Yankees catcher Yogi Berra, "It's *deja vu* all over again."

If flooding becomes too serious and reaches a critical, emergency stage the Legislature might respond with aid as it has for other disasters. For example, two bills are now pending in both the House and Senate that would provide relief for the July 2000 tornado in Granite Falls.

In the past, lawmakers have also responded to invasions of insects, major forest fires, and other quirks of nature.

The Grasshopper Invasion of the 1870s, almost devastated the state's major wheat resources. In 1873, a swarm of millions of Rocky Mountain locusts, or grasshoppers descended upon southern and southwestern Minnesota, and ate every plant in sight.

Each summer for four years thereafter, grasshoppers spread destruction over more than 28 counties. The Legislature intervened with appropriations for relief, bounties for insects caught by the bushel, and money for seed for the next season's crops. But not until midsummer 1877 did the grasshoppers suddenly leave. Why or where they went is an unsolved mystery.

Disasters caused by melting snow, rainstorms, and tornadoes may not be predicted early in spring, but the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is certain about some insect infestations after a cool winter and quick thaw. This year, the armyworm is a possible culprit. The DNR believes a "bumper crop" of armyworms will appear and eat the canopies of leaves of northern forests.

An invasion of armyworms, or forest tent caterpillars, was first recorded in 1922. As they marched across northeastern Minnesota, they left in their wake thousands

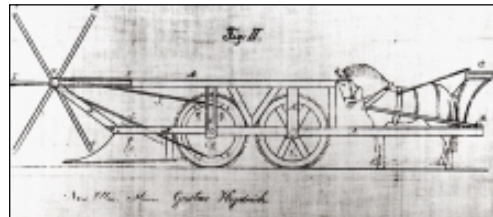
of aspen and birch trees stripped of leaves. Every 11 to 15 years since, moths fly in droves to new areas and lay millions of eggs as outbreaks continue to spread.

Now that the tent caterpillars have added basswood and oak to their menu in central and west central parts of the state, they cover everything — highways, sides of houses and more — as they extend their onslaught to defoliate more trees.

The Legislature will likely not be called upon to assist since tent caterpillars are more nuisance than devastation compared to grasshoppers, floods, or tornadoes. Armyworm outbreaks may last for two or three years, but the trees will not be harmed and the leaves will grow back.

Floods, tornadoes, and grasshopper invasions are destructive. They usually require major efforts and assistance to start over or rebuild. Armyworms can be better dealt with, even if one falls from a tree into a hotdish some mild Minnesota summer evening.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



**A drawing of a modified hopperdozer, designed by Gustav Heydrich of New Ulm, Minn. in 1876. The paddlewheel design was never implemented, but other versions were used to collect grasshoppers during infestations.**

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
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## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Teens and Tobacco

Percent of Minnesota high school students who used tobacco products	
at least once in a 30-day stretch .....	38.7
Middle school students .....	12.6
National high school average, as percent .....	34.8
Middle school .....	12.8
High school students who smoked cigarettes at least once within 30 days,	
as percent .....	32.4
Middle school students .....	9.1
National averages for high school students, as percent .....	28.4
National averages for middle school students, as percent .....	9.2
Percent of high school students who smoked 20 or more days out of 30 .....	16.9
Middle school students .....	2.5
High school students who had their first whole cigarette at age 12 or younger,	
as percent .....	47.2
Percent of high school students using smokeless tobacco at least once	
in a 30-day period, as percent .....	10.2
Middle school students .....	2.2
National averages for high school students, as percent .....	6.6
National averages for middle school students, as percent .....	2.7
High school students who have already tried smoking, or are susceptible	
to start, as percent .....	73
Middle school students .....	49.5
Percent of high school smokers who have tried to quit at least once	
in the previous year .....	61
Percent able to stay off cigarettes for 30 days or less in their last attempt .....	48.5
Percent of high school students who gave someone else money to	
buy cigarettes .....	41.7
Borrowed them from someone else .....	23.6
Bought them in a store .....	15.9
Percent of middle school smokers who borrowed cigarettes from	
someone else .....	29
Gave someone money to buy them .....	23.8
Took them from a store or family member .....	19
High school students who bought or tried to buy cigarettes (within a	
30-day stretch) who were asked for identification, as percent .....	41
Estimated number of public high school students under age 18 using tobacco	
products whose primary source for tobacco is direct purchase at stores .....	15,000
Percent state hopes to reduce youth tobacco use by in next five years .....	30

Source: *Minnesota Youth Tobacco Survey*, Minnesota Department of Health, August 2000.

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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

APRIL 20, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 16



In this issue:

ENERGY PLAN ON THE MOVE

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE, .08 LIMIT, AND MORE

HF2454-HF2478

# Session Weekly

**Session Weekly** is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5  
Crime • 5  
Education • 7  
Employment • 8

Environment • 8  
Gambling • 9  
Government • 9  
Industry • 9

Insurance • 10  
Local Government • 10  
Transportation • 11

### FEATURES

**At Issue:** Crime — Legislators have been proposing lowering the blood alcohol concentration to 0.08 percent since 1997, but they have a bit more incentive with the potential loss of federal highway dollars. • 12

**At Issue:** Health — Minnesota officials are preparing in case the highly contagious Foot and Mouth Disease should come to the United States and as far as Minnesota. • 14

**History** — Late Gov. Rudy Perpich's new portrait, including his wife Lola, now hangs in the Capitol, after family and other proponents persevered. • 15

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Who's the boss	4	Committee Schedule (April 23-27)	21
Governor's Desk (CH1-30)	16	50 States: Fire-safe cigarettes	22
Resources: Minnesota State Government	18	Reflections: Just causes	23
Bill Introductions (HF2454-HF2478)	20	Minnesota Index:	
What's on the Web	20	Childcare in Minnesota	24

**On the cover:** The Capitol and street rod owner Jerry Hefferman of White Bear Lake are reflected in the chromed headlight of his 1933 Dodge. The Minnesota Street Rod Association displayed several collector cars April 17 to promote the hobby of street-rodding.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid



# Powering up

After considering four major energy-restructuring bills, two now emerge as House plans for the session

By MARY KAY WATSON

**A**fter watching California's lights flicker and dim, the Legislature is looking hard at state energy policy this year for the first time in a long while.

"Minnesota is six to 10 years from facing an energy shortage," said Rep. Loren Geo Jennings (DFL-Harris), sponsor of HF1323. "There's no disagreement on that fact."

Of the four major energy proposals before the House this session, two remain viable: HF1323 and HF659. Both bills were considered April 18 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

Jennings' bill and HF659, sponsored by Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville), are the financial and policy portions, respectively, of the energy proposal for this session. Structured to promote the goals of energy reliability and security, the two bills are meant to complement one another.

Wolf's bill, called the Minnesota Energy Security and Reliability Act, has been through several incarnations since it was first introduced in February.

"It's fair to say we like this bill a little less each time we see it, and today is no exception," said Bill Grant of the Izaak Walton League and spokesperson for "People Organized for Workers, the Environment and Ratepayers," a group that formulated one of the original four bills.

Wolf, chair of the House Regulated Industries Committee, came close to agreeing: "It's changed so much I can hardly keep up with it."

The newest version of HF659 scales back the powers of the independent reliability administrator to provide technical assistance to the Department of Commerce, the Public

Utilities Commission (PUC) and the Legislative Electric Energy Task Force. Originally this administrator, dubbed the "energy czar," would be responsible to oversee the state's energy system.

"I'm a little concerned that we're going to sail a bill out of here that has no crew on board," commented Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls).

Wolf said the change was necessary to eliminate any fiscal impact. He assured Kelliher there are people in the agencies that currently work on energy and would be working on the implementation of this act, should it pass.

"What you're saying is there's no fiscal cost, but the cost to taxpayers could be dramatic because we're not taking the conservation route," said Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls). "Is this a fantasy ship or a sinking ship?"

The goal of eliminating fiscal impacts from HF659 also prompted the following changes:

- Elimination of the original provision extending Environmental Quality Board (EQB) jurisdiction over the routing of 100 to 200 kilovolt transmission lines;
- Repeal of the current Conservation Investment Program (CIP) and placing all utilities into a new conservation program;

- Requiring a triennial audit, instead of pre-approval, for public utilities;
- Extending CIP exemption eligibility to 10 megawatt customers; and
- Elimination of the need for the commissioner's approval of utilities' integrated resource plans.

Finally, HF659 made some changes to bring the House bill closer to the Senate version, involving the following: siting and routing of transmission lines; distributing power generation around the state; joint ventures involving utility companies and organizations; and the overall state transportation plan.

"There's been a steady chipping away of our provisions," Grant said. "We're almost back to the status quo."

Wolf said the intent of the current version of the bill is "neither to exclude nor favor any type of energy product."

Jennings' bill would have a fiscal impact; however, its magnitude has not yet been determined. HF1323 would provide for "electric generation parks" and establish a funding source to provide incentives for the construction of new energy generation facilities.

Energy parks are a new approach for Minnesota's power generation infrastructure. This bill would provide for the establishment of designated sites for the construction of multiple facilities for the generation of electrical power. An existing power facility could also be designated as an electric generation park.

"People want to know where electric generators are going to be built," Jennings said.

The bill would give the Environmental Quality Board the authority to approve the siting of electric generation parks and the Public Utilities Commission the authority to grant certificates of need for these parks.

HF1323 would provide for the Minnesota Energy Reliability Trust Fund to be established by the commissioner of commerce, the chair of the PUC, and the director of state planning. The fund would be managed by the



Black Dog Power Plant in Burnsville.

FILE PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

independent reliability administrator.

The trust fund would be fed by an energy surcharge that would cost Minnesota consumers \$0.00017 per kilowatt-hour of electricity and \$0.003 per thousand cubic feet of natural gas, or about \$1.50 per year for a typical residence.

If the surcharge raised \$10 million in a fiscal year, the surcharge would be discontinued until the fund fell below \$4 million, when the PUC would begin collecting the fee again in the next fiscal year. There is also a provision that would allow an increase in the surcharge if needed to provide an incentive for electrical generation plants. The fund limit would be \$50 million.

Money in the trust fund would be designated for several uses.

First, it would provide "generation construction credits" to companies for using renewable energy or emerging technologies, such as wind generators. It could also go to utility companies for increasing the efficiency of, and reducing emissions from, existing power plants.

Finally, the trust fund would provide funding for the administration of a Center for Energy Security to be established at the Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. The center's purpose would be to research and identify emerging energy issues and act as an advisor to state agencies and legislators.

In addition to the creation of the energy trust fund, HF1323 would provide two other financial incentives for the building of new facilities that meet requirements: tax increment financing and exemption from personal property taxes.

John Reinhardt, a Minneapolis resident, protested that the bill was "outrageous" and would give taxpayer money to for-profit utility companies. "This is corporate welfare at its most obvious and most obnoxious," Reinhardt said.

Jennings disagreed. "Our system needs a major upgrading," he said. If you want the lights to stay on, you're going to build generation and you're going to build wires."

HF1323 was approved and sent to the House Taxes Committee. HF659 was still under consideration of the committee at the time this issue of *Session Weekly* went to press. 🐼

### Correction

A story in the April 13 issue of *Session Weekly* discussing a bill that would change the way concealed weapons permits are granted discussed an amendment by Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) that would require permit holders to notify school officials if they are carrying a weapon on school property.

The story misstated that the permit holder would not have to get the permission of the school principal in order to carry the weapon. That permission would be required.

We regret the error.

IT'S A FACT



## Who's the Boss?

### Order of gubernatorial succession was set in 1961 law

In a nation of laws, executive succession assumes the importance of royal lineage in monarchies. The very specter of ambiguity or illegitimacy in the ascension and maintenance of rightful authority can frighten citizens and worry allies.

Here in the Land of 10,000 Lakes, the governor's constitutional responsibilities are broad and often require action within a short time period. Dispatch and decisiveness are essential. For example, the governor has only 72 hours to sign a bill after it is passed by the Legislature in odd-numbered years. In case of insurrection or invasion, the governor is the commander-in-chief of the state's military forces.

The framers of the Minnesota Constitution sought to ensure the continuity of government by stipulating that the lieutenant governor would assume the duties of governor "in case vacancy occurs from any cause whatever in the office of governor." The constitution delegates to the Legislature the responsibility for creating an order of succession beyond lieutenant governor. It did so in 1961.

Therefore, today if for some reason Gov. Jesse Ventura were to relinquish power, Lt. Gov. Mae Schunk would assume the duties of office, as prescribed by the state constitution. But for her to do so, the state must be sure that Ventura is truly unable to discharge the powers of his office.

The Legislature decided in 1961 that the lieutenant governor may take over under three circumstances, not including impeachment or resignation. The first two are obvious: the governor dies or voluntarily transmits a written message to the speaker of the House or president of the Senate declaring his or her own inability to govern.

The third mechanism allows the chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, the lieutenant governor, the governor's

chief of staff, his or her personal physician, and a cabinet member to declare the governor unable to discharge constitutional powers and duties.

Ventura's Chief of Staff Steven Bosacker declined in a telephone interview to detail the Ventura administration's procedures for ensuring the continuity of government. But Bosacker did say, "Not too many officials travel on one plane." He added that his office keeps close track of when and where state officials travel.

Under state law, were Schunk unable to assume the powers of office, the erstwhile

lieutenant governor yields to the President of the Senate, currently Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd). Were he unable to carry out gubernatorial duties, Speaker of the House Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) would undertake executive authority.

After exhausting legislative leadership, the 1961 law sets forth the line of succession for gubernatorial duties as

follows: the secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer, and finally the attorney general, all of whom are directly elected. Unlike federal law regarding presidential succession, which passes to appointed cabinet members, Minnesota law does not specify succession beyond these officials.

To resume their duties, governors need only write a statement declaring that the period of temporary inability has ended and duly notify the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House.

The state pecking order was dramatically invoked when Gov. Wendell Anderson was appointed U.S. senator following the death of Sen. Hubert Humphrey in 1976. Lt. Gov. Rudy Perpich became governor, and President of the Minnesota Senate Alec Olson became lieutenant governor.

(J.M. WALKER)



When Gov. Wendell Anderson was appointed U.S. senator after Sen. Hubert Humphrey died in 1976, Lt. Gov. Rudy Perpich, left became governor and President of the Minnesota Senate Alec Olson became lieutenant governor. The two are pictured here upon Olson's election as Senate president.

★ **AGRICULTURE****Finance bill approved**

The House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee unanimously approved the omnibus agriculture spending bill April 19.

HF1266, sponsored by Committee Chair Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) would appropriate \$67 million from the general fund during the 2002-03 biennium.

The bill goes now to the House Ways and Means Committee, which must approve it before the bill reaches the House floor. It is scheduled to appear before the committee April 24.

Of the allocated funds, \$24 million would go to the Dairy Development and Profitability Enhancement Program to assist state farmers in modernizing procedures and equipment.

About \$18 million would support agricultural trade marketing programs, and \$3.4 million would help farmers clean up feedlots in violation of environmental regulations. Other expenditures fund the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute, a state-funded institute helping add value to existing products.

In another significant appropriation, the bill would allow ethanol producers to be reimbursed beyond the original 10-year limit. That appropriation is considered "open," meaning it is available for reimbursements whenever producers demonstrate they have produced ethanol.

The committee adopted an amendment, proposed by Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar), requiring that a \$230,000 appropriation to the Duluth Seaway Port Authority be used to directly assist shippers, producers, and agricultural cooperatives. That appropriation has been in place since 1963.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) successfully proposed an amendment that would delete a section of law requiring haulers of heavy commodities to keep records of their movements for 30 days. The committee adopted the amendment to, in the words of one representative, "send a strong message in support of agriculture."

Osskopp said state law enforcement agents follow trucks overfilled with agricultural products and fine them after reading through legally

mandated records that suggest the hauler may have committed the same violation in the past.

He noted dairy producers were being fined for violating weight restrictions on rural roads. "I've lived all over the place, and I've never lived in a state with such an adversarial relationship with agriculture," he said.

Maj. Gene Halverson of the State Patrol objected, saying that existing law is the only mechanism for enforcing weight restrictions on township roads. Weight restriction violations contribute to road degradation, he explained. He added that all money from fees goes directly to road improvement efforts.

★ **CRIME****Notifying victims**

A bill that would require the state to develop an automated program for notifying victims whether a perpetrator is in or out of jail or prison might be included in the omnibus judiciary finance bill.

On April 17, the House Judiciary Finance Committee heard the bill (HF2291), sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls).

The bill, estimated to cost about \$1 million during the 2002-03 biennium, would require the Crime Victim Services Center in the state Department of Public Safety to design and implement a program that would cover state and local correctional facilities and courts statewide.

"The point of this is to give almost real-time data," Skoglund told the committee. "Where it really matters is domestic abuse cases."

The system would be available to victims 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Skoglund said. He gave the scenario of a person hearing a noise in the night, becoming afraid, and needing to have the peace of mind of knowing that someone who may have perpetrated a crime against them is still behind bars.

Skoglund said the information needs to be available at all hours, and should not necessarily require someone to speak with a real person.

Anna Sochoky from the department testified the only way victims can currently find out if someone is still incarcerated is to check the Department of Corrections Web site. However, that service does not include those in local correctional facilities.

**BELAFONTE APPEARS**

PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Entertainer and civil rights activist Harry Belafonte speaks in the Capitol Rotunda April 17 in support of a bill that would allocate funding for pre-design and planning of a new Roy Wilkins center in St. Paul. A portrait of Wilkins, the longtime head of the NAACP, was on display as Belafonte spoke. The appropriation will be considered for inclusion in the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee's omnibus bill.

"You're reaching thousands and thousands more victims" with HF2291, she said.

A fiscal note for the bill estimates start-up costs at \$576,000. However, federal funding, under the Victims of Crime Act, would be available for the plan.

Maria Alderink from the center testified that officials are concerned that the new service not take money away from the regional service centers that receive money for victims statewide. (The primary function of the Crime Victims Services Center is to disseminate millions of dollars in grants to local centers throughout the state each year.)

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), chair of the committee and co-sponsor of the bill, asked if the center could absorb the costs. Alderink said in order to avoid having an impact on programs around the state, the project would be developed much more slowly. In its current form, the bill requires the department to report its plan of implementation to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 2002.

### **Child abuse clarification**

Offenses defined by other states and other jurisdictions to constitute child abuse might be added to Minnesota's list of such offenses, if they are similar to abuse as defined by Minnesota law, under a measure passed by the House.

The full body adopted HF953, sponsored by Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji), during its April 18 session. The vote was 131-0.

In addition to other states, the bill would permit Minnesota courts to consider acts of child abuse as defined by the District of Columbia, tribal lands, and the United States at the federal level in determining whether a child is in need of protective services.

Current Minnesota child protection laws say a child is considered to be in need of protection or services if he or she resides with, or will live with, a perpetrator of child abuse. Minnesota law defines child abuse in terms of violation of state law if the act involves a child, such as assault or criminal sexual conduct with a child.

A companion bill in the Senate (SF1265), sponsored by Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) is awaiting floor action.

### **General corrections provisions**

The House passed a housekeeping bill for the Department of Corrections during its April 18 session. The vote was 131-0.

However, there are several provisions worth noting that created lively debate among members on the House floor.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), the sponsor of HF1261, said the bill would, among other changes, require correctional facilities to make regular reports on the recidivism of inmates.

Bishop has been outspoken in the past regarding the need to measure the effectiveness of programming, particularly with regard to drug offenses. Reporting on recidivism can help achieve that goal.

Although the bill is estimated to have no fiscal impact on state or local governments, Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) raised a concern that schools and other institutions caring for juvenile offenders might find the new requirements unduly onerous. Solberg, a teacher, made repeated reference to children who are wards of the court that "end up in my classroom," therefore requiring information from schools to be part of recidivism reports.

Bishop invited Solberg's input on the bill's future progress. After passing the House, the bill's Senate version must pass that body before being presented to Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The bill also requires the Department of Corrections to perform background checks on people having direct contact with patients or inmates. HF1261 would also allow the agency to charge an employee, contractor, or volunteer who engages in "penetrative sex" with an inmate with third degree sexual assault.

It specifies that consent on the part of the inmate is not a defense. Bishop told the House Crime Prevention Committee March 22 that predatory guards can victimize vulnerable inmates. He suggested that the new penalties will improve the professionalism of prison guards and other employees endowed with the power to restrain their fellow citizens.

Responding to criticism levied by several representatives whose counties maintain detainment facilities, Bishop said the bill would not affect county-funded correctional facilities.

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) offered an amendment establishing an oversight board that ensures state agencies purchase furniture produced in prison. Bishop agreed to the amendment, calling the board "useful."

### **CriMNet system funding**

A bill that would advance a state plan to integrate criminal justice information statewide received a significant indication that it will advance to the House floor from its sponsor and the chair of the committee in which it now resides.

"There is no doubt in my mind that House File 260 will be in the omnibus judiciary finance bill," Committee Chair Rep. Rich Stanek

(R-Maple Grove) told the House Judiciary Finance Committee April 18.

Officially, the bill will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

HF260 allocates \$41.5 million during the 2002-03 biennium to several state agencies for the purpose of continuing the implementation of the CriMNet plan. Currently, the state does not have a single, integrated system for collecting, storing or disseminating criminal justice information.

In an effort to better track people in the criminal justice system, the Legislature and several judicial branch agencies have explored the option of developing such a system. A policy group convened in 2000, chaired by Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver, recommended spending \$41.5 million to link all the pieces together and provide significant matching grants to local communities.

Officials have testified that the major roadblock to successful implementation of the program involves how agencies input data at the local level.

The bill would provide funding for the biennium as follows:

- \$20 million to continue development of the Supreme Court Information System re-engineering project;
- \$11 million for local grants to plan for and implement the CriMNet system;
- \$4 million to development the basic implementation infrastructure;
- \$3 million to solve the suspense file (criminal records that do not match fingerprints) problem with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension;
- \$2 million to manage and staff the models and standards for building the project; and
- \$1.5 million to continue developing the statewide systems through the Department of Corrections and to provide for local government implementation requests.

At the April 18 hearing, Weaver compared the provisions in the bill to those recommended by Gov. Jesse Ventura. His budget includes \$27 million for the program.

The most significant difference is in the money allocated for local grants. The governor's budget allocates only \$3 million for that purpose. Weaver indicated about \$4 million in federal funds also available for the program that may be used for grants.

Weaver emphasized whatever amount the Legislature provides for local grants would be helpful.

"I don't want you to think with \$8 million we won't make any progress, because we will," Weaver said.

In 2000, legislators provided for matching grants to help local communities fund implementation of the program. Weaver suggested there might be several communities in the state that would not be able to provide matching funds and the members should make room for that possibility.

The committee amended the bill to remove a provision inserted by the House State Government Finance Committee referring to how the CrimNet system should interact with other state computer systems. Language in the bill required the project be integrated with existing information and communication technology networks.

David Fisher, commissioner of the state Department of Administration, said the amendment resulted from a philosophy the department should not spend large amounts of state money on a plan that would affect only one facet of government, specifically the criminal justice system in this case.

However, Fisher said he did not bring forth the original amendment and the department did not have an official position on it.

## ★ EDUCATION

### Pledge participation

After a long, arduous debate on the House floor, the body passed a measure to require students in public and charter schools to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at least once a week.

"It would restore some regular patriotic activities in our schools," said Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria), sponsor of HF915, during the April 18 floor session.

Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) said many Americans let days go by not thinking about the fact that they live in freedom. He told members the bill is "to remember those (soldiers) who never returned home to marry their sweethearts ... play with their children ... pursue their dreams."

However, claiming the bill may cheapen the principles for which veterans served, Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) said she was voting in opposition. "Should our children be free to honor their country or should they be ordered by the state?"

HF915 gives school boards the authority to waive the requirement but says they must adopt a local policy regarding the Pledge of Allegiance. Students and teachers who object to the recitation would have the option to be excused from participating.

Much of the discussion regarded a provision that would have also required students in nonpublic schools to be subject to the provision.



John L. O'Neill Jr. of VFW Post 6845 in St. Paul watches from the gallery as the House passes a bill April 18 that would require recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools.

"We should make it mandatory in all schools for all school children," said Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), who sponsored the amendment.

But members spoke against enforcing policies for private schools. "When you tell private schools what to do you're going against what I fought for," said Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), a war veteran.

The provision did not pass.

By a 116-13 vote, members adopted an amendment by Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township) that would require fifth grade students to learn "proper etiquette toward, correct display of, and respect for the flag, and in patriotic exercises."

HF915 passed with a 126-6 vote. The Senate version of the bill (SF303), sponsored by Sen. Bob Kierlin (R-Winona), is awaiting action in a Senate committee.

### Staying within the budget

A bill to ensure school districts do not promise employee salaries it cannot afford has been amended to reduce the time and possible uncertainty of making fiscal projections.

Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), sponsor of HF1470, stated no objection to an amendment that would lessen the time in which school districts must project general fund revenue and expenditures from four years to three. The rest of the bill remains unchanged.

The amendment was offered by Reps. Jeff Johnson (R-Plymouth) and George Cassell (R-Alexandria) at the second hearing of the bill during the April 18 meeting of the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.

Cassell said the change makes the bill "more workable and realistic."

Committee members had expressed concerns about school boards making financial projections before they know how much money they have, which is usually at the July 1 start of the fiscal year.

"Three years is better, but I still think we're asking school boards to take a shot in the dark," said Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul).

Jan Alswager, a lobbyist for Education Minnesota, agreed, saying districts do not know projected costs for three or four years out.

She also expressed concern that teachers already are paid "far below" other workers in the area, and salaries would decrease under the bill.

"We won't be able to attract teachers if the bill is implemented," she said.

HF1470 will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

### Final committee deadline

Legislators will meet the final deadline for bills to advance from House and Senate committees this week.

All omnibus finance bills must be passed from House and Senate committees by midnight **Wednesday, April 25**. If a bill fails to advance, it is likely that it will not be considered by the full House during 2001.

However, there are two exceptions to this deadline. Bills may advance from the taxes or rules committees in either body.



## ★ EMPLOYMENT

### References, background checks

The full House narrowly passed a provision April 18 intended to encourage employers to share complete job histories with other employers looking to hire their previous employees.

During floor debate on SF1047, a bill relating to greater background checks for apartment managers, Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud) made a motion inserting the contents of HF415. Knoblach is that bill's sponsor.

The full measure passed on a 69-64 vote.

SF1047, sponsored by Reps. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) and Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids), builds on a law that requires background checks for apartment managers within the past five years. The new bill increases that to 10 years, because of a case in Leppik's district.

Koskinen stood to object to Knoblach's amendment, saying it had nothing to do with the bill.

"The law that we're dealing with was enacted as a result of the murder of my daughter," said Koskinen, whose daughter Kari was murdered in 1994. Her apartment manager was accused of the crime. "I find it extremely offensive from a personal standpoint."

House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) agreed, saying that allowing the Knoblach amendment would set a bad precedent to House rules. He said if members wanted to vote on the issue in Knoblach's bill, they could simply bring it up on that day's calendar, where it was awaiting action by the body.

Nevertheless, the amendment was added. It allows past employers to provide job information, including evaluations from an employee's file, to potential employers.

According to Knoblach, Minnesota employers refrain from passing along all but the most basic information. Although existing law allows them to provide objective employment information, many businesses convey only dates of employment and official job title of previous employees, fearing lawsuits from previous employees denied jobs elsewhere.

During the debate, Knoblach said the intent is to give employers more freedom to be honest about an employee's record without fear of legal reprisal. Additionally, workplace safety and efficiency may be compromised by workers who would not have been hired if previous employers had shared information about poor job performance.

The bill's new language provides statutory immunity to employers providing reference information regarding former employees. Employers will not be held liable for damages

unless the provided information is false, the employer knew or should have known it is false and acted maliciously in sharing it, and the prospective employer actually relied on the information in declining to offer employment.

Furthermore, employees must demonstrate those conditions "by clear and convincing evidence," a standard critics say is too high.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) questioned a provision in Knoblach's amendment requiring employers who choose to provide information to supply the employee with a copy of the information, particularly when the two may not have parted on good terms.

"Why in the world do we want to put another human being in that position?" Skoglund asked.

Knoblach said employers have the choice of providing the information and that portion is intended to protect the public.

"If they're going to discuss that information, it's only fair that (employees) be made aware," Knoblach said.

The Senate version of Knoblach's bill has not received a committee hearing. The Leppik/Koskinen bill, including Knoblach's amendment, was laid on the table by the Senate April 19.

### HOUSING ADVOCATE



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Lisa Graphenteer from the Central Minnesota Housing Partnership testifies April 18 regarding the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee's omnibus bill.**

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### Forest management appropriations

The House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee considered a bill April 17 that would appropriate \$7.9 million for forest management to the commissioner of natural resources for the next biennium. It will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus finance bill.

"House File 1235 is the most important bill for Minnesota's loggers, mills, and forest-dependent rural economy that you will consider this year," said Ray Killmer, president of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association.

Responding in part to requests from people in the timber and wood products industries, Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), sponsor of HF1235, established firm guidelines as to how the money could be spent.

The appropriations would be divided among the following: tree planting, field services, timber sales, commercial and noncommercial thinning, forest inventory, and implementation of the Sustainable Forest Resources Act. A section of the bill would prohibit the commissioner from "reprogramming the appropriations for other purposes."

Testifiers for the bill were most concerned about the shortage of foresters in field services and timber sales.

"Right now the DNR does not have enough staff to implement their own forest management plans," Killmer said.

Bob Tomlinson, director of the Division of Forestry, admitted they were "sitting on" 23 vacancies in the division, which he said have "accrued through attrition" over the past three or four years.

That shortage in field personnel, according to industry spokespersons, has resulted in a decline in timber harvesting of 200,000 cords below the department's plans.

"By filling these positions the state would capture the revenue it has been losing by not meeting allowable timber sales," said Bob Olson, an employee of UPM-Kymmene who was speaking on behalf of the Wood Fiber Council.

Testifiers were also unanimous in their support of continued funding of the Forest Resources Council, which would receive the largest appropriation, \$2.3 million, for implementation of the Sustainable Forest Resources Act.

The Legislature passed this act in 1995 to "ensure the sustainable management, use and protection of the state's forest resources to achieve the state's economic, environmental and social goals."

The council, composed of citizens who

represent a broad spectrum of interests, established the guidelines for timber harvesting and forest management.

"Minnesota and Minnesota's loggers have been leaders in sustainable forestry practices and logging," Killmer said. "This program is the most important way that we do this."

### Local forestry grants

The House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee heard a bill April 17 that would provide matching grants to local communities for forestry health, assessment, and planting. HF1031 will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus finance bill.

Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar), sponsor of HF1031, said it was originally a part of the proposal from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) but didn't make it into that bill.

Hackbarth's bill would direct \$500,000 a year for the next biennium to combat forest diseases, with at least \$310,000 per year going to programs that attack oak wilt.

"It is easier, cheaper and far more rewarding to keep mature, healthy trees than to cut them down and replace them with something younger and less attractive," said Mark Stennes from the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture.

Oak wilt is "indigenous to Minnesota, manageable, and destructive if it gets out of hand," Stennes said. It spreads through root systems within a stand of trees and can be stopped by cutting the roots or by the use of chemicals. At this time, oak wilt is localized mostly in the southern one-third of the state, he said.

HF1031 would also provide grants totaling \$300,000 a year during the next two years for community forestry assessments and tree planting, at least one-half of which must go for the assessments.

This would be similar to the Minnesota ReLeaf Program, according to Mark Schnobrich, city forester for Hutchinson. His city has been the recipient of ReLeaf grants that have made it a healthier and more beautiful place, said Schnobrich. He said they could not have afforded the investment required to reforest their city without the grants.

## GAMBLING



### Card club expansion canned

The House voted down a bill April 18 that would have allowed an expansion to the number of tables and the betting limit at the card club in Canterbury Park.

The measure failed by a 96-37 vote.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), the sponsor of HF894, said the card club has been a success and has greatly helped renew live horse racing at the track.

The 1999 Legislature authorized the card club at the park. The club has been in operation since the spring of 2000.

Osskopp said the card club has expressed a desire to hold a tournament and would like to increase the number of tables. Under current law, the club is limited to 50 tables.

There is now a two-hour wait at each table, Osskopp said. The bill would remove the Legislature from the process of determining the amount of tables allowed and give that authority to the state's racing commission officials who are at the facility every day.

The bill also would increase the bet limit allowed from the current \$30 maximum to \$60.

After the bill was defeated, Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) made a successful motion to reconsider the bill and return it to the General Register.

## GOVERNMENT



### Representing all African-Americans

A bill passed by the House April 18 reflects the changing nature of Minnesota's African-American community. The vote total was 130-0.

SF142, sponsored in the House by Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls), would expand the size of the Council on Black Minnesotans from its current 11 members to 13.

Under the measure, the additional seats would be to be filled by one person whose ethnic heritage is from West Africa, and one member whose ethnic heritage is from East Africa.

The council was established in 1980 to advise the governor and Legislature on issues facing African-Americans in the state. The council is also charged with recommending changes to laws to help address those issues.

Walker said the number of people emigrating from Africa to Minnesota is increasing. By requiring representatives from West Africa and East Africa to serve on the council, she said, the body would be able to better address issues crucial to those communities.

The bill was passed by the Senate Feb. 5. It now awaits the governor's signature.

### Airport commission matters

The Legislature would have a say in who serves on the Metropolitan Airports Commission under a measure passed by the House April 18.

HF1236, sponsored by Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), passed by a 129-0 vote.

The commission is responsible for the day-to-day operation of airport facilities in the state. It consists of eight members representing the Twin Cities metropolitan area and four members from Greater Minnesota. The governor appoints those 12 members along with the chair of the board. The mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul also serve on the commission.

Under the bill, the Senate and House would give advice and consent to the governor's appointments similar to the process used in the appointment of members who serve on the state's Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) offered a successful amendment clarifying that the appointment of the commission chair would only require advice and consent of the Legislature for the initial appointment.

McElroy said that while board members serve four-year terms, the chair's appointment does not have a limited term and thus the amendment clarifies that the Legislature need only give its advice and consent for the original appointment.

## INDUSTRY



### Better programming sought

The House approved a bill requesting television networks to reduce the amount of violent and sexually explicit material in their programming April 18. It passed by a 120-4 count.

Sponsored by Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), HF118 encourages the networks "to produce television material that promotes wholesome family values." The pronouncement calls for the secretary of state to prepare certified copies of the resolution and transmit them to the presidents of television networks in the United States.

"According to the National Coalition on Television Violence, by age 18, the average young person has seen over 200,000 acts of violence and over 8,000 murders on television," Kielkucki said. "This does not address the issue of free speech. We are only asking them to reduce (sex and violence)."

Two amendments to the bill were also approved.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) requested that the term "the family" be changed to "all families." He said some people may perceive "the family" as a traditional family, while the new terminology would include cases such as where there is a single parent or a child's legal guardian is another relative.

Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) brought up a federal children's television violence measure proposed in the U.S. Senate in 1993. Noting that at the time network executives said

legislation was not necessary because they would do an effective job of notifying viewers when programming contains sex or violence, Olson said, "It has not been done."

He said the act was initiated in Minnesota and introduced in the Senate by former U.S. Sen. Dave Durenberger.

Olson's amendment simply added language that referenced the hearing. It also added the "Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives and the President and Secretary of the United States Senate" as resolution recipients.

A companion bill in the Senate, SF0054, has been referred to the Agriculture, General Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee.

## ★ INSURANCE

### Amending unemployment laws

A bill that would change certain provisions for unemployment insurance in Minnesota passed the House April 18. The vote was 130-0.

Though the bill deals primarily with technical changes, there are a few significant adjustments, including providing that American Indian tribes be treated similarly to public employers in the state, as required by federal law.

Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville) sponsors HF655.

Specifically, the bill would allow public employers to switch between paying unemployment taxes and reimbursing the system directly. The bill would make the same option available for American Indian tribes.

The bill would also allow unemployed people to backdate their applications for benefits in some situations, Wolf said. For example, he said, many people don't apply for unemployment benefits until one week after they were unemployed. The unemployment program also requires them to wait a week after applying before they can receive benefits, thereby creating a two-week lag. Wolf said the bill would allow them to backdate their application to the day they became unemployed so they could take advantage of the extra week of benefits.

Another provision allows someone to receive unemployment benefits if they quit because of domestic abuse. According to existing law, a person who quits is otherwise disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits.

The bill would further provide that anyone applying for benefits who does not provide all the required information to the Department of Economic Security, which currently administers unemployment benefits, would not be eligible for benefits.

## HOCKEY TALK



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

The Bloomington Jefferson High School state champion girls hockey team, along with Rep. Alice Seagren, right, take part in a congratulatory visit with Gov. Jesse Ventura in his State Capitol reception room April 18.

HF655 awaits action in the Senate. Its Senate companion (SF1277) is sponsored by Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-New Ulm).

## ★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Gun ranges not nuisances

Shooting ranges could not be shut down as nuisances under a measure passed by the House April 18 on a 99-34 vote.

Sponsored by Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar), HF209 would prohibit local governments from closing shooting ranges that are in compliance with existing law even if the range is found not to conform to a new ordinance.

Hackbarth said some local units of government are using nuisance laws as an excuse to shut down shooting ranges. He said the ranges are an important part of the state, teaching safe practices and "children to shoot properly."

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) offered an unsuccessful amendment that would have limited the scope of the bill to noise violations and would have allowed local units of government to close ranges that violate other ordinances such as storing broken-down cars on the property.

"(This bill) gives rights to shooting ranges that no one else has," Skoglund said.

Hackbarth said he opposed the amendment because he was trying to get at the issue of those governments that are inappropriately using nuisance laws to shut down the businesses.

Skoglund said by allowing exemptions to all

nuisance laws and ordinances, a shooting range owner could theoretically open a pornographic operation on the premises and the government would be unable to do anything about it.

Another concern, Skoglund said, was that the bill not only requires local government to pay fair market value when closing a range but then to further compensate the owner for a new site.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said shooting ranges must obtain a permit before opening and if they violate the permit the business would be subject to review.

Haas said the bill provides necessary protection for owners of shooting ranges who are facing people moving in next to their operation knowing what the business is, and then complaining to government after they purchase or build their new homes.

### Appoint or elect?

After approving two bills that would permit specific counties to make certain elected positions appointed, the House voted down a measure that would have expanded the option to counties statewide.

HF1340, sponsored by Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township), would allow Wright County to appoint its county recorder. The bill was passed by a 114-18 vote.

HF2036, sponsored by Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings), would permit Goodhue County to appoint its auditor-treasurer and recorder. That measure was passed by a 111-21 vote.

But SF510, sponsored by Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker), which would allow county boards to change the method of appointing the

auditor, treasurer, recorder and auditor-treasurer positions, was defeated by a 104-27 vote.

Currently county boards can propose changing the positions from elected to appointed by putting a referendum question before county voters. The bill would remove the referendum requirement and allow the change to take place if approved by an 80 percent vote of the board.

The decision could then be overturned by a reverse referendum.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) said he thought it was a better policy for counties to continue to come to the Legislature on a “one on one” basis to explain their reasons for wanting to change the positions from elected to appointed positions. Solberg said that specific local cases can often be made for the change, but in general it was more important to continue to allow people to vote for those offices.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) said that while there was value in having people serve in those positions who didn’t always do what the county board told them to do, with the shrinking population of many Minnesota counties, it is now more important for the county board to have the ability to put the most qualified people in the technical positions.

Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Wells) spoke against the bill saying the positions benefit from having people serve who possess political skills as well as technical qualifications.

“A democracy is not perfect. It gives each individual an opportunity to have a voice in what takes place,” Kalis said.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) said the appointed positions would streamline county government and ultimately save taxpayers money.

After the measure failed, Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) made a successful motion to have the bill reconsidered and placed on the General Register. Seifert said Howes had told him he would limit the scope of the measure to just two counties, Cass and Hubbard.

The Senate passed the bill March 5 by a 45-19 vote.

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### The great plate debate

A plan to offer “choose life” license plates, which would funnel money to groups supporting pregnant women who commit to placing their babies up for adoption instead of having an abortion, has reached its final committee destination.

HF2193, sponsored by Rep. Ray Vandever (R-Forest Lake), will be considered for inclusion in the House Transportation Finance Committee’s omnibus bill.

The committee voted down a motion to send the bill separately to the House Ways and Means Committee during an April 18 meeting. The Ways and Means Committee must approve all spending bills after they are compiled and approved by the finance committees.

HF2193 would establish an “adoption support account” funded by drivers who choose to contribute \$25 to the account in addition to a \$10 plate fee on top of paying all taxes and fees on the vehicle.

The adoption support account money would be granted to counties, which would then be bound to donate money to groups vowing to spend at least 70 percent of the money on “the material needs” of pregnant women and infants awaiting adoption. The groups could spend the remainder on adoption counseling, training, or advertising, but not for capital expenditure or administrative and legal expenses.

Under the bill, counties would be barred from granting funds to groups at all involved in, or associated with, abortion activities including counseling for, or referral to, abortion clinics, abortion services, or “pro-abortion advertising.”

Responding to criticism that the bill makes the state act as a collection agency for private groups, Vandever said the state already offers plates for five private Christian colleges and therefore the proposed plates would not deviate from existing state practice.

Committee Chair Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) told the committee she favors the intended support for adoption but considers the license plates “bad public policy.” She pointed out, for example, that the state should expect to devote a one-quarter to one-third full-time equivalent employee to administer the new fund and county grant process.

### Rail concerns

The House Transportation Finance Committee is considering a measure that would forbid the state Department of Transportation from spending state funds to study light or commuter rail transit unless the funds are appropriated in a law that identifies the specific route to be studied.

HF624, sponsored by Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), would also hold true for state monies expended by the Metropolitan Council.

She said the department’s existing procedures do not sufficiently give notice to residents that a rail project is being considered. As such, residents and landowners are given insufficient opportunity to mount resistance to or influence such projects.

For example, Bloomington resident Paul McCullough said that although he owns

property along the proposed Dan Patch Commuter Rail Line, he learned of the proposal only incidentally as he noticed it “buried in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. I opened the newspaper, and there it was.”

The committee heard the bill April 18 and will consider it for possible inclusion in its omnibus finance bill.

An amendment proposed by Seagren would also require MnDOT to purchase all real estate within 100 feet of the Dan Patch Commuter Rail Line right-of-way.

The line is proposed to run between Northfield and Minneapolis, a trip of about 40 miles. It would run along existing Canadian Pacific Railway tracks.

McCullough described his town of residence as “a nice place to live and raise a family.” He said the line would jeopardize property value, increase noise, and create unacceptable safety concerns for residents along the line. He also emphasized that the line lacks local support.

The bill would further require that any track used for the Dan Patch line be upgraded to the safety standards of new track. Seagren explained that renovated or improved track normally need not legally incorporate the highest standards of safety.

### Bus safety law signed

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law April 13 that could prevent some sex offenders from driving school buses.

Sponsored by Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska), the new law bars those convicted of certain sex offenses — illegal use of minors in sexual performance, possession of pornography containing minors, or dissemination or display of harmful material to minors — from driving school buses.

The law takes effect June 1 and applies to offenses committed on, or after, that date. Existing law regarding licensed bus drivers bars any felon or anyone convicted of the following crimes: a drug offense, driving a school bus while intoxicated, indecent exposure, or other forms of child abuse.

The new law follows testimony by Chaska Police Chief Scott Knight that sexual offenders have acquired permission to drive school buses after concealing their identity.

The Senate version was sponsored by Sen. Claire Robling (R-Prior Lake).

HF57\*/SF27/CH25

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature’s web page at:  
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

# Battle over the bottle

Previous legislatures have tried to lower the legal blood-alcohol limit, but now money is at stake

BY BRENDA VAN DYCK

**L**owering the blood alcohol content level for drunken driving is a recurring issue at the Legislature, only now there is more incentive to do so — in fact, millions of incentives in the form of federal highway dollars.

With the federal government's adoption of a national 0.08 percent blood alcohol concentration last year, states are required to lower their limits to that level by 2004. If not, they'll lose millions of dollars in federal highway funding.

Proposals to lower the legal limit from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent have been considered by the Legislature since 1997, but have never become law. And this year, despite the monetary incentives to lower the standard, bills lowering Minnesota's blood alcohol concentration to 0.08 percent have died in House and Senate committees.

Legislation dealing with drunken driving goes back nearly a century. Minnesota first outlawed drunken driving in 1911, but it wasn't until nearly 45 years later that it implemented a standard of impairment.

Many states started implementing alcohol concentration limits of 0.15 percent, following the recommendations of the American Medical Association. This was a "presumptive limit," which presumed the level at which a person was impaired by alcohol, but that presumption could be rebutted with contrary evidence.

In 1939, Indiana was the first state to implement a presumptive limit of 0.15 percent. Minnesota followed suit, but not until 1955.

Minnesota's limit meant that anyone with a blood alcohol concentration under 0.05 percent was presumed to be unimpaired. Evidence of blood alcohol concentrations between 0.05 percent and 0.15 percent could be used to show that the person driving was impaired, but that evidence could be contested. Blood alcohol levels of 0.15 percent or more could be used as *prima facie* evidence (or evidence that stands on its own as proof) that the person was impaired by alcohol.

With growing evidence of a connection between alcohol concentration and crash risk, and improved technology to measure blood alcohol concentration, many states began lowering their limits in the 1960s and 1970s. Minnesota lowered its standard to 0.10 percent in 1967.

The state switched to a "per se" limit in 1971. That limit made it a crime to drive with an alcohol concentration of 0.10 percent or more, regardless of evidence of impairment.

In 1989, bills to lower the blood alcohol concentration to 0.05 percent were introduced in both bodies of the Legislature, but didn't go anywhere.

A more serious push was made in 1997. The House approved a bill that lowered the blood alcohol concentration to 0.08 percent and lowered the limit to 0.04 percent for drivers under age 19. In the Senate's version, the lower 0.08 percent standard only applied to repeat offenders and there were no provisions for underage drinkers.

The 0.08 percent standard was stripped out in conference committee. The final version of the bill included harsher penalties for repeat drunken drivers and the lower standard for drunken drivers under age 19, but was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson, who said the underage provision placed an undue burden on youth.

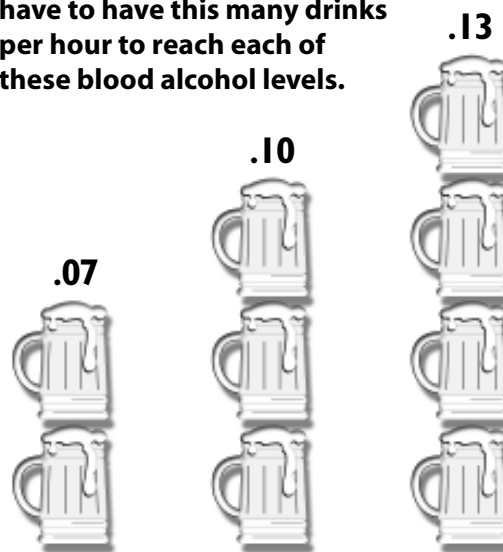
In a one-day special session that June, the Legislature approved a drunken driving bill that had stiffer penalties for repeat offenders, those driving with a blood alcohol level at least twice the legal limit, and those driving snowmobiles. The youth provision was stripped out, and Carlson subsequently signed the bill.

Also in 1997, President Clinton voiced his support for



Under proposals in both the House and Senate, drivers with as those pictured here. Those proposals have died in comm

**A 140-pound woman would have to have this many drinks per hour to reach each of these blood alcohol levels.**



Subtract .01% for each 40 minutes of drinking.  
One drink is 1.25 oz. of 80 proof liquor, 12 oz. of beer, or 5 oz. of table wine.

Source: National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information.



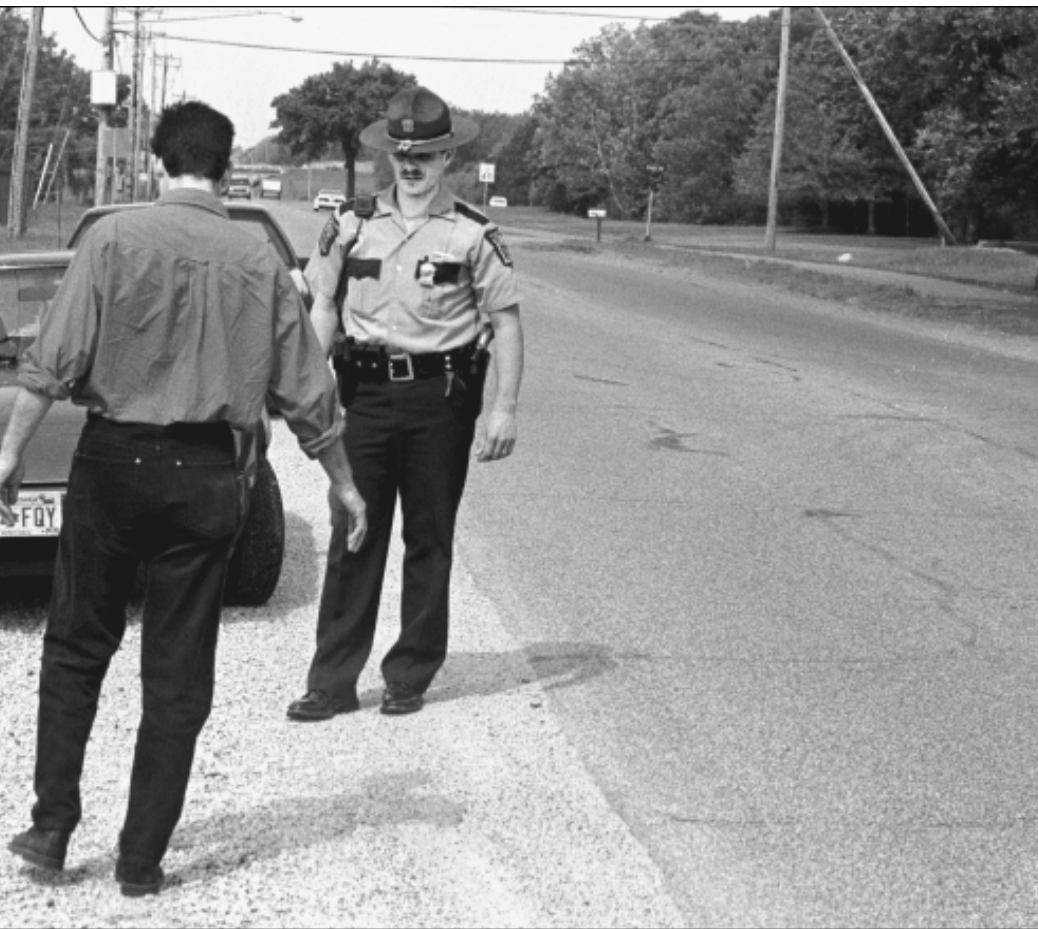
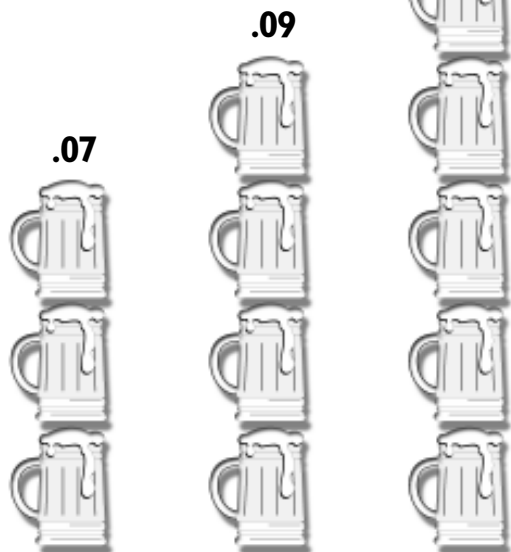


PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

a .08 percent alcohol concentration would be considered drunken drivers and subject to field sobriety tests such as the walk-and-turn and one-legged stand.

**A 160-pound man would have to have this many drinks per hour to reach each of these blood alcohol levels.**



Subtract .01% for each 40 minutes of drinking.  
One drink is 1.25 oz. of 80 proof liquor, 12 oz. of beer, or 5 oz. of table wine.

a national blood alcohol concentration limit of 0.08 percent.

Efforts to lower the limit in Minnesota continued in 1998 when the House approved a lower limit of 0.08 percent, and the Senate again lowered the limit for repeat offenders. The lower limit provision was again stripped out in conference committee.

On a national level, the U.S. Senate passed a national standard of 0.08 percent in 1998, while the U.S. House committee kept a similar proposal from reaching the House floor.

In Minnesota, bills lowering the blood alcohol limit were again heard in House and Senate committees during the 1999 session, but the House's version didn't make it out of the House Transportation Finance Committee.

Last year, as part of a larger

transportation funding bill, Congress established a national standard of 0.08 percent. States must subsequently lower their levels to that number by 2004, or they'll lose 2 percent of federal highway construction funding in 2004. The penalty increases to 8 percent (2 percent each year) if the level isn't lowered by 2007.

States that adopt the 0.08 percent standard by 2007 will have full funding restored and will be reimbursed for lost funds. If the state doesn't pass a 0.08 percent limit, Minnesota stands to lose \$61.5 million during the next six years.


In addition, there is approximately \$500 million in incentives for qualifying states to share for either highway safety or highway construction projects. Those incentives began at \$55 million in 1998 and increase annually to \$110 million in 2003. Incentives available to Minnesota from now until federal fiscal year 2004 equal about \$9 million.

Currently 19 states, (Alabama, California, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington), Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia have adopted a *per se* standard of 0.08 percent. All other states have the *per se* limit of 0.10 percent, with the exception of Massachusetts, which has a presumptive limit of 0.08 percent.

Advocates for a lower standard, including Mothers Against Drunk Driving, say a lower legal limit for intoxication will reduce the number of deaths caused by drunken drivers. Opponents cite concerns about targeting social drinkers and the extra law enforcement costs for local governments.

The amount of alcohol it takes to reach 0.08 percent blood alcohol concentration depends on a number of factors, such as gender, body weight, how recently one ate, the duration of drinking, and individual metabolic rates.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, on average, it would take a 170-pound man consuming four drinks on an empty stomach in one hour to reach the 0.08 percent level; for a 137-pound woman, it would take three drinks.

A woman drinking an equal amount of alcohol in the same period of time as a man of an equivalent weight may have a higher blood alcohol level than that man. 

**Brenda van Dyck is the editor/publications manager for the nonpartisan House Research Department.**

# Proper planning

Leaders prepare in case an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease were to occur in Minnesota

By **JONAS M. WALKER**

**I**n the wake of viral outbreaks that have provoked alarm in the rural United Kingdom, shaken consumer confidence in meat products, and paralyzed some sectors of trade between Europe and the United States, lawmakers gathered April 18 to review the country's ability to prevent a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak and the state's preparedness to respond should one occur in Minnesota.

State and federal officials told the House Agriculture Policy Committee that additional legislation might be necessary to effectively prevent the spread of the disease should it reach Minnesota.

"I want to know what ground zero would look like," said Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison).

Although no legislation was proposed, legislators suggested that increased state authority to quickly enact quarantines or compensate farmers for culled herds could be necessary.

Foot and Mouth Disease is a highly contagious viral infection afflicting hoofed animals such as cows, pigs, goats, and deer. There are

at least seven strains of the disease which humans can carry but do not catch.

Infected animals transmit the virus in every form of bodily excretion. The virus can also be spread in people's shoes or on other clothing, in human nostrils, in animal products, and even by wind. It is believed one outbreak in France was caused by wind-borne pathogens carried over the English Channel.

Foot and Mouth Disease incubates for one to five days before becoming evident in infected animals. In an average diseased farm, 95 percent of hoofed animals will catch the virus. Although fewer than 1 percent of adult animals die as a result of the disease it proves fatal for about one-half of young animals.

Infected animals suffer swollen lesions on hooves, in mouths, and on udders. Suffering from oral pain, animals stop eating and therefore slow their own growth or milk production.

The disease is tremendously destructive because it yields a decline in agricultural production as it slows animal growth, and results in smaller adult animals. Combined with its viru-

lent communicability, the disease's resultant decline in individual animal productivity can prove devastating for an agricultural economy.

Mike Starkey, an agriculture chemical information and certification consultant with the state Agriculture Department, said the only effective way of stopping an outbreak is to aggressively quarantine animals, people, and equipment that might have come into even incidental contact with the virus. All animals must be slaughtered and burned, buried, or otherwise completely destroyed.

Of particular concern to committee members were reimbursements to farmers whose animals are destroyed. Commissioner of Agriculture Gene Hugoson suggested farmers check their insurance policies to determine whether such an outbreak is covered.

However, even if insurance policies and government assistance completely indemnify farmers from loss, Hugoson and others emphasized the loss of future potential earnings is especially worrisome. For example, complete herds of rare cattle could be wiped out, obliterating generations of human work and investment. Furthermore, appraising the true value of animals that fall sick can also be very difficult.

Since February the United Kingdom has destroyed more than one million animals on 1,300 farms. Despite their efforts, the disease has spread to other European countries. Meanwhile, the United Kingdom has instituted a wide-ranging quarantine on infected areas, which has proved economically adverse and politically explosive.

The current European outbreak is especially worrisome to American officials because that region has been considered disease-free for some time. Likewise, the United States has been free of the disease since 1929.

But Tom Hagerty, a veterinarian with the state Board of Animal Health, said Americans should not assume their agriculture industry is immune from outbreaks. He said increased international trade and fast transcontinental travel compromise the traditional boon that North America is physically isolated from most countries unable to eradicate Foot and Mouth Disease.

Hugoson said there "is a real possibility that (an) outbreak (of the disease) could occur here." He emphasized the best way to address the threat is prevention.

According to Hugoson, the federal government has banned animals and animal products



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Minnesota officials are taking steps to prepare should the highly contagious Foot and Mouth Disease make its way to the United States and as far as Minnesota. The virus affects hoofed animals, such as cows, pigs, goats, and deer.

Continued on page 23

# Rudy and Lola unveiled

Perpich family and other proponents preserved portrait of governor and first lady together, now hanging in the Capitol

BY DAVID MAEDA

Each of Minnesota's governors has an official portrait painted, usually upon their exit from office.

It's a solitary exercise, typically featuring Minnesota's chief executive alone in his office, in his district, or some other place close to his heart and his administration.

In his original portrait, Gov. Rudy Perpich is pictured in front of an open pit mine on the Iron Range. But because he was the only governor to serve nonconsecutive terms, he requested another.

Officials were left to determine if a governor could have two portraits. But even more controversial was that he wanted his wife in the portrait with him.

On June 27, 2000, Perpich and his wife Lola received an historic honor. On the day that would have been his 72nd birthday, Perpich's second portrait with his wife was officially unveiled in the State Capitol.

As Lola and her daughter, Mary Sue, cut down the rope holding up the cloth to unveil the former governor's new official portrait, a gathering of family, friends and former colleagues affably applauded.

It was the first time in Minnesota history that the first lady of the state is portrayed along with her husband in the official portrait.

Speaking on behalf of the family, Rudy Perpich Jr. said that his father, who passed away in 1995, would have been extremely proud.

"It was my father's dearest wish that my mother be included in the portrait," he said. "I asked my mother to speak, but (she said) it's such an emotional day that if she spoke she'd start to cry."

The oil painting by Minneapolis artist Mark Balma shows the couple in the governor's reception area, the elegant room the couple refurbished as part of their Capitol restoration project. Lola is seated next to a standing, smiling Rudy. Balma's painting uses a style reminiscent of Renaissance painters — a simple mathematical structure featuring layered textures that emphasize clarity, balance and perspective.

Perpich Jr. said that his father's smile in the portrait is a reminder of the look he would get whenever he was told one of his pet projects, such as the Mall of America, the National Sports Center in Blaine or the state arts high school, could not be done.

Perpich served twice, from 1976-79 and from 1983-91. After his first term he chose a portrait, painted by Jerome Fortune Ryan, that depicted him standing in front of an open-pit mine. The scene honored the Iron Range, Perpich's home region.

At the end of his second term Perpich requested another portrait in the Capitol. Because he was the only person to serve nonconsecutive terms as governor, there was some question about the state's policy regarding the gubernatorial portraits hanging in the Capitol.

To further add to the controversy, the portrait that Perpich wanted displayed was actually a photograph of he and his wife taken in the governor's residence.

The photograph was enlarged to the size of the other governor portraits, and enhanced with acrylics to simulate the look of an oil painting. It not only would have been the first nontraditionally painted portrait, but it also would have been the first portrait to portray both a governor and the first lady.

With his request denied Perpich bought space on a University Avenue billboard near the Capitol. It showed the portrait of he and his wife, with the message, "They won't let us in the Capitol, so 'hi' from here."

In 1997 the Legislature passed a bill that

appropriated \$5,000 for a new oil portrait of the photograph. Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed that item from a larger state government appropriations bill.

The Legislature also directed the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board to provide a report developing standards for the content, construction, and materials used for the official portrait of a governor. Further, the Legislature specified the board should "give particular attention to the question of whether the governor's spouse should be included in the official portrait of a future governor."

After studying the policies of other states, the board recommended that the official portrait "shall contain only a single subject, that of the governor," and that the portrait should be of painted quality, not a photograph.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Rudy Perpich Jr., at podium, his mother Lola, second from left, and sister Susan, left, take part in the unveiling of a portrait of Gov. Rudy Perpich and Lola Perpich on June 27, 2000. The portrait replaced one that featured the former governor in front of an open pit iron mine.

The board also recommended that each governor be honored with a single portrait — similar to the United States Capitol where there hangs only one portrait of Grover Cleveland, the only person to serve two non-consecutive terms as president,

In 1998 Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) again sponsored a bill that authorized allowing the new portrait depicting the first couple as the official portrait, but required the use of private funds for the painting.

Continued on page 23

## Tracking new laws, vetoes

Once a bill has passed both the House and Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor, who has several options when considering a bill, can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill;
- or do nothing, which can have two different effects. The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is that the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor

doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of

the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

This information is also available on the governor's Web site ([www.governor.state.mn.us](http://www.governor.state.mn.us)). Select the "Legislative Initiatives" link, then click on "Legislative Log 2001."

Key:

CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
Res.1	219	258*	Resolution requesting a ban on the importation of certain steel products.	3/15/01	
Res.2	670	647*	Resolution memorializing the President and Congress to fund 40 percent of special education costs.	4/6/01	
1	34	28*	Teacher licensing under current licensure rules.	1/16/01	
2	421*	460	Energy assistance program federal fund expenditure authorized.	2/2/01	
3	213	201*	Physicians assistants infection control continuing education requirements repeal.	2/15/01	
4	181	43*	Adult foster care license capacity age requirement and maximum admissions variances.	2/28/01	
5	817	376*	City contract limit increases.	3/2/01	
6	106*	47	Minnesota agricultural education leadership council permanent members authorized.	3/8/01	
7	656*	231	Revisor's Bill.	3/15/01	
8	80*	79	Coon Lake water level control.	3/16/01	
9	393*	155	Ramsey County and City of St. Paul employees allowed equal competition for county jobs in city-county departments.	3/16/01	
10	357	289*	Alcohol and drug counselors licensing requirements modified.	3/16/01	
11	487	433	Townships health, social, and recreational services contracts amounts increases.	3/21/01	
12	320*	399	Property casualty insurance agents surplus lines insurance procurement authority.	3/29/01	
13	1016	509*	City and county obligations payment by electronic transfer or credit card authorized.	4/6/01	
14	368	63*	Stearns County Highway 55 bridge designated as Old St. Anne's pass.	4/6/01	
15	243	346*	Trusts; uniform principal and income act modified, and antilapse law clarified.	4/6/01	
16	556*	756	Federal law enforcement officers authorized to exercise arrest powers in MN under specified circumstances.	4/9/01	
17	416	400*	Hokah authorized to vacate roads if necessary due to extensive damage.	4/9/01	
18	1046	991*	Notifies schools of student possession of drug paraphernalia.	4/11/01	
19	172	9*	Authorizes cities to provide housing assistance for volunteer firefighters or ambulance personnel.	4/11/01	
20	64	971*	Repeals law prohibiting itinerant carnivals.	4/11/01	
21	394	327*	Repealing statutes concerning castrating animals running at large in a town.	4/11/01	
22	466	972*	Repeals law prohibiting endurance contests.	4/11/01	
23	252	570*	Repeals obsolete rules.	4/11/01	
24	37	480*	Repeals obsolete traffic regulations.	4/13/01	
25	57*	27	Certain crimes against children named disqualifying offenses for school bus drivers' licenses.	4/13/01	

\*The legislative bill marked with an asterisk denotes the file submitted to the governor.

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
26	245	225*	Allows licensed peace officers to determine necessity of patient restraints.	4/13/01	
27	790	702*	Modifies requirements for the Bluffland trail system.	4/13/01	
28	1951	1204*	Regulates the use of HIV and bloodborne pathogen tests.	4/13/01	
29	994	883*	Establishes hospital waiver or variance request procedure.	4/13/01	
30	47*	39	Unemployment benefits to certain LTV employees extended.	4/11/01	

## LATE ACTION

# Time trial

## House sends odd-numbered year session bill back to committee

The House considered, and then re-referred, a bill April 19 that would have limited the odd-numbered year sessions to 30 days.

HF2205, sponsored by House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), would require the Legislature to do the bulk of its budgeting work during even-numbered years. The plan would have taken effect in 2005.

"In 1973 the voters of the state of Minnesota passed a constitutional amendment to allow, but not require, the Minnesota Legislature to meet every year," Pawlenty said. "Since then the Legislature has chosen to meet every year."

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) made a

motion to re-refer the bill to the House Ways and Means Committee, which he chairs.

"This is a budget item and budgeting is the responsibility of the Ways and Means Committee," Bishop said. He also expressed concerns about the constitutionality of a bill that might affect the Legislature's ability to produce a balanced budget each biennium.

Pawlenty said the bill deals strictly with policy and did not carry with it any implicit fiscal impact.

Bishop said he would give the bill a hearing, but that he opposed its very concept.

"This so-called reform implies that we need it. This Legislature functions better than any

Legislature in the country," he said.

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) said he was concerned about the constitutionality issues the bill raised. He said the bill should be referred to the Ways and Means Committee and was critical that a similar bill (HF25) he sponsored did not receive a hearing.

Pawlenty said his original bill was very different from HF25 and during the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee hearing of HF2205, his bill was amended to be more similar to Anderson's bill.

Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) spoke against the re-referral. He said he was not convinced that the budgeting and constitutionality arguments were valid.

"This bill has very significant and positive ramifications for this (legislative) process," Olson said. "This is good reform."

The motion to re-refer the bill to Ways and Means was adopted by a 71-61 vote.

(D. MAEDA)

## Where to find information

### House Public Information Office

175 State Office Building  
(651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

The House Public Information Office is a nonpartisan office that provides committee meetings schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* news magazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

### Where to find information

Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the Legislature's World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

### Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (651) 296-2314

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

### House Index Department

211 State Capitol (651) 296-6646

The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized index available for public use. House Index lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories. The office can also give you the current status of legislation.



# Minnesota State Government

## Constitutional Offices

### Governor

130 State Capitol  
75 Constitution Ave., St. Paul 55155 .... 296-3391  
**Jesse Ventura**  
Steven Bosacker - Chief of Staff ..... 296-3391

### Lieutenant Governor

130 State Capitol  
75 Constitution Ave., St. Paul 55155 .... 296-3391  
**Mae Schunk**

### Attorney General

102 State Capitol  
75 Constitution Ave., St. Paul 55155 .... 296-6196  
**Mike Hatch** ..... 297-4272  
Alan Gilbert - Chief Deputy ..... 296-6196

### Secretary of State

180 State Office Building  
100 Constitution Ave.,  
St. Paul 55155 ..... 296-2803  
**Mary Kiffmeyer** ..... 296-2079  
Bob Schroeder -  
Deputy Secretary of State ..... 296-2309

### State Auditor

Suite 400  
525 Park St., St. Paul 55103 ..... 296-2551  
**Judith H. Dutcher** ..... 296-2524  
Deno S. Howard - Legal Counsel ..... 297-3673

### State Treasurer

303 Administration Building  
50 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul 55155 .... 296-7091  
**Carol Johnson** ..... 296-7091  
John M. Manahan -  
Deputy State Treasurer ..... 296-7091

## Supreme Court & Court of Appeals

### Supreme Court

Minnesota Judicial Center  
25 Constitution Ave.,  
St. Paul 55155-1500 ..... 297-7650  
**Kathleen A. Blatz** - Chief Justice ..... 296-3380

### Justices

Paul H. Anderson ..... 296-3314  
Russell A. Anderson ..... 296-2484  
James H. Gilbert ..... 297-5454  
Joan Ericksen Lancaster ..... 296-2285  
Alan C. Page ..... 296-6615

Edward C. Stringer ..... 296-4033

### Court of Appeals

Minnesota Judicial Center  
25 Constitution Ave.,  
St. Paul 55155-1500 ..... 297-1000  
**Edward J. Toussaint Jr.** -  
Chief Judge ..... 297-1006

### Judges

Roland C. Amundson ..... 297-1005  
G. Barry Anderson ..... 297-1007  
Gary L. Crippen ..... 297-1003  
Sam Hanson ..... 297-7676  
Jill Flaskamp Halbrooks ..... 297-1002  
James C. Harten ..... 297-1011  
Thomas J. Kalitowski ..... 297-3530  
Roger M. Klaphake ..... 297-1026  
Harriet Lansing ..... 297-1010  
Randolph W. Peterson ..... 297-7807  
R. A. Randall ..... 297-1004  
Robert H. Schumacher ..... 297-1009  
Terri Stoneburner ..... 297-1008  
Gordon Shumaker ..... 297-1068  
Bruce D. Willis ..... 297-1001

## State Departments and other major agencies

### Administration

200 Administration Building  
50 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul 55155 .... 296-6013  
**David Fisher** - Commissioner ..... 296-1424

### Agriculture

Agriculture Building  
90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul 55107 ..... 297-2200  
**Gene Hugoson** - Commissioner ..... 297-3219

### Children, Families & Learning

1500 Highway 36 W.,  
Roseville 55113 ..... 582-8200  
**Christine Jax** - Commissioner ..... 582-8204

### Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 500,  
St. Paul 55101 ..... 296-4026  
**Jim Bernstein** - Commissioner ..... 296-6025

### Corrections

Suite 200  
1450 Energy Park Drive,  
St. Paul 55108 ..... 642-0200  
**Sheryl Ramstad Hvass** -  
Commissioner ..... 642-0282

### Economic Security

390 N. Robert St., St. Paul 55101 ..... 296-3644  
**Earl Wilson** - Commissioner ..... 296-3711

### Employee Relations

Second Floor, Centennial Office Building  
658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 ..... 297-1184  
**Julien Carter** - Commissioner ..... 296-3095

### Finance

400 Centennial Office Building  
658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 ..... 296-5900  
**Pam Wheelock** - Commissioner ..... 297-7881

### Health

The Golden Rule Building, Suite 400  
85 Seventh Place E., St. Paul 55101 ... 215-5800  
**Jan Malcolm** - Commissioner ..... 296-8401

### Housing Finance Agency

400 Sibley, Suite 300,  
St. Paul 55101 ..... 296-7608  
**Katherine G. Hadley** -  
Commissioner ..... 296-5738

### Human Rights

Suite 700  
Army Corps of Engineers Center  
190 E. Fifth St., St. Paul 55101 ..... 296-5663  
**Janeen Rosas** - Commissioner ..... 296-5665

### Human Services

Human Services Building  
444 Lafayette Road,  
St. Paul 55155-3815 ..... 296-6117  
**Michael O'Keefe** - Commissioner ..... 296-2701

### Labor & Industry

443 Lafayette Road, St. Paul 55155 ... 296-6107  
**Gretchen Maglich** - Commissioner .. 296-2342

### Military Affairs

Fourth Floor, Veterans Service Building  
20 W. 12th St., St. Paul 55155-2098 .... 282-4662  
**Maj. Gen. Eugene R. Andreotti** -  
Adjutant General ..... 282-4666

### Minnesota Planning

Third Floor, Centennial Office Building  
658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 ..... 296-3985  
**Dean Barkley** - Director ..... 297-2325

### Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road,  
St. Paul 55155-4001 ..... 296-6157  
**Allen Garber** - Commissioner ..... 296-2549

## Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road N.,  
St. Paul 55155 ..... 296-6300  
**Karen Studders** -  
Commissioner, Board Chair ..... 296-7301

## Public Safety

North Central Life Tower  
445 Minnesota St., Suite 1000,  
St. Paul 55101 ..... 296-6642  
**Charlie Weaver** - Commissioner ..... 296-6642

## Revenue

600 N. Robert St., St. Paul 55146 ..... 296-3781  
**Matt Smith** - Commissioner ..... 296-3403

## Trade & Economic Development

500 Metro Square  
121 Seventh Place E.,  
St. Paul 55101-2146 ..... 297-1291  
**Rebecca Yanisch** -  
Commissioner ..... 296-6424  
1-800-657-3858

## Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd., St. Paul 55155 ..... 296-3000  
**Elwyn Tinklenberg** - Commissioner ... 296-3000

## Veterans Affairs

Second Floor, Veterans Service Building  
20 W. 12th St., St. Paul 55155 ..... 296-2562  
**Jeffrey L. Olson** - Commissioner ..... 296-2345

# Boards & Agencies

## Board of Pardons

Suite 200  
1450 Energy Park Drive,  
St. Paul 55108-5219 ..... 642-0284  
**Jeffrey Shorba** - Secretary ..... 642-0284

## Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board

First Floor, Centennial Office Building  
658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 ..... 296-5148  
**Jeanne Olson** - Executive Director ... 296-1721

## Capitol Area Architectural & Planning Board

204 Administration Building  
50 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul 55155 ..... 296-7138  
**Nancy Stark** - Executive Secretary ... 296-1162

## Higher Education Services Office (HESO)

Suite 350  
1450 Energy Park Drive  
St. Paul 55108-5227  
642-0533/1-800-657-3866  
**Robert Poch** - Director ..... 642-0502  
**Ronald McKinley** - Co-Chair  
**Kathleen Vellenga** - Co-Chair

## Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board

P.O. Box 441, Eveleth 55734 ..... (218) 744-7400  
1-800-765-5043

**John Swift** - Commissioner

## Law Library

Ground Floor Judicial Center  
25 Constitution Ave., St. Paul 55155 . 296-2775  
**Marvin Roger Anderson** -  
State Law Librarian ..... 297-2084

## Metropolitan Council

Mears Park Center  
230 E. Fifth St., St. Paul 55101 ..... 602-1000  
**Ted Mondale** - Chair ..... 602-1414

## Minnesota Historical Society

Minnesota History Center  
345 Kellogg Blvd.W.,  
St. Paul 55102-1906 ..... 296-6126  
**Nina M. Archabal** - Director ..... 296-2747

## Minnesota State Colleges & Universities (MnSCU)

500 World Trade Center  
30 E. Seventh St., St. Paul 55101 ..... 296-8012  
**Morrie Anderson** - Chancellor ..... 296-8012  
**Michael Vekich**, St. Louis Park - Board Chair

## Minnesota Tax Court

Minnesota Judicial Center  
25 Constitution Ave., St. Paul 55155 .... 296-2806  
**George W. Perez** - Chief Judge

## Minnesota Veterans Homes Board

122 Veterans Service Building  
20 W. 12th St., St. Paul 55155 ..... 296-2073  
**Wayne Sletten** - Chair

## Office of Environmental Assistance

520 Lafayette Road, Second Floor,  
St. Paul 55155 ..... 296-3417  
**Sherry A. Enzler** - Director ..... 215-0263

## Public Utilities Commission

Metro Square Building, Suite 350  
121 Seventh Place E., St. Paul 55101 .... 296-7124  
**Burl Haar** - Executive Secretary ..... 296-7526  
**Greg Scott** - Chair

## University of Minnesota

100 Church St. S.E.  
202 Morrill Hall,  
Minneapolis 55455 ..... (612) 625-5000  
**Mark Yudof** - President ..... (612) 626-1616  
**Patricia Spence**, Rice - Board of Regents Chair

## Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals

Minnesota Judicial Center, Suite 405  
25 Constitution Ave., St. Paul 55155 .... 296-6526  
**Steven D. Wheeler** - Chief Judge ..... 297-1594

All phone numbers area code 651 unless noted otherwise.

## Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

### Information, House

175 State Office Building ..... 296-2146  
Toll free ..... 1-800-657-3550  
**TTY, House** ..... 296-9896  
Toll free ..... 1-800-657-3550  
**Chief Clerk of the House**  
211 Capitol ..... 296-2314  
**Index, House**  
211 Capitol ..... 296-6646  
**Sergeant at Arms, House**  
45 State Office Building ..... 296-4860  
**Committee Hotline, House** ..... 296-9283

### Information, Senate

231 Capitol ..... 296-0504  
Toll free ..... 1-888-234-1112  
**TTY, Senate** ..... 296-0250  
Toll free ..... 1-888-234-1112  
**Secretary of the Senate**  
231 Capitol ..... 296-2343  
Voice mail/order bills ..... 296-2343  
**Index, Senate**  
110 Capitol ..... 296-5560  
**Sergeant at Arms, Senate**  
Senate Chamber ..... 296-7514/296-1119

**Committee Hotline, Senate** ..... 296-8088

### Legislative Reference Library

645 State Office Building ..... 296-3398  
**Governor's Office**  
130 Capitol ..... 296-3391  
**Attorney General's Office**  
102 Capitol ..... 296-6196  
**Secretary of State's Office**  
180 State Office Building ..... 296-2803  
**Capitol Security**  
B-5 Capitol ..... 296-6741  
**Emergency** ..... 296-2100

## Tuesday, April 17

### HF2454—Gunther (R)

#### Taxes

Lewisville wastewater treatment system construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

### HF2455—McElroy (R)

#### Transportation Finance

Transit funding account established, property taxes prohibited as revenue source for transit services, motor vehicle sales tax revenue distribution modified, and money appropriated.

### HF2456—Hilty (DFL)

#### Taxes

Corporate franchise tax minimum fee decreased.

### HF2457—Abeler (R)

#### Health & Human Services Finance

Sales tax portion dedicated to human services purposes and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF2458—Kahn (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Public employee pension coverage provided for certain foreign citizens.

### HF2459—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Higher Education Finance

Rainy River Community College microwave connection established with Confederation College in Ontario, and money appropriated.

### HF2460—Sertich (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 701, Hibbing, fund transfer authorized.

### HF2461—Jennings (DFL)

#### Crime Prevention

Use of trained dogs in correctional facilities study required and reduction in use level prohibited.

### HF2462—Skoglund (DFL)

#### Crime Prevention

Hennepin County chronic offender pilot project grant provided and money appropriated.

### HF2463—Juhnke (DFL)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

West central growth alliance regional marketing plan established and money appropriated.

### HF2464—Hilty (DFL)

#### Taxes

Sales tax rebate provided payable in 2001, eligibility expanded for 2000 sales tax rebate, and money appropriated.

### HF2465—Dawkins (DFL)

#### Taxes

City local government aid provisions modified, general education levy converted to a state tax, property tax class rates modified, district court takeover provided, and money appropriated.

## Wednesday, April 18

### HF2466—Wasiluk (DFL)

#### Transportation Finance

St. Paul grant provided to purchase the Union Depot and money appropriated.

### HF2467—Mahoney (DFL)

#### Crime Prevention

Chronic offender mandatory consecutive sentences required, sentencing guidelines relating to offenses committed while on pretrial release modified, intensive supervision pilot project established, and money appropriated.

### HF2468—Sertich (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Census figures increased by three percent margin of error to continue state aid to local governments.

## Thursday, April 19

### HF2469—Tuma (R)

#### Taxes

Montgomery wastewater treatment facility and public library construction materials and supplies sales tax exemption provided.

### HF2470—Olson (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Landowners compensated for crops damaged or destroyed by protected wild animals within two miles of a game refuge.

### HF2471—Howes (R)

#### Transportation Finance

Gasoline tax percentage derived from snowmobiles increased.

### HF2472—Paulsen (R)

#### Redistricting

Local government redistricting deadlines extended, and districting principles modified.

### HF2473—Kahn (DFL)

#### Civil Law

Organ donor designation on driver's license considered conclusive evidence of intent.

### HF2474—Bishop (R)

#### State Government Finance

Governor's residence renovation funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2475—Ness (R)

#### Agriculture Policy

Livestock development program established and money appropriated.

### HF2476—Haas (R)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Owner definition expanded to include businesses relating to electrician licensure requirements.

### HF2477—Tingelstad (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Oil sorbent materials placement in solid waste prohibited.

### HF2478—Biernat (DFL)

#### Civil Law

Uniform Parentage Act (2000) adopted.

## What's on the Web

Session Daily is the online companion to *Session Weekly* magazine, which is published by the nonpartisan House Public Information Office.

As the name suggests, the Web page offers news from the House on a daily basis, so you can stay on top of the major events at the Capitol. Brief but informative updates about

daily committee and floor action are posted before 8 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Now in its second year, Session Daily has been redesigned to be organized and archived by topic. That way, if you are following a particular issue or topic, you can go right to that link and view all the stories dealing with that topic from the entire session.

Session Daily offers links to useful resources, such as bill introductions and reports or documents from state government. Each day's version is also archived by date.

Be sure to bookmark Session Daily and check back regularly. To find the page, just go to the main Minnesota House of Representatives site

([www.house.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us)), then click on the link labeled "Session Daily."

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Schedule is subject to change.  
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## MONDAY, April 23

9 a.m.

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** Omnibus Higher Education Finance Bill.

### STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

10:15 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Morning meeting: 10 State Office Building  
Post-session: 5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten  
**Agenda:** Mark-up of Environment and Natural Resources Omnibus Finance Bill.  
**Note:** The committee is scheduled to meet from 10:15 a.m. to 12 noon and then again after session. Please note the room assignments.

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** Re-referral of bills to the Capital Investment Committee:  
HF448 (Hilty) Authorizing a facilities grant for Independent School District No. 2580, East Central; appropriating money.  
HF449 (Hilty) Authorizing a capital loan for Independent School District No. 2580, East Central; appropriating money.  
HF535 (Olson) Approving a maximum effort capital loan for Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake; authorizing state bonds; appropriating money.

HF748 (Dehler) Authorizing a cooperative facilities grant for the Swanville and Upsala school districts; increasing the maximum grant amount; authorizing the sale of bonds; appropriating money.

HF922 (Mares) Clarifying the relationship between Century College and Intermediate School District No. 916; authorizing a grant; appropriating money.

HF974 (Solberg) Authorizing a capital loan for Independent School District No. 698, Floodwood; appropriating money.

HF1079 (Slawik) Providing for a grant to School District No. 6067, Tri-District; authorizing state bonds; appropriating money.

HF1434, (Juhnke) Extending the Metropolitan Magnet School grant program statewide; appropriating money.

HF2079 (Lieder) Providing for a grant to Independent School District No. 600, Fisher; appropriating money.

HF2180 (Kielkucki) Authorizing a grant to Independent School District No. 2687, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted, for development of an agricultural high school; appropriating money.

HF2223 (Tuma) Appropriating money for a residential academy.

K-12 Education Finance Omnibus Bill.

**Note:** The committee will reconvene in 500S State Office Building after session, if needed.

### TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

3 p.m.

### THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

4 p.m.

### Joint House/Senate Subcommittee on Claims

500N State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Bill Haas,  
Sen. Randy Kelly  
**Agenda:** Claim against Minnesota OSHA.  
Claim against the Department of Natural Resources.  
Claims against the Department of Transportation.  
Claim against the Department of Public Safety.  
Claim against the Department of Revenue.  
Other business.

6:15 p.m.

### WAYS & MEANS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. David Bishop  
**Agenda:** HFXXXX (McElroy) Omnibus Jobs and Economic Development Finance Bill.

## TUESDAY, April 24

8:15 a.m.

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** Omnibus Higher Education Finance Bill.

9 a.m.

### STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

10:15 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Morning meeting and post-session:  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten  
**Agenda:** Mark-up of Environment and Natural Resources Omnibus Finance Bill.  
**Note:** The committee is scheduled to meet from 10:15 a.m. to 12 noon and then again after session. Please note the room assignments.

### TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

3 p.m.

### THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

## WEDNESDAY, April 25

8:15 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment  
**Agenda:** HF1393 (Workman) Waste management act modified to provide flexibility

to counties, SCORE fund redistribution provided, solid waste management plan requirements modified, and other solid waste statutes and rules clarified.

9 a.m.

#### STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: To be announced.

10:15 a.m.

#### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL

##### RESOURCES FINANCE

Morning meeting and post-session: Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: Mark-up of Environment and Natural Resources Omnibus Finance Bill.

Note: The committee is scheduled to meet from 10:15 a.m. to 12 noon and then again after session. Please note the room assignments.

#### TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: Presentation of Omnibus Tax Bill.

3 p.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

#### THURSDAY, April 26

8 a.m.

#### TAXES

Room to be announced

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: To be announced.

Note: The tax committee is also scheduled to meet 30 minutes after session for testimony on the Omnibus Tax Bill.

10 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

30 minutes after session

#### TAXES

Room to be announced

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: Testimony on the Omnibus Tax Bill.

#### FRIDAY, April 27

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

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## Fire-safe cigarettes

Approved in New York, some legislators want them required here

The state of New York passed a law in 2000 that requires only fire-retardant cigarettes to be sold by mid-2003.

The legislation is an effort to reduce the leading cause of fatal home fires in the United States: careless smoking. Failed attempts for a national standard have provoked some states — including Minnesota — to try to pass their own laws for standards on the cigarettes. Similar legislation has been voted down this session in Minnesota and several other states, including California and Massachusetts, but may be likely to rekindle soon.

The American Burn Association reports that every year between 900 and 1,000 people in the United States die from fires started by cigarettes, and an additional 2,500 to 3,000 are injured. The cost of human life and property damage exceeds \$6 billion annually.

Fire-safe cigarettes have been studied for years, namely since the Cigarette Safety Act passed in 1984, which assessed the technical, economic, and commercial likelihood of developing a fire-safe cigarette.

The New York law calls for a study to test the health risks of cigarettes that if not puffed, would put themselves out after a short time. Some lobbying groups question the cigarettes, saying that because they are made from special papers used to stop the cigarette from burning, they may contain harmful chemicals. The governor and Legislature in New York will receive a report on the findings before the sale of new cigarettes would be required.

The New York law says retailers who sell cigarettes that do not meet the safety standards will be subject to a \$500 fine, or

\$1,000 for a sale of five cartons or more of such cigarettes. A wholesale dealer could be fined up to \$10,000.

Although a bill to require the state fire marshal to adopt rules regarding fire retardant standards for cigarettes stalled in a Minnesota legislative committee earlier this session, legislators continue to push for a national standard. A resolution urging Congress to pass laws requiring only fire-safe cigarettes to be sold in the United States was recently approved by a House committee and is awaiting a hearing in a Senate committee.

(T. STAHL)



Continued from page 14

from countries affected by the recent outbreaks. Additionally, the importation of used farm equipment has been prohibited.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has stepped up preventive efforts at airports and seaports and has sent American scientists to assist Europeans in containing the outbreak.

Minnesota has taken the additional step of recommending farmers forbid visitors from Europe to enter their farms. Hugoson showed pictures of signs at the Minnesota Zoo imploring European visitors to delay visiting for at least five days after entering this country to ensure the virus has died.

Although the federal government has stepped up efforts to prevent the virus's entry into the United States, Hugoson said states have had to develop their own response plans in case of an outbreak. He estimated Minnesota is "probably farther ahead than other states."

Hugoson said his department is working with Gov. Jesse Ventura and Attorney General Mike Hatch to ensure that state agencies have the authority necessary to sufficiently address an outbreak.

Of particular concern, he said, is the principle that quarantines may only be legal to address human health issues. Since the disease raises primarily economic concerns as far as humans are concerned, the department may not have the legal authority to impose a quarantine. "We have to make sure the courts would be agreeable," said Hugoson.

Starkey said a quarantine should be imposed if even one animal tests positive for a Foot and Mouth Disease strain. In the United Kingdom, an infected farm is quarantined and all animals destroyed within 24 hours. All bordering farms are also quarantined, and must be depopulated within 48 hours.

During those periods, humans may not leave for any reason. Groceries are delivered to the ends of driveways of infected farms and national elections have been delayed to minimize travel in rural areas.

"Are we overreacting?" Hugoson asked rhetorically. "I hope so." 🐼

Continued from page 15

Because a governor is only allowed to line-item veto portions of budget bills that contain an appropriation, the only way to veto the portrait portion of the bill was to veto the entire appropriations bill.

At the unveiling Rukavina praised his fellow Iron Ranger's accomplishments. "To me this was a no-brainer. He was the longest serving governor in the state and I think he was the best governor in the state." 🐼

# Reflections

A visit to the Legislature by entertainer and civil rights activist, Harry Belafonte on April 17 reminds us of how much Minnesota has always been at the forefront for equality and rights of its citizens.

Belafonte was in town to tout the rebuilding of the Roy Wilkins Auditorium at St. Paul's RiverCentre in memory of the friend he worked closely with on civil rights issues. He testified to a Senate committee and spoke to Gov. Jesse Ventura in support of the project.

Wilkins, who died in 1981, was a key advocate of the Civil Rights Act of 1965, along with Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and others.

Minnesota's commitment to just causes, prompted by the vigor of some individuals goes back more than 150 years when the territory was founded based on a civil government.

Early in the 1850s, Scandinavians, Germans, British, and others from western Europe were encouraged to come cultivate farms and build towns. Among those offering encouragement were important public figures like Ignatius Donnelly, Archbishop John Ireland, and Hans Mattson, a Swedish immigrant who later headed the Legislature's Board of Immigration.

Others — native New Yorkers, those from northeastern states or southern towns along the Mississippi River — came seeking a more prosperous life, land, jobs, opportunities to start a business, religious freedom, or freedom from persecution.

These included Czechs, Poles and other eastern Europeans, Irish, Italians, a small number of Asians, freed slaves, free blacks, and Jews from Russia. During the next 100 years, Mexicans, Asians, Africans, and those from the Middle East came to experience the same.

And Minnesotans have always been willing to lend a hand when called upon to do so. Despite its infancy, Minnesota was the

first to volunteer for the Union Army in the Civil War in 1861.

At about the same time the abolishment of slavery was a hot topic. Two of the most outspoken Minnesotans on the issue were Jane Grey Swisshelm, editor of the *St. Cloud Democrat*, and the "Faribault Fire-eater" Orville Brown, owner of the *Central Republican* newspaper.

During the early 1860s, tensions grew among new immigrants and the Native Americans, resulting in the infamous Sioux Uprising.

Another early human rights advocate, Episcopal Bishop Henry Whipple warned

of impending trouble due to underhanded dealings by Indian agents, unfair treaties, and inhumane living conditions among the Indians. Whipple's warnings went unheeded, but his plea to President Lincoln on behalf of the Sioux resulted in condemning to death only 39 of the 300 Indians who participated in the



Early settlers built sod houses such as this when timber was scarce. Pieces of sod were stacked similarly to bricks, and were sometimes fastened together with a mortar of clay and buffalo grass.

bloody battle.

The Legislature passed a Negro Suffrage law for black men to vote in 1868. Women were able to vote in Hutchinson in 1855. They secured the right to vote for and serve on library boards in the state through a constitutional amendment in 1898. Nationally women didn't achieve the right to vote until 1920.

Three governors, Edward Thye, Luther Youngdahl, and C. Elmer Anderson helped to establish the Minnesota Interracial Commission in the late 1940s. Their beliefs are coined in the words of Thomas Jefferson, found in the House Chamber: "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men (and women) are created equal."

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

Photo from the book *Minnesota Heritage, A Panoramic Narrative of the Historical Development of the North Star State*, published by T.S. Denison & Company, Minneapolis, and the Minnesota Historical Society.

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# MINNESOTA INDEX

## Childcare in Minnesota

Minnesota children age 14 and younger in the care of someone other than their parents at least once per week, as percent .....	68
Percent in care for 20 or more hours per week .....	35
Percentage of children younger than age 6 in the care of someone other than their parents for 20 or more hours per week .....	45
Percent cared for 35 or more hours per week .....	30
Among children of working parents, percent younger than age 6 in child care .....	82
Ages 6-14, as percent .....	71
Percentage of children younger than age 1 for whom relatives provide the most nonparental care (school year only) .....	46
Ages 1-2 .....	24
Ages 3-5 .....	14
Ages 6-9 .....	31
Ages 10-12 .....	34
Percentage of children age 14 and younger receiving childcare from a relative (most common) .....	29
In-home childcare facility .....	23
Center-based care .....	20
Informal home-care by nonrelative .....	11
Supervised activities .....	11
Children ages 10-14 who regularly care for themselves, as percent .....	28
Parents who believe neighborhoods are safe enough to let 10-year-olds care for themselves on a regular basis, as percent .....	19
13-year-olds .....	82
Households saying availability of childcare interfered with getting or keeping a job in the past year, as percent .....	21
Households with children age 14 or younger that have out-of-pocket childcare expenses, as percent .....	44
Average out-of-pocket expense per week .....	\$109
Federal benchmark for childcare affordability, as percent of household income .....	10
Approximate average percent of income put towards childcare for families making less than \$20,000 .....	33
Those earning \$20,000 to \$44,999, as percent .....	10 to 23
Those earning \$45,000 or more .....	9
Percentage of low-income households aware that childcare assistance is available .....	57
Percentage receiving state childcare assistance .....	12
Percentage on waiting list .....	5
Percentage not on list, but would be if it weren't so long .....	14

Source: *Childcare use in Minnesota: Statewide survey of households*, Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning, January 2001.

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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

APRIL 27, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 17



In this issue:

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

K-12 FUNDING BILL, JUDICIARY PROVISIONS, AND MORE

HF2479-2497

# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5  
Bonding • 5  
Business • 5  
Children • 6  
Crime • 7

Elections • 8  
Environment • 9  
Gambling • 10  
Government • 10  
Higher Education • 11

Human Services • 11  
Immigration • 12  
Military • 13  
Taxes • 13  
Transportation • 15

### FEATURES

**At Issue:** Crime — The House Judiciary Finance Committee has approved its omnibus bill, which allocates \$1.3 billion for the next biennium from the general fund and includes provisions addressing felony DWI, racial profiling, and the CrimNet system. • 16

**At Issue:** Development — The full House passed the jobs and economic development omnibus bill, which would spend \$353 million for 2002-03. • 18

**At Issue:** Health — The House Health and Human Services Finance Committee has approved a 576-page omnibus bill that would appropriate \$6.5 billion for the 2002-03 biennium. • 19

**At Issue:** Higher Education — Public college and university officials anticipate tuition hikes for students, despite the extra funding provided in the \$2.83 billion House Higher Education Finance omnibus bill. • 20

**At Issue:** Taxes — A bill that would implement the recommendations of the streamlined sales tax project in several U.S. states is being considered by the House Taxes Committee. • 21

**At Issue:** Transportation — A \$3.6 billion transportation finance measure would make several significant policy changes, including two proposed constitutional amendments that could change the structure of state transportation funding. • 22

**People** — Every year, the sergeant-at-arms office hires many pages representing different backgrounds to deliver the official documents of the Legislature. • 23

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Immigration Assistance	4	Resources: Minnesota State and	
Governor's Desk (CH1-52)	24	Federal Offices	29
Bill Introductions (HF2479-HF2497)	26	Reflections: Receptionists	31
Committee Schedule (April 30-May 4)	27	Minnesota Index: Minnesota Potpourri	32
What's on the Web	25		

**On the cover:** A capacity crowd packs the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee April 25 as lobbyists listen to a discussion of the committee's omnibus finance bill. That day marked the deadline for committees to act favorably on omnibus finance bills.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank



# A challenging test

Omnibus K-12 bill would provide targeted funding, while repealing the Profile and reinstating a state Board of Ed

BY THERESA STAHL

**A**dopting strong measures to repeal the Profile of Learning, reinstate the state Board of Education, and keep school districts financially accountable, the House K-12 Education Finance Committee approved its omnibus bill (HF82) April 25, sticking to a tight budget.

The House would allocate \$8.7 billion from the general fund in education spending for the 2002-03 biennium, up from \$7.9 billion in the 2000-01 biennium. Committee Chair Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington) sponsors the legislation.

Sharing the frustration of many teachers, students, and parents, Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) sponsored a measure to abolish the Profile of Learning, part of Minnesota's graduation standards. The bill was chosen for the omnibus measure over another that would have established a task force to create new standards.

Kielkucki's provision (HF2057) would establish new state wide tests in third, fifth, and 10th grades. In a committee earlier this session, Kielkucki said the Legislature needs to let districts choose their own standards for their students.

HF82 recommends several new boards for the oversight of education in Minnesota.

Two years after the state Board of Education was abolished by the Legislature, the House proposes to reinstate the supervisory board.

The governor would appoint 10 members to the board, whose terms would be staggered. The commissioner of education would be chosen by the board. The measure (HF770) was sponsored by Reps. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) and Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan).

A seven-member state board for

charter schools would be established to expand the list of accountability factors for charter schools, as well as administer state and federal start-up aid. The board, said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), sponsor of the original bill (HF1825), would not be necessary if the Board of Education was reinstated because the board could also oversee charter schools, and she proposed an amendment to remove the provision. However, the committee rejected that amendment before approving the bill.

Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Red Wing) proposed to create a Board of Educational Administrators, which would be responsible for licensing, as well as establishing preparation programs, rules for continuing education requirements, and a code of ethics, for school administrators.

Keeping schools financially accountable is the goal of another measure, (originally HF1470), which is sponsored by Buesgens. School districts would be prohibited from entering into contracts with teachers unless they are structurally balanced. This would be based on a three-year projection of revenues and expenditures.

A related provision would order an outside consultant to evaluate the financial and academic performance of Minnesota's schools for the benefit of taxpayers, educators, school board members, and state and local officials.

Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), sponsor of HF71, said the reason for the provision is because of numerous reports, surveys, and assessments on Minnesota's education system, there is not one that objectively and comprehensively evaluates schools. The measure, which would cost \$2.5 million, was the target of several DFLers who proposed several unsuccessful amendments before the committee to use its funding for different initiatives.

Enthusiasm for assessment carried over to a plan that would evaluate teacher effectiveness by using a "Value-Added System," an analytical procedure developed at the University of Tennessee. The system follows students individually from grade to grade, evaluating their progress. Measures of student learning would estimate teacher, school, and school district statistical distributions, the bill says.

Besides analyzing teacher performance, the bill would offer a comprehensive plan to transform compensation and help retain teachers. Seagren proposed the measure to try to recruit teachers and retain them, she said.

Advanced placement and international baccalaureate teachers and



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

The House K-12 Education Finance Committee approved its omnibus bill April 25, which includes funding for classrooms, like this one at John A. Johnson Elementary in St. Paul.



students would receive support from another Seagren bill (HF1862) included in the omnibus measure. Since 1992, the state has assisted with teacher training and students testing fees for the programs except during the current biennium. Seagren is hoping to regain \$2 million in each year of the 2002-03 biennium.

Supporting student literacy, Seagren also proposes to continue a successful pilot program for reading competency in schools throughout the state. The measure, originally in HF1136, would award \$2 million in grants in each year of the 2002-03 biennium to three districts that could distribute funds to at least 50 sites, a portion of which must have one-fourth of students in kindergarten through third grade eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

The committee included in the bill several measures addressing health and mental health issues in children.

Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) sponsored HF478 that would require parents, education providers, and health care professionals to first evaluate alternatives to prescription drugs when a child has been diagnosed with attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). An elementary school teacher testified to the committee earlier in the session, saying she has seen it misused in her classroom.

An interagency committee to coordinate state efforts to advocate for children with autism would be formed under the bill. Sponsored by Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka), the coordinating committee would recommend to the Legislature a plan for improving the educational experience for young children with autism.

The bill includes a note about special education: "All colleges and universities ... must include in their teacher preparation programs information on special education laws, teaching strategies, and positive behavior interventions."

Flexibility in school plans might help aid districts in parts of the state where monies are

Continued on page 31

## Correction

A story in the April 20 issue of *Session Weekly* about the succession of power when the governor can no longer serve misstated the seat Gov. Wendell Anderson was appointed to in 1976. Anderson was appointed U.S. Senator in place of Walter Mondale, who was elected vice president under President Jimmy Carter.

In addition, the story misstated U.S. Senator Hubert Humphrey's death, which occurred in 1978.

We regret the error.

IT'S A FACT



## Immigration assistance

Report shows ways Minnesota could better market itself to outsiders

Give us your tired, your poor, your hungry, and we'll make them productive Minnesotans, Gov. J.A.O. Preus was told in a 1921 report from the State Board of Immigration.

Because the state lacked the welcoming, torch-bearing hand of New York's Statue of Liberty, the report makes a case that Minnesota should make a concerted, not merely symbolic, effort in lending a hand to the burgeoning immigration population in order to better the agricultural and manufacturing sectors.

The report proposed expanding the state Board of Immigration by adding "field men," who would meet settlers as they arrived in the state, accompany them to their land, and stay with them until they became settled into their new homes.

"In the past Minnesota has confined its efforts along immigration lines to inducing a man to locate within the state, and as soon as this has been accomplished, the settler has been completely ignored and left to shift for himself, a stranger in a strange land. No welcoming hand was there to greet him, nothing was done toward getting him started. ... This policy is wrong," the report states.

The state's population at the time was nearing 3 million people. Though many of these people may have initially come from other countries, the report identifies many of the "immigrants" coming here from Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

Farming was rapidly growing in the state not only in the number of farmers, but also in the economic importance of the industry. Between 1910 and 1920, 25 percent of all the new farms developed in the United States were in Minnesota.

The report includes a survey conducted in 1920 and 1921 that showed 4,421 new settlers arrived in Minnesota. The counties with the greatest gains were St. Louis with 364 new people and Beltrami with 308.

Among the board's recommendations to

Gov. Preus was for the state to conduct a detailed soil survey that would allow potential settlers to know the quality of land they were thinking of buying.

A detailed survey would curb a growing problem of "unscrupulous land dealers" who were selling poor and worthless land to unsuspecting buyers.

The board also urged policies that would encourage a faster development of

the state's agricultural land. The report says that of the state's more than 21.5 million acres of idle land, 12 million were suitable for agricultural purposes. With that rate of settlement, it was estimated to take 66 years in order to transform that idle

land into productive farms.

The report did not focus on farming alone, however. The board also called for greater collection of information on the state's manufacturing industries in order to provide potential businesses with necessary statistics for the purposes of locating in Minnesota.

Though the report warned of losing population to neighboring states, it also made a case for what Minnesota had to offer.

"Minnesota has a distinct advantage over all other states and countries that are bidding for the surplus population of the more heavily peopled states," the report said. "We have the most productive soil. We have the best agricultural climate. We have plenty of rainfall, plenty of sunshine, abundance of pure water, fine lakes and rivers, good railroads and transportation facilities, excellent markets, the finest public school system in the world. We are just constructing one of the greatest systems of trunk highways in the United States — we have everything that the prospective settler can ask for or desire — everything necessary to a contented, prosperous, and progressive commonwealth."

(D. MAEDA)



Descendants of Norwegian immigrants posed by the sloop on which their ancestors came to America.

★ **AGRICULTURE****Funding favors some**

The House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee's omnibus finance bill features good news for ethanol producers and dairy farmers, while not providing full funding for at least three programs.

The bill (HF1266), sponsored by Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), was taken up on the House floor April 26, after this edition of *Session Weekly* went to press.

The bill approved by the committee would directly appropriate \$67.6 million of general fund dollars during the upcoming biennium, about \$7.8 million more than Gov. Jesse Ventura recommended in his budget. That is about \$4 million more of general fund revenue than is being spent in the current biennium.

An additional \$70.9 million would be made available for funding to "second generation" ethanol producers. That money would be available to makers planning to continue production after the expiration of the original 10-year period for direct subsidy. The first generation of ethanol producers are now reaching that initial time limit.

Including appropriation of revenue from other funds, the bill totals \$194.2 million.

Ness said the committee focused on the state dairy industry, which is facing the lowest income levels in decades and a resulting decline in dairy herd numbers. In addition to bolstering dairy farmers, the bill also focuses on expanding markets for Minnesota producers, preventing disease outbreaks, and supporting organic and sustainable agriculture initiatives.

In a later interview, Ness said about 50 farmers per month abandon the dairy industry, reflecting lean profit margins in a sector accounting for about one-third of an \$8 billion statewide agricultural economy.

To counter that trend, HF1266 would appropriate \$3.5 million during the next two years to assist feedlot operators in upgrading their facilities. The Ways and Means committee adopted an amendment making that money available to any type of animal feedlots and not just those used for cows, an amendment Ness said, "We can live with."

The bill would also allocate \$2.4 million to the Dairy Development and Profitability Enhancement Program, formerly known as the Dairy Diagnostic Program. The program helps farmers assess their businesses and make long-term economic plans.

HF1266 also would restore some funding cut by Ventura's proposed budget. For example, the bill would ensure funding for programs supporting organic agriculture, such as \$100,000 for organic cost share grants.

The bill includes language tweaking a \$230,000 appropriation to the Duluth Seaway Port Authority that has been in place since 1963. The new language would require the money be used to directly assist shippers, producers, and agricultural cooperatives.

In terms of health, the bill would more than triple funding for research in John's disease, a bacterial infection among hoofed animals, to \$280,000. However, the omnibus bill falls below the governor's recommended funding for other programs.

For example, the Horticulture Society would receive only one-half of the governor's recommended \$164,000 biennial funding, the Animal Health Board would receive \$6.2 million of a proposed \$7.1 million appropriation, and the Agriculture Utilization Institute would get \$400,000 less than Ventura's recommended \$8.7 million.

Once passed by the House, the bill might find its funds in competition with planned environmental spending, which Ness said the Senate could combine with its omnibus agriculture spending bill.

★ **BONDING****Natural resources projects**

"Today we're going to build an emergency bonding bill," announced Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar) to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee April 23. The result of their deliberations was a \$139 million bonding proposal to be sent to the House Capital Investment Committee.

Much of the committee's discussion centered on bills that deal with grants for flood prevention and mitigation — HF1771, HF793, and HF1989.

"Flood control is the biggest issue in my community," said Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin), sponsor of HF793. "Nothing would be appreciated more by people in southeastern Minnesota than the passage of this bill."

The committee discussed the need for flood prevention and mitigation, as well as the need for repairing damage from previous flooding.

"I'm a little uneasy that current flood needs

will get muddled together with past flood needs," said Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus).

Committee Chair Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) suggested making the flooding appropriation generic until projects could be discussed in detail, probably "sometime next week," he said.

Among other projects in the committee's bonding recommendation is a provision for funding the Minnesota River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

Requested in HF532, sponsored by Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), this appropriation must take place this year in order for the state to fully leverage federal funds. The Minnesota River project is likely to have some preventive effect on flooding as it involves restoring wetlands, a buffer to flooding, along the river.

The committee put its bonding recommendations in the form of a spreadsheet, rather than a bill. They are as follows:

- Conservation Reserve Easement Program and implementation, \$49.9 million;
- Pollution Control Agency landfill abatement reauthorization, \$56.2 million;
- Department of Natural Resources parks acquisition, \$2 million;
- DNR statewide asset preservation, \$2 million; and
- Statewide flood mitigation, \$30 million.

The Capital Investment Committee did not act on the proposal before the committee deadline April 25.

★ **BUSINESS****Controlling the sale**

The House unanimously passed a bill April 19 defining unfair trade practices by an automobile manufacturer, distributor, or factory branch.

HF779, sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), defines as unfair the practice of refusing to allow a dealer to transfer a dealership to a qualified transferee of the dealer's own choosing. The final vote was 132-0.

McElroy told the House that "under current law, manufacturers can exercise a first right of refusal and essentially take away a transaction from a willing buyer and a willing seller."

He added that the bill was amended in committee and described its final version as non-controversial. However, Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) mentioned that the Ford

Motor Company previously opposed the bill. McElroy explained that Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound) helped forge a compromise agreement among manufacturers and dealers.

The new provision would allow manufacturers to prohibit the sale of a dealership if the transferee is "not a person of good moral character" or doesn't meet the manufacturer's existing standards. Manufacturers could not exercise their right to refuse a deal if the ownership transfer were proposed among family members or involved a dealership manager with at least four years experience.

Under the bill, denials of requests to transfer ownership must be delivered to the dealer within 60 days after the manufacturer receives an application requesting an ownership transfer. McElroy said the time requirement reflects concern for a particular auto dealer in Rep. Tom Bakk's (DFL-Cook) district that was denied permission to sell a dealership for more than one year and eventually had to go out of business.

McElroy, responding to a question posed by Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar), said he would support a similar law for farm implement dealers.

The Senate version, sponsored by Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley), awaits action on the Senate floor.

### Halal protection

By a vote of 132-1, the House passed a bill April 23 that would create the same protection for food prepared according to Islamic law as currently exists for kosher foods.

HF149, sponsored by House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), forbids the serving, selling, or exposing for sale of food falsely represented as "halal," or prepared in accordance with Islamic law, known as "sharia." The bill's prohibitions are identical to the provisions protecting the Jewish community from food falsely labeled or improperly prepared as kosher.

The Senate passed the bill by a 61-0 vote April 18.

Matthew Ramadan, an Islamic authority known as an Imam, explained to the House Agriculture Policy Committee earlier this session that "Halal is basically a word that means lawful or legal." He said Muslims are required to humanely treat animals intended for human consumption.

The Senate amended the bill to clarify the definition of humane methods indicating the animals feel no pain prior to being slaughtered.

In his previous testimony, Ramadan said other examples include: animals are not to be kept in a place where they can observe other livestock being slaughtered, butchers must

### RIP IT OUT



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Traci Hinderscheid, a sophomore at Braham High School, struggles to turn over her card as 200 teens from across the state assembled on the State Capitol steps April 24 to display a large mural made up of 12,000 tobacco ads. The mural was made from tobacco ads torn from magazines during the past several weeks as part of a campaign called "Rip It Out," which is designed to show teens how the tobacco industry targets teens via advertising.

insure animals not see the knife with which they are to be slain, and animal caretakers are required to provide water and other comforts for animals before slaughter.

Before now, Ramadan says that Minnesota Muslims have had to rely on organic or kosher foods, a substitution that sharia permits when truly halal food is unavailable. He estimates the Minnesota Muslim population numbers about 100,000 people, and that food prepared according to halal standards will remain in high demand.

The bill's sponsors say halal requirements are determined at the local level by Muslim authorities, and are commonly enforced in other major American cities.

The floor vote was identical to the Feb. 15 vote. Rep. Philip Krinkle (R-Shoreview), the single opposition both times, explained earlier that he characterized the measure as "another form of excessive government regulation."

HF149 now awaits Gov. Jesse Ventura's signature.

### ★ CHILDREN

#### Community ed, childcare funded

The House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee passed its \$544 million omnibus bill (HF1515) April 23. The vote was 6-4 along party lines.

The appropriation comes from the general fund and another \$9 million would come from federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), will next go to the House Taxes Committee, followed by the House Ways and Means Committee.

"This bill does not address the responsibilities we as a state have toward our children," said Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights). "We keep hearing we don't have any money. That's completely false. This state does have money."

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) differed. "If we take money from the surplus, we will violate the balanced budget," he said. "It's a prudent budget we can live with."

About two-thirds of the bill's proposed funding — \$373 million — would go to children and family support services, including early childhood education programs and childcare support. The funding for these programs prompted a number of amendments and drew fire from DFL members.

"You will hear throughout this process our concerns that Head Start is under-funded," said Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls), who protested the bill's provision to take 15 percent of Head Start funding and use it to provide grants to other agencies.

"This bill would put a program similar to Head Start in areas that are currently under-served," said Sykora.

Gray's Head Start amendments and others were overruled because they would have caused the finance bill to exceed the target established by the House Ways and Means Committee.

The committee has wrestled with

consolidating childcare throughout the session. HF1515 would offer childcare assistance to qualifying families with an annual income at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. (The 2000 federal poverty income level for a family of four was \$17,050.) The program, to be administered by the counties, would have a capped allocation.

Although she is an advocate of consolidated childcare, McGuire said she is opposed to a capped allocation. "I feel strongly about using a forecasted account," she said. "Some advocates have said not doing anything at all would be preferable to what is in the bill."

The second section of the bill, labeled "prevention," would be funded for a total of \$49 million.

Discussion about this section centered mostly on an amendment sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) that would take \$2.5 million per year from after-school enrichment grants and give it to community education programs.

"This goes against the grain of what these grants are meant to do, which is to help at-risk youth," said Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth).

Sykora said it was a matter of fairness. "We have few places to get a pot of money," she said. "It makes a lot of sense to give 'community eds' around the state a chance to use these grants."

Rep. Rob Eastlund (R-Isanti) said teachers in his district have told him they have increasing numbers of at-risk kids. "From a rural perspective this amendment makes sense," he said.

Community education has not received a funding increase in 14 years. "We're trying to make up for lost time and lost funding for community ed," Leppik said. Her amendment passed on a voice vote.

The third section, "self-sufficiency and lifelong learning," received a total appropriation of \$99 million, close to what Gov. Jesse Ventura proposed, and a small increase over the previous biennium. Adult basic education, food shelf programs, and emergency shelters all fall into this category.

Finally, libraries would receive about \$23 million from the bill, about \$160,000 less than the governor recommended.

The bill included no funding for the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless.

#### FYI

House Index in the Chief Clerk's Office has an area at its front desk, Room 211 Capitol, for anyone in an electric or standard wheel chair to access the legislative Web site. The desk can be raised or lowered by pushbuttons for users to search for the status of bills.

## VICTIMS' RIGHTS ADVOCATES



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Patty Wetterling, whose son Jacob was abducted at age 11 in 1989, talks about the continued services and support needed for crime victims during an April 23 awards ceremony at the State Capitol as part of the 21st Anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Patty and her husband, Jerry, were among 21 crime victims and crime victim advocates who received plaques from House Speaker Steve Sviggum, Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe and Attorney General Mike Hatch for their efforts in increasing awareness of victims' rights.

## CRIME



### 0.08 limit revived

Saying he felt tougher seatbelt laws and blood alcohol levels go hand-in-hand to make Minnesota roads safer, Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) revived a measure to lower the blood-alcohol concentration from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent.

Stanek, the chair of the House Judiciary Finance Committee, proposed a successful amendment to a bill regarding seatbelt regulations before his committee April 25.

The seatbelt bill (HF1314), sponsored by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), would require everyone under 18 in a vehicle to wear a seatbelt. Existing law only requires children 11 and under to do so.

In addition, under the bill, not wearing a seatbelt would be a primary offense for everyone under 18 in a vehicle, meaning law enforcement could stop any vehicle where they saw someone under 18 wasn't buckled up.

Stanek proposed amending the bill with the 0.08 blood-alcohol concentration language after concluding questions and testimony about the seatbelt provisions in the bill. He said the bill is expected to generate millions of dollars in revenue and recommended that it go to the House Ways and Means Committee to be reconciled with the omnibus judiciary finance bill.

The amendment succeeded and the committee approved the bill, sending it to Ways and Means.

The original 0.08 percent bill (HF51), sponsored by Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), was defeated in the Transportation Finance Committee earlier this session. Its Senate companion also failed to advance from committee.

The language would change the level for all drunken driving offenses currently using the legal blood alcohol concentration limit of 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent. Opponents suggest the move would target social drinkers, rather than the chronic drunken driving offender.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, on average, it would take a 170-pound man consuming four drinks on an empty stomach one hour to reach the 0.08 percent level; for a 137-pound woman, it would take three drinks.

Stanek said he felt the measure is good public policy for the state and the full House should have the opportunity to vote on it.

Workman, concerned about the success of the seatbelt provision, opposed Stanek's measure.

"The seatbelt issue is a complicated and political enough issue without 0.08," Workman said. "You won't have seatbelt (changes) if this is amended to this bill."

Workman suggested any amended bill should be heard in the House Transportation Finance Committee, but that either way he would not be asking for a hearing.

"It probably won't matter, because I won't be requesting a hearing," Workman said. "I don't think the bill can stand the weight of both."

Stanek, who is a co-sponsor of the seatbelt measure, suggested that Workman could be removed as a bill sponsor to allow one of the others to carry the bill if he objected to the 0.08 language.

Workman reiterated that he feared his purpose for the seatbelt bill would now be lost.

"I brought this for the near adult children who say they don't have to wear a seatbelt because it's not the law, and they're absolutely correct," he said.

Replied Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), "0.08 is a far greater priority to the governor and this committee than seatbelts. ... We're sending the message that this issue must stay alive."

## Keg identification

The House passed a measure requiring off-sale alcohol retailers to label all kegs to aid law enforcement officials in identifying adults who provide beer to underage drinkers.

The bill (HF58), sponsored by Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph), passed by a 114-20 vote on April 23. The companion version, SF389, sponsored by Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley), is awaiting action in the Senate Commerce Committee.

The bill requires off-sale retailers to record the name, address, and driver's license number or other government-issued number of a keg purchaser. That information, in addition to the date and time of purchase and the keg's individual identification number, would be recorded and kept by the liquor store for at least 90 days. A purchaser must also sign for the keg. Law enforcement officials would make the identities of purchasers available upon request.

Dehler said his hometown is especially affected by underage drinking. "It's a college community, and keggers and college communities often go hand-in-hand."

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights), co-sponsor of the bill, said it won the support of groups ranging from the Minnesota chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving to liquor industry associations.

Dehler told the House Civil Law Committee earlier this session that HF58 provides no additional punitive action against liquor stores and that existing criminal and civil laws place responsibility upon those who purchase alcohol. Store clerks are criminally liable only if they sell liquor to people younger than 21 years old.

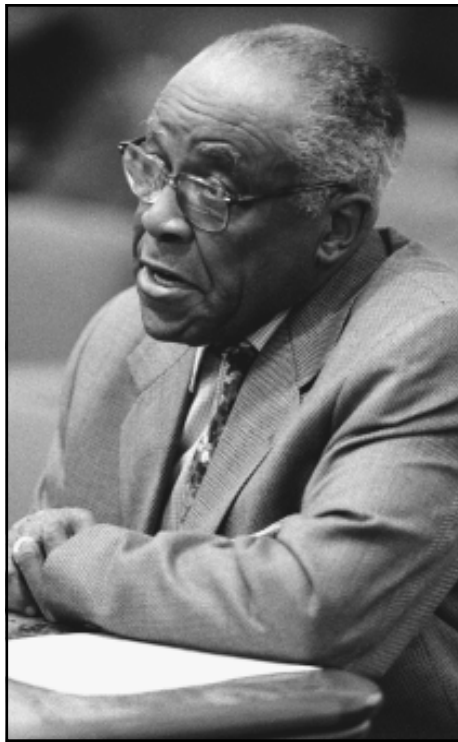
## ELECTIONS

### Redistricting debate

When Ora Lee Patterson was a little girl, she used to accompany her mother to downtown St. Paul, and as they drove past the State Capitol she would look in wonder at the "beautiful building."

She said when she asked her mother what went on under the gold dome she was told that was where "white people worked" and that the only African-American people in the building were the cleaning crew.

Patterson told the House Redistricting Committee April 20 that in her dreams and aspirations she never thought members of her community would become elected officials, and that she is pleased to see that the current Legislature has two African-American representatives.



**Matt Little, former president of the Minneapolis NAACP, tells the House Redistricting Committee April 20 he would not like to see a U.S. Congressional District that combines Minneapolis and St. Paul.**

"It is so good for me to see that. We are making headway here at the state," she said, although she noted all African-American legislators in the state's history have been from Minneapolis.

Patterson, vice president of the St. Paul chapter of the NAACP, said growing up in St. Paul's Rondo neighborhood she witnessed many changes in the state's African-American community. The famed neighborhood located between Dale Street and John Ireland Boulevard, once was the home to more than 50 African-American owned businesses.

"It hasn't been the same since the freeway (Interstate 94) divided it," she said. "We've lost a sense of community that we once had and I wish we could get it back."

Much of the committee's discussion was spent on whether minority communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area would be best served by a congressional district containing both Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Frank Taylor, who twice ran unsuccessful congressional campaigns in the Fifth Congressional District that now encompasses all of Minneapolis, said the two core cities should be combined because they have more in common with each other than with surrounding suburbs.

"The time has come to combine the core cities and to recognize the demographic shift," Taylor said citing issues facing the city of

St. Paul, such as failing schools and crime, are more similar to the issues facing residents in north Minneapolis than those in North Oaks.

Matt Little, the former president of the Minneapolis NAACP, disagreed. He said consolidation of the black community of the Twin Cities would "dilute its effectiveness."

"I still like to believe that Minnesotans will elect a person of color based on their merits," he said.

The committee has not yet developed an overall redistricting plan.

### Smile for the ballot

Voters would be required to show picture identification at the polling place before being allowed to vote, under a measure passed by the House April 24.

The provision was included as an amendment to a bill that would allow identification cards issued by tribal governments to be an approved form of identification for Election Day registration purposes.

The bill passed by a 70-63 vote.

Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), the sponsor of HF2263, said the bill would encourage more American Indians to participate in the election process.

Erickson offered the amendment to require all voters to present picture identifications. The amendment was identical to another bill, HF857 sponsored by Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), scheduled to be heard before Erickson's bill but was continued on the calendar at the author's request.

Kielkucki said picture identification cards have become "a part of life" and pointed out that one is needed before boarding an airplane or cashing a check. He said requiring identification before voting would bring integrity into the process.

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) said he opposed the amendment because the state has a long tradition of clean elections and electing strong candidates.

Mariani said there was no proof of election fraud in the state, and that he trusts the people of the state to abide by current election laws.

House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) made a motion, which was ruled not in order, questioning the germaneness of the amendment. Pugh said the amendment was a "tremendous expansion" of the bill.

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) said the original bill was meant to encourage voter participation by increasing the number of acceptable forms of identification but the amendment was meant to restrict participation by creating a new requirement for voting.



Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) said the right to vote was not as important as the right to vote in a clean election.

The bill would allow voters who do not have a form of identification to vote by signing an affidavit at the polling place.

Pugh later offered an unsuccessful amendment that would have restored the original language of the bill. He said most members supported the tribal identification provision but by adding the amendment it would limit the chance that the entire bill would be passed into law since the Senate has not yet heard a bill that would require picture identification before voting.

The Senate companion (SF2260), sponsored by Sen. Cal Larson (R-Fergus Falls), is awaiting a committee hearing.

### Overseas balloting

Military service personnel and others residing overseas would be allowed to submit an absentee ballot application by fax under a measure the House passed April 24.

HF901, sponsored by Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township), would increase the likelihood that individuals overseas would get their ballots in on time.

The bill, which passed 72-61, also specifies that ballots for military and overseas voters must be prepared and furnished in accordance with federal law. In federal election law, there are particular dates by which the ballot must be prepared and sent to allow those voters a chance to get their ballots back to the election officials.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) offered an unsuccessful amendment that would have allowed those voters to apply by e-mail as well as by fax. She said members from the military testified in favor of the measure in committee hearings.

Anderson said the secretary of state's office testified they would like to study the issue further before they could support it.

The amendment failed on a 67-66 vote.

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) offered a successful amendment he said would streamline Election Day registration by expanding the acceptable forms of identification that could be used. Under the amendment a valid photo identification issued by the Department of Health to medical assistance recipients would be acceptable for voter registration. Tribal government identification would also be allowed.

The amendment, which passed on a voice vote, would require all voters to present photo identification before being issued a ballot.

It also authorizes the secretary of state to

develop voting instructions in languages other than English to be posted and made available in polling places during elections, and to license a touch-sensitive voting system for experimental use at an election before its approval for general use to permit blind or visually impaired voters to cast a ballot independently.

A companion file, SF1454 sponsored by Sen. Roy Terwilliger (R-Edina), is awaiting Senate action.

### Housekeeping measures

The House passed a bill April 24 that would clarify some of the state's election laws in light of the numerous questions that arose nationally following the 2000 election.

The secretary of state's housekeeping bill passed by a 70-61 vote.

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo), sponsor of HF1214, said the bill would delete confusing and unneeded language including references to the state's presidential primary that no longer exists.

Much of the floor debate was spent on amendments offered to the bill. Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) offered one that would allow 18-year-old students to take off time during a school day in order to vote.

Ozment said students should be afforded the same right to vote that currently applies to employees who are allowed time off work. He said the trend during the past few years is for fewer and fewer 18- to 25-year olds to participate in the election process and the amendment would encourage more young people to be involved.

Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings) spoke against the amendment saying it was not in the best interests of young people to allow them to leave school.

The amendment was adopted by a 86-45 vote.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) offered an amendment that would modify the secretary of state's role in elections. Part of his amendment, specifying that the secretary of state should not participate in recounts for which he or she is a candidate, was adopted.

The other portion of the amendment that would have prohibited the state's chief election official from serving on a principal campaign committee for another candidate whose name would appear on the primary or general election ballot. It failed by a 68-62 vote.

Biernat said Mary Kiffmeyer, the current secretary of state, should be given credit for deciding to not serve on campaigns, but that previous secretaries of state have participated politically on behalf of other candidates and

such actions blurred conflict of interest lines.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said the state didn't need a blanket law and such activities should be left up to the discretion of the secretary of state.

A companion Senate bill (SF1353), sponsored by Sen. Mark Ourada (R-Buffalo) is awaiting a committee hearing.

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### Difficult spending approved

The House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee approved a total spending package of \$746.2 million for the next biennium April 25.

Of this amount, \$349 million is from the general fund with the rest coming from a variety of other funds, such as the game and fish and the natural resources funds.

"This has been the most difficult legislation I have ever had to work on," said Committee Chair Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), sponsor of HF766.

The final appropriations in the committee's omnibus bill represent a balancing act among competing interests.

The breakdown in funding by agency is as follows:

- Department of Natural Resources: \$466.9 million
- Pollution Control Agency: \$110.3 million
- Board of Water and Soil Resources: \$60.7 million
- Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources: \$50.4 million
- Office of Environmental Assistance: \$21.9 million
- Minnesota Zoo: \$14.7 million
- Science Museum of Minnesota: \$2.3 million
- Other agencies: \$19 million.

The Minnesota River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program would receive \$20.7 million in 2002. This program to improve water quality and reduce pollution in the Minnesota River basin must receive funding in fiscal year 2002 if it is to capture available funding from the federal government.

The Office of Environmental Assistance would receive funding for 2002, after which it would be abolished, with its duties being transferred to the Pollution Control Agency.

A Citizens Trust Fund Committee would be established to recommend projects for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The committee would work with the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) to develop a strategic plan to guide trust fund expenditures. Under the new provisions, the LCMR would be reduced from 20 members to 10, and the citizens

committee would have nine members.

"There's been conflict, and there's been stress and tension," Holsten said. "But I feel very good about what we've accomplished."

### Funding frustration

The House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee heard testimony April 19 on the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) appropriations bill.

Gov. Jesse Ventura has proposed cutting nine of the projects recommended by the LCMR. Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), sponsor of HF766 and chair of the committee, said he was frustrated by the apparent randomness of the cuts.

Spokespersons for eight of the nine groups whose projects are on the governor's cancellation list told lawmakers why they believed they should get funding.

The Big Rivers Partnership, a consortium of 13 organizations, has requested \$910,000 for a project that would help citizen volunteers restore local urban river habitats on a "landscape scale."

Rob Buffler, director of Great River Greening, the guiding partner of the group, said the project is consistent with the governor's Big Plan, the Department of Natural Resources' strategic plan, and the LCMR's strategic plan.

"If we hope to conserve Minnesota's world class resources, we need knowledgeable, dedicated volunteers to lead the way," Buffler said.

Another project, the production of an educational film series called "Uncommon Ground: Minnesota's Once and Future Landscapes," has a price tag of \$455,000. Barbara Coffin, project coordinator for the University of Minnesota project, said the five-part series, which is about one-half completed, meets the governor's vision "on all counts."

Other proposed cuts include park and trail facilities, a computer mapping project, an inner-city environmental project, and parts of the Metropolitan Council's request.

All but two of the contested projects made it into the committee's omnibus bill, including the Big Rivers Partnership and Uncommon Ground.

## GAMBLING

### Charitable deadline difference

A proposal that allows for a later date for charitable organizations to file reports with the state was signed into law by Gov. Jesse Ventura April 24.

Sponsored by Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), the new law changes the deadline

for charitable organizations to file an annual report with the Attorney General's Office from June 30 to July 15 if the organization keeps records on a calendar year basis. For those that operate on a fiscal year basis, the law changes the deadline from six months after the close of the fiscal year to the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the seventh month after the end of the fiscal year.

Annual reports are required from charitable organizations that solicit contributions. The standard report filed with the attorney general includes the legal name of the organization, its form of organization, the address of its principal office, the names of officers, directors, trustees, and the name of the chief executive officer.

The annual report also includes a financial statement and a copy of tax returns.

Sen. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

The law is effective April 25.

HF2119\*/SF1915/CH45

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### A broad array of funding

Cautioning state agencies early in the session with a bill that threatened to reduce millions of dollars in funding, Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), chair of the House State

Government Finance Committee, has allowed \$46 million more funding than originally slated.

The bill's original net funding totaled \$661 million for the 2002-03 biennium, but now totals \$707 million, just slightly less than Gov. Jesse Ventura's recommendation. The committee approved the bill (HF218) April 25.

It now moves to the House Ways and Means Committee.

In its final committee version, HF218 would trade several state boards and allocate only base funding to some agencies for new initiatives that would get their start under the bill.

HF218, sponsored by Krinkie, would eliminate funding for the Legislative Commission for Planning and Fiscal Policy and the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation. The Commission on the Economic Status of Women would be moved to the state planning agency.

The bill would establish the Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government, an initiative sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville). The new commission would establish a legislative group to oversee the Metropolitan Council's operating and capital budgets and the work and capital improvement programs.

The Northern Technology Initiative, Inc., a regional economic initiative sponsored by Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) that would be governed by a board of directors, also would be created under the bill. At a minimum, the project area would include the counties of Carlton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, and Pine.

The Amateur Sports Commission would be funded at its base but is ordered to plan to become self-sufficient within five years. The bill would also fund a grant for a shooting facility and allocate \$1.25 million, plus it would redirect a \$1.5 million open appropriation for the Target Center to a bill (HF18) sponsored by Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) to develop soccer fields.

HF218 also would repeal after the 2002-03 biennium steady funding to the Target Center, which the state traded for use of the arena. Members have expressed concern that the state was being overcharged for its use. The House has approved bills in the past to repeal the funding, though none have become law. The allocations have no sunset date.

In public broadcasting, HF218 would allocate base funding for legislative television and for the Association of Minnesota Public Educational Radio Stations. Nearly \$21 million would be allocated for digital television conversion, a mandate by the federal government that promises to match state funds if the new signal is installed by May 2003. The digital tower must have sufficient capacity to provide space, at no cost, for public radio stations,

### BIODIESEL PROTEST



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Truckers park big-rig trucks and other large vehicles in front of the Capitol April 25 in protest of a state mandate that would require 2 percent biodiesel content in diesel fuel.

according to the bill.

Public broadcasting stations receiving no funding are public television, which requested \$4.1 million in equipment and matching grants, and Minnesota Public Radio (MPR), which requested \$814,000 for a new generator and new tower.

When implementing electronic government services, state agencies would be required to use a common Web format, as approved by the commissioner of the Department of Administration. In addition, it would be necessary for all government units receiving state funds to post the individual salaries and benefits of all its employees.

Included in the bill is Krinkie's measure (HF111) to clarify that state employees, including executive officers such as the governor, receiving income from engaging in outside activities would be a conflict of interest, as determined by the chief administrative law judge.

The committee has also included HF2132, sponsored by Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), that would decrease the marriage license fee from \$70 to \$20 for couples who receive at least 12 hours of premarital education.

At the bill's final committee hearing, the committee adopted two additional allocations: a \$9 million appropriation for a technology enterprise fund, and a \$2 million voting equipment matching grant for the purchase of ballot tabulation equipment.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Edvest passes House

A plan that would help with college expenses passed the House floor for a second time by a 130-2 vote April 24.

HF550, sponsored by Rep. Rob Eastlund (R-Isanti), extends the time for adopting rules for the Edvest savings program by nine months. The program cannot begin operation until the rules are adopted. It was originally passed by the House March 19.

The original 18-month provision for beginning the program expired in 1999 as officials from the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office were working on aspects of the program and overlooked the time enactment clause.

The Senate passed the bill April 20, with an amendment that states the assets in the fund are not part of the state's general fund and are not subject to state appropriation. Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

The bill then returned to the House, which accepted the Senate amendments and re-passed the bill.

The program allows accounts to be created for a designated beneficiary who will attend college in the future. Families with \$80,000 or less are eligible to receive back up to 15 percent (maximum \$300) of their contribution in the form of a state grant.

In early February, Eastlund said more than 2,000 people had already expressed an interest in the program. It is anticipated the first appropriations will be made next year for people who enroll in the program by the end of 2001.

The bill now goes to Gov. Jesse Ventura for his signature.

## HUMAN SERVICES

### Rights, responsibilities clarified

A bill to include social workers in a list of specified health professionals required by law to notify individuals of a specific threat of violence by a client against an identified individual was signed into law April 24 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The House passed SF1460 by a vote of 131-0 on April 18. Sponsored by Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville), it passed the Senate April 5.

The duty to warn was created in 1986 to specify that particular professionals have a duty to predict, warn of, or take reasonable precautions to provide protection from specific threats made by a client against a particular individual. Such professionals are required to contact the law enforcement agency nearest the potential victim or client. Social workers will now be among those professionals.

The law specifies that professionals under the law cannot be held liable, nor can they be sanctioned by a licensing board, for failing to discharge this duty. Additionally, the law does not require social workers or any other professional to disclose threats made against oneself.

SF1460 also puts social workers into a group of professionals who are authorized to create professional organizations. Other professionals include doctors, practitioners of chiropractic, nurses, psychologists, optometrists, dentists, pharmacists, and podiatrists.

The House version was sponsored by Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul).

HF1634/SF1460\*/CH42

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## Privatizing guardianship

The House Health and Human Services Finance Committee considered a bill April 20 that would shift guardianship responsibilities for persons with developmental disabilities from public to private guardians.

"This bill is an attempt to get people off public guardianship," said Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), sponsor of HF1307. It was contained in the committee's omnibus bill (HF1832).

Public guardianship was first instituted in Minnesota in 1917, according to Ann Henry of the Minnesota Disability Law Center. At that time parents who had children with developmental disabilities had to give up guardianship of those children and make them wards of the state in order to get services for them.

Currently, approximately 3,800 people with developmental disabilities remain under public guardianship, according to Bradley. This is an aging population. Although there are still a few people each year who go on public guardianship, it is fairly rare because if an individual is not competent, parents and families usually retain guardianship.

Minnesota law gives the commissioner of human services the power to delegate guardianship authority to counties. Frequently, those selected to be guardians are also case managers for the same individual, and this sets up a conflict of interest in which the guardian is responsible both to the ward's best interests and the county's.

People under guardianship are very vulnerable. Their guardian is responsible for everything from basic needs — housing, food, clothing, and medical care — to education and finances.

"Private sector entities can provide more personalized help," said Tom Jolicoeur, director of disability services for Hennepin County, at a March hearing of the Health and Human Services Policy Committee. "Public guardianship should be the guardianship of last resort"

HF1307 would require counties to develop proposals for finding family members of those under public guardianship and ask if they would be willing to become guardians. If family members are not found or cannot provide the service, the bill would allow the county to contract with a private guardianship service.

The bill would also appropriate money to the commissioner to provide county agencies with incentives for providing alternatives to public guardianship. The fiscal impact of the bill is estimated at \$6.4 million for the biennium, although Bradley said he thought that figure was high. "We're challenging some of these figures from the department," he said.

## Helping others

The House Health and Human Services Finance Committee considered a bill April 19 that would provide increased medical assistance reimbursement rates for mental health services provided by the Courage Center in Golden Valley.

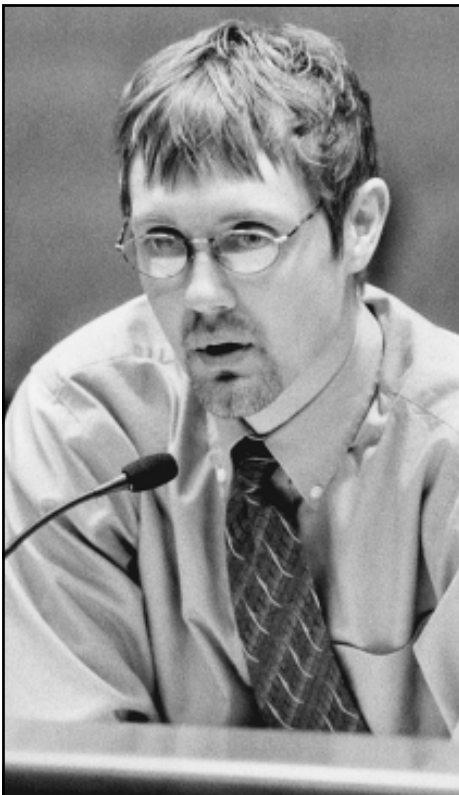
"Many of our clients have acquired disabilities, such as spinal cord or traumatic brain injury," said John Tschida, director of public policy and research for the Courage Center. "Adjusting to the dramatic change in lifestyle and functional ability often requires professional help."

HF1863, sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), proposes a 38 percent rate increase for medical assistance reimbursement to the center, an appropriation of \$59,000 in 2002 and \$78,000 in 2003.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) asked about the justification for more expensive mental health services at the center.

Tschida said their clients have very expensive and complex problems. He said it was appropriate that they receive help for issues that arise from their disability at the same center where they receive services for physical, occupational, and speech therapy.

"People are not at the Courage Center for their mental health problems," Leppik said.



John Tschida, director of public policy and research for the Courage Center, testifies before the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee April 19 in support of HF1863, a bill that would increase medical assistance reimbursement rates for the center's mental health service.

"Their mental health problems are a byproduct of their physical problems."

A former patient at Courage Center, Susan Galegher from St. Paul, wrote to the committee about her experiences after a catastrophic brain injury sustained in a car accident.

"I felt my life was over," she wrote. "I was overwhelmed by depression from physical and mental limitations. I couldn't comprehend the permanency of this injury."

Twelve years after the injury, she commended Courage Center's expertise in helping her to "renegotiate the world as a new person who happens to have a permanent disability."

Last year the Courage Center sustained losses exceeding \$500,000, according to Tschida. He said the rate increase would not solve their deficit problems but would help preserve "an essential component of our rehabilitation services."

HF1863 was included in the committee's omnibus bill (HF1832).

## ★ IMMIGRATION

### Population increase

As the face of Minnesota gradually changes, so too does the diversity within some of the state's minority communities.

The House Redistricting Committee heard a presentation April 19 from one of the state's rapidly growing and changing minority communities — the Asian-American community.

Ilean Her, executive director of the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans, said for the first time the 2000 census had two different single race categories for Asian Americans — Asian and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander.

Her said there are essentially three groups of Asian Americans in Minnesota. The first group, which includes the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean communities, is well established — the Chinese first immigrated to the state in the 1870s.

The second group that began arriving in the state in the 1960s includes professional and high-tech employees from such countries as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India.

The third group consists of recent immigrants from Southeast Asia, including the Vietnamese and Hmong.

Her said the state has attracted many recent immigrants because of its strong economy and numerous job opportunities. She said the strong education system is attractive to families, as is the low crime rate in Greater Minnesota.

Statewide the 2000 Census indicates there are around 144,000 Asian Americans in

Minnesota. But Her said that number, particularly in Hennepin and Ramsey counties was undercounted. "I myself have heard from the community that many did not fill out the census form."

She said language barriers and distrust of government forms prevented many from being counted.

Tuan Pham, the owner of Capitol Markets, a grocery store near the State Capitol, said he arrived in the United States from Vietnam in 1980. He said there is a wide variety of Vietnamese businesses from dentists to bankers, restaurants to retail stores.

Pham said the difficulty in becoming a citizen prevents many recent immigrants from participating in the electoral system. He said most do not choose to belong to a specific political party but rather tend to support individual candidates who they feel will work for their interests.

### Increasing council membership

The State Council on Black Minnesotans will increase by two members following Gov. Jesse Ventura's signature of a bill April 24.

SF142, sponsored by Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls), will expand the size of the council from its current 11 members to 13 members. Under the measure, the additional seats will be filled by one person whose ethnic heritage is from West Africa, and one member whose ethnic heritage is from East Africa.

The new law defines East Africa as the areas occupied by Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Somalia.

West Africa encompasses Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and those parts of Mali and Niger south of the Sahara.

The Council on Black Minnesotans was established in 1980 to advise the governor and Legislature on issues facing African-Americans in the state. The council is also charged with recommending changes to laws to help address those issues.

Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls), the bill's House sponsor, said the number of immigrants from Africa to Minnesota is increasing, and that by requiring representatives from West Africa and East Africa to serve on the council, issues crucial to those communities would be better addressed.

The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF387/SF142\*/CH39

## ★ MILITARY

### Increasing tuition reimbursement

National guard members might receive full tuition and textbook reimbursement, a substantial increase from the current 75 percent reimbursement currently in law, under a bill being considered by the House.

Minnesota National Guard officials reported to the House State Government Finance Committee April 23 the average tuition reimbursement is presently about 50 percent due to lack of funding from the government. HF214 would provide enough money to fully support 100 percent reimbursement, not just a 25 percent increase.

The bill would cost \$3.6 million in 2002 and \$3.8 million in 2003. The amount is projected to grow by 3 percent every year to adjust to increases in tuition.

But with possible tuition hikes and no increased funding, officials said the compensation amount could drop to 40 percent next year. Sixty percent, said Col. Dennis Lord, is the maximum of what the state has paid.

In his budget, Gov. Jesse Ventura has recommended enough funding for 75 percent reimbursement.

Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township), sponsor of HF214, presented materials that cited recent declining numbers of people entering military forces.

Lord explained that because Wisconsin offers 100 percent tuition reimbursement, some Minnesota residents living near the Minnesota-Wisconsin border have been motivated to join that state's National Guard. Other surrounding states do not offer 100 percent.

About 20 states reimburse 100 percent tuition costs, Lord said.

Under the law, Minnesota funds a maximum of 75 percent of tuition costs for lower division programs in the College of Liberal Arts at the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota. The state also funds 50 percent of tuition costs for graduate or medical programs at public institutions inside or outside the state. Under HF214, that would also become 100 percent reimbursement.

The bill was included in the committee's omnibus bill, funded at \$2.25 million each year of the 2002-03 biennium. That bill now moves to the House Ways and Means Committee.

## ★ TAXES

### Take it to the polls

Voters could approve or overturn increases in sales and income taxes under a measure heard by the House Taxes Committee April 20.

HF577, sponsored by Rep. Ann Lenczewski (DFL-Bloomington), proposes a constitutional amendment that if approved, would establish the process where voters could petition for a reverse referendum when state income and sales tax revenues exceed the rate of inflation.

Lenczewski said the bill works in tandem with a measure (HF2160) offered by Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul). That bill, which the committee previously heard, would allow voters to request a reverse referendum when a county or city adopts a property tax levy that

has increased over the certified levy amount for the previous year.

Lenczewski said it was "hypocritical" to hold local officials to a different standard in tax issues than state lawmakers. She said state spending has increased at a rate higher than local spending.

Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) questioned why the bill was necessary because elected officials should be trusted to make budget decisions.

"I have a real problem with not having some level of confidence, hope and faith in someone to do a good job," Winter said.

Under the bill if the constitutional amendment were successful, the commissioner of finance would be required to annually prepare an estimate of the increase in individual income and sales tax revenues that will occur in the current and following fiscal years. If that estimate is higher than the rate of inflation and the percentage increase in the number of households in the state, the department would be required to publish the increase in the State Register.

A petition signed by 10 percent of the eligible voters in the state could then be filed with the secretary of state and a referendum would be voted upon in the next general election.

If voters disprove the increase, the increase would be available as an income tax credit divided by the estimated number of taxpayers in the state.

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) offered a successful amendment that changed the requirement from "eligible" voters to "registered" voters. Anderson said the amendment would make it easier for the secretary of state to verify the signatures on the petition since the office maintains the state's voter registration system.

The committee took further action on the bill. Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, said he would discuss with House leadership where the bill would go next and the House Taxes Committee would vote on the bill once that is determined.

### Teacher's aid

John Belpedio, a teacher in the Anoka-Hennepin school district, said one of the unintended consequences of tightening school budgets is that more teachers have to buy supplies for their students.

HF2247, sponsored by Rep. Connie Bernardy (DFL-Fridley), would allow educators to subtract up to \$500 for the purchase of classroom materials and supplies.

The House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division heard the bill April 19 but

## MUSLIM/ISLAMIC VISITORS



PHOTO BY SARA KIRK

Visitors peered over a stairwell during an April 19 tour given for Muslim/Islamic Day at the Capitol. The guests were also greeted by House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty prior to the tour.



took no action. Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the division chair, said it would be considered for inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Belpedio said that in the past most people would not even question whether teachers should have the necessary supplies to teach their students.

"It's ironic we're even discussing the merits of this," he said.

Bernardy said studies have shown it is not unusual for teachers to spend \$500 to \$2,000 out of their own pockets to buy classroom supplies.

The Department of Revenue estimates the state's 65,000 teachers would claim an average subtraction of \$200 for their purchases.

Belpedio said students have traditionally bought items like pens and notebooks for their classes but more teachers rely on visual presentations to teach.

He said that he considers it part of his job to make sure there is a level playing field for all students and that he routinely purchases supplies for students from low-income families so they have the same materials as their classmates.

"We're teachers because we care about kids," he said.

He added the teachers who are hit hardest by having to provide supplies for their classes are new teachers with the lowest incomes.

### Light-rail operating costs

Officials estimate that the operating costs of the Hiawatha Corridor light-rail line will be \$8 million to \$15 million a year.

Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville) is sponsoring a bill (HF1944) she said attempts to address the issue of where funding for those costs will come from.

Presenting her bill to the House Taxes Committee April 24, Holberg said it would require those who will benefit from the expected economic development caused by the line to pay the operating costs. The line will run from downtown Minneapolis to the Mall of America.

Under HF1944, the Metropolitan Council would be required to establish a special service tax district that would encompass all the commercial industrial property located within a one-half mile radius of the light rail stations.

During an April 25 House Taxes Committee hearing, the provision, which is included in the House Transportation Finance Committee's omnibus bill, was changed to exclude the Mall of America and the expansion around the mall, and the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport from the special taxing district.

## CYBER STUDY 101



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Dr. Carolyn Louper-Morris from Cyber Study 101 Inc. in north Minneapolis testifies April 19 for a bill that would modify the education credit to make it possible for low income families to afford computers for their school age children. Jennifer Davis, left, a parent of a student who attends Cyber Study 101 also testified for the bill before the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee.**

Rep. Ann Lenczewski (DFL-Bloomington) said April 24 that she "completely opposed" the bill because the district would include the area around the Mall of America even though she and the other elected officials representing the city didn't support the original legislation.

She offered three unsuccessful amendments that would have either allowed businesses to opt out or overturn the property tax increases, or would have applied the same type of funding mechanism to other transportation projects.

Lenczewski said that if paying for the operating costs on light-rail transit with property tax was a good idea, it should be applied to road and other rail projects as well.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), the sponsor of a bill that would remove metropolitan transit funding from the property tax levy, said the history of the light-rail project makes HF1944 distinct from his proposal.

He said when the state was looking at projects to improve the Hiawatha corridor, one proposal was to establish a bus line. What

was eventually chosen was a "\$700 million solution to a \$220 million problem," he said.

Proponents of building a light-rail line pointed to its economic development potential that would not occur with a bus line, McElroy said. Thus it was appropriate for those who would benefit from the development to pay for the operating costs of light rail.

Lenczewski said she disagreed with the premise that businesses along the line will benefit and it was unfair for those properties to pay for a project they did not support.

A companion file (SF1922), sponsored by Sen. Dick Day (R-Owatonna), is awaiting Senate action.

### Lobbyist expenses

Taxpayers could become more aware of how much money their school district is spending on lobbying efforts, under a bill heard by the House Taxes Committee April 23.

HF2383, sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), would require that school districts disclose in their truth-in-taxation newspaper advertisements the amount spent on lobbying efforts.

Under current law, local governments are required to report to the state auditor the estimated expenditures paid to lobbyists or to a staff person who spends more than 25 percent of their time on legislative matters.

The committee adopted an amendment supported by Seifert that removed a section of the bill that would have required districts publish a more itemized estimated account of lobbying expenditures including funds "used to transmit factual information in support or in opposition to government proposed initiatives."

Seifert said the amendment narrowed the scope of the bill and made it a more modest proposal. He said the bill was an attempt at providing more accountability for when tax dollars are spent on lobbying efforts.

Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr. (DFL-Winona), a co-sponsor of the bill, said he has seen an "acceleration" of school districts and other local units of government who hire lobbyists rather than approaching elected officials to represent their cause at the Legislature.

"I'm not saying we should stop it (the hiring of lobbyists) but certainly the public ought to know," Pelowski said.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) asked Seifert why not require that business lobbyists be subject to similar disclosure requirements, since the effects of property tax reductions, which they often lobby for, are often what the school district lobbyists are hired for.

Seifert said since lawmakers are "the

stewards of tax dollars” the bill is limited to the hiring of lobbyists with public money.

Pelowski said lobbyists for groups like chambers of commerce and labor unions that regularly have lobbyists speak on their behalf are funded by voluntary contributions.

The committee took no action on the bill, but Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

### Property reform proposed

Much of the tax cutting focus the past few years both at the state and federal level has been on income taxes. But Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina) said it is time to shift some of that relief to property taxes.

HF1402, sponsored by Erhardt, would exempt residential homestead and non-homestead, agricultural homestead and non-homestead, apartment, and seasonal recreational property from the state determined general education levy.

“Property values have been rising every year at a rate several times the rate of inflation,” Erhardt said April 19 before the House Taxes Committee Property Tax Division. He added the bill would bring “equity in the school aid system” by providing that only homeowners and apartment residents in the school districts are paying for the costs of approving a special operating referendum.

The bill also would establish a flat 1 percent class rate for all residential homestead property and would reduce the class rate for all other classes of property.

Erhardt said in order to lessen the shifting that would be caused by the rate compression, the bill provides for a new homestead credit program for residential homestead property and for the house, garage, and one-acre portion of agricultural homestead property.

Jack Horner, representing the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association, said property tax relief for apartments would help in building affordable housing in the state. He said it currently costs around \$1,200 per unit to build an apartment complex without government assistance and relief would help lower that amount.

Niles Zickman, the acting director of the Minnesota Seasonal Recreational Property Owners Coalition, said the bill addresses issues of fairness and equity for cabin owners. He said many of those owners don’t receive any services for their cabins yet end up paying increased property taxes.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) said cabin owners use county roads to get to their cabins and said all residents benefit from an educated workforce.

“If you had a heart attack wouldn’t you want the guy in the ambulance to be able to read the defibrillator?” Rukavina asked.

The committee took no action on the bill, but it will be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

## TRANSPORTATION



### Taxes for transit

The House Transportation Finance committee approved a bill April 20 that would abolish the metropolitan transit property tax and the use of property tax dollars in Greater Minnesota to support transit projects.

HF2455, sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), would create a transit funding account that would receive 20.5 percent of the motor vehicle sales tax revenue. The bill moved to the House Taxes Committee where it was approved April 25 and now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Of that deposited money, 95 percent would be devoted to transit projects in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and the remainder reserved for Greater Minnesota transit expenditures. Committee Chair Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) said “outstate will do

better under this bill” than with existing funding mechanisms.

Legislators from both parties praised the measure, reflecting the unpopularity of funding transit projects with property taxes, which Rep. Dan Larson (DFL-Bloomington) called “the least fair tax.”

The bill explicitly forbids the use of transit funding account monies for light-rail capital improvement or operating activities, a prohibition that provoked some attention. Said Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville), “Many regions have seen bus systems cannibalized by rail.”

Larson concurred, but emphasized the danger of not funding light rail, which is already being constructed. He warned that starving rail now could encourage future legislatures to again dip into property tax revenue. “I don’t want to be the Legislature that some other Legislature points to and says ‘Don’t do it that way.’”

Mark Hoisser, president of the Minnesota Public Transit Association, said the bill would help provide “a stable and growing source of funding” for transit projects. The bill enjoys the support of the Metropolitan Council, which operates the state’s largest transit programs.

### TACONITE TESTIMONY



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Sam Ricker of Eveleth, right, testifies before the House Taxes Committee April 23 for a bill that would change the rates of the taconite production tax. Other union members who testified for the bill are Rich Rojeski, center, and Charles Olson.

# Judicious review

Felony DWI, racial profiling, and CriMNet survive, other programs die and budgets face cuts

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

**M**embers of the House Judiciary Finance Committee labored for several days over its omnibus bill, and though many members expressed dislike for its restrictive budget target, not one member uttered a vote against its advancement from committee April 24.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), chair of the committee, sponsors the measure (HF351).

The bill, which allocates \$1.3 billion from the general fund for criminal justice budgets and programs statewide during the 2002-03 biennium, next traveled to the House Ways and Means Committee where it was scheduled to be heard April 26, after this issue of *Session Weekly* went to press.

Along with the budget provisions in the bill are several significant policy-related provisions, including creation of a felony drunken driving penalty, a policy for avoiding racial profiling, and funding for the CriMNet statewide criminal justice information system.

The bill falls just slightly beneath the House budget target for the committee. It allocates more than \$25 million less than was recommended in Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget; however, it funds many things not recommended in the governor's budget, as well.

"We'll stand for criticism, and compliments as well, that we did the best we could with what we had," Stanek said.

## Felony DWI

The fourth drunken driving conviction within a 10-year period would be a felony, according to the bill. Such an offense would be deemed first-degree DWI.

Anyone convicted of a felony DWI would face up to seven years in prison and a \$14,000 fine.

The bill would also establish a mandatory prison sentence of at least three years, though a judge may stay the execution of a sentence, in which case offenders must serve at least 180 days in jail, and 150 days of home detention, unless that offender is sentenced to an intensive probation program.

If the court executes the sentence, the offender must serve at least one-third of the time in prison, but not more than two-thirds, provided he or she completes chemical dependency treatment.

Offenders would be subject to five years probation upon release.

The bill would appropriate \$3.35 million in 2003 for the plan, and would recommend funding of \$15.6 million in the 2004-05 biennium.

## Racial profiling

The bill incorporates the racial profiling provisions contained in HF505, sponsored by Stanek.

The provisions would require the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board to develop a model anti-racial profiling policy, and every law enforcement agency in the state

It would appropriate \$100,000 for a public awareness campaign to educate the public about racial profiling, how to file a complaint, and other recourse available.

In addition, the bill would provide \$400,000 to the POST Board for seminars to train officers regarding racial profiling.

## CriMNet

The plan to integrate the state's criminal justice information will be able to move forward with funds included in the bill.

About \$27 million in funds would be distributed throughout the Minnesota Supreme Court, Department of Corrections, and Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, under the bill.

The original bill (HF260), also sponsored by Stanek, contained \$41.5 million as recommended by a task force that studied system needs. Ventura recommended \$27 million in spending for the program.

Specific appropriations are targeted toward staff and infrastructure, as well as correcting the suspense file problem in the BCA that means several criminal histories cannot be matched with BCA fingerprints.

The bill would utilize about \$4 million in federal grants for CriMNet. Those funds, along with \$3 million from the general fund and a special contingency account, could be distributed via grants to local communities to help link into the system.

When completed, the system will integrate, track, and share criminal justice information

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*"We'll stand for criticism, and compliments as well, that we did the best we could with what we had."*

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—Rep. Rich Stanek

would be required to adopt a policy of its own.

It also defines racial profiling and the responsibility of law enforcement agencies regarding racial profiling allegations.

The bill would not mandate data collection or collection of badge numbers. However, each law enforcement agency would be required to submit a report to the POST Board identifying the number of racial profiling complaints within the year and the disposition of those complaints.

among law enforcement, courts, and other criminal justice agencies.

A separate provision in the bill would allow the Department of Public Safety to charge \$5 each time a member of the public accesses public criminal history data via the Internet. Law enforcement could access the data for free, as could the public via terminals at the BCA headquarters in St. Paul.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Cyndi Cook, representing the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, and Scott Moen, representing the Domestic Violence Legislative Alliance, testify before the House Judiciary Finance Committee April 24 for funding for per diem reimbursement to domestic abuse shelters.

### Salary/Benefit increases

The state court administrator, public defender and Department of Corrections all painted a dire picture of salary and benefit needs to the committee.

As a result, the omnibus bill would allocate money to all three to help aid their base budgets for salary and benefit increases, as well as individual projects to attract and retain employees.

However, they did not all receive their full requests.

The Supreme Court, which oversees state court administration, Court of Appeals, and Trial Courts would receive about \$18.7 million for those purposes.

In addition, the courts would receive about \$8.7 million for staff and other costs as a result of the state's takeover of all court administration from the counties and districts.

The bill did not include any increases for the public defense corporations, which serve as a public-private partnership to advocate for indigent clients.

Though the state court administrator requested nine additional judgeships statewide for the next biennium, the committee provided no funding.

### Shelter per diems

On April 20, the committee heard a bill (HF699) sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) that would have dedicated \$7.5 million for the biennium to the Department of Public Safety for shelter per diem costs.

According to advocates for domestic abuse victims and members of the committee, the domestic abuse shelter per diem program was transferred from the Department of Human Services to public safety sometime after the 1998 legislative session. During the transfer it went from an entitlement program, based on a funding formula, to a capped appropriation.

In the course, the appropriation was capped at about \$18 million even though costs would exceed \$20 million annually beginning in 2003.

Originally, the committee included \$1.1 million for the biennium in the omnibus bill. However, an amendment offered by Rep. Debra Hilstrom (DFL-Brooklyn Center) changed that.

The amendment, which was ultimately withdrawn, would have required the governor, speaker of the House, and commissioners of public safety and human services to come up with the remaining \$6.5 million in shortfall by the end of 2002, or the money would automatically come from the Public Safety Department's budget.

"We're not saying that public safety is responsible," said Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown). "But what we're saying is that we have confidence in the commissioner of public safety (and the other parties involved) to work this out. It's wrong for all our accounts to have to scrape. It's wrong to leave this hole."

Members worked out a compromise where \$2 million budgeted to the Department of Public Safety for 2003 would be reallocated to

the shelter per diems in 2002. That would give the administration time to remedy the problem and allocate further money for the programs.

### Cuts

While many programs didn't receive their full needs, other programs and offices would face cuts in funding under the bill.

The Ombudsman for Corrections office, which investigates allegations of misconduct by the department on the behalf of inmates would be abolished under the bill.

The Ombudsman for Crime Victims would face a base budget reduction of about 67 percent under the bill and would be moved to the Department of Public Safety.

The base budget for the Department of Human Rights would be cut by \$1 million during the biennium.

In addition, the bill would reduce funding for community services programs in the Department of Corrections by \$4.1 million over the biennium.

The bill also calls for the elimination of the Camp Ripley Weekend Camp for at-risk youth, a savings of \$1.25 million during the biennium.

### Other policy initiatives

Several other policy initiatives were included in the bill, including other domestic abuse provisions from HF699 and technical changes to drunken driving laws.

In addition, the bill incorporates the animal cruelty provisions from HF1330, sponsored by Rep. James Clark (R-New Ulm), particularly those involving service or companion animals. It creates a felony penalty for those who harm a service animal or otherwise torture a pet or companion animal.

Portions of the bill would also expand the crime of possessing shoplifting equipment and creates a felony for manufacturing false identification cards, as provided in HF2122, sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley).

The bill would also increase felonies for possession of child pornography and authorizes electronic search warrants for such investigations, as contained in HF848, sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls).

Several clarifications would be made to the predatory sex offender registration under the bill. It would also change the provisions for collecting DNA samples. These provisions were originally contained in HF1960, sponsored by Stanek. 🐾

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at:  
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

## Prioritizing expenses

Affordable housing, employment support make final cut of jobs and economic development omnibus bill

BY THERESA STAHL

Left with the laborious task of selecting a few bills from a plethora of proposals, the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee has chosen to fund those cited as highest priority, including affordable housing and employment initiatives.

The committee approved its omnibus bill (HF2486), sponsored by Committee Chair Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), April 20 on a party-line vote.

But the job wasn't done, as the House spent about five hours debating the bill before passing it April 26 on a vote of 71-59.

The bill reflects a spending target of \$353 million for the biennium, considerably smaller than the most recent budgeting cycles. Budgets for 2000-01 were \$498 million and \$411 million in the 1998-99 biennium.

In the jobs committee, McElroy stood firm on his decision not to exceed budget targets. Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul), however, opposed the omnibus bill for "philosophical reasons," saying that with a strong economy and a budget surplus the government should be able to give more funding to agencies and organizations. "This, unfortunately, is the wrong way to go," he said.

Reps. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm), and Paymar each offered amendments to the bill, but few were approved. The committee did vote to allocate small sums of money for several local projects in amendments by Sertich.

The committee voted against Paymar amendments to fund requests from organizations that encourage women to enter the trades, provide work experience for at-risk youth, and those that conduct entrepreneur training programs for Somalis and American Indians. McElroy said the organizations might be able to apply for other competitive grants.

Responding to a pressing statewide need for affordable housing, the committee included funding for the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to receive its request for a \$24 million in one-time funding, which Gov. Jesse Ventura

also recommended. Earlier in the session, the committee heard a report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor on affordable housing that confirmed housing for Minnesota residents is expensive, apartment vacancy rates are low, and rents are high.

The bill also includes a provision to combine the Department of Economic Security and the Department of Trade and Economic Development into one department that would shift the focus from unemployment issues to the development of skilled workers. Reorganization of the state agencies was proposed by Ventura. The new approach would link workforce and economic development together, and aggressively develop partnerships with business, nonprofit, and education institutions.

The committee funded 100 percent of small agencies and funded salary requests from the Minnesota Historical Society. Most job-training programs and state housing programs would receive their base budget allocations.

Major bills that would be funded include \$1.5 million for competitive grants for displaced homemaker projects; \$262,500 for tornado relief for Granite Falls; and \$4 million for a loan-repayment program for teachers in the areas of science, math, industrial technology, and special education, and in rural areas.

McElroy acknowledged that the four-year teacher program is fairly expensive, but said it hopefully will help "a category of employees that is terribly important to our society."

Smaller projects making the final cut include \$75,000 for Rural Partners to be used as target funds for Rural Summit; \$35,000 for a Blue Earth Rural Business Facilitation program; and \$6,000 to fund two additional members on the Council on Black Minnesotans.

Several citizens groups voiced concerns to the committee about the bill on April 18.

Pat Begenstein of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota expressed her organization's concerns about housing for people with mental illness. The bill does not specifically target affordable housing funding toward the needs of the mentally ill.

"Your mental health dollars are going down the drain if you don't give them a stable place to stay," she said.

A bill (HF348), sponsored by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), to allocate \$1.45 million to the Minnesota Youth Intervention Program Association was not included in the omnibus bill. Scott Beaty, executive director of the association, said he was disappointed and that the program is "so effective" because of its two-to-one match that leverages state money and keeps children out of the juvenile justice system.

"We missed an opportunity here," he said.

James Rugg, representing Citizen Awareness of the Restructuring of Education, commented on the bill. He spoke specifically about the provision to reorganize the Department of Economic Security and the Department of Trade and Economic Development, and the way the governor and Legislature are attempting to accomplish that goal.

"You have to decide whether you want a free enterprise system or a quasi-socialist system," Rugg said.


Only four of the many proposed amendments to the bill were approved during the floor debate.

Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud) offered a successful amendment that would prohibit further state funding for the planning, pre design, and design of the new Roy Wilkins auditorium and exhibit hall. The bill provides a \$500,000 one-time grant to the city of St. Paul.

Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) offered an amendment that would allocate \$420,000 to a housing trust fund for grants and loans to assist in building and restoring housing to serve homeless veterans. The amendment was adopted by a 127-0 vote.

Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) offered a successful amendment that would allow the Department of Trade and Economic Development to grant up to \$1 million to assist in the construction of a soybean oilseed processing facility outside of Brewster.

Neither the Pawlenty nor the Winter proposal add money to the bill because they involve funds already available.

The bill awaits action in the Senate. 

Writer David Maeda contributed to this report.



# Healthy choices

Health and human services omnibus bill offers assistance to young and old, homeless, and some welfare recipients

BY MARY KAY WATSON

**A**fter weeks of sometimes contentious, and at times tearful, hearings, the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee approved a \$6.5 billion omnibus bill April 25 on a vote of 6-4.

The bill now moves to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Before making their decision, committee members heard amendments to the 576-page finance bill (HF1832) in front of a packed hearing room.

"I know there have been controversies over this bill," said Committee Chair Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), the bill's sponsor. The room erupted with laughter, and he added wryly, "I guess that's an understatement."

It would not be an understatement to say the bill befits the term "omnibus." It is a huge compendium of proposals that have been grappled with and approved by the committee during the last four months. Despite what seems to be a very large sum of money, some tough choices were made, prompting a frequent lament heard in committee, "I wish there was more money."

The Human Services Department would receive the lion's share of the appropriation, with \$6.2 billion in general fund money for the biennium. Adding money from special funds and the federal government would bring the department's total appropriation to \$7.3 billion.

The Department of Health would receive \$173.8 million from the general fund, with special funds and federal money increasing that to \$277.5 million in total funding for the biennium.

Nearly one-half of the human services budget would be earmarked for continuing care and community support grants, a category that includes long-term care reform, a major issue before the committee this year. Most of these provisions come from HF1658, sponsored by Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), and HF1193, sponsored by Goodno.

Nursing home rate adjustments of

3 percent per year would be made available to help these facilities stay afloat in the face of a workforce crisis, decreasing income, and increasing costs.

With the goal of shifting long-term care from nursing homes to community based care, the bill would continue the moratorium on new nursing home beds. It would make grants available for strategic planning as facilities prepare to meet the changing needs of their communities for long-term care.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Brenda Benshoof, a Project ReConnect social worker, testifies before the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee April 19 in support of a bill that would provide increased grants to Ramsey County to double the size and effect of Project ReConnect. The committee did not approve additional funding for the project.**

Consumer information and assistance would be expanded through the Minnesota Board on Aging. The SeniorLinkage Line would be available statewide as a toll-free number and through the Internet. It would expand its database to provide increased information about long-term care options and health care benefits, both public and private. The bill would also provide for long-term care consultation services at no charge to the consumer for the initial consultation and plan.

In the area of welfare, some people on public assistance are facing the 60-month limit on benefits from the Minnesota Family Investment Program. The bill would establish hardship extensions for certain participants, such as people who are ill, incapacitated, or hard to employ.

Chronic homelessness would be addressed by a \$7 million appropriation to a pilot project for supportive housing and managed care. The project, also supported by private and federal funding, is intended to help homeless individuals and families achieve stability.

The bill earmarks \$20 million for community clinics and rural hospital capital improvement grants. These health care safety net providers serve people who might not have access to health care without them, including uninsured, refugee, and rural populations.

HF1832 has a number of provisions that would improve access to mental health care for everyone. It would improve a child's chance of getting mental health care in the least restrictive and most appropriate setting at the first onset of illness, rather than having to wait for a crisis.

Gov. Jesse Ventura's suicide prevention initiative, also part of Bradley's mental health bill (HF812), would be funded for \$2.2 million. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in the state for people between the ages of 15 and 34.

The bill includes a requirement that health plans cover court-ordered mental health treatment and health care needs that result from suicide attempts.

While the bill would also appropriate the same amount as the governor proposed for teen pregnancy prevention — \$20 million — it would restrict how that money could be used. No funding would be provided to groups that directly or indirectly support abortion, which would keep it from most non-profit

Continued on page 28

## The great divide

Omnibus bill offers less than one-half what MnSCU, University of Minnesota officials sought; tobacco money included

BY MIKE COOK

Despite having one of the higher budget targets for the 2002-03 biennium, the omnibus bill approved by the House Higher Education Finance Committee April 24 provided only about half of what the major public colleges and universities in the state requested.

The vote was 6-4 as Republican members supported the bill (HF2489), sponsored by Committee Chair Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), and DFLers opposed it.

Total money in the bill equals about \$2.83 billion, with the University of Minnesota to receive nearly \$1.27 billion, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities nearly \$1.24 billion, the Higher Education Service Office \$328.3 million, and the Mayo Foundation about \$3.27 million.

The bill proposes new spending of \$165 million from the general fund — \$93.9 million in funding to MnSCU, nearly \$64 million for the U of M, and \$7.1 million for the Higher Education Services Office. Additionally, the bill calls for the university to receive \$23.1 million for the Academic Health Center.

The proposal meets the target set by the House Ways and Means Committee, which approved the bill April 26.

A Senate proposal calls for \$138 million in new spending for the university and \$130 million for MnSCU.

MnSCU sought \$255.6 million in funding and the university \$221.5 million. MnSCU officials previously said the schools need \$153.3 million to cover inflationary increases in salaries and benefits. University officials said they need \$124.1 million.

"We've never funded their full request in at least the last 10 years," said Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall). "This isn't what I want to see, but it's better than the governor recommended."

Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget proposal shows a net increase of \$99.2 million in new initiatives from the general fund and \$7 million from the workforce development fund. His

plan also calls for \$8 million to the university's Academic Health Center through the Department of Health.

Money from the earnings on investments of the two endowments established with funds from the state tobacco settlement (HF2381) would be appropriated in the bill. Approximately \$23 million of that money is directed to help fund the university's Academic Health Center.

Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) said, "This is a good bill except that it is about \$1 billion short and there is tobacco money involved." He said the inclusion of such funds could hurt the bill on the House floor as the "word out there is that thousands of kids will die because

\$2 million of the endowment fund in each year for health education programs at MnSCU institutions. It failed on a voice vote.

Both Morrie Anderson, chancellor of the MnSCU system, and Pfitzenreuter said tuition increases can be anticipated even with this bill.

Anderson said MnSCU students can expect a tuition increase of approximately 12.5 percent during the biennium if the organization opts to fund only inflationary increases and \$8 million required in previously negotiated contracts. To meet the full budget request would require 25 percent to 28 percent tuition increases in year one another 13 percent in year two, Anderson said.

At the university, Pfitzenreuter predicted an 11.5 percent increase each year for basic needs. If tuition were used to cover the entire difference between state money and the U of M's total request, students would face back-to-back increases of 19 percent, he said.

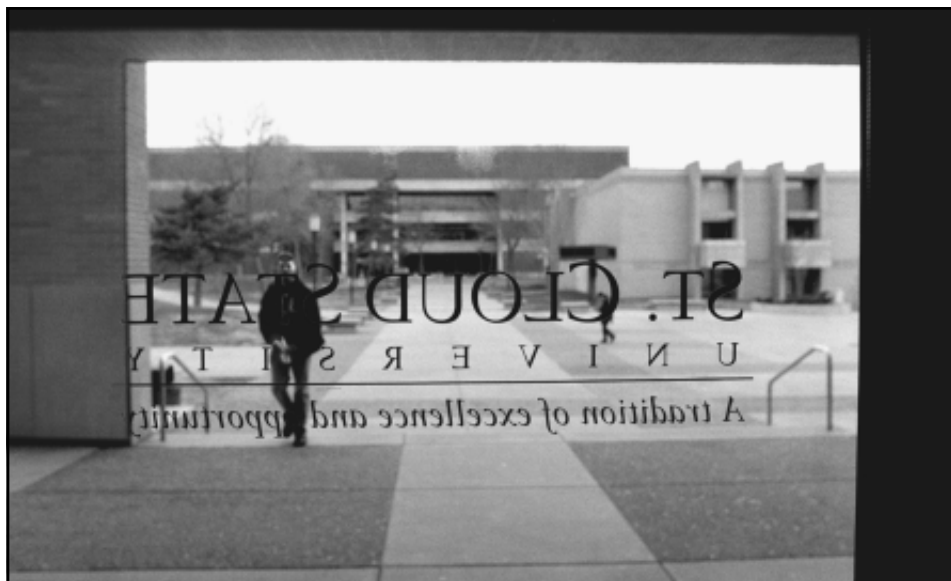


PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

A student enters Stewart Hall on the campus of St. Cloud State University. Officials from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and the University of Minnesota say students will face higher tuition rates as a result of the House Higher Education Finance Committee omnibus bill.

of this bill." He said he expects an amendment to be offered removing the funds.

Richard Pfitzenreuter, chief financial officer and treasurer for the U of M, said the university is not taking a position on where money for the health center comes from. "We view that as the Legislature's prerogative."

Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) offered an amendment that would have provided

Leppik asked how the state is expected to keep up with the dollars requested. "The state can maybe absorb this one time, but that is an enormous amount to fund over time," she said.

The state demands that MnSCU provide access for 400,000 students, be affordable, and play a role in economic development,

Continued on page 28

## Streamlined sales tax

Bill would allow the state to enter into an agreement that could improve collection of sales tax revenue

BY DAVID MAEDA

**T**he proliferation of consumers buying products over the Internet has exacerbated a tax concern that began years ago with the growth of catalog sales.

While consumers often purchase items through a catalog or online to avoid paying sales tax, in many instances it isn't a case of the tax not being owed, but rather the tax not being collected.

Current law provides that a business is required to collect sales tax from its customer purchases when the business has a physical presence (known in tax lingo as "nexus") in the state of the buyer. If the business does not have nexus in the state, the buyer is required to pay a use tax to their home state.

But a plan is moving through the Minnesota Legislature, and the legislatures in other states, to make it easier for states to collect sales tax on out-of-state sales.

Last year a multi-state effort known as the "Streamlined Sales Tax Project" began looking at ways of simplifying administration of the sales-and-use tax for sellers in the hope that a more universal system would mean higher compliance with existing laws.

The project was also meant to address concerns of "Main Street" business owners who sought to ensure that remote sellers don't have an unfair advantage because they aren't collecting and remitting sales taxes.

The 39 states participating in the project developed a standard act that provides model legislation and the provisions required for a state to enter into the agreement.

HF1416, sponsored by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), would adopt into Minnesota law the provisions that would allow the state to enter into the agreement. The bill would implement the uniform definitions and standards developed by the project.

Abrams, the chair of the House Taxes Committee, said April 20 that with the increase in remote sales, more and more states are facing a threat to the stability of their sales tax base.

"This is an enormously important issue if



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Rep. Ron Abrams, chair of the House Taxes Committee, presents his bill intended to collect sales tax from those who actually owe.**

we are going to protect our sales tax. It is an enormously complex issue," he said.

The committee took no action on the bill but Abrams said it would be considered for inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

In Minnesota, use tax is not required on out-of-state purchases and remote sales less than \$770. However, once a consumer exceeds the \$770 threshold a use tax is due on the entire amount.

The sales-and-use tax is therefore complex not only because of the different rates that apply across the many taxing jurisdictions, but

also because taxed items are different and the requirements of who is responsible to remit the tax can often be unclear.

The goals of the project are to remove that uncertainty.

Jenny Engh, an assistant commissioner with the Department of Revenue, said it is estimated that Minnesota is losing around \$220 million a year in uncollected sales and use taxes mostly on business-to-business transactions.

While the agreement allows states to continue to decide what will be subject to a sales tax, the state must adopt the uniform standards and definitions of what falls under categories like food and clothing.

Because the state would be required to adopt the uniform definitions there would be a few quirky changes to some of what would get taxed that is currently exempt and some of what is currently taxed would be subject to an exemption.

For example items like snack foods sold in bars and restaurants, bottled water, and near beer are all currently taxed but would become exempt under the bill. Likewise beverages containing 15 percent to 50 percent juice are currently not taxed but would be under the bill.

Changes would also affect what falls under the definition of some clothing items. Hard hats and helmets are now exempt but would be taxed, while steel-toed shoes that are now taxed would become exempt.

The current exemption for clothing made from fur that could disappear under the agreement's definitions would perhaps be reinstated. That's because the bill contains a provision that requires the commissioner of revenue to request a uniform definition of fur clothing be developed and adopted into the standard agreement.

The bill also defines sourcing rules, or those defining to which state the tax is owed. Under the agreement, sales that do not occur at the seller's location are taxed to the destination site.

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) asked how the department was going to enforce the changes ensuring that more vendors comply with the law.

Larry Wilkie, a project manager of the Streamlined Sales Tax Project for the Department of Revenue, said sellers have argued the

**Continued on page 28**

## Work zone

Bill could bring significant changes to the way Minnesota funds transportation projects statewide

By JONAS M. WALKER

Constitutional amendments, spending restrictions, and “choose life” plates are among the measures included in the House Transportation Finance Committee’s omnibus finance bill.

HF2189, sponsored by Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska), would spend almost \$3.6 billion during the next biennium and also make several significant policy changes, including two proposed constitutional amendments that could change the structure of state transportation funding.

Most of the funding under the bill comes from the highway user tax distribution fund.

The bill was approved by the House Transportation Finance Committee April 24 and the House Taxes Committee one day later. It awaits action by the House Ways and Means Committee.

HF2189 would appropriate more than \$3.2 billion to the Department of Transportation, a figure close to Gov. Jesse Ventura’s recommended level. The remaining money would be distributed to the Department of Public Safety (\$239 million), Metropolitan Council (\$113 million), Department of Finance (\$1.2 million) and other accounts (\$750,000).

The bill would place a number of restrictions on how that money would be spent. For example, regarding personal protection for Ventura and his family, HF2189 would forbid the Department of Public Safety to transfer money between accounts.

Elsewhere, it bars MnDOT and Metropolitan Council from spending state funds to study light rail or commuter

rail projects unless a law specifically identifies the route to be studied.

The bill would surpass Ventura’s suggested \$33 million for Greater Minnesota transit assistance by \$1 million, but fulfills only \$114 million of the proposed \$155 million biennial budget for Metro Transit. The bill also neglects funding Ventura’s proposed \$1 million for a new passenger rail office.

The bill required tax committee approval in part because of a proposed amendment that would create a special commercial property taxing district within a one-half mile radius of light-rail transit stations. The committee approved that measure, proposed by Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville), to generate operating revenue for the Hiawatha Light Rail line.

“We have a \$700 million project and no way to pay the operating cost,” said Committee Chair Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka).

Holberg said the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and Mall of America would be exempt from the tax, as would school properties and projects planned before Jan. 1, 2000.

The bill would tax only those property value

increases beyond average property value increases in a given municipality.

“The state, having made the initial investment, should be able to share in the increased economic benefit,” said Holberg. Critics perceived the plan as inconsistent with other measures in the bill.

Rep. Dan Larson (DFL-Bloomington) described the measure as “punitive,” adding, “The whole premise is flawed.” Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) said legislators from both caucuses supported a plan to remove property tax funding for transit.

As for four-wheeled transit, the bill would mandate a study proposed by Rep. Jeff Johnson (R-Plymouth) that would open Interstate 394 high-occupancy vehicle lanes to all traffic for an estimated six weeks. The lanes are designated for use only by vehicles carrying more than one passenger. The lanes connect downtown Minneapolis and western suburbs.

The two proposed constitutional amendments clarify where tax money goes to aid in highway projects.

One amendment would require at least 50 percent of revenue from the motor vehicle sales tax go to the highway user tax distribution fund “exclusively for highway purposes.” The remainder would be made available for transit programs including light rail, car pool, and park-and-ride projects. A similar proposal made by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassan) to dedi-

cate 75 percent of the sales tax revenue to the fund was met with approval by the House Transportation Finance Committee.

To cover highway construction costs until funding may be constitutionally guaranteed, the bill would statutorily dedicate 20.5 percent of revenue generated by the motor vehicle sales tax to the highway user tax distribution fund for FY2002. That ratio would increase to 32 percent for FY2003 and beyond.

A second amendment,



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

The house transportation funding measure would change the way the state funds projects statewide, including improvements to roads and bridges.

Continued on page 28

# A diverse group

Various ages, backgrounds, interests draw House pages to the Capitol every year

BY NATALIE ELSE

**Y**ou've probably seen them on the sidelines at committee hearings, scampering feverishly throughout the House chamber, or in the basement of the State Office Building trying to catch their breath between errands.

For many of the pages this session, it is this hectic workday that makes them enjoy the experience.

But the pace is not the only thing that keeps the job interesting. Pages represent a very diverse group of interests, backgrounds and walks of life. Pages and others alike say it's very interesting to watch them learn the process and get the job done behind the scenes of each legislative session.

"The interests range from Scandinavian ethnic folk dancing to farming," said First Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms Andrew Carter, who oversees the pages. "It's really fun to watch them work in a group," he said.

Each year, Carter's office hires a new fleet of pages to handle some of the Legislature's more demanding, but largely thankless tasks. They're the ones who make sure each member has a copy of the order of business, they organize information for committee members and staff, and sometimes they serve as a

security force in the State Office Building and House Chamber.

Before hiring a page, Carter said several things are evaluated by looking at resumes and conducting interviews. "We look for someone who is responsible, timely, articulate, willing to work long hours, and has an interest in the legislative process."

Once hired, the pages began their jobs with a two-and-a-half day orientation, where they are taught how to use the audiovisual equipment, their specific responsibilities, and are also given a chamber orientation. This session's page class numbered about 35 during late-December training and continued to grow, reaching 40-45 members for the last six weeks of session.

Carter noted that not only does being a page provide many opportunities, but it can open up many doors because of connections made during session. "About a half-dozen end up working for lobbyists or state agencies when they are done," he said.

Ron Ranallo and his wife Diane, both second-year chamber pages, say their experiences are something they will always remember. Both retired, they thought this would provide them with the opportunity to do something new and exciting in their lives.

"We're always looking for new opportunities and learning experiences," she said. "And we like working together," he added.

Diane Ranallo explained their decision to come back into the workforce part-time, instead of simply enjoying retirement. "We're a generation you're going to see more of. You really miss being out in the world."

Carter agrees this experience is rewarding for people of all ages.

"It's a great job for retired people," said Carter. "It's a good opportunity for them to come and see how it all works. It also allows someone right out of school to see and learn what they want to get out of life."

Though pages often represent diverse backgrounds, this year's class covers an even bigger age range than usual. "Last year, most pages were between the ages of 23-27, whereas this year, age is a big difference," Carter said.

The Ranallo's agree that this year's group represents almost every generation. "We're very diverse. We represent an age group from their 20s to their 70s. I don't know how you get a more diverse group than that," Diane Ranallo said.

According to Ron Ranallo, this year's group also has a more direct approach to things. "We have a mature force and a group that appears to interact well together right now."

Said first-year page Kay Smith, who enjoys quilting and being involved with the humane society, "It's like being on a shipwreck on a deserted island and you have all these personalities coming together."

Smith, a retiree who formerly worked for the state as a computer programmer, said this experience has taught her a lot about how government works.

"It has made me more aware of how things work," she said. "It's really amazing that when you bring all these people together, they are able to get something done."

In fact, the process intrigues her.

"There's a lot of protocol that goes on and also a lot of history attached to all of this," she said.

For the Ranallo's, the knowledge that each day will bring something new, and the people they are able to interact with, has proved very rewarding.

"We've had people from all over the country at these doors," said Ron Ranallo referring to the doors of the House chamber. "We're treated with such dignity and respect. We've had other jobs where that really hasn't happened. We really just like seeing a lot of hardworking people trying to make it work. Sometimes citizens don't get involved enough. We can understand now how hard (legislators) work," he added.

But above all, pages like what they do.

"It's a real nice place to work and we're really having fun," Ron Ranallo said. 🐼

**Editor's Note:** Natalie Else was an intern in the House Public Information Office. She is a senior at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter.



PHOTO BY SARA KIRK

Page Patrick Paray receives a newspaper article from Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher April 5 in the House chamber. Transporting documents during session is one of many duties that pages perform.



## Tracking new laws, vetoes

Once a bill has passed both the House and Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor, who has several options when considering a bill, can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill;
- or do nothing, which can have two different effects. The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is that the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor

doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of

the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

**This information is also available on the governor's Web site ([www.governor.state.mn.us](http://www.governor.state.mn.us)). Select the "Legislative Initiatives" link, then click on "Legislative Log 2001."**

**Key:**

CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
Res. 1	219	258*	Resolution requesting a ban on the importation of certain steel products.	3/15/01	
Res. 2	670	647*	Resolution memorializing the President and Congress to fund 40 percent of special education costs.	4/6/01	
Res. 3	1391*	1318	Resolution for postage stamp of Eric Enstrom's "Grace" photograph.	4/26/01	
1	34	28*	Teacher licensing under current licensure rules.	1/16/01	
2	421*	460	Energy assistance program federal fund expenditure authorized.	2/2/01	
3	213	201*	Physicians assistants infection control continuing education requirements repeal.	2/15/01	
4	181	43*	Adult foster care license capacity age requirement and maximum admissions variances.	2/28/01	
5	817	376*	City contract limit increases.	3/2/01	
6	106*	47	Minnesota agricultural education leadership council permanent members authorized.	3/8/01	
7	656*	231	Revisor's Bill.	3/15/01	
8	80*	79	Coon Lake water level control.	3/16/01	
9	393*	155	Ramsey County and City of St. Paul employees allowed equal competition for county jobs in city-county departments.	3/16/01	
10	357	289*	Alcohol and drug counselors licensing requirements modified.	3/16/01	
11	487	433	Townships health, social, and recreational services contracts amounts increases.	3/21/01	
12	320*	399	Property casualty insurance agents surplus lines insurance procurement authority.	3/29/01	
13	1016	509*	City and county obligations payment by electronic transfer or credit card authorized.	4/6/01	
14	368	63*	Stearns County Highway 55 bridge designated as Old St. Anne's pass.	4/6/01	
15	243	346*	Trusts; uniform principal and income act modified, and antilapse law clarified.	4/6/01	
16	556*	756	Federal law enforcement officers authorized to exercise arrest powers in MN under specified circumstances.	4/9/01	
17	416	400*	Hokah authorized to vacate roads if necessary due to extensive damage.	4/9/01	
18	1046	991*	Notifies schools of student possession of drug paraphernalia.	4/11/01	
19	172	9*	Authorizes cities to provide housing assistance for volunteer firefighters or ambulance personnel.	4/11/01	
20	64	971*	Repeals law prohibiting itinerant carnivals.	4/11/01	
21	394	327*	Repealing statutes concerning castrating animals running at large in a town.	4/11/01	
22	466	972*	Repeals law prohibiting endurance contests.	4/11/01	
23	252	570*	Repeals obsolete rules.	4/11/01	
24	37	480*	Repeals obsolete traffic regulations.	4/13/01	

\*The legislative bill marked with an asterisk denotes the file submitted to the governor.

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
25	57*	27	Certain crimes against children named disqualifying offenses for school bus drivers' licenses.	4/13/01	
26	245	225*	Allows licensed peace officers to determine necessity of patient restraints.	4/13/01	
27	790	702*	Modifies requirements for the Bluffland trail system.	4/13/01	
28	1951	1204*	Regulates the use of HIV and bloodborne pathogen tests.	4/13/01	
29	994	883*	Establishes hospital waiver or variance request procedure.	4/13/01	
30	47*	39	Unemployment benefits to certain LTV employees extended.	4/11/01	
31	116	274*	Respiratory care practitioner advisory council sunset delayed, and athletic trainer registration cancelled	4/24/01	
32	501	283*	Conservation officer enforcement activity comparison prevented from use in performance evaluation.	4/24/01	
33	1455	1435*	Designer selection board provisions modified.	4/24/01	
34	453	319*	Discharge of judgements against bankruptcy debtors regulated.	4/24/01	
35	424	456*	Mental retardation waiver recipients authorized access to respite care in certain facilities.	4/24/01	
36	275*	210	Nursing facilities closure medical assistance cost savings projection prohibition.	4/24/01	
37	125*	104	Dentist licensure requirements modified for applicants trained in a foreign country.	4/24/01	
38	949*	771	Allows for a smaller newspaper to serve as the qualified newspaper for smaller communities.	4/24/01	
39	387	142*	Increases the membership of the State Council on Black Minnesotans.	4/24/01	
40	828	741*	Hennepin County employees granted disaster volunteer leave.	4/24/01	
41	1747	1780*	Itasca County chemical dependency demonstration project rule exemption extended.	4/24/01	
42	1634	1460*	Duty to warn law applied to social workers, and social workers allowed to form professional firms.	4/24/01	
43	1404	1709*	Exempts towed implements of husbandry from tail lamp requirement.	4/24/01	
44	867*	646	Suburban Hennepin regional park district provisions modification and clarification.	4/24/01	
45	2119*	1915	Charitable organization report filing requirements modified	4/24/01	
46	253	249*	Repeals obsolete health and human rules.	4/26/01	
47	274*	70	Mercury thermometer sales restricted.	4/26/01	
48	323*	914	Motor vehicle fuel franchisees transfer rights provision expiration date removal.	4/26/01	
49	1160*	1127	Physician assistants prescribing medication review provisions modified.	4/26/01	
50	239*	170	Real estate provisions modifications.	4/26/01	
51	1260*	1332	Child support and custody provisions terminology neutralization.	4/26/01	
52	1467	1419*	Payment bonds claims notices requirements modification.	4/26/01	

## What's on the Web

### Streaming video on the Internet

If you happen to be halfway around the world and are dying to find out how a particular issue is being dealt with by the Minnesota Legislature, you can now keep informed first-hand.

That's because both the House and the Senate offer Internet streaming video of floor sessions and select committee hearings. The service, which began during the 2000 session, offers unedited, live, and recorded coverage of the Legislature.

The link to the House coverage can be found at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/htv/liveweb.htm> and the Senate's coverage

can be accessed at <http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/general/avinfo.htm>. All that is needed to stay informed is access to the Internet and Windows Media Player, a free plug-in viewer.

The service is provided by House Television Services.

As of January 2001, the public can also access all the recorded coverage throughout the legislative session using an archive on the Web site.

The ultimate goal of the service is for each person to have access to the original

footage of committee and floor action so that when they see a news story about the event, they can find more information by viewing the event from start to finish.

The site will provide an index, making it easy for users to find the specific bill or topic they wish to view, without having to weed through hours and hours of coverage.

For more information, contact House Television Services at (651) 297-1338.



## Monday, April 23

### HF2479—Bakk (DFL)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Wastewater infrastructure funding limits removed for municipalities bordering Lake Superior.

### HF2480—Bakk (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 381, Lake Superior, school building construction funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2481—Abrams (R)

#### Taxes

Electronic filing and payment of specified taxes provided.

### HF2482—Olson (R)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Annexation elections provided when initiated by resolution.

### HF2483—Solberg (DFL)

#### State Government Finance

Grand Rapids; Children's Discovery Museum funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2484—Larson (DFL)

#### Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport parking facilities surcharge imposed, and airport impact mitigation account established in the general fund.

### HF2485—Larson (DFL)

#### Taxes

Parking tax imposed on large parking facilities.

### HF2486—McElroy (R)

#### Ways & Means

Omnibus jobs and economic development finance bill.

## Wednesday, April 25

### HF2487—Davids (R)

#### Taxes

Chatfield community building ambulance and police services expansion construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

### HF2488—Paulsen (R)

#### Redistricting

Resolution establishing redistricting principles for legislative and congressional plans.

### HF2489—Leppik (R)

#### Ways & Means

Omnibus higher education finance bill.

### HF2490—Biernat (DFL)

#### State Government Finance

Veterans' memorial on Mississippi riverbanks grant provided and money appropriated.

### HF2491—Kubly (DFL)

#### Environment &

#### Natural Resources Finance

Flood relief and mitigation funding provided for counties designated a major disaster area resulting from the spring floods of 2001, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2493—Davids (R)

#### Environment &

#### Natural Resources Policy

Ammunition requirement modified for big game hunting.

### HF2494—Mulder (R)

#### State Government Finance

Luverne; Carnegie Cultural Center improvements grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2495—Mulder (R)

#### Jobs & Economic

#### Development Finance

Pipestone County museum improvements grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2496—Mulder (R)

#### Jobs & Economic

#### Development Finance

Pipestone emergency medical services building construction grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2497—Hackbarth (R)

#### Transportation Finance

Anoka County park-and-ride lot construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

## Thursday, April 26

### HF2492—Davids (R)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Credit scoring; consumer credit information use prohibited for homeowner and auto insurance underwriting.

## Where to find information

### House Public Information Office

175 State Office Building  
(651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

The House Public Information Office is a nonpartisan office that provides committee meeting schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* news magazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the Legislature's World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

### Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (651) 296-2314

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

### House Index Department

211 State Capitol (651) 296-6646

The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized index available for public use. House Index lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories. The office can also give you the current status of legislation.

### House Television Services

216C State Capitol (651) 297-1338

House Television Services is responsible for live coverage of House floor sessions and some committee hearings. Such coverage is aired in the Twin Cities area on KTCI-TV, Channel 17. The House also broadcasts via satellite statewide. Outstate residents should check with local cable operators for time and channel information or the office's Web site at: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/htv/htv.ssi>

All televised floor sessions and committee hearings are close-captioned for people with hearing impairments.

### Senate Information Office

231 State Capitol (651) 296-0504

The Senate Information Office is responsible for all information about the Senate, including the committee schedule, bill status, legislator information, and the distribution of bill copies.

### Senate Media Services

B-44 State Capitol (651) 296-0264

Senate Media Services, a bipartisan office, produces television programs, multi-media productions, scriptwriting, photography and graphics. It offers live coverage of the Senate floor sessions and some committee hearings.

Schedule is subject to change.  
For information updates, call House Calls at **(651) 296-9283**.  
All meetings are open to the public.  
Sign language interpreter services: **(651) 224-6548 v/tty**.  
To have the House committee schedule delivered to your e-mail address, send an e-mail message to [join-houseschedule@ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us](mailto:join-houseschedule@ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us) or direct your Web browser to <http://ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us/scripts/lyris.pl?join=houseschedule> and fill out the subscription form on the Legislature's Web site.

## MONDAY, April 30

8 a.m.

### TAXES

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** Presentation of the Omnibus Tax Bill.  
**Note:** The committee is also scheduled to meet 15 minutes after session.

10 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

15 minutes after session

### TAXES

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** HF82 (Seagren) Omnibus K-12 Education Bill.  
HF1515 (Sykora) Omnibus Family and Early Childhood Finance Bill.

## WAYS & MEANS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. David Bishop  
**Agenda:** HF1832 (Goodno) Health and Human Services Finance Bill.  
HF560 (Goodno) Patient protection provisions modified.

## TUESDAY, May 1

7:30 a.m.

### TAXES

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** Testimony on the Omnibus Tax Bill.  
**Note:** The committee is also scheduled to meet 15 minutes after session for continued testimony, if needed.

8 a.m.

### Topic Selection Subcommittee/Legislative Audit Commission

229 State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest  
**Agenda:** Working session to review results of legislative survey and select topics to be presented for consideration by full Legislative Audit Commission.

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

15 minutes after session

### TAXES

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** Continuation of testimony on the Omnibus Tax Bill, if needed.

3 p.m.

### Joint House/Senate Subcommittee on Claims

118 State Capitol  
Chrs. Rep. Bill Haas, Sen. Randy Kelly  
**Agenda:** Claim against the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.  
Claim against the Department of Public Safety.

## WEDNESDAY, May 2

8 a.m.

### TAXES

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** Mark-up of the Omnibus Tax Bill.

9:30 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

## THURSDAY, May 3

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

## FRIDAY, May 4

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

## Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

**Information, House**  
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**Secretary of the Senate**  
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**Index, Senate**  
110 Capitol ..... 296-5560

**Continued from page 19**

agencies currently offering family planning services. That restriction would be applied to all family planning grants.

Of money from the teen pregnancy prevention program, \$10 million would be directed toward reducing disparities between white teens, who have one of the lowest rates of pregnancy in the nation, and teens of color, who have one of the highest.

In addition, this bill would not allow a woman to have an abortion until she has waited 24 hours after receiving information prepared by the Department of Health and has had a chance to talk directly with the physician who would be doing the procedure.

"The issues we deal with here are very complex and often emotional," Goodno said. "But I think we've dealt with them in an honorable manner." 

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**Continued from page 20**

Anderson said. "We must have a quality, competitive product, and it takes lots of resources."

He said three ways to change that would be to reduce access, reduce quality, or change affordability. "We believe we have tightened the reins."

Noting the percent of the state budget going toward higher education has decreased by about 6 percent in the last decade, Pfutzenreuter said that could be one reason costs are higher. "Higher education is an investment. You need to look at it that way."

In terms of new programs, the bill would help fund two.

HF428, sponsored by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), would expand the Minnesota Talented Youth Math Project — operated by Minnesota State University, Mankato — from south-central Minnesota to one additional region. The program, which would receive \$40,000 for fiscal year 2002 to keep the program at current levels and \$110,000 in fiscal year 2003 to expand, teaches advanced skills via interactive television to top math students beginning in grade six.

The other benefited program is HF2226, sponsored by Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), which would receive \$150,000 in fiscal year 2003 for a post-secondary grant program for high school students who achieve qualifying scores on a specified number of advanced placement or international baccalaureate tests.

Regarding financial aid, the bill would expand the eligibility for a state grant to a fifth year and increase the length and amount of childcare grants from a bill (HF342), sponsored by Dehler. It also would set aside a state


match for the Edvest program (HF550), sponsored by Rep. Rob Eastlund (R-Isanti), that allows accounts to be created for those who will attend college in the future.

On the border battle, an amendment offered by Opatz requiring out-of-state students to pay at least what Minnesota students now pay failed on a party line vote. He said of the 16,000 non-Minnesotans now attending a higher education institution, "more than 9,000 pay less than our students." His amendment would have prohibited negotiating a reciprocity agreement that allowed an out-of-state student to pay less than a Minnesotan.

Leppik said she is fearful the Opatz plan might tie the hands of the negotiator and the state may lose talented non-Minnesota students to other states.

"If Minnesota is where they want to come, they will still come," Opatz countered.

Furthermore, the bill calls for the creation of a Commission on University of Minnesota Excellence (HF2377), sponsored by House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), to examine and make recommendations to the university.

A requirement that would affect both MnSCU and the U of M says any reallocation of state funding must be shared by administrative and central office services in proportion to their share of total expenses (HF1999), sponsored by Rep. Sheldon Johnson (DFL-St. Paul). 

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**Continued from page 21**

current low rate of compliance is rooted in the complex and burdensome administration of collecting and remitting the taxes. By simplifying the system, the argument becomes less valid.

An added benefit, Wilkie said, would be that the administration for Minnesota retailers would also become simpler.


Matt Lemke, representing the Minnesota Retailers Association, agreed with Wilkie. He said retailers are facing an increasing challenge collecting sales taxes due to complexity of the laws. "The streamline system is necessary so all retailers can compete on a level playing field."

Similar legislation is pending in many of the participating states, and bills have been signed into law in Kentucky, Utah, and Wyoming.

Because states don't want the federal government getting involved and mandating to states what to tax, Engh said a more uniform administration of the sales tax is necessary and in the states' best interests.

Court decisions have also driven the effort, according to Abrams. In 1992 the United States

Supreme Court affirmed in *Quill v. North Dakota* that the complexity of local and state taxing laws constituted an undue burden on remote sellers and thus restricted interstate commerce.

Abrams said it was likely a state that passes the model legislation into law will eventually bring a lawsuit against a remote seller to reaffirm the validity of the Streamlined Tax Project proposal and thereby establish that remote sellers are subject to collecting sales tax. 


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**Continued from page 22**

suggested by Holberg, would delete the requirement that state bonds sold for highway purposes be repayable only to the trunk highway fund. Currently, only trunk highway bonds repayable from the trunk highway fund may be issued for improvement projects. The constitution permits the state to undertake "public debt" to acquire and improve public land and building only if the Legislature chooses to do so by a three-fifths vote, a margin unaffected by the proposed amendment.

The bill also includes a provision suggested by Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) that would authorize cities, counties, and towns to establish "quiet zones" in which the sounding of railroad horns, whistles, and other audible warnings is regulated or prohibited. Such zones would have to be at least one-half mile long and conform to federal regulations.

Furthermore, the bill would raise vehicle transaction filing fees from \$3.50 to \$4.50 for registration renewals and \$7 for other transactions, an increase not suggested by Ventura. The increase is expected to raise nearly \$3 million during the biennium. In an effort to encourage less costly registration procedures, vehicle dealers would be allowed to retain \$2.50 of that filing fee if they submit the registration transaction.

The bill includes a provision creating "choose life" license plates as proposed by Rep. Ray Vandever (R-Forrest Lake). His plan would require drivers obtaining those plates to pay an extra fee to fund private groups supporting pregnant women who commit to placing their baby up for adoption. 

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(Area code 651)

Agriculture .....	297-2200
Children, Families and Learning .....	582-8200
Commerce .....	296-4026
Corrections .....	642-0200
Economic Security .....	296-3644
Employee Relations .....	297-1184
Job Information .....	296-2616
Finance .....	296-5900
Health .....	215-5800
Human Rights .....	296-5663
Toll Free .....	1-800-657-3704
Human Services .....	296-6117
Labor and Industry .....	296-6107
Military Affairs .....	282-4662
Natural Resources .....	296-6157
Public Safety .....	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services .....	296-6911
Fire Marshal .....	215-0500
Alcohol and Gambling .....	
Enforcement Division .....	296-6979
State Patrol .....	297-3935
Pollution Control Agency .....	296-6300
Public Service .....	296-5120
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Taxpayer Assistance .....	296-3781
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309 Capitol ..... (651) 296-4261

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65 State Office Building..... (651) 296-2406

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Continued from page 4

strained and distances are growing, according to Abeler, sponsor of the bill. HF1850 would establish a three-year pilot project to allow schools to evaluate, plan, and use flexible learning year programs to meet the educational needs of their students, which may result in four-quarter plans, all-year plans, or four-day week plans.

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) sponsored a bill that would require transportation revenue to be used only for transportation purposes. It would allow excess funds, however, to be used for general education. Ness also proposed a transportation study to create a cost-based pupil transportation formula based on certain ridership categories. 🐼

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# Reflections

One of the surprising feats at the House of Representatives is how only eight people are able to direct the traffic of thousands of strangers who visit members and staff.

These are the dedicated receptionists who sit behind desks off each elevator bank on the second, third, fourth, and fifth floors in the State Office Building.

Their careers with the House of Representatives collectively cover some 110 years as legislative assistants, committee legislative assistants, committee administrators, and receptionists.

Judy Bernet has worked with the DFL Caucus for 16 years. She now sits at the second floor north desk where she fields some odd questions such as, "Am I on the second floor?" or "Is there a skyway to the Capitol building on this floor?"

Muffy Dickinson who works for the Republican Caucus, is the one who knows everyone by name when they stop or pass by her desk on the fourth floor. If the Twins or Vikings are playing at home, you can also get the latest game scores from her.

Dorothy Sawyer has worked in the House for 18 years — six years in House Public Information, 10 years for the DFL House Caucus, and two years in her present position.

Susan Witzke is a 10-year full-time staffer with the House and Republican Caucus. She makes sure that she takes her daily walk during break as she listens to her favorite songs.

Mary Krageland worked full-time with the Republican Caucus for 10 years and now is session-only. She enjoys her new position, and also voluntarily keeps the caucus in a never-ending supply of candies and delicious bread.

Joe Dodge returned to the House in

2001 as a session staffer, having spent nine previous years with the DFL Caucus. Dodge's second floor desk is one-stop shopping for visitors— coffee, Tums, Kleenex, hand lotion, Capitol hats, and even magic tricks for those who are too serious.

Cyndee Fields loves the staff and legislative community she works with in her second year as a session-only receptionist for the Republican Caucus.

Pat Engfer has worked for 27 years for the DFL Caucus, first as a legislative assistant for two years. But she likes her present session-only position much better.

All have different ways of keeping busy outside the office.

For example, Dickinson sings and plays the piano, Bernet sells expensive jewelry and loves to travel, and Fields is a member of the Eagan City Council.

Sawyer is the perennial jokester of the group, but one year she was the recipient of a prank at a mini-session in Fergus Falls.

It was Sawyer's birthday, so the chief sergeant-at-arms transported a "gift" all the way from St. Paul to the mini-session. It was a blow-up doll named "Ramon" — a surprise for her from friends.

With the help of hotel management, the chief sergeant placed Ramon in her bed while she was with other staffers in the lounge. She agreed that for once, the joke on her was well-planned, for she had no clue about it.

True to her role as a jokester, Sawyer sums up one of the many important tasks of receptionists. "It's the best job I've ever had, because I can tell people where to go."

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Dorothy Sawyer works at her desk on the third floor of the State Office Building.

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
175 STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

# MINNESOTA INDEX

## Minnesota Potpourri

State's length, in miles .....	406
Width, in miles .....	385
State size, in square miles .....	84,068
Rank among U.S. states .....	12
Land area, in square miles .....	79,289
Inland waters, in square miles .....	4,779
Length of Mississippi River, which begins at Lake Itasca (in miles) .....	2,552
Annual economic impact of domestic and international travel, in billions of dollars .....	9.1
Approximate number of pairs of bald eagles in Minnesota .....	550
Common loons .....	12,000
Timber wolves .....	1,600
Approximate percent of land covered by forest .....	33
Number of state forests .....	57
Number of national forests .....	2
Number of state parks .....	66
Number of national parks .....	1
Number of years ago humans made rock carvings of people, animals, and weapons that can be seen today at Jeffers Petroglyphs in southwestern Minnesota .....	5,000
Year Minnesota became a state .....	1858
Rank among the 50 states .....	32
Year waterskiing was invented in Minnesota .....	1922
Year first commercial snowmobiles were manufactured in northern Minnesota ..	1953
Percent of Minnesotans who own a snowmobile .....	5
Rank of Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport among world's busiest .....	18
Year Northwest Airlines was started .....	1926
Approximate miles of active rail line .....	4,600
Miles of navigable waterways .....	231
Millions of tons of freight shipped by water annually .....	80
Percent of iron ore/taconite produced in the United States from Minnesota .....	70
Average height (in feet) of Norway Pine, the state tree .....	60-100
Tallest Norway Pine in the state (in feet) .....	320
Year that milk became the official state drink .....	1984
Pounds of milk produced in Minnesota annually, in billions .....	9.7
U.S. rank in dairy production .....	5
Year that blueberry became the official state muffin .....	1988

Sources: North Star — Minnesota Government and Information Services ([www.state.mn.us](http://www.state.mn.us)), Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development, and *Minnesota Legislative Manual 2001-2002 (for students)*, published by the Office of the Secretary of State.

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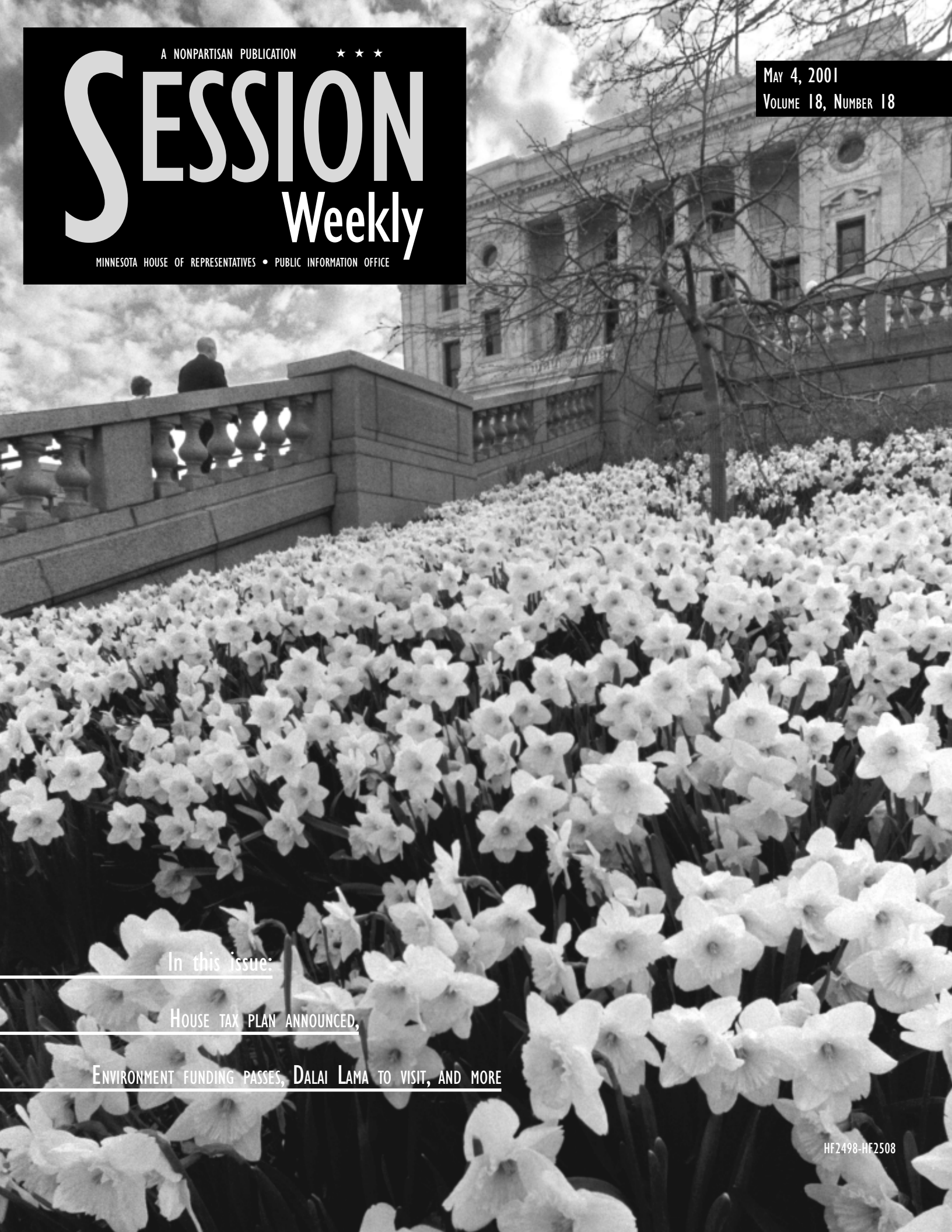
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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MAY 4, 2001

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 18

In this issue:

HOUSE TAX PLAN ANNOUNCED,

ENVIRONMENT FUNDING PASSES, DALAI LAMA TO VISIT, AND MORE

HF2498-HF2508



# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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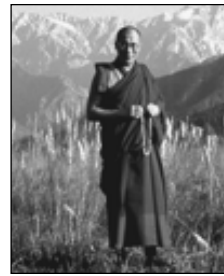
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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5  
Arts • 5  
Banking • 5  
Business • 6  
Children • 6  
Crime • 7

Education • 8  
Elections • 9  
Environment • 9  
Ethics • 9  
Family • 10  
Health • 10

Higher Education • 11  
Industry • 11  
Law • 11  
Recreation • 12  
Transportation • 13

### FEATURES

**At Issue:** Environment — The House passed an environment and natural resources finance measure that would provide \$746 million in funding, but cuts the budget for Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Office of Environmental Assistance. • 13

**People:** The Legislature will welcome the 14th Dalai Lama on his visit to the Twin Cities May 9, intended in part to raise money for the Tibetan Cultural Center. • 14

**Process:** Action in both the House and Senate will shift a bit toward conference committees in the coming weeks to work out the differences between bills. • 15

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Occupational outlook	4	Committee Schedule (May 7-11)	20
Governor's Desk (CH1-CH70)	17	Resources: Members of the	
50 states: Healthy prescription	19	House of Representatives	15
Bill Introductions		Resources: Legislative information	21
(HF2498-HF2508)	20	Reflections: Eagles	23
		Minnesota Index: Trawling time	24

On the cover: Daffodils bloom near the west wing of the Capitol, marking another fine spring day. The blooming of the flowers marks the unofficial beginning of spring for legislators and staff, and also means the end of the legislative session is fast approaching.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

# Keeping more coin

House tax plan reduces property tax rates for many residents, provides sales tax rebate, but no expansion to services

By DAVID MAEDA

**T**he House Taxes Committee approved a \$1.56 billion omnibus tax bill May 2 that members from both sides and officials from the Ventura administration agreed would provide major reforms to the state's property tax system.

HF2498, sponsored by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), incorporates Gov. Jesse Ventura's proposal to eliminate the state-determined general education levy while also establishing a statewide property tax on commercial industrial and seasonal recreational property.

But the bill does not include the governor's proposal to expand the state's sales tax to services.

Abrams said although HF2498 is admittedly a "Republican tax bill," he did his best to "listen to minority concerns, as well as the governor's."

"The challenge ahead of us is to be able to accommodate everybody's strong feelings and have a bill that is good for the state of Minnesota," he said.

At the core of the tax reform in the bill is a panoply of property tax changes.

Nearly all property classes would receive a rate reduction under the measure. On commercial industrial property valued up to \$150,000, the tax rate would be reduced from 2.4 percent to 1.5 percent. The rate on property valued at more than \$150,000 would see a reduction from 3.4 percent to 2.0 percent.

Homeowners too would see a property tax reduction in the bill. Currently the class rate for residential homestead property is 1 percent on the first \$76,000 and 1.65 percent on amounts greater than \$76,000. The bill would lower the tax rate to 1 percent on all residential homestead property.

In an attempt to address the state's lack of affordable housing the bill makes a major reduction in the tax rate on apartment property.

Currently the tax rate on rental property varies. For most properties the rate is 2.4 percent. For property in qualifying small



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**House Speaker Steve Sviggum announces the House tax plan during an April 30 news conference in the Rotunda.**

cities, the rate is 2.15 percent for buildings with four or more units and 1.65 percent for buildings with less than four units. The rate for qualifying low-income housing is 1 percent.

Existing apartment buildings with four or more units would receive a phased in tax reduction from 1.5 percent for 2002 taxes, to 1.25 percent for taxes payable in 2003, and 1 percent starting in 2004 and thereafter. Apartment buildings constructed after June 30, 2001 would be taxed immediately at the 1 percent rate.

According to an April 30 tax simulation report provided by the nonpartisan House Research staff, commercial industrial properties statewide would receive a 15.4 percent property tax cut in 2002. Residential homestead

properties would see a 18.2 percent decrease, while agricultural homestead property taxes would be reduced by 27.3 percent. The state rate for regular apartments would be cut by 33.1 percent.

Jack Horner, representing the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association, praised the rental rate reduction as a milestone in tax reform.

"This represents new attitudes and new ways of thinking about property taxes," he said. "It's essentially about fairness and treating people whether they are homeowners or tenants, the same."

Horner said rate reductions would encourage building of more apartment complexes and the additional supply of rental units would be "the best friend of renters."

Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield) disagreed, saying a rate reduction for apartment owners did not guarantee tenants would see any rent reductions.

He said the bill would establish three classes of taxpayers — those that own their own homes, those who own homes and additional property such as cabins or businesses, and those who own no property.

"This is dishing out huge benefits to people who own the most property," he said. "It is a good example of 'trickle down' economics."

Gleason offered an unsuccessful amendment that would have increased the property tax refund amount available for renters.

Among the bill's other major provisions is a repeal of the MinnesotaCare provider tax and the premium tax on nonprofit health plan companies. Under the proposal revenue sources of the state's health care program for low-income people would be replaced by dedicating tobacco settlement payments into the health care access fund.

Abrams told the House Ways and Means Committee May 2 that eliminating the provider tax would fulfill an "eight-year quest" of the House.

The bill would require health care providers to lower rates reflective of the savings resulting from the elimination of the taxes and document their compliance with the rate reduction requirement.

Currently the provider tax rate is set at 1.5 percent and is scheduled to increase to 2 percent starting Jan. 1, 2002 if no changes in the law take place.

Businesses would see a change to a couple



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith watches as members of the House Taxes Committee debate an amendment that would modify the education credit during the committee's May 2 hearing.

of longstanding tax laws.

Abrams said the last remaining accounting maneuver leftover from budget shortfalls in the past two decades would be remedied in the bill by repealing the June accelerated sales tax payment.

Under current law retailers with at least \$120,000 in annual sales tax collections must pay 62 percent of their estimated June sales tax liability two business days before June 30. In all other months they are required to pay the taxes by the 14th of the following month.

The June accelerated tax was established in the early 1980s when the state was facing budget shortfalls. The state fiscal years end each June, and in order to shift more money into the current fiscal year the payment from merchants was shifted.

The 2000 omnibus tax bill lessened some of the tax burden on state retailers by eliminating the accelerated payment requirement on excise taxes and reducing the percentage due on sales and use tax from 75 percent to 62 percent.

The cost of the shift would be around \$154 million during the biennium.

In an attempt to encourage businesses to maintain a base in Minnesota, the bill also would change the ratio of taxes paid by corporations. Most corporations now use a three-factor tax formula, based 75 percent on sales and 12.5 percent each on income and property. The new formula would be based 90 percent on sales in 2001 and 100 percent in 2004.

The bill also includes many additional income tax subtractions and expansion of existing credits.

Continued on page 19



## Occupational outlook

1939 report recommends aggressive campaign to draw more industries

Acknowledging a need to improve Minnesota's long-range economic situation, the state Senate formed a commission in 1937 to investigate economic trends. The commission returned two years later with a recommendation to the Legislature that it encourage more industries to make their home in Minnesota.

The Senate determined that agriculture, which supplied employment for one-third of Minnesota workers, could not support a greater proportion of the population. Therefore, "industries must be expanded and increased in Minnesota in order for the state to grow and develop," according to *Minnesota Industries: Its progress and development*, a report by the commission.

For analyzing industrial trends, the commission divided occupational employment into two groups: extractive and creative, and distributive and service.

The former includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, manufacturing, and the mechanical trades, then sometimes referred to as the "wealth-creating" group, the report states. The latter, dependent on the first group, includes transportation, trade, clerical, professional, public service, and domestic and personal service.

In 1930, about 53 percent of employed Minnesotans were in the extractive and creative group, while nearly 47 percent were in the distributive and service group. The commission concluded in the report that if the state "does not want to rely solely on increasing employment in the distributive and service groups, the place to look is in manufacturing, forestry, fishing, and mining."

Comparing the position of Minnesota's leading types of industries to the whole industry picture, the report revealed several trends at the time: that a great number of Minnesota industries were engaged in food and drink production with a national

market for their products and that meat packing had climbed to first position in production among other states in 1937, while flour milling, along with canning and preserving, had dropped in its ranking from previous years.

The four leading industrial counties at that time were Hennepin, Ramsey, St. Louis and Dakota. Leading cities were Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth and Winona.



Minnesota meat packing, such as that performed here at the Swift and Company plant in South St. Paul in 1937, had climbed to first in production among other states.

At a meeting of the Minnesota Resources Commission, the report says, industry representatives were requested to list the effect of certain factors on their industry. While "tax burdens" received high marks for being "excessive," few checked the "reasonable" box.

More favorably, the categories of "available power and fuel" and "basic raw material" also received an "excessive" rating. "Restrictive legislation" was deemed "unnecessary" by a majority.

Overall factors gathered by the industry representatives stated as "properly engaging the state's attention" include: transportation costs, labor conditions, and the development of new uses for the state's raw materials.

After evaluating industries in other states, the commission concluded that competition was getting stronger every year. Using data marking industrial trends, the commission submitted recommendations to the Legislature to study and report upon those factors with the wish that it would "result in the adoption of intelligent policies."

Attitude, the commission determined, is of utmost importance when attempting to create new employment for a healthy industrial environment.

Said the report, "Probably nothing could have greater effect upon our industrial future than a frank appreciation of what we have and an understanding of what we must do to attain our greatest possible development."

(T. STAHL)

★ **AGRICULTURE****Lien clarifications**

A measure clarifying agricultural liens was signed into law by Gov. Jesse Ventura April 30.

The House unanimously passed the bill, sponsored in that body by Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), April 24. The Senate did the same one day earlier.

Officials have called existing law concerning agricultural liens confusing and contradictory. Liens against crops and livestock can be of several types — the most important of which are liens to ferriers, livestock breeders, threshers, veterinarians, agricultural production inputs, landlords, and planting crop owners.

However, a problem with current lien law is that a number of these liens each make the claim of having a higher priority than all others have. The bill, which adopts recommendations made by the Agricultural Lien Task Force of the Business Law Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association, prioritizes the order priority of liens against crops and livestock to eliminate such confusion.

The law will also repeal a large portion of agricultural lien law and proposes coding for new language removing ambiguities and providing more uniform procedures recording liens.

Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

The law takes effect July 1, 2001.

HF285\*/SF339/CH57

★ **ARTS****Arts board gains funding**

The Minnesota State Arts Board has received a \$5 million boost from its original allocation of \$11 million less than the governor's recommendation.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), chair of the House State Government Finance Committee, first proposed \$15 million compared to Gov. Jesse Ventura's recommendation of \$26 million. In the final version of the committee's omnibus bill (HF218), sponsored by Krinkie, the arts board received just over \$16 million.

During the bill's April 27 hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Dan

McElroy (R-Burnsville) proposed an amendment to add \$5 million during the 2002-03 biennium to the arts board's grant program, for which Krinkie had allocated \$10 million less than the governor. The amendment was successful, bringing total allocations for the Arts board up to \$21 million.

HF218 had also initially moved the Management Analysis Division from the Department of Administration to the Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning, but an amendment moved the division back to the department.

The bill awaits action on the House floor.

**'Grace' stamp sought**

A resolution urging the United States Postal Service to create a postage stamp reproducing a famous photograph produced by a Minnesotan was signed April 26 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

In the photograph, an elderly man sits pensively with bowed head and folded hands at a table containing a pair of spectacles on top of a Bible, a bowl of gruel, a loaf of bread, and a knife.

Eric Enstrom shot the famous image in his studio in Bovey in 1918. As the black and white photograph entitled "Grace" became more

popular, Enstrom's daughter Rhoda Nyberg began hand painting the prints in oil.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), sponsor of the measure, said the print became so popular that Enstrom eventually sold the copyright to the Augsburg Publishing House.

The resolution was carried on behalf of a group of citizens in Grand Rapids and Bovey.

At a March 22 hearing of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee, Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said the painting is displayed in his grandparent's dining room, as well as his own. Seifert said when he saw the bill on the agenda, he was unaware that the name of the work was "Grace" and that the bill dealt with one of his favorite paintings.

The Senate sponsor was Sen. Bob Lessard (Ind-Int'l Falls).

HF1391\*/SF1318/R3

★ **BANKING****New financial institution provisions**

A new law sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) makes technical changes to laws regulating financial institutions.

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed the law April 30. McElroy carried HF1084 on behalf of the

**BIG BANG THEORY**

PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Keith Allison, a second lieutenant in the New Ulm Battery, in the number four position, fires an original 1856 six-pound field piece to celebrate the seventh annual "Freedom Day" on the front lawn of the Capitol May 1. Sergeant Wardell Lueck, right, takes the number one position.

Department of Commerce. The House passed the measure by a 134-0 vote; the Senate by a 63-0 vote.

Under current law, financial institutions may invest in property and buildings for its own use if the total value is less than 50 percent of its existing capital stock and surplus, without approval of the commissioner. The institution may increase that to 75 percent with approval of the commissioner. The law changes the 75 percent to 100 percent. This section is effective May 1, 2001.

Unstaffed after-hours drop boxes are no longer treated as separate branch offices of the bank, even if they are not within 1,500 feet of the main office or branch. This section is effective Aug. 1, 2001.

The law includes two provisions for state-chartered banks: they are no longer required to file stockholder lists annually with the commissioner; and those that do not have federal deposit insurance no longer must file stockholder lists annually with the county recorder. The first provision takes effect Aug. 1, 2001; the second became effective May 1.

Prior to the approval of the commissioner, banks or trust companies may now invest 50 percent, instead of 25 percent as it was formerly in law, of a bank's or trust company's stock or surplus in a subsidiary. The law also changes the definition of a subsidiary from 50 percent ownership to 20 percent ownership. This section is effective May 1.

Mortgage originators are now required to keep copies of advertisements they use for 26 months. Also, the time frame for a disclosure to a mortgage loan customer changes from 72 hours to three business days. The first provision becomes effective Aug. 1, 2001; the second is effective May 1, 2001.

The Senate version of the bill was sponsored by Sen. James Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul). HF1084\*/SF1066/CH56

## BUSINESS

### Halal provisions signed

A new law creating the same protection for food prepared according to Islamic law as currently exists for kosher foods was signed into law by Gov. Jesse Ventura April 30.

House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) sponsored the measure, which passed the House April 23 by a 132-1 vote. It was approved 61-0 by the Senate April 18.

After the law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001, it will be illegal to serve, sell, or expose for sale food falsely represented as Halal, or prepared in accordance with Islamic law, known as sharia. The bill's prohibitions are identical to the

provisions protecting the Jewish community from food falsely labeled or improperly prepared as kosher.

Matthew Ramadan, an Islamic authority known as an Imam, explained to the House Agriculture Committee in January that, "Halal is basically a word that means lawful, or legal." He said Muslims are required to humanely treat animals intended for human consumption.

For example, animals are not to be kept in a place where they can observe other livestock being slaughtered, butchers must insure animals not see the knife with which they are to be slain, and animal caretakers are required to provide water and other comforts for animals before slaughter.

Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF149\*/SF505/CH54

### MRS. MINNESOTA



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Woodbury resident Kelly Jahner-Byrne, Mrs. Minnesota 2001, sings the National Anthem at the beginning of the House session May 3.

### Auto dealer franchises

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a bill defining unfair trade practices by automobile manufacturers, distributors, or factories into law April 30.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) sponsored the measure, effective Aug. 1, 2001, to define as unfair the practice of refusing to allow a dealer to transfer a dealership to a qualified transferee of the dealer's own choosing.

The House passed the bill 132-0 on April 19, and the Senate passed it April 26 by a 63-0 vote.

McElroy told the House, "Under current law, manufacturers can exercise a first right of refusal and essentially take away a transaction from a willing buyer and a willing seller."

The new law will allow manufacturers to prohibit the sale of a dealership if the transferee is not a person of good moral character or doesn't meet the franchisor's existing standards. Dealers could not exercise their right to refuse a deal if the ownership transfer were proposed among family members or involved a dealership manager with at least four years experience.

Under the new law, denials of requests to transfer ownership must be delivered to the dealer within 60 days after the manufacturer receives an application requesting an ownership transfer. Existing law gives 60 days after the manufacturer receives all information it needs to evaluate the transferee.

Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF779\*/SF823/CH62

## CHILDREN



### Funding level controversy

The House approved the family and early childhood education finance bill (HF1515) May 3 on a close 69-64 vote.

Most criticism leveled against the \$544 million bill focused on what opponents said was missing — money. Repeatedly, lawmakers expressed their dismay that children's issues were underfunded.

"We have to have better targets," said Rep. Greg Gray (DFL-Mpls). "If we really believe we can make a difference in kids' lives, we have to stop talking about it and do something about it."

The target budget, which was established by the House Ways and Means Committee, was the same as the base appropriation recommended by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), the bill's sponsor, said the committee tried to preserve what was working, provide for unmet needs, and meet



the challenge of staying within budget.

Children and family support services make up almost 70 percent of the bill's budget. This includes early childhood education, such as Head Start and School Readiness, as well as childcare programs.

In one of the bill's more controversial proposals, 15 percent of the Head Start allocation would be taken away to provide grants for innovative early childhood programs. Gray offered an amendment that would put that money back into Head Start.

"To siphon money from Head Start for nebulous programs when we have money available is unwise," Gray said.

"Throughout the state there are great disparities in the availability of early childhood programs," Sykora said. "We're trying to allow unserved areas to be served."

Gray's amendment failed on a 66-66 vote.

Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood) proposed an amendment that would have bolstered Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) in 2004-05 by \$20 million.

Much of the discussion on her amendment focused on policy questions inherent in making budgetary commitments in advance.

"This amendment might be good politics, it is not good policy," said Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall).

"These are value choices that are very difficult," said Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester). "We have a zero sum game, we have to balance the budget."

Slawik's amendment failed 67-65.

Other concerns with the bill centered on the distribution and focus of after-school programs and the bill's approach to funding childcare programs.

"This is a woefully inadequate budget," said Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights). "If we do not invest early, we will pay for it later on. This bill does not reflect the priorities that we as a society, we as a state, should make."

Minnesota is ranked as the best place in the country to raise kids, according to Sykora. "We have a lot to be proud of. We have a balanced bill. With no new dollars available, we were creative with what we had."

The House Ways and Means Committee approved the bill May 1. It also approved an amendment, sponsored by Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), to reduce fraud in the childcare system.

That measure would redirect childcare payments from parents directly to providers. It is estimated to cost about \$20,000 annually.

"It's time this state takes a stand and says it's not going to condone fraud anymore in the system," Haas said.

He said in the current system, some counties pay parents directly, and they are expected to pay the childcare providers. Fraud investigators told the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee earlier this session that there is a problem with some parents saying they've paid the provider, while the provider says they have not been paid.

"We don't know how much of this there might be in the system," Sykora said. "We want to be sure there's integrity in the system."

She said fraud investigators typically find about 10 percent fraud in welfare, but she did not believe it would prove to be that high in childcare.

"So we're saying we're not going to trust parents," Solberg said. He said he thought teaching people how to budget their money was one way to help them get off welfare.

The bill awaits action in the Senate.

## ★ CRIME

### House passes judiciary measure

The House passed a significantly longer judiciary finance bill April 30 — it expanded from about 120 to 320 pages after a stop in the House Ways and Means Committee — but the bottom line is still the same.

The bill, which passed by a 107-21 vote, would allocate about \$1.3 billion to various criminal justice agencies in the state.

But it also contains several hefty policy procedures.

The measure would create a felony drunken driving penalty for people with four convictions within 10 years, it would provide continued funding for the CriMNet integrated statewide criminal justice information system, and the bill would require the state to develop a model anti-racial profiling policy. It also includes funding to train officers regarding racial profiling and to initiate a public information campaign about how to file a complaint.

"It helps cops on the street enforce the law and enhance public safety," said Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), sponsor of HF351 and chair of the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

According to House budget targets, the bill is about \$33 million below the governor's recommendations for these programs.

Several items were added to the bill since it left Stanek's committee, including tougher provisions for dangerous animals, changes to the domestic violence shelter per diem allocations, and civil family law provisions. Meanwhile others were removed, such as requirements that health professionals report suspicious "wounds" from substance abuse or alcohol-related accidents to law enforcement.

The bill would provide salary and benefit increases for court employees and public defenders, would support the per diem reduction plan begun by the Department of Corrections, would provide \$27 million for the CriMNet program begun through a law during the 1999-2000 biennium, and would make several technical changes to drunken driving law provisions.

Racial profiling provisions would require the state to establish a model policy for law enforcement to use, and the bill would allocate \$400,000 for training. Another \$100,000 is included in the bill for the public relations campaign.

The bill would not require mandatory reporting of data or gathering officers' badge numbers. What it would mandate is that all agencies report their number of complaints to the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer

### SPECIAL REQUEST



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

**Gloria Nihart from Stewartville brought her sign with a message and a picture of her son, who experiences delays in his cognitive abilities, to the steps of the Capitol May 3 to show support for continued special education funding.**

Standards and Training and the disposition of those complaints.

Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls) proposed an amendment that would have required the law enforcement agencies in the state to collect data regarding the race/ethnicity and gender of drivers in traffic stops, the reason for the stop, whether the officer knew the race/ethnicity of the driver prior to the stop, and the law enforcement agencies' codes.

Gray's original bill also would have required that officers' badge numbers be recorded on reports. That provision was not part of his amendment, however.

During debate, Gray claimed that, while Stanek's anti-racial profiling proposal was admirable, it would not result in reducing or eliminating cases.

The amendment failed by a 52-78 vote.

In addition, Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) proposed an amendment that would have reduced the blood alcohol concentration for drunken driving offenders from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent. Though many members stood to support the amendment, including Stanek, they also said it wasn't the appropriate venue for the measure.

Stanek successfully amended the 0.08 standard to another bill in his committee April 25. That bill awaits action in the House Ways and Means Committee.

The judiciary finance bill, as passed by the House, also includes tougher standards for dangerous dogs, requiring them to be destroyed in certain circumstances. The bill would also allocate \$3.1 million to the Minnesota Center for Crime Victims Services in the Department of Public Safety to reimburse domestic abuse shelters for their per diem costs. The shelters are predicted to have a \$6.5 million shortfall by the end of 2002.

The bill now awaits action in the Senate.

## ★ EDUCATION

### Crosswinds granted funds to finish

This fall, students at Crosswinds magnet school might get new desks and lighting fixtures in their newly completed building.

An amendment to allocate \$1.7 million to finish completing the new St. Paul magnet school scheduled to open this fall was one of several amendments incorporated into the House K-12 Education Finance omnibus bill (HF82) during its May 1 hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee.

The bill, which would allocate a total of \$8.7 billion over the 2002-03 biennium for education in Minnesota, is sponsored by Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington).

The Crosswinds school was funded in the 2000 bonding bill at less than its request. If the school does not receive the additional funding in this non-bonding year, other options include private funding or short-term borrowing.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) sponsored the amendment. "I don't think it's good public policy to have a school building completed, programs ready to go, children ready to move into the building, and have it not be habitable," he said.

The appropriation would be subtracted from the base budget of the Department of Children, Families and Learning, specifically money set aside for consultants, McElroy said.

Rose Hermodson, assistant commissioner of government relations at the department, said the loss of funds would "significantly impact" the department. She said they are still trying to recover from cuts in previous years, as well as prepare for additional responsibilities proposed in the bill that would be assigned without any fiscal appropriations.

The committee also adopted an amendment by Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover) that provides a definition of a high-performance, environmentally sustainable school. She sponsored a bill (HF1534) earlier this session that would have allocated \$500,000 for two pilot projects for such schools to explore "great possibilities, especially in the energy-savings area," she said.

Through the amendment, she hopes that schools built in the future and those that are renovated use the goals listed in the

definition to "reduce the long-term life-cycle building costs of schools; reduce the energy costs of schools; (and) improve the indoor air quality of schools."

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) offered an amendment that says school districts may develop curricula that introduces students to various careers, but "must not require any curriculum, instruction, or employment-related activity that obligates an elementary or secondary student to involuntarily select a career, career interest, employment goals, or related job training."

"We shouldn't be dictating careers to young people at an early age, but we certainly should be offering career choices to young people," Dawkins said.

The amendment was adopted.

The bill now moves to the House floor.

### Deadline moved up

The deadline for submitting applications for temporary teaching licenses has been bumped up from Aug. 1 to July 1, under a new law signed May 2 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) sponsored the law in the House, which passed the measure by a 127-0 vote.

The earlier date will give the Board of Teaching, which reviews the applications, additional time before the school year begins. It will also provide additional time for the Department of Children, Families and Learning to process the licenses.

### PETITION DRIVE



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Petitions containing 11,000 signatures from around the state are released from the second floor of the Rotunda May 1 by members of the grass roots lobbying group Our Kids Our Schools. The petitions encouraged legislators to increase K-12 funding by \$400 per student.

The new date in law also applies to accepting applications for personnel variances. Furthermore, the law instructs the Board of Teaching to amend its rules to conform with the July 1 date.

The law is effective for the 2001-02 school year and later.

Sen. Leo Foley (DFL-Coon Rapids) sponsored the bill in the Senate, which passed it by a 61-0 vote.

HF1192\*/SF1979/CH68

## ELECTIONS

### Redistricting principles pass

The House approved a resolution May 1 that would establish the principles by which any House redistricting proposal must be drawn.

The resolution passed on a straight party line vote of 69-64.

Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), the chair of the House Redistricting Committee and House sponsor of HF2488/SF1326\*, said the proposal reflects what the committee learned during its process. The Senate approved the bill April 19.

Paulsen said the House committee had a "much more deliberate approach" than its Senate counterpart, including 14 hearings, with several in Greater Minnesota. The committee took testimony on rural concerns and issues of different minority populations in the state.

The concurrent resolution, he said, is a different approach than was used in 1990 and would allow the governor to sign off on the principles.

In an April 26 hearing of the resolution, the Redistricting Committee adopted a delete-all amendment to the Senate bill that modifies some of the criteria.

Both versions of the bill provide that legislative districts must be substantially equal in population. The Senate version would permit a deviation of 2 percent between districts. The House version would limit the population differences to 0.75 percent.

The House language also specifies that the ideal population of a House district would be 36,713 with the ideal Senate district being 73,425. The House bill specifies the ideal population for a congressional district to be 614,935. The Senate bill does not state ideal population figures.

Several unsuccessful amendments were offered on the floor by DFL members that would have reinstated the Senate language into the bill.

Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr. (DFL-Winona) offered an amendment that would have restored

the Senate's 2 percent deviation figure. He said there already are cases where there is a known undercount and the larger deviation number would allow a redistricting plan to correct obvious errors in the census count.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said redistricting plans should stick to the census figures as much as possible and that allowing greater deviations would open the process up to "mischief making."

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) said case law allows states a deviation range of up to 10 percent. He said a greater concern is not to "carve up" communities and neighborhoods "for the sake of a neat mathematical deviation."

Before the final vote Pelowski said Paulsen should be praised for conducting a "fair and forthright" redistricting process but that the bill was a "partisan document."

"There's not a line in this resolution we (DFL members) can say is part of what we did," Pelowski said.

Paulsen responded the resolution would help ensure that redistricting proposals are based on the "one person one vote" principle.

"This resolution gets us closer to a fair plan for all of Minnesota."

The bill now returns to the Senate for review and possible re-passage.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Mercury thermometers restricted

The sale or free distribution of mercury thermometers manufactured after June 1, 2001 will be banned beginning in 2002, following Gov. Jesse Ventura's signature of a new law April 26.

The measure, sponsored in the House by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), said exceptions will be made for a few situations in which the U.S. Department of Agriculture requires the use of mercury thermometers, in specified climate control systems, and in cases where mercury thermometers are used to calibrate other thermometers.

For most uses, accurate alternatives to mercury thermometers are readily available.

Mercury is very toxic, and widespread environmental contamination can occur from a miniscule amount of the substance. According to experts, the amount of mercury in a household medical thermometer, about .75 to 1 gram, is enough to prompt officials to call a fish advisory on a lake.

Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

The law will take effect Jan. 1, 2002.

HF274\*/SF70/CH47

## ETHICS

### Complaint considered

An ethics complaint filed against a House member must have its probable cause hearing by May 15. That was the word from the House Ethics Committee at its April 27 meeting.

Four members filed an 11-count complaint against Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) regarding his leasing of two buildings to a charter school for a rate more than \$23,000 per month.

"Representative Abeler has, on numerous occasions, taken actions on items as a public official, whereby Charter School Building Lease Aid has been increased," the complaint states. Abeler is a member of the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.

Signing the complaint were Reps. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls), Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), and House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul).

It says Abeler voted five times in favor of providing increased building lease aid to the school, to pay off its lease with the lessor, which in this case he was. The complaint says Abeler "betrayed the public trust" and violated "accepted norms of House behavior" for failing to disclose he had "an immediate interest in a question before the body."

Abeler did not attend the meeting.

Most of the discussion among committee members centered on the process to be followed now that the complaint has been filed.

The next process will begin with a probable cause hearing, which must occur within 21 days of the receipt of the complaint by the committee chair, Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee). She received the complaint April 24.

At that hearing, if a majority of the four committee members "fails to find the facts more probably true than not" the complaint is dismissed. If that does not occur, a hearing to take and evaluate the evidence and make a final determination will occur.

Daggett plans to give each side equal time to give their presentation and respond to questions. "We want to be fair and thorough," she said.

After the hearing, Daggett was asked if this process would be complete by the time the House must adjourn May 21. "My goal is to have the meetings and cover all of the issues and when it gets done, it gets done," she said. There is no timeline to complete the process.

Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) recommended the committee find someone with knowledge of conflict of interest laws, such as an ex-judge, to aid in the process.

"I'd like to know what a legal conflict is," he

said. "We need clarification." He rhetorically asked if it's wrong to have farmers voting on agricultural finance issues or lawyers voting for judiciary finance measures.

The committee was to submit a list of names to Daggett for consideration. "If I were Rep. Abeler, I'd want the committee to be fully knowledgeable," said Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), a committee alternate.

## FAMILY



### Clarification signed

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law April 26 that would make terminology changes to existing marriage dissolution law statutes.

Sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), the measure will replace "custodial parent" with the terms "parent," "obligee," or "parent with whom the child resides." It also replaces "noncustodial parent" with either the first two terms or "parent with whom the child does not reside."

Part of an overall effort to streamline and simplify certain civil portions of law, the changes are intended to make the process easier to understand, officials say.

The changes are effective Aug. 1, 2001.

The House passed the bill by a vote of 126-1 on April 17. It passed the Senate 57-0 April 20. The Senate version was sponsored by Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester).

HF1260\*/SF1332/CH51

## HEALTH



### Medical review change

On April 26, Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law that will change the frequency with which physicians must review the prescribing activities of physician assistants.

Previously, state law has required that physicians review all prescribing, dispensing, and administering of drugs and medical devices done by delegated physician assistants on a daily basis. The new law will change the frequency to weekly.

According to the measure, sponsored in the House by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), the physician and physician assistant must have a written agreement spelling out the process and schedule for the review.

The bill passed 133-0 in the House April 2 and 56-0 in the Senate April 20.

Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

The new law will take effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1160\*/SF1127/CH49

## BIG, BAD BAND



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

House members were treated to music from "Ruth Adams' World's Most Dangerous Polka Band" during a session recess May 2. The band was on hand to kick off National Older American Month.

## Ventura issues first 2001 veto

The first red mark of the session from Gov. Jesse Ventura came April 30 when he vetoed a bill regarding the Edvest program.

The program allows accounts to be created for a designated beneficiary who will attend college in the future. Families with \$80,000 or less in income are eligible to receive back up to 15 percent (maximum \$300) of their annual contribution in the form of a state grant.

Sponsored by Rep. Rob Eastlund (R-Isanti), HF550 would have extended the time for adopting rules for the Edvest savings program by nine months. The program cannot begin operation until the rules are adopted.

The bill was originally passed by the House March 19, and was re-passed April 24 after consideration of a Senate amendment that would have excluded assets in the fund from the state's general fund thereby making them not subject to state appropriation. The bill was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato). The Senate approved the bill April 20.

The original 18-month provision for beginning the program expired in 1999 as officials from the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office were working on aspects of the program and overlooked the

time enactment clause.

"I want to emphasize that my veto relates to the process, not the policy," Ventura wrote in his veto letter to House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon). "I do support the implementation of the Edvest program and its excellent goal of encouraging and supporting saving for higher education. However, I believe the program should begin as soon as possible. Rather than extending rule-making authority for up to nine months, I encourage the Legislature to take the steps necessary for immediate implementation prior to the adjournment of this year's legislative session."

Ventura expressed concern that annual appropriations of \$1.5 million to the general fund have been cancelled for three years, and there are no assurances this year's appropriation will be used.

"I appreciate and share the Legislature's support for this program, and encourage expedited legislative action so this savings plan can begin this spring," Ventura wrote.

In early February, Eastlund said that more than 2,000 people had already expressed an interest in the program. Officials anticipate the first appropriations will be made next year for people who enroll in the program by the end of 2001.

HF550\*/SF954/CH58

## ★ HIGHER EDUCATION

### Spending bill passes

The full House passed an amended higher education finance bill April 30.

By a 68-60 vote, the bill (HF2489/SF2343\*), sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), was passed. The House voted to include the House language in the Senate file, which was sponsored by Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan).

The House bill calls for \$2.83 billion in spending, including \$1.27 billion to the University of Minnesota and \$1.24 billion to Minnesota State Colleges and Universities for the 2002-03 biennium. New spending totals \$165 million with \$93.9 million for MnSCU and nearly \$64 million for the U of M.

Additionally, the bill calls for the university to receive \$23.1 million for the Academic Health Center.

House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) refuted the idea raised by some DFLers that this bill cut money. "The amount of money (in this bill) for new higher education spending is 6 percent overall and 7 percent for MnSCU and the university. It's not exactly chump change."

When approved by the Senate April 26, the bill called for \$283 million in new funding, including \$138 million for the university and \$130 million for MnSCU. The bill is headed for a conference committee to work out the differences.

In addition to Leppik's amendment, seven others were offered on the bill, with four receiving approval.

They included a model for how MnSCU must distribute its appropriations, a plan to distribute excess MnSCU reserves to the campuses, a plan to give unused money from the Edvest state grant program to MnSCU and the U of M in fiscal year 2001, and statutory language regarding Edvest.

Edvest allows families to invest money now for a person who will attend college in the future.

Amendments to expand the nursing program at North Hennepin Community College, renegotiate reciprocity agreements so no non-Minnesota student pays a lower tuition rate than a state student at a Minnesota school, and require the chairs of higher education finance committees to report on progress being made to improve the access and delivery of higher education were also offered but failed.

Although no amendment was offered to remove tobacco money from the bill, it was a bone of contention among those on different sides of the aisle.

The bill calls for approximately \$23 million

from the earnings on investments of the two endowments established with state funds from the state tobacco settlement. That money goes to the university's Academic Health Center.

"They say that politics makes strange bedfellows," said Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth). "This bill shows the Republican House caucus is in bed with the tobacco industry."

He said that House Republicans are forcing members to "choose between stopping youth from smoking and a great medical school in the Twin Cities. We can't have both."

Pawlenty took offense at Huntley's comments.

"The notion that this was somehow driven by tobacco interests is bunk," he said. "This decision had nothing to do with tobacco interests and all to do with rebuilding and stabilizing the medical infrastructure in the state."

## ★ INDUSTRY

### Gas station franchisee rights

The sunset date for a provision that allows gas station owners additional rights to the land they occupy is extended, under a new law signed April 26 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Under the laws effective immediately, the expiration date of May 5, 2001, is now July 1, 2002. The measure, passed in the House by a 131-0 vote, was sponsored by Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin).

Last year was the first time franchisors were required to give franchisees an opportunity to purchase their stations.

Often, gas stations are operated by franchisees who lease, rather than own, their locations, and the law passed in 2000 required that before the franchisor who owned the property could sell it to a new franchisor, the operator of the station had to be given an opportunity to purchase it.

The law continues to provide a sunset date instead of incorporating the provision into permanent law due to controversy between franchisors and franchisees over the amount of flexibility each can retain.

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) carried the legislation in the Senate, which passed the measure 57-0.

HF323\*/SF914/CH48

## ★ LAW

### Real estate clarification

A provision intended to, in the words of Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo), "make more sensible, service-oriented, fair, and understandable" a provision of real estate law was signed into law April 26 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Lipman, the sponsor of the measure in the House, explained to the House Civil Law Committee in February that there are two systems regulating real estate title law: abstract, in which a private third party, such as a

## DAY OF PRAYER



PHOTO BY SARA KIRK

Sara Renner, from left, Kangza Kong, Jodie Sellers, and Dan Adler, all from Heart of the Cities worship band, participate in the National Day of Prayer on the lawn of the Capitol May 3.



lawyer, makes determinations regarding the chain of real estate ownership over several sales and Torrens law, in which a government agent makes those determinations.

According to Lipman, the bill "streamlines" the Torrens system by allowing single owners of multiple tracks of land, such as a housing developer, to file a single declaration creating covenants, conditions, and easements. Under existing law, owners of multiple properties must file separately for each particular property.

Rick Little, Hennepin County deputy examiner of titles, told the committee that registrars will lose revenue but will experience a decrease in workload.

"They're happy with that," he said. He predicted the bill would be "very well-received in the real estate community."

The bill, which was unanimously approved in the House March 5, also clarifies the Attorney General's responsibility in cases in which the state is the defendant in Torrens law matters. In the future, the Attorney General may either choose to represent the state or may refer a case to a county attorney. Currently, the Attorney General must refer such cases.

The Senate version was sponsored by Sen. Thomas Neuville (R-Northfield). The Senate passed the measure unanimously April 20.

The bill is effective April 27, 2001 but preserves actions pending on that date or started before Feb. 1, 2002.

HF239\*/SF170/CH50

## ★ RECREATION

### New horse track law

A new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura April 30 will ease employment restrictions at the state's horse racing track.

Under previous law, people seeking employment in horse racing where pari-mutuel betting was allowed had to obtain a class C license. Those that had been convicted of a felony were prohibited from obtaining the license.

The new law modifies that restriction to those who have a felony of record.

Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), who sponsored HF995, said the restriction prohibited those who were convicted of a felony but later had the conviction overturned on appeal, or those who completed their sentence, from working at the track.

Another provision of the new law increases the legal amount of an anti-inflammatory drug that a test blood sample from a horse can be allowed to have under the medication rules of the state's racing commission.

The law allows 5 micrograms per milliliter

of blood as the maximum level for drugs such as phenylbutazone. That particular drug is commonly used to treat laminitis, a chronic foot ailment among horses. The previous law allowed 3 micrograms.

The bill passed the House by a 120-12 count April 18 and the Senate April 25 by a 58-5 margin.

Sen. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) was the Senate sponsor.

The new law is effective May 1, 2001.

HF995\*/SF1214/CH59

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### Spending bill passed

After hearing the fewest proposed amendments to a finance bill this session, the House passed the omnibus transportation finance bill May 2 by a 68-65 vote.

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska), chair of the House Transportation Finance Committee, sponsored the House version of the bill, HF2189/SF2340\*. The House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee voted to include the House language in the Senate file, which was sponsored by Sen. Dean Johnson (DFL-Willmar).

Lawmakers amended into the bill a provision requiring the Department of Transportation to turn off interior lights in parts of its headquarters in St. Paul when no one is working. Exceptions are made for energy efficiency, security, or safety reasons.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) proposed the amendment, telling the House that he has noticed the building often has lights on late at night and on holidays when very few, if any, people are still working.

"Turn off the lights," he said.

The bill reached the floor after the House version passed the House Ways and Means Committee April 26.

In that committee, Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) successfully sponsored an amendment to delete possibly the most contentious provision of the bill that would have created "Choose Life" license plates and distributed money to organizations purporting to assist pregnant women who promise to offer their children for adoption.

The bill passed the floor only after extended criticism from DFL members, who characterized it as shortsighted and internally inconsistent.

House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) described it as a "cul-du-sac" for transportation funding. "This goes back to the 50s and 60s for transportation policy in this state," he said.

Members were especially critical of a plan within the bill that would create special taxing districts to fund light-rail project operating costs. "We need a fair way, not a punitive way, to pay for LRT operating expenses," said Rep. Dan Larson (DFL-Bloomington).

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) pointed out that the bill failed to offer funds for expanding transit services in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. She said the Metropolitan Council "met and exceeded our goals" for expanding service, but that "now we're cutting their funding."

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) said Republicans were "putting all their eggs in the tax cut basket" at the expense of Greater Minnesota transit. He said a transit system in his district would be put at risk by the funding, which amounted to only one-fourth of the needed funds.

Molnau answered that a proposed constitutional amendment would guarantee an additional \$165 million per year for transportation funding. She said DFL members had failed to take the opportunity to constitutionally dedicate funds while they held the majority in both the House and Senate.

"We've done that," she said.

### Handlebar height unrestricted

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law April 30 that repeals a section of state law regarding motorcycles.

The law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), removes from law a provision that made it illegal to operate a motorcycle with handlebars extending above the operator's shoulders when the operator is seated with both feet on the ground.

That measure passed the House April 5 by a 126-4 vote. It passed the Senate 59-4 April 25.

Workman told the House that the motorcycling community endorsed the repeal, and predicted there would be no negative impact resulting from the change.

Sen. Grace Schwab (R-Albert Lea) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

The provision is effective Aug. 1, 2001

HF1383\*/SF1598/CH60

**To find out who represents you  
at the Capitol . . .**

**Call the House Public Information  
Office at (651) 296-2146  
or 1-800-657-3550**

## Taking a hit

Environment and natural resources finance bill passes the House with less funding for PCA, dismantling of OEA

By MARY KAY WATSON

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA) seemed to be the loser in the budget battle May 1 as the House considered an Environment and Natural Resources finance bill that would allocate to the agency \$12 million less than Gov. Jesse Ventura recommended and eliminate 93 jobs, 70 of those due to inflation and federal funding cuts.

"The PCA is in a transition period," said Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee and sponsor of the bill (HF766/SF2351\*). "It will not be able to complete the transition until the way it is funded is changed." A study of the PCA's funding mechanisms is included in the omnibus bill.

The House passed the bill on a vote of 102-31. The Senate passed its version of the bill, which was sponsored by Sen. Leonard Price (DFL-Woodbury), with a substantially larger spending target, April 26.

The bill will now move to conference committee to iron out the differences between the two versions of the bill.

The two-year, \$746 million funding package, of which \$349 million is general fund money, would be spread over a number of agencies, including the Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

"I wish this bill was as good for air and water as it is for hunting and fishing," said Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls). "It's way unbalanced."

Holsten disagreed vehemently, citing several projects included in the bill: the restoration

of clean water partnerships, county cost share grants, funding for the Minnesota River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and the \$7 million clean-up of the Pig's Eye dump in St. Paul.

"We put the available dollars in the field — on the water," he said.

Another sore point in the bill was the provision dismantling the Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA) after 2002, with its duties delegated to several other agencies, including the PCA.

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) offered an amendment that would retain the agency. "This agency is a major actor in the state's efforts to reduce and recycle," Hausman said. "Unlike the PCA, no one is accusing the OEA of being in disarray."

Holsten said eliminating the office would "help reduce waste by eliminating the duplication among agencies."

Hausman's amendment failed.

Funding for research into deformed frogs would also be discontinued in the environment bill. Minnesota led the way in the mid-1990s by beginning to study the curiously deformed frogs found in a southern Minnesota stream.

An amendment offered by Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) would have funded the frog research program, moving it to the division of ecological services in the DNR.

"Frogs are an indicator species," Wagenius said. "There is something fundamentally wrong out there, we need to find out what it is."

Holsten said research into frog deformities

should be led by federal, not state, agencies. "It's about priorities," he said. The amendment was narrowly defeated.

On April 27, the House Ways and Means Committee expunged a proposal from the bill that would have transferred a piece of property from Hennepin County to Eden Prairie for \$1 to use as a park. Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) sponsored an amendment that would effectively keep the property, known as Birch Island Woods, as open space. Workman's amendment was approved.

The Ways and Means Committee also removed from the bill a plan that would give a citizen advisory committee more say in allocating the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Members of that committee challenged Holsten and Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee, for their plan to shift the responsibility for choosing environmental projects from the Legislature to a citizens' group.

"Turning responsibility over to a citizen committee is the same as throwing the whole thing out the window," said Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina).

Ozment said Minnesota is one of the few states where the Legislature controls a citizen trust fund. "This plan is consistent with the Environmental Trust Fund's purpose at its establishment," he said.

Currently, a citizens' committee comprised of 11 members appointed by the governor acts in an advisory capacity to the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) in determining how trust fund money (about \$49 million for 2002-03) is to be allocated.

Ozment revised the rejected plan and offered it to the House as an amendment to the finance bill. The plan would confer on the

Continued on page 19



The House passed its omnibus environment and natural resources finance bill May 1, including funding for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program along the Minnesota River, pictured above.

PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

# Hello Dalai!

Tibetan spiritual and political leader is scheduled to address the House and Senate May 9

By DAVID MAEDA

**W**ith committee deadlines come and gone and much of the legislative activity now devoted to long hours of floor debate on various omnibus bills, lawmakers have barely had time to exhale.

But on May 9, partisan debate and marathon sessions will give way to a breath of fresh air with a visit from one of the world's most esteemed leaders.

As part of his visit to the Twin Cities, the Dalai Lama will deliver a joint address to the House and Senate.

Along with sharing his message of compassion and respect for human rights, the exiled Tibetan spiritual and political leader's — and

Lamas are manifestations of the Buddha of compassion known as Bodhisattva.

According to reference materials, the process of discovering the rebirth of a reincarnated lama can be elaborate and exacting, particularly in the selection of a Dalai Lama, which has many political implications.

The rebirth may take place at any time, from days to years, following the death of the previous lama. The state oracle at Nechung is consulted for the whereabouts of the newly born Dalai Lama. Remarks made by the Dalai Lama before his death are frequently accepted as indications of a favored place for rebirth, as are any unusual signs that are observed during his death or during a birth thereafter.

Often two or more candidates are subjected to a critical physical and mental examination, which includes recognition of personal belongings handled by the previous lama. In case of doubt, lots may be drawn.

After selection, the young child is given extensive monastic training from an early age. During the years of search for and education of a newly incarnated lama, a regent is ap-

pointed to rule in his stead.

Dhondrub, the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, was renamed Jetsun Jamphel Ngawang Lobsang Yeshe Tenzin Gyatso, which translated, means "Holy Lord, Gentle Glory, Compassionate, Defender of the Faith, Ocean of Wisdom."

Buddhism has a long tradition of being the state religion of Tibet, dating back to the second century and being perpetuated by many of the historical leaders of the country.

The current Dalai Lama became the political leader of Tibet at age 16. After a Chinese

invasion and his ensuing escape and exile to India in 1959, he has governed and taught 125,000 Tibetan refugees leading them in the ancient Buddhist rituals.

Since 1967 he has visited 46 different countries with his first visit to the west in 1973.

Christine Sasseville, the Legislative Coordinating Commission's international affairs coordinator, said she was contacted in June 1999 by the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans about a potential visit from the religious leader.

Sasseville said it took about a year for the legislative leaders to give approval. Due to his worldwide popularity, the Dalai Lama's schedule is booked a year in advance.

Since getting approval, a committee has met on a regular basis to plan out the details of the visit. Sasseville said the Dalai Lama's people have been "very gracious" and have stressed he is "a simple Buddhist monk."

The theme of the visit to Minnesota is "Compassion and Peace in a New Century."

Sasseville said each member from the House and Senate received a ticket to invite one guest and response has been tremendous. She said news of his visit has generated "lots of excitement" and many inquisitive phone calls.

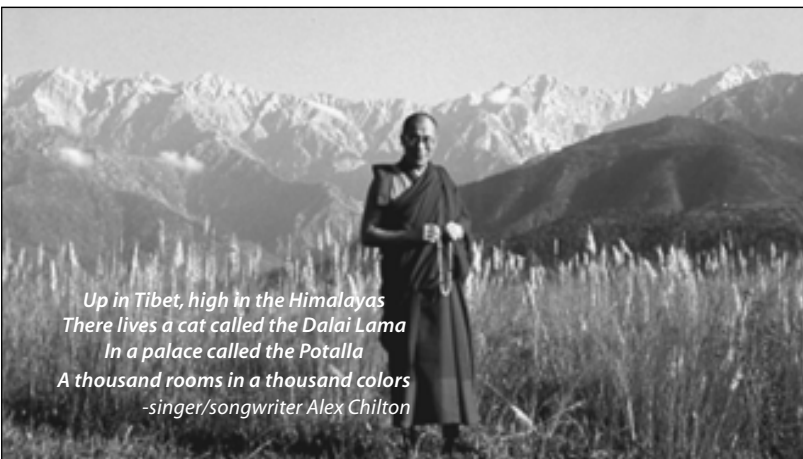
This will be the Dalai Lama's second appearance before a state legislature. In 1998 he delivered an address to the Wisconsin State Assembly in Madison.

In that speech he referred to himself as "another human being like anybody else."

He went on to deliver a message about compassion and achieving happiness through inner peace.

"Spirituality does not necessarily mean religious faith. But spirituality rather means the day-to-day practice of the basic messages of various religious traditions that manifests in the good qualities of a human being like a good heart, a compassionate heart, a sense of caring for others, a sense of commitment, patience, tolerance and contentment," he said.

In its decision to award the Dalai Lama its 1989 Peace Prize, the Nobel Commission's citation read, "The Committee wants to emphasize the fact that the Dalai Lama in his struggle for the liberation of Tibet consistently has opposed the use of violence. He has instead advocated peaceful solutions based upon tolerance and mutual respect in order to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of his people." 🙏



*Up in Tibet, high in the Himalayas  
There lives a cat called the Dalai Lama  
In a palace called the Potalla  
A thousand rooms in a thousand colors  
—singer/songwriter Alex Chilton*

PHOTO FROM THE WEB SITE [HTTP://WWW.DALAILAMA.COM/HTML/CONTENTS.HTML](http://WWW.DALAILAMA.COM/HTML/CONTENTS.HTML).

**His holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama will address the Legislature May 9 as part of a visit to the Twin Cities. The visit is intended, in part, to raise money for the Tibetan Cultural Center. For more information on his visit, see [www.DalaiLamaMinnesota.org](http://www.DalaiLamaMinnesota.org).**

1989 Nobel Peace Prize winner's — visit in part is intended to help raise money for a Tibetan Cultural Center of the Twin Cities.

The Twin Cities metropolitan area is currently home to North America's second largest Tibetan population, with approximately 900 Tibetans living in the area. Only New York City has a larger population.

Born July 6, 1935 as Lhamo Dhondrub, the Dalai Lama was recognized by the state oracle at age two as the reincarnation of the 13<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama. According to Buddhist beliefs the Dalai

# Master mergers

Major pieces of legislation will now move to the next step in legislative deliberation: the conference committee

BY JONAS M. WALKER

**A**fter much research, lobbying, drafting and redrafting legislation, and a path through committees reminiscent of Odysseus' journey home, a passing vote in the House can seem like a triumphant entry into paradise for a bill's sponsors and supporters.

Likewise, fervent opponents beat their breasts, decrying the injustices about to be wrought upon the state and people by the unwise or irresponsible bill their colleagues pass.

Despite the acclaim and disdain final floor votes may incite, the real work of enacting legislation is not over.

After winning House and Senate approval, a bill often requires a conference committee, where members of each body hammer out differences in the passed versions. Although legislators often agree on the original versions of bills, different committee structures, caucus memberships, and legislative personalities can yield significantly different House and Senate versions.

If both bodies pass identical legislation, the Chief Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate takes the bill straight to the governor. Otherwise, a conference committee is charged with the responsibility to produce a final version that must earn approval of both bodies before the bill is presented to the governor.

When a conference committee is necessary, the Speaker of the House and the Senate leadership caucus each appoint three or five members of their respective bodies. Conferees are selected to uphold the position of their respective bodies, but have some latitude to reach a mutually acceptable compromise.

Although conventional wisdom dictates that a bill's chance of success increases as it passes through more committees, bills in conference committees face significant hurdles.

First, the very fact a bill is referred to a conference committee testi-

fies to its controversial elements. Were it mild or its impact purely local, it would not likely engender sufficient opposition to prevent its approval by both bodies.

Second, most conference committees work in the waning days of the legislative session. With deadlines looming, difficult legislation may be abandoned in favor of less controversial efforts. Time permitting, each side makes some compromise and the conference concludes with conferees hoping the final version will be acceptable to a majority of members in either body.

The members from each body vote

separately within the conference committee. The committee then makes a "report" only after a majority of House members and a majority of senators agree to a finalized version.

House rules require that the member presenting the conference version to his or her body "disclose all substantive changes" made by the select group.

The body that first passed the original legislation must be the first to pass the conference committee report. The bodies may only accept the report and pass the compromise, or reject the changes and send the bill back to conference committee. Each body also has the option of appointing a new conference committee to produce a new compromise. Neither body may amend the report.

Though conference committee hearings are open to the public, they often occur at late hours or operate on indefinite schedules, making it difficult to inform the public regarding a meeting schedule.

Critics charge that conference committees neglect minority perspectives and nullify the democratic process that each body employs in drafting and passing legislation. Gov. Jesse Ventura, for example, has suggested that a unicameral legislature would have no need for conference committee haggling after a bill's passage.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) "adamantly" opposes unicameralism, explaining that legislation is better when two bodies contribute different perspectives. "The House is faster, younger, more entrepreneurial; the Senate is more hierarchical. I had a bill that got better every time it was amended by the bodies," he said.

McElroy suggested legislation could benefit from the wisdom of each body but avoid unnecessary delay and the potentially sully image of conference committees by adopting some reform. He said 24 states have reduced their reliance on conference committees by either abolishing them or reserving their formation "for really big deals."

New York, for example, "shuttles" bills between its two bodies, accepting amendments only on the Assembly and Senate floors. Other states, such as Iowa and Wisconsin, take up legislation drafted by regular standing committees made up of lawmakers from each body.

Until lawmakers deliberately amend procedure, or until the House and Senate pass more pieces of legislation that are identical, conferees will continue to play a crucial but often invisible role in moving legislation from a body to the governor's desk. As McElroy said, "conference committees are a fact of life in a bicameral system."



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Action in both the House and Senate will shift to more and more conference committees, appointed to work out disagreements between the bodies, as the legislative session wanes.**

# Minnesota House of Representatives 2001 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
District/Member/Party	Room*			District/Member/Party	Room*		
49A	Abeler, Jim (R)	581	1729	40B	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	337	4218
45A	Abrams, Ron (R)	585	9934	45B	Leppik, Peggy (R)	485	7026
19B	Anderson, Bruce (R)	411	5063	2A	Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	323	5091
3A	Anderson, Irv (DFL)	343	4936	33A	Lindner, Arlon (R)	417	7806
6A	Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	345	2190	56B	Lipman, Eric (R)	567	4244
48B	Bernardy, Connie (DFL)	329	5510	47A	Luther, Darlene (DFL)	349	3751
59A	Biernat, Len (DFL)	303	4219	67A	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	377	4277
30B	Bishop, Dave (R)	453	0573	55A	Mares, Harry (R)	401	5363
25B	Boudreau, Lynda (R)	473	8237	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	203	9714
30A	Bradley, Fran (R)	559	9249	57B	Marko, Sharon (DFL)	279	3135
35B	Buesgens, Mark (R)	445	1072	9B	Marquart, Paul (DFL)	311	6829
46B	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	283	4255	36B	McElroy, Dan (R)	437	4212
10B	Cassell, George (R)	421	4317	54A	McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	259	4342
23A	Clark, James T. (R)	551	9303	39B	Milbert, Bob (DFL)	243	4192
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	307	0294	35A	Molnau, Carol L. (R)	443	8872
11A	Daggett, Roxann (R)	439	4293	21B	Mulder, Richard (R)	515	4336
31B	Davids, Gregory M. (R)	549	9278	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	387	4262
62A	Davnie, Jim (DFL)	335	0173	8A	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	357	2676
65A	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	215	5158	20A	Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	509	4344
14A	Dehler, Steve (R)	491	7808	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946
29A	Dempsey, Jerry (R)	575	8635	19A	Olson, Mark (R)	501	4237
60B	Dibble, Scott (DFL)	369	9281	16A	Opatz, Joe (DFL)	277	6612
27A	Dorman, Dan (R)	579	8216	29B	Osskopp, Mike (R)	521	9236
24A	Dorn, John (DFL)	201	3248	66A	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	273	4224
18A	Eastlund, Rob (R)	449	5364	11B	Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	393	3201
64A	Entenza, Matt (DFL)	261	8799	37A	Ozment, Dennis (R)	479	4306
42A	Erhardt, Ron (R)	591	4363	42B	Paulsen, Erik (R)	545	7449
17A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	407	6746	38B	Pawlenty, Tim (R)	459	4128
52B	Evans, Geri (DFL)	211	0141	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	209	4199
1B	Finseth, Tim (R)	517	9918	32A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	295	8637
44A	Folliard, Betty (DFL)	281	3964	1A	Penas, Maxine (R)	553	9635
4A	Fuller, Doug (R)	525	5516	13B	Peterson, Doug (DFL)	287	4228
36A	Gerlach, Chris (R)	531	5506	39A	Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	267	6828
63B	Gleason, Mark S. (DFL)	313	5375	44B	Rhodes, Jim (R)	409	9889
9A	Goodno, Kevin (R)	563	5515	32B	Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	423	1069
52A	Goodwin, Barbara (DFL)	353	4331	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	375	0170
58B	Gray, Gregory (DFL)	327	8659	28A	Ruth, Connie (R)	415	5368
54B	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	253	5387	17B	Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	217	5377
26A	Gunther, Bob (R)	379	3240	41A	Seagren, Alice (R)	477	7803
48A	Haas, Bill (R)	569	5513	21A	Seifert, Marty (R)	593	5374
50A	Hackbarth, Tom (R)	577	2439	5B	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL)	233	0172
22B	Harder, Elaine (R)	583	5373	2B	Skoe, Rod (DFL)	321	4265
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	245	3824	62B	Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	251	4330
47B	Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	227	3709	57A	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	359	7807
8B	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	207	4308	34A	Smith, Steve (R)	503	9188
37B	Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	433	6926	3B	Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	309	2365
56A	Holsten, Mark William (R)	381	3018	33B	Stanek, Rich (R)	543	5502
4B	Howes, Larry (R)	431	2451	14B	Stang, Doug (R)	597	4373
6B	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	351	2228	28B	Sviggum, Steve (R)	463	2273
53B	Jacobson, Carl (R)	429	7153	7A	Swapinski, Dale (DFL)	331	4282
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	291	4246	23B	Swenson, Howard (R)	539	8634
18B	Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	237	0518	43B	Sykora, Barb (R)	403	4315
34B	Johnson, Jeff (R)	487	5511	46A	Thompson, Mark (DFL)	223	4176
24B	Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	241	7065	50B	Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	507	5369
67B	Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	229	4201	25A	Tuma, John (R)	533	4229
15A	Juhnke, Al (DFL)	371	6206	51B	Vandeveer, Ray (R)	529	4124
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	255	4257	63A	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	239	4200
26B	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	317	4240	61B	Walker, Neva (DFL)	213	7152
60A	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)	231	0171	12A	Walz, Dale (R)	527	4333
20B	Kielkucki, Tony (R)	367	1534	55B	Wasiluk, Scott (DFL)	225	1188
16B	Knoblauch, Jim (R)	451	6316	12B	Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	389	4247
49B	Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	301	4231	51A	Westerberg, Andrew (R)	523	4226
53A	Krinkie, Philip (R)	365	2907	13A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	557	4929
15B	Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	315	4346	38A	Wilkin, Tim (R)	413	3533
31A	Kuisle, William (R)	565	4378	22A	Winter, Ted (DFL)	247	5505
40A	Larson, Dan (DFL)	221	7158	41B	Wolf, Ken (R)	571	5185
27B	Leighton, Rob (DFL)	289	4193	43A	Workman, Tom (R)	537	5066

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

\*All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted, St. Paul, MN 55155



## Tracking new laws, vetoes

Once a bill has passed both the House and Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor, who has several options when considering a bill, can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill;
- or do nothing, which can have two different effects. The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is that the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor

doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special

session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

This information is also available on the governor's Web site ([www.governor.state.mn.us](http://www.governor.state.mn.us)). Select the "Legislative Initiatives" link, then click on "Legislative Log 2001."

Key:

CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
Res.1	219	258*	Resolution requesting a ban on the importation of certain steel products.	3/15/01	
Res. 2	670	647*	Resolution memorializing the President and Congress to fund 40 percent of special education costs.	4/6/01	
Res. 3	1391*	1318	Resolution for postage stamp of Eric Enstrom's "Grace" photograph.	4/26/01	
1	34	28*	Teacher licensing under current licensure rules.	1/16/01	
2	421*	460	Energy assistance program federal fund expenditure authorized.	2/2/01	
3	213	201*	Physicians assistants infection control continuing education requirements repeal.	2/15/01	
4	181	43*	Adult foster care license capacity age requirement and maximum admissions variances.	2/28/01	
5	817	376*	City contract limit increases.	3/2/01	
6	106*	47	Minnesota agricultural education leadership council permanent members authorized.	3/8/01	
7	656*	231	Revisor's Bill.	3/15/01	
8	80*	79	Coon Lake water level control.	3/16/01	
9	393*	155	Ramsey County and City of St. Paul employees allowed equal competition for county jobs in city-county departments.	3/16/01	
10	357	289*	Alcohol and drug counselors licensing requirements modified.	3/16/01	
11	487	433	Townships health, social, and recreational services contracts amounts increases.	3/21/01	
12	320*	399	Property casualty insurance agents surplus lines insurance procurement authority.	3/29/01	
13	1016	509*	City and county obligations payment by electronic transfer or credit card authorized.	4/6/01	
14	368	63*	Stearns County Highway 55 bridge designated as Old St. Anne's pass.	4/6/01	
15	243	346*	Trusts; uniform principal and income act modified, and antilapse law clarified.	4/6/01	
16	556*	756	Federal law enforcement officers authorized to exercise arrest powers in MN under specified circumstances.	4/9/01	
17	416	400*	Hokah authorized to vacate roads if necessary due to extensive damage.	4/9/01	
18	1046	991*	Notifies schools of student possession of drug paraphernalia.	4/11/01	
19	172	9*	Authorizes cities to provide housing assistance for volunteer firefighters or ambulance personnel.	4/11/01	
20	64	971*	Repeals law prohibiting itinerant carnivals.	4/11/01	
21	394	327*	Repealing statutes concerning castrating animals running at large in a town.	4/11/01	
22	466	972*	Repeals law prohibiting endurance contests.	4/11/01	
23	252	570*	Repeals obsolete rules.	4/11/01	
24	37	480*	Repeals obsolete traffic regulations.	4/13/01	

\*The legislative bill marked with an asterisk denotes the file submitted to the governor.

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
25	57*	27	Certain crimes against children named disqualifying offenses for school bus drivers' licenses.	4/13/01	
26	245	225*	Allows licensed peace officers to determine necessity of patient restraints.	4/13/01	
27	790	702*	Modifies requirements for the Bluffland trail system.	4/13/01	
28	1951	1204*	Regulates the use of HIV and bloodborne pathogen tests.	4/13/01	
29	994	883*	Establishes hospital waiver or variance request procedure.	4/13/01	
30	47*	39	Unemployment benefits to certain LTV employees extended.	4/11/01	
31	116	274*	Respiratory care practitioner advisory council sunset delayed; athletic trainer registration cancelled for nonrenewal.	4/24/01	
32	501	283*	Conservation officer enforcement activity comparison prevented from use in performance evaluation.	4/24/01	
33	1455	1435*	Designer selection board provisions modified.	4/24/01	
34	453	319*	Discharge of judgements against bankruptcy debtors regulated.	4/24/01	
35	424	456*	Mental retardation waiver recipients authorized access to respite care in certain facilities.	4/24/01	
36	275*	210	Nursing facilities closure medical assistance cost savings projection prohibition.	4/24/01	
37	125*	104	Dentist licensure requirements modified for applicants trained in a foreign country.	4/24/01	
38	949*	771	Allows for a smaller newspaper to serve as the qualified newspaper for smaller communities.	4/24/01	
39	387	142*	Increases the membership of the State Council on Black Minnesotans.	4/24/01	
40	828	741*	Hennepin County employees granted disaster volunteer leave.	4/24/01	
41	1747	1780*	Itasca County chemical dependency demonstration project rule exemption extended.	4/24/01	
42	1634	1460*	Duty to warn law applied to social workers, and social workers allowed to form professional firms.	4/24/01	
43	1404	1709*	Exempts towed implements of husbandry from tail lamp requirement.	4/24/01	
44	867*	646	Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District provisions modification and clarification.	4/24/01	
45	2119*	1915	Charitable organization report filing requirements modified.	4/24/01	
46	253	249*	Repeals obsolete health and human rules.	4/26/01	
47	274*	70	Mercury thermometer sales restricted.	4/26/01	
48	323*	914	Motor vehicle fuel franchisees transfer rights provision expiration date removal.	4/26/01	
49	1160*	1127	Physician assistants prescribing medication review provisions modified.	4/26/01	
50	239*	170	Real estate provisions modifications.	4/26/01	
51	1260*	1332	Child support and custody provisions terminology neutralization.	4/26/01	
52	1467	1419*	Payment bonds claims notices requirements modification.	4/26/01	
53	1637*	1790	Repeals provisions requiring hawkers and peddlers to obtain a license.	4/30/01	
54	149*	505	Regulates sale and labeling of Halaal food, meat or poultry products.	4/30/01	
55	1159*	857	Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation and Gillette Children's Hospital addition prior funding modifications.	4/30/01	
56	1084*	1066	Omnibus financial institutions and banking bill.	4/30/01	
57	285*	339	Agricultural liens regulation provisions modification and consolidation.	4/30/01	
58	550*	954	Higher education services Edvest office rulemaking authority extended.		4/30/01
59	995*	1214	Horse racing license application and medication provisions modifications.	4/30/01	
60	1383*	1598	Motorcycle handlebar height restrictions repealed.	4/30/01	
61	525*	1604	Multimember agency members compensation conditions modifications.	4/30/01	
62	779*	823	Motor vehicle dealer franchise transfer practices modification.	4/30/01	
63	1219*	1617	State fund mutual insurance company state involvement elimination.	4/30/01	
64	1889*	1831	Uniform Partnership Act of 1994 transition issues regulated.	4/30/01	
65	967*	876	Permits schools to sponsor potluck events.	5/2/01	
66	1151*	1187	Modifies penalty provisions for psychologists.	5/2/01	
67	1188*	1045	Fire training exercise ash disposal regulated.	5/2/01	
68	1192*	1979	Teachers temporary limited licenses and personnel variances application acceptance and issuance timelines.	5/2/01	
69	1522*	1421	Full-time nursing home administrator requirements modified.	5/2/01	
70	1681*	1622	State employment technical and housekeeping changes; civil service pilot project extension.	5/2/01	

Continued from page 4

Taxpayers would be allowed a subtraction for 50 percent of capital gains on qualified stock held for more than five years. The stock would have to be in a qualified business that has jurisdiction to collect Minnesota sales tax or voluntarily agrees to collect state sales tax.

The bill would also eliminate the \$2,000 per family limit on the K-12 education credit and would allow a second earner subtraction for married couples for the working family credit.

For the third year in a row many Minnesotans would receive a rebate check in the fall. The bill would provide \$856 million for a sales tax rebate of the state's budget surplus.

Former House Speaker Dee Long, representing Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy, said the bill contained "an historic amount of good environmental policies." She pointed to a number of provisions including a sales tax exemption for the purchase of energy efficient products, and a sustainable forest incentive that gives landowners who implement forest management plans an annual incentive payment.

Gary Carlson, representing the League of Minnesota Cities, raised a few concerns. He spoke against a proposed reinstatement of levy limits and a provision establishing a reverse referendum mechanism that would allow voters to overturn local government levy increases.

Carlson said elected local officials should be allowed to make decisions on budgets, and that ultimately they are accountable to the voters come election time.

Department of Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith said that overall the bill meets of governor's goal for tax relief and reform. He said the bill lives up to the governor's philosophy of limiting the overall growth in spending and called the property tax reform provisions "very good."

The bill does incorporate the governor's plan to make school funding a state responsibility. Under the bill, school districts would no longer levy local property taxes. The state would collect the taxes and redistribute them to school districts based on an established formula.

Districts would still be allowed to conduct referenda upon local taxes, under the bill. A provision in the K-12 education omnibus bill would raise the cap currently placed on levy referenda.

In addition to agreeing to the governor's reform of school funding in the state, Smith said the bill goes beyond the governor's proposal in class rate reductions as well as proposals to eliminate property taxes to pay for transit operations and state takeover of court costs.

Smith said the governor's administration still believes the state will need to address the changing nature of the economy in its sales tax



## Healthy prescription

### Iowa tries medication management

During 2000, the state of Iowa established a "pharmaceutical case management" program that would create physician and pharmacist care teams to monitor Medicaid patients at high-risk for taking their medications safely and effectively.

A pilot program similar to Iowa's is currently under consideration in the Minnesota Legislature.

Drug interactions can be costly. As people age they are more likely to take a variety of medications, sometimes prescribed by different doctors. Frequently, patients are unaware that the medications they are taking, when combined, might actually be detrimental to their health.

Studies have found that when a pharmacist is involved in monitoring a patient's medication, the individual can often take fewer medications and get better results. Not only is this better for the patient, it is better for the bottom line of the health care system.

That's what Iowa is testing.

The colleges of public health, medicine and pharmacy at the University of Iowa are working together to measure the clinical and financial impact of the program. They are required to submit their final report to the Iowa Legislature by Dec. 15, 2002.

The state did not fund the actual research but did fund reimbursement to participating physicians and pharmacists of up to \$75 for each patient assessment.

The Iowa project focuses on high-risk individuals because previous research has shown they are the most likely to benefit from this team approach to medication management.

Physicians and pharmacists team up to provide this care. The physician prescribes medication and establishes treatment goals. The pharmacist follows up, providing feedback between a patient's visits to the physician regarding compliance, side effects, and the progress toward treatment goals.

Pharmacists who participate in these teams must complete professional training in patient-oriented care and pharmaceutical case management. Physicians do not need special training.

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists refers to this partnership between physicians and pharmacists to manage drug therapy as "collaborative drug therapy management."

Other states using some form of management include California, Florida, Michigan, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Kentucky.

(M.K. WATSON)

policies and the shift from an economy based on goods to an economy based on services.

Abrams asked Smith if the governor would veto the tax bill because it didn't contain the administration's proposed extension of the sales tax on to services.

Smith said the governor would look at all the omnibus bills to determine whether there was structural balance in the Legislature's spending and taxing proposals before deciding whether to sign any of the bills into law.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said that although he was voting against the bill, it contained several good provisions and he thought the bill would make Minnesota's overall tax structure more progressive.

Dawkins said Abrams deserved praise for the bill's "historic, milestone changes" to the state's tax system.

The measure was approved by the Ways and Means Committee May 2, and now moves to the House floor.

Continued from page 13

LCMR the responsibility for establishing policies and on the citizens' committee the responsibility for selecting the projects that fit those policies.

"I hope this doesn't degrade the authority of the LCMR," said Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), who said he could accept the reworked proposal, though he didn't "see the need for the change." The amendment was approved.



Editor's Note: As the House meets in session every day, items in the major spending bills may change from this edition of *Session Weekly*. For daily news updates, read *Session Daily* online at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/sdaily/sdaily.htm>.

## Monday, April 30

### HF2498—Abrams (R)

#### Taxes

Omnibus tax bill providing a sales tax rebate, property tax reform, tax rate modifications, and appropriating money.

### HF2499—Davids (R)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Telephone solicitation calls to consumers at their place of business prohibited.

### HF2500—Larson (DFL)

#### Crime Prevention

Criminal justice information system improvements provided including fingerprinting, collection of aliases, and suspense file reporting, and money appropriated.

## Tuesday, May 1

### HF2501—Solberg (DFL)

#### Capital Investment

Itasca County school-to-work technology center non-state match requirement modified.

### HF2502—Knoblach (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Debt service equalization aid program enhanced and maximum effort capital loan program modified.

## Wednesday, May 2

### HF2503—Smith (R)

#### Education Policy

Education Quality and Teacher and Principal Protection Act adopted regulating liability of employees of educational entities.

### HF2504—Gerlach (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Public employees required to fund a portion of state-paid annual health insurance premium costs.

### HF2505—Seifert (R)

#### Redistricting

Redistricting; congressional redistricting plan adopted for use in 2002 and thereafter.

## Thursday, May 3

### HF2506—Abrams (R)

#### Taxes

Minnesota Bond Allocation Act update and modifications.

### HF2507—Opatz (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Resolution memorializing the governor to declare a flood emergency in Benton County.

### HF2508—Kalis (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 2860, Blue Earth Area Public School, boiler replacement grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

# COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

MAY 7 - 11, 2001

## MONDAY, May 7

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

## TUESDAY, May 8

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

15 minutes after session

#### TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
Agenda: To be announced.

## WEDNESDAY, May 9

11 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

## THURSDAY, May 10

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

15 minutes after session

#### TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
Agenda: To be announced.

## FRIDAY, May 11

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

## LOOKING AHEAD . . .

## FRIDAY, June 8

4 p.m.

#### Regent Candidate Advisory Council

Room 41 Dunwoody Institute  
Minneapolis  
Chr. Nedra Wicks

**Agenda:** Discussion/evaluation of the 1999-2001 cycle of activities; questionnaire results; discussion of implications of the 2001 legislative activity on regent candidate recruitment and council activity; and recommendations for the 2001-2003 cycle of activities. Committee reports: ad hoc committee on voting procedures; and nominations committee. Election of officers. Other business.

Call, visit, watch, log on . . .

## Legislative information is plentiful, accessible, and free

Keeping track of what's happening at the Minnesota Legislature has never been easier. The latest technology is being used in all areas of communication.

And while the traditional methods such as visiting the Capitol and calling on the telephone are still useful and easy ways to get the information you need, the newest technological methods on television and the Internet have made your choices better than ever.

### A new, improved Web site

Since the Legislature's World Wide Web site went online in 1996, more than 46 million hits have been received. During the 2000 session alone, the site was receiving more than one million hits on the busiest days.

During that time, users commented on the positives and negatives of the site. In response to those remarks, an interim committee of legislative staff looked at ways to enhance the online information — making it even more useful. As a result, the Web site was redesigned and the new format was launched during the fall of 2000.

Accessing information using your fingertips and a mouse begins by directing your browser to <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>, the Legislature's main page.

The site layout has been updated to make it visually simple but also easy to navigate. More advanced users can use drop-down menus to get to the information, while traditional hyperlink text is also available.

A mere click of a mouse button takes a user to both the House and Senate main pages. Easy access is also provided to other areas, including: member information, committee information and schedules, Minnesota Statutes, Session Laws and Rules; joint legislative departments and commissions; youth pages; general information; legislative district information; and employment opportunities.

One of the more popular options is the bill tracker. From the House and Senate pages, users can read any bill and track its status through the legislative process. For those not familiar with the legal language used to draft bills, easy-to-understand summaries are also



Through the Legislature's Web site, the public can access information including bill descriptions and status, committee meeting schedules and agendas, and weekly publications of both the House and Senate.

available. Bills can be searched by number, keyword, or author.

The site is also interactive — links are provided so a user can easily contact a legislator by e-mail.

Both the House and the Senate sites also offer Internet streaming video of floor sessions and selected committee hearings. The service features unedited, live and recorded coverage of the Legislature. To watch events unfold, get the free Windows

Media Player plug-in viewer.

Information is available on the House Television Services Web site at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hvtv/hvtvserve.htm>. Archived footage of House committee meetings and floor sessions is also available.

### You've got mail

Constituents with e-mail service can now receive daily and weekly committee schedules from both the House and Senate without having to request them each day.

The schedules, updated daily, give specific information about which committees are meeting on a particular day, the time and location of the meeting and general topic agendas for the meeting. Schedules are also available in advance for constituents interested in testifying at a hearing.

To receive the House committee schedule, send an e-mail message to [join-houseschedule@ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us](mailto:join-houseschedule@ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us) or fill out the subscription form at <http://ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us/scripts/lyris.pl?join=houseschedule>.

House schedules are also available on the Web site at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/schedule/index.htm>.

To receive a Senate schedule, e-mail a



E-mail is an increasingly common way for constituents to contact their legislators. Lawmakers regularly respond to signed messages, and they prefer that correspondents include their full names and addresses.



message to [listserv@senate.leg.state.mn.us](mailto:listserv@senate.leg.state.mn.us). Leave the subject line blank and in the body of the message type: **subscribe sen-schedules**.

### Come on down

Technology is a wonderful asset for governmental information, but the best way to find out what's happening at the Capitol is to witness it in person. A good place to begin your visit is at the House Public Information Office, located on the first floor of the State Office Building directly west of the Capitol, in Room 175.

The office has a series of informational and educational publications designed to make the legislative process understandable and accessible for all.

Office staff can quickly determine in which House and Senate district you live and provide you with the name, office number, phone number, and e-mail address of your representative and senator.

Daily and weekly committee schedules are available at the office, as are issues of the newsmagazine *Session Weekly*, a free publication covering weekly House activities during session. Be sure to sign up for the publication and have a thorough weekly wrap-up mailed directly to your home. Likewise, *Senate Briefly*, which covers weekly Senate activities, is available by stopping at Senate Information in Room 231 of the Capitol.

### Pick up the phone

A wealth of information is also available via the telephone. The House Public Information Office can answer general questions regarding the legislative process and who your legislators are. They can also connect you to other offices for additional information. Call the information office at (651) 296-2146 or toll free at 1-800-657-3550.

You don't need to leave home to obtain



A committee hearing room in the State Office Building features interactive television technology through which lawmakers can communicate with people at more than 80 sites around Minnesota.

copies of House bills, either. Simply call the House Chief Clerk's Office at (651) 296-2314 and they'll mail you a copy of any bill. If you don't know who sponsored a bill or what a particular bill's House File number is, call House Index at (651) 296-6646. They can also tell you the status of a bill as it is traveling through the process.

If you have a concern about a pending bill or a policy issue, call your legislator.

You may also access a voice version of the House committee schedule by calling (651) 296-9283.

For similar information in the Senate, call (651) 296-0504 or toll-free at 1-888-234-1112.

### Tune in

Television coverage of the Legislature has been available since 1996. In the Twin Cities metropolitan area, tune in to KTCI-TV, Channel 17. Coverage is included throughout Greater Minnesota on more than 30 cable providers' services. Check with your local cable system for availability. All broadcasts are closed-captioned and schedules are available from House Television Services. Call (651) 297-1338.

Live coverage of floor sessions and committee hearings is provided throughout the day, and taped coverage is played between live proceedings.

### Frequently used Web links

Legislature's main page:  
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

*Session Weekly* on the Web:  
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/swkly.ssi>

To search the Legislative Web site:  
<http://search.state.mn.us/leg/>

North Star government information:  
<http://www.state.mn.us/mainmenu.html>

Governor's office:  
<http://www.mainserver.state.mn.us/governor/>

Legislative Reference Library:  
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/lrl.htm>

Revisor's Office:  
<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/revisor.html>

Legislative Links to the World:  
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/links/links.htm>

### Frequently called numbers

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Senate Information:  
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1-888-234-1112

Chief Clerk's Office:  
651-296-2314

Office of Secretary of the Senate:  
651-296-2344



Since 1996 House Television Services has provided coverage of action on the House floor and selected committee hearings on Channel 17 and local cable systems.

## Constitutional Officers

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## Where to find information

### House Public Information Office

175 State Office Building  
(651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

The House Public Information Office is a nonpartisan office that provides committee meeting schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* news magazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the Legislature's World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

## Reflections

Our country's national symbol, the American or Bald Eagle, appears on just about everything that is official state government or U.S. property.

There is more to the eagle than meets the eye. No ordinary robin, blue jay, or English sparrow, the eagle is a patriotic emblem steeped in Greek mythology and Native American lore, and it serves for some as a spiritual symbol of strength and accomplishment.

There is something about eagles that fascinates people. Maybe it's the eagle and Apollo — a multi-faceted Greek deity — influencing prophecy, music, and medicine. Maybe it's just an eagle's intense stare or amazing eyes that can see a potential food source a mile away.

Or maybe it's when eagles spread their 6-foot to 8-foot wingspan as they majestically soar on wind currents high above the State Capitol building or near their nesting sites along the Mississippi River.

One thing is for sure, just about every flagpole in every public building, VFW lodge, or American Legion hall across the country is topped by a replica of the country's patriotic symbol. Also, most Native Americans hold the eagle in high reverence as the "chief of all birds."

Eagles have inspired religious songs, the name of a rock-n-roll band, and the high-toned honor Boy Scouts can attain.

Even State Capitol architect Cass Gilbert and the artists he commissioned found them to be of importance. If the count is accurate, at least 40 representations of eagles exist in the Capitol — not counting those on flagpoles and floor lamps.

Twelve are found guarding the outside

dome. Two eagles in the House chamber hold in their talons the dates Minnesota was founded as a territory in 1849 and established as a state in 1858. Five more are found on the chamber ceiling arches, and one each inside Rooms 211 and 214 above the page's desk and the front desk.

Another 20 are displayed as artwork, bronze figures, or stained glass on most floors of the building and the skylight above the circular stairs.

For all their popularity and respect, eagles almost became extinct due to wanton killing by people and by eating prey poisoned by DDT and other chemicals. But the population is on the rise again.

The eagle's recovery is a conservation success story that began in the 1960s in the state's Chippewa National Forest by the U.S. Forest Service.

Thanks to organizations like the University of Minnesota Raptor Center, the Department of Natural Resources Nongame Wildlife Program, and others, the eagle is almost past the "threatened" list, with the possibility of once more being commonplace.

Eric Bergeson, a former House Educational Programs assistant and a weekly contributor to the local newspaper in Fertile, Minn., recently wrote about a bald eagle he sighted near the Red River Valley. "It was as grand as any animal I have ever seen. My visit with the bald eagle made me glad somebody, somewhere, sometime, stuck up for the grand birds when they were down and out."

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Trawling time

Minnesotans who fish each year, in millions .....	2.3
State rank in the sales of fishing licenses per capita .....	1
Cost for an individual fishing license, in dollars .....	18
Husband-wife combination license, in dollars .....	26
Number of fish species in Minnesota .....	156
Acres of fishing waters, in millions .....	3.8
Number of rivers and streams .....	6,564
Miles of rivers and streams .....	92,000
Miles of fishable streams .....	15,000
Trout streams .....	1,900
Number of fishable lakes .....	6,000
Number of lakes in Minnesota larger than 10 acres .....	11,842
Size of largest lake (Red Lake), in square miles .....	451
Number of Mud lakes .....	201
Long lakes .....	154
Rice lakes .....	123
Mugwump lakes .....	1
Number of state fish hatcheries .....	17
Walleye .....	12
Trout .....	5
Walleyes stocked per year, in millions .....	2.3
Trout, in millions .....	1.5
Muskellunge .....	31,500
Number of walleye rearing ponds .....	225
Number of northern pike spawning areas .....	19
Walleye fish bag limit for 2001 .....	6
Northern .....	3
Perch, daily and in possession .....	20,50
Pounds of sport fish harvested annually, in millions .....	35
Annual sport fishing expenditures in the state, in billions of dollars .....	1.9
Pounds of commercial fish harvested annually, in millions .....	4.5
Amount annually spent on electronic fish finders and other angling equipment, in millions .....	67
Bait, in millions .....	50
Lures, lines, and other tackle, in millions .....	34
Number of businesses selling minnows .....	1,800
Dollars generated annually, in millions .....	42
Ratio of recreational boats to people .....	1:6
State rank .....	1
Number of lakeside resorts .....	1,169

Sources: North Star — Minnesota Government and Information Services ([www.state.mn.us](http://www.state.mn.us)), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For general information, call:  
**House Information Office**  
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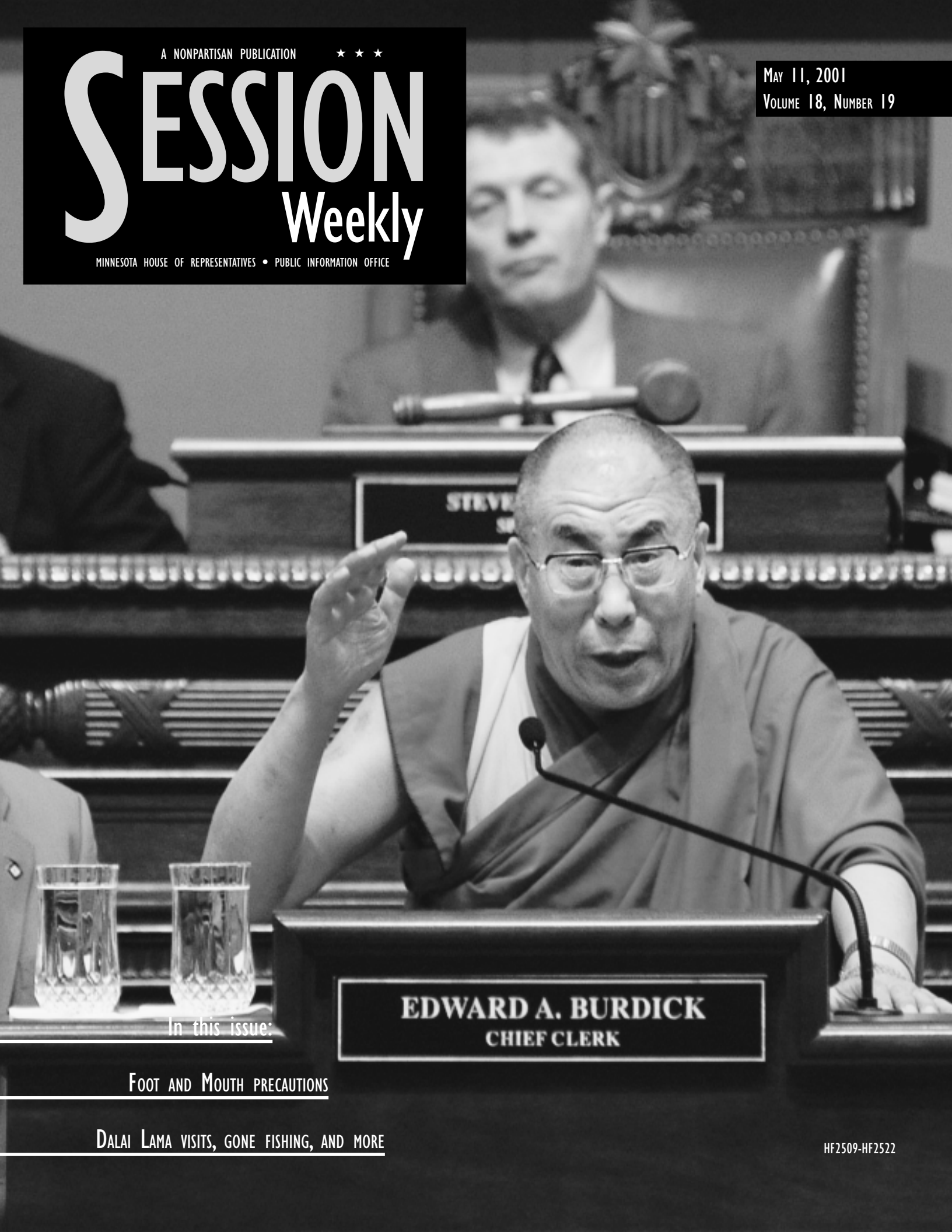
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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MAY 11, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 19



In this issue:

FOOT AND MOUTH PRECAUTIONS

DALAI LAMA VISITS, GONE FISHING, AND MORE

HF2509-HF2522

# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5	Education • 7	Health • 10
Business • 5	Environment • 8	Local Government • 11
Children • 6	Gambling • 8	Recreation • 11
Crime • 6	Government • 9	Taxes • 11
Development • 7		

### FEATURES

**People** — House and Senate members received a three-fold message from the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama May 9: basic human value, religious harmony, and the situation of the Tibetan community around the world. • 12

**History** — Public health officials and legislators struggled with the near epidemic outbreak of venereal diseases in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. • 14

**Places** — The fishing opener often marks the beginning of summer for many Minnesotans and the trek north provides many landmarks of the state's fishing tradition. • 16

**Policy** — Nearly 30 years old, the Community Corrections Act in Minnesota created a partnership between local law enforcement and state corrections officials to find local solutions for offenders. • 17

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Protecting the air, water	4	Committee Schedule (May 14-18)	22
Governor's Desk (CH1-CH91)		Reflections: Compassion	23
50 states: Attacking asthma	18	Minnesota Index: Child Support in	
Bill Introductions (HF2509-HF2522)	22	Minnesota	24

On the cover: The Dalai Lama addresses a joint convention of the Legislature May 9 in the House Chamber. House Speaker Steve Sviggum looks on in the background.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid



# Preparing for the worst

State officials begin making provisions should the devastating Foot and Mouth Disease come to Minnesota

By JONAS M. WALKER

**E**xecutive orders to slaughter entire herds issued by scientists endowed with judge, jury, and executioner powers. National Guard soldiers closing off rural highways. Schoolchildren dipping shoes in disinfectant before being allowed to pass roadblocks manned by sheriff's deputies.

State officials are taking seriously the threat that such scenes, though intimidating and even frightening to the average Minnesotan, could be manifest if the state falls prey to a tiny but potent invader.

Microscopic in size, though unlikely to kill or permanently injure people, the long-term effects of the Foot and Mouth Disease virus on humans are anything but miniscule. The highly contagious viral infection has all but brought the rural United Kingdom to a standstill. The government delayed national elections, community life was severely disrupted, and millions of British pounds will likely be lost by industries ranging from agriculture to tourism — all this since the first signs of outbreak Feb. 19 prompted the annihilation of livestock on more than 1,300 farms.

Noticeably concerned, state legislators first gathered publicly April 18 to discuss the outbreaks and begin discussing how the state might effectively respond to an outbreak here.

In the meantime, Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus) worked with state officials to draft a plan that supporters hope will provide a legal framework for state agencies to efficiently respond to an outbreak of the virus. He introduced the resulting bill May 8 to the House Agriculture Policy Committee, where it was approved. The bill now moves to the House Civil Law Committee.

The bill would authorize the governor to declare an emergency for the purpose of controlling dangerous domestic animal diseases. In such a state of emergency, the Board of Animal Health may establish and enforce quarantine zones to prevent the spread of disease. Board jurisdiction would extend to people, property, and livestock, and would include the authority to order the condemnation of livestock and carcass disposal.

Under existing law, the board has the au-

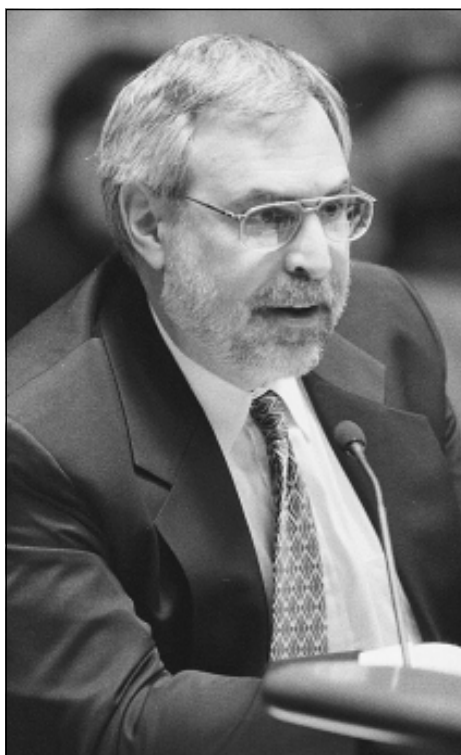


PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Minnesota Deputy Attorney General Corey Gordon testifies before the House Agriculture Policy Committee May 8 regarding a proposal that would create new mechanisms for the state Board of Animal Health to respond to a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak.**

thority to destroy diseased animals. The bill would permit the board to petition the governor to declare an emergency, and in doing so, the state's chief executive would make available all resources normally reserved for natural disasters.

The board could establish quarantine zones of no larger than a three-mile radius from animals believed to be infected and for no

longer than 72 hours. Within the zone, the board could establish rules governing the movement of people, vehicles, or animals. Department of Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson said the 72-hour limit should be sufficient because all affected animals should be slaughtered and burned or buried within one day of a positive diagnosis.

"Our hope is that the provisions in this bill will never be used," Hugoson said.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), the only House Agriculture Policy Committee member to vote against the measure, agreed but said he wanted to ensure farmers had some mechanism by which to appeal a decision to destroy livestock. The bill explicitly allows farmers to telephone district courts to seek immediate relief from orders affecting property or personal movements.

The restrictions and slaughter would undoubtedly be traumatic, but Hugoson stressed the bill's provisions would be the "least onerous" to farmers with infected herds.

Rep. Rod Skoe (DFL-Clearbrook) expressed the hopes of state leaders, saying although a farmer suffering an infected herd might not appreciate the necessity of robust slaughter, "his neighbor down the road would."

Minnesota Board of Animal Health Executive Director Tom Hagerty said in a May 9 interview that the state recently suffered a pseudorabies outbreak among hogs. He said the board authorized the slaughter or culling of more than 300,000 pigs between March 1999 and October 2000.

Hagerty said the federal government reimbursed farmers for the cost of their animals, and similar arrangements would likely be made for farmers caught in a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak.

Although some European farmers' unions opposed the culling there, Hugoson said farm industries themselves accepted the necessity. Asked whether American livestock stakeholders would approve of a mass cull here, he said, "Sure they would. The decision to (cull) has already been made and they would expect us to carry that out."

The disease afflicts hooved animals such as cows, pigs, sheep, goats, and deer. Humans can carry the virus but rarely been found to suffer infection. The disease should not be confused with BSE, bacterial "Mad Cow" disease, or with human hand, foot, and mouth disease.



Infected animals transmit the virus in every form of bodily excretion. The virus can also be spread in people's shoes or on other clothing, in human nostrils, in animal products, and even for several miles by wind. It is believed one outbreak in France was caused by wind-borne pathogens from the United Kingdom lifted over the English Channel.

In an average diseased farm, 95 percent of hooved animals will catch the virus. Although less than 1 percent of adult animals will die as a result of the disease, it proves fatal for about 50 percent of the young animals.

Foot and Mouth Disease is tremendously destructive because it prompts a decline in agricultural production as it slows animal growth, making adult animals unproductive and stunting or killing young animals. Infected animals exhibit swollen lesions on hooves and udders and in their mouths. Suffering from oral pain, animals stop eating and therefore slow their own growth and milk production. That decline in animal productivity can prove devastating for a rural economy.

The British Medical Journal wrote March 10 that the disease is rampant in much of Asia, Africa, and South America. "As international trade barriers become increasingly subject to scrutiny, foot and mouth disease remains one of the few remaining constraints to international trade in live animals and animal products. The occurrence of even a single case of Foot and Mouth Disease in a previously disease-free country results in an immediate ban on an economically valuable export trade."

Hugoson told the House Agriculture Policy Committee April 18 that the federal government has banned imported animal products, livestock, and used farm equipment from countries affected by the recent outbreaks. Additionally, the United States Department of Agriculture has stepped up preventive efforts at airports and seaports and has sent American scientists to assist Europeans in containing the outbreak.

Minnesota has taken the additional step of recommending farmers forbid visitors from Europe to enter their farms. South Dakota took the extraordinary step of forbidding any person returning or visiting from Europe from entering any farm for five days. The ban includes families returning to their own farms.

Foot and Mouth Disease cannot be successfully prevented by vaccination because of the many strains of the virus. Scientists have concluded that the only effective treatment is to aggressively eradicate any known cases. Said Hugoson, "Cut hard, cut deep, and cut fast."



## Protecting the air, water

### Nearly 35-year-old PCA charged with environmental stewardship

In 1967, increased public concern about threats to Minnesota's environment prompted the Legislature to seek new solutions to air pollution and solid waste management. The result was the new Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA), one of the first agencies of its type in the country.

In fact, it would be three years before the U.S. government mandated the PCA's federal counterpart, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and three years before the first Earth Day. That same year the Minnesota Legislature created the nation's first department of human rights, further making 1967 a year of bold lawmaking.

The authority granted to the PCA extended well beyond the reach of the Water Pollution Control Commission, which it replaced, according to a report titled *Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 1967-1987: Twenty Years of Protecting the Environment*.

The purpose of the Pollution Control Agency, then and now, is "to protect Minnesota's environment through monitoring environmental quality and enforcing environmental regulations." It was given authority to enforce laws relating to water, air, and noise pollution, as well as the responsibility for regulating the disposal of solid and hazardous waste.

Unlike most state agencies, it was conceived of with authority given to a citizens' board, which was to be supported by an agency staff. Composed of a commissioner and seven members, all appointed by the governor, the agency was intended to be "broadly representative of the skills and experience necessary to effectuate the policy" legislated to it, according to state statute.

In October 1967, Gov. Harold LeVander appointed the first commissioner, John Badalich, who had been South St. Paul's city engineer since 1955. In that role, he had dealt with pollution problems from the city's stockyards for more than 12 years, and he often lobbied at the State Capitol for pollution control legislation.

Although a frequent critic of the now-

defunct Water Pollution Control Commission, Badalich lauded its progress toward cleaning up the Mississippi River and other waterways. In an interview with the *St. Paul Dispatch* then, he emphasized the importance of attacking air pollution immediately.

"It's a new setup, and I'm the first director," Badalich told the newspaper. "I expect people to take some potshots."

And people have been "taking potshots" at the agency ever since. As a regulatory agency, the PCA sits in the hot seat between environ-

mentalists and industrialists — the proverbial "rock and a hard place" — and controversy has always attended its decisions.

"The sensitivity or awareness of Minnesotans to the environment increased rapidly in the first years of the agency's existence," said Bob Tuveson, one of the first PCA board members, in the agency report. "During the first few years, we lived in a goldfish bowl because of all the interest in what we were doing."

The agency began its work in 1967 with an appropriation of \$260,000 and a staff of 35. In 2001, its budget exceeds \$139 million and it has a staff of almost 800, although the current Legislature is considering cutting both its budget and staff.

The Pollution Control Agency has never operated entirely on its own. Since its inception, the agency has formed alliances with the federal Environmental Protection Agency, local governments, industry, business, environmentalists, and educators, in addition to its partnership with the Legislature.

"The nature of the business is such that we cost certain people money they would rather keep, and we never satisfy the blue-sky idealists," said Lovel Richie, a staff member since 1967, in the PCA report. "If we are performing our task responsibly we are probably making everyone equally mad at us. What a way to be a success."

"However, if we ever get to the point where we were being praised by any one segment, it's time to inventory the program, because the balance is gone," Richie added.

(M.K. WATSON)



John Badalich, the first Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

## ★ AGRICULTURE

### Changing nuisance liability

The House voted May 7 to adopt a bill clarifying an existing liability waiver on nuisance claims made against farms.

HF1356, sponsored by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), is intended to assist farmers by redefining two key terms in current law. The measure passed by a 74-55 vote.

Current law specifies that a farm cannot be judged to be a nuisance if it has been operating for at least two years and does not "expand" or "significantly alter" its production activities. Currently, "expanded" means an increase by 25 percent in the amount of a particular crop grown or in the number of livestock kept.

The bill would delete any reference to the size or scope of a crop, essentially granting immunity from nuisance liability to farmers who quickly increase plant production.

Furthermore, the bill would remove existing "significantly altered" language referring to a change from one kind of crop or animal production to another. In its place, the bill would define "significantly altered" only negatively; it would not include a transfer of ownership among family members, a temporary cessation or interruption of cropping activities, the adoption of new technologies or a change in the crop product produced.

Responding to concern that the bill would favor rapidly growing farms on the fringes of growing suburban regions, Dorman reminded the House of the process of granting permits currently in place to regulate farm activity. He said his bill "in no way impacts the permitting process" and it "doesn't take away local control" of permitting or nuisance litigation.

According to the nonpartisan House Research Department, nuisance complaints against farms commonly arise due to odor, dust, or noise affecting non-farming neighbors. However, actual nuisance lawsuits are rare.

The bill awaits action in the Senate.

### FYI

House Index in the Chief Clerk's Office has an area at its front desk, Room 211 Capitol, for anyone in an electric or standard wheel chair to access the legislative Web site. The desk can be raised or lowered by pushbuttons for users to search for the status of bills.

## ★ BUSINESS

### Biodiesel bill altered

The House Taxes Committee amended a bill that would have created a biodiesel fuel mandate for all diesel fuel sold in Minnesota.

In place of a mandate on the private sector, the amended bill would require that all state-owned or operated diesel vehicles use at least 5 percent biodiesel fuel by volume by July 1, 2002. Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan) proposed the amendment to HF362 during a May 9 committee meeting. The bill is sponsored by

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake).

The bill now calls for commissioners from the Administration, Agriculture, and Transportation Departments, and the Pollution Control Agency to report to the Legislature by Jan. 1, 2004 on the operating costs, operational performance, and environmental impact of the mandate. A second study would assess the growth in biodiesel production capacity.

The state transportation commissioner would also be required to consult with businesses using diesel "to develop protocols for biodiesel fuel demonstration projects" and report findings to the Legislature.

In its amended form, the bill would make no requirement of private sector industries.

Westrom characterized the tax committee's changes as "major surgery," but predicted the bill would "come back a healthier person." In a May 10 interview he said he is "negotiating with interested parties" but that the bill still faced significant opposition. He predicted the original bill, or "at least something closer to the original language," would be presented in the House Ways and Means Committee, where the bill travels next, or on the House floor.

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar), who supported the bill as it moved through the agriculture and transportation committees, said May 10 that the tax committee acted inappropriately by adopting sweeping policy changes. "It's not right, not our process," he said.

In the bill approved by the House Transportation Finance Committee April 23, the state agriculture commissioner would have determined when the state's capacity to produce one-half of the biological component of the fuel, the rest of which would be imported. No sooner than 180 days after that determination, all diesel fuel sold in Minnesota would have had to be composed of at least 2 percent biological component, a proportion that would have had to increase to 5 percent once the state's production could meet one-half the supply needed to meet increased demand.

Additionally, the bill would have required the Department of Agriculture to study the "feasibility and desirability" of providing a tax credit benefiting biodiesel producers.

Proponents say a mandate would trigger the development of home-grown, ecologically friendly fuels and would bolster the state's sagging rural economy. Opponents say biodiesels are insufficiently tested, and they decry the measure as "good farm politics but bad public policy."

Biodiesel fuel is normal diesel fuel

## REMEMBERING HEROES



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

The Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association Honor Guard present colors during a ceremony at the beginning of the May 10 floor session to honor fallen peace officers. The House passed a bill May 10 that would designate a portion of Interstate 90 in southeastern Minnesota as Theodore "Ted" Foss Memorial Highway in honor of the state trooper killed in an accident while on duty in August 2000.

combined with a biodegradable, combustible liquid fuel derived from organic oils for use in internal combustion engines. According to the National Biodiesel Board, soybeans provide 90 percent of the biological component of biodiesel fuels. Other sources include recycled oils from restaurants and even animal fats, although those are less commonly used.

### **Equipment buyback changes**

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law May 4 that changes requirements regarding the relationship between farm implement dealers and manufacturers.

Specifically, outdoor power equipment will be added to a list of equipment that manufacturers and wholesalers must re-purchase from dealers with whom they have cancelled a sales agreement. The law limits the definition of outdoor power equipment to specifically exclude motorcycles, boats, and other vehicles.

Sponsored by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), the House originally passed the measure April 18. It passed the law again with Senate-initiated amendments April 30.

Among other changes, the new law shortens by one-third the existing 90-day period during which the re-purchase must occur. Additionally, the percentage of the current price that the manufacturer is required to pay the dealer for returned equipment is increased from 85 percent to 95 percent.

The law also extends the buyback requirement to data processing and communications software and hardware, specialized repair tools and signage purchased to meet requirements set by wholesalers or manufacturers.

The Senate measure was sponsored by Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples).

HF933\*/SF983/CH72

## **CHILDREN**



### **Child welfare study sought**

The House passed a bill May 8 relating to child welfare that, as amended, would authorize a task force to study the Uniform Parentage Act of 2000.

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover), the House sponsor of HF1397/SF1394\*, said the elements of the bill are mostly technical corrections from the Department of Human Services that would make state law conform to federal regulations.

The House voted to incorporate the House language in the Senate file, which was sponsored by Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester). It then approved an amendment offered by Tingelstad to establish a task force that would meet during the summer.

The task force would include representatives of 20 different groups including, the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, adoption agencies, lawyers, judges, children's advocates, and parent organizations.

The proposed task force would review the Uniform Parentage Act of 2000 and make recommendations to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 2002, as to whether it should adopt all or part of the act.

The Uniform Parentage Act of 2000 was drafted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws to update the 1973 act of the same name. It is a document intended to be a model for states.

The original act addressed the special needs of children born outside of marriage, declaring "equality for parents and children without regard to marital status of the parents." According to the prefatory note to the new act, it "contributed much to bringing about a more enlightened approach to some sensitive issues that can divide people of goodwill."

The new act would integrate the 1973 act, update provisions regarding divorce and parentage, acknowledge children of "assisted conception," and include language regarding genetic testing.

The proposal passed the House on a 129-0 vote and the Senate 59-0 on May 1. It now goes to a House-Senate conference committee.

## **CRIME**



### **Reclaiming gas money**

The House passed a bill originally intended to help gas station owners recover payment from drivers who depart pumps without paying.

HF205/SF103\*, sponsored in the House by Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls), passed by a 103-28 vote May 8 after a major amendment sponsored by Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring).

The Nornes bill would impose a \$20 service charge or actual cost of collection, not to exceed \$30, as a civil penalty on owners whose vehicles receive gasoline and fail to pay. The gas station owner could sue for \$100, or the price of the original gas plus the service charge, if payment is not received 30 days after mailing a notice to the owner of the vehicle.

Stang's amendment would also allow persons in receipt of bounced checks to immediately impose a fee of up to \$30 on the check writer and issue a notice that the fee and original amount of money must be paid within 30 days. If the money is not paid within 10 days of mailing a second notice, the holder of a bad check may impose an additional \$75 fee. It was adopted by an 85-47 vote.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) offered an amendment to Stang's amendment that would hold employers who issue bad paychecks liable for service fees incurred by their employees whose own checks bounce after depositing a paycheck. "I'm trying to protect people who innocently write bad checks," he said. The amendment was adopted by a 113-19 vote.

The Senate passed SF103, sponsored by Sen. Cal Larson (R-Fergus Falls) April 23 by a 64-1 vote. The Senate refused May 9 to concur with the House amendments and a conference committee has been appointed.

### **Sentenced to work**

Indigent criminal defendants may be sentenced to community service instead of a fine, under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 4.

The House first passed the law, sponsored by Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji), April 17. A version incorporating the Senate's amendments passed April 30.

Existing law provides for certain minimum fines for any offense. Generally that amount is 30 percent of the maximum fine. The maximum fine for a misdemeanor is \$1,000, and \$3,000 for a gross misdemeanor. Maximum fines for felonious acts vary.

Any fine may be reduced to \$50 if a defendant qualifies for the services of a public defender, is otherwise indigent, or if the fine creates an undue hardship for the defendant or their family.

Under the new law, effective Aug. 1, 2001, that policy is amended to allow judges to impose community service. The law states that community service work in lieu of a fine may be worked off at a rate of \$5 per hour. Exceptions are permitted in cases of disabled or ill defendants.

Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) sponsored the Senate measure. It passed the Senate April 26.

HF865\*/SF1266/CH71

### **Additional protection for children**

Children living with people who have committed child abuse in other states will be considered in need of protection, under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 4.

State law dictates that children need protection if they reside, or will reside, with someone guilty of child abuse.

Prior to the measure, courts defined "child abuse" only by violations of existing Minnesota law.

Beginning on Aug. 1, 2001, when the law goes

into effect, the definition will be expanded to include similar acts committed in other jurisdictions, including other states, the District of Columbia and tribal lands. Violations of federal law will also be included in this law.

Under the new law, a violation in another jurisdiction will be considered grounds for a child's need for protection if the perpetrator's act would have been a crime if it had been committed in Minnesota.

Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji) sponsored the measure, which originally passed the House April 18 and then again with the Senate's amendments April 30.

Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) sponsored the measure in the Senate, where it passed April 25.

HF953\*/SF1265/CH73

## ★ DEVELOPMENT

### Disaster grants approved

A one-time appropriation of \$11 million would be granted to assist local communities that have suffered a natural disaster under a measure passed by the House May 9.

HF402, sponsored by House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), received unanimous approval with a 132-0 vote. The Senate version of the bill, SF383, sponsored by Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan), awaits action in that body.

In 2000, the city of Eagan, a suburb of St. Paul, suffered substantial flood damage.

Under the bill, the Department of Trade and Economic Development would make grants during the 2002-03 biennium to communities that experienced heavy rains, flooding, tornadoes, or other natural disasters from May 2000 to July 2000 as declared by the Presidential Declaration of Major Disaster.

The funds would be allocated to assist with public costs that are not covered by federal disaster programs, including damage assessment, repair, replacement, or improvement of publicly owned infrastructure, municipal utilities, parks, storm sewers, and wastewater treatment facilities, according to the bill.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) said he appreciates the legislation by Pawlenty. Mower County and his hometown were "hit with huge floods" last summer, he said.

### Job program changes

The House unanimously passed a measure May 8 that modifies language pertaining to the Job Skills Partnership Program and the Pathways Program.

## NO MANDATE



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Greg Langford, of Langford Trucking from the St. Cloud/Sauk Rapids area, holds one end of a "No Mandate" sign in opposition to a biodiesel bill outside the House Chamber along with other members of the Minnesota Trucking Association May 9. The House Taxes Committee later that day voted to only mandate biodiesel fuels in state vehicles.

The bill (HF1941) is sponsored by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont). The bill passed 131-0.

The Senate companion (SF1899), sponsored by Sen. Dave Johnson (DFL-Bloomington), is awaiting floor action in that body.

Language in current law for the Job Skills Partnership Program refers to serving "displaced workers." HF1941 removes the word "displaced" so state law only references "workers."

In law, the Pathways Program presently assists in the "transition of persons from welfare to work." The bill would change the law to also assist "individuals who are at or below 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines."

Also under the Pathways Program, the bill would delete specifications that programs receiving aid must "serve public assistance recipients transitioning from welfare to work," and adds that aid recipients may be "services supporting education and training programs that serve eligible recipients."

Current language requires employers who receive funding through the HIRE Education Loan Program to use it to obtain the most "cost-effective" training. This section changes this statement to refer to the most "effective" training.

### Investment fund repayments

Recipients of grants from the Minnesota Investment Fund might have more control over the money they receive, under a bill passed unanimously in both the House and Senate.

HF1392/SF1258\* now awaits the governor's signature.

Sponsored by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) and Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-New Ulm), the bill would give more latitude to cities or counties that receive repayment of funds awarded as loans or grants from the investment fund.

Under the bill, the entities would be able to contribute the money to larger projects, community capital funds, or a statewide revolving loan fund. The bill adds new language to allow the projects to be statewide, and not only regional.

The bill has no fiscal impact. The Senate passed the measure 50-0 May 4 and the House 132-0 May 9.

## ★ EDUCATION

### House passes omnibus bill

Showing their disapproval of the K-12 Education finance omnibus bill (HF82), House DFL members wore buttons claiming the grade they said it deserved: a D-.

"We are dismantling the quality programs we have in Minnesota schools," said Rep. Connie Bernardy (DFL-Fridley).

But supporters, including bill sponsor Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), explained to members on the House floor May 3 that the bill reflects the governor's priorities and those of House Republicans: accountability and conservative spending.



The bill also includes measures to repeal the Profile of Learning as part of the state's graduation standards and to reinstate the state Board of Education. Total spending in the bill for the 2002-03 biennium would be \$8.7 billion, up nearly \$1 billion from the previous biennium. The bill passed the body by a 72-61 vote.

The Senate passed its K-12 education bill the same day. The Senate bill would provide \$8.8 billion over the biennium. Appointees of the two bodies will soon meet in a conference committee to work out differences between the bills.

DFL members each took a turn offering comments to the bill before its final vote, many of them saying the Legislature should give more money toward education in a time of a good economy.

"I don't know how anyone could justify budget cuts in a time of a budget surplus," said Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park).

However, Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said the economy could get worse and they don't want to set themselves up to make big cuts in coming years. "We have to be prudent in our planning," he said.

The House adopted several amendments on the floor but only those that did not exceed established spending targets.

Among them was Rep. Bob Ness's (R-Dassel) amendment that would require school districts to reserve the amount of transportation costs they spent in the previous year, as well as reserve a specific amount for school bus purchases.

The body also approved an amendment by a 132-0 vote that would order the Department of Children, Families and Learning to return funds to the Pew Charitable Trusts. The funds that had been given to the department as a gift were unspent and should have been returned. However, the funds were spent on personal items by five department workers to avoid returning the funds. The amount to be returned would total \$113,423 plus interest.

The amendment, sponsored by Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), is the first legislation to deal with the discovery of the actions; the Senate has passed the same measure.

DFL House members introduced several amendments that were not adopted, including two that would have allocated funds to Gifted and Talented programs across the state.

Another amendment, sponsored by Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls) would have fully funded the cost of special education. Money for the bill would have been taken from outlying years 2004-05. Seagren said taking funds from those years and not knowing what revenues will be is "a little bit risky."

## Asthma inhalers

Legislation that would allow students with asthma to carry their inhalers in school has moved one step further to becoming law.

The House passed HF1394/SF1706\*, sponsored by Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover), by a 132-0 vote on May 7. The Senate passed the bill, sponsored there by Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul), 64-0 April 18.

Calling asthma inhalers "a rescue medication," Tingelstad explained on the House floor that students sometimes need them before they can reach the nurse's office, where some schools require they be kept — about 43 percent in Minnesota.

In order to carry and use the inhalers in school, students would need to have written parental permission that would be renewed each year. The bill would also require the school nurse or other authorized party to "assess the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use an asthma inhaler in a school setting."

Noting that asthma is the number one cause for missed school days, Tingelstad said the legislation would help students control asthma better.

The bill now awaits Gov. Jesse Ventura's signature.

Department of Natural Resources for park or open space.

Osthoff said he supported that measure but now was faced with a decision on whether the land's best use was as a park or as an historic site.

Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls), the sponsor of the park measure (HF2187) in the omnibus bill, said the two provisions could work together.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Julie Sabo (DFL-Mpls), passed the Senate 55-0 on May 4. It now goes to the governor for his signature.

## GAMBLING



### Cheaters beware

The House passed a bill May 8 by a 112-20 vote that would allow card club employees at Canterbury Park to detain a person suspected of cheating.

HF1021/SF1008\*, sponsored by Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), allows card club security personnel to detain a person if there is reasonable cause to believe the person has cheated at gambling.

The bill would allow the security personnel to require the suspect to provide or verify identification. Security could also inquire as to whether the person possesses any illegal contraband.

The detained person would have to be promptly informed of the purpose of the detention and may not be subjected to unnecessary or an unreasonable amounts of force. The person could not be detained for more than one hour or until a peace officer who requests detention has accepted custody.

Upon being detained, a person may request at any time that a peace officer be summoned.

Buesgens said the bill would create no new criminal penalties.

The measure, sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley), passed the Senate April 18 by a 63-0 vote.

The bill now goes to Gov. Jesse Ventura for approval or veto.

### Clear your cards

Noon hour bingo would become legal, under a measure passed by the House May 7.

HF1069/SF986\*, sponsored by Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), contains several provisions that would change laws governing charitable gambling in the state. The bill passed by an 86-43 vote.

Under current law, establishments that conduct bingo games are restricted to having no

## ENVIRONMENT



### Preserving history

The state would recognize the historical importance of Camp Coldwater Springs in Minneapolis under a bill passed by the House May 9. The vote was 110-20.

HF1764/SF2049\*, sponsored by Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield), would restrict the state or any of its political subdivisions from using or taking any action that affects the land in a way that diminishes the flow of water to or from the spring located near Fort Snelling.

Gleason said the land is currently owned by the Bureau of Mines of the United States Department of Interior.

The bill would entitle the land around the springs to the protection of the Minnesota Historic Sites Act, as well as the Minnesota Field and Archaeology Act.

"This would heighten the awareness of the importance of this property," Gleason said.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) questioned how the bill would work in conjunction with a measure included in the House environment and natural resources finance omnibus bill (HF766), sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) that would allow the property to be acquired by the Metropolitan Airports Commission and conveyed to the

more than 10 bingo occasions each week. At least 15 bingo games must be held at each occasion and the occasion must continue for at least 90 minutes, but not more than four hours.

The bill would allow an organization to conduct bingo between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to avoid the 15-game and time limit requirements.

Much of the floor debate centered on a successful amendment offered by Osskopp that would allow the card club at Canterbury Park to hold one tournament per year lasting no longer than 14 days. It would allow for more than 50 tables to be in use during tournament play.

The amendment would also raise the maximum wager amount on card games from \$30 to \$60.

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) said he was concerned the amendment would expand gambling in the state.

Osskopp said the amendment, already approved by the Senate, was not an expansion of gambling but would allow the card club to hold a tournament without having to shut down day-to-day operations as is now required.

Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), chair of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee that heard the bill earlier this session, agreed with Osskopp. He said success of the card club helps the horse track and thereby helps the agricultural and horse industries of the state.

Other provisions in the bill increase the threshold amount for annual audits and financial reviews of gambling funds. The bill would also allow gambling organizations to accept checks in the sale of raffle tickets.

The bill was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy). It now goes to the governor for approval.

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### Redistricting plan proposed

The House Redistricting Committee heard the first proposal May 10 to redraw the state's eight congressional districts. The committee took no action during the initial hearing of the bill.

HF2505, sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), would create a district that would encompass most of the northern part of the state, and would also combine Minneapolis and St. Paul into one congressional district.

Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), the committee chair, said further hearings would be held on the proposal.

Sen. Dave Kleis (R-St. Cloud), the sponsor

of the companion Senate bill (SF2355), said the plan meets the redistricting principles put forth by the House and Senate. Seven of the districts would have identical population figures of 614,935, with the eighth district having a population of 614,934. The numbers are based on the 2000 census.

Seifert said the bill recognizes the demographic shifts that have occurred in the past decade in urban, suburban, and rural areas.

"This is a new and exciting opportunity to enhance minority strength in Congress," he said pointing to the newly proposed fifth district combining the two core cities. Minorities would compose 38 percent of the district.

Rick Aguilar, president of the St. Paul-based Aguilar Productions, spoke in support of the bill. He said with the growing Hispanic population in the state, that community will have to become more politically involved.

"Combining Minneapolis and St. Paul would allow the community to be represented here in Minnesota. It's an opportunity we should take," he said.

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) said he prefers the two cities remain in separate districts. He said numbers that he had been shown indicate the fifth district currently has a 6 percent Hispanic population and under HF2505 that number would become 7 percent. The fourth district currently has an 8 percent Hispanic population and that would decrease to 7 percent.

Mariani said he agreed with Aguilar that the

Hispanic community in the state would continue to rapidly grow but it was important for that community to have the potential for two representatives in the state.

### State employee benefits

An amendment that would prohibit the state from entering into collective bargaining agreements to grant health care benefits to same-sex domestic partners of state employees drew controversy on the House floor May 3.

The House adopted the amendment offered to the state government omnibus finance bill (HF218/SF2360\*) by a 78-54 vote. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), passed the House on a 69-62. Overall, the bill provides \$707 million in funding for state government over the 2002-03 biennium.

Largely unchanged from the version approved by committee, the bill now goes to a conference committee to work out the details between the House and Senate language.

Existing law does not define who may receive benefits, but leaves it open to the bargaining process. The amendment, sponsored by Rep. Tony Kielucki (R-Lester Prairie), says that only an employee, a spouse, dependent child, or dependent grandchild may receive state-paid benefits.

Gov. Jesse Ventura has said he may use his

### STATEHOOD WEEK



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

As part of Minnesota Statehood Week, historic site interpreter Elizabeth Karel dresses in an 1850s period costume to play a Minnesota territory schoolteacher. She displays a map of the territory to fourth graders from St. Michael Catholic School in Prior Lake May 10 at the State Capitol.

authority to extend benefits to same-sex couples. Under this legislation, the governor would no longer have this ability, and any further changes would require legislative approval.

This is "an anti-GLBT (Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender) amendment," said Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), who argued the provision should have been introduced in a committee earlier in the session when the bill could have received public testimony.

"It is very disrespectful to employees that will be drastically affected by this," she added.

Kielucki pointed out that the state currently does not offer such benefits. "I do not think we can afford to go in that direction as a state," he said.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) said a change in the language to allow homosexual couples to receive benefits could possibly extend to heterosexual couples as well. "We don't know the cost," he said, but that he would support the measure if there were a clearer definition.

"This is about workers' rights, not the definition of marriage," Clark said.

Members of the House also passed an amendment to increase employer and employee contributions to the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) by 0.35 percent of compensation as of Jan. 1, 2002.

### Council growth

The membership of the Urban Indian Affairs Advisory Council would increase by one under a measure passed by the House May 7. The vote was 119-13.

HF1687/SF1206\*, sponsored in the House by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), would increase the advisory council from five members to six by adding a member from Bemidji. Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), sponsors the bill in the Senate.

Clark said concerns from American Indians in the Bemidji area are similar to the other council members that are from Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth.

Established in 1963, the Indian Affairs Council is the official liaison between state and tribal governments. This council is governed by the elected tribal chair of the 11 reservations in the state, and two at-large members representing American Indians who live in Minnesota, but are enrolled in other states.

The urban advisory council's role is to advise Indian Affairs Council board members on the unique problems and concerns of American Indians who live in urban areas of the state.

The measure passed the Senate by a 62-0 vote and was presented to Gov. Jesse Ventura on May 8.

## ★ HEALTH

### Well provision out, toilets in

The House passed a health policy bill (HF1304/SF1464\*) May 8, but the provisions regarding prevention of lead poisoning were one-upped in discussion by the proposed repeal of a law restricting pay toilets in public places.

"I'm real leery about eliminating the statute for pay toilets," said Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown).

Current law states that any public facility with pay toilets or urinals must have at least as many free toilets or urinals, and they must all be maintained at the same standards of upkeep.

The law has been on the books since 1975, and Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls), sponsor of the bill, said it was obsolete.

"Will firms be able to go back to pay toilets because the law is silent?" asked Murphy. "I sure don't think that's a good idea."

A provision for testing of wells at the time of a property sale also prompted discussion because it had been deleted from the bill in committee. According to Nornes, the requirement that wells be tested was opposed by realtors who said it was an unnecessary mandate.

"Why would we take out the well provision?" asked Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar), who is a real estate appraiser. "If you take out that requirement, who is responsible for cleaning up a bad well?"

The well provision stayed out of the bill, and the repeal of the pay toilets stayed in.

The bill, sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick), passed the House on a 76-54 vote. It has already passed the Senate 66-0 April 25, but due to the addition of House amendments will now require a conference committee.

### Maternal mortality review

Minnesota has conducted studies into maternal deaths for several decades, but the legal authorization for these studies expired July 1, 2000.

The House passed a bill 126-2 May 8 that would permit the commissioner of health to continue these studies, while repealing language that also authorized fetal and infant death studies.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), sponsor of HF1406, said the studies tracking maternal deaths are very important from a public health perspective. The findings are used to develop policies and improve systems for women's health care.

"The data is disturbing," Mulder said. "The number one cause of pregnancy-related death in this state is homicide."

In the last year records were kept in the state

(1999), 18 women died either while pregnant or within 12 months after the end of a pregnancy. Of those deaths, seven were unrelated to the pregnancy: causes of death included homicide, suicide, and car accidents.

The death rate for African-American women is 400 percent higher than for white women, according to Mulder.

Minnesota participates in a national study of maternal mortality led by the Centers for Disease Control. The Minnesota Chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists would also receive reports on the study's findings.

The bill is explicit as to how data would be handled to protect the privacy of women and their families. After summaries are made, Mulder said all data that identifies individuals would be destroyed.

The bill awaits action in the Senate.

### Down for the count

The House passed a smorgasbord health bill May 8 that, in part, would repeal a law giving the commissioner of health regulatory powers over professional boxing matches.

Other measures in HF1407, sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), include changing the requirements for health maintenance plans' reporting schedules and modifying rural hospitals' program eligibility.

Mulder said there has been only one professional boxing match in Minnesota in the last year.

The bill would eliminate the seven-member Minnesota Board of Boxing, transferring authority for overseeing boxing contests to the Iowa Athletic Commission. Federal law requires oversight of professional boxing matches to protect the health and safety of boxers.

Beginning Oct. 31, 2004, the bill would also allow health maintenance organizations to file plans every four years instead of every two years.

The current law makes for "lots of paperwork and reporting, but nothing happens," said Mulder. He said the bill would substitute a progress report every two years.

The bill would also expand the eligibility for

**Editor's Note:** The House was debating the omnibus health and human services finance bill May 10 as this edition of *Session Weekly* went to press. The bill would provide \$6.5 billion in funding for health and human services departments and programs over the 2002-03 biennium. The version that was approved by House committees also contained an abortion consent measure. Look for a full story detailing the provisions in the bill in next week's issue.

rural hospital capital improvement grants from hospitals in communities with less than 5,000 people to those in communities with less than 10,000 people.

The bill would expand the definition of “critical access hospital” to include hospitals in counties with, or counties contiguous to, areas designated as medically underserved or with shortages of health professionals.

The vote on HF1407 was 131-0. The bill is awaiting Senate action.

## ★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Position change

The House passed a bill May 9 that would allow two counties to change some elected positions to appointed positions.

HF1290/SF510\*, was defeated by the House on a 104-27 vote April 18. The original bill would allow all county boards the ability to change certain elected positions to appointed positions by an 80 percent vote of the board. It passed the Senate 45-19 March 5.

Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker), the House sponsor, offered a successful amendment May 9 that limited the scope of the bill to just Cass and Hubbard counties.

The amended bill would allow the Hubbard County board to change the auditor, treasurer, and the recorder positions to appointed positions. Cass County would do the same with its auditor-treasurer and recorder positions.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) said current law allows those elected positions to become appointed by having the county board put a referendum question before the voters. He said he opposed the measure because it allowed the changes to occur without the approval of voters.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) spoke against the original bill, but said he supported the amended version because in the past the House has supported the local requests as they have come before the body.

The amended bill passed by a 93-38 vote. It was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Sandra Pappas (DFL-St. Paul), and now advances to the governor’s desk.

## ★ RECREATION

### Twins up to bat again

A procedural move on the House floor May 8 has revived a plan intended to help the Minnesota Twins construct a new baseball stadium. Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) introduced a new bill regarding the issue and

successfully moved that it be referred to the House Taxes Committee.

The bill (HF2513) that would provide a \$140 million interest-free loan to the Minnesota Twins for construction of a new baseball stadium is scheduled to be heard by the taxes committee May 11.

The new measure is similar to another bill (HF2214) sponsored by Mares that was tabled April 11 in the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) made an unsuccessful motion on the House floor May 7 to re-refer HF2513 to the local government committee. Krinkie said the bill was only being referred to the taxes committee to circumvent the committee process.

The motion failed by a 76-52 vote.

Mares said the bill had been changed since its previous hearing, increasing the amount of the loan from \$100 million originally proposed to \$140 million, and removing a \$40 million bonding provision.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) and Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Cottage Grove), both of whom serve on the local government committee, said they were disappointed the committee didn’t have full hearings on the bill and that they weren’t given a chance to try and improve the bill.

The committee chair disagreed. Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Red Wing) said the bill received five hours of hearings and that its merits were thoroughly discussed.

Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton) said she was concerned the vote to re-refer HF2513 was not merely a procedural vote but rather that it would be used in campaigns as a stadium vote.

She said in 1997 she served on a committee that sent a stadium bill to another committee without recommendation and later her vote was used against her in an election campaign as a pro-stadium vote.

Mares said it was a procedural vote only, and that if approved by the taxes committee, members would have an opportunity to discuss the merits of the proposal.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), chair of the House Taxes Committee, said he promised Mares a hearing of the stadium bill if it was ever referred to his committee. Abrams told Krinkie the committee would not merely approve the bill and send it to the House floor but rather would take a thorough look at it. Abrams said he could not support HF2513 as it is currently written.

## TAXES



### House passes plan

The House passed an omnibus tax bill May 4 that would eliminate the state determined general education levy and reduce class rates across property classes. The vote was 107-26.

HF2498, sponsored by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), also would provide an \$856 million sales tax rebate based on the projected surplus for 2001, repeal the health care provider tax, and would create a dedicated fund for transit financing.

“This is a historic bill. It is balanced and bold and is bound to bring hope (to taxpayers),” said House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon).

The bill does not include Gov. Jesse Ventura’s proposal to pay for the property tax changes with an expansion of sales tax to services.

Abrams said he considered the governor’s proposal with an open mind but after hearing testimony from people around the state, he came to the conclusion the sales tax expansion was not in the best long-term economic interests of the state.

He said he also studied the other states that do tax services such as South Dakota, New Mexico, and Hawaii, and again came to the conclusion that it was not a direction Minnesota should take.

“If you want to be a cold Albuquerque, you will adopt the governor’s plan,” Abrams said.

DFL members offered eight unsuccessful amendments that would have shifted some of the relief in the bill. Among the amendments were proposals to increase the amount available for the state’s property tax refund program and increase the amount allowed for personal and dependent exemptions.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) said that although he appreciated the property tax reform and provider tax repeal, he could not vote for the bill because of the priorities it establishes.

“The education of our children and the health care of our people ought to be our top priority,” Leighton said. “This super-sized tax bill doesn’t allow us to do a lot of the things a lot of members want to do.”

Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) was the only Republican to vote against the bill. He said he was concerned about local control issues with the state taking over basic K-12 expenses currently funded by local property taxes.

The Senate tax bill still awaits action on the Senate floor.

# A positive message

Dalai Lama shares thoughts of common ground, kindness, and hope for the future with Minnesota legislators

By DAVID MAEDA

**S**peaking not only about, but also with much, measurable compassion, the Dalai Lama addressed a joint House and Senate session May 9 in the House Chamber.

House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) introduced the Tibetan religious and political leader with gracious words. He called the Dalai Lama "the most honorable person in this entire world from the standpoint of peace, compassion, and justice."

"We are gathered today for a truly historic occasion," Sviggum said. "We are gathered today to welcome one of the most honorable and distinguished people of our generation. There is probably no one alive today who better embodies the struggle for human freedom and the spirit of nonviolence than our honorable guest His Holiness, the Dalai Lama."

"His coming to Minnesota to share his message is a blessing," Sviggum continued. "To share his blessing, to share his hope for Tibet is a tribute to our people and the strength of the Tibetan American community here in Minnesota."

Presenting his message mostly with a low but self-assured voice and sometimes through

the help of an interpreter, the Dalai Lama gave his second address to a state legislature. He addressed the Wisconsin Assembly in 1998.

"As most of you might be aware Minnesota is a state which is the home to a very large Tibetan community in the United States. Over 800 Tibetans have found a second home here in this Minnesota state," he said.

"Not only have they found a second home but also a home where they can feel relaxed, calm and at peace. Therefore I'd like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all the citizens of this Minnesota state for granting this opportunity to the Tibetans."

His message emphasized of the importance of community and finding common ground.

"I always consider human affection as a very, very precious thing. Even though (we) may be from different countries, different faith, different culture, or different language, human affection is something over all these differences," he said.

He acknowledged his immediate connection with the audience of legislators and their guests, and a room further filled with the public including several from the Tibetan community.

"Even without knowing each other before, as soon as we met face to face to smile or to exchange simple expression, we can immediately come closer. I think that's very precious. I always believe if we carry this spirit in all our activities, every human activity, every human action can be constructive. I think suddenly humanity can be a more happier one," he said.

He also stressed the importance of taking



The Dalai Lama listens to a question during a news conference.



The Dalai Lama enters the House Chambers escorted by Rep. Geri Evans, left, and Sen. Satveer Chaudhary, right, to address a joint meeting of the Legislature May 9.

care of the environment to ensure the happiness of following generations.

"We are the same human beings," he said. "The future of humanity is a concern for everybody. The Earth is our own home. Every human being has the responsibility to take care of our home, our world, our planet, and the future of humanity."

His speech at times was halted by a searching for the correct words but always with an ever-present smile upon his open, blissful face.

"Not only do we have sort of an innate desire to have a happy life but also we have every right to have a happy, meaningful life. Now for that I think it is not complete if we just expect all our wishes can be fulfilled by external means. I think that's a mistake," he said. "Of course the material government is very helpful, very necessary. But I think many of





PHOTOS BY TOM OLMSCHIED  
nce, May 9.

our problems are not religious with physical level but as a human being we have a very brilliant mind. Therefore many of our problems are essentially created by our human intelligence.

"The only counter force is to balance our problems created mainly by human intelligence so this brings the importance to basic human values, such as caring for one another, a sense of community, self discipline, contentment, tolerance, and forgiveness," he said.

His message also contained a reaching out to those with differing opinions and beliefs both politically and philosophically.

"As a religious person, as a Buddhist, as a believer, obviously on this planet there are many different religious traditions. Each tradition has great potential to serve humanity. In the past millions of people have gotten benefits from these traditions," he said. "We can work together and develop genuine harmony."

He said he felt a "moral responsibility" to Tibetans because of their trust in him. And he said the solution to the conflicts that exist with China would best be resolved by establishing relationships with the Chinese government.

When thinking of current affairs between the two states he said, "Sometimes I feel almost hopeless." But he said he

still believes the best way to solve differences is to keep in mind that the "people of China want to join in one community."

He encouraged the United States to develop further understandings with the Chinese government.

"People (from the) outside world like the United States and this state, you should have closer relations with People's Republic of China. And make friends. And to that end you can help reduce their suspicions."

But he said it was important to preserve values such as cultural heritage and religious freedoms when dealing with China.

Ultimately he said he is hopeful because "the Tibetan spirit inside Tibet is very high, especially among the younger generation."

House members were appreciative of the morning's events.

Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) said he was impressed with the message delivered of focusing on people's similarities rather than differences. Kubly said he thought the Dalai Lama appeared to be a "gentle man."

Sviggum expressed admiration for the man and his message.

decisions and actions on values and principles rather than on money. "That's not something we always remember around here," she said.

Greiling said she especially appreciated that the Dalai Lama's message contained concern over ecology and environment issues.

After his speech the Dalai Lama patiently

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***"As a religious person, as a Buddhist, as a believer, obviously on this planet there are many different religious traditions. Each tradition has great potential to serve humanity. In the past millions of people have gotten benefits from these traditions. We can work together and develop genuine harmony."***


***—The Dalai Lama***

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"No matter what your faith, no matter what your religion, this is a man deserving of our praise for his commitment to peace, his perseverance in fighting for the people's freedom and the example of compassion, hope, and brotherhood that he provides to all."

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) said she appreciated the emphasis of basing

shook hands, posed for pictures, and accepted gifts from legislative leadership. Among the gifts was a gold watch, an acknowledgement of the Dalai Lama's hobby of collecting timepieces.

After a brief press conference he met with Gov. Jesse Ventura whom he said he was going to see, "Just to say hello." 

## Capitol visitors also hear Dalai Lama's words

Crowding behind red velvet ropes, spectators filled the halls of the Capitol, hoping to catch a glimpse of His Holiness the Dalai Lama during his visit. Some of the on-lookers even had the chance to shake his hand.

Terese Pritschet and her daughter, both of Minneapolis, were of the few who received access to watch the Dalai Lama speak from the floor of the House Chamber. The two were guests of Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls).

Pritschet said the Dalai Lama's most important points were that all people share a basic human nature and his encouragement to others to see issues from different perspectives, keeping in mind there are a variety of cultures and traditions.

She noted "his commitment to helping cultures maintain a sense of identity," and that he said we make a lot of our problems for ourselves. Also, Pritschet said government officials should remember the Dalai Lama's words on the relationship between countries: that it should be the same as with any friendship — "to create trust, but speak honestly and point out wrongdoing."

Pritschet's daughter, Ellie Wiener, has been studying the occupation of Tibetans in

school. The eighth-grader from Windom Open School in Minneapolis worked with two other students on the research project and presentation that included one of them acting out the part of the Dalai Lama. From what she saw of the Tibetan leader in person, she said their portrayal was pretty close to the real man himself.

Taking what she learned from her research, Ellie said the United States "needs to support Tibet and China, and not cut off the relationship with China."

Pasang Norbu, a teaching aid for special education at Randolph Heights Elementary School in St. Paul, also had a seat on the House floor. Formerly a teacher in India, Norbu came to the United States in 1996.

Having the Dalai Lama come to the state is a great learning experience for Minnesotans to know about Tibetans, Norbu said. The visit should have some effect, he said, especially for human rights.

Norbu said he thought the Dalai Lama spoke well when he said that America is one of the biggest countries that supports Tibetans, but they still need our support, and that the Legislature can do much to help as a whole.

(T. STAHL)

# A bad reputation

Communicable diseases prompted health officials and the Legislature to enact preventative and educational measures

BY MICHELLE KIBIGER

**T**uberculosis. Diphtheria. Typhoid Fever. Polio. Scarlet Fever. These diseases come to mind when we think about public health issues that required swift and decisive action by the government in order to protect the citizenry.

But another group of communicable diseases hovered beneath the public's sensibility for more than 50 years, all the while troubling public health officials.

It wasn't until World War I when soldiers began contracting and spreading venereal diseases that the public became aware the problem was reaching epidemic proportions.

Public health officials pointed to one main carrier of the diseases — prostitutes. But law enforcement officials had turned a blind eye to madames and houses of ill repute, so public health officials tried to motivate legislators and city officials to stop the problem in other ways.

But officials did not focus solely on the moral issues surrounding the diseases. They appealed to leaders on the ground that the diseases had caused a serious public health problem and something needed to be done on several fronts.

Ultimately, they relied on the aid of state and federal funds to educate the public about the dangers of venereal disease. As a result, they nearly eliminated them throughout the state.

In 1919, there were thousands of cases of both syphilis and gonorrhea in the state. And the problem had existed statewide since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

In his book, *The People's Health: a History of Public Health in Minnesota to 1948*, Philip D. Jordan attributed the high number of cases to an influx of prostitutes, who migrated to the Twin Cities from Chicago after a fire there in the 1870s.

Jordan wrote that about 500 prostitutes made the move from one of the "worst and vilest" districts in Chicago. Local press at the time confirmed his assessment of the situation.

"The Chicago fire of 1874, it was estimated, doubled the number of prostitutes in Minneapolis," the *St. Paul Daily Press* reported.

Adding further aggravation to the problem, police were not enforcing laws that banned prostitution. Only a fraction of the women arrested for prostitution were actually charged with the crime in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

"The customary procedure — one that was rather general throughout the United States — was for police to raid houses periodically, bring the madames into court to pay a fine, and then release them to continue their activities," Jordan wrote in his book. "Jail sentences were rarely imposed."

Though both state and local officials supported methods to make it easier to curb prostitution, it flourished well into the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

"So great was the influence of vice in Minneapolis that no legislative methods could terminate prostitution," Jordan wrote. "After several years of attempting to eradicate the

evil, Minneapolis began licensing its brothels."

But the problem wasn't confined to major cities of the state. In fact, 11 cities in Minnesota and the Wisconsin communities of Eau Claire and Hudson both reported serious problems with tuberculosis and venereal disease as early as 1874.

In 1902, Dr. Henry M. Bracken, head of the state board of health, said venereal disease ought to be placed under the jurisdiction of public health officers. He also said the state should provide free Wassermann tests, used to detect such diseases, and subsequently provide free treatments of salvarsan for those afflicted.

Bracken and other prominent health pro-

fessionals were particularly outspoken about the problems associated with the spread of venereal disease. But what they were most critical of was a perceived lack of leadership from legislators and other state officials.

They said that until Minnesota doctors were required to report cases of syphilis and gonorrhea and provide afflicted persons with treatment, the problem would only get worse. Furthermore, they said the fact that officials were not willing to publicly address the problem merely al-

lowed it to progress uncontrolled throughout the population.

Wrote Jordan, "The Minnesota Legislature ... had passed a series of acts calculated to reduce prostitution, but neither the state nor municipalities had attempted to legislate on the venereal disease problem. The state health department had no such regulation and neither had any local health boards. Nevertheless, the trend was in that direction."



Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

**Venereal disease prevention project, Minneapolis Lymanhurst Clinic in 1940.**

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***“We may expect to reduce venereal disease by gaining the recognition of the medical profession and the public, to the fact that these diseases must be removed from the plane of ‘secret’ or ‘shameful’ diseases, to the plane of other contagious infections, which properly belong under the control of public health authorities.”***

—Dr. H. G. Irvine

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Officials began to take notice of the problem as soldiers were falling ill and being diagnosed with the diseases. Prostitutes were deemed the source of the problem and officials began asking for help.

According to Jordan, “Colonel H.S. Greenleaf, ranking surgeon at Fort Snelling, repeatedly requested departmental help and had said that he was ‘unable to handle conditions satisfactorily without outside assistance.’”

In 1918, the state Department of Health created a division specifically for the prevention of venereal diseases. Dr. H.G. Irvine, who was head of the division, urged officials to educate the public to no longer view venereal diseases with the stigma that had followed them throughout history.

“We may expect to reduce venereal disease by gaining the recognition of the medical profession and the public, to the fact that these diseases must be removed from the plane of ‘secret’ or ‘shameful’ diseases, to the plane of other contagious infections, which properly belong under the control of public health authorities,” Irvine said.

With the creation of the venereal disease division, the state also created regulatory policy that required doctors to report all cases of venereal disease. In addition, patients were to be treated until the disease was no longer a threat to others.

In 1918, there were more than 8,000 cases of syphilis, gonorrhea, and chancroid reported throughout Minnesota. The numbers would increase to more than 11,000 by 1921. By the early 1940s, tests of soldiers showed that the

disease was present in less than 1 percent of the nearly 200,000 men tested. (In 1999, about 2,800 cases of syphilis and gonorrhea were reported in men and women.)

However, during that same period of time, doctors and public health officials blanketed the state with as many as 400,000 pamphlets regarding the dangers of venereal disease. Those same officials showed a film, called

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***“So great was the influence of vice in Minneapolis that no legislative methods could terminate prostitution,” Jordan wrote. “After several years of attempting to eradicate the evil, Minneapolis began licensing its brothels.”***

—Philip D. Jordan

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“End of the Road” to school teachers and others in 37 counties during 1919.

Between exhibits, lectures and film showings, nearly 330,000 people were educated about the diseases.

Local health officers also declared a sort of war on prostitution, posting public notices on homes and buildings known to house such activities.

According to Jordan, signs declared the following: “Warning! Venereal Disease exists on these premises.” They were printed in black, bold-face type on red cards with the words “venereal disease” appearing in letters not less than three inches high.

The Legislature made regular appropriations to the venereal disease division for these purposes. Between 1914 and 1947, nearly \$600,000 was budgeted for these purposes to the state Department of Health.

However, public attention toward the diseases would wane after World War I and into the late 1920s as economic concerns surrounding the stock market crash and subsequent depression won out. The division of venereal diseases would ultimately become part of the department’s division of preventable diseases, but the issue would again gain public attention with the passage of the federal Venereal Disease Control Act of 1938. The act provided grants-in-aid to states through the U.S. Public Health Service.

Minnesota used the funds to continue education efforts and to attempt to control prostitution on the local level.

By 1948, Minnesota had one of the lowest

venereal disease rates in the country.

Today, the state’s Department of Health still crusades, with the funding and help of the Legislature, to reduce the effects of communicable illnesses like HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Several million dollars is available annually in the form of grants for the purposes of education and prevention.

State law requires that school districts to involve parents and community agencies to develop a comprehensive approach to the prevention of the disease, particularly targeting at-risk youth.

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## Minnesota State Agencies

(Area code 651)

Administration ..... 296-6013  
 Agriculture ..... 297-2200  
 Children, Families  
 and Learning ..... 582-8200  
 Commerce ..... 296-4026  
 Corrections ..... 642-0200  
 Economic Security ..... 296-3644  
 Employee Relations ..... 297-1184  
 Job Information ..... 296-2616  
 Finance ..... 296-5900  
 Health ..... 215-5803  
 Human Rights ..... 296-5663

Toll Free ..... 1-800-657-3704  
 Human Services ..... 296-6117  
 Labor and Industry ..... 296-6107  
 Military Affairs ..... 282-4662  
 Natural Resources ..... 296-6157  
 Pollution Control Agency ..... 296-6300  
 Public Safety ..... 296-6642  
 Driver and Vehicle Services ... 296-6911  
 Fire Marshal ..... 215-0500  
 Alcohol and Gambling

Enforcement Division ..... 296-6979  
 State Patrol ..... 297-3935  
 Public Service ..... 296-5120  
 Revenue  
 Taxpayer Assistance ..... 296-3781  
 Toll Free ..... 1-800-652-9094  
 Trade and  
 Economic Development ..... 297-1291  
 Office of Tourism ..... 296-5029  
 Transportation ..... 296-3000  
 Veterans Affairs ..... 296-2562  
**State Information ..... 296-6013**

# Unofficial start of summer

More than 10,000 lakes and a lot of fish in and out of water:  
Pack your coolers, it's time to go fishing

By MARY KAY WATSON

**T**he opening of fishing season is not just for the fisherfolk among us. It is, in fact, the gateway to summer in Minnesota, initiating a weekly ritual of northward migration that will clog highways and byways for the next four months.

Whether you're a seasoned angler or a novice with the rod and reel, you will need certain things for your journey. You will, of course, need a fishing license.

License fees are slightly higher this year, due to an increase passed by the 2000 Legislature. A license will cost \$18 if you're a Minnesota resident, unless you're 65 or older, then the price is \$6.50. One-day licenses are also available. Children 15 and younger do not need a license.

In addition, a new provision in 2001 allows residents to purchase lifetime licenses, which are priced according to the age of the person for whom the license is purchased.

Licenses and information are available from the Department of Natural Resources. Check out their Web site at [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us).

Also, lighted fishing lures are now allowed in Minnesota waters, as long as the lights in the lures do not violate size limits.

Next year you may have the option of buying a conservation license, a less expensive fishing license that would establish one-half catch and possession limits at two-thirds the price of a regular license. The Legislature is considering that and several other fishing proposals this year in its Environment and Natural Resources omnibus bill (HF766/SF2351\*). The elimination of the senior fishing discount and a reduction in the limit of yellow perch are also being considered.

A bill (HF94) currently before the House would establish harsher penalties for those who take more fish than the law allows, including license revocation, confiscation of equipment, and restitution of resources. This

bill would target "gross offenders," people who intentionally violate legal limits. But it's always a good idea to count your fish.

Of course, a fishing trip is about more than just the catch: some may even say that for many Minnesotans the fishing opener qualifies as a religious holiday. And as with many



Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

**A giant cod sits outside the lutfisk capital of the world Madison, Minnesota.**

religions, fishing has its shrines. As you wend your way to your favorite fishing hole, slow down and pay homage to the roadside renditions of walleye, muskie, sunfish, northern pike, trout, bass, eelpout, and even codfish (a non-Minnesota source of that great Minnesota delicacy: lutfisk) that the people of this state have erected in honor of the wily Pisces.

According to the Minnesota Historical Society, the following places offer photo opportunities for your 2001 fish story: Alexandria, Baudette, Bemidji, Bena, Clarks Grove, Deer River, Erskine, Forest Lake, Garrison, Isle, Kabetogama, Madison, Medina, Minneapolis, Minneiska, Nevis, Orr, Park Rapids, Preston, Ray,

Rush City, and Walker. Since part of the adventure is finding these trophy fish, the historical society declines to give addresses, but pictures of some are available online at [www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org).

Minnesota's roadside architecture isn't limited to fish. If you happen upon Frazee, look for the turkey; in Fergus Falls, there's an otter; and in Jenkins you'll find a pelican. And of course, Moose Lake has — well, you know.

Once you get to your destination, there's more to fishing than catching fish. Part of the fun is getting equipped to outsmart them.


If you already own all the fishing tackle you need to entice a hungry walleye, perhaps a northwoods fashion update would be in order. Of course, your wardrobe preference might center on an ancient, but lucky, hat and duds handed down from grandpa. Anything goes: just don't forget the sunscreen.

Paraphernalia for the piscally inclined are available at a multitude of fishing emporiums, many of which are listed in the *Explore Minnesota* Web site ([www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com)), sponsored by the Minnesota Office of Tourism. From that site you can link to local chamber of commerce sites for more specific information, including bait shops, boat rentals, lodging, restaurants, and shopping.

If you are interested in the history of fishing in Minnesota, you may someday have the opportunity to learn about it in Little Falls, which seems to be the most likely candidate for a fishing museum. In 1997 the Legislature appropriated money for a feasibility study for a museum that would house fishing-related artifacts, equipment, and memorabilia.

The ensuing study calculated that such a museum would cost about \$4 million, with operating expenses of about \$285,000. It concluded the feasibility for such a facility was "questionable at this time."

The museum has not been funded by the Legislature, but advocates are still working toward that end. Meanwhile, the Minnesota Historical Society has about 1,000 items in its sport and commercial fishing collection.

In the meantime, don't forget to examine those architectural wonders: the roadside fish of Minnesota. 

# A Minnesota innovation

Act allows state to help fund local correctional services, keeping services local and helping offenders be more productive

By JONAS M. WALKER

Until the Legislature formed the Department of Corrections in 1959, local jurisdictions meted out criminal justice inconsistently and often with little room for distinction between adult and juvenile offenders. Lawmakers hoped that creating the department would improve and homogenize correctional activities throughout the state.

Fourteen years later, the Legislature acted in response to the social movements of the day by emphasizing localized corrections as opposed to distant, institutionalized punishment. It created a blue-ribbon panel of legislators, judges, police, representatives of state and local agencies, local elected officials, and department leaders to look into the matter.

According to Dan Cain, executive director of the correctional initiative Eden Programs, lawmakers were motivated by a sense of the changing times. “Even prior to Attica (site of a major prison riot in 1971), prison reform efforts were quietly moving forward in Minnesota,” he wrote.

Cain’s was one of several articles within *Corrections Retrospective 1959-1999*, published in 2000 by the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

Acting on the panel’s recommendations, the Legislature passed the Community Corrections Act (CCA) of 1973, authorizing the commissioner of corrections to award subsidy grants to counties for the funding of local correctional services.

“The purpose of the CCA is to promote efficiency and economy in the use of correctional dollars and to develop and maintain community programs and resources while effectively protecting society,” according to corrections department documents.

In the retrospective, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who served under President Jimmy Carter, characterized community corrections as a mechanism for restoring damage done to communities by crime. “From the very beginning, the direction of the correctional process must be back toward the

community,” he said. “It is in the community that crime will be committed or a useful life lived.”

At the time of the act’s passage, Minnesota state prison populations were rapidly declining, thereby decreasing the relative efficiency of communal incarceration. Typically, the fewer inmates a prison has, the higher per diem costs are. The CCA promised both the economic savings of smaller, localized programs emphasizing treatment, and the social benefits of a shrinking criminal element made even less threatening by the hope of reduced recidivism born of conscientious counseling.

According to the Association of Minnesota Counties, Minnesota was the first state to enact innovative legislation like the act.

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***“From the very beginning, the direction of the correctional process must be back toward the community. It is in the community that crime will be committed or a useful life lived.”***  
***—Former U. S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark***

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Cain writes in the retrospective that the CCA presumed most property offenders would not be sent to prison, and instead community sanctions would be imposed. Scarce prison resources would be reserved for violent offenders.

To participate, counties had to establish a local Corrections Advisory Board to identify local needs and develop plans for addressing those needs.

Once under the plan, counties would be charged for the use of state institutions for all

adults imprisoned for fewer than five years and for all juveniles.

The first year, the Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million to CCA initiatives. By 1983, a total of 27 counties, accounting for about 60 percent of the state’s population, were participating in the project, which had a budget of nearly \$13 million.

That year, the Legislature commissioned a review of the program. It concluded that the act “seems to be having its desired effect.” That is, participating counties had reduced their reliance on state prisons.

Now, nearly 30 years after the act’s inception, 31 counties participate, including the state’s two largest and most urban counties — Hennepin and Ramsey.

Jan Smaby, director of Hennepin County Community Corrections, explains that the CCA still contributes to Minnesota’s low incarceration rate by ensuring local involvement in correctional programs. “The judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys all live here,” she said. “We feel the dynamics and politics of our neighborhoods. The effect of that can be pretty profound.”

Smaby says the CCA has not only continued to be a popular mechanism for local officials to maintain relatively low incarceration rates, but has served as a model for reducing probation officer caseload.

On any given day, Smaby said, there are

twice as many people in the Hennepin County facilities — including the jail, workhouses, halfway houses, etc. — as are incarcerated in state facilities. According to Smaby, the county spends \$75 per day to house a criminal, a sum covered mostly by county property taxes. To house the same person in a state facility, Minnesota taxpayers would spend as much as \$100 per day.

(The Corrections Department is implementing a per diem cost reduction plan that could cut that figure by as much as 30 percent



in the next few years. The plan has received the support of Gov. Jesse Ventura and the House.)

Smaby added that convicts assigned to local correctional activities are somewhat less likely to offend again. "When you have locally-available services, which cost less and are slightly more effective, why wouldn't you use it?" she said. "It would be silly not to."

Dodge/Fillmore/Olmsted Community Corrections Director Andy Erickson explained that CCA grant funding permits those three counties to offer services unavailable at the state level. For example, he cited offender risk assessment, which can help determine the likelihood an offender will commit a similar crime.

The three counties also offer psychiatric and chemical dependency treatment and a variety of probation oversight services, including electronic in-home monitoring. Erickson said such programs allow offenders to repay their debt to society while still living with their families and holding jobs, thus providing corrective action while minimizing costs to the community.

He added that community involvement is both easier and more effective with CCA-corrected offenders than in situations involving state incarceration.

The CCA continues to play a central role in Minnesota's criminal justice funding, though it is currently facing some troubling times. The program relies on legislative appropriations, which officials say have fallen behind in recent years, creating a shortfall and prompting some of the CCA counties involved to consider opting out.

A proposal sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), some of which was incorporated in the House version of omnibus judiciary finance bill, would have dedicated \$60 million in the 2002-03 biennium to buffer the shortfall. 🏛️



## Attacking asthma

### Michigan, other states allow students to carry inhalers

When a child has an asthma attack, some schools require they leave class, go to the nurse's office, and, if they're fortunate, the nurse can immediately unlock the cabinet holding their inhaler and they can get the medication to relieve the attack. In schools across the country, children have passed out before reaching the nurse's office. Or sometimes the nurse isn't immediately available with keys in hand.

Recognizing the urgency for an inhaler in the event of an asthma attack, several states have passed laws and others are considering legislation to allow students to carry asthma inhalers with them in school.

Some schools allow students to carry their medication, but in those that don't, inhalers are generally locked in the school nurse's office for supervision when the drugs are administered.

Michigan is one of 10 states that allow pupils to possess and use inhalers to relieve asthmatic symptoms during school, school activities, or school-sponsored events, with written approval from the child's physician and parent or legal guardian.

Passed in 2000, Michigan's law includes language similar to a Minnesota bill presently awaiting the governor's signature. The bill (HF1394/SF1706\*), sponsored in the House by Rep. Kathy Tinglestad (R-Andover), was passed in the House and the Senate without a dissenting vote.

A bill currently making its way through the Illinois legislature that would grant students the same permission to carry inhalers lists reasons for the importance of the bill:

- An estimated 5.3 million American children have asthma;
- Asthma accounts for 10 million lost school days each year in the United States and is the leading cause of school absenteeism attributed to chronic conditions;
- There are more than 5,400 deaths from asthma in this country each year;
- Resulting asthma attacks in children can be severe;
- Children with asthma are taught by their physician to take medication to prevent an attack or to help them if an attack occurs;
- A child's asthma can be managed by both treatment and medication; and
- Elementary and secondary school students with asthma should have unobstructed access to their asthma medication.

Differences between the bills are minor, but notable. Minnesota and Illinois would require parental permission to be renewed each year. In addition, the Illinois bill reads that parents would be required to sign a statement that ensures the school would not incur liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of the medication by the student.

(T. STAHL)

## Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

### Information, House

175 State Office Building ..... 296-2146  
Toll free ..... 1-800-657-3550  
**TTY, House** ..... 296-9896  
Toll free ..... 1-800-657-3550  
**Chief Clerk of the House**  
211 Capitol ..... 296-2314  
**Index, House**  
211 Capitol ..... 296-6646  
**Sergeant at Arms, House**  
45 State Office Building ..... 296-4860  
**Committee Hotline, House** ..... 296-9283

### Information, Senate

231 Capitol ..... 296-0504  
Toll free ..... 1-888-234-1112  
**TTY, Senate** ..... 296-0250  
Toll free ..... 1-888-234-1112  
**Secretary of the Senate**  
231 Capitol ..... 296-2343  
Voice mail/order bills ..... 296-2343  
**Index, Senate**  
110 Capitol ..... 296-5560  
**Sergeant at Arms, Senate**  
Senate Chamber ..... 296-7514/296-1119

**Committee Hotline, Senate** ..... 296-8088

### Legislative Reference Library

645 State Office Building ..... 296-3398  
**Governor's Office**  
130 Capitol ..... 296-3391  
**Attorney General's Office**  
102 Capitol ..... 296-6196  
**Secretary of State's Office**  
180 State Office Building ..... 296-2803  
**Capitol Security**  
B-5 Capitol ..... 296-6741  
**Emergency** ..... 296-2100

## Tracking new laws, vetoes

Once a bill has passed both the House and Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor, who has several options when considering a bill, can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill;
- or do nothing, which can have two different effects. The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is that the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor

doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of

the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

**This information is also available on the governor's Web site ([www.governor.state.mn.us](http://www.governor.state.mn.us)). Select the "Policy" link, then click on "2001 Bill Tracking."**

**Key:**

CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
Res.1	219	258*	Resolution requesting a ban on the importation of certain steel products.	3/15/01	
Res.2	670	647*	Resolution memorializing the President and Congress to fund 40 percent of special education costs.	4/6/01	
Res.3	1391*	1318	Resolution for postage stamp of Eric Enstrom's "Grace" photograph.	4/26/01	
1	34	28*	Teacher licensing under current licensure rules.	1/16/01	
2	421*	460	Energy assistance program federal fund expenditure authorized.	2/2/01	
3	213	201*	Physicians assistants infection control continuing education requirements repeal.	2/15/01	
4	181	43*	Adult foster care license capacity age requirement and maximum admissions variances.	2/28/01	
5	817	376*	City contract limit increases.	3/2/01	
6	106*	47	Minnesota agricultural education leadership council permanent members authorized.	3/8/01	
7	656*	231	Revisor's Bill.	3/15/01	
8	80*	79	Coon Lake water level control.	3/16/01	
9	393*	155	Ramsey County and City of St. Paul employees allowed equal competition for county jobs in city-county departments.	3/16/01	
10	357	289*	Alcohol and drug counselors licensing requirements modified.	3/16/01	
11	487	433	Townships health, social, and recreational services contracts amounts increases.	3/21/01	
12	320*	399	Property casualty insurance agents surplus lines insurance procurement authority.	3/29/01	
13	1016	509*	City and county obligations payment by electronic transfer or credit card authorized.	4/6/01	
14	368	63*	Stearns County Highway 55 bridge designated as Old St. Anne's pass.	4/6/01	
15	243	346*	Trusts; uniform principal and income act modified, and antilapse law clarified.	4/6/01	
16	556*	756	Federal law enforcement officers authorized to exercise arrest powers in MN under specified circumstances.	4/9/01	
17	416	400*	Hokah authorized to vacate roads if necessary due to extensive damage.	4/9/01	
18	1046	991*	Notifies schools of student possession of drug paraphernalia.	4/11/01	
19	172	9*	Authorizes cities to provide housing assistance for volunteer firefighters or ambulance personnel.	4/11/01	
20	64	971*	Repeals law prohibiting itinerant carnivals.	4/11/01	
21	394	327*	Repealing statutes concerning castrating animals running at large in a town.	4/11/01	
22	466	972*	Repeals law prohibiting endurance contests.	4/11/01	
23	252	570*	Repeals obsolete rules.	4/11/01	
24	37	480*	Repeals obsolete traffic regulations.	4/13/01	

\*The legislative bill marked with an asterisk denotes the file submitted to the governor.

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
25	57*	27	Certain crimes against children named disqualifying offenses for school bus drivers' licenses.	4/13/01	
26	245	225*	Allows licensed peace officers to determine necessity of patient restraints.	4/13/01	
27	790	702*	Modifies requirements for the Bluffland trail system.	4/13/01	
28	1951	1204*	Regulates the use of HIV and bloodborne pathogen tests.	4/13/01	
29	994	883*	Establishes hospital waiver or variance request procedure.	4/13/01	
30	47*	39	Unemployment benefits to certain LTV employees extended.	4/11/01	
31	116	274*	Respiratory care practitioner advisory council sunset delayed; athletic trainer registration cancelled for nonrenewal.	4/24/01	
32	501	283*	Conservation officer enforcement activity comparison prevented from use in performance evaluation.	4/24/01	
33	1455	1435*	Designer selection board provisions modified.	4/24/01	
34	453	319*	Discharge of judgments against bankruptcy debtors regulated.	4/24/01	
35	424	456*	Mental retardation waiver recipients authorized access to respite care in certain facilities.	4/24/01	
36	275*	210	Nursing facilities closure medical assistance cost savings projection prohibition.	4/24/01	
37	125*	104	Dentist licensure requirements modified for applicants trained in a foreign country.	4/24/01	
38	949*	771	Allows for a smaller newspaper to serve as the qualified newspaper for smaller communities.	4/24/01	
39	387	142*	Increases the membership of the State Council on Black Minnesotans.	4/24/01	
40	828	741*	Hennepin County employees granted disaster volunteer leave.	4/24/01	
41	1747	1780*	Itasca County chemical dependency demonstration project rule exemption extended.	4/24/01	
42	1634	1460*	Duty to warn law applied to social workers, and social workers allowed to form professional firms.	4/24/01	
43	1404	1709*	Exempts towed implements of husbandry from tail lamp requirement.	4/24/01	
44	867*	646	Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District provisions modification and clarification.	4/24/01	
45	2119*	1915	Charitable organization report filing requirements modified.	4/24/01	
46	253	249*	Repeals obsolete health and human rules.	4/26/01	
47	274*	70	Mercury thermometer sales restricted.	4/26/01	
48	323*	914	Motor vehicle fuel franchisees transfer rights provision expiration date removal.	4/26/01	
49	1160*	1127	Physician assistants prescribing medication review provisions modified.	4/26/01	
50	239*	170	Real estate provisions modifications.	4/26/01	
51	1260*	1332	Child support and custody provisions terminology neutralization.	4/26/01	
52	1467	1419*	Payment bonds claims notices requirements modification.	4/26/01	
53	1637*	1790	Repeals provisions requiring hawkers and peddlers to obtain a license.	4/30/01	
54	149*	505	Regulates sale and labeling of Halaal food, meat or poultry products.	4/30/01	
55	1159*	857	Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation and Gillette Children's Hospital addition prior funding modifications.	4/30/01	
56	1084*	1066	Omnibus financial institutions and banking bill.	4/30/01	
57	285*	339	Agricultural liens regulation provisions modification and consolidation.	4/30/01	
58	550*	954	Higher education services Edvest office rulemaking authority extended.		4/30/01
59	995*	1214	Horse racing license application and medication provisions modifications.	4/30/01	
60	1383*	1598	Motorcycle handlebar height restrictions repealed.	4/30/01	
61	525*	1604	Multimember agency members compensation conditions modifications.	4/30/01	
62	779*	823	Motor vehicle dealer franchise transfer practices modification.	4/30/01	
63	1219*	1617	State fund mutual insurance company state involvement elimination.	4/30/01	
64	1889*	1831	Uniform Partnership Act of 1994 transition issues regulated.	4/30/01	
65	967*	876	Permits schools to sponsor potluck events.	5/2/01	
66	1151*	1187	Modifies penalty provisions for psychologists.	5/2/01	
67	1188*	1045	Fire training exercise ash disposal regulated.	5/2/01	
68	1192*	1979	Teachers temporary limited licenses and personnel variances application acceptance and issuance timelines.	5/2/01	
69	1522*	1421	Full-time nursing home administrator requirements modified.	5/2/01	
70	1681*	1622	State employment technical and housekeeping changes; civil service pilot project extension.	5/2/01	
71	865*	1266	Community service authorized in lieu of criminal fines under specified circumstances.	5/4/01	
72	933*	983	Farm implements and outdoor power equipment buyback requirements.	5/4/01	

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
73	953*	1265	Child abuse definition expansion.	5/4/01	
74	1748*	2097	Rural ambulance services staff requirements temporary variances.	5/4/01	
75	1247*	1506	Veterans Home Board administration of planned giving donations provided.	5/4/01	
76	489*	311	Provides for the procurement of surety bonds.	5/7/01	
77	1872	1611*	Vocational rehabilitation facilities grant procedures technical changes provided.	5/10/01	
78	2396	1999*	Judicial system obsolete references updated and repealed.	5/10/01	
79	2070	1932*	Economic security statutory provisions modified and repealed.	5/10/01	
80	782	773*	DWI; electronic alcohol monitoring recidivism and conditional release violation rates study required.	5/10/01	
81	390	110*	PrairieLand exposition center nonprofit management corporation authorized.	5/10/01	
82	1409	1090*	Minor employee age certification requirement satisfied by form I-9.	5/10/01	
83	1085	1155*	Motor home and other defined recreational equipment width limitations modified.	5/10/01	
84	1394	1706*	Asthma inhaler possession and use authorized for public elementary and secondary school students.	5/10/01	
85	406	511*	Minnesota State Fair foundation established by the State Agricultural Society.	5/10/01	
86	1410	849*	Rural policy and development center staff authorized to participate in state insurance, retirement, and other plans.	5/10/01	
87	1465	1432*	Police civil service periodic examinations permitted and clarifying changes provided.	5/10/01	
88	1687	1206*	Indian Affairs Council membership expanded to include a member from Bemidji.	5/10/01	
89	254	930*	Transportation obsolete rules repealed.	5/10/01	
90	1067	923*	Social work licensure examination requirement exceptions provided.	5/10/01	
91	1830	2006*	Motor vehicle accident data public availability.	5/10/01	

## Minnesota House and Senate Membership

<b>1</b> A • Rep. Maxine Penas-(R) B • Rep. Tim Finseth-(R) Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-(DFL)	<b>15</b> A • Rep. Al Juhnke-(DFL) B • Rep. Gary W. Kubly-(DFL) Sen. Dean E. Johnson-(DFL)	<b>29</b> A • Rep. Jerry Dempsey-(R) B • Rep. Mike Oskopp-(R) Sen. Steve Murphy-(DFL)	<b>43</b> A • Rep. Tom Workman-(R) B • Rep. Barb Sykora-(R) Sen. Edward C. Oliver-(R)	<b>57</b> A • Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL) B • Rep. Sharon Marko-(DFL) Sen. Leonard R. Price-(DFL)
<b>2</b> A • Rep. Bernie L. Lieder-(DFL) B • Rep. Rod Skoe-(DFL) Sen. Roger D. Moe-(DFL)	<b>16</b> A • Rep. Joe Opatz-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Knobloch-(R) Sen. Dave Kleis-(R)	<b>30</b> A • Rep. Fran Bradley-(R) B • Rep. Dave Bishop-(R) Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-(R)	<b>44</b> A • Rep. Betty Follard-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Rhodes-(R) Sen. Steve Kelley-(DFL)	<b>58</b> A • Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL) B • Rep. Gregory Gray-(DFL) Sen. Linda Higgins-(DFL)
<b>3</b> A • Rep. Irv Anderson-(DFL) B • Rep. Loren A. Solberg-(DFL) Sen. Bob Lessard-(IP)	<b>17</b> A • Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R) B • Rep. Leslie J. Schumacher-(DFL) Sen. Dan Stevens-(R)	<b>31</b> A • Rep. William Kuisle-(R) B • Rep. Gregory M. Davids-(R) Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-(R)	<b>45</b> A • Rep. Ron Abrams-(R) B • Rep. Peggy Leppik-(R) Sen. Martha R. Robertson-(R)	<b>59</b> A • Rep. Len Biernat-(DFL) B • Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL) Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-(DFL)
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<b>14</b> A • Rep. Steve Dehler-(R) B • Rep. Doug Stang-(R) Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-(R)	<b>28</b> A • Rep. Connie Ruth-(R) B • Rep. Steve Sviggum-(R) Sen. Dick Day-(R)	<b>42</b> A • Rep. Ron Erhardt-(R) B • Rep. Erik Paulsen-(R) Sen. Roy Terwilliger-(R)	<b>56</b> A • Rep. Mark William Holsten-(R) B • Rep. Eric Lipman-(R) Sen. Michele Bachmann-(R)	

## Friday, May 4

### HF2509—Mulder (R) Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Pipestone Regional Museum improvements grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2510—Johnson, J. (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Saint Paul competitive promotional examinations technical correction provided.

## Monday, May 7

### HF2511—Mulder (R) Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Luverne; Carnegie Regional Cultural Center capital improvements grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2512—Davids (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Abortion services public funding eliminated.

### HF2513—Mares (R)

#### Taxes

Stadium; Major League Baseball park financing provided, private funding required, interest-free loan provided, sales tax-free zone established, Metrodome disposition provided, and major league revenue sharing required.

### HF2514—Finseth (R)

#### Agriculture Policy

Animal Health Board emergency authority to eradicate diseases affecting domestic animals in the state expanded.

## Tuesday, May 8

### HF2515—Goodno (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Notice of death of unidentified homeless persons provided on Department of Health Web site.

### HF2516—Paulsen (R)

#### Redistricting

Legislative redistricting plan for use beginning in 2002 adopted.

### HF2517—Clark, K. (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Ovarian cancer screening insurance coverage provided.

### HF2518—Paulsen (R)

#### Redistricting

Congressional redistricting plan adopted for use beginning in 2002.

### HF2519—Paulsen (R)

#### Redistricting

Legislative and congressional redistricting plans adopted for use beginning in 2002.

## Wednesday, May 9

### HF2520—Juhnke (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Debt Collection Act; commissioner of revenue powers expanded to include cancellation of collection entity costs in the interest of fairness.

### HF2521—Jaros (DFL)

#### Education Policy

School board membership composition modified.

## Thursday, May 10

### HF2522—Dawkins (DFL)

#### Agriculture Policy

Ethanol producer payments stopped if plant is found to be a nuisance by city ordinance.

# COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

MAY 14 - 18, 2001

## MONDAY, May 14

8 a.m.

### CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF2514 (Finseth) Animal Health Board emergency authority to eradicate diseases affecting domestic animals in the state expanded.

8:15 a.m.

### TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** To be announced.

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

## TUESDAY, May 15

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

## WEDNESDAY, May 16

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

## THURSDAY, May 17

8 a.m.

### Legislative Audit Commission

118 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Ann H. Rest

**Agenda:** Select topics for program evaluations

and one best practices review for study by the Program Evaluation Division.

9 a.m.

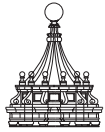
THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

## FRIDAY, May 18

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.





## NOTES

**John Ainley**, a former Republican member of the House from Park Rapids, died May 1 of complications from surgery to remove a tumor in his lung. He was 61.

Ainley served district 4A from 1979 to 1983. He challenged Gov. Al Quie in 1982 for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, but was unsuccessful. He was known by his colleagues as a fiscal conservative.

After leaving the House, Ainley returned to work for the minority Republican caucus in the Minnesota Senate during the mid-1990s. In addition to serving the Legislature, Ainley was known for operating and expanding newspapers in northern Minnesota. His father, John Ainley, Sr., edited the *Bemidji Pioneer*.

Ainley is the second former member of the House to die in the past year. In October 2000, Fred C. Norton, former speaker of the House who served district 65A in St. Paul for 20 years, died after battling bone cancer. He was 72.

Norton, known for strong bi-partisan ship, later served as a judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

**House Majority Leader** Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) offered an amendment to delete a provision in the state government finance bill (HF218/SF2360\*) that would allow the sale of beer and wine in the Capitol Café. The amendment, which was approved, came late in the evening May 3 when legislators had spent a long day on the House floor.

"If there's any time for a beer, it's now," quipped Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), sponsor of the state government bill, in response to the amendment.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) wondered if the bill had provisions for an LUI, or "legislating under the influence."

A few days later on May 7, Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) successfully amended the original legislation onto another bill. This time, however, the sale of alcohol would only be allowed at special events, such as private parties and receptions held in the Capitol Café.

# Reflections

The word is compassion. Being compassionate is a synonym for being humane. Compassion, love, and kindness is the message Tibet's spiritual and political leader-in-exile, The Dalai Lama, brought to Minnesota and the state Legislature May 9.

The Dalai Lama's presentation to lawmakers comes at an opportune time as ideas, opinions, and decisions are being fiercely deliberated in the House and Senate chambers before session ends in less than two weeks.

His visit to Minnesota is one of worldwide importance. Its timeline is concurrent with another world spiritual leader's pilgrimage of compassion — Pope John Paul II's visit to Greece, Syria, and Malta, in part to mend 947 years of differences between the Roman Catholic Church and other religions in the East.

In Syria, the Pope met with Islamic and Eastern Orthodox leaders, and also pleaded for compassion in the Middle East conflicts. In particular, the Pope addressed ongoing disputes between Syria and Israel, troubled relations among Orthodox Christians and Muslims, as well as the skirmishes between Palestinians and Israelis.

Much of the Dalai Lama's visit centered on spiritual teaching to some 1,000 Tibetan Buddhists who reside in Minnesota, the second largest Tibetan population in the United States, as well as an effort to develop a Tibetan cultural center in the Twin Cities. However, at its core, his message was more universal to everyone — to take the time to seriously develop or to begin to learn that one's being is his or her conscious perception of themselves and their surroundings.

His rationale for universal compassion is based on "the fact that every living being has

an equal right to and desire for happiness." And through this principle of democracy, "we think and act in terms of the common good."

Speculatively, compassion may be at the veritable core of survival for humanity. It is noteworthy that many well-known figures throughout history — St. Francis of Assisi, Mahatma Gandhi, Albert Schweitzer, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Albert Einstein, have expounded on the whys and wherefores of compassion.

Collectively, their statements on compassion, like those of the Dalai Lama's, include peace, hope, and concern for all living creatures.

On issues that lawmakers are now deliberating, a consideration for compassion may mean maintaining some basic respect and understanding as they pass laws that improve the good of their constituents.

In simple terms:

- Compassion is respect for the beliefs of others while not imposing one's own.
- Compassion is doing some good for others when one doesn't have to.
- Compassion is not a single issue; it recognizes and embraces differences.
- Compassion is building consensus for recognizing all the needs of others.
- Compassion is the Dalai Lama's visit to Minnesota and the Legislature to share his teachings with Tibetan Buddhists and others, while sharing his spirit and beliefs.

According to the Dalai Lama, "We must recognize that all beings want the same things we want. This is the way to achieve true understanding."

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

The Dalai Lama greets legislators May 9.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Child Support in Minnesota

Approximate number of child support cases in fiscal year 2000 .....	227,000
Increase since 1996, as percent .....	13
Approximate amount of child support cases not receiving public assistance .....	168,000
As percent of all cases .....	74
Percent of these cases that received public aid at some point in the past .....	75
Amount of child support collected and distributed in state fiscal year 2000, in millions of dollars .....	492
Percent increase from 1996 .....	52
Average collection per open case with a court order, in dollars .....	2,917
Dollars collected through income withholding, in millions .....	349
As percent of all collections .....	71
Dollars collected via interception of federal and state tax refunds and rebates, in millions .....	36.8
Percent of all collections .....	7
Approximate number of parents, as of June 30, 2000, that had their driver's licenses suspended for failing to pay support .....	7,500
Approximate number of paternities established statewide through Sept. 30, 2000 .....	15,000
Percent by signing Recognition of Parentage form .....	78
Percent through court order .....	22
Percent of state child support cases that have a child support order in place .....	74
Percent of Minnesota children with a child support order from a court that received the full amount of the order, 1997 .....	51
National rate, as percent .....	44
Percent that received part of the order .....	26
Percent that received nothing .....	23
Percent of Minnesota children without a child support order that received any financial support .....	26
Approximate cumulative back child support owed in Minnesota as of June 30, 2000, in millions of dollars .....	980
Percent increase since 1996 .....	63
Approximate millions of dollars paid on child support debt in 2000 .....	137
Average dollars owed per case with a debt .....	6,589
Millions of dollars in payments processed monthly by The Child Support Payment Center, a centralized collection and disbursement office .....	42
Dollars collected to support Minnesota children for every dollar spent on Minnesota's child support program .....	4.14

Sources: Minnesota Department of Human Services and *Minnesota Kids Count Fall 2000 Report* from the Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota.

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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MAY 18, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 20



In this issue:

REDISTRICTING PLANS

HEALTH BILL VETOED, TWINS STADIUM, AND MORE

HF2523-HF2540

# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5	Ethics • 8	Insurance • 11
Business • 6	Gambling • 9	Local Government • 12
Crime • 6	Government • 9	Military • 12
Education • 7	Greater Minnesota • 10	Recreation • 13
Employment • 7	Health • 10	Transportation • 13
Energy • 7	Industry • 11	Veterans • 25
Environment • 7		

### FEATURES

**At Issue: Health** — As promised, Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed the omnibus health and human services funding measure, containing more than \$7 billion in funding and an abortion consent measure. • 14

**At Issue: Recreation** — A plan for building a Major League Baseball stadium in Minnesota is moving through the committee process, though its form has changed along the way. • 16

**History** — The youngest four-year public university in Greater Minnesota was conceived by a legislative commission in the late 1950s. • 17

**History** — Minnesota has not had the death penalty for nearly 100 years, though the idea continues to be proposed in the Legislature. A botched execution in 1906 led to its abolition. • 18

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: On the straight and narrow .. 4	Reflections: Crunch time ..... 27
Resources: Where have all the bills gone? ..... 20	Minnesota Index: Economic development ..... 28
Governor's Desk (CH92-CH120) ..... 24	
Bill Introductions (HF2523-HF2540) .. 26	

**On the cover:** Surrounded by their audience of lobbyists and media, House Speaker Steve Sviggum and Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty discuss the latest on end-of-session budget negotiations outside the House Chamber May 16.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

# Drawing the lines

Committee divided over redistricting plan, combining Minneapolis and St. Paul, forcing representatives to square off

By DAVID MAEDA

**W**ith only five days left in the session and little time remaining for compromise, the House Redistricting Committee approved legislative and congressional redistricting plans by a straight 7-5 party line vote May 16, reflecting the unavoidably partisan nature of the process.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

HF2519, sponsored by Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), would combine St. Paul and most of Minneapolis into one congressional district.

Paulsen said at the core of the bill is the principle found in the Minnesota Constitution that districts be of equal population.

He said the bill takes into account the demographic shifts that have occurred in Minnesota during the past 10 years as 45 percent of the state's population now lives in the suburban Twin Cities metropolitan area.

If passed into law, HF2519 would establish seven congressional districts with the exact same population figure of 614,935. The eighth district would have one less person. The legislative districts would have more of a deviation, ranging from 36,452 people to 36,984.

"Overall this is a very fair plan," Paulsen said.

The congressional plan in the bill incorporates HF2505, sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall). The committee approved that bill May 10.

Seifert said HF2519's congressional districts have been drawn in keeping with the redistricting principles passed by the House May 1. The proposed districts are compact and with equal population and communities of interest are preserved in the bill, Seifert said.

The newly created fifth district incorporating Minneapolis and St. Paul would have a total minority population of 30.8 percent.

Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls) said since the Senate's bill on redistricting principles differs from the House bill, that reaching a compromise agreement would be impossible.

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) offered an unsuccessful amendment to incorporate a plan that would keep St. Paul and Minneapolis in separate congressional districts.

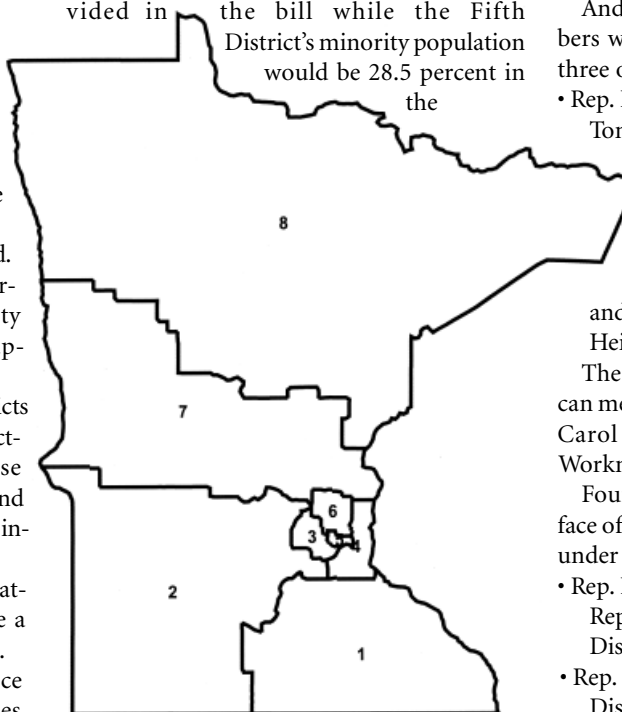
Mariani said the amendment would recognize the first ring suburbs have more in common with the core cities than with second and third ring suburbs. The amendment would split the state into four rural and four metro districts.

He said issues like transit, affordable housing, and redevelopment of older neighborhoods link the first ring suburbs with Minneapolis and St. Paul.

"Only one block separates Edina and Minneapolis," he said.

Under his amendment the minority population of the Fourth District would be 22.6 percent compared to the 7.6 percent provided in the bill while the Fifth

District's minority population would be 28.5 percent in the



The House Redistricting Committee approved a congressional district plan with the boundaries reflected in this map. Minneapolis and St. Paul are part of one district under the plan.

amendment versus 30.8 percent in the bill.

Mariani said in five years it is estimated the minority population will be more than 40 percent in each district and minority communities would thus have an opportunity to elect two representatives instead of one.

Rep. Jim Knobloch (R-St. Cloud) said the amendment didn't reflect the reality of the state's population shift during the past decade. He said if the amendment were adopted, 45 percent of the state's population in the suburbs would only be represented by 25 percent of the congressional representatives.

Mariani said in the amendment's proposal no congressional incumbents would have to run against each other unlike Paulsen's bill. In HF2519, two Democrat congressional incumbents are placed in the fourth district, Rep. Betty McCollum and Rep. Bill Luther. Mariani questioned the intention of putting only the second Minnesota woman to serve in the United States House of Representatives in a district with another member of Congress.

The amendment failed 7-5.

In the proposed legislative districts there would be six districts that would be composed of at least 30 percent total minority population.

And legislatively three current DFL members would be placed in the same district as three other DFL members under HF2519:

- Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) and Rep. Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm) in the new District 3A,
- Rep. Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) and Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), in District 63A, and
- Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) and Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) in District 64A.

The bill would have two current Republican members placed in the same district: Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) and Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) in District 50A.

Four incumbents from each party would face off against each other if they chose to run under the new plan in the bill:

- Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) and Rep. Paul Marquart (DFL-Dilworth) in District 5B,
- Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) and Seifert in District 19B,
- Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet) and Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter) in the new District 21A, and



• Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover) and Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids) in District 33A.

"I would be OK with losing the election because I know this is a fair plan," Seifert said.

Knoblach said the reduction of seats in St. Paul and Minneapolis was expected because the cities' population didn't increase at the rate of the surrounding suburbs. Likewise, he said, decreasing populations in the southwest and northwest corners of the state caused the combining of some existing members' districts.

DFL members criticized the plan's proposal for the city of Rochester. Currently three members represent that city's population, but under the bill that number would increase to five. Mariani said that ideally the city would have 2.5 representatives.

Mariani also questioned the reasoning behind the splitting of the city of Northfield, and in particular the campuses of St. Olaf and Carleton colleges.

Paulsen said the city is currently split into three districts and the boundary line drawn in the bill follows a major highway in the city.

Gray was critical of the process used to develop the redistricting bill. He said getting the bill this late in the session prevents a comprehensive review and a chance to make improvements.

He said as a newer member he may have been naive but coming into the process he expected to work together as a committee on a House bill rather than have opposing DFL and Republican plans. He said as it has unfolded, it appears there is little chance for an agreement and the whole thing seems likely to end up in the courts.


By law, the legislative and congressional redistricting plans must be set by March 19, 2002.

Gray called the redistricting hearings a "sham" because people who wanted to have a say in the process didn't have an established proposal to testify about, and that meetings were scheduled on short notice and at times when many could not get off work to attend.

Paulsen said the committee held 16 hearings including three in Greater Minnesota. He said hearings were devoted to listening to concerns from members of minority communities as well as getting historical and academic background from experts.

"We made every attempt to be accountable," he said.

The committee also approved a bill, HF2516 sponsored by Paulsen, that contains the legislative redistricting plan by itself. Paulsen said it is unclear the process the Senate will use in its redistricting legislation and by passing HF2516 there would be another vehicle for the proposals to match up.

That bill was also sent to the House floor. 



## On the straight and narrow

1950s committee set standards for state government ethics

In the midst of America's increasing self-consciousness in the face of Soviet space-race success and growing social discontent at home, 1950s civic groups began examining the functioning of governance with the hope of making it more efficient and just.

National and local leaders had to contend with the perceived threat of communism, racial unrest, and concern over unethical behavior by state officials.

Gov. Orville Freeman was at the helm of the state at the time, and no doubt felt the encroaching turbulence of the 1960s. He convened a Committee on Ethics in Government in 1957. Two years later, that committee published *Ethics in Government: A Report by the Minnesota Governor's Committee on Ethics in Government to Governor Orville L. Freeman*.



Gov. Orville Freeman

Freeman's statement calling the commission to order began with a testament to Minnesota's famous integrity. "High ethical and moral standards are essential to good and effective government," he wrote. "Minnesota does have high standards, and, as a whole, government at all levels in our state is carried on with a keen awareness of the public interest and the recognition that self-interest must at all times be subordinated to the public well being."

But Freeman conceded government in the state was not perfect. "It is my conviction that despite the progress we have made and the high standards generally held, there is much room for improvement in both the administrative and legislative branches of government in terms of eliminating or minimizing the effect of self-interest on decision making."

"It is easy to talk in general terms about ethical and moral standards and the elimination of self-interest in making government decisions. It is, however, often extremely difficult to apply these standards in specific instances. Countless situations arise in which honest public officials, sincerely devoted to the public interest, face real dilemmas in deciding on the right course of action."

Freeman appointed a nonpartisan committee composed of civic leaders, scholars, and prominent clergy to recommend improvements to ethical guidelines.

Their profound responsibility was not lost on members, who wrote that they approached their work "with a deep concern for ethical standards as they affect not only the current operations of our state government, but also the future strength and success of

popular government in the United States as a whole," according to the report.

They were charged specifically with examining lobbying and "the area of conflict of interest in both the administrative and the legislative branches of government."

As to the first topic, the committee recommended legislation that would require the disclosure of the

"activities and finances of legislative agents and of the related activities of their employers."

Although no statutory language was drafted, members made reference to a proposed Wisconsin law that would have registered all lobbyists, including their employers, pay, and issue of concern, with the Secretary of State.

Regarding conflicts of interest, the committee boldly suggested "the Legislature ... give serious thought to the passage of appropriate laws dealing with the activities of outside individuals and organizations who try to gain special advantages by the employment of legislators and public officials," according to the report.

The committee concluded with a prophetic assessment of American politics' most enduring ethical quandary. Although Freeman had primarily directed an inquiry into "the twin problems of conflicts of interest and lobbying ... there were several closely related issues that should have the attention of moral trailblazers."

As if anticipating today's affairs, members concluded, "One of these is the field of campaign finances and campaign methods."

(J.M. WALKER)

## ★ AGRICULTURE

**Biodiesel plan OK'd**

The House passed an omnibus agricultural policy bill May 15, moving the state closer to adopting some form of biodiesel content requirement.

After extended debate, the House passed HF1547/SF1495\*, sponsored by Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), by a 93-40 vote.

The House version would require that all diesel vehicles owned or operated by the state, Metropolitan Council, or transit services receiving council funds, operate with at least 2 percent biodiesel. The commissioners of agriculture, transportation, administration and the Pollution Control Agency would also be required to report to the Legislature on the operating costs, performance, and environmental impact of the mandate.

Unlike the Senate's version, sponsored by Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing), which would require that all diesel fuel sold in Minnesota contain at least 2 percent biological material by July 2003, the House version would simply require the transportation commissioner to consult with industry leaders to "develop protocols for biodiesel fuel demonstration projects."

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) successfully sponsored an amendment cutting off state funding to the Gopher State Ethanol plant if it fails to install a thermal oxidizer to reduce odor. St. Paul residents have complained bitterly since the plant began producing the fuel additive in the capital city last April. Saying that ethanol producers have been "good neighbors" overall, Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) convinced Dawkins to change the amendment's deadline for installation from September until December 2001.

Proponents of biodiesel, chief among them farmers, say a mandate would trigger the development of "home-grown," ecologically friendly fuels and bolster the state's sagging rural economy. Opponents, including representatives of the trucking and airline industries, say that biodiesels are insufficiently tested, and they decry the measure as "good farm politics but bad public policy."

Biodiesel fuel is normal diesel fuel combined with a biodegradable, combustible liquid fuel derived from organic oils for use in internal combustion engines. According to the National Biodiesel Board, a nonprofit

industry association, soybeans provide 90 percent of the biological component of biodiesel fuels. Other sources include recycled oils from restaurants and even animal fats, although those are less commonly used.

The Senate originally passed the bill 62-3 May 7. The bill now goes to a conference committee to work out the differences between the two versions.

**House passes emergency plan**

A bill that would expand the authority of the state Board of Animal Health to counteract the spread of disease, such as Foot and Mouth Disease, passed the House floor May 16. After passionate debate, the bill (HF2514) passed by a 114-18 vote.

The Senate version (SF2368), sponsored by Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing), is awaiting action in the Senate.

The House Civil Law Committee approved HF2514, sponsored by Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), May 14. The committee adopted an amendment specifying that the board's extended authority expires July 31, 2003. "Future legislators will have to decide if we want this," he said.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) unsuccessfully sponsored an amendment both in committee and on the floor that would allow property owners whose animals or personal property are condemned by the board to seek a hearing by a panel composed of three state supreme court justices. Owners could contest the board's order on the grounds that the destruction "is not reasonably necessary for suppression of the disease."

Several representatives joined Osskopp's opposition to what he characterized as the bill's expansion of existing board authority to order the slaughter of herds deemed "highly susceptible" to an outbreak. Rep. James Clark (R-New Ulm) said that a disease outbreak "is a purely economic problem and is not a danger to our national security. (It) does not rise to the level of suspending civil rights."

Committee Chair Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound) argued in the Civil Law Committee May 10 that curtailing the proposed authority would be inconsistent with the state's interest in limiting an outbreak and would not violate the state and federal constitution's prohibitions against governmental seizure of private property without due process or fair

compensation. The bill does not affect existing rights of farmers to seek court assistance regarding compensation for animals or other destroyed property.

The bill would authorize the governor to declare an emergency for the purpose of controlling dangerous domestic animal diseases. In such a state of emergency, the board may establish and enforce quarantine zones to prevent the spread of disease. Its jurisdiction would extend to people, property, and livestock, and would include the authority to order the condemnation of livestock and carcass disposal.

Under existing law, the board has the authority to destroy diseased animals. The bill would permit the board to petition the governor to declare the emergency. In doing so, the state's chief executive would make available all resources normally reserved for natural disasters such as floods or tornadoes.

The board could establish quarantine zones of no larger than a three-mile radius from animals believed to be infected and for no longer than 72 hours. Within the zone, the board could establish rules governing the movement of people, vehicles, or animals.

**Feedlot changes**

The House passed a measure May 11 modifying existing feedlot provisions.

Among other provisions, the bill (HF1734/SF1659\*), sponsored in the House by Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester), would forbid the Pollution Control Agency from requiring feedlot operators to maintain precipitation records as a condition of being granted a feedlot permit, as long as a government agency or educational institution already collects such data. The bill passed by an 86-44 vote.

Kuisle offered an amendment that would permanently exempt some land from feedlot rules as long as it remains "in pasture." He said the amendment would assist sustainable agricultural practices.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) expressed concern that the language could be "too overbroad," allowing many large farms to escape important environmental language. However, she and other representatives dropped their opposition upon Kuisle's explanation that "pasture" land is legally defined as agricultural land that retains vegetation. Only farmland

that has been sufficiently trampled by livestock to lose its vegetation is regulated as a feedlot.

Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) sponsored the measure in the Senate, where it passed 51-1 May 4. The bill now goes to the governor's desk.

### Fair foundation established

The state agricultural society may establish a nonprofit Minnesota State Fair Foundation under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 10.

Federal nonprofit status is defined by United States Internal Revenue Code, which specifies that the new foundation must benefit and carry out the purposes of the agriculture society.

Under the new law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), the foundation may "solicit, receive, hold, invest, and contribute funds and property...in a manner consistent with the public good." The law says that funds received must be primarily used for capital expenditures and other needs not funded by other means.

Jennings explained in a May 14 interview that most other major public institutions in Minnesota enjoy the support of affiliated nonprofit foundations. "Now, corporations and individuals will be able to contribute their support to the state fair," he said.

Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

The new law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF406/SF511\*/CH85

## BUSINESS

### Barber shop fees

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) estimates only 15 of these situations exist in the state, but he said that barbers who own several shops and are the sole barber should receive a break on their registration fees.

A barber in Seifert's district in southwestern Minnesota, Bean Bernardy, travels to different communities in the area each week for the convenience of his customers. He doesn't charge much for the haircuts, and that makes it difficult for him to afford the renewal fees for each shop. "Some feel that the government is pinching them too much," Seifert told House members May 14.

Seifert is sponsoring a bill (HF156) that would allow barbers who own multiple shops and serve as the sole barber operating in each shop to pay only one renewal fee to renew the registration required for all the shops.

The legislation passed the House by a 117-11 vote. The Senate companion, sponsored by Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy), is awaiting action.

Registration fees are currently \$50 per shop. Seifert said the bill would save his constituent \$100 annually in fees.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) said it "bothered" him that a bill that would save such a small amount of money, about \$600 per year, is costing hundreds or possibly thousands of dollars to be passed into law.

Seifert said the bill would effect all barbers for years to come, and would reduce the size of government because it would be reducing fees.

### Motor vehicle information

A new law permitting the Department of Public Safety to release a modified copy of its accident records database to the public upon request was signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 10.

Under the law, the commissioner may release the information to companies who meet requirements established in the law only if that company furnishes at least the cost of preparing the information "on a bulk basis." The

commissioner may not release the following information: names, driver's license numbers, license plate numbers, addresses, and "other identifying data."

However, under the law, the department may release a vehicle license number if a business that collects accident and damage information for the purposes of buying a vehicle certifies it will use the information only to identify vehicles or the vehicle history regarding its involvement in an accident. If the purpose is to identify individuals, then the department is barred from releasing the information.

The law specifies that illegal use of the information constitutes a misdemeanor, a conviction that carries a sentence of imprisonment up to 90 days and a \$1,000 fine.

The law was sponsored by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) and Sen. Grace Schwab (R-Albert Lea).

The new law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1830/SF2006\*/CH 91

## CRIME

### Electronic monitoring study

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed into law May 10 a requirement that the commissioner of corrections conduct a study on electronic alcohol monitoring.

Specifically, the study will compare recidivism and pretrial conditional release violation rates among drunken driving offenders who are subject to electronic testing and those offenders who are not. It must be completed and reported to the chairs of the House and Senate committees having jurisdiction in this area by Feb. 15, 2002.

The study must compare several control variables, including: the offense level as determined by the number of prior DWI convictions, date of offense, length of incarceration, and length of time an offender is subjected to electronic alcohol monitoring. The commissioner has discretion to include additional variables in conducting the study.

"The study must also determine whether the impaired driving recidivism, if any, occurred during or following the period of electronic alcohol monitoring, and whether it occurred pretrial or following conviction," the new law states.

Electronic monitoring tools consist of a blood-alcohol measuring device and a telephone. Law enforcement officials are able to determine if offenders are violating conditions of parole or pretrial release by electronically observing the results of on-the-spot blood-alcohol concentration checks.

### PLANTING PROJECT



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BAK

Third and fourth graders in the French Immersion Program at Highland Park Elementary School help beautify the Capitol grounds May 16. The planting was sponsored by Kids, Education, Environment, You (KEEY), a nonprofit organization that introduces children to such environmental projects.

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) sponsored the law in the House. Sen. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.  
HF782/SF773\*/CH80

### Investment fund latitude

Recipients of grants from the Minnesota Investment Fund will have more control over the money they receive, under a law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 15.

Sponsored by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) and Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-New Ulm), the new law will give more latitude to cities or counties that receive repayment of funds awarded as loans or grants from the investment fund.

Under the law, the entities would be able to contribute the money to larger projects, community capital funds, or a statewide revolving loan fund. The legislation adds new language to allow the projects to be statewide and not merely regional.

The law has no fiscal impact, and takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1392/SF1258\*/CH102

## ★ EDUCATION

### Asthma inhalers allowed

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law May 10 that will allow elementary and secondary school students with asthma to carry their inhalers in school.

The law was sponsored in the House by Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover).

Tingelstad explained that students sometimes need inhalers before they can reach the nurse's office, where some schools require they be kept. About 43 percent of schools in Minnesota have this requirement, she said.

In order to carry and use the inhalers in school, students will need to have written parental permission that must be renewed each year. The law also requires the school nurse or other authorized party to "assess the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use an asthma inhaler in a school setting."

Noting that asthma is the number one cause for missed school days, Tingelstad said the legislation would help students control asthma better.

The Senate version was sponsored by Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul).

It becomes effective Aug. 1, 2001.  
HF1394/SF1706\*/CH84

## ★ EMPLOYMENT

### Termination requests

Employees and employers dealing with termination will have a longer period of time to request and provide the reason for the termination, under a new law signed May 14 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

State law previously stated that employees who have been involuntarily terminated had five working days within the date of termination to request in writing the reason for the termination. Upon receipt of the request, the employer then had five working days to provide a written response.

The time for employees to submit the request will now be extended to 15 working days, and employers will now have 10 working days to fulfill the request.

Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park) and Sen. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) sponsored the measure.

The new law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.  
HF1920/SF1835\*/CH95

## ★ ENERGY

### Keeping the lights on

Voting down efforts to increase conservation measures in an energy security and reliability bill, House members passed the legislation that aims to ensure Minnesota won't be experiencing power shortages that California is currently facing.

House DFL members, dissatisfied with the lack of environmental measures in the bill (HF659/SF722\*), claimed it is a "missed opportunity" for emissions regulations, conservation standards, and energy assistance programs for low-income households.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville), asserted the legislation is "not an opportunity" to help the environment.

"When the energy's not there," Wolf said, "all the goodwill we have for the environment will go down the drain." He said the bill is about "making sure the lights don't go out by making sure we have power in four to five years."

The bill passed by a 99-34 vote in the House May 14, and by a 59-0 vote in the Senate May 4. However, the Senate refused to concur with the House amendments, so the bill has been sent to a conference committee. Sen. Jim Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

On the House floor, Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) introduced an amendment to incorporate a Conservation Investment

Program, which was taken out in committee earlier in the session. The program currently exists in law; the amendment would make minor changes the program.

New provisions would replace a pre-approval process with a post-implementation audit for cost effectiveness and compliance with program requirements. The program also could be used for agricultural energy projects, distributed generation, and renewable energy technologies.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) opposed the amendment. "We could not define (in an environment committee) that we could get more conservation from it," she said. "There are no specific outcomes."

Ozment claimed the program would have an emphasis on reducing the need for power. The amendment was successful.

Unsuccessful amendments include one sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) that would have required a certain percentage of energy come from renewables such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, or biomass. The provision is included in the Senate's energy bill.

Wolf said he's "not against renewables," but the measure would require a study. Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) said the high cost of renewable energy would make it impossible for Minnesotans to afford. The amendment failed by a 69-63 vote.

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) attempted to amend the bill with a measure that would mandate each of the four metro coal-fire electric generating facilities to comply with the federal Clean Air Act. The Public Utilities Commission and the utilities themselves would be responsible for costs incurred. Wolf said he opposed the measure. By a 42-87 vote, the amendment failed.

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### Gross overlimit bill fails

A bill that would increase penalties for gross violations of the state's game and fish laws was defeated 95-38 May 14. The bill was returned to the General Register, allowing it to be reconsidered yet this session.

Sponsored by Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), HF94 went through eight different committees before its appearance on the House floor.

"Every game and fish organization in the state is behind this," Haas said. "This is going to stop the game hogs who are stealing our fish."

But those speaking against it were more vocal than supporters.

"This is a bill searching for a problem," said

Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), who served on the House environment and natural resources policy and finance committees that approved the bill.

The bill would authorize conservation officers to seize all equipment used in a gross overlimit violation. It would institute penalties based on restitution values of fish and animals. And it would require seizure of the license involved if the restitution value is at least \$500.

Bakk and several others said they could envision the potential for conservation officers going through people's freezers in search of excess fish and game.

"This bill does not in any way give any conservation officer the right to go into someone's home to search your freezer," said Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount). "To maintain our resources we have to stop the people who are taking far more than they have the right to take."

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) said he didn't think the majority of people would support what he termed a "heavy-handed" measure.

The Senate companion, sponsored by Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township), was referred to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee May 15.

### Expediting permits

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law May 17 authorizing the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) to expedite permits for new or expanded facilities.

The new law will allow persons who want to construct or expand a facility regulated by the agency to pay for additional expenses incurred in expediting a permit.

This payment will be in addition to regular permit fees and must reflect the costs of staff overtime or consultant services that are needed to expedite a permit review.

The agency may agree to an expedited permit process as long as it does not interfere with its permitting program priorities.

An applicant's reimbursement must be paid in advance and is not contingent upon the actual issuing of a permit.

The law was sponsored in the House by Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet) and in the Senate by Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville).

The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1827/SF1613\*/CH116

### Water protection

A new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 15 entitles the land around the Camp Coldwater Springs in Minneapolis to the protection of the Minnesota Historic Sites Act, as well as the Minnesota Field and Archaeology Act.

Under the new law, there is a restriction on the state or any of its political subdivisions from using or taking any action that affects the land in a way that diminishes the flow of water to or from the spring located near Fort Snelling.

The land is currently owned by the Bureau of Mines of the United States Department of Interior. Researchers are conducting studies in the area to determine how the construction on Highways 55 and 62 in the area might affect the spring's flow.

The historic sites act states the sites are "significant state resources that the Minnesota Historical Society is preserving, developing, interpreting, and maintaining for public use, benefit, and access during open hours."

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield) and Sen. Julie Sabo (DFL-Mpls).

The law is effective May 16, 2001.

HF1764/SF2049\*/CH101

deliberate. The committee is scheduled to meet publicly again May 18 to further discuss the case.

Abeler, who leases two buildings to a charter school, has been accused by four House DFLers of voting five times on issues that directly affect charter school funding. Those members are House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), Reps. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) and Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls).

The complaint says Abeler "betrayed the public trust" and violated "accepted norms of House behavior" for failing to disclose he had "an immediate interest in a question before the body."

Skoglund, who presented the case for the DFL members, said since the votes in 1999, Abeler has received at least \$838,000 in rent, 90 percent of which comes from the state.

"Minnesota law allows charter schools to only use state funds to lease a building, not buy a building," Abeler said. He noted that he leases the building at below market rental rates so the school can have enough operating money.

Much of the committee's discussion centered on trying to clarify what a conflict of interest is.

Skoglund said Abeler was in violation of House Rule 2.05, which states "A member who has an immediate interest in a question must not vote on it."

David Schultz, an ethics professor at Hamline University, defined immediate interest as something that benefits you or a small class of people. He said because there were 38 charter school landlords in 1999 and 53 last

## ETHICS



### Conflict confusion

An ethics complaint against Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) may soon be resolved.

The House Ethics Committee heard the complaint regarding Abeler May 10 before adjourning into executive session to

### 'AMAZING' BOYS



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

House members and staff listen to a rendition of "Amazing Grace" performed by "The Richardson Boys" of Nerstrand, Minn., prior to the May 15 session. Brothers Michael (7), Alex (10), Daniel (9), and Justin (12) are accompanied by their father, Carl.



year, including Abeler, that he had an immediate interest in the votes. Abeler said there are now approximately 60 charter school landlords in the state.

Schultz argued this case is different from teachers voting on appropriations that help fund their salaries or farmers voting on per-acre benefits because Abeler is a part of a small group of landlords who benefit from the lease aid, while others are part of a larger group.

Part of Abeler's defense centered on a portion of state statute 10A.07 that says it is a conflict of interest "unless the effect on the official is no greater than on other members of the official's business classification, profession or occupation." Abeler said he benefited no more than other charter school landlords as the amount received is set by state formula.

Abeler and his attorney, Rick Morgan, said if this conflict of interest case is upheld, teachers should not vote on education funding issues and farmers on agriculture funding issues as they would benefit from the legislation.

"I want to implore you as my colleagues to remember to what extent our state benefits by regular citizens serving here," Abeler said in his closing remarks. "What will this body look like 10 or 20 years from now if our citizen Legislature is replaced by professional bureaucrats with political expertise but without practical, real-world experience?"

"Our state is stronger when its representatives bring to the Capitol the life experiences of teaching, owning a small business, farming the land, and caring for the sick. I hope we never see the day when a farmer-legislator cannot serve on the agriculture committee or a police officer has to recuse himself from voting on a crime prevention package. If this happens, all Minnesotans will be worse for it."

## **GAMBLING**



### **Fair play at card clubs**

It won't pay to cheat at a card club, under a new law signed May 14 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The law allows card club employees at Canterbury Park to detain a person suspected of cheating. The club's security personnel are allowed to detain a person if there is reasonable cause to believe the person has cheated at gambling.

The law allows the security personnel to require that the suspect provide or verify identification. Security can also inquire as to whether the person possesses any illegal contraband.

The detained person has the right to be promptly informed of the purpose of the detention and may not be subjected to

unnecessary or an unreasonable amount of force. The person cannot be detained for more than one hour or until a peace officer who requests detention has accepted custody.

Upon being detained, a person may request at any time that a peace officer be summoned.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan) and Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley).

The law becomes effective Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1021/SF1008\*/CH92

## **Rule changes**

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed into law May 14 several changes to the state's lawful gambling rules.

The new law increases from \$250,000 to \$300,000 the level at which an organization that conducts charitable gambling is required to submit an annual financial audit to the Department of Revenue.

The threshold level for organizations required to have an annual financial review of gambling funds has also been increased from \$50,000 to \$150,000.

Noontime bingo also will be allowed under the new law. Currently establishments that conduct bingo games are restricted to having no more than 10 bingo occasions each week. At least 15 bingo games must be held at each occasion, and each bingo event must continue for at least 90 minutes, but not more than four hours.

The new law will allow an organization to conduct bingo between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to avoid the 15-game and time limit requirements.

The new law also allows the card club at Canterbury Park to hold one tournament per year lasting no longer than 14 days. It would allow for more than 50 tables to be in use during tournament play.

The maximum wager amount on card games is also increased from \$30 to \$60.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) and Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy) were the sponsors.

The law becomes effective Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1069/SF986\*/CH96

## **GOVERNMENT**



### **Changing the budget year**

The House approved a bill that would rearrange much of its legislative work. The vote was 72-59.

HF2205, sponsored by Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), would change the budgeting process. Under the current system the

Legislature does most of its budget work during the odd-numbered year of the session. The bill devotes odd-numbered years to organizational sessions not to exceed 30 days.

Pawlenty said the bill could lead to a more citizen-based Legislature that the current system discourages because of its prohibitive schedule. He said the bill would also allow new members to better understand the budget process before they have to make decisions in the even-numbered years.

Under the bill the Legislative Coordinating Commission, or a joint subcommittee appointed by the commission, would prepare recommendations to implement the changes. The change would take place in 2005.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) spoke against the bill, saying it would give more power to the executive branch. Bishop said under the bill the governor would release the budget forecasts without legislative response and constituents would be critical of lawmakers who had little to do in the year following their election.

Bishop said putting most of the budgeting work in an election year would lead to "real political hazards."

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) said the change in the bill would be of great benefit to new members who currently have to learn about a \$28 billion budget months after they are elected.

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) questioned why reform was needed.

"We are looked at around the country as a model Legislature, not as one that needs change," he said.

The bill has not been heard in the Senate but Pawlenty said the bill still serves a purpose.

"This sends a signal to the Senate that we are serious (about reform)," he said. "Hopefully they'll engage us in discussion over the interim."

### **On the air longer**

The life of the Metropolitan Radio Board would be extended by another year, under a measure passed by the House May 11. The vote was 131-0.

The board was created in 1995 to adopt a regionwide public safety radio system communication plan. Its membership includes a county commissioner from each of the seven counties in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, elected officials from St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Bloomington, and a sheriff and police chief appointed by the governor.

The board is scheduled to sunset July 1, 2002, but the bill extends the date until July 1, 2003.

Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), who sponsored the bill (HF1218/SF1154\*) in the House, made a successful motion to reinstate the House language in the measure. The House language includes a provision requiring the board to submit a status report to the Legislature by Feb. 1, 2002.

Sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), the bill would extend the life of the board until July 1, 2005. It passed that body 63-0 April 5.

The bill now goes to a conference committee.

### Membership increase

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law May 10 that will increase by one the membership of the Urban Indian Affairs Advisory Council.

Established in 1963, the Indian Affairs Council is the official liaison between state and tribal governments. This council is governed by the elected tribal chair of the 11 reservations in the state, and two at-large members representing American Indians who live in Minnesota, but are enrolled in other states.

The new law will add a member from Bemidji increasing the advisory council from five members to six. The existing law requires members from Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth.

The urban advisory council's role is to advise Indian Affairs Council board members on the unique problems and concerns of American Indians who live in urban areas of the state.

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) was the House sponsor, and Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

The law becomes effective Aug. 1, 2001.  
HF1687/SF1206\*/CH88

### Officer testing change

A new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 10 will make it easier for qualified applicants for openings on police departments to become eligible for hire.

Under current law police civil service commissions administer periodic examinations for candidates. Notice must be published stating the time, place, and scope of each examination.

The commissions grade and classify all the employees and maintain a register of the names, classes, age, compensation, period of past employment and other facts and data.

The commissions also keep a second register of those who have applied for positions.

The new law will allow police civil service commissions to administer additional

examinations from time to time during the life of the eligible register without further publication requirements or 10-day notice to applicants meeting threshold requirements.

Applicants who pass the later examination will then be added to the eligible register.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) and Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) were the sponsors.

The law becomes effective Aug. 1, 2001.  
HF1465/SF1432\*/CH87

## GREATER MINNESOTA



### Worthington program management

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law May 10 that will allow the Southwest Regional Development Commission to establish a nonprofit corporation to operate programs and manage facilities at the Prairieland Exposition Center in Worthington.

Prairieland is an interactive discovery center exploring the 6,000 square miles of southwestern Minnesota attractions.

Representatives from the commission testified in committee hearings that management of the center will be more efficient and effective.

## SUMMERTIME REFLECTIONS



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Matt Kleczka of Arden Hills, a tuba player for the Minnesota State Band, takes a break after playing "In the Good Ol' Summer Time." The band performed May 16 on the Capitol lawn to kick off events on National Employee Health and Fitness Day.**

tively run by the new entity rather than the commission.

The commission's mission is to address the economic, social, and governmental needs of the region.

The new law requires the corporation be governed by a board of nine directors to be named by the commission. No more than five of the directors can be currently serving on the commission. Board members will not be compensated for their services but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred as part of their duties.

Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) and Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy) were the sponsors.

The law becomes effective Aug. 1, 2001.  
HF390/SF110\*/CH81

## HEALTH



### Patient protection modifications

The House passed a bill May 14 that would change some patient protection provisions for health plan enrollees. The vote was 134-0.

The House amended (HF560/SF491\*), sponsored by Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), to reflect the House language. The Senate version, sponsored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls), was passed May 4 on a 55-5 vote.

Among the provisions in the bill are:

- Any civil penalties collected by the Department of Commerce for a violation of laws or rules on the part of health carriers must be shared 50/50 with policyholders affected by the violation. The same would hold true for administrative penalties that might be levied by the Department of Health;
- No health plan could exclude or reduce coverage for a person covered by the plan whose health care needs arise from a suicide attempt;
- Health plans would be required to cover anti-psychotic drugs, even if they are not listed in the company's drug formulary, if the prescribing physician submits in writing that the drug is the best treatment for the condition. It also would allow more continuity in other drugs for mental or emotional illness;
- All health plan companies that provide coverage for mental health services would be required to do the same for court-ordered mental health treatment;
- Continuity of care would have to be provided in specified circumstances for up to 120 days for people changing health plans; and
- Health plans would be given more latitude in setting co-payments and deductibles.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) sponsored a successful amendment that would require medical directors of health plans with more than 50,000 enrollees to be licensed as physicians in Minnesota. He said that most medical directors of the state's health plans are not licensed by the state.

"I do not believe it is too much to ask that physicians who oversee medical policy in the state be licensed to practice medicine in Minnesota," Abrams said.

The bill now goes to a conference committee.

### Immunity change

The "Good Samaritan Law" grants immunity from civil damages to people who provide emergency medical care without expectation of being compensated unless the person acts in a willful and wanton or reckless manner in providing the care, advice, or assistance.

Under a new law signed May 17 by Gov. Jesse Ventura, that immunity is limited for people who use automatic external defibrillators to restart a heart.

The law says that civil immunity extends only to people who use a defibrillator in the course of normal employment, unless that normal employment includes giving emergency medical care. Therefore, professional emergency medical care providers are explicitly exempt from the state's Good Samaritan protections.

Good Samaritan laws are designed to encourage average citizens to offer emergency medical assistance by providing immunity from civil claims arising from "acts or omissions" in rendering care, advice, or assistance.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) sponsored the measure in the House and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored it in the Senate.

The bill is effective May 18, 2001.

HF935/SF824\*/CH107

### Peer review among hospitals

The House passed a bill May 11 that would provide an Internet-based system for sharing information among hospitals on a vote of 89-38.

"It is estimated that there is \$1 billion a year loss in Minnesota relating to medical errors," said Rep. Carl Jacobson (R-Vadnais Heights), House sponsor of HF1081/SF560\*.

The idea behind the measure is that sharing information about medical errors and how they are corrected would help prevent such incidents in other facilities, thereby improving the safety of care given to patients.

House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) offered an amendment that would make data from this peer review process available to someone who sues a doctor or medical institution for medical malpractice.

"This amendment would assure that victims can have information relating to medical errors," he said.

Lawmakers who supported the amendment echoed Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) who said, "The peer review process hides the facts. People have the right to know the facts when they are maimed or hurt by medical malpractice."

Opponents of the amendment said they were concerned that making information from the peer review system readily discoverable would have the effect of silencing discussion after mistakes were made.

"We need to have a system that when you make mistakes you have a process in place to learn from them," said Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester). "This amendment guts that process. I'm persuaded we already have protection against bad acts."

Pugh agreed that peer review allows providers to learn from their mistakes, "but at the expense of their victims."

His amendment failed 65-63.

The Senate previously passed the bill, sponsored by Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples), April 25 63-0.

It now goes to the governor.

## ★ INDUSTRY

### Gas price minimum

To protect small, independently owned gas stations from large retailers engaging in predatory pricing, the House voted in favor of a bill that would prohibit gasoline retailers from selling gas below cost.

HF1007/SF970\*, sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), passed the body May 14 on an 85-46 vote. The same measure in the Senate, sponsored by Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing), passed 48-11 on May 15. It now awaits the governor's signature.

The bill defines "cost" as the average terminal price, plus state and federal taxes, plus "the lesser of six percent or eight cents."

Davids said it is "cost prohibitive" for small companies to take large retailers to court for predatory pricing, which is when major companies drop their prices below what their smaller competitors can afford, therefore driving them out of business.

However, some members said the legislation should not only apply to gasoline costs, but should include other products, as well.

"We should look at state as a whole, rather than just one industry," said Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior).

"We already have laws that deal with predatory practices," said Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester). "We see this in everyday commodities."

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) told his colleagues to consider the long-term effect of this bill. "In the long run ... small competition is eliminated and we have the big guys who can set the price for gasoline," he said. "Consumers will suffer."

"We're losing theaters, clothing stores ... office supply stores, but we have been able to hang on to little gas stations," said Rep. Tom Baak (DFL-Cook). "The path we're on (without the bill) is dangerous for our rural communities."

## ★ INSURANCE

### Senior citizen auto coverage

Rights for senior citizens who become disabled in an auto accident might change under legislation passed by the House May 14.

HF694/SF1264\*, sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), passed in the House by a 131-0 vote. The Senate version, sponsored by Sen. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park), passed 56-0 on April 20.

Minnesota residents who have no-fault automobile insurance are covered for loss of wage or other labor income if the insured person becomes disabled in an auto accident. This coverage is now mandatory, except for people over age 65 who have no wage or other labor income.

Current law permits people over 65 to decline no-fault coverage for income loss as part of their auto insurance. Under the bill, seniors would have an unconditional right to decline the no-fault coverage for income loss.

Under current law, the coverage must be there unless the person "will not reasonably be expected to be able to receive" benefits from the coverage, as determined as a result of inquiry by the insurance company.

The bill would require the insurance company to notify seniors of this right, at the first issuance or renewal after age 65 and annually thereafter. It also states that a request by the insured not to have this coverage remains in effect until revoked by the insured.

The bill now awaits the governor's signature.

### Schedule update

As this issue of *Session Weekly* went to press, there was no advance meeting schedule available.

## ★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Gift-giving approved

Local officials will be able to enjoy certain conferences a little bit more, under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 14.

Current law prohibits government officials from accepting gifts from a person or a representative of an association that has a direct financial interest in a decision the official is authorized to make.

The new law provides that the prohibition does not apply when the recipient is an attendee at a conference sponsored by a national or multi-state organization where the gift is food or a beverage given at a reception or meal and an equivalent gift is given or offered to all other attendees.

Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) were the sponsors of the measure.

The law is effective May 15, 2001.  
HF2110/SF1441\*/CH93

### Code uniformity

In an effort to stimulate the construction of more affordable housing, the House passed a bill May 11 that would provide more standardization of government regulatory fees. The vote was 126-4.

HF1310, sponsored by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), would prohibit municipalities from adopting an ordinance or including a provision in a development agreement that is different from the state building code.

Abrams said the bill was a compromise by groups representing building contractors, realtors, and state and local building code administrators. He said city and county officials were neutral on the bill.

The different fees charged by jurisdictions can mean that the cost of construction of identical homes can vary from city to city, Abrams said. Establishing more standard building regulations would lead to lower costs and thus more affordable housing in the state.

Among the amendments adopted was one offered by Abrams that he said addressed a concern raised in the House local government committee's hearing of the bill. It would allow a municipality to adopt an ordinance that is more restrictive than the state building code when geological conditions warrant stricter restrictions.

Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville) said the city of Lakeville has a drain tile requirement in its building regulations in order to prevent flooding issues unique to that city.

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), one of the four members to vote against the bill, spoke

against the amendment because she said it would limit cities from imposing stricter health standards than the state code. As an example, she said that the city of Minneapolis might want to adopt stricter standards for the amount of arsenic allowed in wood, and under the amendment that would not be allowed.

Although he had concerns with the bill, particularly giving the state building inspector too much authority, Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul) said he was voting for it because it was a good start in addressing many issues involving the state building code.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), a co-sponsor of the bill, said local fees are a driving factor in the lack of affordable housing in the state. "This bill is getting rid of barriers that shouldn't be there," he said.

The bill awaits action on the Senate floor.

## SOYBEAN SUPPORT



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Ken Grever from Blooming Prairie carries his sign in front of the Capitol along with other members of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association in support of biodiesel. The House passed an agriculture bill May 15, which carried a section mandating the use of biodiesel in state-owned vehicles.

## Federal grant fairness

Certain elected officials would be eligible to participate in a federal grant program, under a bill passed by the House May 14. The vote was 101-31.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), the House sponsor of HF610/SF974\*, said the bill was originally brought forward on behalf of a business owner from Floodwood who served on the city council and therefore was not eligible for the same community development block grants that other business owners in the city received.

The bill is limited to cities in St. Louis County with populations fewer than 5,000. An officer who wishes to apply for the grant must abstain from voting on the measure and must disclose as part of the official city council meeting minutes that he or she has applied for the funds.

Solberg said federal law does not prohibit a person serving on a city council from applying for grant money but state conflict of interest law does.

Sen. Bob Lessard (Ind.-Int'l Falls) is the Senate sponsor. The bill passed the Senate April 9 by a 60-2 vote.

It now goes to the governor for his signature.

## ★ MILITARY

### Honoring citizens

The House passed a measure May 14 that would authorize a plaque honoring the service of civilians who contributed during World War II. The vote was 130-0.

HF1023/SF1222\*, sponsored by Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), would allow a memorial plaque to be placed on the Capitol grounds recognizing those civilians who served in support of the war effort and who years later were given the status of veteran by Congress.

Biernat said those who served in groups like the Merchant Marines and the Women's Airforce Service Pilots played a significant role in the country's war effort and many of them ended up giving their lives for their country.

"This recognizes valiant civilians who were later turned into veterans by Congress," he said.

The bill would require the plaque be furnished by a person or organizations other than the Department of Veteran's Affairs. But the bill would also require the commissioner of that department and the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board to approve the plaque.

The measure, sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul), passed the Senate April 19 by a 62-2 vote.

It now goes to the governor.

## ★ RECREATION

### Task force touchdown

A task force created to study football stadium issues would be created under a bill approved by the House Taxes Committee May 11. The vote was 19-5.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

Sponsored by Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring), HF2241 would create a privately funded task force that would report back to the Legislature and governor by Oct. 31, 2001.

The bill specifies that membership of the task force include legislators, representatives from business and labor, members appointed by the governor, and members appointed by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents. It must also contain, under the bill, at least one person who opposes direct state appropriations or tax incentives.

Stang said the appropriate role of the Legislature was to bring people together to find a workable solution to the stadium issue.

The task force would study proposals to construct a new sports facility or renovate an existing facility to be used as a joint college and professional football and/or soccer facility.

Under the bill interested parties could submit proposals to the task force by Aug. 1, 2001. At a minimum the proposals must include a credible estimate of total costs along with an analysis that a substantial market exists for the sport proposed for the stadium.

The proposals must also include a financing plan that identifies adequate funding, including at least a \$150 million contribution from private sources, and must specify a proposed site for the stadium.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, distributed an opinion for informational purposes issued by Attorney General Mike Hatch concerning legal remedies available to the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission under existing agreements should the Minnesota Vikings cease playing their home games in the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome.

In his opinion Hatch writes that the purpose of the 30-year agreement between the commission and the team signed in 1979 was to ensure the presence of the Vikings at the Metrodome.

Hatch concludes it would be reasonable for a court to grant "specific performance to the commission if the Vikings cease playing their home games in the Metrodome."

But Hatch notes that while the commission could seek to compel the National Football League from stopping a move, the agreement does not make it appear there would be legal remedies to compel the league to provide

another franchise should the Vikings move.

Dan Rivera, an employee of the University of Minnesota, spoke against the bill saying he was "surprised" the university was in support of the bill after the concerns raised about appropriate funding for higher education.

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### Behind the wheel

Licensed child care providers will be allowed to operate school buses under limited conditions, under a law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 15.

Under the law the holder of a Class D driver's license, without a school bus endorsement, may operate a van-type school bus with a gross weight of 10,000 pounds or less and a capacity of 15 or fewer persons including the driver.

This is only true if 14 conditions are met, including: the operator is an employee of the entity that owns, leases or contracts for the bus; the operator drives only from points of origin to points of destination, but not for home-to-school or vice versa trips; and the operator provides annual training in, among other things, training and certification in safe operation of the vehicle, understanding student behavior, handling misconduct appropriately and safe loading and unloading of students and a driver background check has been completed.

The bill also allows licensed childcare providers to use buses that look like school buses except that the stop arm has been removed, the eight-light system is deactivated, and it is identified as a "childcare bus" in letters at least eight inches high on the front and rear top of the bus. Such vehicles must be further identified with the name, address and phone number of the owner or operator on each front door in letters no smaller than three inches high.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) sponsored the measure in the House. Sen. Sandra Pappas (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

The new law takes effect July 1, 2001 and expires July 1, 2003.

HF2181/SF2225\*/CH97

### Student safety

School districts, nonpublic schools, or private contractors will be required to annually verify the validity of driver's licenses of each person who transports students, under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 15.

The schools, districts, and companies may use the National Drivers Register or the Department of Public Safety to perform the verification.

According to commerce sources, the National Driver Register is a computerized database of information about drivers who have had their licenses revoked or suspended, or who have been convicted of such serious traffic violations as driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Government entities can use the system to avoid granting drivers and other licenses to people convicted of offenses that may legally disqualify them from lawfully driving.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) sponsored the measure in the House and Sen. Julie Sabo (DFL-Mpls) sponsored it in the Senate.

The law will take effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1172/SF1056\*/CH98

### Road rules

The House passed a state Department of Transportation housekeeping bill May 16.

Sponsored by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), HF1488/SF1769\* passed by a 132-1 vote after the House language was substituted and several amendments were approved.

Sen. Mark Ourada (R-Buffalo) sponsored the measure in the Senate, which passed it by a 63-0 vote May 7. Because of the House amendments, the bill must return to the Senate to approve those amendments.

In part, the bill allows MnDOT to post a speed limit of up to 55 miles per hour in work zones on divided highways. Current law sets that speed at 40 MPH. Furthermore, a "highway work zone" is redefined to exist only when workers are present.

It also transfers jurisdiction over various highways from MnDOT to local road authorities in Olmsted and Ramsey counties, Brainerd, and Minneapolis.

Truck weight is also an issue in this bill.

Current law sets a period of Jan. 1 to March 7 during which trucks may legally weigh 10 percent more than the normal weight limits. The bill would change that period to one set by MnDOT based on frost depth.

Supporters of the measure argue that allowing the department to actively set dates as needed will effectively protect roads from damage while avoiding unnecessary limitations on trucks. For example, vehicles may have increased weight due to agricultural schedules, such as harvesting seasons.

Finally, the bill deletes references to defunct federal and state regulatory agencies such as the Interstate Commerce Commission, Civil Aeronautics Board, and Minnesota Transportation Regulation Board.

Continued on page 25



# Informed dissent

Governor sticks to his word in vetoing multi-billion dollar health and human services bill

By MARY KAY WATSON

**A**s promised, Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed the Legislature's health and human services funding package May 15, in part because it contained a measure requiring a 24-hour waiting period for a woman to issue consent and obtain an abortion.

The bill (HF1832/SF2361\*), which passed the House 89-43 May 10, provides \$6.3 billion in appropriations for health and human services programs, including the Minnesota Family Investment Program and other health entitlement programs. The total appropriation, after taking into account federal dollars and special funds, would be \$7.6 billion.

It also makes significant changes to reform long-term care, improve mental health programs, and address health disparities.

The Senate's version, sponsored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls), passed 43-22 May 9. The Senate accepted House amendments May 11 rather than taking the bill to conference committee.

The bill was delivered to the governor May 15, and he vetoed it soon thereafter.

"I believe that no issue is so important that it justifies risking the integrity of the legislative process," Ventura said before rendering the veto.

He said with no health and human services finance law, state services funded in that law, such as prisons, health care facilities, and welfare would be shut down July 1.

In his veto message, Ventura said while he supported many of the priorities in the bill, such as long term care reform, he objected strongly to a number of its provisions, including restrictions on abortion, cuts in family planning services, and the lack of adoption and custody assistance.

The 10-hour debate on the House floor May 10 carried the heavy emotions attached with many of the issues addressed in the bill.

"This bill provides a safety net for all Minnesotans," said Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), the House sponsor. "We tried to address the most urgent needs out there."

Almost 50 amendments steered the House discourse May 10 down an intricate and varied path. The most contentious debate focused on abortion, family planning, welfare limits, and immunization. However, those topics make up a relatively small share of the almost 600-page bill.

The governor's veto threat because of the abortion consent measure weighed heavily on member's minds.

"We're playing politics with people's health," said Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins), who opposes the provision. "It seems a shame to risk a veto."

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) reminded legislators that law already provides informed consent. "You'd better have enough votes to override a veto," he said. "This is a bad thing to do at this stage of the session."

The abortion language in the House version was replaced with that in the Senate bill through an amendment sponsored by Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault). It passed 84-49.

The Senate language removes the requirement that the name of a physician who would perform an abortion must be revealed before



House Speaker Steve Sviggum, right, holds a copy of the bill during a May 15 press conference in the House center, sponsor of the bill, and Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty.

trying to do is block women's access to an abortion that is their legal right today."

A related amendment would have allowed pharmacists to refuse to dispense a prescrip-

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***"This bill provides a safety net for all Minnesotans. We tried to address the most urgent needs out there."***

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***—Rep. Kevin Goodno***

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the time of the abortion. It also would establish a Web site and a toll-free number. However, it retains the civil penalties against any doctor who performs an abortion without obtaining informed consent after a 24-hour waiting period.

"This just gives women the opportunity to really think about it for 24 hours," said Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington). "We should not forget about the life we are ending."

"The true goal of this bill is not to protect women's right to know," said Rep. Scott Dibble (DFL-Mpls). "What supporters are really

tion that "the pharmacist opposes for moral or religious reasons," according to its sponsor Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie). She said this was directed at RU486, also known as mifepristone, which was approved by the FDA in September 2000. Mifepristone can be used as a method of early abortion. The amendment failed 65-63.

The House passed an amendment sponsored by Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan) that would take \$5 million per year from the teen pregnancy prevention program and move it to welfare-to-work programs.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

omnibus Health and Human Services bill he signed and sent to the Chamber gallery. Joining Sviggum are Rep. Kevin Goodno, left.

The amendment was a tough call for lawmakers because, as Goodno put it, “both are very good programs.” But Dibble referred to the amendment as a “false choice.”

ing: the U. S. Public Health Service, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. The changes would be reported to and reviewed by the Legislature at its next session.

An amendment that would require the commissioner of human services to study why outcomes for children in the welfare system differ by race and to make recommendations to the Legislature was approved.

Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of the amendment, said 4.1 percent of children in Minnesota are African-American, yet they constitute 21.8 percent of children in out-of-home placements.

A number of programs funded in previous years either would not be funded in this bill or would be funded at a lesser level. One of these is the Minnesota Senior Service Corps.

“I know from personal experience this program works well,” said Rep. Barbara Goodwin (DFL-Columbia Heights), who offered an amendment that would fund the program from the Department of Human Services professional/technical consulting services budget.

“We purposely did not fund some of these programs,” Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) said. “Instead we set aside \$18 million in community development grants to stimulate growth in programs such as this.”

An amendment to the amendment offered by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) would take the money from family planning instead of consulting services. The Goodwin amendment passed as amended by Seifert.

When all the amendment discussion was done, debate on the overall bill continued.

Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth) said one of the things he was most pleased with were provisions addressing rural health disparities. But he was averse to restricting teen

“The sky isn’t falling,” she said. “For the most part, we are way ahead of the rest of the country. Be proud of it.”

“I think what’s in this bill is revolutionary,” Bradley said. “What’s socially extreme is to focus on a few small things.”

He said the bill would do the following:

- Reform long-term care;
- Fund mental health issues such as civil commitment and suicide prevention;
- Provide alternatives for children with autism;
- “Unlock” the waiting list for people with developmental disabilities; and
- Address health care disparities.

“The numbers don’t add up to ‘we don’t care,’” Goodno said. “The people who put this bill together are change agents.”

In a surprise move May 14, Goodno presented the entire omnibus bill, unchanged, as an amendment to HF1397, a bill on licensure sponsored by Wilkin. The amendment was approved and the bill passed 84-49 but not without challenges.

The Senate also amended the provisions in the bill onto another unrelated measure May 15.

Debate on the amendment focused on process. Entenza brought up a point of order on germaneness. Several lawmakers wondered why Speaker Sviggum didn’t just sign the original bill and send it on to the governor.

“You’re starting the same process all over again,” Bishop said. “It’s hard for me to understand how we would go through the same bill again and not arrive at the same conclusion.”

Goodno said he was taking precautions to assure the passage of health and human services funding before the session ends.

“I know it’s an extreme measure, but I’m making a last ditch effort to get a conference committee on this,” he said. 🐼

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***“We’re playing politics with people’s health.  
It seems a shame to risk a veto.”***

***—Rep. Betty Folliard***

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A provision in the bill that would allow the commissioner of health to modify immunization requirements when the Legislature is not in session came under fire in the House discussion, as it did in committee, but remains in the bill.

“As science and technology advances, we have to update our immunization schedule more often,” said Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), who is a physician.

The bill would allow the commissioner of health to make changes only if the changes were recommended by all three of the follow-

pregnancy prevention to abstinence programs, the lack of health insurance for children, and the reduction in and restrictions on family planning funding.

Folliard berated Goodno, saying the bill was “shameful. This bill creates winners and losers, and the losers are women and children.”

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said the bill reflected “skewed priorities. This bill has been hijacked by special interest groups.”

Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) said the “ranting” by the DFL members of the House reminded her of the story of Henny Penny.

## Where to find information

### House Public Information Office

175 State Office Building  
(651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

The House Public Information Office is a nonpartisan office that provides committee meeting schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* news magazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the Legislature’s World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

# Here's the pitch

Plans for a Minnesota Twins stadium advance in the House and Senate; team won't say if they approve of either

BY DAVID MAEDA

If you don't count Abbott and Costello's "Who's on First?" comedy routine as poetry, then Ernest Thayer's 1888 "Casey at the Bat" is probably the most famous baseball poem ever written.

The poem is about a local hero letting his hometown down by striking out with the winning runs on base. Few might be as aware of the sequel written by Grantland Rice in 1906 that emphasizes a truism in baseball that there is always another at bat, another game, and another season to atone for past failures.

Such is true for stadium legislation at the State Capitol. Those that thought the defeat of a stadium bill for the Minnesota Twins in 1997 ended the debate on the issue might be surprised at the progress of a bill now making its way through the House.

HF2513, sponsored by Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), would help define the public finance involvement of an outdoor, but retractable roof ready, \$300 million baseball park for the Twins.

As it was originally introduced in the House, and the version that still currently exists in the Senate, Mares' original proposal (HF2214)

would provide a \$100 million interest-free loan to the team along with a sales tax exemption on construction materials and a property tax exemption on the land underneath the ballpark.

Under that proposal the Twins and other private entities would be required to put up \$150 million up front and would ultimately be responsible for 83 percent of the costs.

However, a delete-all amendment adopted by the House Taxes Committee May 11 to HF2513 changes the terms of the proposal.

The bill would authorize the issuance of state revenue bonds up to \$140 million to fund a loan to a local unit of government for one-half of the costs of the new stadium.

The bill also would permit the local unit of government to impose a 10 percent admissions tax to help repay the loan and would provide a sales tax exemption on construction materials. The local unit of government would be the owner of the stadium.

A property tax exemption for the ballpark including parking facilities would also be provided under the measure.

The bill would require the Twins to sign a 30-year lease with no escape clauses.

The issuance of the bonds would be

contingent on Major League Baseball and its players' association reaching an agreement creating a new financial structure ensuring the competitiveness of all the major league teams.

After holding two hearings the House Taxes Committee approved the bill May 14 by a 15-9 vote. Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) abstained from voting. One day later the House Ways and Means Committee also approved the measure and referred it to the House Capital Investment Committee, where it was scheduled to be heard May 17, after this edition of *Session Weekly* went to press.

Among the amendments adopted by the taxes committee was one offered by Committee Chair Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) that would oblige the commissioner of Major League Baseball to sign an agreement guaranteeing the continuance of a major league franchise for the entire term of the loan.

In an effort to ensure reform in the sport, another successful amendment offered by Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) would require that the teams with revenues in the top quartile be on average no more than 40 percent higher than the average revenues of the teams in the bottom quartile.

Abrams said the Legislature has a history of providing sales tax exemptions for facilities that are deemed to be for the public interest. He said exemptions were provided for paper mills up north, as well as the Xcel

Continued on page 23



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Twins fans in the left field seats hold up a banner earlier this season to let their feelings be known about a new stadium.

# Still going strong

Minnesota's youngest four-year public university in Greater Minnesota founded after legislative study in the 1950s

BY THERESA STAHL

A young, little-known university in the southwest corner of the state has been growing as fast as the corn stalks around it.

As the state's newest four-year university in Greater Minnesota, Southwest State University in Marshall was founded when populations in the surrounding counties were declining. Today its enrollment is growing faster than other schools in the state, proving that leaders who said there was a demand for education in the region 40 years ago were right, though overall population in the area continues to decrease.

The school's inception came when those surrounding counties showed a heavy demand for public higher education.

In 1959, the Minnesota Legislature directed a legislative research committee to study the possible establishment of a four-year state college centrally located in the 19-county western and southwestern section of the state.

could have, according to a legislative report titled *The Feasibility of Establishing a State College in Western and Southwestern Minnesota*.

Data from the two schools, located in west-central Minnesota, showed the number of students going to college was on the rise and that most of the students attending those schools came from surrounding counties.

"The overall change in college attendance as a result of the new institutions indicates that this area of the state responds favorably to greater educational opportunities and that similar support should be forthcoming in southwestern Minnesota if a state college were to be created there," says the legislative report.

The report concluded that southwestern Minnesota would provide the "enrollments, civic encouragement, and continuing support necessary" to become "a successful and thriving institution."

A few years later, the 1963 Minnesota Legislature authorized Southwest State University

— opened its doors in 1967.

Modern conventions such as a tunnel system and handicapped accessibility were built in to the school from day one, while other schools had to develop those amenities from existing infrastructure.

Minnesota's other four-year universities have much longer histories, some beginning around 1858 when Minnesota became a state.

Six "normal schools" were created between 1860 and 1919 to provide a standard or "normal" training for teachers to serve in the state's school system. The schools were placed at various locations to supply teachers throughout most of the state's geographic regions, except in west-central and southwest Minnesota, according to the legislative report.

The school locations and year of organization are: Winona, 1860; Mankato, 1868; St. Cloud, 1869; Moorhead, 1888; Duluth, 1895; Bemidji, 1919. The state teacher's colleges were devoted exclusively to the preparation of teachers for public schools. In 1946 liberal arts education was added to the curriculums and in 1957 the name was changed to state colleges.

With the exception of Duluth, the schools now belong to the Minnesota State College and Universities system. Duluth became a coordinate campus of the University of Minnesota in 1947.

Compared to other state universities, Southwest State draws its students from one of the smallest local population pools in state, though the school does draw students from other areas. The southwest part of the state experienced the largest population decrease as a region in 2000, according to Chuck Myrbach, director of Research and Institutional Grants at the university. In that same area, Marshall, a town of about 12,000 people, is the only community that grew according to the 2000 Census, he said.

"We have to work harder at maintaining and increasing enrollment because of the region," said Myrbach, who has worked at the university for 32 years.

Nevertheless, over the past six years the university has quietly increased its numbers a staggering 64 percent, far surpassing any other four-year institution in the state. The university enrolled 2,691 students in 1995, which



Photo courtesy Southwest State University Department of University Relations

Located in Marshall, Southwest State University is the youngest of the state's four-year public universities in Greater Minnesota and opened its doors to students in 1967. This aerial picture reflects the campus as it stands today.

The University of Minnesota had only recently opened a campus in Morris. That, coupled with enrollment at Fergus Falls junior college, served as a testament to the success a college in that region of Minnesota

as the state's only four-year liberal arts and technical university. The first construction on the 216-acre tract of donated land took place in 1966. The unfinished college — called Southwest Minnesota State College at the time

Continued on page 27

# 'Capitol' punishment

Minnesota's historical struggle with the death penalty has cooled somewhat but still simmers in the Legislature

BY BRENDA VAN DYCK

**T**he death penalty is older than the nation itself and arguments for and against it have been around just as long. With the expected execution of Timothy McVeigh (convicted in the Oklahoma City bombing) looming, Americans are being forced to think about the issue once again.

Although Minnesota does not now perform capital punishment, it did at one time.

The last time Minnesota executed anyone was in 1906 when William Williams was hung for killing a teenage boy (see related story).

His poorly executed hanging was widely reported and gave fuel to a movement to abolish the death penalty, which at that point had been in place for the whole of Minnesota's statehood.

The territorial legislature first enacted the death penalty for first-degree murder, defined in statute as murder resulting from premeditation. But law required the person convicted to be kept in solitary confinement for a full year for each capital conviction before being executed. The first person to be executed in Minnesota was a Sioux man, hanged in a public spectacle on Dec. 31, 1854.

In 1860, the only woman to be put to death in Minnesota was hanged.

Anna Bilanski poisoned her husband with arsenic, although the evidence against her was seemingly questionable.

Officials thought Stanilous Bilanski died of natural causes, but two women later came forward to say that Anna Bilanski had purchased arsenic. After a postmortem exam, a coroner's jury ruled the cause of death was arsenic poisoning. During the trial, medical evidence was contradictory and the motives of the two women were questioned, but Bilanski was nonetheless convicted.

Days later she escaped from the Ramsey County Jail, but was caught a week later, and sentenced to "death by hanging," as required by law. The case was appealed, without luck, to the state supreme court.

Gov. Henry Sibley refused to set an execution date for her before his term expired on

Dec. 31, 1859. His successor, Gov. Alexander Ramsey, didn't seem to have the same qualms about executing Bilanski and set her date with death for March 23, 1860.

Meanwhile, the Legislature debated, but did not pass, a bill that abolished the death penalty in its entirety and another bill that abolished the execution of women and girls. The Legislature then passed a bill commuting Bilanski's sentence to life imprisonment, but Ramsey vetoed the bill.

On March 23, Bilanski was hanged in St. Paul's courthouse square at the corner of Fifth and Cedar streets. About 100 people witnessed the execution, but between 1,500 and 2,000 more observers had a restricted view from behind a fence around the gallows.

Including Bilanski, 26 people were executed by hanging in the state between 1860 and 1911. Additionally, in 1862, the federal government hanged 38 Sioux Indians in Mankato, which, at that time, may have been the largest mass execution in U.S. history.

After Bilanski's execution, the Legislature made several attempts to abolish the death penalty.

In 1868, a bill was approved that would allow "death by hanging" only if the jury verdict specifically prescribed that punishment. This had the practical effect of stopping executions.

In 1877, Gov. John Pillsbury called for a repeal of the law, but the Legislature didn't act on the issue until 1883, when it passed a bill that mandated the death penalty for first-



Gov. Adolph O. Eberhart signed the law abolishing the death penalty.



The execution of William Williams was big news on Feb. 1906.

degree murder, except when "exceptional circumstances" warranted a life sentence. This law put the decision to carry out capital punishment back into the hands of judges, and executions resumed.

An effort to abolish the death penalty failed in 1905, but after Williams' messy execution, state legislators continued an effort to end the practice. They succeeded in 1911.

In debate on the House floor, the bill's sponsor, Rep. George MacKenzie (R-Gaylord), said, "If punishment is what you want to inflict, would it not be much more of a punishment to incarcerate the criminal within prison walls, where conscience might bring remorse to torture him through the slow lapse of years, cut off from the job and sunshine of freedom, not hearing the songs of the wild birds, sense the breath and perfume of the flowers, where no rustle of the autumn leaves could reach him?"

In addition to believing prison was the best punishment, MacKenzie thought capital punishment was immoral. He said, "Let us bar this thing of vengeance and the furies from the confines of our great state; let not this harlot of judicial murder smear the pages of our history with her bloody fingers, or trail her crimson robes through our halls of justice, and let never again the great seal of the great state of Minnesota be affixed upon a warrant to take human life."

The House then voted 95-19 to abolish the death penalty. The Senate did the same by 35-19. The bill was signed into law by Gov. Adolph O. Eberhart.

Up to that point, few other states had acted similarly: Rhode Island abolished the death penalty in 1852, Wisconsin in 1853, Colorado in 1897, and Kansas in 1907. Maine abolished





FROM "FOR THE RECORD, 150 YEARS OF LAW AND LAWYERS IN MINNESOTA"  
13, 1906. Williams was the last person to be executed in

capital punishment in 1876, reinstated it in 1883, and abolished it again in 1887. Iowa also abolished the death penalty in 1872, but reinstated it six years later.

Today, 38 states, as well as the federal government and the military, have the death penalty. Since 1976, there have been 712 executions in the United States; the most recent was May 8 in Arkansas. The most common method of execution is lethal injection, followed by electrocution.

Those jurisdictions that have abolished the death penalty, in addition to Minnesota, are Alaska, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa (again in 1965), Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Although opinion polls show that most Minnesotans — like the majority of Americans — support the death penalty, the Minnesota Legislature has never been successful in reinstating it.

Attempts to turn back the law have been made periodically since capital punishment was abolished, especially in the two decades following its initial repeal in 1911. In the last decade, legislators introduced bills to reinstate the death penalty during the 1991-92, 1995-96, 1999-2000, and 2001 legislative sessions. Most of these bills applied to first-degree murder, although some of the bills put the question to voters in the form of constitutional amendments.

Minnesota witnessed some alarming crimes in the early 1990s. In summer 1991, two women were abducted and killed, one in rural Minnesota, the other in St. Cloud. In the same year, Minneapolis set a record for homicides. These events, along with the public perception that society was increasingly unsafe, prompted calls for tougher legislation for criminals.

In addition to introducing bills to increase penalties for violent crime, legislators introduced bills to reinstate the death penalty in 1992. The death penalty provision was voted down 108-25 in the House that year. Members had earlier voted down a bill that would have posed the



Rep. George MacKenzie

question to voters in the form of a constitutional amendment. In the Senate, the death penalty bill was voted down in the Judiciary Committee.

In 1995, death penalty proponents tried to attach an amendment to the omnibus crime bill on the House floor. It was defeated 96-37. When that failed, supporters tried to pass a constitutional amendment proposal to put the question to voters in 1996. That effort also failed.

The last time legislators voted on the death penalty was in 1997. An amendment to establish the death penalty for the first-degree murder of police officers and children was defeated 102-30. Bills introduced in 1999, 2000, and 2001 were referred to committees, but made it no further in either body.

Brenda van Dyck is the editor/publications manager for the nonpartisan House Research Department.

## Botched hanging prompted abolition of state death penalty

It has been 95 years since the state of Minnesota last put someone to death.

William Williams was executed by hanging on Feb. 13, 1906. However, it was the problems associated with that event that ultimately led to the abolition of capital punishment in Minnesota.

In the basement of the Ramsey County Courthouse, only about 30 people reportedly watched what turned out to be a landmark day, according to *For the Record, 150 Years of Law and Lawyers in Minnesota*, by the Minnesota State Bar Association.

Like other hangings, the 27-year-old Williams, who was convicted of murdering a 16-year-old boy, was escorted from his cell to the gallows. Newspaper accounts suggested an "unnatural relationship" between the pair.

Williams's execution did not pass without a last statement. His final words, according to *The St. Paul Daily News* of that day were, "Gentlemen, you are witnessing an illegal hanging. This is a legal murder. I am accused of killing Johnny Keller. He was

the best friend I ever had, and I hope to meet him in the other world. I never had improper relations with him. I am resigned to my fate. Goodbye."

Moments later the trap door opened and Williams's body was supposed to dangle until he died from strangulation. Instead his feet hit the ground because Ramsey County Sheriff Anton Mieson miscalculated the length of the rope. The rope stretched 8 inches, but Williams neck only stretched 4.5 inches. His neck was not broken by the fall.

"Deputies then pulled the rope so that Williams's head was kept up and strangulation could slowly go on," the paper reported. "His feet touched ground all of the time that the death agonies were playing in his mind." It took 14.5 minutes until he was pronounced dead, 21 minutes after leaving his cell.

Prior to the execution, Gov. John Johnson had warned Mieson, sheriff from 1905-1907 according to Ramsey County Historical Society records, to observe statutory restrictions on who could witness an execution. A

subsequent investigation of the sheriff allowing media members to watch the event ended as Johnson believed Mieson's explanation that the reporters had sneaked in unnoticed.

Newspapers that published detailed accounts of the hanging were in violation of a state law enacted in 1889. The law said newspapers could only report that someone was executed, not give details.

According to the book, three newspapers were indicted by a grand jury. After a district court upheld state law regarding newspaper accounts of executions, the issue went to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

"On appeal, the supreme court upheld the district court," the book states. "In doing so the high court acknowledged approvingly the Legislature's determination that it is detrimental to public morals to publish anything more than the mere fact that an execution has taken place. On remand, a jury found all three of the newspapers guilty and the court imposed a \$25 fine against each."

(M. Cook)

# Where have all the bills gone?

Each legislative session, members introduce more than 2,500 bills, many of which receive hearings. However, only about 10 percent of those bills become law and the others wait their turn or never

resurface. If you've been wondering what happened to many of the measures discussed during 2001, the editors have compiled an unofficial list of bills and their status as of May 16.

Please note: this is not a complete list of all bills heard and introduced. It merely reflects some of the issues that received hearings, votes, and other attention this year.

HF1/SF1815	Income tax rate reduction	Not included in the House omnibus tax bill (HF2498) currently in conference committee
HF2/HF48	Sales tax rebate	Rebate included in the House omnibus tax bill (HF2498) currently in conference committee
HF4/HF279/HF380	MinnesotaCare premium and provider taxes repealed	Provided in House omnibus tax bill (HF2498) currently in conference committee
HF12/SF739	Three-fifths vote required to increase taxes	Awaits action on the House floor and in the Senate
HF13/SF323	Income limit raised for prescription drug benefits	Contained in omnibus health and human services bill (HF1832/SF2361*) vetoed by Gov. Ventura
HF14/SF260	Tobacco settlement money dedicated to shortfall in health care access fund	Provision included in the House omnibus tax bill (HF2498) currently in conference committee
HF18/SF144	Soccer grants	Included in House omnibus state government finance bill (HF218/SF2360*) currently in conference committee
HF47*/SF39/CH30	Allow closed iron mine facility to be maintained for two years; provides extra unemployment benefits	Signed by Gov. Ventura 4/12/01; effective retroactive to 8/1/00
HF58*/SF389	Registration of beer kegs	Passed House 4/23/01; awaits action in the Senate
HF82*/SF2359	Omnibus K-12 education finance bill	Passed both House and Senate; currently in conference committee
HF94/SF222	Game and fish gross overlimit penalties	Failed on House floor; awaits action in the Senate
HF111	Constitutional officers code of ethics	Awaiting action on the House floor; no Senate companion
HF118*/SF54	Resolution memorializing television networks to reduce violence and sexually explicit content	Passed by House; no action in Senate
HF130/SF221	Dangerous dogs	Provision allowing dangerous dogs destroyed in certain circumstances included in House omnibus judiciary finance bill (HF351) passed in House and tabled in Senate
HF148/SF151	Social security income tax subtraction	Not included in the House omnibus tax bill (HF2498) currently in conference committee
HF149*/SF505/CH54	Religious sanctioned food, Halal	Signed into law
HF175/SF98	Fire retardant cigarette standards	Failed in House committee; awaiting action in Senate committee
HF205/SF103*	Civil remedies for gas theft and insufficient funds checks	Passed by both the House and Senate; currently in conference committee
HF209*/SF434	Shooting ranges accepted	Passed House and awaiting action in Senate committee
HF218/SF2360*	Omnibus state government finance bill	Passed both House and Senate; currently in conference committee
HF219/SF258/Res. 3	Steel products importation ban	Signed by governor

HF260/SF38	Improvements to criminal justice information system (CriMNet)	Funding included in House omnibus judiciary finance bill (HF351) passed by the House and tabled in the Senate
HF262/SF217	Abortion informed consent measure	Included in both House and Senate health and human services finance bill; vetoed 5/15/01 by Gov. Ventura
HF274*/SF70/CH47	Restriction of mercury thermometer sales	Bill signed by governor 4/26/01; effective 1/1/02
HF281/SF179*	Civil commitment provisions modified	Passed by the Senate 5/9/01; passed by the House 5/16/01; awaiting agreement and presentation to the governor
HF351*/SF264	Felony drunken driving offense provided	Passed by both House and Senate; House bill includes all judiciary finance measures and will require conference committee
HF362/SF326	Biodiesel content mandate	Amended to omnibus agriculture policy bill in the House (HF1547/SF1495*), passed there on 5/15/01; Senate requested a conference committee 5/16/01
HF421*/SF460/CH2	Energy assistance program	Signed into law 2/2/01; effective 2/3/01
HF427/SF453*	Extends bleacher safety exemption of up to nine inch slats to Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission	Passed Senate 5/14/01; awaits action on the House floor
HF478/SF750	Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder evaluation	Study of incidence rate of diagnosed children prescribed Ritalin included in omnibus House K-12 finance bill (HF82*/SF2359); currently in conference committee
HF505/SF982	Racial profiling study	Contained in the House omnibus judiciary finance bill (HF351) passed by House and tabled in the Senate
HF510/SF554	Telecommunication laws modified	Awaits action in House and Senate committees
HF532/SF448	Minnesota River Basin conservation program	Nearly \$21 million provided in House omnibus environment finance bill (HF766/SF2351*) currently in conference committee
HF551/SF725	Second generation targeted ethanol development program	Funding provided in omnibus House agriculture finance bill (HF1266) in conference committee
HF625/SF607	Trunk Highway 62 (Crosstown) construction project restrictions	Language contained in House omnibus transportation finance bill (HF2189/SF2340*) currently in conference committee
HF628/SF1047*	Background checks for apartment managers	Passed Senate without amendment and House with job reference language (HF415) amended to it; currently in conference committee
HF643	Provides for initiative and referendum	Awaiting action on the House floor; no Senate companion
HF659/SF722*	Energy security and reliability act	Passed by the House and Senate; currently in conference committee
HF663/SF1017	Photo evidence in traffic violations	Stalled in House committee; included in Senate omnibus transportation bill (HF2189/SF2340*) currently in conference committee
HF678/SF837	Community corrections grants	Partially funded in House omnibus judiciary finance bill (HF351), passed by the House and tabled in the Senate
HF690	Prohibiting tattooing of minors	Bill returned to House sponsor; no Senate companion
HF701/SF1201	On-site employee drug and alcohol testing	Awaiting action on the House floor; awaiting Senate committee action
HF766/SF2351*	Omnibus environment and natural resources funding bill	Passed both House and Senate; currently in conference committee
HF782/SF773*/CH80	Electronic alcohol monitoring study	Signed by the governor 5/10/01
HF812/SF754	Mental health provisions and suicide prevention	Portions contained in omnibus health and human services bill (HF1832/SF2361*) vetoed by Gov. Ventura
HF818/SF929	Medical assistance asset limits modified for people with disabilities	Omnibus House health and human services finance bill (HF1832/SF2361*) vetoed by the governor contains language changing asset limits to 1996 AFDC standards for some recipients
HF857/SF1103	Picture identification required for registration and voting on Election Day	Awaiting floor action in the House and Senate; portions amended into omnibus state government finance bill (HF218/SF2360*)
HF886/SF852	Immunization schedule changes	Omnibus health and human services bill (HF1832/SF2361*) vetoed by the governor contains provision that certain schedules can be modified with report to the Legislature

HF898/SF993	Malformed frogs research grant	Funding for program discontinued in omnibus House environment funding bill (HF766/SF2351*) currently in conference committee
HF901*/SF1454	Overseas voting clarifications	Passed House 4/24/01; awaits action in Senate committee
HF911/SF776	Soda pop sales and distribution prohibited in schools	Stalled in House and Senate committee
HF915*/SF303	Pledge of Allegiance required in schools	Passed House; awaits action in Senate committee
HF1028	American heritage education in state public schools	Awaiting action on the House floor; no Senate companion
HF1054/SF257	I-394 "Sane Lane" study	Provided in the House omnibus transportation finance bill (HF2189/SF2340*) currently in conference committee
HF1132/SF890	Medical assistance asset limits modified for elderly and disabled	Omnibus House health and human services finance bill (HF1832/SF2361*) vetoed by the governor contains language changing asset limits to 1996 AFDC standards for some recipients
HF1200/SF1097	Income tax credit for adoption expenses	Not included in House omnibus tax bill (HF2498) currently in conference committee
HF1205/SF1107	Wine sold in metro area grocery stores	Bill withdrawn in House committee; awaits action in Senate committee
HF1238/SF854	Dairy supply management act	Stalled in committees in both House and Senate
HF1261*/SF1937	Department of Corrections bill	Passed by both the House and Senate; currently in conference committee
HF1304/SF1464*	Lead poisoning prevention/well water test results	Passed by both House and Senate; currently in conference committee
HF1314/SF1178	Blood-alcohol concentration lowered from 0.10 percent to .08 percent; minor seatbelt violations made primary offense	Awaits action in House Ways and Means Committee; measures are separate in the Senate and await committee action
HF1330/SF197	Aggravated cruelty to pets or companion animals made a felony	Included in omnibus House judiciary finance bill (HF351) passed by House and awaiting action in the Senate
HF1360*/SF1395	Minnesota citizens personal protection act	Passed by the House; failed in Senate committee
HF1391*/SF1318/Res. 3	"Grace" photo postage stamp	Signed by the governor
HF1446/SF1960	Child support, marriage dissolution, custody, and maintenance recodifications	Amended to omnibus House judiciary finance bill (HF351) passed by the House and tabled in the Senate
HF1470/SF978	Requires school district contracts to be structurally balanced	Included in House omnibus K-12 education finance bill (HF82) now in conference committee
HF1515	Omnibus family and early childhood education finance bill	Passed both House and Senate; currently in conference committee
HF1529/SF1436	Pesticide application in schools	Awaiting action in House committee; contained in Senate agriculture measure in conference committee
HF1547/HF1495*	Agriculture policy bill	Passed both House and Senate; conference committee called
HF1649/SF1803	Higher education tuition reciprocity program phased out	Language contained in both House and Senate higher education finance bills; House requires agreements to be renegotiated and Senate requires recommendation for renegotiation to the Legislature
HF1658	Long-term care provisions modified	Omnibus House health and human services finance bill (HF1832/SF2361*) vetoed by the governor contains significant modifications to long-term care
HF1671/SF1589	Sales tax revenue dedicated to heritage enhancement fund	Awaiting committee action in both the House and Senate
HF1734/SF1659*	Feedlot provisions	Passed both House and Senate; awaiting governor's signature
HF1832/SF2361*/CH118	Omnibus health and human services finance bill	Vetoed by Gov. Ventura
HF1848/SF2062	Marriage penalty on individual income tax reduced	House omnibus tax bill addresses marriage penalty; currently in conference committee
HF2057/SF2089	Profile of Learning repealed	Contained in House omnibus K-12 education finance bill (HF82) currently in conference committee

HF2132/SF1021	Marriage license fee reduced for premarital education	Contained in the House omnibus state government finance bill (HF218/SF2360*) currently in conference committee
HF2189/SF2340*	Omnibus transportation finance bill	Passed both House and Senate; currently in conference committee
HF2193/SF2039	"Choose life" license plates	Included in original omnibus House transportation finance bill; amended out in committee
HF2205/SF2073	Modifying odd-numbered year sessions	Passed House 5/15/01; awaits action in Senate committee
HF2241/SF2045	Stadium review task force (football)	Awaiting action on the House floor and in Senate committee
HF2486	Omnibus jobs and economic development finance bill	Passed both House and Senate, currently in conference committee
HF2489/SF2343*	Omnibus higher education finance bill	Passed both House and Senate; currently in conference committee
HF2498	Omnibus tax bill	Passed both House and Senate; currently in conference committee
HF2513	Stadium financing (baseball)	Awaiting hearing in House committee

Continued from page 16

Energy Center in St. Paul and the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Rep. Ann Lenczewski (DFL-Bloomington) offered an unsuccessful amendment that would have provided further sales tax exemptions to the 41 local projects that requested construction cost exemptions in bills presented to the tax committee but whose provisions were not included in the omnibus tax bill.

Nonpartisan House Research staff indicated the property tax exemption in the bill already might be included in present law that provides such an exemption for a municipally owned stadium.

But Abrams pointed out if the stadium were to include other amenities such as bars and restaurants, nothing in existing law would include those entities in the exemption.

Twins President Jerry Bell said the team would have to evaluate the final proposals in both the House and Senate before they could say whether they support the bills.

Bell said the Twins rank second to last in locally generated revenues, ahead of Montreal. He said if the team were to draw 2.5 million fans in 2001 and paid the industry average payroll of \$70 million, the team would lose \$38.8 million.

Information provided by the ballclub shows that 17 new ballparks opened since 1990 the average attendance has increased from around 2.3 million the last year in the old stadium to



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Twins President Jerry Bell watches as the House Taxes Committee adds amendments to the stadium bill during a May 14 hearing.**

more than 3.2 million in the new park.

Bell said baseball remains the most affordable professional sport for families to attend with an average ticket price of \$16.80 compared to \$47.60 for the National Hockey League, \$48.90 for the National Football League and \$51 for the National Basketball Association.

A successful amendment offered by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea) would require that the stadium have at least 10,500 seats with a ticket price of \$5 or less.

In the May 15 Ways and Means hearing, that provision of the bill was changed to eliminate the \$5 requirement. Committee Chair

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) said fixing the price was micromanagement and would be too restrictive in the overall deal.

Tom Goldstein, a publisher of a baseball literary magazine, said the Twins are using fear and threats to try and get public money to finance the stadium. Goldstein said last time around the team used the fear of relocation to prompt action on a bill and this time the threat of Major League Baseball contracting or folding some teams is being used to explain the timing of the proposal.

Goldstein said if the league was serious about giving the owner of the team \$200 million to fold the Twins, the league could just as easily loan the money for the construction of a new stadium.

Dan Coughlin, the former mayor of Mounds View and now the city's parks and recreation commission chairman, said historically government involvement in such projects has not been the driving force.

"The reason we had all the beautiful buildings, all the architecture, all the art and the like that came out of the Renaissance wasn't because government taxed people and then handed money out willy nilly," he said. "It was because of unbridled capitalism, allowing small and large businesses to be unfettered by government, make a lot of money and either save or spend it. And they spent it. And they spent it on great things." 🐼



## Tracking new laws, vetoes

Once a bill has passed both the House and Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor, who has several options when considering a bill, can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill;
- or do nothing, which can have two different effects. The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is that the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill.

If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the

governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

**This information is also available on the governor's Web site ([www.governor.state.mn.us](http://www.governor.state.mn.us)). Select the "Policy" link, then click on "2001 Bill Tracking."**

**Key:**

**CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File**

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
92	1021	1008*	Casino licensee authorized to detain persons suspected of cheating.	5/14	
93	2110	1441*	Limited exemption to local government gift policy provided.	5/14	
94	1657	1404*	Group long-term care insurance purchase authorized for retired state employees.	5/14	
95	1920	1835*	Employees authorized to receive employment termination information within 15 days.	5/14	
96	1069	986*	Lawful gambling regulation provisions modifications.	5/14	
97	2181	2225*	Certain school buses operation by licensed child care providers.	5/15	
98	1172	1056*	School bus driver's licenses validity verification requirement.	5/15	
99	1481	1164*	Landowner definition modified for participation in Reinvest in Minnesota program.	5/15	
100	724	1064*	State professional service contract procedures specified.	5/15	
101	1764	2049*	Coldwater Springs Camp area historical preservation ensured.	5/15	
102	1392	1258*	Minnesota investment fund loan or grant authority expansion.	5/15	
103	1549	1772*	C. Elmer Anderson Memorial Highway outdoor advertising restriction.	5/15	
104	481	520*	Combat Wounded Veterans Day designated as Aug. 7.	5/15	
105	1290	510*	County offices made appointive positions under certain circumstances.	5/17	
106	1537	780*	State agency rulemaking housekeeping and technical changes bill.	5/17	
107	935	824*	Good Samaritan law emergency care liability immunity clarification.	5/17	
108	1145	333*	Veterinary medicine cease and desist orders authorized.	5/17	
109	661	859*	Accountancy Act of 2001 established, rulemaking authorized, and penalties imposed.	5/17	
110	926*	1001	Minnesota uniform health care identification card standards modifications.	5/17	
111	1248*	1774	Veterans homes resident deposit accounts modified.	5/17	
112	1596*	1599	Small vehicle passenger service definition expanded to include wheelchair-accessible vehicles.	5/17	
113	2161	2005*	State Trooper Theodore "Ted" Foss Memorial Highway designated on I-90 in Winona County.	5/17	
114	1526	1528*	Edina authorized to restrict operation of recreational motor vehicles (ATVs).		5/17
115	1778	1269*	Bataan Death March commemorative plaque placement in the State Capitol provided.	5/17	
116	1827	1613*	Pollution Control Agency authority to expedite permits clarified.	5/17	
117	1955	1826*	Insurance producers licensing and regulation.	5/17	
118	1832	2361*	Omnibus health, human services and corrections appropriations.		5/15
119	887	910*	Residential roadway definition modification for traffic regulations purposes.	5/17	
120	1081	560*	Health care review organizations provisions modifications.	5/17	
Res. 4	208*	551	Resolution urging authorization of funding for modernization of waterways.	5/17	

\*The legislative bill marked with an asterisk denotes the file submitted to the governor.

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### Width restrictions for RVs

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law May 10 that redefines the maximum legal width of recreational vehicles.

Existing law limits the total outside width of a vehicle to 102 inches, just short of nine feet. The new law specifies that the 102-inch limit will not include attachments that do not extend beyond the width of the vehicle's rear-view mirror if the RV is self-propelled, or beyond the width of the rearview mirror on the towing vehicle if a trailer is being towed.

The new legislation makes no changes to an existing provision giving municipal trucks bearing sewage sludge immunity from the width restriction.

Additionally, the new law declares that motor homes may not be longer than 45 feet. Motor homes are defined in existing law as a unit meant to provide temporary living quarters permanently attached to a vehicle. The general length limit for single-unit vehicles is 40 feet.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) sponsored the law in the Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

The new law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.  
HF1085/SF1155\*/CH83

### Trooper memorialized

Interstate Highway 90 from its intersection with Trunk Highway 74 in Winona County to the Wisconsin border will be designated "State Trooper Theodore 'Ted' Foss Memorial Highway," under a bill signed into law by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 17.

The commissioner of transportation will be required to place appropriate signage

marking the highway. The funds for those signs will come from private sources.

Foss, a corporal with the State Patrol, was killed Aug. 31, 2000 by a semitrailer that crashed into his squad car parked along the interstate near Lewiston. Foss was making a traffic stop at the time. He died at the scene and four occupants of the stopped vehicle were injured.

The truck driver was found to not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, but was charged with reckless and inattentive driving.

The House measure was sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove). Sen. Leo Foley (DFL-Coon Rapids) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.  
HF2161/SF2005\*/CH113

## ★ VETERANS

### Honoring wounded warriors

Beginning this year, Aug. 7 will be designated as Combat Wounded Veterans Day under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 15.

The day will honor military veterans who were wounded while serving their country and whose sacrifices have entitled them to a Purple Heart Decoration.

The law stipulates that each year the governor shall issue a proclamation honoring the observance.

According to Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), the House sponsor of the measure, Aug. 7 was selected because it was the date President George Washington awarded the nation's first Purple Hearts.

In 1782 Washington awarded three soldiers the honor which he designed, created and called the Badge of Military Merit. After the Revolutionary War no other soldiers received

the badge until it was revived and renamed by the United States War Department in 1932.

The Senate sponsor was Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul).

The law is effective Aug. 1, 2001.  
HF481/SF520\*/CH104

### Providing a plaque

On Dec. 10, 1941 three days after the day President Franklin D. Roosevelt dubbed "The day that will live in infamy," the Japanese began their invasion of the Philippine Islands.

Months later United States troops isolated on the Bataan Peninsula west of Manila surrendered to the Japanese and were forced to march 60 miles.

The House passed a bill 129-0 May 11 that will provide a plaque on the Capitol grounds honoring those soldiers who were forced to participate in the Bataan Death March.

Rep. Dale Walz (R-Brainerd), the House sponsor of HF1778/SF1269\*, said that on April 9, 1942 tens of thousands of soldiers were forced to march up to 10 days without food or water. He said if any soldier was to fall or failed to march, they were shot, stabbed, or killed.

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed the bill May 17.

The law provides that after the plaque is approved by the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board it may be placed in the Capitol Rotunda or other appropriate place. The commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs is required to ensure placement of the plaque and may accept contributions from non-state sources to pay for its costs.

"This bill honors the hundreds who heroically fought for our freedom," Walz said.

Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) was the Senate sponsor.

It is effective Aug. 1, 2001.  
HF1778/SF1269\*/CH115

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St. Paul 55103 ..... (651) 296-2551

### State Treasurer

Carol Johnson  
303 Administration Building  
50 Sherburne Ave.  
St. Paul 55155 ..... (651) 296-7091

## Friday, May 11

### HF2523—Buesgens (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Rules effectiveness subjected to approval by the governor, constitutional officers required to sign rules to make them take effect, and governor's veto authority over rules removed.

### HF2524—Sykora (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs City councils authorized to provide for election of council members by wards.

## Monday, May 14

### HF2525—Hackbarth (R) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Employers required to allow unpaid leave for employees performing volunteer firefighter duties.

### HF2526—Paulsen (R) Redistricting Congressional redistricting plan adopted for use in 2002 and thereafter.

### HF2527—Jaros (DFL) Higher Education Finance MnSCU Board of Trustees directed to adopt a policy requiring students preparing to teach foreign languages to study abroad for a year, and University of Minnesota regents requested to adopt the same policy.

### HF2528—Hackbarth (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Casino; privately operated casinos authorized with state share of net proceeds dedicated to highway purposes and educational infrastructure, and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF2529—Kahn (DFL) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Municipal, county, firefighter and certain other public retirement aid provided contingent on compliance with filing requirements, and study provided on merger of certain retirement plans.

### HF2530—Kahn (DFL) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy State retirement aid programs state aid receipt conditioned on compliance with economic interest and investment business recipient disclosure requirements.

### HF2531—Goodno (R) Health & Human Services Policy Hospice care providers regulated.

### HF2532—Huntley (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Sault Ste. Marie narrows Poe Lock state share expenses provided and money appropriated.

## Tuesday, May 15

### HF2533—Jennings (DFL) Regulated Industries Prairie Island and Monticello nuclear generating plants continued operation authorized, and nuclear waste escrow account required.

### HF2534—McElroy (R) Civil Law Public contracts relating to professional athletic teams definitions, legislative finding, and equitable remedy provided, and tortious interference prohibited.

### HF2535—Smith (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Fund Association member retirement age of 65 and rule of 90 provided.

### HF2536—Clark, K. (DFL) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Pollution Control Agency monitoring of potential conflicts with international environmental standards and Department of Labor and industry monitoring of potential conflicts with international labor standards provided.

### HF2537—Swenson (R) Taxes Farm implement tires included in the definition of farm machinery for purposes of sales tax.

## Thursday, May 17

### HF2538—Sykora (R) Civil Law Uniform interstate enforcement of domestic violence protection orders act adopted.

### HF2539—Howes (R) Taxes Cass Lake local sales tax authorized to pay for costs of area tourist information center.

### HF2540—Johnson, J. (R) Civil Law Uniform trust code enacted.

## Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

**Information, House**  
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Senate Chamber ..... 296-7514/296-1119

**Committee Hotline, Senate** ..... 296-8088  
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climbed to 4,406 in 1999.

Some of that enrollment can be attributed to high national rankings among certain specialized schools.

Behind Southwest State, attendance from 1995 to 1999 is as follows: Minnesota State University, Moorhead rose 8.4 percent; St. Cloud State University rose 4 percent; Winona State University rose 1.7 percent; Bemidji State University dropped 0.7 percent; and Minnesota State University, Mankato dropped 5.9 percent. (This data is from a 1999 summary report by the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office.)

Some attribute the growth at the school, in spite of the population decreases in the area, to partnerships with surrounding cities and other campuses in the state.

For example, programs such as University Connection, which delivers two-year programs in surrounding cities, including Willmar, Alexandria, and Austin, transport professors and use Interactive Television; a graduate program in education; and post-secondary education options for high school students.

In addition, the university has a joint agriculture program with the University of Minnesota.

Other MnSCU campuses have also formed partnerships with the University of Minnesota system in order to increase student access to learning opportunities. 🐾

## Where to find information

### Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (651) 296-2314

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

### House Index Department

211 State Capitol (651) 296-6646

The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized index available for public use. House Index lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories. The office can also give you the current status of legislation.

# Reflections

Between May 18 and May 21, the Legislature has 89 hours to complete its goals set for the 2001 session. By constitution, legislative business in an odd-numbered year must end by midnight of the first Monday after the third Saturday of the fifth month. If proceedings are not completed, only the governor can call a special session for lawmakers to finish their work.

As legislators discuss and amend bills in both the House and Senate chambers in the last few days of session, they are spending long hours late into the evening to accept or reject many of the 2,537 bills introduced between Jan. 3 and May 17. Still, lawmakers have "miles to go before (they) sleep."

Many bills which pass must go to conference committee for further deliberation. When the House or Senate refuse to concur on a companion bill, the Speaker of the House and the Senate majority leader appoint three or five members from each body to convene to produce a bill that will be acceptable to a majority of all lawmakers.

A few appointed members may be found in hearing rooms throughout the Capitol in the last few days of session, hammering out a compromise to companion bills. If either body still refuses to concur, conferees reconvene to produce a reasonable solution.

Staff members' responsibilities are more diverse during this time.

Some legislative staff put in hundreds of hours to guarantee that amendments made to bills are written in proper legal form and not repetitive, that parliamentary procedure is properly in place, that requested reference materials are available, and that caucus leadership and other members are

advised on issues that surface during legislative deliberations.

Visitors in the chamber gallery see a lot of busy activity on the floor below with many people going in and out of the doors to the left and right of the main desk. This area is the Retiring Room, a place of privacy for the lawmakers and key staff.

No reporters are allowed in and only special escorted guests may enter. Legislators utilize it as a retreat away from the hubbub of session.

Although the Senate allows only very

few staff members to enter their anteroom, House key staff may enter their own to meet with lawmakers — usually on issues or bills about to be presented. Most of them are part of each caucus' leadership.

Prior to 1990, before the cham-

ber was restored to its original look, lawmakers had a room on the third floor where they could relax or even take a nap when the session hours became too long. Now, when it is late in the wee hours, the Retiring Room is a place for lawmakers to stretch their legs while waiting to vote, or hear advice from staff.

Some lawmakers and staff who were only recently elected or appointed have not been at the Capitol to see a sunrise after an all-night weekend session as the hours continue to count down. But the number of hours of being involved in successful completion of the legislative process is no more important than applying whatever is necessary to maintain, "A government of the people, by the people and for the people."

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty confers with House Speaker Sviggum as staff works at and around the Chief Clerk's desk in the chamber.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Economic development

Minnesota job growth from 1990-2000, as percent .....	25
Job growth in the United States, as percent .....	20
National rank among states of Minnesota business expansion .....	9
Approximate number of jobs the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development helped create in fiscal year 2000 .....	8,600
Average hourly wage of those jobs, in dollars .....	14
Millions of dollars invested in fiscal year 2000 by the Minnesota Investment Fund in projects .....	14.9
Number of jobs that money created .....	3,691
Average hourly wage of those jobs, in dollars .....	14.55
Number of Minnesotans trained by the state Job Skills Partnership in fiscal year 2000 .....	18,955
In fiscal year 1999 .....	9,513
In fiscal year 1996 .....	1,862
Dollars returned for every \$1 invested in tourism industry .....	9
Customers served by the Office of Tourism travel information centers from Dec. 1, 1999 to Nov. 30, 2000 .....	469,273
At the Explore Minnesota center at Mall of America .....	310,103
At the St. Paul phone center via mail and electronic inquiries .....	361,557
Through St. Paul phone center calls .....	61,311
Millions of page views in fiscal year 2000 on <a href="http://exploreminnesota.com">exploreminnesota.com</a> Web site .....	6
Gross sales, in billions, generated by Minnesota tourism in fiscal year 1999 .....	\$8.3
Fiscal year 1997, in billions .....	\$7.2
Fiscal year 1995, in billions .....	\$7
Billions of dollars of Minnesota's 1999 export distribution that went to other parts of the Americas (Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico) .....	2.66
To Asia-Pacific area, in billions of dollars .....	2.62
To Europe, in billions of dollars .....	1.89
Millions of dollars in feed grains exported in 1999 .....	690
Soybeans, in millions of dollars .....	681
Vegetables, in millions of dollars .....	204
Live animals, in millions of dollars .....	185
Billions of dollars in industrial machinery exported in 1999 .....	3.19
Scientific instruments, in billions .....	1.42
Electronic equipment, in billions .....	1.22

Source: *Minnesota: World Competitor*, Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development's Big Plan progress report, January 2001.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MAY 25, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 21

In this issue:

THE 2001 LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS

LATEST ACTION AND NEW LAWS, AND MORE

HD2541-HF2568

# Session Weekly

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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5  
Children • 5  
Education • 6  
Energy • 6

Environment • 6  
Ethics • 6  
Government • 7  
Health • 7

Local Government • 7  
Safety • 8

### NEW LAWS

Agriculture • 9  
Arts • 9  
Banking • 9  
Business • 9  
Crime • 10  
Development • 11  
Education • 11  
Elections • 12  
Employment • 12

Energy • 13  
Environment • 13  
Family • 14  
Gambling • 14  
Government • 15  
Greater Minnesota • 15  
Health • 16  
Higher Education • 16  
Immigration • 17

Industry • 17  
Insurance • 18  
Law • 19  
Local Government • 19  
Recreation • 19  
Retirement • 19  
Safety • 20  
Transportation • 20  
Veterans • 21

### VETOES

Business • 23  
Health • 23

Higher Education • 23  
Local Government • 24

Transportation • 24

### FEATURES

**History** — Special sessions are not unusual in Minnesota's history. In fact, in the state's more than 140-year history, governors have called special sessions 39 times. • 29

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

The 50 States: Extra innings	8	Bill Introductions (HF2541-HF2565)	34
Resources: How a Bill Becomes Law		Reflections: Roads less taken	35
In Minnesota	27	Minnesota Index:	
Governor's Desk (CH1-CH218)	28	2001 Legislative Session	36
What's on the Web	33		

**On the cover:** Sixth grade students from Sebeka Public School admire the ceiling of the Rotunda May 23 during a tour of the State Capitol. Tourists and school groups account for much of the activity at the Capitol since session ended May 21.

—Photo by Sara Kirk



## Racing to the 'finish' line

Lawmakers leave much work unfinished as the regularly scheduled 2001 session comes to a close

By DAVID MAEDA

The term "special session" is a bit of a misnomer since every session of the Legislature has its own distinct flavor, given the personalities, politics, and issues involved.

But the current configuration, with a Republican-controlled House, a DFL-controlled Senate, and an Independent Party governor, ensures the likelihood that history will look at

this period in the state as being wholly different than anything that has come before.

During the final weeks of the 2000 session, things seemed at a deadlock until an arrangement was agreed upon, allowing each house of the Legislature and Gov. Jesse Ventura to decide how to use one-third of the state surplus.



This year, as required by the Minnesota Constitution, the House adjourned at midnight May 21. But only one of the major omnibus finance bills was passed and the differences that exist between the two bodies of the Legislature brought things to a screeching halt the last few weeks of the session. Normally the last few days are bursting with activity in setting the state's \$27 billion budget for the next two years.

With merely a minute left of the 2001 session, House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) made the motion to adjourn until Jan. 29, 2002 with a message to state residents.

"Hoping that the good people of Minnesota judge us on our final work after a special session and not on this process, I move that the House do now adjourn," Pawlenty said.

The Legislature and all divisions of state government now rely on the governor to call a special session. Without operating budgets, the state departments, boards, and agencies will shut down July 1.

Even the one omnibus bill that passed showed the division that exists in the Legislature and with the executive branch of the state.

The House had taken up the family and early childhood education finance bill with literally minutes left on the clock. DFL members criticized not having a paper copy of the bill in front of them (it was available via their laptop computers) and then when reading the conference committee report, they were critical of the contents.

As members of the minority party spoke against its passage, the clock ticked towards the end. Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) and Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) spoke against a provision that would allow counties to increase the property tax levy to increase funding for community education.

"We're going to usher in a new period. Tax and spend is over, tax and cut is in," Mariani said.

Pugh meanwhile commented not only about the bill but also of the way the process was wrapping up.

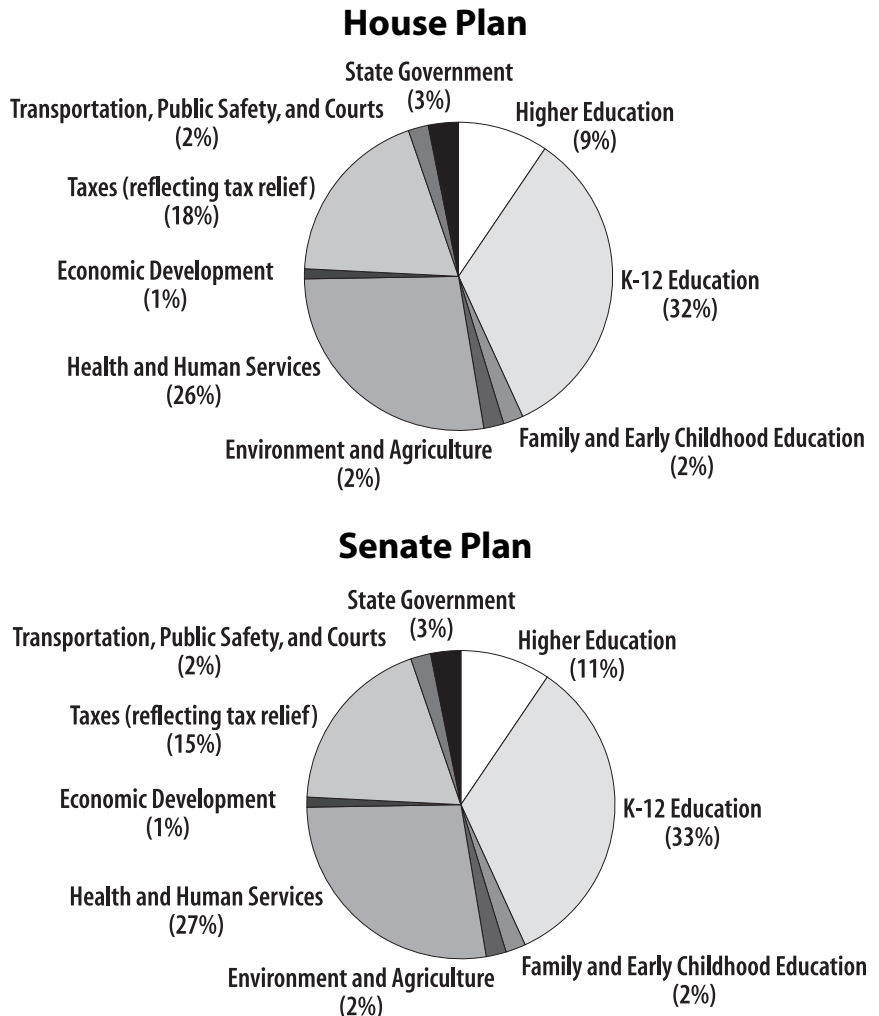
"At a time we talked about significant, historic property tax relief, the bill we end with will have property tax increases with no property tax relief passed on today. We should be ashamed of ourselves for not being able to complete our work," he said.

The usual exhilaration that comes from concluding the session in the wee hours of the morning was absent as members realized there still is plenty of work to get done.

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), in her seventh term, said this session was "the most bizarre I have ever experienced."

"We work on deadlines. Without those deadlines, I don't understand what will drive the need for compromise," she said. "Where

## Percentage of General Fund spending by account



Notes: Each figure is rounded to the nearest percent. Numbers may not add up to 100 percent due to other spending provisions not included in the omnibus bills. General fund spending is not the main source of funding for all areas of state government spending.

will the motivation come from to provide the will to resolution?"

The differences that exist between the House and Senate are rooted in whether the state should use its projected budget surplus for long term tax reform or whether there are other more pressing needs such as funding education, transportation, affordable housing, and health care initiatives. Those differences are reflected in all the remaining eight omnibus tax and finance bills.

Though some of the bills may not be that far apart in the amount of funding proposed, there are significant policy differences to resolve.

- The House version of the state government finance bill (HF218/SF2360\*) would spend \$707 million over the next two

years funding various government operations. The Senate has proposed \$710 million.

- The Senate has proposed \$758 million in transportation and public safety initiatives while the House proposal is funded at \$643 million in their respective omnibus bills (HF2189/SF2340\*).
- Likewise the budget amounts for the environment, natural resources, and agriculture omnibus measure (HF766/SF2351\*) are fairly similar. The House has proposed \$548 million while the Senate would provide \$577 million in funding.
- Economic development would receive \$758 million over the biennium from the Senate and \$643 million from the House (HF2486).

Continued on page 26

## ★ AGRICULTURE

**Biodiesel plan drained**

A plan that proponents hoped would jumpstart the fledgling biodiesel industry was rejected by the House just hours before the close of the legislative session May 21.

The House voted to return the overall agriculture policy bill (HF1547/SF1495\*) back to conference committee by a 76-55 margin. The Senate passed the report 42-24.

The bill sponsors are Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus) and Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing).

Conferees assembled to forge a unified bill chose to include both a state-vehicle mandate and the more extensive statewide 2 percent mandate, despite indications there might have been more support following the House's previous rejection of the proposal.

Commonly used in Europe, biodiesel is normal diesel fuel combined with some quantity of biodegradable, combustible liquid fuel derived from organic oils for use in combustion engines. According to the National Biodiesel Board, soybeans provide 90 percent of the biological component of biodiesel fuel. Other sources include recycled oils from animal fats or recycled cooking grease.

The first proposal would have required that only vehicles owned or operated by state use biodiesel fuel by 2002 while a second offer would have required that all diesel fuel sold in the state be constituted by at least 2 percent biological material by volume by July 2003.

House floor debate mirrored the previous five months of conflict between biodiesel proponents, which are mostly farmers, and opponents, predominantly comprised of truckers. Supporters argued that a statewide mandate would improve the state's rural economy and overall air quality, while the latter warned that truckers and other diesel consumers would simply bypass Minnesota retailers for less expensive alternatives in neighboring states.

The fatal blow to the mandate was dealt as House DFL members did not support the conference committee bill in part over the inclusion of a plan to allow counties to offer bounties on coyotes. Some counties in western Minnesota say they have recurring problems with coyotes and sought a way to reduce the numbers. Other representatives previously spoke against the plan because of their opposition to mandates.



**Truckers park big-rig trucks and other large vehicles in front of the Capitol April 25 in protest of a proposal for a state mandate that would require 2 percent biodiesel content in diesel fuel. The proposal failed on the House floor.**

The initial biodiesel mandate was sponsored by Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) and Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy).

## ★ CHILDREN

**Omnibus finance bill passed**

Legislators in the House and Senate were able to pass one omnibus bill before calling it a session May 21.

The family and early childhood education funding bill passed in the House by a party line 69-65 vote. The vote was taken at 11:58 p.m., two minutes before the Legislature had to constitutionally adjourn. No more than 45 seconds later, it also passed in the Senate 47-18. The bill awaits Gov. Jesse Ventura's approval.

HF1515\*/SF1851, which was finalized after more than six hours of discussion, proposals, and counter-proposals in a conference committee, contains the same \$544 million general fund target as was in the original House proposal. The conference committee agreed to a deal at about 10:15 p.m.

Much of the discussion centered on \$9 million of the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds. Early in their discussion conferees looked to spend the money in a range of areas, including after-school enrichment programs. However, late in the debate conferees learned the governor wanted no supplanting of TANF funds, and that they could only be used for things like Head Start, childcare and transitional housing. Ultimately all TANF monies went to childcare via the basic sliding fee.

Among other highlights of the bill are a \$5 million increase in the community education levy, a continued \$4 increase per child in state funding to school districts for ECFE, and after-school enrichment grants are in the bill. Head Start and childcare assistance remains at current law in the bill.

"If we lose the after-school enrichment grants we'll lose the bill because the governor wants them," Sen. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick) said during the debate.

Excluded from the bill was a guaranteed subsidy for child care workers whose wage fall below a certain income level.

Also missing is money for the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) program that would provide tuition scholarships, education incentive bonuses, and retention bonuses to childcare and education providers and staff. The Senate's final offer funded this at \$500,000 per year. The House had no such funds.

The bill contains no additional money for more libraries, and there was none in the governor's base. "Our hope for libraries is that the K-12 bill is not done yet," Lourey said.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) raised the points that no DFL members were on the conference committee, and that paper copies of the bill and a spreadsheet to help understand where the money was going were not available prior to voting.

Other House DFL members were concerned the bill would raise taxes because of the provision allowing school districts the ability to levy additional dollars in local property taxes across the state for community education.

"Here it is 11:52 p.m. the night we're to adjourn and we're taking up the early childhood bill under the cover of darkness when nobody is watching, and you want to push through a bill that affects thousands of young children" said Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood). "This bill keeps childcare right where it is, it





PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Rep. Barb Sykora presents the Omnibus Family and Early Childhood Education bill May 21, minutes prior to the House adjournment.

doesn't move us forward. And on top of that there is a tax increase."

"Members, we've done this before many times," Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) countered. "We've done it when the DFL was in control of the House and Senate. Under time pressures we get it done. If you want to stop it you can keep on talking it to death, but we've got a bill that's been worked on and compromised."

## ★ EDUCATION

### Allowing religious content

The House passed a measure May 19 that would assure students the opportunity to read and study historical documents that contain religious references without penalty.

However, the vote of 100-28 was the last attention the bill would receive before the Legislature adjourned this session: HF1028 has no Senate companion.

The bill is "to make sure we don't establish any bias in our curriculum," said Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake).

Earlier in the session, the House Education Policy Committee heard testimony about consequences for having prayer in schools or reciting a "pledge to the earth" instead of the pledge of allegiance in classes that have made teachers wary of using any material that is

religious in nature.

"I don't see that there is a problem in our classrooms relative to teaching American history," said Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul). Olson replied that textbooks "do not teach the whole story," and noted the bill does not require that subjects be taught in any particular way.

## ★ ENERGY

### Plan clears both houses

Both the House and Senate have passed energy legislation that would not mandate, but rather encourage renewable energy in the state and would focus on building power plants.

Both bodies approved the bill May 21 — the House with a 98-35 vote and the Senate with a 64-0 vote. The bill (HF659/SF722\*) now awaits the governor's signature.

The majority of deliberations during a conference committee were spent on a provision that would have required a certain percentage of energy to come from renewables such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, or biomass.

"Let's give them a chance to prove this ... then (in a later year) come back and slap their hands," said Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville), the House sponsor of the bill. The legislation, which sets objectives for renewables, orders the Public Utilities Commission to report to the Legislature about utilities' progress for renewables, then they can decide if further legislation is needed.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) said the bill promotes economic development in rural Minnesota by creating financial incentives for agricultural renewable products.

Noting a farm that helps the environment and also brings in income by transforming manure into renewable energy, Gunther said the measure is "truly a way that we can help the rural economy."

But on the floor several DFL members strongly opposed the legislation.

Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) said the legislation contains no significant measures for emissions, conservation, and renewables, and that he was not voting for the bill "because of what's not in it."

"This bill refuses to address the issue of clean air in Minnesota," said Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul). "This is a time when plants can come on line and should be time to leverage for clean air. We are holding people hostage to ancient pollution standards."

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) said she was concerned about low-income families being able to afford air conditioning for a potentially hot summer ahead of us. The bill, said Rep.

Sheldon Johnson (DFL-St. Paul), is "not going to help elderly on fixed income pay for their heating bills."

On the other hand, Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) called the bill "a good, large step forward. We are not going to go down the path that California went down."

The bill is sponsored by Sen. Jim Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul) in the Senate.

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### State park boundary changes

A plan that will redraw the boundaries of several state parks and recreation areas for a net gain of 6,358 acres awaits Gov. Jesse Ventura's signature.

Under HF1071/SF1082\*, the following state parks will gain land: Bear Head Lake near Ely, Cascade River near Lutsen, Fort Ridgely near Fairfax, Forestville/Mystery Cave near Preston, Lake Bronson, Lake Shetek near Currie, Nerstrand Big Woods, and Split Rock Lighthouse near Two Harbors.

Two state recreation areas — Big Bog near Waskish and Garden Island on Lake of the Woods — will each gain acreage, while Big Bog will also lose some land north of the Tamarac River and west of Highway 72. Crow Wing State Park near Brainerd will lose some land.

The bill would also affect boathouse lot leases in the Soudan Underground Mine State Park. With certain specific limitations, an owner of a boathouse lease at Stuntz Bay will be allowed to receive a lifetime lease when the present lease expires.

Sponsored by Rep. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook) and Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-New Ulm) the measure passed the House May 19 by a 112-18 vote and 59-0 in the Senate May 16.

## ★ ETHICS

### No probable cause

The House Ethics Committee announced May 18 that they failed to find probable cause in the case against Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka).

"Therefore, the complaint is dismissed," said Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee), the committee chair.

After the ruling, Abeler expressed his relief and gratification with the outcome.

"Today's strong ruling by the ethics committee, based on the historical facts, puts to rest any notion that I tried to use my position as a legislator for financial gain," he said.

Committee rules state that if the majority

of the full committee of four members, two representing each of the parties, fails to find probable cause the case is dismissed.

Daggett said the committee met in “several” executive sessions following the May 10 public hearing. “Historical information, analysis, and legal support were provided by counsel from (nonpartisan) House Research,” Daggett said. “The committee carefully and thoroughly considered the complaint, the testimony and evidence presented by both the complainant and by the respondent, as well as applicable House and committee rules.”

Abeler, who leases two buildings to a charter school, had been accused by four House DFL members of voting five times on issues that directly affect charter school funding. Those members are House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) and Reps. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int’l Falls), Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls), and Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls).

The complaint says Abeler “betrayed the public trust” and violated “accepted norms of House behavior” for failing to disclose he had “an immediate interest in a question before the body.”

During the public hearing Abeler said he benefited no more than teachers voting on education funding issues or farmers voting on agriculture funding issues.

“The committee proceedings made clear what I said all along: I followed the law,” he said following the decision. “None of my votes caused me to benefit differently from other charter school landlords in Minnesota. In short, no conflict of interest ever existed.”

When asked his reaction to the decision after the meeting, Skoglund said, “You learn to count.”

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### Redistricting plans passed

The House passed its congressional redistricting bill May 19 on a straight party line vote. The vote was 69-62, with three DFL members excused.

The bill, which is significantly different from the Senate plan, requires a conference committee.

HF2519, sponsored by Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), would create a single congressional district across the entire northern part of the state and would place Minneapolis and St. Paul into a single district.

Paulsen said the population shifts that have occurred in the past decade are addressed in the bill.

“With nearly half of the state’s population now



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

**House members debated and passed a congressional redistricting plan May 19 that would combine Minneapolis and St. Paul into one district.**

living in the suburbs it just makes sense to give fair representation to those residents,” he said.

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) spoke against the bill saying the two cities have their own unique histories and identities. Mariani said each has closer ties with its surrounding suburbs than with one another. He pointed out that each city has its own chamber of commerce, and that Minneapolis is primarily a banking and finance business, based city while St. Paul is primarily a government-based city.

He also criticized the bill’s placement of current U.S. Reps. Betty McCollum and Bill Luther into the same congressional district, saying that McCollum, the state’s second female member of Congress, should not be targeted. Both are Democrats, Luther is in his fourth term. McCollum is serving her first.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said the congressional lines were not drawn with gender in mind.

“We don’t draw lines for politicians. We draw lines for communities,” he said.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) said the process used was “far better” than the process used 10 years ago. He said the information and technology available not only to lawmakers, but also to the general public, is far superior. But he said for any plan to become law there would need to be cooperation from all sides.

“This will not work with only one or two caucuses having buy in,” Abrams said. “The only way it will work will be to have a four caucus agreement.”

A separate bill (HF2516) also sponsored by Paulsen that encompasses only the legislative redistricting plan was also passed by a 69-61 vote.

## ★ HEALTH

### Patient protection modifications

A bill that will change certain patient protection provisions for health plan enrollees awaits Gov. Jesse Ventura’s signature.

HF560/SF491\* includes several changes.

Civil penalties collected by the Department of Commerce for violations of laws or rules on the part of health carriers must, in most cases, be shared 50-50 with policyholders affected by the violation, under the plan. The same would be true for administrative penalties levied by the Department of Health.

Health plans would not be allowed to exclude or reduce coverage for a person covered by the plan whose health care needs arise from a suicide attempt.

Health plans would have to cover drugs used to treat mental illness or emotional disturbance, even if not listed in the company’s drug formulary, if the prescribing physician certifies the drug is the best treatment for the condition. It would also allow more continuity in other drugs for mental or emotional illness. This section would take effect Jan. 1, 2002.

Medical directors of health plan companies with more than 50,000 enrollees must be licensed as physicians in Minnesota. Currently, most medical directors of the state’s health plans are not licensed to practice medicine in the state.

Under the plan, continuity of care must be provided in specified circumstances for up to 120 days for people changing health plans.

Health plans would be given more latitude in setting co-payments and deductibles.

The measure was sponsored in the House by Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) and in the Senate by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls). It passed the House 132-2 May 21 and the Senate 62-0 the same day.

## ★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Creating new counties

The House re-passed a conference committee report May 21 for a bill that would clarify and update the law governing the creation of new counties. The vote was 128-6.

Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) the sponsor of HF1544/SF1367\* said the bill came as a result of an unsuccessful attempt last year by some Pine County residents to split the county and create a new Pioneer County.

Hilty said the issues involved in the potential new county have been resolved and the bill addresses gaps in law that were identified in the process.

Under current law a new county must have a market value of at least \$17 million and the remaining county must have a market value of at least \$17 million. For a county with more than 3,500 population and less than 6,000 square miles the threshold amount is \$10 million.

The bill would require that a proposed new county have total taxable market value of at least 35 percent of the total taxable market value of the existing county or the average total market value of the existing counties.

The bill requires that a petition to establish a new county be signed by at least a number of registered voters equal to one-fourth of those voting in each portion of both the proposed new county and the remaining portion of the existing county in the previous general election.

A majority vote is needed in both the area forming the new county and in the remaining portion of the existing county.

The Senate also approved the conference committee May 21 by a 62-0 vote. The Senate sponsor is Sen. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick).

The bill now goes to the governor.

### Housing, transit bonds OK'd

The omnibus public finance bill was one of the last bills to pass the House before adjournment May 21.

HF2037/SF2208\* contains several provisions relating to the authority of local governments to issue bonds or incur debt.

The bill would allow the Metropolitan Council to issue certificates of indebtedness, bonds, or other obligations up to \$45 million for capital expenditures for the council's regional transit master and transit capital improvement plans.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the House sponsor, said one important provision of the bill is a \$122 million allocation to the state housing pool. He said along with the bond funds the state will be able to access a federal tax credit to help with the affordable housing shortage.

The bill would allocate \$84.9 million to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, \$33.1 million to the city of Minneapolis, \$24.8 million to the city of St. Paul, and \$16.6 million to the Dakota County Community Development Agency for housing needs.

The Senate sponsor is Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls).

The bill now goes to the governor's desk.

## SAFETY



### No new exemptions allowed

The House defeated a bill May 17 that would have provided further exemptions to the state bleacher safety standards to certain organizations. The vote was 106-26.

Under current law bleachers more than 55 inches tall may not have open spaces wider than four inches. Bleachers already in place as of Jan. 1, 2001 are granted exemptions to allow open spaces no wider than nine inches.

HF427/SF453\*, carried by Rep. Andrew Westerberg (R-Blaine) and Sen. Cal Larson (R-Fergus Falls), would have exempted the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission from the four-inch requirement.

The bill would have also provided an exemption to the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, the Defeat of Jesse James Days committee in Northfield, and all outdoor bleachers erected prior to Jan. 1, 2001 from certain provisions of the state building code.

Westerberg said the bill sought to address the "unfunded mandate" imposed under the original bleacher safety legislation while still establishing that all existing bleachers comply with the nine-inch standard. He said estimates have shown that it will cost tens of millions of dollars to replace or upgrade existing bleachers throughout the state.

Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound) who carried the bleacher safety bill in 1999 on behalf of a constituent whose son was killed when he fell through a 13-inch gap, said the bill would lead to other groups coming forward asking for exemptions.

Smith said the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission recently adopted the Minnesota standard of 4-inch gap restrictions. He questioned why the state should therefore now pass legislation that would allow more bleachers to have a wider standard.

"I'm shocked and ashamed to see this bill on the floor," Smith said.



## Extra innings

### Special session requirements differ across the country

When legislators don't get their work done in the time allotted by law, it's time to call a special session. But states differ in how the extra session can be called and which legislation can be taken up during that time.

Like Minnesota, the Nevada Legislature meets in regular session for 120 days; however, it only comes together every other year.

The session time limit is new to the state: before a 1998 election there was no restriction to how long legislators could meet. They still held special sessions, though, for issues that came up during the 18 months of adjournment. Today, 11 states do not place a limit on the length of regular session.

Special sessions are limited in scope and time in the Silver State. (They are also rare — the most recent special session in Nevada was in 1989 and lasted one day.) The governor may convene a special session through a proclamation that must state the start date of the additional meeting time and the specific purpose. The Legislature cannot conduct any business other than what is stated.

The Minnesota constitution's only mention of a special session is that it may be called by the governor on "extraordinary occasions."

However, some states require a bigger majority to agree on the need of the extra session.

The Maine Legislature, for instance, may convene at the call of the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, plus a majority vote of legislators from each political party.

Missouri requires a larger consensus: three-fourths of the members of the Senate and three-fourths of the members of the House, and the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House must agree by joint proclamation to convene.

Similar to Nevada, the proclamation must be subject-specific as to the business of the special session. In addition, the constitution states that appropriations bills cannot be considered until operating budgets have been approved.

(T. STAHL)

**Editor's note;** This section includes summaries of many key laws passed during the 2001 Legislative Session. For a full listing of all bills passed this year, see the Governor's Desk section, beginning on page 28.

## ★ AGRICULTURE

### Lien clarifications

A new law clarifying agricultural liens will take effect July 1, 2001.

Officials have called existing law concerning agricultural liens confusing and contradictory. Liens against crops and livestock can be of several types — the most important of which are liens to ferriers, livestock breeders, threshers, veterinarians, agricultural production inputs, landlords, and planting crop owners.

However, a problem with existing lien law is that a number of these liens each make the claim of having a higher priority than all others have. The bill, which adopts recommendations made by the Agricultural Lien Task Force of the Business Law Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association, ranks the order priority of liens against crops and livestock to eliminate such confusion.

The new law will also repeal a large portion of agricultural lien law and proposes coding for new language removing ambiguities and providing more uniform procedures recording liens.

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) and Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) sponsored the measure.

HF285\*/SF339/CH57

### Fair foundation established

The state agricultural society may establish a nonprofit Minnesota State Fair Foundation under a new law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

Federal nonprofit status is defined by U.S. Internal Revenue Code, which specifies that the new foundation must benefit and carry out the purposes of the agriculture society.

Under the new law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), the foundation may "solicit, receive, hold, invest, and contribute funds and property ... in a manner consistent with the public good." The law says that funds received must be primarily used for capital expenditures and other needs not funded by other means.

Jennings explained in a May 14 interview

that most other major public institutions in Minnesota enjoy the support of affiliated nonprofit foundations.

Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF406/SF511\*/CH85

## ★ ARTS

### 'Grace' stamp sought

A resolution signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura will urge the United States Postal Service to create a postage stamp reproducing a famous photograph produced by a Minnesotan early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

In the photograph, an elderly man sits pensively with bowed head and folded hands at a table containing a pair of spectacles on top of a Bible, a bowl of gruel, a loaf of bread, and a knife.

Eric Enstrom shot the famous image in his studio in Bovey in 1918. As the black and white photograph entitled "Grace" became more popular, Enstrom's daughter Rhoda Nyberg began hand painting the prints in oil.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), House sponsor of the measure, said the print became so popular that Enstrom eventually sold the copyright to the Augsburg Publishing House.

The resolution was carried on behalf of a group of citizens in Grand Rapids and Bovey.

The Senate sponsor was Sen. Bob Lessard (Ind-Int'l Falls).

HF1391\*/SF1318/R3

## ★ BANKING

### New financial institution provisions

A new law makes technical changes to laws regulating financial institutions.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) sponsored the measure, which was suggested by the state Department of Commerce.

Under previous law, financial institutions could invest in property and buildings for its own use if the total value is less than 50 percent of its existing capital stock and surplus, without approval of the commissioner. The institution may increase that to 75 percent with approval of the commissioner. The new law changes the 75 percent variance limit to 100 percent, effective May 1, 2001.

Unstaffed after-hours drop boxes will no

longer be treated as separate branch offices of a bank, even if they are not located within 1,500 feet of the main office or branch, under the new law. This section is effective Aug. 1, 2001.

The new law also includes two provisions for state-chartered banks. The first, effective Aug. 1, 2001, will no longer require these banks to file stockholder lists annually with the commissioner of commerce. The second removes the requirement that banks that do not have federal deposit insurance must file stockholder lists annually with the county recorder, as of May 1, 2001.

Prior to the approval of the commissioner, banks or trust companies may now invest 50 percent, instead of 25 percent as was formerly in law, of a bank's or trust company's stock or surplus in a subsidiary. The new law also changes the definition of a subsidiary from 50 percent ownership to 20 percent ownership. This section is effective May 1, 2001.

As of Aug. 1, 2001, mortgage originators will now be required to keep copies of advertisements they use for 26 months. In addition, the time frame for a disclosure to a mortgage loan customer changes from 72 hours to three business days, effective May 1, 2001.

The Senate version of the law was sponsored by Sen. James Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul).

HF1084\*/SF1066/CH56

## ★ BUSINESS

### Halal provisions signed

A new law creates the same protection for food prepared according to Islamic law as currently exists for kosher foods.

After the new law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001, it will be illegal to serve, sell, or expose for sale food falsely represented as Halal, or prepared in accordance with Islamic law, known as sharia. The law's prohibitions are identical to the provisions protecting the Jewish community from food falsely labeled or improperly prepared as kosher.

According to Islamic authorities, Halal is basically a word that means lawful, or legal. Islamic law requires Muslims to humanely treat animals intended for human consumption.

For example, animals are not to be kept in a place where they can observe other livestock being slaughtered, butchers must ensure animals not see the knife with which they are to

be slain, and animal caretakers are required to provide water and other comforts for animals before slaughter.

Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls) and House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) sponsored the measure.

HF149\*/SF505/CH54

### Motor vehicle information

A new law will permit the Department of Public Safety to release a modified copy of its accident records database to the public upon request.

Effective Aug. 1, 2001, the commissioner may release the information to companies who meet requirements established in the new law only if that company furnishes at least the cost of preparing the information "on a bulk basis." The commissioner may not release the following information: names, driver's license numbers, license plate numbers, addresses, and other identifying data.

However, under the new law, the department may release a vehicle license number if a business that collects accident and damage information for the purposes of buying a vehicle certifies it will use the information only to establish vehicle history regarding its involvement in an accident. If the purpose is to identify individuals, then the department is barred from releasing the information.

The new law specifies that illegal use of the information constitutes a misdemeanor, a conviction that carries a sentence of imprisonment up to 90 days and a \$1,000 fine.

The law was sponsored by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) and Sen. Grace Schwab (R-Albert Lea).

HF1830/SF2006\*/CH91

### Auto dealer franchises

A new law will define unfair trade practices by automobile manufacturers, distributors, or factories.

Effective Aug. 1, 2001, the law will define as unfair the practice of refusing to allow a dealer to transfer a dealership to a qualified transferee of the dealer's own choosing.

According to Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), the House sponsor, "Under current law, manufacturers can exercise a first right of refusal and essentially take away a transaction from a willing buyer and a willing seller."

The new law will allow manufacturers to prohibit the sale of a dealership if the transferee is not a person of good moral character or doesn't meet the franchisor's existing stan-

## BACK TO WORK



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

The House and Senate tax study group meet May 22 to work on an agreement on their omnibus tax bills.

dards. Dealers could not exercise their right to refuse a deal if the ownership transfer were proposed among family members or involved a dealership manager with at least four years experience.

Under the new law, denials of requests to transfer ownership must be delivered to the dealer within 60 days after the manufacturer receives an application requesting an ownership transfer. Existing law gives 60 days after the manufacturer receives all information it needs to evaluate the transferee.

Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF779\*/SF823/CH62

### Equipment buyback changes

A new law that changes requirements regarding the relationship between farm implement dealers and manufacturers takes effect Aug. 1, 2001. The law will specifically add outdoor power equipment to a list of equipment that manufacturers and wholesalers must repurchase from dealers with whom they have cancelled a sales agreement. The law limits the definition of outdoor power equipment to specifically exclude motorcycles, boats, and other vehicles.

Among other changes, the new law shortens the existing 90-day period during which the re-purchase must occur to 60 days. Additionally, the percentage of the current price that the manufacturer is required to pay the dealer for returned equipment is increased from 85 percent to 95 percent.

The new law will also extend the buyback requirement to data processing and communications software and hardware, specialized

repair tools, and signage purchased to meet requirements set by wholesalers or manufacturers.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) were the sponsors.

HF933\*/SF983/CH72

## ★ CRIME

### Shelter program oversight

A new law, signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 21, officially transfers administration of the battered women's shelter programs reimbursement to the Department of Public Safety.

The new law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls), will require that the director of the Minnesota Center for Crime Victim Services, housed within the Department of Public Safety, develop rules to administer the per diem program for shelters around the state.

Shelters are reimbursed for the costs to house women and their children on a per-person, per-day basis. The cost reimbursements were previously disbursed by the Department of Human Services based on a formula, but upon transfer to the Department of Public Safety in the late 1990s, program reimbursements were capped.

As a result, the programs are anticipating a shortfall beginning in 2003. Funding to help prevent the shortfall was included in the House omnibus judiciary finance bill. Provisions of that bill are still being discussed in conference committee.

The Center for Crime Victim Services disburses grants to various agencies statewide



that provide services for victims of crime. Many of those agencies provide services to victims of domestic assault and abuse.

Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the measure in the Senate. The law is effective Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1925/SF1369\*/CH152

### Electronic monitoring study

A new law will require the commissioner of corrections to conduct a study on electronic alcohol monitoring.

Specifically, the study will compare recidivism and pre-trial, conditional release violation rates among drunken driving offenders who are subject to electronic testing and those offenders who are not. The analysis must be completed and reported to the chairs of the House and Senate committees having jurisdiction in this area by Feb. 15, 2002.

The study must compare several control variables, including: the offense level as determined by the number of prior drunken driving convictions, date of offense, length of incarceration, and length of time an offender is subjected to electronic alcohol monitoring. The commissioner has discretion to include additional variables in conducting the study.

"The study must also determine whether the impaired driving recidivism, if any,



A device that electronically monitors alcohol levels was displayed before a House committee during the 2001 session. Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law that will fund a study of electronic alcohol monitoring recidivism and conditional release violation rates.

occurred during or following the period of electronic alcohol monitoring, and whether it occurred pretrial or following conviction," the new law states.

Electronic monitoring tools consist of a blood-alcohol measuring device and a telephone. Law enforcement officials are able to determine if offenders are violating conditions of parole or pre-trial release by electronically observing the results of on-the-spot blood-alcohol concentration checks.

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) and Sen. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the law. It takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF782/SF773\*/CH80

### Additional protection for children

Children living with people who have committed child abuse in other states will be considered in need of protection, under a new law.

State law dictates that children need protection if they reside, or will reside, with someone guilty of child abuse.

Prior to the measure, courts defined "child abuse" only by violations of existing Minnesota law.

Beginning on Aug. 1, 2001, the definition will be expanded to include similar acts committed in other jurisdictions, including other states, the District of Columbia and tribal lands. Violations of federal law will also be included in this law.

Under the new law, a violation in another jurisdiction will be considered grounds for a child's need for protection if the perpetrator's act would have been a crime if it had been committed in Minnesota.

Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji) and Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) sponsored the measure.

HF953\*/SF1265/CH73

### Sentenced to work

Indigent criminal defendants may be sentenced to community service instead of a fine, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

The law was sponsored in the House by Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji).

Existing law provides for certain minimum fines for any offense. Generally that amount is 30 percent of the maximum fine. The maximum fine for a misdemeanor is \$1,000, and \$3,000 for a gross misdemeanor. Maximum fines for felonious acts vary.

Any fine may be reduced to \$50 if a defendant qualifies for the services of a public defender, is otherwise indigent, or if the fine

creates an undue hardship for the defendant or their family.

Under the new law, that policy will be amended to allow judges to impose community service. The new law states that community service in lieu of a fine may be worked off at a rate of \$5 per hour. Exceptions are permitted in cases of disabled or ill defendants.

Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) sponsored the Senate measure.

HF865\*/SF1266/CH71

## DEVELOPMENT



### Investment fund latitude

Recipients of grants from the Minnesota Investment Fund will have more control over the money they receive, under a law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

Sponsored by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) and Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-New Ulm), the new law will give more latitude to cities or counties that receive repayment of funds awarded as loans or grants from the investment fund.

Under the law, the entities would be able to contribute the money to larger projects, community capital funds, or a statewide revolving loan fund. The legislation adds new language to allow the projects to be statewide and not merely regional.

The law has no direct fiscal impact to the state.

HF1392/SF1258\*/CH102

## EDUCATION



### Asthma inhalers allowed

Elementary and secondary school students with asthma will be allowed to carry their inhalers in school, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

The law was sponsored in the House by Rep. Kathy Tinglestad (R-Andover).

Tinglestad explained that students sometimes need inhalers before they can reach the nurse's office, where some schools require they be kept. About 43 percent of schools in Minnesota have this requirement, she said.

In order to carry and use the inhalers in school, students will need to have written parental permission that must be renewed each year. The law also requires the school nurse or other authorized party to "assess the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use an asthma inhaler in a school setting."

Noting that asthma is the number one cause



**Taylor Orr, a fifth-grader at Richfield Intermediate School, demonstrates what breathing is like during an asthma attack. Orr testified in a House committee during 2001 in support of a measure that will authorize asthma inhaler possession and use for public elementary and secondary school students.**

for missed school days, Tinglestad said the legislation would help students control asthma better.

Tinglestad said she was contacted by the American Lung Association about the legislation. The association worked with the Minnesota Nurses Association and the School Nurses Association to draft legislation similar to what had passed in several other states. In her past career, Tinglestad has also written a medical book about asthma.

The Senate version was sponsored by Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul), who personally has asthma.

HF1394/SF1706\*/CH84

### **License deadline moved up**

The deadline for submitting applications for temporary teaching licenses has been bumped up from Aug. 1 to July 1, under a new law.

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) sponsored the law in the House.

The law is effective for the 2001-02 school year and later.

The earlier date will give the state Board of Teaching, which reviews the applications,

additional time to complete its work before the school year begins. It will also provide additional time for the Department of Children, Families and Learning to process the licenses.

The new date in law also applies to accepting applications for personnel variances. Furthermore, the law instructs the Board of Teaching to amend its rules to conform with the July 1 date.

Sen. Leo Foley (DFL-Coon Rapids) sponsored the law in the Senate.

HF1192\*/SF1979/CH68

### **Teacher certification variance**

Teacher candidates who enrolled in course work by Jan. 1, 2000 will be able to graduate under old teacher certification rules, as provided in a new law effective Jan. 17, 2001.

It was the first new law of the 2001 Legislative session.

The new law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), allows students who are close to completing their degrees to save time and money in additional courses. According to the law, qualifying students must be enrolled in an accredited teacher preparation program.

Seifert said the Legislature had directed the Minnesota Board of Teaching to revise teacher licensure requirements in Minnesota, but the new requirements did not include permission for certain students to be grandfathered in under old rules.

Students who now qualify to graduate with the old requirements have attended school part-time or have taken time off, Seifert said. The new law allows students to apply for licensure under the old rules by Sept. 1, 2003.

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF34/SF28\*/CH1

### **Congress' special education promise**

Members of the Legislature and Gov. Jesse Ventura have forwarded a resolution urging Congress to fulfill its promise to fund 40 percent of the cost of special education.

The resolution will now officially be sent to both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

Rep. Andrew Westerberg (R-Blaine), sponsor of the measure in the House, said the lack of funding is "hurting our education system," and explained that Minnesota has to subsidize education funds to afford special education expenses.

Federal allocations for special education

funding have averaged 13 percent annually for the past few years.

The resolution reads: "Over 25 years ago, the federal government required states to provide children with disabilities an appropriate education, and for 25 years, the government has failed to meet its promise to pay 40 percent of the cost."

Sen. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) sponsored the Senate measure.

HF456/SF647\*/R2

## **ELECTIONS**



### **Advertisement font size matters**

Paid political advertisements must not only contain a disclaimer stating who produced the material, but the disclaimer must be legible under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 21.

As it was originally introduced, the law would have required political disclaimers be at least 10-point type. But during a Feb. 5 House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee hearing of the bill, members pointed out that even specific type size can be difficult to read if a certain font style is used.

The new law requires that the disclaimers "must be in a legible text size and font."

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said many people in his community were upset with an advertisement that appeared in the local newspaper, the *Marshall Independent*, near election time. Because the disclaimer was difficult to read, it was nearly impossible for voters to know who was responsible for producing the advertisement.

Seifert said it was "common sense" that since the state requires the disclaimers, that people be able to read them.

Sen. Arlene Lesewski (R-Marshall) was the Senate sponsor.

The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF466\*/SF682/CH143

## **EMPLOYMENT**



### **Genetic testing prohibited**

A new law will prohibit employers from requesting, requiring, or administering genetic testing from its workers.

Signed May 21 by Gov. Jesse Ventura, the legislation is aimed at preventing employers from terminating or demoting, hiring or promoting workers based on genetic testing that may reveal abnormalities or deficiencies in a

person's genes. Employers would also be restricted from affecting terms of employment by using genetic information that a worker has voluntarily submitted.

Prompted by a case against the Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroad, the legislation will allow employees to sue employers who violate the law. The court may award "up to three times the actual damages suffered due to the violation; (and) punitive damages," the law reads.

The law, sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul), becomes effective Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1886/SF1721\*/CH154

### **Workers' compensation changes**

Laws pertaining to workers' compensation will receive minor changes, under legislation signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 18.

The law is sponsored by Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) and Sen. Arlene Lesewski (R-Marshall).

Among several technical changes, a registered nurse will be added to the Medical Services Review Board, and in order for employers to be reimbursed from the special compensation fund, they must have current records with their workers' compensation reporting and payment obligations.

In addition, independent contractors would no longer need an employer identification number from the Internal Revenue Service to qualify for workers' compensation. Instead, these contractors can qualify by having filed business or self-employment tax returns in the previous year.

The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF2225/SF2046\*/CH123

### **Termination requests**

Employees and employers dealing with termination will have a longer period of time to request and provide the reason for the termination, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

Prior to the measure, state law stated that employees who have been involuntarily terminated had five working days beyond the date of termination to request in writing the reason for the termination. Upon receipt of the request, the employer then had five working days to provide a written response.

The time for employees to submit the request will now be extended to 15 working days, and employers will now have 10 working days to fulfill the request.

Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), House sponsor of the law, said a constituent of his

approached him about extending the time. When someone is terminated, he said, they were sometimes "in such shock" that by time they wanted a letter, the time had already expired.

"This is to make it easier for the person that was terminated," he said.

Sen. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1920/SF1835\*/CH95

## **ENERGY**



### **Loan program expanded**

An existing energy loan program law that only served rental housing will include owner-occupied residential housing, under a new law signed May 21 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The law was sponsored by Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville) and Sen. Jim Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul).

The program is funded with Exxon Oil overcharge money. In the 1980s, Exxon was overcharging customers for the cost of the company's product and had to reimburse the state for the cost of overcharges. In 1993 some of the money was put into a revolving loan account for conservation for renters.

The new law also lifts a restriction that persons eligible for the loan must live in the Twin Cities metropolitan area; now, loans may be provided in any area of the state.

The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1367\*/SF1306/CH147

### **Heating help provided**

A new law allowed low-income families to receive heating assistance funds two weeks early during 2001.

The law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), released \$12.2 million in federal money on Feb. 3, 2001 that would have otherwise not been granted until Feb. 13.

The Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides services that help income-eligible households keep their homes heated through the winter. Households meeting the income limits can receive a one-time grant, which is usually paid to their heating vendor.

Grant size is based on the number of people in the household, gross household income, fuel type, and fuel consumption from the previous winter. The households with the lowest

incomes and highest bills receive the largest grants.

The program also provides emergency heating system repair for households in a no-heat situation or have had their service discontinued or interrupted.

McElroy said the program received many more applications during late 2000 and early 2001 than in the past due to high energy costs from the winter. He said the average grant is \$400 to \$500 per family.

HF421\*/SF460/CH2

## **ENVIRONMENT**



### **Mercury thermometers restricted**

The sale or free distribution of mercury thermometers manufactured after June 1, 2001 will be banned beginning in 2002, under a new law effective Jan 1, 2002.

The measure, sponsored in the House by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), says exceptions will be made for a few situations in which the U.S. Department of Agriculture requires the use of mercury thermometers, in specified climate control systems, and in cases where mercury thermometers are used to calibrate other thermometers.

For most uses, accurate alternatives to mercury thermometers are readily available.

Mercury is very toxic, and widespread environmental contamination can occur from a miniscule amount of the substance. According to experts, the amount of mercury in a household medical thermometer, about .75 to 1 gram, is enough to prompt officials to call a fish advisory on a lake.

Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF274\*/SF70/CH47

### **Expediting permits**

A new law, effective Aug. 1, 2001, authorizes the state Pollution Control Agency (PCA) to expedite permits for new or expanded facilities.

The new law will allow people who want to construct or expand a facility regulated by the agency to pay for additional expenses incurred in expediting a permit.

This payment will be in addition to regular permit fees and must reflect the costs of staff overtime or consultant services that are needed to expedite a permit review.

The agency may agree to an expedited permit process as long as it does not interfere with its permitting program priorities.

An applicant's reimbursement must be paid in advance and is not contingent upon the actual issuing of a permit.

The law was sponsored in the House by Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet) and in the Senate by Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville).  
HF1827/SF1613\*/CH116

### Trail access for ATVs

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law May 24 that will permit all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) to be operated on certain recreational land trails and would require continuation of snowmobile access in specified situations.

The new law, sponsored by Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), will allow people to operate the vehicles on multi-purpose trails crossing the Kettle and Rum rivers in Pine and Mille Lacs counties. The crossings are restricted by current rules regarding wild and scenic rivers.

"This is really part of a broader issue that needs to be resolved," said Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) during debate on the House floor. She asked why an exception was being made in this case.

Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) said trail crossings on railroad trestles are being used by ATV riders but in violation of current law. "It is clear the law wasn't intended to prevent this," he said.

A trail study has been authorized. In anticipation of the study's outcome, this ruling on ATVs will expire four years from its effective date.

The law will also require the commissioner of natural resources to continue grant-in-aid snowmobile trail access when land is acquired that has easements for trails.

The Senate version was sponsored by Sen. Dan Stevens (R-Mora). It is effective May 25, 2001.

HF870/SF795\*/CH165

### Water protection

A new law effective May 16, 2001 entitles the land around the Camp Coldwater Springs in Minneapolis to the protection of the Minnesota Historic Sites Act, as well as the Minnesota Field and Archaeology Act.

Under the new law, there is a restriction on the state or any of its political subdivisions from using or taking any action that affects the land in a way that diminishes the flow of water to or from the spring located near Fort Snelling.

The land is currently owned by the Bureau of Mines, part of the U.S. Department of the

Interior. Researchers are conducting studies in the area to determine how the construction on Highways 55 and 62 in the area might affect the spring's flow.

The historic sites act states the sites are "significant state resources that the Minnesota Historical Society is preserving, developing, interpreting, and maintaining for public use, benefit, and access during open hours."

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield) and Sen. Julie Sabo (DFL-Mpls).

HF1764/SF2049\*/CH101

## FAMILY



### Family law terminology changes

A new law effective Aug. 1, 2001 will make terminology changes to existing marriage dissolution law statutes.

Sponsored in the House by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), the measure will replace "custodial parent" with the terms "parent," "obligee," or "parent with whom the child resides." It will also replace "noncustodial parent" with either the first two terms or "parent with whom the child does not reside."

Part of an overall effort to streamline and simplify certain civil portions of law, the changes are intended to make the process easier to understand, officials say.

The Senate version was sponsored by Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester).

HF1260\*/SF1332/CH51

## GAMBLING



### Detaining suspected cheaters

A new law will give operators of the card club at Canterbury Park another weapon to fight cheating.

Effective Aug. 1, 2001, the law will allow card club employees to detain a person suspected of cheating. The club's security personnel will be allowed to detain a person if there is reasonable cause to believe the person has cheated at gambling.

The new law will also allow the security personnel to require that the suspect provide or verify identification. Security can also inquire as to whether the person possesses any illegal contraband.

Under the law, the detained person has the right to be promptly informed of the purpose of the detention and may not be subjected to unnecessary or an unreasonable amount of force. The person cannot be detained for more than one hour except when a peace officer or

guardian of a minor cannot accept custody within that hour.

Upon being detained, a person may request at any time that a peace officer be summoned.

Popularity of the club, which opened in 2000, and increased attendance prompted the new law, sponsors said.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan) and Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley).

HF1021/SF1008\*/CH92

### Rule changes

A new law will make several changes to rules governing lawful gambling in Minnesota. The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

Under the new law, the level at which an organization that conducts charitable gambling is required to submit an annual financial audit to the Department of Revenue will increase from \$250,000 to \$300,000.

The threshold level for organizations required to have an annual financial review of gambling funds will also climb from \$50,000 to \$150,000.

Noontime bingo also will be allowed under the new law. Currently, establishments that conduct bingo games are restricted to having no more than 10 bingo occasions each week. At least 15 bingo games must be held at each occasion, and each bingo event must continue for at least 90 minutes, but not more than four hours.

The new law will allow an organization to conduct bingo between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and avoid the 15-game and time limit requirements.

The new law will also permit the card club at Canterbury Park to hold one tournament per year lasting no longer than 14 days. It would allow for more than 50 tables to be in use during tournament play.

The maximum wager limit on card games will also increase from \$30 to \$60.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) and Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy) were the sponsors.

HF1069/SF986\*/CH96

### Charitable deadline difference

Charitable organizations can file reports with the state later in the calendar year, under a new law effective April 25, 2001.

Sponsored in the House by Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), the new law changes the deadline for charitable organizations to file an annual report with the state Attorney General's Office from June 30 to July 15 if the

organization keeps records on a calendar year basis. For those that operate on a fiscal year basis, the law changes the deadline from six months after the close of the fiscal year to the 15th day of the seventh month after the end of the fiscal year.

Annual reports are required from charitable organizations that solicit contributions. The standard report filed with the attorney general includes the legal name of the organization; its form of organization; the address of its principal office; the names of officers, directors, trustees; and the name of the chief executive officer.

The annual report also includes a financial statement and a copy of tax returns.

Sen. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2119\*/SF1915/CH45

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### Administration modifications

A new law modifying provisions for the state Department of Administration was signed into law by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 24.

The law will extend the authority for several advisory groups:

- Technology for People with Disabilities will be extended until June 30, 2003;
- Small Business Procurement now sunsets June 30, 2005;
- the construction codes council, which will substitute the commissioner of commerce for the commissioner of public safety as a member of the group, will sunset June 30, 2003; and
- the Governor's Residence Council will become permanent.

In addition, the shared savings program for energy conservation in state-owned buildings will now end Jan. 1, 2006. This provision is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2001.

Hinging on a provision already in statute, the new law clarifies that data on an individual needed for a report for the Management Analysis division would be kept private if the division reasonably believes that person would not have provided the information otherwise.

Also, the state information infrastructure will be permitted to serve American Indian tribal governments.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Martha Robertson (R-Minnetonka) sponsored the legislation. With the exception of the shared energy savings program, the law's provisions take effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1938/SF1680\*/CH162

### Police civil service exams

A new law effective Aug. 1, 2001 will make it easier for qualified applicants for openings on police departments to become eligible for hire.

Under existing law, police civil service commissions administer periodic examinations for candidates. Notice must be published stating the time, place, and scope of each examination.

The commissions grade and classify all the employees and maintain a register of the names, classes, age, compensation, period of past employment and other facts and data.

The commissions also keep a second register of those who have applied for positions.

The new law will allow police civil service commissions to administer additional examinations from time to time during the life of the eligible register without further publication requirements or 10-day notice to applicants meeting threshold requirements.

Applicants who pass the later examination will then be added to the eligible register.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) and Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) were the sponsors.

HF1465/SF1432\*/CH87

### Indian affairs council membership

The Urban Indian Affairs Advisory Council will have one additional member, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

Established in 1963, the Indian Affairs

Council is the official liaison between state and tribal governments. This council is governed by each of the elected tribal chairs of the 11 reservations in the state, and two at-large members representing American Indians who live in Minnesota, but are enrolled in other states.

The new law will add a member from Bemidji, increasing the advisory council from five members to six. Existing law requires members from Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth.

The urban advisory council's role is to advise board members on the unique problems and concerns of American Indians who live in urban areas of the state.

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) was the House sponsor, and Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1687/SF1206\*/CH88

## ★ GREATER MINNESOTA

### Worthington program management

The Southwest Regional Development Commission will be allowed to establish a nonprofit corporation to operate programs and manage facilities at the Prairieland Exposition Center in Worthington, under a new law.

Prairieland is an interactive discovery center exploring the 6,000 square miles of southwestern Minnesota attractions.

## HITTING THE BOOKS



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

House and Senate conferees listen to statements from representatives of the Department of Children, Families and Learning during the May 23 meeting of the omnibus K-12 education finance bill working group.



Representatives from the commission testified in committee hearings that management of the center will be more efficient and effectively run by the new entity than it would under the commission.

The commission's mission is to address the economic, social, and governmental needs of the region.

The new law will require the corporation be governed by a board of nine directors to be named by the commission. No more than five of the directors can be currently serving on the commission. Board members will not be compensated for their services but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred as part of their duties.

Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) and Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy) were the sponsors.

The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF390/SF110\*/CH81

## ★ HEALTH

### Health care ID cards

Health care identification cards will soon be required to include certain prescription drug information needed to process prescription drug claims, under a new law.

The new law, signed May 17 by Gov. Jesse Ventura, will make it easier for pharmacists to process claims.

The uniform prescription drug information for Minnesota uniform health care identification cards will be required on those issued July 1, 2003 and later. The law states group purchasers must annually certify compliance with the card requirements.

Information on the card will have to conform with the format adopted by the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs, and all information must be presented in a "clear, readable, and understandable manner."

In order to make the cards more readable, the law also contains specifications for the card issuer name and telephone numbers and names of contact persons that pharmacies may call for assistance.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the legislation.

The law takes effect Jan. 1, 2003.

HF926\*/SF1001/CH110

## Potluck rules

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed into law May 2 a measure permitting schools to sponsor and hold potluck events in areas of the school other than school kitchens.

The new law also allows fraternal and patriotic organizations to sell home-prepared food at certain organization-sponsored events.

Previous law prohibited all licensed food establishments, including schools, from sponsoring potlucks.

The law remains firm that food prepared for potlucks cannot be brought into any licensed food establishment kitchen, including school kitchens.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) in the House and Sen. Arlene Lesewski (R-Marshall) in the Senate.

The law will take effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF967\*/SF876/CH65

## Immunity change

The "Good Samaritan Law" grants immunity from civil damages to people who provide emergency medical care without expectation of being compensated unless the person acts in a willful and wanton or reckless manner in providing the care, advice, or assistance.

Under a new law effective May 18, 2001, that immunity is limited for people who use automatic external defibrillators to restart a heart.

The new law says that civil immunity extends to people who use a defibrillator in the course of normal employment, unless their normal duties includes giving emergency medical care. Therefore, professional emergency medical care providers are explicitly excluded from the state's Good Samaritan protections.

Good Samaritan laws are designed to encourage average citizens to offer emergency medical assistance by providing immunity from civil claims arising from "acts or omissions" in rendering care, advice, or assistance.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) sponsored the measure in the House and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored it in the Senate.

HF935/SF824\*/CH107

## Medical review change

A new law effective Aug. 1, 2001 will change the frequency with which physicians must review the prescribing activities of physician assistants.

Previously, state law required that physicians review all prescribing, dispensing, and

administering of drugs and medical devices done by delegated physician assistants on a daily basis. The new law will change the frequency to weekly.

According to the measure, sponsored in the House by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), the physician and physician assistant must have a written agreement spelling out the process and schedule for the review.

Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1160\*/SF1127/CH49

## ★ HIGHER EDUCATION

### Collective bargaining units combined

Combining the two instructional units at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities for collective bargaining purposes is now allowed under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 21.

Sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan), the law allows for the merger of the community college instructional unit and the technical college instructional unit into a new state college instructional unit for MnSCU employees and for the appointment of an exclusive representative.

"This is a logical development out of the merger of the MnSCU system in 1994," Leppik said May 15 on the House floor. She said the units agreed to merge earlier this year.

The collective bargaining agreements of the separate instructional units will continue until replaced. Benefits of members will also be maintained until the merger.

Other existing collective bargaining agreements not affected by this law include: reinstatement rights to employees who are on an approved leave of absence, and all dates for seniority, accumulated benefits and other benefits.

Leppik said this bill will help eliminate some turf battles when similar courses are taught by members of both unions, but instructors are working under different contracts in regards to conditions and compensation.

"It doesn't work well with two bargaining contracts in one building," said Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal).

The bill is effective May 22, 2001.

HF977/SF1033\*/CH133

**Don't forget ...  
return your survey and  
renewal card!**

## **Rights, responsibilities clarified**

A new law effective Aug. 1, 2001 will include social workers in a list of specified health professionals required by law to notify individuals of a specific threat of violence by a client against an identified individual.

The "duty to warn" provisions were created in 1986 to specify that particular professionals have a duty to predict, warn of, or take reasonable precautions to provide protection from specific threats made by a client against a particular individual. Such professionals are required to contact the law enforcement agency nearest the potential victim or client. Social workers will now be among those professionals.

The law specifies that professionals governed by the law cannot be held liable, nor can they be sanctioned by a licensing board, for failing to discharge this duty. Additionally, the law does not require social workers or any other professional to disclose threats made against oneself.

The new law also places social workers into a group of professionals who are authorized to create professional organizations. Other such professionals include doctors, practitioners of chiropractic, nurses, psychologists, optometrists, dentists, pharmacists, and podiatrists.

The law was sponsored Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville).

HF1634/SF1460\*/CH42

## **IMMIGRATION**

### **Black Minnesotans council members**

The state Council on Black Minnesotans will increase by two members under a new law that takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

The law, sponsored by Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls), would expand the size of the council from its current 11 members to 13 members. Under the measure, the additional seats will be filled by one person whose ethnic heritage is from West Africa, and one member whose ethnic heritage is from East Africa.

The new law will define East Africa as the areas occupied by Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Somalia.

West Africa, under the law, will encompass Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and those parts of Mali and Niger south of the Sahara.

The Council on Black Minnesotans was

established in 1980 to advise the governor and Legislature on issues facing African-Americans in the state. The council is also charged with recommending changes to laws to help address those issues.

Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls), the law's House sponsor, said the number of immigrants from Africa to Minnesota is increasing, and that by requiring representatives from West Africa and East Africa to serve on the council, issues crucial to those communities would be better addressed.

HF387/SF142\*/CH39

## **INDUSTRY**



### **'Illegal' steel dumping resolution**

The Legislature and Gov. Jesse Ventura sent a message to President George W. Bush requesting that the Bush administration immediately investigate steel product imports to the United States.

The measure, sponsored in the House by Rep. Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm), maintains that the "absorption of a disproportionate share of diverted steel trade ... ultimately (has) a detrimental effect on this state's economy."

Sponsors decried the practice, called "illegal dumping," which constitutes other countries exporting their excess steel into the United States and selling it at a lower price than American manufacturers.

Officials say illegal imports of steel products have been the cause of more than 7,000 job losses for steelworkers across the nation in the last six months, including 1,500 in Minnesota.

The resolution implores Bush "to immediately impose a one-year ban on imports of all steel products that are the products of, or are manufactured in, Australia, China, South Africa, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Mexico, or Brazil if the president finds that the governments of those countries are not abiding by the spirit and letter of international trade agreements with respect to imports of steel products into the United States."

Sen. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF219/SF258\*/R1

If you have Internet access, visit the  
Legislature's web page at:  
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

## **No gas below cost**

Gas retailers will be restricted from selling gas below cost, under a new law signed May 21 by Gov. Jesse Ventura. The measure aims to protect small, independently owned gas stations from large retailers engaging in predatory pricing.

The law was sponsored in the House by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) and in the Senate by Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing).

The law defines cost as the average terminal price, plus state and federal taxes, plus either six percent or eight cents, whichever is less. This minimum price requirement prohibits certain retailers from possibly driving others out of business by engaging in predatory pricing, which is when major companies drop their prices below what their smaller competitors can afford.

On the House floor, Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) told his colleagues to consider the long-term effect without this law. "In the long run ... small competition is eliminated and we have the big guys who can set the price for gasoline," he said. Now, those small retailers will have a better chance of staying in business, he concluded.

To allow special offers, the new law permits retailers to sell gas below cost as part of promotions for three days in a three-month period.

The law is effective Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1007/SF970\*/CH129

## **Extended benefits for miners**

Miners who were laid off when the LTV Steel Mining Co. shut down its Hoyt Lakes facility last year can receive more unemployment benefits, under a new law.

The law, which is effective retroactive to Aug. 1, 2000, allows the 30 LTV miners laid off at that time to collect an extra 26 weeks of unemployment benefits when regular benefits expire. More than 1,300 additional workers of the Hoyt Lakes plant were laid off when the company went bankrupt in February 2001.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) sponsored the measure in the House. Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Tower) sponsored the Senate version. However, the law received significant support in both bodies beyond its sponsors.

"Those 900 people on unemployment benefits are making decisions about how to put their lives back together for themselves and their families," said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook).

The former LTV workers are also moving into new careers, and Bakk said in rural Minnesota one can't go down the street and find another job — especially on the Iron Range.



Dave Walkama of Aurora, a 30-year employee of LTV Mining in Hoyt Lakes, carries a sign of support for a new law that extends unemployment benefits for laid off employees of the mine.

"Their skills are unique to the industry," he added.

The law reflects positions taken in both the House and the Senate, drawn together in conference committee. The original House plan granted an extra 13 weeks of unemployment compensation for those laid off last August. The Senate version of the measure called for 30 weeks of unemployment compensation for all former LTV workers — including those affected by both the August and February layoffs.

Under the law, the former workers are eligible for 26 weeks of compensation in a 95-week window of time. This allows workers to be employed in temporary positions such as summer construction.

To receive benefits, applicants must be enrolled in an education or job-training program. The 95-week period extends through the end of the 2001-02 school year, allowing time for applicants to complete any training programs while still receiving benefits.

The new law also extends the time a mining plant must be kept in operating condition in Minnesota from one year to two years, to provide more time to find a buyer for the facility.

HF47\*/SF39/CH30

### Gas station franchisee rights

The sunset date for a provision that allows gas station owners additional rights to the land they occupy is extended, under a new law effective April 27, 2001.

Under the law, the expiration date of May 5, 2001 is now July 1, 2002. The measure was sponsored in the House by Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin).

Last year was the first time franchisors were required to give franchisees an opportunity to purchase their stations.

Often, gas stations are operated by franchisees who lease, rather than own, their locations, and the law passed in 2000 required that before the franchisor who owned the property could sell it to a new franchisor, the operator of the station had to be given an opportunity to purchase it.

The law continues to provide a sunset date instead of incorporating the provision into permanent law due to controversy between franchisors and franchisees over the amount of flexibility each can retain, according to Haas.

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) carried the legislation in the Senate.

HF323\*/SF914/CH48

### Propane research council

A propane education and research council can be formed under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 21.

Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker), who sponsored the measure in the House, said the council will provide educational programs administered by fire departments to help teach people the proper use of propane in homes and in recreational uses, such as ice fishing houses.

Howes said language in the law conforms with federal legislation passed in 1996 relating to the propane industry. That legislation allowed propane education and research councils to be formed under guidelines that ensured anti-trust concerns were not violated.

The new law specifies that propane producers and retail marketers may not assess an amount to exceed one-tenth of one cent per gallon of odorized propane to help pay for the costs of the council. Federal law prohibits that cost from being passed on to the consumer, Howes said.

The law also specifies that the council report annually to the Department of Public Safety detailing its collections and expenditures.

Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) was the Senate sponsor.

The law is effective Aug. 1, 2001. If no

council has been established by Aug. 1, 2004 the new law would be repealed.

HF1174/SF694\*/CH130

## INSURANCE



### Senior citizen auto coverage

Senior citizens who become disabled in an auto accident will have more rights, under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 18.

Minnesota residents who have no-fault automobile insurance are covered for loss of wage or other labor income if the insured person becomes disabled in an auto accident. This coverage is now mandatory, except for persons over age 65 who have no wage or other labor income.

Existing law permits persons over 65 to decline no-fault coverage for income loss as part of their auto insurance. Under the law, seniors will have an unconditional right to decline the no-fault coverage for income loss. It will also require insurance companies to notify seniors of this right, at the first issuance or renewal after age 65 and annually thereafter.

Under current law, the person must have coverage unless they "will not reasonably be expected to be able to receive" benefits from the coverage, as determined as a result of inquiry by the insurance company.

A request by the insured not to have this coverage will remain in effect until revoked by the insured.

The law is sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) and Sen. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park).

The law becomes effective Aug. 1, 2001.

HF694/SF1264\*/CH124

### NAIC reciprocal law

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law May 17 that will comply with a reciprocal law requested by the federal government regarding insurance agents.

Minnesota's new law models provisions ordered by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. If at least 20 states do not comply by passing a law by November 2002, the association has said it will set up a federal licensing system. Many states are creating legislation to adhere to the association's provisions.

One provision in the new law changes the term "insurance agent" to "insurance producer," by request of insurance companies.

The law, which does not make major changes in regulations of insurance producers, is intended to reduce barriers for

producers doing business in states other than where they live by eliminating special requirements that apply to non-resident agents.

Under the law, nonresidents can obtain a nonresident license without taking courses or an examination, if that resident's state reciprocates for Minnesota residents. Also, under certain conditions, a person who has been licensed in another state can get a license in Minnesota without new training or testing.

The law, sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) and Sen. Edward Oliver (R-Deephaven), becomes effective July 1, 2002.

HF1955/SF1826\*/CH117

## ★ LAW

### **Real estate clarification**

A portion of real estate title law is changed under a new law effective April 27, 2001.

The measure, sponsored in the House by Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo), is intended to streamline the Torrens portions of statute governing real estate.

Lipman explained that there are two systems regulating real estate title law: abstract, in which a private, third party, such as a lawyer, makes determinations regarding the chain of real estate ownership over several sales and Torrens law, in which a government agent makes those determinations.

The new law allows single owners of multiple tracks of land, such as a housing developer, to file a single declaration creating covenants, conditions, and easements. Under previous law, owners of multiple properties had to file separately for each particular property.

County officials testified that registrars will lose revenue but will experience a decrease in workload.

The new law also clarifies the attorney general's responsibility in cases where the state is the defendant in Torrens law matters. In the future, the attorney general may either choose to represent the state or may refer a case to a county attorney. Previous law required the attorney general to refer such cases.

The Senate version was sponsored by Sen. Thomas Neuville (R-Northfield).

The new law preserves former provisions to govern actions pending on April 27 or started before Feb. 1, 2002.

HF239\*/SF170/CH50

## ★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### **Officials may accept some gifts**

Local officials can now enjoy certain conferences a little bit more, under a new law effective May 15, 2001.

Current law prohibits any government official from accepting gifts from a person or a representative of an association that has a direct financial interest in a decision the official is authorized to make.

For example, legislators are not allowed to accept gifts from lobbyists, not even when attending an event that is not directly related to the Legislature or the decisions legislators must make there.

However, the new law provides that the prohibition does not apply when the official is attending a conference sponsored by a national or multi-state organization where the gift offered is food or a beverage, given at a reception or meal. The law also stipulates that an equivalent gift must be given or offered to all other attendees.

Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) were the sponsors of the measure.

HF2110/SF1441\*/CH93

### **Housing assistance for firefighters**

A new law effective April 12, 2001, will give cities the authority to provide housing assistance for volunteer firefighters and ambulance personnel.

The law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), allows cities to offer the assistance to attract and retain qualified personnel necessary to ensure timely public safety service.

Mares said he sponsored the bill on behalf of the city of Mahtomedi that is seeking help in attracting volunteer firefighters to the city.

The legislation was necessary because of a precedent established by a 1952 state attorney general opinion. That opinion held that the city of Newport did not have the authority to provide living quarters to its police chief unless the Legislature granted special authority.

Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) was the Senate sponsor.

HF172/SF9\*/CH19

## ★ RECREATION

### **Horse track employment regulations**

A new law effective May 1, 2001 eases employment restrictions at the state's horse racing track.

Under previous law, people seeking employment in horse racing where pari-mutuel betting was allowed had to obtain a class C occupational license offered by the racing commission. Those that had been convicted of a felony were prohibited from obtaining the license.

The new law modifies that restriction to those who have a felony of record.

Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), who sponsored the law in the House, said the restriction prohibited those who were convicted of a felony but later had the conviction overturned on appeal, or those who completed their sentence, from working at the track.

Another provision of the new law increases the legal amount of an anti-inflammatory drug that a test blood sample from a horse can be allowed to have under the medication rules of the state's racing commission.

The law allows five micrograms per milliliter of blood as the maximum level for drugs such as phenylbutazone. That particular drug is commonly used to treat laminitis, a chronic foot ailment among horses. The previous law allowed three micrograms.

Sen. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) was the Senate sponsor.

HF995\*/SF1214/CH59

## ★ RETIREMENT

### **Retirement benefits**

Spouses of teachers who were granted early retirement incentives in the early 1990s and are younger than their spouse will now be eligible to continue coverage under the school district's health plan.

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed the new law May 24, which was sponsored by Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) and Sen. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley).

Legislation in 1993 granted early retirement incentives that included the option for the retired employee and their spouse to continue in the school district's health plan at no charge until the retired employee reaches age 65, which is the age of Medicare eligibility. At that time, however, younger spouses were no longer covered.

The new law allows spouses to be eligible for the school district's health plan at their own expense until they reach age 65.

**The Legislature will reconvene in regular session Jan. 29, 2002.**

The spouse, whose coverage has been discontinued but who wishes to be covered under the plan as a result of this law, has to notify the former employer within 180 days of the effective date of this law.

The law is effective May 25, 2001, and also applies to a spouse of an employee who stopped receiving coverage before the effective date because the retired employee attained the age of 65.

HF514/SF1124\*/CH166

## ★ SAFETY

### School bus driver regulations

A new law, effective June 1, 2001, could prevent some sex offenders from driving school buses.

Sponsored in the House by Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska), the new law specifically bars those convicted of certain sex offenses — illegal use of minors in sexual performance, possession of pornography containing minors, or dissemination or display of harmful material to minors — from driving school buses.

The new law applies to offenses committed on or after June 1. Existing law regarding licensed bus drivers bars any felon or anyone convicted of the following crimes: a drug offense, driving a school bus while intoxicated, indecent exposure, or other forms of child abuse.

The new law follows testimony by Chaska Police Chief Scott Knight that sexual offenders have acquired permission to drive school buses after concealing their identity.

The Senate version was sponsored by Sen. Claire Robling (R-Prior Lake).

HF57\*/SF27/CH25

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### Ted Foss Highway

Interstate Highway 90, from its intersection with Trunk Highway 74 in Winona County to the Wisconsin border, will be designated "State Trooper Theodore 'Ted' Foss Memorial Highway," under a law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

The commissioner of transportation will be required to place appropriate signage marking the highway. The funds for those signs will come from private sources.

Foss, a corporal with the Minnesota State Patrol, was killed Aug. 31, 2000 by a semi-tractor trailer that crashed into his squad car parked along the interstate near Lewiston. Foss was making a traffic stop at the time. He died at the scene and four occupants of the stopped vehicle were injured.



The Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association Honor Guard present colors during a ceremony at the beginning of the May 10 floor session to honor fallen peace officers. Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law that will designate a portion of Interstate 90 in southeastern Minnesota as Theodore "Ted" Foss Memorial Highway in honor of the state trooper killed in an accident while on duty in August 2000.

The truck driver was found to not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, but was charged with reckless and inattentive driving.

The House measure was sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove). Sen. Leo Foley (DFL-Coon Rapids) sponsored the law in the Senate.

HF2161/SF2005\*/CH113

### Locks and dam request

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a resolution May 17 that urges authorization of funding for improvement and rehabilitation of inland waterways.

The resolution will be sent to President Bush and other federal office holders, including Minnesota's senators and representatives serving in Congress.

The resolution:

- Supports Minnesota's pro-rata participation in funding new construction at the Sault Ste. Marie Lock;
- Recognizes the importance of river transportation to Minnesota's agriculture and economy;
- Acknowledges the need for restoration and rehabilitation of critical habitat in the Upper Mississippi River basin; and
- Urges Congress to authorize funding to improve the efficiency of river transportation and to restore the ecological values of the Upper Mississippi River.

Most of the current lock-and-dam system is more than 60 years old and in need of repair. According to the National Corn Growers Association, lock delays in the Upper Mississippi cost U.S. farmers and businesses an average of \$94 million per year.

River barges are efficient at carrying bulk commodities. One barge can carry as much as 58 large semi trucks, according to the Iowa Department of Transportation. Fifteen-barge tows, a common configuration, are more than 1,100 feet long.

Farmers told legislators they want to move their grain in a more efficient and environmentally friendly way. To that end, they would like some of the locks and dams extended from 600 feet to 1,200 feet to accommodate larger tows.

"Waterborne transportation has environmental costs one-fifth that of rail and one-tenth that of trucks, primarily as a result of fuel consumption," said Al Vogel, director of the Minnesota Department of Transportation Rail and Waterways Division.

Less air pollution, significantly fewer accidents, and no wear and tear on the highway system are also factors in favor of water transportation, he said.

"I see a system of locks and dams as integral to our transportation system," said Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), who sponsored the measure in the House.

Wear and tear on the river from barge traffic was of concern to some testifiers during the 2001 session. Language supporting environmental rehabilitation was inserted into the resolution in support of that concern.

Sen. Steve Dille (R-Dassel) sponsored the resolution in the Senate.

HF208\*/SF551/R4



### **Student safety**

School districts, nonpublic schools, or private contractors will be required to annually verify the validity of driver's licenses of each person who transports students, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

The schools, districts, and companies may use the National Drivers Register or the Department of Public Safety to perform the verification.

According to commerce sources, the National Driver Register is a computerized database of information about drivers who have had their licenses revoked or suspended, or who have been convicted of such serious traffic violations as driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Government entities can use the system to avoid granting drivers and other licenses to people convicted of offenses that may legally disqualify them from lawfully driving.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) sponsored the measure in the House and Sen. Julie Sabo (DFL-Mpls) sponsored it in the Senate. HF1172/SF1056\*/CH98

### **Width restrictions for RVs**

A new law effective Aug. 1, 2001 will redefine the maximum legal width of recreational vehicles.

Previously existing law limits the total outside width of a vehicle to 102 inches, just short of nine feet. The new law will specify that the 102-inch limit will not include attachments that do not extend beyond the width of the vehicle's rearview mirror if the recreational vehicle is self-propelled, or beyond the width of the rearview mirror on the towing vehicle if a trailer is being towed.

The new law makes no changes to an existing provision giving municipal trucks bearing sewage sludge immunity from the width restriction.

Additionally, the new law declares that motor homes may not be longer than 45 feet. Motor homes are defined in existing law as a unit meant to provide temporary living quarters permanently attached to a vehicle. The general length limit for single-unit vehicles is 40 feet.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) sponsored the law in the House and Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1085/SF1155\*/CH83

### **Limited bus driving privileges**

Licensed childcare providers will be allowed to operate school buses under limited conditions, under a law effective July 1, 2001.

Under the new law, the holder of a Class D driver's license — the license issued to anyone wishing to drive a regular car, truck, or van — without a school bus endorsement, may operate a van-type school bus with a gross weight of 10,000 pounds or less and a capacity of 15 or fewer persons including the driver.

This is only true if 14 conditions provided in the law are met, including the following:

- the operator is an employee of the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the bus;
- the operator drives only from points of origin to points of destination, but not for home-to-school or vice versa trips;
- the operator provides annual training in, among other things, training and certification in safe operation of the vehicle, understanding student behavior, handling misconduct appropriately and safe loading and unloading of students; and
- a driver background check has been completed.

The bill will also allow licensed childcare providers to use buses that look like school buses except that the stop arm has been removed, the eight-light system is deactivated, and it is identified as a "childcare bus" in letters at least eight inches high on the front and rear top of the bus. Such vehicles must be further identified with the name, address, and phone number of the owner or operator on each front door in letters no smaller than three inches high.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) sponsored the measure in the House and Sen. Sandra Pappas (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored it in the Senate.

The provisions of the new law expire July 1, 2003.

HF2181/SF2225\*/CH97

### **Handlebar height unrestricted**

A new law effective Aug. 1, 2001 will repeal a section of state law regarding motorcycles.

The law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), removes from statute a provision that makes it illegal to operate a motorcycle with handlebars extending above the operator's shoulders when the operator is seated with both feet on the ground.

Workman told the House that the motorcycling community endorsed the repeal, and predicted there would be no negative impact resulting from the change.

Sen. Grace Schwab (R-Albert Lea) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1383\*/SF1598/CH60

## **★ VETERANS**

### **Honoring contributors**

They were a fleet of ships carrying imports and exports that became a military auxiliary during World War II. The Merchant Marines helped the wartime effort by keeping commerce going with ships equipped with guns and Navy personnel on board.

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law May 18 that authorizes a plaque honoring the service of civilians like the Merchant Marines who contributed during World War II.

The new law allows a memorial plaque to be placed on the State Capitol grounds recognizing those civilians who served in support of the war effort and who years later were given the status of veteran by Congress.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), the House sponsor, said those who served in groups like the Merchant Marines and the Women's Airforce Service Pilots played a significant role in the country's war effort and many of them gave their lives for their country.

The Women's Airforce Service Pilots were a group of women pilots that flew non-combat flights freeing up male pilots for combat duty.

The law requires a person or organizations other than the Department of Veteran Affairs to furnish the plaque. But the law also requires the commissioner of that department and the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board approve the plaque.

Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) sponsored the measure in the Senate. The law is effective May 19, 2001.

HF1023/SF1222\*/CH125

### **Honoring wounded warriors**

Beginning this year, Aug. 7 will be designated as Combat Wounded Veterans Day, under a new law.

The day will honor military veterans who were wounded while serving their country and whose sacrifices have entitled them to a Purple Heart Decoration.

The law stipulates that each year the governor shall issue a proclamation honoring the observance.

According to Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), the House sponsor of the measure, Aug. 7 was selected because it was the date President George Washington awarded the nation's first Purple Hearts.

In 1782 Washington awarded three soldiers the honor which he designed, created, and called the Badge of Military Merit. After the Revolutionary War no other soldiers received the badge until it was revived and renamed the Purple Heart by the United States War Department in 1932.

The Senate sponsor was Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul).

The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF481/SF520\*/CH104

### Remembering Bataan Death March

On Dec. 10, 1941, three days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, which President Franklin D. Roosevelt dubbed "The day that will live in

infamy," the Japanese began their invasion of the Philippine Islands.

Months later United States troops isolated on the Bataan Peninsula west of Manila surrendered to the Japanese and were forced to march 60 miles.

A new law effective Aug. 1, 2001 will provide a plaque on the State Capitol grounds honoring those soldiers who were forced to participate in the Bataan Death March.

Rep. Dale Walz (R-Brainerd), the House sponsor of the law, said that tens of thousands of soldiers were forced to march up to 10 days without food or water beginning on April 9, 1942. He said if any soldier was to fall or failed to march, they were shot, stabbed, or killed.

The law provides that after the plaque is

approved by the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board it may be placed in the Capitol Rotunda or another appropriate place. The commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs will be required to ensure placement of the plaque and may accept contributions from non-state sources to pay for its costs.

Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) was the Senate sponsor.

HF1778/SF1269\*/CH115

## Minnesota House and Senate Membership

<b>1</b> A • Rep. Maxine Penas-(R) B • Rep. Tim Finseth-(R) Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-(DFL)	<b>15</b> A • Rep. Al Juhnke-(DFL) B • Rep. Gary W. Kubly-(DFL) Sen. Dean E. Johnson-(DFL)	<b>29</b> A • Rep. Jerry Dempsey-(R) B • Rep. Mike Oskopp-(R) Sen. Steve Murphy-(DFL)	<b>43</b> A • Rep. Tom Workman-(R) B • Rep. Barb Sykora-(R) Sen. Edward C. Oliver-(R)	<b>57</b> A • Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL) B • Rep. Sharon Marko-(DFL) Sen. Leonard R. Price-(DFL)
<b>2</b> A • Rep. Bernie L. Lieder-(DFL) B • Rep. Rod Skoe-(DFL) Sen. Roger D. Moe-(DFL)	<b>16</b> A • Rep. Joe Opatz-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Knobloch-(R) Sen. Dave Kleis-(R)	<b>30</b> A • Rep. Fran Bradley-(R) B • Rep. Dave Bishop-(R) Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-(R)	<b>44</b> A • Rep. Betty Foliard-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Rhodes-(R) Sen. Steve Kelley-(DFL)	<b>58</b> A • Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL) B • Rep. Gregory Gray-(DFL) Sen. Linda Higgins-(DFL)
<b>3</b> A • Rep. Irv Anderson-(DFL) B • Rep. Loren A. Solberg-(DFL) Sen. Bob Lessard-(IP)	<b>17</b> A • Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R) B • Rep. Leslie J. Schumacher-(DFL) Sen. Dan Stevens-(R)	<b>31</b> A • Rep. William Kuisle-(R) B • Rep. Gregory M. Davids-(R) Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-(R)	<b>45</b> A • Rep. Ron Abrams-(R) B • Rep. Peggy Leppik-(R) Sen. Martha R. Robertson-(R)	<b>59</b> A • Rep. Len Biernat-(DFL) B • Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL) Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-(DFL)
<b>4</b> A • Rep. Doug Fuller-(R) B • Rep. Larry Howes-(R) Sen. Anthony G. "Tony" Kinkel-(DFL)	<b>18</b> A • Rep. Rob Eastlund-(R) B • Rep. Loren Geo Jennings-(DFL) Sen. Twyla Ring-(DFL)	<b>32</b> A • Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL) B • Rep. Michelle Rifenberg-(R) Sen. Bob Kierlin-(R)	<b>46</b> A • Rep. Mark Thompson-(DFL) B • Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson-(DFL) Sen. Ann H. Rest-(DFL)	<b>60</b> A • Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher-(DFL) B • Rep. Scott Dibble-(DFL) Sen. Myron Orfield-(DFL)
<b>5</b> A • Rep. Tom Rukavina-(DFL) B • Rep. Anthony "Tony" Sertich-(DFL) Sen. David J. Tomassoni-(DFL)	<b>19</b> A • Rep. Mark Olson-(R) B • Rep. Bruce Anderson-(R) Sen. Mark Ourada-(R)	<b>33</b> A • Rep. Arlon Lindner-(R) B • Rep. Rich Stanek-(R) Sen. Warren Limmer-(R)	<b>47</b> A • Rep. Darlene Luther-(DFL) B • Rep. Debra Hilstrom-(DFL) Sen. Linda Scheid-(DFL)	<b>61</b> A • Rep. Karen Clark-(DFL) B • Rep. Neva Walker-(DFL) Sen. Linda Berglin-(DFL)
<b>6</b> A • Rep. Thomas (Tom) Bakk-(DFL) B • Rep. Thomas Huntley-(DFL) Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-(DFL)	<b>20</b> A • Rep. Robert "Bob" Ness-(R) B • Rep. Tony Kielkucki-(R) Sen. Steve Dille-(R)	<b>34</b> A • Rep. Steve Smith-(R) B • Rep. Jeff Johnson-(R) Sen. Gen Olson-(R)	<b>48</b> A • Rep. Bill Haas-(R) B • Rep. Connie Bernardy-(DFL) Sen. Don Betzold-(DFL)	<b>62</b> A • Rep. Jim Davnie-(DFL) B • Rep. Wes Skoglund-(DFL) Sen. Julie A. Sabo-(DFL)
<b>7</b> A • Rep. Dale Swapinski-(DFL) B • Rep. Mike Jaros-(DFL) Sen. Sam G. Solon-(DFL)	<b>21</b> A • Rep. Marty Seifert-(R) B • Rep. Richard Mulder-(R) Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-(R)	<b>35</b> A • Rep. Carol L. Molnau-(R) B • Rep. Mark Buessgens-(R) Sen. Claire A. Robling-(R)	<b>49</b> A • Rep. Jim Abeler-(R) B • Rep. Luanne Koskinen-(DFL) Sen. Leo Foley-(DFL)	<b>63</b> A • Rep. Jean Wagenius-(DFL) B • Rep. Mark S. Gleason-(DFL) Sen. Jane B. Ranum-(DFL)
<b>8</b> A • Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL) B • Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL) Sen. Becky Lourey-(DFL)	<b>22</b> A • Rep. Ted Winter-(DFL) B • Rep. Elaine Harder-(R) Sen. Jim Vickerman-(DFL)	<b>36</b> A • Rep. Chris Gerlach-(R) B • Rep. Dan McElroy-(R) Sen. David L. Knutson-(R)	<b>50</b> A • Rep. Tom Hackbarth-(R) B • Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-(R) Sen. Debbie J. Johnson-(R)	<b>64</b> A • Rep. Matt Entenza-(DFL) B • Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL) Sen. Richard J. Cohen-(DFL)
<b>9</b> A • Rep. Kevin Goodno-(R) B • Rep. Paul Marquart-(DFL) Sen. Keith Langseth-(DFL)	<b>23</b> A • Rep. James T. Clark-(R) B • Rep. Howard Swenson-(R) Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-(R)	<b>37</b> A • Rep. Dennis Ozment-(R) B • Rep. Mary Liz Holberg-(R) Sen. Pat Pariseau-(R)	<b>51</b> A • Rep. Andrew Westerberg-(R) B • Rep. Ray Vandever-(R) Sen. Jane Krentz-(DFL)	<b>65</b> A • Rep. Andy Dawkins-(DFL) B • Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL) Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-(DFL)
<b>10</b> A • Rep. Bud Nornes-(R) B • Rep. George Cassell-(R) Sen. Cal Larson-(R)	<b>24</b> A • Rep. John Dorn-(DFL) B • Rep. Ruth Johnson-(DFL) Sen. John C. Hottinger-(DFL)	<b>38</b> A • Rep. Tim Wilkin-(R) B • Rep. Tim Pawlenty-(R) Sen. Deanna L. Wiener-(DFL)	<b>52</b> A • Rep. Barbara Goodwin-(DFL) B • Rep. Geri Evans-(DFL) Sen. Satveer Chaudhary-(DFL)	<b>66</b> A • Rep. Tom Osthoff-(DFL) B • Rep. Alice Hausman-(DFL) Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-(DFL)
<b>11</b> A • Rep. Roxann Daggett-(R) B • Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba-(DFL) Sen. Dallas C. Sams-(DFL)	<b>25</b> A • Rep. John Tuma-(R) B • Rep. Lynda Boudreau-(R) Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-(R)	<b>39</b> A • Rep. Thomas W. Pugh-(DFL) B • Rep. Bob Milbert-(DFL) Sen. James P. Metzen-(DFL)	<b>53</b> A • Rep. Philip Krinkie-(R) B • Rep. Carl Jacobson-(R) Sen. Mady Reiter-(R)	<b>67</b> A • Rep. Tim Mahoney-(DFL) B • Rep. Sheldon Johnson-(DFL) Sen. Randy C. Kelly-(DFL)
<b>12</b> A • Rep. Dale Walz-(R) B • Rep. Stephen G. Wenzel-(DFL) Sen. Don Samuelson-(DFL)	<b>26</b> A • Rep. Bob Gunther-(R) B • Rep. Henry J. Kalis-(DFL) Sen. Chuck Fowler-(DFL)	<b>40</b> A • Rep. Dan Larson-(DFL) B • Rep. Ann Lenczewski-(DFL) Sen. David H. Johnson-(DFL)	<b>54</b> A • Rep. Mary Jo McGuire-(DFL) B • Rep. Mindy Greiling-(DFL) Sen. John Marty-(DFL)	
<b>13</b> A • Rep. Torrey Westrom-(R) B • Rep. Doug Peterson-(DFL) Sen. Charles A. Berg-(R)	<b>27</b> A • Rep. Dan Dorman-(R) B • Rep. Rob Leighton-(DFL) Sen. Grace S. Schwab-(R)	<b>41</b> A • Rep. Alice Seagren-(R) B • Rep. Ken Wolf-(R) Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-(R)	<b>55</b> A • Rep. Harry Mares-(R) B • Rep. Scott Wasiliuk-(DFL) Sen. Charles W. Wiger-(DFL)	
<b>14</b> A • Rep. Steve Dehler-(R) B • Rep. Doug Stang-(R) Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-(R)	<b>28</b> A • Rep. Connie Ruth-(R) B • Rep. Steve Sviggum-(R) Sen. Dick Day-(R)	<b>42</b> A • Rep. Ron Erhardt-(R) B • Rep. Erik Paulsen-(R) Sen. Roy Terwilliger-(R)	<b>56</b> A • Rep. Mark William Holsten-(R) B • Rep. Eric Lipman-(R) Sen. Michele Bachmann-(R)	

## ★ BUSINESS

### Recourse for construction delays

An attempt to override Gov. Jesse Ventura's veto of a bill that would have allowed contractors to seek recovery of costs on public contracts where delays are caused by the public entity failed shortly before the House adjourned May 21. The vote was 70-63.

The bill would have allowed contractors to seek recovery for costs or damages, or seek an equitable adjustment for delays or disruptions caused by acts of the public entity.

Rep. James Clark (R-New Ulm) said the bill came as a result of instances such as one that involved a construction company that was to deliver fill but had the delivery substantially delayed by a Metropolitan Airports Commission decision to install a traffic light.

Clark said the company went to the commission to renegotiate a change in the contract due to the delay but was given no flexibility in the time of delivery clause.

In his veto message Ventura wrote that the "no damage for delay" clause is commonly used in public works contracts and the legislation would lead to increased litigation and higher contract costs.

Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) said contractors already have the right to seek redress for damages caused by a public entity through the court system.

Earlier in the evening the Senate voted to override the veto by a 63-1 margin with Sen. Bob Lessard (I-Int'l Falls) being the lone dissenter.

The bill originally passed both houses with unanimous votes.

Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville) was the Senate sponsor.

HF2074/SF2031\*/CH126

## ★ HEALTH

### Governor vetoes entire funding bill

Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed the entire \$7.6 billion health and human services omnibus funding bill May 15, citing disagreements over policy language included in the bill.

Specifically, the governor objected to a provision that required women seeking abortions to give consent to the procedure at least 24 hours before it could be performed. Ventura



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Gov. Jesse Ventura announces his opposition to and veto of the \$7.6 billion omnibus health and human services funding bill in his reception room May 15. The bill contained several policy measures the governor objected to, including a provision that women seeking abortions must provide consent at least 24 hours before undergoing the procedure. Ventura vetoed a similar measure in 2000.**

vetoed a similar provision in the 2000 session and had promised a veto should the omnibus bill include the measure.

Ventura claimed that tucking policy into omnibus bills was an abuse of the legislative process and a move he would not support.

"I believe that no issue is so important that it justifies risking the integrity of the legislative process," Ventura said in a statement accompanying his veto message.

The bill (HF1832/SF2361\*) would have provided \$6.3 billion in general fund spending for health and human services programs, including the Minnesota Family Investment Program and other health entitlements.

Another significant part of the bill included several changes to current health- and human services-related issues.

The bill would have provided for:

- Reform of long-term care, reflecting a shift to more home-based services;
- Funding mental health programs such as civil commitment and suicide prevention;
- Alternatives for children with autism;
- "Unlocking" the waiting list for people with developmental disabilities; and
- Improving the health disparities.

Members in both the House and Senate had

lengthy debate involving funds for teen pregnancy prevention. In the House debate, \$5 million per year was moved from teen pregnancy programs to welfare-to-work initiatives in the vetoed bill.

The bill also contained a controversial change to the state's immunization schedule. The provision would have allowed the commissioner of health to make changes only if recommended by all three of the following: the U.S. Public Health Service, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. The changes would have had to have been reported to and reviewed by the Legislature at its next session.

Many of the provisions in the omnibus bill were attached to a different bill (HF1381/SF1397\*), sponsored by Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan). A conference committee has yet to resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions.

HF1832/SF2361\*/CH118

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Edvest program vetoed

Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed a bill that would have changed provisions for the state's Edvest program. It was his first veto of the 2001 session.

The Edvest program allows accounts to be created for a designated beneficiary who will attend college in the future. Families with an income of \$80,000 or less are eligible to receive back up to 15 percent — maximum of \$300 — of their contribution in the form of a state grant.

Sponsored by Rep. Rob Eastlund (R-Isanti), the measure would have extended the time for adopting rules for the Edvest savings program by nine months. The program cannot begin operation until the rules are adopted.

The Senate sponsor was Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato).

The original 18-month provision for beginning the program expired in 1999 as officials from the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office were working on aspects of the program and overlooked the time enactment clause.

"I want to emphasize that my veto relates to the process, not the policy," Ventura wrote in his veto message. "I do support the implementation of the Edvest program and its excellent goal of encouraging and supporting saving for higher education. However, I believe the program should begin as soon as possible. Rather than extending rule-making authority for up to nine months, I encourage the Legislature to take the steps necessary for immediate implementation prior to the adjournment of this year's legislative session."

Ventura expressed concern that annual appropriations of \$1.5 million to the general fund have been cancelled for three years, and there are no assurances this year's appropriation will be used.

"I appreciate and share the Legislature's support for this program, and encourage expedited legislative action so this savings plan can begin this spring," Ventura wrote.

The House later amended the policy language for the Edvest program into the omnibus higher education finance measure. When the Legislature adjourned May 21, that bill was still unresolved in a conference committee.

HF550\*/SF954/CH58

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Restrictions vetoed

Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed a bill May 17 that would have prohibited a resident from using dirt bikes on their property.

If approved, the proposal would have allowed the city of Edina to impose restrictions on the operation of recreational motor vehicles on property owned by the operator if the property is three or fewer acres in area.

Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), the House sponsor of the measure, said he brought the legislation forward on behalf of residents who lived next to a person who had built an elaborate dirt bike track in his backyard for his sons to use.

David Velde, Edina's city sanitarian, told a House committee this session that because the noise level wasn't constant, the city determined its existing nuisance ordinances did not apply.

Barbara Zell, who lives next to the house with the track, testified at the same hearing that the activities of the residential neighborhood were being interrupted not only by the noise involved but also by clouds of dust that blew over the fence into her yard.

In his veto message, Ventura wrote that laws should not be "capriciously enacted" that restrict people from doing as they want on their own land. He was also concerned the law was giving one community authority to restrict a homeowner's property rights without looking at whether other communities would support the same type legislation.

Sen. Roy Terwilliger (R-Edina) was the Senate sponsor.

HF1526/SF1528\*/CH114

## TRANSPORTATION

### Veto override fails

The House failed to override Gov. Jesse Ventura's veto of a bill that would have expanded state Department of Public Service authority over utilities using railroad rights-of-way.

The motion to override Ventura's veto of the bill was defeated 83-49 May 21. Votes to override vetoes require a two-thirds majority. The Senate overrode the veto 62-2 earlier in the day.

Sponsored by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) and Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing), the bill would have expanded particular department authority over regulation of phone, cable, fiber optic, and other telecommunications wires. Currently, such

authority exists only over electric wires and natural gas lines.

During House debate Workman described rail lines as "the Great Wall of China" that prevent the expansion of telecommunication lines in rural areas. Answering concerns that the bill could interfere with important transportation projects, he said it was not intended to affect light-rail transit.

Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) expressed the concern of several legislators that, although the bill did not explicitly mention light rail, "perhaps there are some problems" or unintended consequences. Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) said, "Thanks, governor, for the veto."

In his veto message to legislative leaders, Ventura wrote that the bill would create "a property right for the telecommunications or cable company in the state's rail bank right of way and may require the state to pay for future relocation of those utility or phone lines. This cost is not provided for."

He concluded that his veto would "protect the rail bank right of way for future uses and from unanticipated costs."

HF1817/SF1821\*/CH122

## Minnesota State Agencies

(Area code 651)

Administration .....	296-6013
Agriculture .....	297-2200
Children, Families and Learning .....	582-8200
Commerce .....	296-4026
Corrections .....	642-0200
Economic Security .....	296-3644
Employee Relations .....	297-1184
Job Information .....	296-2616
Finance .....	296-5900
Health .....	215-5803
Human Rights .....	296-5663
Toll Free .....	1-800-657-3704
Human Services .....	296-6117
Labor and Industry .....	296-6107
Military Affairs .....	282-4662
Natural Resources .....	296-6157
Pollution Control Agency .....	296-6300
Public Safety .....	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services ...	296-6911
Fire Marshal .....	215-0500
Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division .....	296-6979
State Patrol .....	297-3935
Public Service .....	296-5120
Revenue	
Taxpayer Assistance .....	296-3781
Toll Free .....	1-800-652-9094
Trade and Economic Development .....	297-1291
Office of Tourism .....	296-5029
Transportation .....	296-3000
Veterans Affairs .....	296-2562
State Information .....	296-6013

# Working overtime

Previous special sessions have dealt with issues ranging from legal matters to military benefits to stadiums

BY JONAS M. WALKER

**T**he failure of the Legislature to pass any major spending measure other than the family and early childhood education bill before the constitutionally mandated conclusion of regular session May 21 necessitates the governor's calling the 40th special session in state history.

Previous special sessions have been called for a variety of state business, including balancing the state's finances, suffrage, and special legislation arising from legal problems for an individual company.

Although the governor has called special sessions to augment fewer than one-half the 82 sessions held since the state's founding in 1858, several sessions were sufficiently contentious to warrant multiple special sessions.

The first regular session prompting multiple special sessions was in 1936, when Gov. Floyd B. Olson called lawmakers back to St. Paul twice to legislate state laws regarding President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Social Security Act, passed two years earlier.

Not until 1982 was there a need for a third special session in one year when Gov. Al Quie called the Legislature to order for three days in December.

Lawmakers then considered issues such as the state workers' compensation plans and providing emergency short-term employment for unemployed Iron Rangers. The previous two sessions had considered similar issues.

Special sessions seem to have been more abundant during particularly contentious historical periods.

For example, Gov. Alexander Ramsey called the state's first special session in 1862 to respond to American Indians' armed resistance to white settlement. The Legislature considered measures relating to voting provisions for military personnel, providing for organization



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

House members had to share a desk in the Senate Chamber during a special session on Sept. 29, 1989 when the House Chamber was going through its restoration.

and equipment of the state militia, and regulating the sale of alcoholic beverages to American Indians.

Soldier's suffrage and benefits seems to have been an especially difficult issue for legislators to settle during normal sessions. According to the Legislative Reference Library, no fewer than five special sessions addressed military issues, three of those specifically took up bills dealing with soldier's voting rights.

The sessions came at intervals corresponding to major American wars. The Civil War yielded suffrage concerns during the 1862

special session, called by Ramsey. The first World War spurred two special sessions; one in 1916 to address voting issues and another in 1919 relating to soldiers' benefits. Gov. J. A. Burnquist initiated both.

Gov. Edward Thye called World War II's special session just three months before D-Day, June 6, 1944. It was the last special session to explicitly take up issues surrounding the suffrage of military personnel. The last war-related special session was called by Gov. Orville Freeman, who assembled legislators to pass a bill for Korean veteran's bonuses in 1958.

Military personnel were not the only Minnesotans to benefit from special suffrage-oriented sessions. Burnquist's 1919 special session included the state's ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution guaranteeing women the right to vote. It took effect one year later.

Funding proves to have been a common motivation for governors to call special sessions. Gov. Arne Carlson called the second most recent special session to take up the issue of a new Twins stadium. Although the session lasted for three weeks in October and November 1997, the issue remains a lively one among legislators.

Carlson also called the most recent special session in 1998 to "clarify" a 1991 law that proved unfavorable to the position of Warroad-based Marvin Windows in a long-standing civil case against Pennsylvania Plate Glass. The two-day session in April yielded a clarification endorsed by the governor and attorney general, but was declared unconstitutional for being retroactive.

The shortest special sessions have lasted only a day. Governors have called one-day sessions 14 times. The longest single session ever was 159 days to deal with taxes, revenue, and reapportionment. Called by Gov. Wendell Anderson for May 25, 1971, the special session finally concluded Oct. 30, 1971. However, there was a recess from July 31 through Oct. 12.

Legislators have spent a total of 730 days in special session, including 29 during the eighth Territorial Legislative Assembly in April and

Continued on page 35



Continued from page 4

- The biggest differences lie in education funding and tax reform and relief. The House tax proposal (HF2498) would cut taxes in the state by more than twice as much as the Senate bill. The House bill includes more than \$1.56 billion to \$609 million in the Senate tax bill.
- The Senate's higher education proposal (SF2343) spends \$2.9 billion while the House (HF2489) has proposed \$2.83 billion.
- For K-12, the House omnibus bill (HF82) would cost \$8.72 billion while the Senate (SF2359) would provide \$8.82 billion.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), in his fourth term, said this will be his second special session with the work of the Legislature being "the least complete it has ever been."

Saying that the job is "half done," McElroy said he is "absolutely optimistic" about finding a solution to the impasse because "failure is not an option."

Leaders in both bodies are focusing on a compromise over tax relief before they set targets for the other spending bills.

The taxes conference committee, which met as a working group May 22, had the Senate moving closer to the House target. The Senate Taxes Committee Chair Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls) presented a new plan that would incorporate the K-12 general education levy takeover by the state proposed by both the House and the governor. The Senate has also proposed moving closer to the House position of property classification rate reform.

"There is substantial agreement in the reform aspects of the property tax reform," Pogemiller said. "We're not very far apart, it is a question of degree."

Pogemiller said the Senate remains strongly opposed to the proposal to cut commercial/industrial property tax rates to the extent the House does and the potential long-term shift from businesses on to homeowners. He said the Senate also does not believe in the theory that by cutting the tax rates on apartment property more affordable housing will be available.

But Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the House Taxes Committee chair, disagreed with Pogemiller's assessment. "I don't think we're really that close. We agree on the general education takeover and that's about it."

Abrams said the House would strongly hold to its proposed repeal of the health care provider tax and to move transit funding off the property tax. And he said there remains a large philosophical difference between the two proposals.

"We will not pass a property tax relief bill if property tax reform is not a part," he said. "(The Senate is) looking at relief and we're looking at reform."

## Differences between the House and Senate

(Senate spending exceeds House in all omnibus bills except Taxes)

### Higher Education

\$68 million

### K-12 Education

\$101.2 million

### Family and Early Childhood Education\*

no difference

### Environment and Agriculture

\$28.8 million

### Health and Human Services

\$534.2 million

### Economic Development

\$48.8 million

### State Government

\$3.7 million

### Transportation, Public Safety, and Courts

\$115 million

### Taxes (reflecting tax relief)

\$909.3 million

### Debt service

\$20.8 million

(The Senate passed a bonding bill and the House did not.)

Source: House Fiscal Analysis

\*Both the House and Senate passed this bill with about \$544 million in general fund spending before adjourning May 21. It is the only one that has been resolved by both bodies.

Even with a historic tripartisan system this session isn't entirely unique as history shows the last time the state had such a substantial effort to reform its property tax system was 1971, the year of the "Minnesota Miracle." That session saw the state taking over more of the K-12 education funding while lowering property taxes. Gov. Wendell Anderson called a special session that year that ended up lasting five months.

Matt Smith, the commissioner of the

Department of Revenue, said this time around at least all sides agree property tax reform is an issue the state needs to address. And he said the difference between this year's debate and those in the past is the discussion centers on how to distribute the overall relief and not on whether to "raise someone's taxes in order to lower someone else's."

How soon the sides can reach an agreement will dictate when Ventura will call a special session. The governor has said he will not call lawmakers back until an agreement is reached and he has had time to review the agreed upon omnibus bills.

After being re-elected as Speaker of the House in January, Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) spoke to members about "seizing the opportunity" and working together for the good of the state. His message that day may determine how the work of this year's Legislature is ultimately judged.

"The experience of the last two years ought to have made us more aware, ought to have made us more confident, also have made us more committed, to do the balanced work for the citizens of Minnesota," Sviggum said. "While we here are Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, in the form of the governor's office, I recognize that there are obvious differences. But we are more alike than we are unlike." 🐼

Writer Jonas M. Walker contributed to this report.

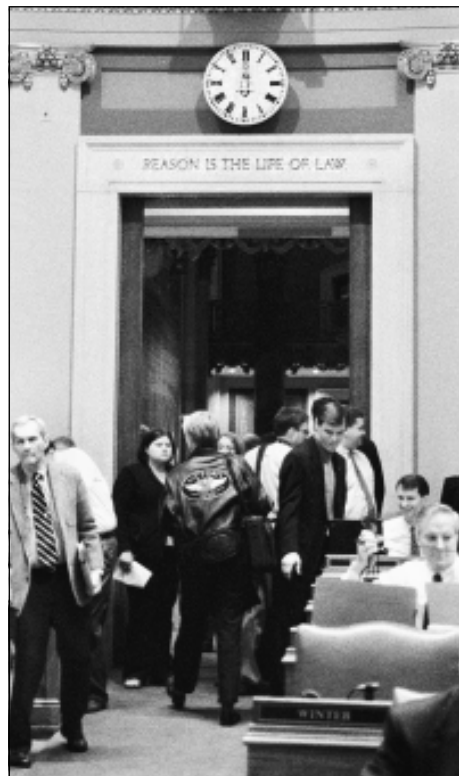


PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Members and staff file out of the House chamber at midnight after session concluded May 21, the last day of the regular 2001 session.

To find out who represents you  
at the Capitol . . .

Call the House Public Information  
Office at (651) 296-2146  
or 1-800-657-3550

# How a Bill Becomes a Law in Minnesota

## Idea

**1** A bill is an idea for a new law or an idea to change an old law. Anyone can suggest an idea for a bill — an individual, consumer group, professional association, government agency, or the governor. Most often, however, ideas come from legislators, the only ones who can begin to move an idea through the process. There are 134 House members and 67 senators.

## Introduction

**4** The chief House author of the bill introduces it in the House; the chief Senate author introduces it in the Senate. Identical bills introduced in each body are called *companion* bills. The bill introduction is called the *first reading*. The presiding officer of the House then refers it to an appropriate House committee for discussion; the same thing happens in the Senate.

## General Register

**7** In the House, the General Register serves as a parking lot where bills await action by the full body. Bills chosen to appear on the Calendar for the Day or the Fiscal Calendar are drawn from the General Register.

In the Senate, a different procedure is used. Bills are listed on the General Orders agenda. Senate members, acting as the “committee of the whole,” have a chance to debate the issue and offer amendments on the bill. Afterwards, they vote to recommend: passage of the bill, progress (delay action), or further committee action. And sometimes they recommend that a bill not pass. From here, the bill is placed on the Calendar.

## Conference

**9** If the House and Senate versions of the bill are different, they go to a conference committee. In the House, the speaker appoints three or five representatives, and in the Senate, the Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee on Rules and Administration selects the same number of senators to form the committee. The committee meets to work out differences in the two bills and to reach a compromise.

## Legal form

**2** The Office of the Revisor of Statutes and staff from other legislative offices work with legislators in putting the idea for a new law into proper legal form. The revisor’s office is responsible for assuring that the proposal’s form complies with the rules of both bodies before the bill can be introduced into the Minnesota House of Representatives and the Minnesota Senate.

## Committee

**5** The bill is discussed in one or more committees depending upon the subject matter. After discussion, committee members recommend action — approval or disapproval — to the full House and full Senate. The House committee then sends a report to the House about its action on the bill; the Senate committee does likewise in the Senate.

## Calendar for the Day

**8** In the House, the Calendar for the Day is a list of bills the House Rules and Legislative Administration has designated for the full House to vote on. Members can vote to amend the bill, and after amendments are dispensed with, the bill is given its *third reading* before the vote of the full body is taken. The House also has a Fiscal Calendar, on which the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee or House Taxes Committee can call up for consideration any tax or finance bill that has had a second reading. The bills are debated, amended, and passed in one day.

In the Senate, bills approved by the “committee of the whole” are placed on the Calendar. At this point, the bill has its *third reading*,

## Authors

**3** Each bill must have a legislator to sponsor and introduce it in the Legislature. That legislator is the chief author whose name appears on the bill along with the bill’s file number to identify it as it moves through the legislative process. There may be up to 34 co-authors from the House and four from the Senate. Their names also appear on the bill.

## Floor

**6** After the full House or Senate accepts the committee report, the bill has its *second reading* and is placed on the House agenda called the General Register or the Senate agenda called General Orders. (A committee can recommend that non-controversial bills bypass the General Register or General Orders and go onto the Consent Calendar, where bills usually pass without debate.) After this point, House and Senate procedures differ slightly.

after which time the bill cannot be amended unless the entire body agrees to it. Toward the end of the session, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration designates bills from the General Orders calendar to receive priority consideration. These Special Orders bills are debated, amended, and passed in one day.

A bill needs 68 votes to pass the House and 34 votes to pass the Senate. If the House and Senate each pass the same version of the bill, it goes to the governor for a signature.

## Governor

**11** Once the governor has the bill, he or she may: sign it, and the bill becomes law; veto it within three days; or allow it to become law by not signing it. During session, the House and Senate can override a governor’s veto. This requires a two-thirds vote in the House (90 votes) and Senate (45 votes). The governor also may “line-item veto” parts of a money bill, or “pocket veto” a bill passed during the last three days of the session by not signing it within 14 days after final adjournment. ▼

# Tracking new laws, vetoes

Exactly 4,972 bills were introduced during the 2001 Legislative Session — 2,565 by the House and 2,407 by the Senate. Of those, 218 bills (and five resolutions) were passed by both bodies during the session and will be sent to the governor.

So what happened to the other 4,754 bills? Some were duplicates, some were folded into other bills, but most are in limbo, awaiting legislative action when the next regular session begins on Jan. 29, 2002. The biennium has ended, and bills do not carry over from one biennium to the next.

And what happened to the 218 bills (and five resolutions) that have been sent to the governor? Most were signed into law, some are awaiting the governor's action, and some were vetoed.

Here's a quick review of the governor's veto authority during the first year of the biennium.

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
  - veto the bill;
  - line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
  - do nothing, which in the first year of the biennium results in the bill becoming law.
- The timing of these actions is as important

as the actions themselves.

But the important thing to remember in the first year of the biennium is this: the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill.

If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day limit, but holidays are.)

(For bills passed in the Special Session, however, the governor has 14 days from "presentment" to veto them — the same rules that apply in the second year of the biennium. If the governor takes no action on a bill during this time, the bill is vetoed in what is commonly referred to as a "pocket veto.")

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the spending items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. So the Legislature, either next year or when it is called into special session before then, could vote to override the governor's veto.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Art. IV, Sec. 23).

So what happens to the bills that weren't approved by the Legislature this year?

Bills that were awaiting floor action on the General Register now return to the last committee they were acted upon, where they will stay unless action upon by the 2002 Legislature. This rule also applies to any bill up for consideration on the Consent Calendar, Calendar for the Day or Fiscal Calendar.

For appointed conference committees that have not submitted a report upon adjournment, the bill returns to the body it originally came from and is laid on the table. The conference committee is then disbanded.

Bills that are passed by one body and not the other remain alive for the second year of the biennium. The house that approved the bill in the first year need not repass the bill in the second.

Bills pending before the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee from either body return to the standing committee to which the bill was previously referred.

Bills vetoed by the governor are returned to the body where the bill originated and laid on the table.

Bills remaining in standing committees can be taken up in the second year of the biennium in the committee to which they were last referred.

After each session, a comprehensive summary of all bills that were signed into law or vetoed is published. You can obtain a copy of New Laws 2001 by calling or writing the House Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155-1298; (651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550.

Editor's note: The following chart includes the 218 bills (and five resolutions) that passed both the House and the Senate and have been sent on to the governor for consideration. Final action is as yet incomplete on 39 of the bills and one resolution. The bills are, for the most part, sorted according to the committee of origin. However, only one omnibus appropriation bill was passed by both bodies before adjournment May 21. As a result, the governor must call a special session for the Legislature to finalize those bills, at which time they will be submitted for his approval or veto.

Here are definitions of some of the terms used in the chart.

## Governor's options

- enactment  
The date the governor signed the bill into law.
- line-item veto (liv)  
The power or action of the governor to reject

individual items within an appropriations bill while approving the rest of the bill.

- Veto  
The governor did not approve the bill.
- \*An asterisk marks the version of the bill the House and Senate approved and sent on to the governor.

## Effective dates

Each act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day it becomes effective, unless the act specifies a different time. Examples:

- Aug. 1, 2001  
Each act the governor signs into law, except those that make appropriations, take effect on Aug. 1 following its final enactment, unless the act specifies a different date.
- July 1, 2001  
An appropriations act, or an act spending money, takes effect at the beginning of the first day of July following its final enactment,

unless the act specifies a different date.

- Day after enactment  
The act becomes effective on the day after the governor signs it.
- Upon local approval  
A special law requiring approval from the local government unit it affects becomes effective the day after the local government unit's governing body files a certificate with the secretary of state, unless the act specifies a later date.
- Various  
Different parts of the act have different effective dates.
- with exceptions (we)  
Act includes other effective dates.
- with qualifications (wq)  
Act adds conditions to the effective date.
- retroactive (retro.)  
Act goes into effect as of a specified date in the past.

2001 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE FINAL ACTION (as of May 24, 2001)					CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title					
HF—House File SF—Senate File R—Resolution CH—Chapter we—with exceptions wq—with qualifications *—bill the governor signed or vetoed †—approved without governor's signature liv—line item veto									
				<b>AGRICULTURE POLICY</b>					
106*	Ness	47	Dille	Minnesota agricultural education leadership council permanent members authorized.	6	3/8			3/9
149*	Pawlenty	505	Higgins	Regulates sale and labeling of Halal food, meat or poultry products.	54	4/30			8/1
285*	Ness	339	Murphy	Agricultural liens regulation provisions modification and consolidation.	57	4/30			7/1
406	Jennings	511*	Sams	Minnesota State Fair foundation established by the State Agricultural Society.	85	5/10			8/1
1145	Boudreau	333*	Kelley, S.P.	Veterinary medicine cease and desist orders authorized.	108	5/17			8/1
1734	Kuisle	1659*	Murphy	Animal feedlot permit conditions and additional level inventory.	128	5/18			5/19
2514*	Finseth	2368	Murphy	Animal Health Board dangerous domestic animal diseases emergency authority expansion.	192			x	
				<b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT</b>					
1159*	Pawlenty	857	Samuelson	Local bridge replacement and Gillette Children's Hospital addition funding modifications.	55	4/30			5/1
				<b>CIVIL LAW</b>					
243	Dawkins	346*	Betzold	Trusts; uniform principal and income act modified, and antilapse law clarified.	15	4/6			8/1
245	Juhnke	225*	Johnson, Dean	Allows licensed peace officers to determine necessity of patient restraints.	26	4/13			8/1
453	Skoe	319*	Moe	Discharge of judgments against bankruptcy debtors regulated.	34	4/24			8/1
239*	Lipman	170	Neuville	Real estate provisions modifications.	50	4/26			4/27 (Sec. 1); 8/1
1260*	Dawkins	1332	Kiscaden	Child support and custody provisions terminology neutralization.	51	4/26			8/1
1889*	Lipman	1831	Ranum	Uniform Partnership Act of 1994 transition issues regulated.	64	4/30			8/1
2396	Skoglund	1999*	Vickerman	Judicial system obsolete references updated and repealed.	78	5/10			8/1
2207	Mulder	2022*	Lesewski	Family support payment dates clarified.	134	5/21			8/1
1516	Hilstrom	1583*	Foley	Child neglect definition modified.	136	5/21			5/22
1697	Smith	1944*	Knutson	Crime of nonsupport of spouse or child clarification and modification.	158	5/22			8/1
1655	Entenza	1614*	Hottinger	Civil actions against the state authorized under certain federal acts.	159	5/22			8/1
440	Knobloch	321*	Kleis	Guardians or conservators criminal background studies requirements.	163	5/24			8/1
1276	Mullery	1968*	Samuelson	Crane operators certification study.	177			x	
1892*	Clark, K.	1545	Chaudhary	Creditor discriminatory practices to include discrimination based on public assistance.	186			x	
1051*	Smith	936	Neuville	Medical malpractice expert review certifications regulated.	189			x	
767	Holberg	1215*	Cohen	Business discrimination provisions modified.	194	5/24			8/1
1898	Holberg	1068*	Betzold	Government data access and maintenance provided.	202			x	
				<b>COMMERCE, JOBS &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY</b>					
219	Sertich	258*	Tomassoni	Resolution requesting a ban on the importation of certain steel products.	R1	3/15			
2430	Jaros	2328*	Kelly, R.C.	Resolution to amend the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.	R5			x	
320*	Davids	399	Solon	Property casualty insurance agents surplus lines insurance procurement authority.	12	3/29			3/30
1951	Goodno	1204*	Hottinger	Regulates the use of HIV and bloodborne pathogen tests.	28	4/13			4/14
47*	Rukavina	39	Johnson, Doug	Unemployment benefits to certain LTV employees extended.	30	4/11			4/12 retro. to Aug. 1, 2000
949*	Rifenberg	771	Kierlin	Allows for a smaller newspaper to serve as the qualified newspaper for smaller communities.	38	4/24			8/1
323*	Haas	914	Hottinger	Motor vehicle fuel franchisees transfer rights provision expiration date removal.	48	4/26			4/27
1467	Holberg	1419*	Scheid	Payment bonds claims notices requirements modification.	52	4/26			8/1
1637*	Buesgens	1790	Robling	Repeals provisions requiring hawkers and peddlers to obtain a license.	53	4/30			8/1
1084*	McElroy	1066	Metzen	Omnibus financial institutions and banking bill.	56	4/30			5/1 (Secs. 1-7, 11, 12); 8/1
779*	McElroy	823	Betzold	Motor vehicle dealer franchise transfer practices modification.	62	4/30			8/1
1219*	Gunther	1617	Rest	State fund mutual insurance company state involvement reduced.	63	4/30			5/1
933*	Gunther	983	Sams	Farm implements and outdoor power equipment buyback requirements.	72	5/4			8/1
489*	Haas	311	Scheid	Provides for the procurement of surety bonds.	76	5/7			8/1
1872	Marquart	1611*	Wiger	Vocational rehabilitation facilities grant procedures technical changes provided.	77	5/10			5/11 (Secs. 3,4); 8/1
2070	Gunther	1932*	Lesewski	Economic security statutory provisions modified and repealed.	79	5/10			5/11
390	Winter	110*	Vickerman	PrairieLand exposition center nonprofit management corporation authorized.	81	5/10			8/1
1409	Jacobson	1090*	Reiter	Minor employee age certification requirement satisfied by form I-9.	82	5/10			8/1
1920	Rhodes	1835*	Kelley, S. P.	Employees authorized to receive employment termination information within 15 days.	95	5/14			8/1
1392	Gunther	1258*	Frederickson	Minnesota Investment fund loan or grant authority expansion.	102	5/15			8/1
661	Stang	859*	Hottinger	Accountancy Act of 2001 established, rulemaking authorized, and penalties imposed.	109	5/17			1/1/03
926*	Goodno	1001	Sams	Minnesota uniform health care identification card standards modifications.	110	5/17			1/1/03
1955	Davids	1826*	Oliver	Insurance producers licensing and regulation.	117	5/17			7/1/02
2225	Nornes	2046*	Lesewski	Workers' compensation provisions modifications.	123	5/18			8/1; 5/19/02 (Sec. 23)
694	Davids	1264*	Scheid	No-fault auto insurance sale of income loss benefits coverage to senior citizens regulated.	124	5/18			8/1
1007	Davids	970*	Murphy	Gas sales below cost prohibited and enforcement authority provided.	129	5/21			8/1
1615	Entenza	1610*	Rest	Insurance regulation provided for liquidations and investments.	131	5/21			8/1
2253	Davids	2033*	Reiter	Insurance agents minimum continuing education requirements modification.	141	5/21			8/1

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2130	Larson	1964*	Oliver	Life and health insurance guaranty association regulation provisions modifications.	142	5/21			8/1
604	Sertich	564*	Ring	Employee assistance records access and maintenance requirements.	145	5/21			8/1
1311	McElroy	1485*	Kelley, S.P.	Minnesota Money Transmitters Act established.	148	5/21			8/1
1821	Kuisle	1666*	Murphy	Motor vehicle dealers allowed temporary licensing exemption for certain sales.	151	5/21			8/1
1940	Sertich	1472*	Metzen	Capital access economic development program provisions modified.	153	5/21			5/22
1886	Kahn	1721*	Anderson	Genetic testing prohibited as condition for employment.	154	5/21			8/1
514	Carlson	1124*	Chaudhary	Continued insurance coverage provided for spouses of specified education retirees.	166	5/24			5/25
655*	Wolf	1277	Frederickson	Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Program Law.	175			x	
1941*	Gunther	1899	Johnson, David	Job Skills Partnership program provisions clarification.	181			x	
1182*	Clark, J.	831	Frederickson	Invention developer contract requirements modified.	190			x	
1994	Stang	1752*	Solon	Local liquor license provisions.	193			x	
1733	Entenza	1561*	Hottinger	Uniform Commercial Code revised Article 9 corrective and conforming amendments.	195			x	
560	Goodno	491*	Berglin	Patient protections and cost-sharing provided.	196			x	
1893	Sertich	1344*	Higgins	Employers prohibited from requiring applicants to pay for background checks or training.	199			x	
2116	McElroy	1965*	Anderson	Obsolete trade and economic development department programs and duties repealed.	200			x	
1270	Entenza	1541*	Oliver	Currency exchanges, real estate brokers, real property appraisers regulation provided.	208			x	
1338	Haas	1054*	Scheid	Insurance provisions modifications.	215			x	
1541*	Mullery	882	Sabo	Rental application fees studied.	216			x	
				<b>CRIME PREVENTION</b>					
556*	Stanek	756	Kelly, R.C.	Federal law enforcement officers authorized to exercise some arrest powers in MN.	16	4/9			8/1
64	McElroy	971*	Kelly, R.C.	Repeals law prohibiting itinerant carnivals.	20	4/11			8/1
466	McElroy	972*	Kelly, R.C.	Repeals law prohibiting endurance contests.	22	4/11			8/1
865*	Fuller	1266	Kinkel	Community service authorized in lieu of criminal fines under specified circumstances.	71	5/4			8/1
953*	Fuller	1265	Kinkel	Child abuse definition expansion.	73	5/4			8/1
782	McGuire	773*	Chaudhary	DWI; electronic alcohol monitoring recidivism and conditional release violation rates study.	80	5/10			8/1
783*	Stanek	1244	Ranum	Deadly force definition modified to exclude use of less lethal munitions used by peace officers.	127	5/18			5/19
570	Hilstrom	1043*	Chaudhary	POST Board license denial, suspension or revocation authority expansion.	135	5/21			8/1
704*	Fuller	719	Lourey	Criminal offenders rehabilitation law exception for emergency medical services personnel.	144	5/21			8/1
1925	Walker	1369*	Berglin	Battered women shelter facilities per diem payment program implementation.	152	5/21			8/1
992	Skoglund	1552*	Chaudhary	Negligent fire resulting in injury or property damage definition modified.	155	5/21			8/1
273	Skoglund	172*	Ranum	Juvenile petty offense definition exclusions and dispositions modification.	157	5/22			8/1
883	Johnson, S.	846*	Cohen	Criminal justice data communications network use authority expansion.	167	5/24			8/1
1997	Hilstrom	1324*	Marty	Private detectives and protective agents firearms use training requirements modified.	168	5/24			8/1
707*	Skoglund	863	Kelly, R.C.	Carisprodol controlled substance classification effective date modification.	173			x	
848	Skoglund	969*	Chaudhary	Corporations electronic search warrants.	197			x	
205	Nornes	103*	Larson	Gas theft from motor fuel retail business civil remedies provided.	204			x	
372	McGuire	229*	Ranum	Crime victim notification of expungement proceedings required.	209			x	
1261*	Bishop	1937	Chaudhary	Corrections provisions modification and clarification.	210			x	
				<b>EDUCATION POLICY</b>					
34	Seifert	28*	Hottinger	Teacher licensing under current licensure rules.	1	1/16			1/17
1046	Clark, J.	991*	Kelly, R.C.	Notifies schools of student possession of drug paraphernalia.	18	4/11			8/1
1192*	Abeler	1979	Foley	Teachers temporary limited licenses application timelines modified.	68	5/2			5/3
1394	Tingelstad	1706*	Wiger	Asthma inhaler possession and use authorized for public school students.	84	5/10			8/1
2107*	Johnson, J.	1329	Neuville	Student conduct considered grounds for dismissal or removal from class specified.	183			x	
				<b>ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY</b>					
80*	Hackbarth	79	Johnson, Debbie	Coon Lake water level control.	8	3/16			3/17
790	Dauids	702*	Scheevel	Modifies requirements for the Bluffland Trail System.	27	4/13			8/1
501	Ozment	283*	Kinkel	Conservation officer enforcement comparison prevented from use in job evaluation.	32	4/24			4/25
274*	Dorman	70	Marty	Mercury thermometer sales restricted.	47	4/26			1/1/02
1188*	Gunther	1045	Vickerman	Fire training exercise ash disposal regulated.	67	5/2			5/3
1481	Cassell	1164*	Frederickson	Landowner definition modified for participation in Reinvest in Minnesota program.	99	5/15			8/1
1827	Swenson	1613*	Knutson	Pollution Control Agency authority to expedite permits clarified.	116	5/17			8/1
1828*	Ozment	1486	Stevens	Wetlands classification and replacement provisions modifications.	146	5/21			8/1
1612	Kelliher	1434*	Price	Water permit provisions modifications.	160	5/24			8/1
873*	Howes	1126	Kinkel	Tax-forfeited land conveyances, sales, exchanges, and easements.	164	5/24			5/25; local compliance (sec. 15)
870	Erickson	795*	Stevens	Snowmobile trail access grant-in-aid continuation required.	165	5/24			5/25
1071	Bakk	1082*	Frederickson	State park land additions, deletions, and administration.	182	5/24			8/1



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1487*	Haas	1346	Lessard	Recreation and game and fish provisions modifications.	185	5/24			8/1
2028*	Nornes	1785	Higgins	Environmental audit pilot program modified; PCA separate annual pollution report.	187			x	
1497*	Nornes	1580	Moe	Lake County state land sales authorized.	206			x	
				<b>FAMILY &amp; EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE</b>					
1515*	Sykora	1851	Lourey	Omnibus family and early childhood education appropriations bill.	217			x	
				<b>GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &amp; VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY</b>					
1391*	Solberg	1318	Lessard	Resolution for postage stamp of Eric Enstrom's "Grace" photograph.	R3	4/26			
656*	Lipman	231	Betzold	Revisor's Bill.	7	3/15			3/16 (Sec. 52); 8/1
252	Seifert	570*	Reiter	Repeals obsolete rules.	23	4/11			8/1
1455	Osskopp	1435*	Price	Designer selection board provisions modified.	33	4/24			8/1
387	Walker	142*	Higgins	Increases the membership of the State Council on Black Minnesotans.	39	4/24			8/1
2119*	Erickson	1915	Rest	Charitable organization report filing requirements modified.	45	4/24			4/25
995*	Buesgens	1214	Tomassoni	Horse racing license application and medication provisions modifications.	59	4/30			5/1
525*	McElroy	1604	Wiener	Multimember agency members compensation conditions modifications.	61	4/30			7/1
1681*	Dehler	1622	Sabo	State employment technical and housekeeping changes; civil service pilot project extension.	70	5/2			5/3 (Sec. 4); 8/1
1247*	Eastlund	1506	Larson	Veterans Home Board administration of planned giving donations provided.	75	5/4			8/1
1410	Gunther	849*	Vickerman	Rural policy and development center staff authorized to participate in stat plans.	86	5/10			5/11
1687	Clark, K.	1206*	Kinkel	Indian Affairs Council membership expanded to include a member from Bemidji.	88	5/10			8/1
1021	Buesgens	1008*	Betzold	Casino licensee authorized to detain persons suspected of cheating.	92	5/14			8/1
1657	Haas	1404*	Hottinger	Group long-term care insurance purchase authorized for retired state employees.	94	5/14			5/15
1069	Osskopp	986*	Vickerman	Lawful gambling regulation provisions modifications.	96	5/14			5/15 (Secs. 5-13); 8/1
724	Rhodes	1064*	Rest	State professional service contract procedures specified.	100	5/15			7/1
1764	Gleason	2049*	Sabo	Coldwater Springs Camp area historical preservation ensured.	101	5/15			5/16
481	Greiling	520*	Wiger	Combat Wounded Veterans Day designated as Aug. 7.	104	5/15			8/1
1537	Lipman	780*	Betzold	State agency rulemaking housekeeping and technical changes bill.	106	5/17			8/1
1248*	Eastlund	1774	Samuelson	Veterans homes resident deposit accounts modified.	111	5/17			8/1
1778	Walz	1269*	Samuelson	Bataan Death March commemorative plaque placement in the State Capitol provided.	115	5/17			8/1
1023	Biernat	1222*	Wiger	Merchant Marine and Women Airforce Service Pilots plaques authorized on Capitol grounds.	125	5/18			5/19
2074	Clark, J.	2031*	Knutson	Public works contracts regulated.	126		5/18		
1174	Howes	694*	Murphy	Propane Education and Research Council established.	130	5/21			8/1
486*	Seifert	682	Lesewski	Newspaper paid political advertisement disclaimers required to be legible.	143	5/21			8/1
1869	Anderson, B.	1263*	Robertson	Expiration dates of various advisory councils, committees, and other entities changed.	161	5/24			Various
1938	Kahn	1680*	Robertson	Administration department provisions modified.	162	5/24			Various
667	Seifert	555*	Betzold	State agencies rulemaking procedures modifications.	179			x	
1310*	Abrams	1205	Johnson, Doug	State building official authorized to interpret the state building code.	207			x	
1569*	Osskopp	1628	Rest	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities customized trainer positions reclassified.	218			x	
				<b>HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES POLICY</b>					
213	Mulder	201*	Sams	Physicians assistants infection control continuing education requirements repeal.	3	2/15			2/16
181	Wenzel	43*	Samuelson	Adult foster care license capacity age requirement and maximum admissions variances.	4	2/28			3/1
357	Mullery	289*	Sams	Alcohol and drug counselors licensing requirements modified.	10	3/16			3/17
994	Dorn	883*	Hottinger	Establishes hospital waiver or variance request procedure.	29	4/13			8/1
116	Mulder	274*	Higgins	Respiratory care practitioner advisory council sunset delayed.	31	4/24			8/1
424	Greiling	456*	Berglin	Mental retardation waiver recipients authorized access to respite care in certain facilities.	35	4/24			8/1
275*	Abeler	210	Foley	Nursing facilities closure medical assistance cost savings projection prohibition.	36	4/24			4/25
125*	Nornes	104	Larson	Dentist licensure requirements modified for applicants trained in a foreign country.	37	4/24			8/1
1747	Solberg	1780*	Lessard	Itasca County chemical dependency demonstration project rule exemption extended.	41	4/24			8/1
1634	Mahoney	1460*	Marty	Duty to warn law applied to social workers allowed to form professional firms.	42	4/24			8/1
253	Seifert	249*	Ring	Public health obsolete rules repeal.	46	4/26			8/1
1160*	Davids	1127	Sams	Physician assistants prescribing medication review provisions modified.	49	4/26			8/1
967*	Mulder	876	Lesewski	Permits schools to sponsor potluck events.	65	5/2			8/1
1151*	Mulder	1187	Kelley, S. P.	Modifies penalty provisions for psychologists.	66	5/2			8/1
1522*	Bradley	1421	Stevens	Full-time nursing home administrator requirements modified.	69	5/2			8/1
1748*	Harder	2097	Vickerman	Rural ambulance services staff requirements temporary variances.	74	5/4			8/1
1067	Boudreau	923*	Pariseau	Social work licensure examination requirement exceptions provided.	90	5/10			8/1
935	Goodno	824*	Kelly, R.C.	Good Samaritan law emergency care liability immunity clarification.	107	5/17			5/18
1832	Goodno	2361*	Berglin	Omnibus health, human services and corrections appropriations.	118		5/15		
1081	Jacobson	560*	Sams	Health care review organizations provisions modifications.	120	5/17			8/1

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HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
976	Abeler	359*	Kiscaden	Chiropractors licensing and regulation provisions modification and clarification.	121	5/18			8/1
322	Rhodes	414*	Hottinger	Minnesota Utilization Review Act provisions modified.	137	5/21			8/1
1819	Nornes	1430*	Higgins	Alcohol and drug counselor licensure reporting requirement repealed.	138	5/21			8/1
1155*	Abeler	1081	Sams	Health plan companies network shadow contracting regulation provisions modifications.	170	5/24			Various
1407*	Mulder	1415	Sams	Public health collaboration plans provisions modified.	171	5/24			8/1
1397	Tingelstad	1394*	Kiscaden	Child placement provisions modified and definitions provided.	178			x	
1928	Walker	1407*	Ring	Health care access programs provisions modified.	203			x	
1304	Nornes	1464*	Lourey	Lead poisoning prevention provisions modified.	205			x	
1406*	Mulder	1398	Kiscaden	Maternal death review and study provided.	211			x	
				<b>HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE</b>					
550*	Eastlund	954	Hottinger	Higher education services Edvest office rulemaking authority extended.	58		4/30		
977	Leppik	1033*	Wiener	MnSCU technical and community college employee unions merged.	133	5/21			5/22
				<b>JOBS &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE</b>					
421*	McElroy	460	Cohen	Energy assistance program federal fund expenditure authorized.	2	2/2			2/3
1105	Rukavina	960*	Tomassoni	IRRRB Commissioner authorized to acquire discontinued mining property.	149	5/21			5/22
				<b>K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE</b>					
670	Carlson	647*	Rest	Resolution to fund 40 percent of special education costs.	R2	4/6			
				<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT &amp; METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS</b>					
817	Howes	376*	Vickerman	City contract limit increases.	5	3/2			3/3
393*	Mahoney	155	Kelly, R.C.	Ramsey County and St. Paul city employees vacant county jobs equal competition.	9	3/16			3/17
487	Vandever	433*	Ring	Townships health, social, and recreational services contracts amounts increases.	11	3/21			8/1
1016	Holberg	509*	Robling	City and county obligations payment by electronic transfer or credit card authorized.	13	4/6			4/7 (Sec.3); 8/1
172	Mares	9*	Wiger	Authorizes cities housing assistance for volunteer firefighters or ambulance personnel.	19	4/11			4/12
394	Seifert	327*	Lesewski	Repealing statutes concerning castrating animals running at large in a town.	21	4/11			8/1
828	Mullery	741*	Orfield	Hennepin County employees granted disaster volunteer leave.	40	4/24			Upon local compliance
867*	Seagren	646	Rest	Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District provisions modification and clarification.	44	4/24			4/25
1465	Stanek	1432*	Wiger	Police civil service periodic examinations permitted and clarifying changes provided.	87	5/10			8/1
2110	Howes	1441*	Hottinger	Limited exemption to local government gift policy provided.	93	5/14			5/15
1290	Howes	510*	Pappas	County offices made appointive positions under certain circumstances.	105	5/17			Upon local approval
1526	Erhardt	1528*	Terwilliger	Edina authorized to restrict operation of recreational motor vehicles (ATVs).	114		5/17		
610	Solberg	974*	Lessard	Local public officers conflict of interest law exception provided.	132	5/21			8/1
1589	Howes	1301*	Robertson	Bid and performance bond thresholds modified for economic development projects.	140	5/21			8/1
872	Sertich	494*	Tomassoni	St. Louis County special purchasing laws repealed.	150	5/21			7/1
1153*	Mulder	1529	Lesewski	Local government building project architect requirement exemption provided.	172			x	
1507*	Bishop	1572	Langseth	Municipal planning legal nonconforming land uses treatment clarification.	174	5/24			8/1
1218	Rhodes	1154*	Kelley, S.P.	Metropolitan Radio Board expiration date extension.	176			x	
1340*	Anderson, B.	908	Ourada	Wright County recorder appointment permitted.	180	5/24			5/25
2036*	Dempsey	1685	Murphy	Goodhue County auditor-treasurer appointment.	184	5/24			Upon local compliance
1544	Hilty	1367*	Lourey	County creation and boundary change procedures modification.	198			x	
2510	Johnson, J.	2249*	Betzold	Revisor's bill.	201			x	
				<b>REGULATED INDUSTRIES</b>					
1367*	Wolf	1306	Metzen	Owner-occupied residential housing program to use rental energy revolving loan funds.	147	5/21			5/22
659	Wolf	722*	Metzen	Energy conservation, production and regulatory provisions modifications.	212			x	
				<b>TAXES</b>					
2037	Abrams	2208*	Pogemiller	Public finance and debt provisions modifications.	214			x	
				<b>TRANSPORTATION POLICY</b>					
208*	Workman	551	Dille	Resolution urging authorization of funding for modernization of waterways.	R4	5/17			
368	Stang	63*	Fischbach	Stearns County Highway 55 bridge designated as Old St. Anne's pass.	14	4/6			8/1
416	Rifenberg	400*	Kierlin	Hokah authorized to vacate roads if necessary due to extensive damage.	17	4/9			Upon local compliance
37	McElroy	480*	Johnson, Dean	Repeals obsolete traffic regulations.	24	4/13			8/1
57*	Molnau	27	Robling	Certain crimes against children named disqualifying offenses for school bus drivers' licenses.	25	4/13			6/1
1404	Kuise	1709*	Johnson, Dean	Exempts towed implements of husbandry from tail lamp requirement.	43	4/24			4/25
1383*	Workman	1598	Schwab	Motorcycle handlebar height restrictions repealed.	60	4/30			8/1
1085	Workman	1155*	Langseth	Motor home and other defined recreational equipment width limitations modified.	83	5/10			8/1
254	Seifert	930*	Schwab	Transportation obsolete rules repealed.	89	5/10			5/11
1830	Workman	2006*	Schwab	Motor vehicle accident data public availability.	91	5/10			8/1
2181	Workman	2225*	Pappas	Certain school buses operation by licensed child care providers.	97	5/15			Various

2001 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE FINAL ACTION (as of May 24, 2001)					CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
HF—House File SF—Senate File R—Resolution CH—Chapter									
we—with exceptions wq—with qualifications *—bill the governor signed or vetoed †—approved without governor's signature									
HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH				
1172	Workman	1056*	Sabo	School bus driver's licenses validity verification requirement.	98	5/15			8/1
1549	Wenzel	1772*	Samuelson	C. Elmer Anderson Memorial Highway outdoor advertising restriction.	103	5/15			5/16
1596*	Workman	1599	Chaudhary	Small vehicle passenger service definition expanded to wheelchair-accessible vehicles.	112	5/17			8/1
2161	Stanek	2005*	Foley	State Trooper Theodore "Ted" Foss Memorial Highway designated on I-90 in Winona County.	113	5/17			8/1
887	Leppik	910*	Robertson	Residential roadway definition modification for traffic regulations purposes.	119	5/17			8/1
1817	Workman	1821*	Murphy	Utility facilities regulation modified in railroad rights-of-way.	122		5/18		
2203	Clark, J.	2142*	Kelly, R.C.	County highways or town roads property condemnation judicial review.	139	5/21			5/22
256	Howes	174*	Moe	Gross weight seasonal increase for transporting carrots authorized.	156	5/22			8/1
708*	Workman	1113	Johnson, Dean	Well drilling machines and equipment registration tax exemption clarified.	188	5/24			5/25
1973*	Workman	2106	Terwilliger	State highways in municipalities regulated and conforming changes provided.	191	5/24			5/25 wq
1488	Workman	1769*	Ourada	Transportation and highway provisions modifications.	213			x	
				WAYS & MEANS					
634*	Haas	648	Kelly, R.C.	Payment of claims against the state.	169	5/24			7/1

## What's on the Web

### House Public Information Office free publications

The House Public Information Office offers a number of free publications for students, constituents, and those just generally interested in the legislative process. Many of those publications are available on the Internet as well.

Simply point to the House Public Information Office ([www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/hinfo.htm](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/hinfo.htm)) page on the House Web site. There you can find many publications just as they appear in printed form:

- The award-winning *Session Weekly* publication, which provides weekly updates of committee and floor action in the House of Representatives. New laws signed by the governor are also included in the final issues of the session. The publication is free, designed with the average reader in mind, and includes easy-to-understand explanation of the lawmaking

process and ways to contact legislators. Past years are also available.

- *The Minnesota State Government Series*, an eight-part packet about various facets of state government, including state symbols, constitutional officers, and members of Congress. Each item is available separately and all are excellent for schools groups or informational meetings.
- *Come to the Capitol*, a two-page sheet for people planning a visit to the State Capitol for fun or to testify at a hearing. Maps of the Capitol complex are included.
- *Minnesota State and Federal Offices*, a two-page sheet containing contact information for members of Congress, as well as key state agencies.
- *New Laws*, a comprehensive report of all new laws enacted during each one-year session, designed in the same

easy-to-understand format as *Session Weekly*. Past years are also available.

- *Capitol Steps: How Six Bills Became Law*, a publication that follows six bills through the process in the Legislature to become law. This booklet is geared toward older children, at least sixth-grade level, and adults.
- Also available are results from the annual House of Representatives State Fair Poll and downloadable photographs of the State Capitol.

These publications are also available free of charge from the House Public Information Office. Call (651) 296-2146 voice, (651) 296-9896 TTY or (800) 657-3550 toll-free voice and TTY.



## Friday, May 18

### HF2541—Osskopp (R)

#### Transportation Policy

Telecommunications access to interstate highway rights-of-way provisions modified.

### HF2542—Kelliher (DFL)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Minnesota planetarium construction funding provided in Minneapolis, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2543—Clark, J. (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

New Ulm recreational trail construction funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2544—Paymar (DFL)

#### Agriculture Policy

Gopher State Ethanol payments suspended upon adoption of St. Paul City Council resolution.

### HF2545—Leppik (R)

#### Higher Education Finance

Residential facilities educational services bargaining unit study committee established, and money appropriated.

### HF2546—Swenson (R)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Regional sludge management demonstration project funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2547—Bakk (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Moose license separate selection category added.

### HF2548—Hausman (DFL)

#### Regulated Industries

Nuclear waste council established.

### HF2549—Hausman (DFL)

#### Regulated Industries

Minnesota Nuclear Responsibility Act of 2000 re-activated and reorganized modifying provisions relating to storage of nuclear waste, and money appropriated.

### HF2550—Osskopp (R)

#### Regulated Industries

911 emergency telephone system provisions modified to establish emergency telecommunications system.

## Saturday, May 19

### HF2551—Ozment (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Phosphorous content in rivers and streams limited.

### HF2552—Clark, K. (DFL)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Minority investment grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2553—Larson (DFL)

#### Civil Law

Child support satisfaction granted if obligee no longer provides for child.

### HF2554—Dibble (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Unsterilized ballast water discharge prohibited.

### HF2555—Tingelstad (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Metropolitan regional parks system funding provided and money appropriated.

### HF2556—Bakk (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Silver Bay Marina capital improvements funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2557—Huntley (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations &

#### Veterans Affairs Policy

University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldog Sports Center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

## Monday, May 21

### HF2558—Goodno (R)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Moorhead; Trollwood arts village construction funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2559—Mares (R)

#### Governmental Operations &

#### Veterans Affairs Policy

State troopers plan and PERA police and fire plan members average salary provisions based on three years of service.

### HF2560—Lenczewski (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Automobile accident prevention course single-session courses authorized.

### HF2561—Kahn (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board authorized to lease land adjacent to the Mississippi River for purposes of operating a commercial food or entertainment facility.

### HF2562—Leighton (DFL)

#### Civil Law

Uniform Principal and Income Act of 1997 adopted.

### HF2563—Evans (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

New Brighton Area History Center capital improvements funded and money appropriated.

### HF2564—Olson (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Repeat property crimes offenders required to pay full restitution and complete character-development program, report required, and task force established to propose an institution where offenders will work to repay restitution.

### HF2565—Olson (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

State park permit fees increased, state campsites required to remain open as scheduled, and report required.

## Frequently called numbers

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#### Information, House

175 State Office Building ..... 296-2146

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#### Index, House

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#### Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol ..... 296-2343

Voice mail/order bills ..... 296-2343


#### Index, Senate

110 Capitol ..... 296-5560

Continued from page 25

May 1857. The average length of a special session is about 18 days.

In 1982, the Legislature broke new ground by simultaneously holding its regular session and a special session. According to the *St. Paul Dispatch*, the Legislature set Jan. 12 as the opening day of the following legislature when it recessed in May 1981. However, a special session called by Quie for Dec. 1, 1981 had yet to conclude.

On Jan. 12, the Senate began a special session meeting at 10:50 a.m. and convened a regular session meeting 10 minutes later. The newspaper remarked that "no one has suggested that legislators can collect a double 'per diem payment' by holding two simultaneous sessions." 

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## Advance Committee Schedule

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### MONDAY, May 28

House offices closed.

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### TUESDAY, May 29

9 a.m.

#### Joint House/Senate Working Group on Jobs and Economic Development Finance

318 State Capitol (Room may change to 123 State Capitol if it is available)

Chrs. Rep. Dan McElroy, Sen. Ellen Anderson

10 a.m.

#### Conference Committee SF2340

#### Omnibus Transportation and Public Safety Budget Bill

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Carol Molnau, Sen. Dean Johnson

1 p.m.

#### Joint House/Senate Omnibus Health and Human Services and Corrections Bill Working Group

123 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Kevin Goodno, Sen. Linda Berglin

2 p.m.

#### Joint House/Senate Omnibus Tax Bill Working Group

15 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Ron Abrams, Sen. Larry Pogemiller

# Reflections

The first year of the 82nd Legislative Session adjourned May 21 at the stroke of midnight. This occurred after leadership in both the House and Senate worked with the governor through the weekend prior to May 21 in hopes of reaching a compromise on tax reform and other matters taking them down roads less traveled.

As this edition of *Session Weekly* went to press the negotiations continued. Once the differences are ironed out, the governor is expected to call a special session for the bills to be passed.

As the midnight hour drew near May 21, conference committee members waited for funding targets, and other lawmakers dealt with non-fiscal

bills still up for passage.

One such bill caused much debate between the two political caucuses.

It was a proposed reconfiguration of state and congressional districts based on the state's 2000 census population. In it, the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis would be placed in one congressional district.

Back in the 1860s, the Legislature decided on a similar direction of road to take. At the time, both cities were vying for major control of water power along the Mississippi River. In so doing, they created a strong, unethical competition between each other.

Lawmakers tried to solve the situation by issuing mandates, similar to those of the U.S. Congress, for the cities to share the river. Still, conflicts between the cities continued for many years, including one created by some businessmen who tried to get the cities merged for personal gain.

The 1890 census count showed Minneapolis' population was 40,000 greater than its rival. St. Paul cried foul. Many believed Minneapolis had padded the numbers. Indeed, a new federal census found the counts in both cities to be exaggerated, which

solidified an ongoing contest between the Twin Cities.

That genteel rivalry still exists in 2001. Many St. Paulites are annoyed when they hear a national news reporter or a rock star at a concert identify St. Paul as that other city by calling their hometown, "Minneapolis."

A few Minneapolitans mock the Capital City because of the difficulty they experience in finding their way through the maze

of St. Paul streets. But many St. Paulites are only amused by the confusion.

Around July 4, for example, Capital City citizens note their rivals don't know how to use alternate,

less-used routes to get to the Taste of Minnesota festival on the Capitol grounds. Hundreds of "out-of-towners" line up for miles on Interstate 94 to take the only exit they know to get to the Capitol. Roads less taken require a willingness to try new directions.

New legislation proposed at the end of the 2001 session is largely based on new paths to follow. Among unresolved issues are vast changes in governmental policy, an itinerary for tax reform, state government funding, and the redistricting proposal.

Variations or distinct changes in law from another viewpoint may be equated to words by national poet laureate Robert Frost:

Two roads diverged...  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler. Long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could...  
Then took the other, as just as fair...  
I took the one less traveled by.  
And that has made all the difference.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



Many roads, from many directions, converge at the State Capitol.



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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### 2001 Legislative Session

Number of House files introduced during the 2001 session .....	2,565
In 1999 .....	2,475
In 1997 .....	2,245
Number of Senate files introduced in 2001 session .....	2,407
In 1999 .....	2,285
In 1997 .....	2,003
Bills passed by House and Senate to be sent to governor, as of May 24 .....	218
In 1999 .....	250
In 1997 .....	235
Bills signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura, as of noon May 24 .....	154
Bills vetoed in part or in whole by Gov. Ventura, as of noon May 24 .....	5
By Ventura in 1999 .....	18
In 1997, by Gov. Arne Carlson .....	19
Bills vetoed from 1939 to 2000 .....	386
Veto overrides attempted, successful by Legislature this year .....	2
Number of overrides since 1945 .....	10
Last year without a veto .....	1978
Number of resolutions passed and sent to governor .....	5
In 1999 .....	3
In 1997 .....	4
Resolutions signed by Gov. Ventura, as of noon May 24 .....	4
Pages in the 2001 Journal of the House .....	5,516
In 1999 .....	5,484
Number of legislative days used so far .....	59
In 1999 .....	67
In 1997 .....	63
Maximum number of legislative days lawmakers can meet in regular session during a biennium .....	120
Number of standing House committees, 2001 .....	28
In 1999 .....	26
In 1997 .....	19
Number of special sessions in the 1990s .....	7
During the first two years of the Ventura administration .....	0
Days from when the gavel fell to conclude the 2001 session to when the next regularly scheduled session begins on Jan. 29, 2002 .....	253

Sources: Legislature Web site ([www.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.leg.state.mn.us)); House Public Information Office; House Chief Clerk's Office; Governor's Log 2001 ([www.mainserver.state.mn.us/governor/bill\\_tracking.html](http://www.mainserver.state.mn.us/governor/bill_tracking.html))

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A NONPARTISAN PUBLICATION

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# Special Session Issue

# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

JULY 3, 2001

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 22

In this issue:

THE 2001 SPECIAL SESSION ACTION

OMNIBUS SPENDING LAWS, LINE-ITEM VETOES, AND MORE

SSHFI-SSHF35



# Session Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 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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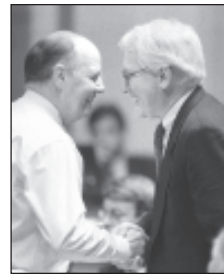
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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Bonding • 5  
Children • 5  
Crime • 6

Development • 6  
Employment • 8  
Environment • 8

Government • 9  
Higher Education • 10  
Transportation • 10

### FEATURES

**At issue: Education** — An \$8.7 billion K-12 education funding measure provides a \$104 increase in per-pupil funding, along with several accountability measures. • 12

**At issue: Environment** — The agriculture, environment, and natural resources funding measure allocates \$1.2 billion in overall spending for the 2002-03 biennium. • 14

**At issue: Health** — An \$8.5 billion health, human services, and corrections funding measure provides increased health coverage for children and their families, while extending benefits to welfare recipients nearing the 60-month deadline for aid. • 16

**At issue: Higher Education** — The University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will receive about an 8 percent increase in funding, under a \$2.8 billion funding law. • 18

**At issue: Taxes** — The 2001 tax law provides \$757 million in tax relief during the 2002-03 biennium and a possible \$1 billion in future biennia. The plan provides double-digit property tax relief, as well as a sales tax rebate. • 20

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

Resources: House of Representatives/  
Senate 2001 Members 22, 23  
Bill Introductions (2001 Special Session  
HF1-HF35) 24

Governor's Desk (CH1-CH218, 2001  
Special Session CH1-CH13) 25  
The 50 States: Special sessions 30  
Reflections: Budgets and special sessions 31  
Minnesota Index: 2001 Special Session 32

On the cover: Fireworks from the Taste of Minnesota celebration light up the Capitol dome on the evening of the completion of the 2001 Special Session.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank



# Special delivery

House, Senate, governor approve all spending bills before fiscal year end, avoiding government shutdown after 20-day special session

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

**A**s the deadline of June 30 neared and the threat of a potential government shutdown loomed, members from the House and Senate wrangled and compromised and were able to finish their work on the \$27 billion state budget in time to avoid that shutdown.

But it wasn't easy. And the journey was long.

Ultimately, the House and Senate were able to pass all the bills and send them to the governor in time for his signature before the fiscal year ended. They represented a number of significant changes to law, including sweeping property tax changes and health insurance programs.

In addition, members passed a bill that would have provided funding



for state government in the event the governor did not sign a bill by the midnight June 30 deadline. It was not necessary, however.

The tax law reflects \$757 million in relief in 2002-03, with more than \$1 billion projected in the coming biennia. In addition, the law provides for a \$852 million sales tax rebate based on 2000 receipts.

For K-12 education funding, a new law provides about \$8.7 billion in funding for the biennium, including a \$104 increase in the per-pupil funding formula. The law also includes several policy provisions.

The \$8.5 billion health, human services, and corrections law provides new funding for children's health care, as well as money to extend welfare benefits to those coming up against the 60-month deadlines for aid.

The higher education funding law includes \$2.8 billion for the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. That reflects about an 8 percent increase for both systems.

The \$1.2 billion environment and agriculture spending law will fund ongoing operations such as fish, game, wildlife, and mineral management, state parks and campgrounds, feedlot cleanup and pollution prevention, agricultural marketing and other assistance to farmers, and air monitoring.

In addition, the transportation law provides \$3.5 billion for road projects, maintenance and operations, as well as public safety functions including the state court system, state patrol and Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. State agencies will receive around \$713 million, and another \$544 million from the general fund will be allocated for family and early childhood education spending. About \$485 million for various employment, housing and economic development programs and initiatives was signed into law.

The governor only rendered a few line-item vetoes on the bills, primarily smaller appropriations for specific projects. He expressed concern over other provisions but let them go.

Gov. Jesse Ventura called members to the 40th special session of the Minnesota Legislature on June 11. The move came after a tentative agreement between legislative leaders May 25. Ventura had said he would not call a special session until there was agreement on the major provisions for the special session and details of a plan were established.

However, negotiations between legislative leaders continued as they were unable to agree to the details of a tax plan.

During the interim and the special session, working groups were formed to discuss the details of each of the nine omnibus funding bills in question at the close of the regular session. Though the Legislature had passed two

omnibus funding bills — early childhood and family education and health, human services, and corrections — the governor had vetoed the bills, citing policy concerns.

That left every bill governing budget and revenue in the state unfinished.

The working groups replaced conference committees, which officially could not meet during the special session. Procedurally, all of the omnibus bills had to be re-introduced during the special session, since all the bills are kept separate from the regular session ones. As a result, neither body had technically passed any of the bills before, so conference committees were not necessary.

Two groups reached agreement on their bills during the days between the regular session and the special session. The higher education and environment/agriculture funding measures were ready for approval soon after the special session was convened.

No major action occurred on the other bills, however, during the first two weeks of the special session. Though members of the working groups traded offers, they were all awaiting the outcome of negotiations on the tax bill, which would affect how much money was available for allocation in other bills.

In hopes of reaching an agreement, the governor announced on June 22 that he would offer a "global agreement" including tax reform. He said that it adhered to the principles of the May 25 agreement, yet proposed specific ideas to achieve those goals.

Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) announced he would adhere to the agreement "lock, stock, and barrel." While House leaders, such as Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) and Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), said they would put forward the governor's proposal, they didn't fully embrace it, saying they may have a better plan in mind.

Nevertheless, the agreements on the omnibus bills reflected the tenets of the governor's plan and included items he had advocated for, including health care coverage for children, double-digit property tax relief, and a state takeover of the general education levy.

Still other plans, such as decreasing income taxes, expanding the state sales tax to services, and consolidating childcare programs in the state, were not included in the omnibus packages. The governor did not draw his veto pen for those bills.

Though members were able to reach agreement on the plans, that did not mean it didn't take considerable compromise from both caucuses to achieve the deals. Three of the nine working groups were still hammering out the details of a plan into the wee hours of the morning June 29. A marathon session that went into the early morning hours Saturday

— just a few hours before thousands of Minnesotans would converge on the capitol complex for the annual Taste of Minnesota festival — was necessary to finalize the budget.

DFL leaders in the House protested the way the special session progressed, claiming they were shut out of the process.

For example, the working groups operated much like conference committees would. Pawlenty also said during debate on the House floor that in previous special sessions, members had agreed not to amend the omnibus bills once they came to the floor for debate.

However, technically any member can propose an amendment to a regular bill. Though procedure does not allow a conference committee report to be amended, the bills considered in the special session did not require official conference committees.

This controversy popped up during debate on the tax bill, which was delayed a day already, due to delays in preparing the bill for the floor session. Members moved to table the bill and recessed to discuss what course of action to take.

The House majority caucus eventually relented and allowed members to propose amendments on the floor. However, no tax amendments succeeded. And the only bill to be successfully amended was the jobs and economic development bill, which needed a technical amendment.

DFL members of both the House and Senate also cautioned the Legislature to not provide so much tax relief that there aren't enough resources for future needs.

Despite some skirmishes and length of the special session, members concluded it provided reform of historic proportions. Many compared it to the 1971 session, dubbed the "Minnesota Miracle," the last time the Legislature enacted property tax changes of this magnitude and the state took over funding for education.

**Writers Mike Cook, David Maeda, and Nicole Wood contributed to this report.**

#### Editor's note

In past years, House Public Information has included special session action in its annual New Laws publication.

However, this year, given that so many significant funding issues were outstanding in the special session, the editors have decided to run an extra issue of *Session Weekly*.

Both legislators and staff committed many hours to ensuring bills would be completed before the end of the fiscal year in time to avoid a government shutdown.

Special thanks to staff from the nonpartisan House Research and House Fiscal Analysis departments for their help in putting out this issue.

We hope you find the information useful and helpful in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you.



## BONDING



### Capital projects passed

Before adjourning until January 2002, lawmakers at the State Capitol had to finish one last bill — the bonding bill.

Passing 115-17 in the House and 57-0 in the Senate, the \$117.2 million bill will fund projects across the state.

Effective July 1, 2001, the law allows the state to borrow money to fund several improvement projects considered to be high priority.

The Legislature typically produces its main bonding legislation in the second year of the biennium, but smaller measures may be passed in year one of a session.

"I believe the Legislature has done a good job in recognizing the state's priority investments and limiting the overall size of this emergency bonding bill," Gov. Jesse Ventura said before signing the bill into law June 30. "I have respected every effort that reflects emergency projects with statewide significance."

The bill calls for:

- Nearly \$51.5 million to acquire easements and implement conservation practices on frequently flooded cropland along the Minnesota River basin in order to protect soil, enhance water quality, and support fish and wildlife habitat. The funds will be matched by \$100 million in federal dollars;
- \$20.5 million for the closed landfill cleanup program;
- \$19 million maximum effort loan for the East Central School District for a school that is being condemned;
- \$10 million to match federal funds used to replace or rehabilitate local deficient bridges;
- \$7 million to pay costs not covered by federal disaster programs for publicly owned capital improvements, including storm drainage system improvements in Austin and Eagan, plus \$2 million for additional flood mitigation grants, \$234,000 of which is allocated for in the Red River basin;
- \$3.4 million for repairing and upgrading buildings in the capitol complex;
- \$2 million to acquire land for wetlands or restore wetlands to be used to replace wetlands drained or filled as a result of the repair, maintenance or rehabilitation of existing state roads; and

## TAXING CONCERNS



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Speaker Steve Sviggum, left, and House Taxes Committee Chair Rep. Ron Abrams, right, confer during a hearing of the House-Senate tax working group June 13.

- \$1.7 million for the Crosswinds Magnet School in the East Metro to finish construction and furnishing of the building.

The governor used his veto power to eliminate funding for one project.

"I am vetoing the \$1 million appropriation to the St. Paul Port Authority for acquisition of the Trillium site in the city of Saint Paul," Ventura wrote in his veto message. "This project was not pre-approved by all parties involved in negotiating a final agreement on the bill, and is not an emergency item."

The 38-acre Trillium site between I-35E and Jackson Street south of Maryland Avenue is part of a planned Trout Brook Greenway system.

Rep. Jim Knobloch (R-St. Cloud) and Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon) sponsored the legislation.

2001 Special Session HF8\*/SF25/CH12

## CHILDREN



### Early childhood education law

A measure originally vetoed by Gov. Jesse Ventura was recreated, passed by both houses, and signed by the governor during the special session.

The law contains \$544 million in

general fund spending. That marks a 25 percent increase from previous biennium, said Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), the House sponsor.

Despite a target of zero above the governor's base, "there was a lot of new money in the base budget," Sykora said. "For instance, there were large increases in adult basic education (to \$66.9 million), the forecasted child care programs (\$160.9 million), which takes care of the MFIP (Minnesota Family Investment Program) recipients, and there is a \$4 per child increase in ECFE." All \$9 million in new federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds went to childcare via the Basic Sliding Fee.

In addition to keeping Head Start funding at previous levels (\$18.38 million annually), the law calls for childcare funding to remain at current levels.

"That was our basic point of debate during the last few weeks," Sykora said. "The discussion was about going to an entitlement program as recommended by the governor, stay at current law or do a House proposal that did consolidate the program but did not turn it into an entitlement. 'The department, the governor and the Senate decided that if they couldn't have it all, they would have none, so we stayed at current law.'"

Initially the bill was vetoed, in part, because it contained no childcare consolidation plan, which would have consolidated the state's



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Ten-year-old Shean Slawik, *standing right*, gives the thumbs-up as his mother, Rep. Nora Slawik, *standing left*, debates the omnibus family and early childhood education bill June 26. Other members pictured are Rep. Jim Davnie, *left* and Rep. Rod Skoe, *right*.

three childcare assistance programs, create income guidelines and guarantee assistance to working parents who meet income limits.

However, a House plan would have started the ball rolling by guaranteeing assistance to families with the lowest incomes and allowing a 3 percent per year growth factor in the childcare general fund appropriation, if needed, beginning in fiscal year 2003. Childcare assistance for families with somewhat higher incomes (based on federal poverty guidelines) would have been funded with a capped general fund allocation.

Furthermore it would have instituted a program for reporting childcare program statistics. However, the plan didn't make it into the final version of the law.

Numerous new accountability measures are part of the legislation, which include more legislative oversight of per-student costs related to school readiness programs and community education, as well as the childcare development fund.

Additionally, the state will begin to audit some adult basic education (ABE) programs, and there will be a state ABE director for the

first time.

A new community education levy plan is also part of the law. It empowers local districts to levy additional dollars in property taxes for community education with the funds used for after-school programming.

Some House DFLers dislike that the law may raise taxes because of the provision.

"The state should take its responsibility seriously in after-school enrichment rather than having to tax local people," said Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights). "This is important for our kids and our society. We have far too many kids going home alone."

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), who helped negotiate the plan, said the House offered many working group proposals to help take care of children, but the Senate, and the Department of Children, Families, and Learning, would not accept any.

One proposal that was approved is a \$191,000 allocation to the Guard Our Youth program that makes armories available for youth, after-school, and community education programs.

Critics of the law said it does not address waiting lists for early childhood and family issues, and does not improve childcare during unusual hours when parents may have to work.

"Many of the things in this bill will be somewhat of an improvement over what we have now," Sykora said. "We couldn't do a lot at one time, but we're taking little steps."

Sen. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick) sponsored the Senate version.

2001 Special Session: HF4\*/SF5/CH3

## ★ CRIME

### Vetoes for COPS, HEAT grants

Gov. Jesse Ventura line-item vetoed a \$300,000 appropriation for local community policing and other grants contained in the omnibus transportation and public safety funding law.

The appropriation, which would have taken one-time funds from surplus dollars in fiscal year 2001, would have funded grants to communities for intensive concentration efforts to reduce certain particularly difficult crime problems.

"The use of (fiscal year) 2001 funds would reduce the size of the estimated rebate and is unacceptable," said Ventura in his veto message.

The funds would have been divided up so that 50 percent went to St. Paul and Minneapolis, and the remaining 50 percent went to other Minnesota municipalities.

During the session, groups appeared before the House Judiciary Finance Committee to ask for help in funding COPS, the federal community-oriented policing program, and HEAT, a law-enforcement strategy proposed in St. Paul during the summer months.

The HEAT program proposal, sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), would specifically have helped that city crackdown on a chronic prostitution problem in the city's Frogtown neighborhood. Dawkins testified that previous efforts to increase police presence in the neighborhood during warmer months showed dramatic results in reducing prostitution activity.

Funds would have also been available to develop an investigative task force for financial crimes and would have required a 25 percent local match.

The omnibus transportation spending law is sponsored by Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) and Sen. Dean Johnson (DFL-Willmar).

2001 Special Session: HF7/SF7\*/CH8

## DEVELOPMENT



### Workers' reform highlights law

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law June 30 appropriating more than \$485 million for various employment, housing, and economic development programs and initiatives.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), the House sponsor, said the new law is a result of a cooperative effort between the House and Senate.

During the final moments of that working group's hearing at about 1:20 a.m. June 26, McElroy pointed to the final product as proof of the effectiveness of the bicameral system, saying the agreement was a better bill than either of the bills passed during the regular session.

The law includes more than \$365 million in spending from the state's general fund.

"The part of the bill I'm particularly proud of is the part dealing with workforce development and the training for Minnesota's

workers,” McElroy said. “We’ve funded the dislocated workers program but most importantly we’ve reformed the program so it’s more flexible and it’s more responsive.”

McElroy said in recent years there have been waiting lists of people needing assistance at several of the state’s workforce councils and the new law allows the state’s Jobs Skills Partnership Board greater flexibility in shifting funds to meet the needs of laid off workers.

The law incorporates the administration’s proposal to consolidate workforce-related programs and to abolish the Department of Economic Security. That department’s program functions and employees will be merged into other agencies and boards, under the measure.

A workforce development program reorganization transition advisory team will be created to make recommendations to the governor and the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2001. The goal is to streamline and consolidate the state’s workforce system to provide “the most efficient and effective workforce development programs.”

Many of the Department of Economic Security services will be transferred to the Department of Trade and Economic Development, such as the workforce services unit for employment transition services, youth services, welfare-to-work services, and workforce exchange services.

In addition, the state’s Job Skills Partnership Board will continue to be housed in the Department of Trade and Economic Development and the board will be responsible for providing targeted worker services to include the dislocated worker program and welfare-to-work services program.

The transition team will consist of 12 members including six members appointed by the governor. That group must contain one member representing business, one representing labor, and one representing job providers. The House and Senate will also both appoint three members to serve on the team.

The bill specifies that the transition team must solicit input from all interested groups on how to best implement the reorganization. The team is required to consider alternative configurations of existing programs.

It also requires that no employee in the classified service should suffer a job loss, or have salary or benefits reduced as a result of the reorganization.

McElroy said it would be up to the reorganization team to determine the name of the new department. The original bills that passed the House and Senate would have named the department the Department of Economic and Workforce Development, but McElroy said there was concerns raised that the acronym “DEWD” was not appropriate.

In other appropriations, the Minnesota

## COMPROMISE PLAN



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

**Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith, left, and Finance Commissioner Pam Wheelock, right, explain Gov. Ventura’s compromise proposal to break the budget deadlock during a news conference June 22.**

Housing Finance Agency will receive a total of \$129 million during the biennium to fund its programs.

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) said she was pleased with that funding although she wished more could be done for the “affordable housing crisis” in the state.

There will also be a \$44 million appropriation for the agency’s affordable rental investment fund. One-half is a one-time appropriation not added to the agency’s base budget. The funding is used to finance the acquisition, rehabilitation, and debt restructuring of federally assisted rental property and for making equity loans. The fund is also used by the agency to finance permanent and supportive rental housing units.

Among other funding provided in the new law is a \$175,000 appropriation from the workforce development fund for workplace HIV education and a \$35,000 appropriation for a report on the costs and benefits of employers providing paid parental leave.

Ventura vetoed appropriations for a new Roy Wilkins Auditorium, an education center in Koochiching County, promotion of the 2004 Grand Excursion, and dollars to the State Board of Investment from the law.

Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul) was the Senate sponsor.

2001 Special Session: HF5\*/SF12/CH4

## Dismissed projects

Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed several of the provisions in the jobs, housing, and economic development appropriations law June 30 because

he said state funding should not be used for local projects with little statewide significance.

Among the funding vetoed was a \$500,000 grant to the city of St. Paul for the planning, pre-design, and design of the new Roy Wilkins Auditorium. Ventura said the project should be considered part of the capital budgeting process, and he questioned why there was no local funding match requirement.

The governor also vetoed a \$300,000 appropriation to the St. Paul Port Authority for the 38-acre Trillium site, part of the Trout Brook Greenway corridor. He indicated the site should enter the competitive process for funding through the Department of Trade and Economic Development.

Koochiching County will not receive a \$50,000 appropriation for concept development of the Big Bear Country Education Center because Ventura said the project is a capital project that should be submitted through the bonding process.

A \$150,000 appropriation to local governments to plan and promote the 2004 Grand Excursion was also red-lined. The proposed project is to promote tourism in a particular region. Ventura’s veto message said the proposal did not demonstrate a higher value than the other tourism expenditures it would replace.

Finally, a \$200,000 one-time appropriation to the State Board of Investment to pay staff costs related to an investment program for Minnesota based start-up businesses was vetoed because the implementing legislation was not enacted.

2001 Special Session: HF5\*/SF12/CH4



## ★ EMPLOYMENT

### Apartment manager background checks

A law that would require more extensive background checks on individuals who serve as apartment managers was approved in the 2001 special session after an amendment stalled it during the regular session.

The new law was signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura June 30.

It will require national background checks of individuals serving as apartment managers if they have lived in Minnesota for less than 10 years. Previous law only required national checks if a person has lived in Minnesota for less than five years.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) sponsored the measure. She sponsored a similar bill during the 2001 regular session, but a provision that would reduce liability for former employers to give out employment information was amended to the bill on the House floor. A House-Senate conference committee was not able to reach an agreement on that portion of the bill.

Leppik said the measure is important for the owners of apartment buildings to know about their managers' backgrounds for resident safety.

"If we don't do it," she said of the provisions in the law, background checks "will not be done. These managers have keys to all the apartments. It is very important that we do as much as we can to ensure the tenants" that employees do not have a criminal background.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) asked whether the bill was necessary, citing both that it seemed like "overkill" and that the background checking system currently being used by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension is not complete.

Nevertheless, Bishop voted for the bill.

Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud), who proposed attaching the employee reference language to Leppik's original bill, said he supported the measure and did not want his provision to derail what was otherwise a good bill.

"I think this bill is one small step to eliminating the problem," said Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids), whose daughter's murder helped lead to the original law requiring manager background checks. (The man accused of murdering Kari Koskinen in 1994 was her apartment manager and had been previously convicted of three sex offenses.)

Sen. Dave Knutson (R-Burnsville) sponsored the Senate version.

2001 Special Session HF26/SF18\*/CH7

## SOUND SLEEPER



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Not wishing to wake 4-week-old Erica Gerlach, House Speaker Steve Sviggum holds the infant for an hour during debate on the omnibus tax bill June 28. Erica is the daughter of Rep. Chris Gerlach and his wife Shelli.

"Existing payments-in-lieu of taxes and various forms of general-purpose state aid to local governments are the appropriate mechanism to compensate local units of government for services to state facilities."

The two other provisions that did not make it past the governor's desk would have appropriated \$455,000 to the University of Minnesota to complete production on "Uncommon Ground," a televised film series on the history of Minnesota's natural landscapes, and another \$275,000 to the university to develop "green" infrastructure design strategies for public works projects.

Both of these projects had been given the green light by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), an 18-member panel of House and Senate members who recommend special environmental projects to the Legislature. While the governor did not indicate specific objections to the two university projects, he was critical of the overall LCMR selection process.

"Instead of developing a limited, strategic agenda to improve natural resources in Minnesota, the Commission has chosen to try to

provide something for everyone," he wrote. "It is my hope that the administration can work with the Commission over the next year to develop a more focused and strategic approach to using the scarce resources available."

Ventura also found fault with the way Lottery in Lieu of Sales Tax dollars were spent in the bill. Last year, the Legislature granted the Department of Natural Resources a new funding source in the form of a 6.5 percent in-lieu sales tax on lottery tickets. Previously, this money went to the general fund. He also expressed disappointment with the fact that the Legislature did not provide operating funds for a biocontainment facility at the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota.

Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) and Sen. Leonard Price (DFL-Woodbury) sponsored the measure.

2001 Special Session: HF10/SF10\*/CH2

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### Environmental projects cut

Gov. Jesse Ventura used his veto authority to cut three projects totaling \$780,000 from the 2001 omnibus environment, natural resources, and agriculture finance package that provides \$1.2 billion in overall spending for those functions.

Gone from the measure is a \$50,000 appropriation to the city of Taylor's Falls for fire and rescue operations in support of Interstate State Park.

"No other local unit of government receives special funding in this bill for basic local services provided to state recreation facilities, and it is inappropriate to provide special treatment in this case," Ventura wrote in his veto message.

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### Government funding

State agencies will receive around \$713 million in new spending under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura June 30.

The law was one of the last omnibus measures taken up by both the House and Senate early June 30. It passed the Senate unanimously 59-0 and passed the House by a 126-4 vote.

In presenting the bill to the House, Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), the House sponsor, said the target provided to the working group made funding decisions difficult.

"Some might describe it (the law) as the 'good, the bad, and the ugly.' We have a lot of good provisions in here. We have some things that most people probably don't consider too good. And then we have some things that the governor gave us, so that's the ugly part," Krinkie said. "The task was fairly difficult because of the global solution that was imposed on us. The global solution said we needed to fund the governor's agencies at his recommendation while we had a target that was about \$60 million below the governor's rec."

Effective July 1, 2001, the law will increase the salaries of all the state's constitutional officers except the governor. State employees also will receive inflationary salary increases, under the measure.

The attorney general's office receives \$1.4 million over the biennium for salary increases. Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul), the Senate sponsor, said the increase is necessary for the state to compete with the private sector for qualified attorneys.

The law provides \$7.8 million to public broadcasting for a conversion to digital technology that will be used to leverage federal matching dollars. That figure is far below the requested \$21 million to address the conversion required by the federal government. Cohen said the lack of funding could lead to the shutdown of the public television station in Bemidji and could adversely affect the Twin Cities station's programming.

It also includes a \$1.4 million appropriation to the secretary of state's office for a grant program to help local units of government update their voting equipment.

Two campaign finance provisions were also included at the urging of the governor.

One will allow candidates to receive public subsidies prior to the general election. The other will broaden the opportunities for minor political parties to participate in the state's campaign financing program by allowing them to qualify for inclusion on the state income tax form check-off if they run a candidate for federal office, as well as statewide offices.

A proposal to move the Council on the Economic Status of Women from the Legislative Coordinating Commission to the Department of Strategic and Long Range Planning was not included in the final bill.

Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls) testified in the working group that proof that the council's work was not complete was the fact that only one woman (Rep. Sondra Erickson) served on the state government finance working group.

Another provision removed from the bill was a proposal agreed upon by both the Senate and the House defining the governor as a state employee.

Paul Aasen, the governor's director of policy management, supplied the working group with a letter saying the administration's position was that constitutional officers are not employees but are elected officials who ultimately answer to the citizens of the state. Aasen's letter indicated that if the provision remained, it could "jeopardize the entire bill."

Both Krinkie and Cohen were critical of the governor coming forward at the last moment requesting the change since the provision had been agreed upon before the end of the regular session.

The House working group members also did not prevail on a provision prohibiting the state from entering into collective bargaining agreements to grant health care benefits to same-sex domestic partners of state employees. Existing law does not define who may receive benefits, but leaves it open to the bargaining process. Ventura has said he may use his authority to extend benefits to same-sex couples.

The governor did line-item veto three

appropriations included in the bill: money for an ambulance building, design of the new Guthrie Theater, and three appropriations for the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission.

2001 Special Session: HF9/SF9\*/CH10

### Local funding crunched

While millions of dollars in the State Government Finance appropriations bill were allocated to public broadcasting and the salaries of many constitutional officers, three local appropriations were line-item vetoed June 30 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

A \$35,000 grant for the Longville City Hall ambulance building was one. The governor indicated in his veto message it "is a local project that should be funded locally."

Ventura also vetoed rider language associated with a 2000 appropriation to the Guthrie Theatre for its new Minneapolis location. The rider would have allowed the theater to use the appropriation for pre-design and design function, which were not authorized under the previous law. The \$3 million appropriation in 2000 was designated to acquire and prepare a site.

Three appropriations to the Amateur Sports Commission were also cut: a \$475,000 appropriation for making matching grants for after-school enrichment grants; a \$25,000 grant to the Range Recreation Civic Center for a bleacher purchase; and a \$100,000 one-time grant for operation of a shooting sports program to train participants and coaches in shooting sports that are Olympic events.

In his veto message, Ventura wrote that



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Rep. Philip Krinkie (left) and Sen. Richard Cohen discuss elements of the omnibus state government finance bill with conferees of the working group June 27.



these appropriations support programs that are local in nature and any state involvement would more appropriately be considered as part of the capital budget.

2001 Special Session: HF9/SF9\*/CH10

## ★ HIGHER EDUCATION

### No regent selection

A bill for funding at the University of Minnesota passed during the special session, but the decision about who will help oversee how the funds are spent remains unresolved.

The selection process for members of the university's Board of Regents was derailed during the regular session due to fears over partisan motivation.

By law, the Legislature must appoint regents during its session otherwise the governor has the job of appointing people to fill the vacancies.

As of June 30, Gov. Jesse Ventura had not announced official plans for appointing regents.

At a Feb. 20 joint meeting of the of House and Senate education committees, legislators recommended five people for the positions: Angela Bos as student representative, Michael O'Keefe from the Fifth Congressional District and Patricia Spence, Richard "Pinky" McNamara, and Ray Waldron for the three at-large positions.

The House and Senate were scheduled to meet jointly Feb. 26, to appoint five members to the 12-member board that is the governing body of the university.

However, problems arose when House Republicans became fearful that Senate DFLers might introduce the name of a candidate not recommended by the committees at the joint convention and get that person elected.

Republicans contended that legislative leaders have been circumventing the established regent-selection process for many years for political reasons.

"We're not inclined to become co-conspirators to another round of this body, for political or other reasons manipulating the merit selection process," House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) said during the Feb. 22 floor session.

House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) questioned House Republicans' willingness to keep the process in the open. "It sounds as though you're trying to make sure there is some arrangement with leadership from the Senate, in some place other than this floor, that the votes are arranged in a way that is satisfactory to you."

## SURGICAL SUPPORT



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Wearing a white golf hat, Rep. Dan Larson gets words of support from colleagues after it was revealed that he had a surgical procedure to remove a rare form of soft-cell cancer from his skull June 11. He received a standing ovation from colleagues when he showed up for special session June 14.

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### Transit, road, public safety funding

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a \$3.5 billion transportation and public safety funding measure for the 2002-03 biennium June 30, just hours after legislators placed their approval on the measure on both the House and Senate floors.

The House passed the law on a 95-36 vote, and the Senate 46-15. Funding provisions are effective July 1, 2001.

The new law provides about \$534 million for the Department of Public Safety, the state court system, and other criminal justice programs and functions, about \$95 million of which is new money. Specifically, those funds will increase salaries and benefits in the court and public defender systems, allow for the system to fully support federally mandated court services, create five new judgeships in the state, and fund the state takeover of each judicial district. It also includes \$27 million for the CriMNet justice information system.

Each year of the biennium \$1 million is added to the Department of Public Safety budget in the law to help offset the per diem costs at domestic violence shelters.

Ventura line-item vetoed a public safety appropriation for \$300,000 in community-oriented policing and other intensive enforcement projects provided in the measure.

The law is sponsored by Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) and Sen. Dean Johnson (DFL-

Willmar).

"This is a good bill for Minnesota," Molnau said. "We don't think it was as diverse as it could have been, but we moved a long way in that diversity."

The law provides about \$5 million in new funding for Greater Minnesota transit functions. Both Molnau and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul), Senate negotiator, were disappointed they only had about \$30 million extra to work with for transit.

"We have once again failed in our ultimate objective to invest in the infrastructure of transit in this state," Kelly said. "This is a status quo bill. We could have invested some of that (rebate money). We should have increased resources for transit."

### Transit, road funding

Originally, the House bill included a constitutional amendment that would have dedicated funds to transportation functions, but that provision was removed during negotiations. Sponsors expect to revisit the issue in the future.

Included in the law is \$1 million for rail development and \$1 million for port development over the biennium.

The law effectively extends the time for one year that funds will be available for the bridge crossing the St. Croix River near Stillwater.

The law also transfers general fund dollars to the trunk highway fund to cover losses as a result of the license tab fee reduction in 2000. A glitch allowed many drivers whose tab fees



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

The transportation funding law provides \$3.5 billion in funding for 2002 and 2003, including money for road construction projects.

were due in June 2000 to take advantage of fee reductions passed by the 2000 Legislature.

### Other policy provisions

The law provides for a study of the high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes along Interstate 394 and Interstate 35W south of the Twin Cities. The study will focus on use and effectiveness of the HOV lanes in reducing congestion.

Another congestion issue, the reconstruction of the Crosstown Highway 62 on the Richfield-Minneapolis border will be delayed at least one year to give officials time to study ways to reduce congestion on other freeways during the estimated four-year project.

With relation to light-rail transit, the Metropolitan Council must keep separate line-items in its budgeting for transit and light-rail transit. They will also not be allowed to withhold transit funding from cities and counties that have not adopted other Met Council guidelines for growth.

Funds must not be allocated for construction or study of a light-rail transit corridor until that corridor is specifically identified, under the law. Molnau said the provision was intended to allow the community the opportunity for more input into project development.

In addition, the law creates a design-build system for transportation projects. That system would allow projects to be designed as they go, rather than having to design the entire project before construction can begin. Officials expect the system will save time and money in the long run.

### Public safety provisions

The law establishes several guidelines for public safety functions, including a new felony drunken driving penalty. Effective Aug. 1, 2002, a person's fourth drunken driving conviction in 10 years will be a felony.

### HALLWAY GATHERING



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

House Speaker Steve Sviggum is surrounded by reporters and lobbyists in a hallway of the State Capitol as he responds to progress on negotiation with Sen. Roger Moe and Gov. Jesse Ventura during a recess of the House floor session June 25.

The transportation measure provides money to fund enforcement of the new penalty, including blood-alcohol concentration analysis. It provides some relief for probation and incarceration costs expected as a result of the new penalty. It also increases the surcharge from \$40 to \$380 over two years for obtaining a driver's license after being convicted of drunken driving. A felony drunken driving conviction will carry a mandatory minimum sentence of three years in prison and up to a \$14,000 fine. There is flexibility for judges to stay the sentence in certain cases.

The law also outlines anti-racial profiling efforts. In addition to defining racial profiling, it will require the state Board of Police Officer Standards and Training to develop a model statewide racial profiling policy to be used by law enforcement agencies.

Gathering of data is not mandatory, but for those departments that do gather officer data, it must be reported to the POST board. In addition, each law enforcement agency must report the number and disposition of complaints to the POST Board.

Beyond that, the law provides about \$4.3 million in funding for grants to agencies that adopt a racial profiling policy to purchase video camera equipment for patrol cars. And a toll-free line will be established by the state attorney general's office for people to call with racial profiling complaints.

Under the law it will be a gross misdemeanor to possess shoplifting gear or to manufacture fraudulent identification cards. The law also establishes that harming a pet or companion animal is a crime. Such a crime would constitute a felony under certain circumstances.

The law also establishes guidelines for identifying dangerous dogs, including allowing authorities to implant a microchip in the dog to identify it. The law also will allow for some dangerous dogs to be destroyed in certain situations.

A plan to lower the blood-alcohol concentration limit from .10 percent to .08 percent was not included in the bill. Neither was a provision to use cameras for traffic violations, nor a measure to make driving without a seatbelt a primary offense, for which officers could stop a motorist.

2001 Special Session: HF7/SF7\*/CH8

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>



# Educational changes

Modest funding increases, balanced contracts, and greater accountability among key components of K-12 funding law

By **MIKE COOK**

**L**egislation that some say has many positive reforms, while others simply called it bad, is now law.

"We came up with a bill that I think will help our districts," said Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), the House sponsor and lead negotiator of the \$8.7 billion K-12 education bill. "We have a 7.8 percent increase (\$634.3 million) for spending, we have some true reform, and we'll go with forward with education we can be proud of."

"As a certified teacher I'm going to be embarrassed with this bill," said Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison). "At a time when we have money to take care of the needs and leave no child behind, we'll leave them behind."

The comments typified the division in the House, where the law passed 69-62 on a predominantly party-line vote. It passed the Senate 41-17.

Effective July 1, 2001, the law alters the way schools negotiate teacher contracts, helps less wealthy districts with funding, and adds more oversight of charter schools.

Most of the \$381 million in new money for schools in 2002-03 will go towards the per-student funding formula, which will increase about 2.5 percent in each of the next two years. The approximately \$290 million is nearly three times what Ventura recommended in January.

The law also calls for a \$104 annual increase per student or about 2.6 percent. "In addition we put in about \$10 million in equity for both rural and metropolitan districts," Seagren said.

Furthermore compensatory revenues, which generally aid low-income districts, will rise as they are tied to the general formula.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) said the increase is not enough because education officials say the formula needed to be increased



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**The omnibus K-12 education funding measure provides a pilot project to re-examine pay procedures for classroom teachers.**

by \$300 to adequately fund schools.

"This means 3,000 teachers will be laid off across the state, there will be more students in the classroom, and students will have less opportunity," he said.

## Structural balance

Another key component of the new law is that teacher contracts must be structurally balanced.

The legislation instructs school boards that they must determine by a board resolution that an agreement with teachers will not cause structural imbalance insomuch as expenses will not exceed available funds during the life of the agreement.

In addition, the school board must project revenues, expenditures and fund balances for one year past the agreement.

All projections and calculations must be made available to the public prior to and at the meeting where the resolution is adopted.

Paul Bourgeois, director of business services for Rochester schools, told a House committee that under the law districts wouldn't have budget reductions and a constant laying off of teachers. "The Legislature will be assured money would be accounted for and (school districts would) be fiscally solid."

Sen. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) was the lone working group member to vote against structural balance. He said he is not sure that such legislation is necessary, and said it will end up being a "political football."

"I'm afraid this will extend bargaining talks and be tough to settle," he said. "I hope I'm wrong."

The law also contains \$8 million for a pilot project to examine the way teachers are paid. The goal is to base pay on performance.

The incentive moves away from the current "steps and lanes" system by which teachers are currently paid. "Steps" refers to the number of years a person has been teaching, and "lanes" refers to the degree or degrees a person has earned.

"We want to see teachers be awarded for what they bring to the classroom," and for how students perform, said Christine Jax, commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning, the state's education department.

Seagren said if a district wants to convert its entire pay scale it will receive an additional \$150 per pupil to do so.

## Less wealthy districts, integration aid

The law aids less wealthy districts with an increase in the general-education funding formula. Under the plan, districts whose voters fail to approve excess levies will receive up to an additional \$415 per pupil. Thirty-seven districts now have no excess taxes.

Districts that have an excess levy, but not at the \$415 level, will receive the difference between their voter-approved level and the \$415 districts get from the state in the general education formula.

Proponents say this is crucial for poorer districts that have struggled to pass such levies, especially in Greater Minnesota.

"Those districts getting the \$415 are going to have the Fourth of July and Christmas all in one," Seagren said.

Much of the debate on the House floor centered on the level of integration aid some cities receive.

Four Minneapolis DFLers expressed disappointment that the law calls for a reduction of almost \$5 million for their district. "Students of color are being hurt by this proposal," said Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls).

Seagren said the Senate planned to reduce Minneapolis' integration revenue to the level of St. Paul as a way to adjust the integration formula in hopes of reducing disparity. "They told us that since Minneapolis and St. Paul are similar as urban districts and percentages of minority populations, that they would have the same level of funding," she said. "The savings from that would pay for the districts that

aid at a stable level, and also have the city schools try to equalize the concentration of poverty," Kelliher said.

Seagren said, "The Senate said with the \$415 swap, formula allowance and compensatory link to those things, in addition to the integration revenue, they will be getting another \$110 per pupil which will be in addition to their integration revenue, and we were told that would be appropriate. The small amount Minneapolis lost in coming down to St. Paul pales in comparison to the money they are to receive in the compensatory adjustment."

However, Kelliher said integration dollars are used district-wide to achieve integration and compensatory dollars go to the site, so they are not interchangeable.

"This is a very serious legal question and a very serious potential possible liability on the part of the state," said Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls). He said the city uses the money to bus 500 students to the suburbs. "If we look at legislative intent, I think the NAACP would have very strong grounds to reopen that suit."

Seagren said it is her understanding there is no threat of a lawsuit because the Legislature is "continuing to enhance and look at total support for children at-risk through a number of sources of funds."

## Policy provisions

Besides setting funding for fiscal years 2002 and 2003, the legislation establishes several new policies, including the implementation of a financial audit process that will provide online information to the public so they can

more easily compare their district to another, and the creation of a State Board of Administration to allow administrators to have oversight over their own peers, much like the Board of Teaching does.

As for student achievement testing, the law calls for updating basic skills testing so students are required to perform some math computations without

using a calculator, which previous testing did not do. Also, no student can take the test before eighth grade, and parents will have access to their students' exams and the answer keys.

"This came out of some concerns when it was discovered some tests were marked wrong and returned to students with a message they failed," Seagren said.

The law also features a number of new studies aimed at reducing district operating costs.

One study will examine the whole funding financial structure in hopes of simplifying it and making it easier to understand. "It seems like every biennium we get a little more complicated with the way we structure things," Seagren said.

Another relating to transportation calls for the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning to examine transportation costs for 13 ridership categories, including regular, disabled, late activity and enrollment options. The report is to look at funding inequities, if public transportation options can be used more effectively, and make recommendations to provide equitable transportation funding.

A medical study will look at how drugs that some students are taking for attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), such as Ritalin, affect their school experience, and if children are possibly taking too many drugs. The law also clarifies that it is not neglect if a parent refuses to allow their child to take such medication.

For charter schools, the bill requires new audit and enrollment reports, creates a statewide charter school advisory council, and features new conflict of interest laws that prohibit people employed by for-profit entities with whom the school contracts from serving on a school's board of directors. Nonprofit employees may join boards provided they disclose any conflicts to the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The bill also omits some provisions that were discussed earlier in the session. Among them are leaving the Profile of Learning alone and having students recite the Pledge of Allegiance weekly.

"I wish we had the repeal of the Profile," said Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake). "That would generate a tremendous amount of revenue for local districts to spend on students and teachers in the classroom."

Also, an initial proposal that would have reinstated the state Board of Education was not included in the final version of the law.

The measure was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls).

2001 Special Session: HF2\*/SF6/CH6



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Joshua Gackle peers through the doors while lobbyists mill around in front of the House Chamber June 28. Inside, members debate the omnibus K-12 education bill.

were rural and metropolitan that had over 15 percent minority."

"One of the settlement tenets of the NAACP lawsuit against the city of Minneapolis (which was settled in 2000) was keeping integration

# A cleaner Minnesota

Agriculture and environmental spending law aims to improve land, air, and water quality

BY NICOLE WOOD

**A** new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura June 29 will dedicate a little more than \$1.2 billion in overall spending for agricultural, environmental, and natural resources projects in the 2002-03 budget cycle.

The first of the special session bills to be signed into law, the measure received top billing in part to guarantee that state parks and campgrounds would be open for the July 4 holiday.

Included in the new law are funds for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Department of Agriculture, Pollution Control Agency (PCA), Board of Water and Soil Resources, and other organizations.

Spending from the state's general fund for these efforts will total about \$548 million. The funding formula is complex because the money comes from numerous sources in addition to general tax revenues, including user fees, licenses, surcharges, lottery proceeds, and federal funds.

Gone from the measure are three projects totaling \$780,000 that were line-item vetoed by the governor.

Also not included in the new law is a mandate that diesel fuel contain a percentage of biodiesel, which many legislators had supported. This language was removed during the regular session.

A considerable amount of funding for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, a land conservation program in the Minnesota River Valley, was transferred to the special session bonding initiative.

Both the House and the Senate passed the law June 25. The House vote was 95-34; the Senate sent it along by a 55-5 margin.

Bill sponsor Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee, indicated the bill is "dramatically different dollar-wise" than the version approved by the House during the regular session.

For example, the bill returned from a House/Senate conference committee with a

lower agricultural bottom-line than the House had targeted.

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), chair of the House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee, expressed disappointment that the amount dedicated to agricultural investment equaled a net loss in funding from the previous biennium.

"If you're an environmental advocate, this is a great bill," he said. "If you're trying to be an advocate for agriculture and investment in agriculture, this falls short."

"I believe we have got to change our minds about investing in rural Minnesota and keeping farmers on the farm, and also have some economic value-added initiatives out there," Ness said. "That's going to have to wait another year."

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee, applauded the bill's air monitoring, water planning, and feedlot

cleanup and cost-sharing efforts.

There was, however, some debate to the contrary. "The environment part of this bill would be a great bill for George Bush's Texas, but I don't believe it's a great bill for Minnesota," said Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls).

Sen. Leonard Price (DFL-Woodbury) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

Here are some highlights. All provisions are effective July 1, 2001, unless noted otherwise.

## Funds for DNR

The DNR will receive the largest percentage of the new law's funding — some \$594 million — for projects including firefighting, minerals research, state park operations, snowmobile grants-in-aid, and fish and wildlife management.

One provision will designate \$12 million to maintain a trained force of firefighters to handle the annual demands of Minnesota's fire season. Supporters of this provision testified that "smokechasers," seasonal wildland firefighters, have been leaving Minnesota for more lucrative offers with other states or the federal government and, as a result, the state has to hire on an emergency basis and rely on a number of new recruits every year.

Under the new law, the department will



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

A conservation officer at William O'Brien State Park along the St. Croix River instructs a boater about boat safety and the dangers of milfoil. The new law contains funding for hiring new conservation officers statewide.



receive \$100,000 in fiscal year 2002 to develop and implement a master logger certification program that aims to meet increasing demands for certified lumber and finished products.

Another forest initiative dedicates \$600,000 for matching grants to communities to protect native oak forests against a disease known as "oak wilt." Oak wilt spreads through root systems within a stand of trees and can be stopped by cutting the roots or by the use of chemicals. The forest disease is currently localized mostly in the southern one-third of the state.

Water resources management spending will include \$1.3 million for implementing comprehensive watershed plans and flood damage reduction projects in the Red River Basin.

### Protecting the land, air, and water

The biennial budget for the Pollution Control Agency will equal about \$237 million for a number of environmental protection and cleanup projects.

The agency will be assigned \$4.7 million transferrable to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for efforts to reduce feedlot-related pollution under the county feedlot permit program.

During debate on the House floor, Rep. Scott Wasiluk (DFL-Maplewood) questioned why funding for the PCA's malformed frog research had been discontinued. Scientists speculate that deformed frogs are indicators of bigger environmental problems.

"The PCA is not a research entity; it is a permitting entity," Holsten explained. He said that deformed frogs are not unique to Minnesota and other institutions, such as the National Centers for Disease Control, will continue the research.

With a limited budget, Holsten said, he felt it was more important to fund other environmental efforts such as clean water partnership grants and metropolitan air quality monitoring.

The Clean Water Partnership Program, created in 1987 to assist local governments in combating water pollution from runoff from agricultural and urban areas, will receive \$4.7 million.

Additionally, the agency's budget will provide \$250,000 for ambient air quality monitoring in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

### Department of Agriculture

The \$169 million two-year operating budget for the Department of Agriculture includes \$2 million for the expansion of the Dairy Development and Profitability Enhancement Program. Formerly known as the Dairy Diagnostics Program, it provides professional dairy consultants to assist Minnesota farmers with

comprehensive financial analyses, risk management education, enhanced milk marketing tools and technologies, and five-year business plans.

The Northern Crops Institute will receive \$140,000 for research into farming techniques and farm equipment unique to the Red River Valley.

Move over Florida oranges and Wisconsin cheese: the new law earmarks \$142,000 for Minnesota Grown promotion grants to create and foster brand recognition for Minnesota crops.

The cap on ethanol producer payments from the general fund is set at \$71 million, under this section of the new law.

### Senior discount gutted

Effective March 1, 2003, the new law will increase the cost of fishing licenses for seniors age 65 and over from \$6.50 to \$17, the same rate paid by anglers under age 65.

Proponents of this provision said the game and fish fund could not afford to continue the discounted rates as baby boomers reach retirement age.

### Farmer-lender mediation extended

Effective June 30, 2001, the new law extends the sunset date for the Farmer-Lender Mediation Program from July 1, 2001 to July 1, 2003.

The program's director testified that they have assisted more than 12,000 farmers with restructuring and resolving debt since its inception in 1986.

### Sunken log moratorium

The new law will place a moratorium on the commercial recovery of sunken logs from Minnesota's lakes, reversing a decision by the 2000 Legislature. The moratorium comes in response to the DNR and lake associations who expressed concerns that raising century-old logs would cause environmental damage. The new law requires the DNR to cancel existing log removal contracts and refund the application fee.

### Don't try this at home

Current law prohibits snowmobilers from the dangerous practice of skipping over open water. A provision of the new law will make an exception for certain sanctioned circuit watercross association events. A conservation officer must give written permission and set the date, time, and location of the water-skipping event, under the new law.

### Other agencies

Other appropriations under the new law include \$60.6 million to the Office of Environmental Assistance that was originally

eliminated in the House plan, \$38.3 million to the Board of Water and Soil Resources, nearly \$6.9 million to the Board of Animal Health for the control of diseases such as Johne's disease and avian pneumovirus, and \$164,000 to the Minnesota Horticultural Society.

Minnesota's contribution to the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission will be \$393,000, and the state contribution to the Science Museum of Minnesota's operating expenses will equal \$2.6 million for plans including pollution education and habitat restoration demonstrations.

The new law also directs \$37 million to the Minnesota Zoological Garden for general operations and educational outreach. The "new" zoo, as it has been called for 23 years, hopes to introduce a project called "Connect with the Wildlife at the Minnesota Zoo," that will place new interpretive graphics displays in animal exhibits.

2001 Special Session: HF10/SF10\*/CH2

## Minnesota State Agencies

(Area code 651)

Administration .....	296-6013
Agriculture .....	297-2200
Children, Families and Learning .....	582-8200
Commerce .....	296-4026
Corrections .....	642-0200
Economic Security .....	296-3644
Employee Relations .....	297-1184
Job Information .....	296-2616
Finance .....	296-5900
Health .....	215-5803
Human Rights .....	296-5663
Toll Free .....	1-800-657-3704
Human Services .....	296-6117
Labor and Industry .....	296-6107
Military Affairs .....	282-4662
Natural Resources .....	296-6157
Pollution Control Agency .....	296-6300
Public Safety .....	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services ...	296-6911
Fire Marshal .....	215-0500
Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division .....	296-6979
State Patrol .....	297-3935
Public Service .....	296-5120
Revenue Taxpayer Assistance .....	296-3781
Toll Free .....	1-800-652-9094
Trade and Economic Development .....	297-1291
Office of Tourism .....	296-5029
Transportation .....	296-3000
Veterans Affairs .....	296-2562
State Information .....	296-6013

# Shrinking disparities

Health and human services law provides insurance for children and modifies welfare sanctions

BY MICHELLE KIBIGER

**W**hen conferees first began debating the omnibus health and human services law in May, the House and Senate versions were separated by less than \$300 million — only about 3 percent of overall spending in the bills.

But in reality, policy provisions in the House and Senate bills made them worlds apart. And it took a governor's veto and a month of negotiation to bring the members of the House-Senate working group to an agreement early June 29.

In the end, it took less than an hour for both the House and Senate to pass the \$8.5 billion health, human services, and corrections spending measure later that evening. About \$7 billion of that money comes from the

"I can't stand up and think of another way to praise this bill more than has already been said," said House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul). "This debate has taken a very different turn, and I think the votes will be different than everybody thought."

The House bill originally contained far fewer exemptions to welfare sanctions, contained an abortion consent measure that prompted the governor to veto the bill, and limited how family planning funds could be spent. But the fundamental principles in the bill — long-term care reform, reducing health disparities, funding mental health initiatives, providing alternatives for children with autism, and unlocking the waiting list for people with developmental disabilities — remained

a lot of the other bills we've been producing this session."

Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls), chair of that body's health and human services finance committee, conceded that Senate negotiators didn't get everything they wanted.

"We made it even better coming back than going into conference committee," she said while presenting the bill to the Senate on the session's final night.

The biggest chunk of spending in the law funds the Department of Human Services, which constitutes about 85 percent of the overall funding. Key in those provisions are built-in exemptions to the sanctions imposed for violating the state's welfare reform program's 60-month limit, long-term care funding, medical assistance, and more funding to insure more of the state's children and families by 2005.

## Welfare sanctions

Ventura recommended that the state spend nearly \$34 million during the biennium to extend sanctions while still granting benefits to families that are complying with guidelines of the Minnesota Family Investment Program — the state's welfare reform assistance plan — and that are working or trying to obtain a sustainable job.

Proposed extensions varied depending how much of the time a family had been in compliance while receiving benefits.

The law allocates \$19 million to extend benefits for nearly 52 percent of families nearing the 60-month limit for benefits.

The plan will exempt participants who meet the following requirements:

- one-parent family — 25 hours of employment or 30 hours of work activity.
- two-parent family — 45 hours of employment or 55 hours of work activity.
- if loss of employment was involuntary, an exception is allowed if the unemployment was only for one month or happened only twice in a year.

In addition, extensions will be made available for certain hardships and hard-to-employ individuals, while funding is provided for legal non-citizens and employment and training. The law provides a hard sunset for extensions at June 30, 2004.

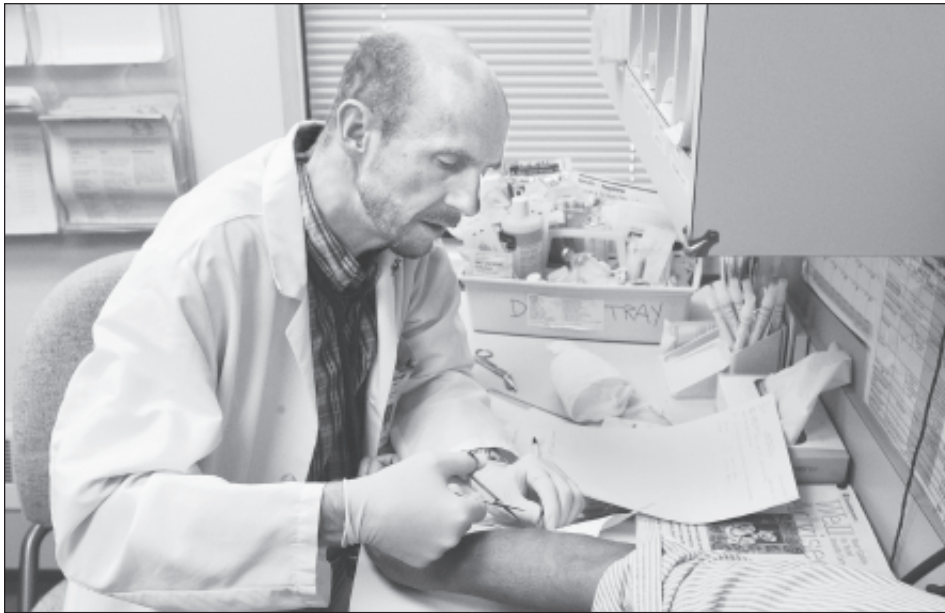


PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Funding in the omnibus health and human services law will provide funding to eliminate health disparities between white and minority communities in Minnesota.**

general fund. The House voted 122-9, and the Senate passed it 61-0. Gov. Jesse Ventura signed the law June 30.

By the time members reached consensus, both sides were happy with the final product. And members of their own bodies lauded the measure.

in the final product, and were strengthened, sponsors said.

"This is a very good bill overall. I think it's very balanced," said Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) lead House negotiator and chair of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee. "I think it's a lot better than

## Children's health

The law allocates about \$4.4 million for a plan that provides health insurance coverage for more children and more adults at a fraction of the cost of the governor's proposal. The governor suggested extending coverage to more children, while simultaneously reducing coverage for the adult population, at a cost of \$11.9 million for the biennium. Neither plan originating from the House and Senate contained funding for the grants.

The goal, Goodno said, is to provide insurance coverage for 20,000 children under age 19 by fiscal year 2005. Under the law, income limits for benefits are at 100 percent of federal poverty guidelines for parents and 170 percent of guidelines for children to receive medical assistance.

The federal poverty limit for annual income in 2000 for a family of four was \$17,050.

Also, a bridge plan provides that when they reach the 170 percent limit, children can be covered up to age 19 if they are under 217 percent of federal poverty guidelines. They will receive the coverage under the MinnesotaCare program, one year will be premium free, and they will ultimately reach a \$5 copayment four years after entering.

## Long-term care

The Legislature appropriated \$131 million more for long-term care reform in the 2002-03 biennium. Of that figure, \$108 million will provide rate increases for the industry.

Increased spending will be offset by a proposal to downsize the nursing home industry by 5,100 beds during the biennium, a decrease in overall nursing home capacity of more than 10 percent. The reduction will save the state's general fund \$44 million.

Built into that funding are several provisions to add flexibility to the state's long-term care system. Specifically, legislators said they hoped the plan will help encourage more home- and community-based options for Minnesotans, rather than only having the choice of nursing home care.

New money was also provided for regional planning and development, community resource development grants, and several items that encourage employees to enter the long-term care field.

In both 2002 and 2003, nursing homes and long-term care facilities will get 3 percent cost-of-living increases, while the operators of intermediate care facilities for people with mental retardation and day training and habilitation services will receive 3.5 percent. The law requires that about two-thirds of the increase be dedicated to wages, benefits, and other personnel costs. As a result, institutions must develop a plan

to explain how that will be accomplished, so officials can be sure the money is going where it was intended, Berglin said.

Ventura only recommended a 2 percent increase in 2003 because of previous increases granted by the Legislature but not recommended by the administration.

## Other health provisions

Several other changes to health and human services programs were provided in the law.

The law contains about \$10 million to eliminate existing health disparities between white and racial and ethnic populations in the state, particularly with regard to infant mortality. Ventura recommended spending nearly \$14 million. Budget documents cite infant mortality, diabetes, breast cancer, communicable diseases, and sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancy as areas where statistics indicate significant disparities. The House bill originally contained another \$4 million for maternal and child health initiatives in this area, but that money was removed during negotiations.

The law expands eligibility for the state's prescriptions drug program for the second year in a row. Seniors with incomes of up to 135 percent of federal poverty guidelines will now be eligible for the pharmacy program on Jan. 1, 2002.

People with disabilities, whose income is less than 120 percent of federal poverty guidelines, will be eligible for the pharmacy program on July 1, 2002. Under current law, seniors are eligible at 120 percent and the disabled at 100 percent of poverty guidelines.

Members came to a compromise on language changing the immunization schedule in the state. During the regular session, the House approved plans to allow the Health Department to vary the schedule while the Legislature is not in session, subject to their approval at the next opportunity. The law allows the department to change the schedule, subject to the approval during the administrative law process (which allows citizen input and arbitration by a judge). If those means do not resolve disputes, the new law will allow chairs of both the House and Senate committees with health jurisdiction to review the rules in public hearings.

The new law includes language that changes civil commitment procedures to give families more flexibility. Those provisions were initially sponsored in the House by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville).

In addition, the law provides \$557,000 in medical assistance money for alternative therapies for children with autism.

## Felony DWI

The bill will create a felony drunken driving penalty, making a person's fourth conviction within 10 years a felony beginning Aug. 1, 2002.

The language is a result of much deliberation over the course of the 2000 and 2001 sessions, including an interim task force to examine the feasibility and costs of such a penalty.

Key among legislators' concerns was the cost that would be associated with such a penalty — both to state and local governments.

Included in the bill is about \$2.6 million in funding for felony DWI. Particularly, the money will go to the Public Defense Board, to the state Attorney General for felony appeals, the Department of Public Safety for enforcement and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension lab, and the Department of Corrections for probation officers to handle the new felons.

The large share of that money, \$2.1 million, goes to the Corrections Department for the potential bed impact involved with the new felony penalty.

## Corrections

About \$845 million in spending during 2002-03 for corrections and other criminal justice functions is also included in the bill. (Felony drunken driving appropriations mentioned above are included in this amount.)

However, provisions in the bill will capture about \$9 million in extra revenue, dropping net spending to about \$833 million, primarily from the general fund.

The largest chunk is dedicated to the Department of Corrections, which will receive about \$735 million over the biennium. Key corrections initiatives involve funding for probation officers.

There are three ways that probation services are provided in the state. About 31 counties participate in the Community Corrections Act (CCA), a partnership between the state and counties to provide correctional services at the local level. As a result, CCA counties are reimbursed for their costs by the state.

Of the remaining, 26 counties receive court services from the Department of Corrections and 30 counties rely on the state for court services for adult felons only.

Under the bill, all three areas will see an increase in base funding for the biennium. CCA counties portion will go up \$15 million for the biennium, and nearly \$1 million in increased funding will go to non-CCA counties. Counties providing their own probation services will be reimbursed for half of their costs, said Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), with nearly \$2 million extra funding in the bill.

Continued on page 31



# Economics 101

Lawmakers increase funding for MnSCU and U of M, but tuition hikes forecast; youth tobacco money untapped

By **MIKE COOK**

A higher education finance bill that features both good and bad news for students was signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura June 30.

His signature of the \$2.8 billion bill followed a 68-62 House vote and 41-19 Senate vote, both on June 25. The law is effective July 1, 2001.

"We spun gold out of straw," Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), the House lead negotiator, said as the working group agreement was announced May 31.

Said her counterpart in the Senate, Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan), "The bill represents the best we could do with the resources we have."

Gov. Ventura did not veto any portions of the law.

The law features \$176 million in new general fund spending for higher education, and nearly \$196 million overall. Ventura proposed \$99.2 million in general fund spending, the House \$165 million, and the Senate \$268 million.

It calls for \$100 million in additional spending for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and almost \$91 million for the University of Minnesota. MnSCU sought \$255.6 million in new spending, while the university asked for \$221.5 million. Leppik said MnSCU's allocation is 8.6 percent above the base and the university's 7.6 percent. "Both are more than inflation," she said.

Total state monies for MnSCU amount to more than \$1.24 billion during the biennium and almost \$1.3 billion for the U of M.

The university will also receive about \$20 million in tobacco fund money for its Academic Health Center on the Twin Cities Campus. University officials said the school needs \$16 million to stabilize the center.

"This will be a great shot in the arm for the medical school," said Richard Pfutzenreuter, chief financial officer and treasurer at the U of M.

A bone of contention for many, the health center dollars will now come from a separate account in the medical education endowment fund created by using tobacco settlement payments that are to be paid on Jan. 2, 2002 and Jan. 2, 2003. Funds originally proposed to be used from the youth state anti-smoking campaign will not be touched.

Under the original House plan, money for the health center would have come from earnings on the investments of the two endowments established with the tobacco funds, estimated at \$23 million for the biennium.

Additionally the law allocates almost \$1.64 million annually to the Mayo Medical Foundation, with much of that money allocated to train doctors who

will practice in rural areas of the state.

Furthermore, it provides nearly \$148.7 million for the Higher Education Services Office in fiscal year 2002 and \$157.6 million in FY2003.

Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) said during debate on the House floor that the measure reflects a lack of balance at the time of a surplus. He noted that businesses are getting a larger tax break and they need a well-trained workforce, yet students face a larger burden.

"We should lower tax help for businesses and increase student aid," he said.

The law increases student assistance in other ways by featuring "a number of financial aid reforms that



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Money from tobacco settlement payments will help fund the Academic Health Center at the University of Minnesota, home to the medical school on the Twin cities campus.

students have been asking to change,” Leppik said.

It allocates \$9.65 million to expand the eligibility for receiving a state grant to a fifth year, and increases the maximum child care grant from \$2,000 to \$2,600 per academic year while extending eligibility from eight to 10 semesters.

To help more students attend and remain in school, the bill also provides for a college savings program.

Operated by the Higher Education Services Office, the Minnesota College Savings Plan (formerly referred to as Edvest) will allow individuals to save for college in investment accounts managed by the state. Under the program the state will provide a matching grant to eligible Minnesota resident families contributing at least \$200 in a year.

In the program, families with \$80,000 or less in income are eligible to receive up to 15 percent (maximum \$300) of their annual contribution.

Nevertheless, both MnSCU and U of M officials predict significant tuition increases for students.

Former MnSCU Chancellor Morrie Anderson said the law is expected to result in an average tuition increase per student of 9.4 percent. He said students on most MnSCU campuses will see an annual tuition increase of between 7 percent and 11 percent. However the rest of campuses will split between an increase of less than 7 percent and an increase of greater than 11 percent.

“That equates to a cost of \$240 to \$250 per year on a 30-credit structure,” he said.

University of Minnesota President Mark Yudof presented a plan to the university’s Board of Regents June 26 that would raise tuition approximately 13 percent in 2002 and 2003.

Besides establishing funding for the next two years, the bill features several policy initiatives.

For the services office, the legislation does three things with regard to financial aid grants. First, it decreases the family share for calculating the amount of a state grant award for independent students. Next, the law exempts certain full-time employees who move to the state from the one-year residency requirement for state aid. Third, it provides that state financial aid program savings due to increases in the federal Pell Grant program must be used to provide additional decreases in the family responsibility for independent students and to increase funding for work study programs.

The law also requires that the office collect monthly data from institutions participating

in the state grant program and report on its expenditures to the higher education committee chairs in the Legislature and commissioner of finance four times per year. The goal of this provision is for the office to use all of its allotted funds, and if not, to transfer them elsewhere. It is expected the agency will have more than \$10 million returned to the general fund at the conclusion of fiscal year 2001.

In terms of reciprocity, the law requires the Higher Education Services Office, along with representatives from MnSCU and the university, to negotiate tuition agreements with North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The goal is to minimize state obligations with new methods of collaboration aimed at improved access and reduced cost.

A progress report on reciprocity must be presented to the 2002 Legislature. Leaders say this is important given that the state will pay \$10.5 million to other states to meet reciprocity contract obligations in the next biennium.

For MnSCU the law prohibits the planning or developing of doctoral programs without prior legislative approval. It also requires that the Minnesota transfer curriculum, which will help provide a standard transfer system for credits, be implemented at its institutions by Jan. 1, 2002.

Other MnSCU provisions in the law include:

- expanding the authority of the board of trustees to acquire or convey facilities under system control,
- adding MnSCU to the law that authorizes a full refund of tuition paid for a student who enters military service,
- distributing \$5 million of the central office reserves to the campuses through a leveraged equipment purchase program, and
- requiring the MnSCU board and council of presidents to study the method of delivering services from the central office to member institutions.

The study would, in part, assess ways to streamline the process and eliminate duplication of things on campuses and at the central office.

As for the university, the law establishes a Commission on University of Minnesota Excellence. The 15 members will examine the mission, scope and financing of the university, propose ways to refocus the mission, and recommend how the university can develop five or more centers of excellence that can achieve a top 10 national rank in the next decade.

Both the university and MnSCU are required to complete two reports under the

legislation. The first, to be completed by Feb. 1 of even-numbered years, regards allocation of state appropriations, tuition rates and fees, and how that relates to leveraging non-state money.

A second report, to be completed by Feb. 15, 2002 and each odd-numbered year thereafter, will measure a number of areas, including:

- a report on five priority undergraduate programs,
- reallocations to advance the priorities,
- baseline data and methods used to measure first generation students,
- a plan to increase recruitment and retention, and
- progress in increasing graduations and transfers to four-year institutions by race, ethnicity, and gender.

One new educational program is funded in the law and another program received money for expansion.

The new initiative is a post-secondary grant program for Minnesota high school students who will attend college in the state. Those who achieve qualifying scores on a specified number of advanced placement or international baccalaureate tests will be eligible for a state-funded grant. The program will receive \$150,000. In addition the bill provides \$110,000 for the expansion of the Minnesota Talented Youth Math Project — operated by Minnesota State University, Mankato — from south-central Minnesota to one additional region. The program teaches advanced skills via interactive television to top math students beginning in grade six.

2001 Special Session: HF6/SF11\*/CH1



## Where to find information

### House Public Information Office

175 State Office Building  
(651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

The House Public Information Office is a nonpartisan office that provides committee meetingschedules; legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* news magazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the Legislature’s World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>



# What a relief

Rebate checks, increased taxpayer assistance, and class compression among highlights of plan

By DAVID MAEDA

**M**any Minnesotans will receive double-digit property tax reductions under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura June 30.

The measure, which was at the heart of the legislative stalemate, contains class rate reductions across all property types, as well as the elimination of the state-determined general education levy.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) the House sponsor, called the measure "historic property tax reform" and said the end product was a result of several years work by members of both parties.

"The structural reforms that are contained within the property tax article have been ideas from both sides of the aisle for at least as long as I've been here," said Abrams, a legislator since 1989.

Under the previous education funding system, 25 percent of the \$7.3 billion cost of

K-12 funding came from property taxes. Of that 25 percent, 48 percent or \$900 million was the cost of the state-determined general education levy.

By eliminating that mandated levy, Abrams said the property tax will become more of a local tax.

The new law also replaces up to \$415 per pupil of operating referendum property taxes with funding from the state's general fund.

## Class compression

The law simplifies the state's property class rate system in which different types of properties at different values were previously taxed at different rates. For example, residential homestead property up to \$76,000 was taxed at 1 percent but the value over that amount was taxed at 1.65 percent. Under the new law, residential homestead property under \$500,000 will be taxed at 1 percent with the value over that amount taxed at 1.25 percent.

Apartments will see some of the biggest reductions under the measure as the regular apartment rate is reduced from 2.4 percent to 1.8 percent.

Abrams said that although the relief goes to apartment property owners rather than renters, the reduction will stimulate more construction of apartments in the state.

Under the new law, the state's property tax refund program is enhanced to increase the maximum homeowner property tax refund from \$510 to \$1,500. The maximum eligible income to qualify for the refund has also been increased from \$71,100 to \$80,000.

A sticking point in the budget negotiations was the amount of class rate reduction for commercial/industrial properties. The new law reduces those rates from the current 2.4 percent on property valued up to \$150,000 to 1.5 percent. For property greater than \$150,000 the rate is reduced from 3.4 percent to 2 percent.

A new statewide business tax of \$592 million on commercial industrial and seasonal recreational properties is established under the new law. Future growth in that tax is dedicated to education funding.

## Transit funding

The Metropolitan Council's authority to levy property taxes to pay for the operating costs of transit systems has been eliminated. To replace the levy, which expires after fiscal year 2002, 20.75 percent of the revenues from the sales tax on motor vehicles is dedicated in 2003 and 22.75 percent in the following years.

## District court costs

The state will continue its takeover of the costs of district court administration under the new law.

Court costs for the second district, which includes all of Ramsey County and the fourth district, which includes Hennepin County, will be paid by the state starting July 1, 2003.

The costs for the first district, consisting of Carver, Dakota, Goodhue, LeSueur, McLeod, Scott, and Sibley counties, and the third district, which consists of Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, and Winona counties, will be taken over on July 1, 2004.

The sixth district, which includes Carlton,



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

All classes of property will receive a break under the tax law passed by the legislature and signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Cook, Lake and St. Louis counties, and the 10th district, composed of Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, Sherburne, Washington and Wright counties, will be taken over beginning July 1, 2005.

### Income taxes

Among changes to the income tax laws is an appropriation of \$200,000 for low-income taxpayer assistance.

Certain banks will receive a tax break as the state's tax law now fully conforms with federal treatment of banks that have elected subchapter S status under the IRS tax code.

Prior to 1997, federal law did not permit financial institutions to elect S corporation status. That status allows businesses to be treated as partnerships for tax purposes, where the income of the business is directly taxed to its shareholders whether distributed or not.

Since 1999 Minnesota banks have been allowed S corporation treatment for state tax purposes, except that the bank is subject to the corporate franchise tax and the shareholders are allowed a credit against the individual income tax equal to 80 percent of the corporate tax.

### Sales tax

Abrams said the last remaining "accounting gimmick" leftover from the late 1980s and early 1990s when the state was trying to address budget deficits will be eliminated under the new law.

Under prior law retailers with at least \$120,000 in annual sales tax collections were required to pay 62 percent of their estimated June sales tax liability two business days before June 30. The rest of the year they are required to pay the taxes by the 14th of the following month.

The 2000 omnibus tax law lessened some tax burden on state retailers by eliminating the accelerated payment requirement on excise taxes and reducing the percentage due on sales and use tax from 75 percent to 62 percent.

The new law eliminates the June accelerated payment beginning with June 2002 payments.

### Streamlined sales tax

During 2000, a multi-state effort known as the "Streamlined Sales Tax Project" began looking at ways of simplifying administration of the sales-and-use tax for sellers in the hope that a more universal system would mean higher compliance with existing laws.

The project was also meant to address concerns of "Main Street" business owners who sought to ensure that remote sellers don't have an unfair advantage because they aren't collecting and remitting sales taxes.

The 39 states participating in the project

developed a standard act that provides model legislation and the provisions required for a state to enter into the agreement.

The new law adopts the provisions that will allow the state to enter into the agreement. The law will implement the uniform definitions and standards developed by the project.

There are some quirks to some of the new definitions. For example, some items that used to be taxed will now be exempt.

Included in this category are ice, bottled water, unsweetened tea, single servings of ice cream treats, snack foods sold in bars and restaurants, and near beer.

Likewise, items that are currently exempt become subject to sales tax under the measure. These items include chocolate chips, mini-marshmallows, and beverages containing more than 15 percent but less than 50 percent juice.

### Sales tax rebate

The new law authorizes a sales tax rebate of \$852 million. That amount will be adjusted to reflect the final fiscal year 2001 surplus as certified by the commissioner of the Department of Finance on July 15. Officials from the Department of Revenue are estimating the actual amount of the surplus will be closer to \$700 million. Checks are expected to be mailed sometime in August.

Using the \$852 million figure, the law establishes a minimum rebate of \$233 for married couples filing a joint return and for heads of households. A maximum amount of \$3,250 is also established for those taxpayers.

For single filers the minimum is \$118, with a maximum amount of \$1,625.

If the actual surplus is \$700 million, then the amount of each check would be reduced by about 18 percent.

The rebate will be mailed out automatically to those who had a state or federal income tax liability in 1999. Dependents with wage income are eligible for a rebate equal to 35 percent of the table amount. Individuals who had social security or public pension income in 1999 who filed a tax return in order to claim a refund will also receive a rebate check.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Rep. Ted Winter, left, gives a congratulatory handshake to Rep. Ron Abrams, chair of the House Taxes Committee, after the House passed the omnibus tax bill June 28.

### Miscellaneous policy provisions

A new subtraction is allowed under the new law. Musical instruments used in classes now can be claimed as a K-12 education expense.

The new law provides an exemption of military pay of active duty personnel stationed outside of Minnesota.


A reduced 1.5 percent health care provider tax is extended for two additional years, under the new law. That tax was scheduled to increase to 2 percent on Jan. 1, 2002. The original House proposal to eliminate the tax was not adopted by the working group.

### Moment of levity

In the final moments of the tax working group, Abrams and Sen. Larry Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls), the Senate sponsor, compared their blood pressure statistics. Both noted despite the stressful negotiations, they were able to maintain a healthy blood pressure.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) noted that he admired those with low blood pressures.

"I thought about getting in shape once," McElroy said. "Then I decided round is a shape."

2001 Special Session: HF1\*/SF13/CH5 

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# Minnesota House of Representatives 2001 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
		Room*				Room*	
49A	Abeler, Jim (R)	581	1729	40B	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	337	4218
45A	Abrams, Ron (R)	585	9934	45B	Leppik, Peggy (R)	485	7026
19B	Anderson, Bruce (R)	411	5063	2A	Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	323	5091
3A	Anderson, Irv (DFL)	343	4936	33A	Lindner, Arlon (R)	417	7806
6A	Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	345	2190	56B	Lipman, Eric (R)	567	4244
48B	Bernardy, Connie (DFL)	329	5510	47A	Luther, Darlene (DFL)	349	3751
59A	Biernat, Len (DFL)	303	4219	67A	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	377	4277
30B	Bishop, Dave (R)	453	0573	55A	Mares, Harry (R)	401	5363
25B	Boudreau, Lynda (R)	473	8237	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	203	9714
30A	Bradley, Fran (R)	559	9249	57B	Marko, Sharon (DFL)	279	3135
35B	Buesgens, Mark (R)	445	1072	9B	Marquart, Paul (DFL)	311	6829
46B	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	283	4255	36B	McElroy, Dan (R)	437	4212
10B	Cassell, George (R)	421	4317	54A	McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	259	4342
23A	Clark, James T. (R)	551	9303	39B	Milbert, Bob (DFL)	243	4192
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	307	0294	35A	Molnau, Carol L. (R)	443	8872
11A	Daggett, Roxann (R)	439	4293	21B	Mulder, Richard (R)	515	4336
31B	Davids, Gregory M. (R)	549	9278	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	387	4262
62A	Davnie, Jim (DFL)	335	0173	8A	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	357	2676
65A	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	215	5158	20A	Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	509	4344
14A	Dehler, Steve (R)	491	7808	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946
29A	Dempsey, Jerry (R)	575	8635	19A	Olson, Mark (R)	501	4237
60B	Dibble, Scott (DFL)	369	9281	16A	Opatz, Joe (DFL)	277	6612
27A	Dorman, Dan (R)	579	8216	29B	Osskopp, Mike (R)	521	9236
24A	Dorn, John (DFL)	201	3248	66A	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	273	4224
18A	Eastlund, Rob (R)	449	5364	11B	Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	393	3201
64A	Entenza, Matt (DFL)	261	8799	37A	Ozment, Dennis (R)	479	4306
42A	Erhardt, Ron (R)	591	4363	42B	Paulsen, Erik (R)	545	7449
17A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	407	6746	38B	Pawlenty, Tim (R)	459	4128
52B	Evans, Geri (DFL)	211	0141	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	209	4199
1B	Finseth, Tim (R)	517	9918	32A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	295	8637
44A	Folliard, Betty (DFL)	281	3964	1A	Penas, Maxine (R)	553	9635
4A	Fuller, Doug (R)	525	5516	13B	Peterson, Doug (DFL)	287	4228
36A	Gerlach, Chris (R)	531	5506	39A	Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	267	6828
63B	Gleason, Mark S. (DFL)	313	5375	44B	Rhodes, Jim (R)	409	9889
9A	Goodno, Kevin (R)	563	5515	32B	Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	423	1069
52A	Goodwin, Barbara (DFL)	353	4331	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	375	0170
58B	Gray, Gregory (DFL)	327	8659	28A	Ruth, Connie (R)	415	5368
54B	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	253	5387	17B	Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	217	5377
26A	Gunther, Bob (R)	379	3240	41A	Seagren, Alice (R)	477	7803
48A	Haas, Bill (R)	569	5513	21A	Seifert, Marty (R)	593	5374
50A	Hackbarth, Tom (R)	577	2439	5B	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL)	233	0172
22B	Harder, Elaine (R)	583	5373	2B	Skoe, Rod (DFL)	321	4265
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	245	3824	62B	Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	251	4330
47B	Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	227	3709	57A	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	359	7807
8B	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	207	4308	34A	Smith, Steve (R)	503	9188
37B	Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	433	6926	3B	Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	309	2365
56A	Holsten, Mark William (R)	381	3018	33B	Stanek, Rich (R)	543	5502
4B	Howes, Larry (R)	431	2451	14B	Stang, Doug (R)	597	4373
6B	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	351	2228	28B	Swiggum, Steve (R)	463	2273
53B	Jacobson, Carl (R)	429	7153	7A	Swapinski, Dale (DFL)	331	4282
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	291	4246	23B	Swenson, Howard (R)	539	8634
18B	Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	237	0518	43B	Sykora, Barb (R)	403	4315
34B	Johnson, Jeff (R)	487	5511	46A	Thompson, Mark (DFL)	223	4176
24B	Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	241	7065	50B	Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	507	5369
67B	Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	229	4201	25A	Tuma, John (R)	533	4229
15A	Juhnke, Al (DFL)	371	6206	51B	Vandever, Ray (R)	529	4124
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	255	4257	63A	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	239	4200
26B	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	317	4240	61B	Walker, Neva (DFL)	213	7152
60A	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)	231	0171	12A	Walz, Dale (R)	527	4333
20B	Kielkucki, Tony (R)	367	1534	55B	Wasiuk, Scott (DFL)	225	1188
16B	Knobloch, Jim (R)	451	6316	12B	Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	389	4247
49B	Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	301	4231	51A	Westerberg, Andrew (R)	523	4226
53A	Krinkie, Philip (R)	365	2907	13A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	557	4929
15B	Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	315	4346	38A	Wilkin, Tim (R)	413	3533
31A	Kuisle, William (R)	565	4378	22A	Winter, Ted (DFL)	247	5505
40A	Larson, Dan (DFL)	221	7158	41B	Wolf, Ken (R)	571	5185
27B	Leighton, Rob (DFL)	289	4193	43A	Workman, Tom (R)	537	5066

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

List as of January 24, 2001

\*All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted,  
St. Paul, MN 55155



# Minnesota Senate 2001 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
		Room*				Room*	
66	Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	120 Cap.	5537	54	Marty, John (DFL)	325 Cap.	5645
56	Bachmann, Michele M. (R)	125 SOB	4351	39	Metzen, James P. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4370
41	Belanger Jr., William V. (R)	113 SOB	5975	2	Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577
13	Berg, Charles A. (R)	G-25 SOB	5094	29	Murphy, Steve (DFL)	306 Cap.	4264
61	Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261	25	Neuville, Thomas M. (R)	123 SOB	1279
48	Betzold, Don (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	2556	43	Oliver, Edward C. (R)	117 SOB	4837
52	Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	325 Cap.	4334	34	Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282
64	Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931	60	Orfield, Myron (DFL)	227 Cap.	4191
28	Day, Dick (R)	147 SOB	9457	19	Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981
20	Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131	65	Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802
14	Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	G-15 SOB	2084	37	Pariseau, Pat (R)	109 SOB	5252
49	Foley, Leo T. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	4154	59	Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
26	Fowler, Chuck (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5713	57	Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7-8060
23	Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	139 SOB	8138	63	Ranum, Jane B. (DFL)	120 Cap.	7-8061
58	Higgins, Linda I. (DFL)	328 Cap.	9246	53	Reiter, Mady (R)	132D SOB	1253
24	Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	205 Cap.	6153	46	Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	2889
40	Johnson, David H. (DFL)	124 Cap.	9261	18	Ring, Twyla (DFL)	306 Cap.	5419
15	Johnson, Dean E. (DFL)	124B Cap.	3826	45	Robertson, Martha R. (R)	141 SOB	4314
50	Johnson, Debbie J. (R)	149 SOB	3219	35	Robling, Claire A. (R)	143 SOB	4123
6	Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881	62	Sabo, Julie A. (DFL)	317 Cap.	4274
44	Kelley, Steve (DFL)	321 Cap.	7-8065	11	Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	328 Cap.	7-8063
67	Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	323 Cap.	5285	12	Samuelson, Don (DFL)	120 Cap.	4875
32	Kierlin, Bob (R)	127 SOB	5649	31	Scheevel, Kenric J. (R)	129 SOB	3903
4	Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4913	47	Scheid, Linda (DFL)	303 Cap.	8869
30	Kiscaden, Sheila M. (R)	135 SOB	4848	27	Schwab, Grace (R)	151 SOB	9248
16	Kleis, Dave (R)	107 SOB	6455	7	Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188
36	Knutson, David L. (R)	133 SOB	4120	17	Stevens, Dan (R)	105 SOB	8075
51	Krentz, Jane (DFL)	111 Cap.	7061	1	Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660
9	Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205	42	Terwilliger, Roy (R)	115 SOB	6238
10	Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655	5	Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	111 Cap.	8017
21	Lesewski, Arlene J. (R)	131 SOB	4125	22	Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
3	Lessard, Bob (IP)	G-51 SOB	4136	38	Wiener, Deanna L. (DFL)	303 Cap.	7-8073
33	Limmer, Warren (R)	121 SOB	2159	55	Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	301 Cap.	6820
8	Lourey, Becky (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	0293				

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## Minnesota House and Senate Membership

<b>1</b>	A • Rep. Maxine Penas-(R) B • Rep. Tim Finseth-(R) Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-(DFL)	<b>15</b>	A • Rep. Al Juhnke-(DFL) B • Rep. Gary W. Kubly-(DFL) Sen. Dean E. Johnson-(DFL)	<b>29</b>	A • Rep. Jerry Dempsey-(R) B • Rep. Mike Osskopp-(R) Sen. Steve Murphy-(DFL)	<b>43</b>	A • Rep. Tom Workman-(R) B • Rep. Barb Sykora-(R) Sen. Edward C. Oliver-(R)	<b>57</b>	A • Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL) B • Rep. Sharon Marko-(DFL) Sen. Leonard R. Price-(DFL)
<b>2</b>	A • Rep. Bernie L. Lieder-(DFL) B • Rep. Rod Skoe-(DFL) Sen. Roger D. Moe-(DFL)	<b>16</b>	A • Rep. Joe Opatz-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Knoblach-(R) Sen. Dave Kleis-(R)	<b>30</b>	A • Rep. Fran Bradley-(R) B • Rep. Dave Bishop-(R) Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-(R)	<b>44</b>	A • Rep. Betty Folliard-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Rhodes-(R) Sen. Steve Kelley-(DFL)	<b>58</b>	A • Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL) B • Rep. Gregory Gray-(DFL) Sen. Linda Higgins-(DFL)
<b>3</b>	A • Rep. Irv Anderson-(DFL) B • Rep. Loren A. Solberg-(DFL) Sen. Bob Lessard-(IP)	<b>17</b>	A • Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R) B • Rep. Leslie J. Schumacher-(DFL) Sen. Dan Stevens-(R)	<b>31</b>	A • Rep. William Kuisle-(R) B • Rep. Gregory M. Davids-(R) Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-(R)	<b>45</b>	A • Rep. Ron Abrams-(R) B • Rep. Peggy Leppik-(R) Sen. Martha R. Robertson-(R)	<b>59</b>	A • Rep. Len Biernat-(DFL) B • Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL) Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-(DFL)
<b>4</b>	A • Rep. Doug Fuller-(R) B • Rep. Larry Howes-(R) Sen. Anthony G. "Tony" Kinkel-(DFL)	<b>18</b>	A • Rep. Rob Eastlund-(R) B • Rep. Loren Geo Jennings-(DFL) Sen. Twyla Ring-(DFL)	<b>32</b>	A • Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL) B • Rep. Michelle Rifenberg-(R) Sen. Bob Kierlin-(R)	<b>46</b>	A • Rep. Mark Thompson-(DFL) B • Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson-(DFL) Sen. Ann H. Rest-(DFL)	<b>60</b>	A • Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher-(DFL) B • Rep. Scott Dibble-(DFL) Sen. Myron Orfield-(DFL)
<b>5</b>	A • Rep. Tom Rukavina-(DFL) B • Rep. Anthony "Tony" Sertich-(DFL) Sen. David J. Tomassoni-(DFL)	<b>19</b>	A • Rep. Mark Olson-(R) B • Rep. Bruce Anderson-(R) Sen. Mark Ourada-(R)	<b>33</b>	A • Rep. Arlon Lindner-(R) B • Rep. Rich Stanek-(R) Sen. Warren Limmer-(R)	<b>47</b>	A • Rep. Darlene Luther-(DFL) B • Rep. Debra Hilstrom-(DFL) Sen. Linda Scheid-(DFL)	<b>61</b>	A • Rep. Karen Clark-(DFL) B • Rep. Neva Walker-(DFL) Sen. Linda Berglin-(DFL)
<b>6</b>	A • Rep. Thomas (Tom) Bakk-(DFL) B • Rep. Thomas Huntley-(DFL) Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-(DFL)	<b>20</b>	A • Rep. Robert "Bob" Ness-(R) B • Rep. Tony Kielucki-(R) Sen. Steve Dille-(R)	<b>34</b>	A • Rep. Steve Smith-(R) B • Rep. Jeff Johnson-(R) Sen. Gen Olson-(R)	<b>48</b>	A • Rep. Bill Haas-(R) B • Rep. Connie Bernardy-(DFL) Sen. Don Betzold-(DFL)	<b>62</b>	A • Rep. Jim Davnie-(DFL) B • Rep. Mark S. Gleason-(DFL) Sen. Julie A. Sabo-(DFL)
<b>7</b>	A • Rep. Dale Swapinski-(DFL) B • Rep. Mike Jaros-(DFL) Sen. Sam G. Solon-(DFL)	<b>21</b>	A • Rep. Marty Seifert-(R) B • Rep. Richard Mulder-(R) Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-(R)	<b>35</b>	A • Rep. Carol L. Molnau-(R) B • Rep. Mark Buegens-(R) Sen. Claire A. Robling-(R)	<b>49</b>	A • Rep. Jim Abele-(R) B • Rep. Luanne Koskinen-(DFL) Sen. Leo Foley-(DFL)	<b>63</b>	A • Rep. Jean Wagenius-(DFL) B • Rep. Wes Skoglund-(DFL) Sen. Jane B. Ranum-(DFL)
<b>8</b>	A • Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL) B • Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL) Sen. Becky Lourey-(DFL)	<b>22</b>	A • Rep. Ted Winter-(DFL) B • Rep. Elaine Harder-(R) Sen. Jim Vickerman-(DFL)	<b>36</b>	A • Rep. Chris Gerlach-(R) B • Rep. Dan McElroy-(R) Sen. David L. Knutson-(R)	<b>50</b>	A • Rep. Tom Hackbarth-(R) B • Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-(R) Sen. Debbie J. Johnson-(R)	<b>64</b>	A • Rep. Matt Entenza-(DFL) B • Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL) Sen. Richard J. Cohen-(DFL)
<b>9</b>	A • Rep. Kevin Goodno-(R) B • Rep. Paul Marquart-(DFL) Sen. Keith Langseth-(DFL)	<b>23</b>	A • Rep. James T. Clark-(R) B • Rep. Howard Swenson-(R) Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-(R)	<b>37</b>	A • Rep. Dennis Ozment-(R) B • Rep. Mary Liz Holberg-(R) Sen. Pat Pariseau-(R)	<b>51</b>	A • Rep. Andrew Westerberg-(R) B • Rep. Ray Vandever-(R) Sen. Jane Krentz-(DFL)	<b>65</b>	A • Rep. Andy Dawkins-(DFL) B • Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL) Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-(DFL)
<b>10</b>	A • Rep. Bud Nornes-(R) B • Rep. George Cassell-(R) Sen. Cal Larson-(R)	<b>24</b>	A • Rep. John Dorn-(DFL) B • Rep. Ruth Johnson-(DFL) Sen. John C. Hottinger-(DFL)	<b>38</b>	A • Rep. Tim Wilkin-(R) B • Rep. Tim Pawlenty-(R) Sen. Deanna L. Wiener-(DFL)	<b>52</b>	A • Rep. Barbara Goodwin-(DFL) B • Rep. Geri Evans-(DFL) Sen. Satveer Chaudhary-(DFL)	<b>66</b>	A • Rep. Tom Osthoff-(DFL) B • Rep. Sheldon Johnson-(DFL) Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-(DFL)
<b>11</b>	A • Rep. Roxann Daggett-(R) B • Rep. Mary Ellen Ostromba-(DFL) Sen. Dallas C. Sams-(DFL)	<b>25</b>	A • Rep. John Tuma-(R) B • Rep. Lynda Boudreau-(R) Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-(R)	<b>39</b>	A • Rep. Thomas W. Pugh-(DFL) B • Rep. Bob Milbert-(DFL) Sen. James P. Metzen-(DFL)	<b>53</b>	A • Rep. Philip Krinkie-(R) B • Rep. Carl Jacobson-(R) Sen. Mady Reiter-(R)	<b>67</b>	A • Rep. Tim Mahoney-(DFL) B • Rep. Randy C. Kelly-(DFL)
<b>12</b>	A • Rep. Dale Walz-(R) B • Rep. Stephen G. Wenzel-(DFL) Sen. Don Samuelson-(DFL)	<b>26</b>	A • Rep. Bob Gunther-(R) B • Rep. Henry J. Kalis-(DFL) Sen. Chuck Fowler-(DFL)	<b>40</b>	A • Rep. Dan Larson-(DFL) B • Rep. Ann Lenczewski-(DFL) Sen. David H. Johnson-(DFL)	<b>54</b>	A • Rep. Mary Jo McGuire-(DFL) B • Rep. Mindy Greiling-(DFL) Sen. John Marty-(DFL)		
<b>13</b>	A • Rep. Torrey Westrom-(R) B • Rep. Doug Peterson-(DFL) Sen. Charles A. Berg-(R)	<b>27</b>	A • Rep. Dan Dorman-(R) B • Rep. Rob Leighton-(DFL) Sen. Grace S. Schwab-(R)	<b>41</b>	A • Rep. Alice Seagren-(R) B • Rep. Ken Wolf-(R) Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-(R)	<b>55</b>	A • Rep. Harry Mares-(R) B • Rep. Scott Wasiluk-(DFL) Sen. Charles W. Wiger-(DFL)		
<b>14</b>	A • Rep. Steve Dehler-(R) B • Rep. Doug Stang-(R) Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-(R)	<b>28</b>	A • Rep. Connie Ruth-(R) B • Rep. Steve Sviggum-(R) Sen. Dick Day-(R)	<b>42</b>	A • Rep. Ron Erhardt-(R) B • Rep. Erik Paulsen-(R) Sen. Roy Terwilliger-(R)	<b>56</b>	A • Rep. Mark William Holsten-(R) B • Rep. Eric Lipman-(R) Sen. Michele Bachmann-(R)		

## Monday, June 11

### HF1—Abrams (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Omnibus tax bill providing income, sales and use, property, motor vehicle, and other tax modifications; and appropriating money.

### HF2—Seagren (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Omnibus K-12 education finance bill.

### HF3—Sviggum (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Omnibus health and human services appropriations bill.

### HF4—Sykora (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Family and early childhood education appropriations bill providing for children and family support programs and appropriating money.

### HF5—McElroy (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Omnibus economic development, housing and other state agencies appropriations bill.

### HF6—Leppik (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Omnibus higher education appropriations bill.

### HF7—Molnau (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Omnibus transportation appropriations bill providing funding for transportation, public safety, and the judicial system.

### HF8—Knoblach (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Public capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF9—Krinkie (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
State government legislative and administrative expense funding provided and money appropriated.

### HF10—Holsten (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Omnibus environmental, natural resources, and agricultural appropriations bill.

### HF11—Juhnke (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Diesel fuel minimum biodiesel content required; B5 or B20 diesel fuel required in state vehicles, public transit bus fleets, and temporary equipment; special fuel tax on biodiesel fuel reduced; and money appropriated.

### HF12—Juhnke (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Minnesota Dairy Supply Management Act adopted establishing a milk price control board, providing pricing limits, creating a milk supply quota system option, and imposing penalties.

### HF13—Juhnke (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Clean fuel development grant program established providing grants and incentives to motor fuel outlets that install equipment to dispense cleaner fuel, E85 fuel tax exemption provided, and money appropriated.

### HF14—Stang (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Stadium; task force established to study construction of a new football stadium or renovation of an existing facility, deadline provided, and report required.

## Thursday, June 14

### HF15—Anderson, I. (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Legislature authorized to call a special session and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF16—Hausman (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Unicameral legislature provided with staggered terms and constitutional amendment proposed.

## Monday, June 18

### HF17—Kelliher (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Malformed amphibian research funding provided and money appropriated.

### HF18—Goodwin (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Independent audit of specified human services department programs required and money appropriated.

### HF19—Krinkie (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Individual income tax rates reduced.

## Thursday, June 21

### HF20—Olson (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Individual income tax personal and dependent exemption deductions provided and rates reduced.

### HF21—Pugh (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Sales tax rebate provided and money appropriated.

### HF22—Kubly (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Disaster relief provided for Meeker, Swift, and Kandiyohi counties resulting from high winds of June 2001, and money appropriated.

### HF23—Paymar (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Municipal zoning limitations on regulating nonconforming uses repealed.

### HF24—Paymar (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Outdoor advertising local regulation authorized.

### HF25—Anderson, I. (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
State government finance and operations bill providing sales tax rebate; providing all school district funding through state aids; modifying income, sales, property, and special taxes; and appropriating money.

## Monday, June 25

### HF26—Leppik (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Background checks required on apartment managers who have resided in Minnesota less than 10 years.

### HF27—Clark, K. (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Legislative commission on international standards created relating to international trade agreements.

### HF28—Westrom (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Diesel fuel minimum biodiesel content required, study and report required, and biodiesel fuel use required in state-owned vehicles.

### HF29—Abrams (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Sales tax rebate provided and money appropriated.

## Wednesday, June 27

### HF30—Molnau (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Motor vehicle title transfer proceeds dedicated for highway and transit purposes and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF31—Bernardy (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Independent School District No. 11, Anoka, supplemental revenue increased and money appropriated.

### HF32—Rifenberg (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Deaths of unidentified homeless persons notice provided on Department of Health Web site to aid in identification and in notifying possible relatives.

## Thursday, June 28,

### HF33—Schumacher (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
School boards allowed to waive basic skills testing requirements for qualified students.

## Friday, June 29

### HF34—Kahn (DFL)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
Resolution memorializing Congress to enact legislation to remove trade, financial, and travel restrictions relating to Cuba.

### HF35—Tuma (R)

**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
State government continued temporary operation financing provided and money appropriated.



# Tracking new laws, vetoes

Exactly 4,972 bills were introduced during the 2001 Legislative Session — 2,565 by the House and 2,407 by the Senate. Of those, 218 bills (and five resolutions) were passed by both bodies during the session and sent to the governor.

In the 2001 Special Session, the House introduced another 35 bills, exceeded by the Senate's 36 bills. Of those, 13 were transmitted to the governor for approval.

So what happened to the other 4,812 bills? Some were duplicates, some were folded into other bills, but most are in limbo, awaiting legislative action when the next regular session begins on Jan. 29, 2002. The biennium has ended, and bills do not carry over from one biennium to the next.

And what happened to the 231 bills (and five resolutions) that were sent to the governor? Most were signed into law, and some were vetoed.

Here's a quick review of the governor's veto authority during the first year of the biennium.

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or

- do nothing, which in the first year of the biennium results in the bill becoming law.

The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

For bills passed in the Special Session, the governor has 14 days from "presentment" to veto them — the same rules that apply in the second year of the biennium. If the governor takes no action on a bill during this time, the bill is vetoed in what is commonly referred to as a "pocket veto."

And the important thing to remember in the first year of the biennium is this: the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill.

If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the spending items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. So the

Legislature, either next year or when it is called into special session before then, could vote to override the governor's veto.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Art. IV, Sec. 23).

So what happens to the bills that weren't approved by the Legislature this year?

Bills that were awaiting floor action on the General Register now return to the last committee they were acted upon, where they will stay unless action upon by the 2002 Legislature. This rule also applies to any bill up for consideration on the Consent Calendar, Calendar for the Day or Fiscal Calendar.

For appointed conference committees that have not submitted a report upon adjournment, the bill returns to the body it originally came from and is laid on the table. The conference committee is then disbanded.

Bills that are passed by one body and not the other remain alive for the second year of the biennium. The house that approved the bill in the first year need not repass the bill in the second.

Bills pending before the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee from either body return to the standing committee to which the bill was previously referred.

Bills vetoed by the governor are returned to the body where the bill originated and laid on the table.

Bills remaining in standing committees can be taken up in the second year of the biennium in the committee to which they were last referred.

Editor's note: The following chart includes the 218 bills (and five resolutions) that passed both the House and the Senate and have been sent on to the governor for consideration. Final action is as yet incomplete on 39 of the bills and one resolution. The bills are, for the most part, sorted according to the committee of origin. However, only one omnibus appropriation bill was passed by both bodies before adjournment May 21. As a result, the governor must call a special session for the Legislature to finalize those bills, at which time they will be submitted for his approval or veto.

Here are definitions of some of the terms used in the chart.

## Governor's options

- enactment  
The date the governor signed the bill into law.
- line-item veto (liv)  
The power or action of the governor to reject

individual items within an appropriations bill while approving the rest of the bill.

- Veto  
The governor did not approve the bill.
- \*An asterisk marks the version of the bill the House and Senate approved and sent on to the governor.

## Effective dates

Each act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day it becomes effective, unless the act specifies a different time. Examples:

- Aug. 1, 2001  
Each act the governor signs into law, except those that make appropriations, take effect on Aug. 1 following its final enactment, unless the act specifies a different date.
- July 1, 2001  
An appropriations act, or an act spending money, takes effect at the beginning of the first day of July following its final enactment,

unless the act specifies a different date.

- Day after enactment  
The act becomes effective on the day after the governor signs it.
- Upon local approval  
A special law requiring approval from the local government unit it affects becomes effective the day after the local government unit's governing body files a certificate with the secretary of state, unless the act specifies a later date.
- Various  
Different parts of the act have different effective dates.
- with exceptions (we)  
Act includes other effective dates.
- with qualifications (wq)  
Act adds conditions to the effective date.
- retroactive (retro.)  
Act goes into effect as of a specified date in the past.

2001 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE FINAL ACTION (as of June 30, 2001)					CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
HF—House File			we—with exceptions						
SF—Senate File			wq—with qualifications						
R—Resolution			*—bill the governor signed or vetoed						
CH—Chapter			†—approved without governor's signature						
HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH				
				<b>AGRICULTURE POLICY</b>					
106*	Ness	47	Dille	Minnesota agricultural education leadership council permanent members authorized.	6	3/8			3/9
149*	Pawlenty	505	Higgins	Regulates sale and labeling of Halal food, meat or poultry products.	54	4/30			8/1
285*	Ness	339	Murphy	Agricultural liens regulation provisions modification and consolidation.	57	4/30			7/1
406	Jennings	511*	Sams	Minnesota State Fair foundation established by the State Agricultural Society.	85	5/10			8/1
1145	Boudreau	333*	Kelley, S.P.	Veterinary medicine cease and desist orders authorized.	108	5/17			8/1
1734	Kuisele	1659*	Murphy	Animal feedlot permit conditions and additional level inventory.	128	5/18			5/19
2514*	Finseth	2368	Murphy	Animal Health Board dangerous domestic animal diseases emergency authority expansion.	192	5/25			8/1
				<b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT</b>					
1159*	Pawlenty	857	Samuelson	Local bridge replacement and Gillette Children's Hospital addition funding modifications.	55	4/30			5/1
				<b>CIVIL LAW</b>					
243	Dawkins	346*	Betzold	Trusts; uniform principal and income act modified, and antilapse law clarified.	15	4/6			8/1
245	Juhnke	225*	Johnson, Dean	Allows licensed peace officers to determine necessity of patient restraints.	26	4/13			8/1
453	Skoe	319*	Moe	Discharge of judgments against bankruptcy debtors regulated.	34	4/24			8/1
239*	Lipman	170	Neuville	Real estate provisions modifications.	50	4/26			4/27 (Sec. 1); 8/1
1260*	Dawkins	1332	Kiscaden	Child support and custody provisions terminology neutralization.	51	4/26			8/1
1889*	Lipman	1831	Ranum	Uniform Partnership Act of 1994 transition issues regulated.	64	4/30			8/1
2396	Skoglund	1999*	Vickerman	Judicial system obsolete references updated and repealed.	78	5/10			8/1
2207	Mulder	2022*	Lesewski	Family support payment dates clarified.	134	5/21			8/1
1516	Hilstrom	1583*	Foley	Child neglect definition modified.	136	5/21			5/22
1697	Smith	1944*	Knutson	Crime of nonsupport of spouse or child clarification and modification.	158	5/22			8/1
1655	Entenza	1614*	Hottinger	Civil actions against the state authorized under certain federal acts.	159	5/22			8/1
440	Knoblauch	321*	Kleis	Guardians or conservators criminal background studies requirements.	163	5/24			8/1
1276	Mullery	1968*	Samuelson	Crane operators certification study.	177	5/25			8/1
1892*	Clark, K.	1545	Chaudhary	Creditor discriminatory practices to include discrimination based on public assistance.	186				8/1
1051*	Smith	936	Neuville	Medical malpractice expert review certifications regulated.	189		5/25		
767	Holberg	1215*	Cohen	Business discrimination provisions modified.	194	5/24			8/1
1898	Holberg	1068*	Betzold	Government data access and maintenance provided.	202	5/29			5/3 (sec. 5.9); 8/1
				<b>COMMERCE, JOBS &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY</b>					
219	Sertich	258*	Tomassoni	Resolution requesting a ban on the importation of certain steel products.	R1	3/15			
2430	Jaros	2328*	Kelly, R.C.	Resolution to amend the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.	R5	†			
320*	Dauids	399	Solon	Property casualty insurance agents surplus lines insurance procurement authority.	12	3/29			3/30
1951	Goodno	1204*	Hottinger	Regulates the use of HIV and bloodborne pathogen tests.	28	4/13			4/14
47*	Rukavina	39	Johnson, Doug	Unemployment benefits to certain LTV employees extended.	30	4/11			4/12 retro. to Aug. 1, 2000
949*	Rifenberg	771	Kierlin	Allows for a smaller newspaper to serve as the qualified newspaper for smaller communities.	38	4/24			8/1
323*	Haas	914	Hottinger	Motor vehicle fuel franchisees transfer rights provision expiration date removal.	48	4/26			4/27
1467	Holberg	1419*	Scheid	Payment bonds claims notices requirements modification.	52	4/26			8/1
1637*	Buesgens	1790	Robling	Repeals provisions requiring hawkers and peddlers to obtain a license.	53	4/30			8/1
1084*	McElroy	1066	Metzen	Omnibus financial institutions and banking bill.	56	4/30			5/1 (Secs. 1-7, 11, 12); 8/1
779*	McElroy	823	Betzold	Motor vehicle dealer franchise transfer practices modification.	62	4/30			8/1
1219*	Gunther	1617	Rest	State fund mutual insurance company state involvement reduced.	63	4/30			5/1
933*	Gunther	983	Sams	Farm implements and outdoor power equipment buyback requirements.	72	5/4			8/1
489*	Haas	311	Scheid	Provides for the procurement of surety bonds.	76	5/7			8/1
1872	Marquart	1611*	Wiger	Vocational rehabilitation facilities grant procedures technical changes provided.	77	5/10			5/11 (Secs. 3,4); 8/1
2070	Gunther	1932*	Lesewski	Economic security statutory provisions modified and repealed.	79	5/10			5/11
390	Winter	110*	Vickerman	PrairieLand exposition center nonprofit management corporation authorized.	81	5/10			8/1
1409	Jacobson	1090*	Reiter	Minor employee age certification requirement satisfied by form I-9.	82	5/10			8/1
1920	Rhodes	1835*	Kelley, S. P.	Employees authorized to receive employment termination information within 15 days.	95	5/14			8/1
1392	Gunther	1258*	Frederickson	Minnesota Investment fund loan or grant authority expansion.	102	5/15			8/1
661	Stang	859*	Hottinger	Accountancy Act of 2001 established, rulemaking authorized, and penalties imposed.	109	5/17			1/1/03
926*	Goodno	1001	Sams	Minnesota uniform health care identification card standards modifications.	110	5/17			1/1/03
1955	Dauids	1826*	Oliver	Insurance producers licensing and regulation.	117	5/17			7/1/02
2225	Nornes	2046*	Lesewski	Workers' compensation provisions modifications.	123	5/18			8/1; 5/19/02 (Sec. 23)
694	Dauids	1264*	Scheid	No-fault auto insurance sale of income loss benefits coverage to senior citizens regulated.	124	5/18			8/1
1007	Dauids	970*	Murphy	Gas sales below cost prohibited and enforcement authority provided.	129	5/21			8/1
1615	Entenza	1610*	Rest	Insurance regulation provided for liquidations and investments.	131	5/21			8/1
2253	Dauids	2033*	Reiter	Insurance agents minimum continuing education requirements modification.	141	5/21			8/1

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CH—Chapter			†—approved without governor's signature						
HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
2130	Larson	1964*	Oliver	Life and health insurance guaranty association regulation provisions modifications.	142	5/21			8/1
604	Sertich	564*	Ring	Employee assistance records access and maintenance requirements.	145	5/21			8/1
1311	McElroy	1485*	Kelley, S.P.	Minnesota Money Transmitters Act established.	148	5/21			8/1
1821	Kuisle	1666*	Murphy	Motor vehicle dealers allowed temporary licensing exemption for certain sales.	151	5/21			8/1
1940	Sertich	1472*	Metzen	Capital access economic development program provisions modified.	153	5/21			5/22
1886	Kahn	1721*	Anderson	Genetic testing prohibited as condition for employment.	154	5/21			8/1
514	Carlson	1124*	Chaudhary	Continued insurance coverage provided for spouses of specified education retirees.	166	5/24			5/25
655*	Wolf	1277	Frederickson	Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Program Law.	175	5/25			8/1
1941*	Gunther	1899	Johnson, David	Job Skills Partnership program provisions clarification.	181	5/25			8/1
1182*	Clark, J.	831	Frederickson	Invention developer contract requirements modified.	190	5/25			8/1
1994	Stang	1752*	Solon	Local liquor license provisions.	193	5/25			8/1
1733	Entenza	1561*	Hottinger	Uniform Commercial Code revised Article 9 corrective and conforming amendments.	195	5/25			8/1
560	Goodno	491*	Berglin	Patient protections and cost-sharing provided.	196		5/25		
1893	Sertich	1344*	Higgins	Employers prohibited from requiring applicants to pay for background checks or training.	199	5/29			8/1
2116	McElroy	1965*	Anderson	Obsolete trade and economic development department programs and duties repealed.	200	5/29			5/30 (sec. 4); 8/1
1270	Entenza	1541*	Oliver	Currency exchanges, real estate brokers, real property appraisers regulation provided.	208	5/29			Various
1338	Haas	1054*	Scheid	Insurance provisions modifications.	215	5/29			Various
1541*	Mullery	882	Sabo	Rental application fees studied.	216	5/29			8/1
				<b>CRIME PREVENTION</b>					
556*	Stanek	756	Kelly, R.C.	Federal law enforcement officers authorized to exercise some arrest powers in MN.	16	4/9			8/1
64	McElroy	971*	Kelly, R.C.	Repeals law prohibiting itinerant carnivals.	20	4/11			8/1
466	McElroy	972*	Kelly, R.C.	Repeals law prohibiting endurance contests.	22	4/11			8/1
865*	Fuller	1266	Kinkel	Community service authorized in lieu of criminal fines under specified circumstances.	71	5/4			8/1
953*	Fuller	1265	Kinkel	Child abuse definition expansion.	73	5/4			8/1
782	McGuire	773*	Chaudhary	DWI; electronic alcohol monitoring recidivism and conditional release violation rates study.	80	5/10			8/1
783*	Stanek	1244	Ranum	Deadly force definition modified to exclude use of less lethal munitions used by peace officers.	127	5/18			5/19
570	Hilstrom	1043*	Chaudhary	POST Board license denial, suspension or revocation authority expansion.	135	5/21			8/1
704*	Fuller	719	Lourey	Criminal offenders rehabilitation law exception for emergency medical services personnel.	144	5/21			8/1
1925	Walker	1369*	Berglin	Battered women shelter facilities per diem payment program implementation.	152	5/21			8/1
992	Skoglund	1552*	Chaudhary	Negligent fire resulting in injury or property damage definition modified.	155	5/21			8/1
273	Skoglund	172*	Ranum	Juvenile petty offense definition exclusions and dispositions modification.	157	5/22			8/1
883	Johnson, S.	846*	Cohen	Criminal justice data communications network use authority expansion.	167	5/24			8/1
1997	Hilstrom	1324*	Marty	Private detectives and protective agents firearms use training requirements modified.	168	5/24			8/1
707*	Skoglund	863	Kelly, R.C.	Carisoprodol controlled substance classification effective date modification.	173	5/25			8/1
848	Skoglund	969*	Chaudhary	Corporations electronic search warrants.	197	5/29			8/1
205	Nornes	103*	Larson	Gas theft from motor fuel retail business civil remedies provided.	204	5/29			8/1
372	McGuire	229*	Ranum	Crime victim notification of expungement proceedings required.	209	5/29			8/1
1261*	Bishop	1937	Chaudhary	Corrections provisions modification and clarification.	210	5/29			Various
				<b>EDUCATION POLICY</b>					
34	Seifert	28*	Hottinger	Teacher licensing under current licensure rules.	1	1/16			1/17
1046	Clark, J.	991*	Kelly, R.C.	Notifies schools of student possession of drug paraphernalia.	18	4/11			8/1
1192*	Abeler	1979	Foley	Teachers temporary limited licenses application timelines modified.	68	5/2			5/3
1394	Tingelstad	1706*	Wiger	Asthma inhaler possession and use authorized for public school students.	84	5/10			8/1
2107*	Johnson, J.	1329	Neuville	Student conduct considered grounds for dismissal or removal from class specified.	183	5/25			8/1
				<b>ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY</b>					
80*	Hackbarth	79	Johnson, Debbie	Coon Lake water level control.	8	3/16			3/17
790	Davids	702*	Scheevel	Modifies requirements for the Bluffland Trail System.	27	4/13			8/1
501	Ozment	283*	Kinkel	Conservation officer enforcement comparison prevented from use in job evaluation.	32	4/24			4/25
274*	Dorman	70	Marty	Mercury thermometer sales restricted.	47	4/26			1/1/02
1188*	Gunther	1045	Vickerman	Fire training exercise ash disposal regulated.	67	5/2			5/3
1481	Cassell	1164*	Frederickson	Landowner definition modified for participation in Reinvest in Minnesota program.	99	5/15			8/1
1827	Swenson	1613*	Knutson	Pollution Control Agency authority to expedite permits clarified.	116	5/17			8/1
1828*	Ozment	1486	Stevens	Wetlands classification and replacement provisions modifications.	146	5/21			8/1
1612	Kelliher	1434*	Price	Water permit provisions modifications.	160	5/24			8/1
873*	Howes	1126	Kinkel	Tax-forfeited land conveyances, sales, exchanges, and easements.	164	5/24			5/25; local compliance (sec. 15)
870	Erickson	795*	Stevens	Snowmobile trail access grant-in-aid continuation required.	165	5/24			5/25
1071	Bakk	1082*	Frederickson	State park land additions, deletions, and administration.	182	5/24			8/1

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1487*	Haas	1346	Lessard	Recreation and game and fish provisions modifications.	185	5/24			8/1
2028*	Nornes	1785	Higgins	Environmental audit pilot program modified; PCA separate annual pollution report.	187	5/25			8/1
1497*	Nornes	1580	Moe	Lake County state land sales authorized.	206	5/29			8/1
				<b>FAMILY &amp; EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE</b>					
1515*	Sykora	1851	Lourey	Omnibus family and early childhood education appropriations bill.	217		5/29		
				<b>GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &amp; VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY</b>					
1391*	Solberg	1318	Lessard	Resolution for postage stamp of Eric Enstrom's "Grace" photograph.	R3	4/26			
656*	Lipman	231	Betzold	Revisor's Bill.	7	3/15			3/16 (Sec. 52); 8/1
252	Seifert	570*	Reiter	Repeals obsolete rules.	23	4/11			8/1
1455	Osskopp	1435*	Price	Designer selection board provisions modified.	33	4/24			8/1
387	Walker	142*	Higgins	Increases the membership of the State Council on Black Minnesotans.	39	4/24			8/1
2119*	Erickson	1915	Rest	Charitable organization report filing requirements modified.	45	4/24			4/25
995*	Buesgens	1214	Tomassoni	Horse racing license application and medication provisions modifications.	59	4/30			5/1
525*	McElroy	1604	Wiener	Multimember agency members compensation conditions modifications.	61	4/30			7/1
1681*	Dehler	1622	Sabo	State employment technical and housekeeping changes; civil service pilot project extension.	70	5/2			5/3 (Sec. 4); 8/1
1247*	Eastlund	1506	Larson	Veterans Home Board administration of planned giving donations provided.	75	5/4			8/1
1410	Gunther	849*	Vickerman	Rural policy and development center staff authorized to participate in stat plans.	86	5/10			5/11
1687	Clark, K.	1206*	Kinkel	Indian Affairs Council membership expanded to include a member from Bemidji.	88	5/10			8/1
1021	Buesgens	1008*	Betzold	Casino licensee authorized to detain persons suspected of cheating.	92	5/14			8/1
1657	Haas	1404*	Hottinger	Group long-term care insurance purchase authorized for retired state employees.	94	5/14			5/15
1069	Osskopp	986*	Vickerman	Lawful gambling regulation provisions modifications.	96	5/14			5/15 (Secs. 5-13); 8/1
724	Rhodes	1064*	Rest	State professional service contract procedures specified.	100	5/15			7/1
1764	Gleason	2049*	Sabo	Coldwater Springs Camp area historical preservation ensured.	101	5/15			5/16
481	Greiling	520*	Wiger	Combat Wounded Veterans Day designated as Aug. 7.	104	5/15			8/1
1537	Lipman	780*	Betzold	State agency rulemaking housekeeping and technical changes bill.	106	5/17			8/1
1248*	Eastlund	1774	Samuelson	Veterans homes resident deposit accounts modified.	111	5/17			8/1
1778	Walz	1269*	Samuelson	Bataan Death March commemorative plaque placement in the State Capitol provided.	115	5/17			8/1
1023	Biernat	1222*	Wiger	Merchant Marine and Women Airforce Service Pilots plaques authorized on Capitol grounds.	125	5/18			5/19
2074	Clark, J.	2031*	Knutson	Public works contracts regulated.	126		5/18		
1174	Howes	694*	Murphy	Propane Education and Research Council established.	130	5/21			8/1
486*	Seifert	682	Lesewski	Newspaper paid political advertisement disclaimers required to be legible.	143	5/21			8/1
1869	Anderson, B.	1263*	Robertson	Expiration dates of various advisory councils, committees, and other entities changed.	161	5/24			Various
1938	Kahn	1680*	Robertson	Administration department provisions modified.	162	5/24			Various
667	Seifert	555*	Betzold	State agencies rulemaking procedures modifications.	179	5/25			8/1
1310*	Abrams	1205	Johnson, Doug	State building official authorized to interpret the state building code.	207	5/29			Various
1569*	Osskopp	1628	Rest	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities customized trainer positions reclassified.	218		5/29		
				<b>HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES POLICY</b>					
213	Mulder	201*	Sams	Physicians assistants infection control continuing education requirements repeal.	3	2/15			2/16
181	Wenzel	43*	Samuelson	Adult foster care license capacity age requirement and maximum admissions variances.	4	2/28			3/1
357	Mullery	289*	Sams	Alcohol and drug counselors licensing requirements modified.	10	3/16			3/17
994	Dorn	883*	Hottinger	Establishes hospital waiver or variance request procedure.	29	4/13			8/1
116	Mulder	274*	Higgins	Respiratory care practitioner advisory council sunset delayed.	31	4/24			8/1
424	Greiling	456*	Berglin	Mental retardation waiver recipients authorized access to respite care in certain facilities.	35	4/24			8/1
275*	Abeler	210	Foley	Nursing facilities closure medical assistance cost savings projection prohibition.	36	4/24			4/25
125*	Nornes	104	Larson	Dentist licensure requirements modified for applicants trained in a foreign country.	37	4/24			8/1
1747	Solberg	1780*	Lessard	Itasca County chemical dependency demonstration project rule exemption extended.	41	4/24			8/1
1634	Mahoney	1460*	Marty	Duty to warn law applied to social workers allowed to form professional firms.	42	4/24			8/1
253	Seifert	249*	Ring	Public health obsolete rules repeal.	46	4/26			8/1
1160*	Davids	1127	Sams	Physician assistants prescribing medication review provisions modified.	49	4/26			8/1
967*	Mulder	876	Lesewski	Permits schools to sponsor potluck events.	65	5/2			8/1
1151*	Mulder	1187	Kelley, S. P.	Modifies penalty provisions for psychologists.	66	5/2			8/1
1522*	Bradley	1421	Stevens	Full-time nursing home administrator requirements modified.	69	5/2			8/1
1748*	Harder	2097	Vickerman	Rural ambulance services staff requirements temporary variances.	74	5/4			8/1
1067	Boudreau	923*	Pariseau	Social work licensure examination requirement exceptions provided.	90	5/10			8/1
935	Goodno	824*	Kelly, R.C.	Good Samaritan law emergency care liability immunity clarification.	107	5/17			5/18
1832	Goodno	2361*	Berglin	Omnibus health, human services and corrections appropriations.	118		5/15		
1081	Jacobson	560*	Sams	Health care review organizations provisions modifications.	120	5/17			8/1

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976	Abeler	359*	Kiscaden	Chiropractors licensing and regulation provisions modification and clarification.	121	5/18			8/1
322	Rhodes	414*	Hottinger	Minnesota Utilization Review Act provisions modified.	137	5/21			8/1
1819	Nornes	1430*	Higgins	Alcohol and drug counselor licensure reporting requirement repealed.	138	5/21			8/1
1155*	Abeler	1081	Sams	Health plan companies network shadow contracting regulation provisions modifications.	170	5/24			Various
1407*	Mulder	1415	Sams	Public health collaboration plans provisions modified.	171	5/24			8/1
1397	Tingelstad	1394*	Kiscaden	Child placement provisions modified and definitions provided.	178	5/25			8/1
1928	Walker	1407*	Ring	Health care access programs provisions modified.	203	5/29			8/1
1304	Nornes	1464*	Lourey	Lead poisoning prevention provisions modified.	205	5/29			5/30 (Art. 1, Sec. 42); 8/1
1406*	Mulder	1398	Kiscaden	Maternal death review and study provided.	211	5/29			8/1
				<b>HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE</b>					
550*	Eastlund	954	Hottinger	Higher education services Edvest office rulemaking authority extended.	58		4/30		
977	Leppik	1033*	Wiener	MnSCU technical and community college employee unions merged.	133	5/21			5/22
				<b>JOBS &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE</b>					
421*	McElroy	460	Cohen	Energy assistance program federal fund expenditure authorized.	2	2/2			2/3
1105	Rukavina	960*	Tomassoni	IRRRB Commissioner authorized to acquire discontinued mining property.	149	5/21			5/22
				<b>K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE</b>					
670	Carlson	647*	Rest	Resolution to fund 40 percent of special education costs.	R2	4/6			
				<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT &amp; METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS</b>					
817	Howes	376*	Vickerman	City contract limit increases.	5	3/2			3/3
393*	Mahoney	155	Kelly, R.C.	Ramsey County and St. Paul city employees vacant county jobs equal competition.	9	3/16			3/17
487	Vandever	433*	Ring	Townships health, social, and recreational services contracts amounts increases.	11	3/21			8/1
1016	Holberg	509*	Robling	City and county obligations payment by electronic transfer or credit card authorized.	13	4/6			4/7 (Sec. 3); 8/1
172	Mares	9*	Wiger	Authorizes cities housing assistance for volunteer firefighters or ambulance personnel.	19	4/11			4/12
394	Seifert	327*	Lesewski	Repealing statutes concerning castrating animals running at large in a town.	21	4/11			8/1
828	Mullery	741*	Orfield	Hennepin County employees granted disaster volunteer leave.	40	4/24			Upon local compliance
867*	Seagren	646	Rest	Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District provisions modification and clarification.	44	4/24			4/25
1465	Stanek	1432*	Wiger	Police civil service periodic examinations permitted and clarifying changes provided.	87	5/10			8/1
2110	Howes	1441*	Hottinger	Limited exemption to local government gift policy provided.	93	5/14			5/15
1290	Howes	510*	Pappas	County offices made appointive positions under certain circumstances.	105	5/17			Upon local approval
1526	Erhardt	1528*	Terwilliger	Edina authorized to restrict operation of recreational motor vehicles (ATVs).	114		5/17		
610	Solberg	974*	Lessard	Local public officers conflict of interest law exception provided.	132	5/21			8/1
1589	Howes	1301*	Robertson	Bid and performance bond thresholds modified for economic development projects.	140	5/21			8/1
872	Sertich	494*	Tomassoni	St. Louis County special purchasing laws repealed.	150	5/21			7/1
1153*	Mulder	1529	Lesewski	Local government building project architect requirement exemption provided.	172		5/25		
1507*	Bishop	1572	Langseth	Municipal planning legal nonconforming land uses treatment clarification.	174	5/24			8/1
1218	Rhodes	1154*	Kelley, S.P.	Metropolitan Radio Board expiration date extension.	176	5/25			8/1
1340*	Anderson, B.	908	Ourada	Wright County recorder appointment permitted.	180	5/24			5/25
2036*	Dempsey	1685	Murphy	Goodhue County auditor-treasurer appointment.	184	5/24			Upon local compliance
1544	Hilty	1367*	Lourey	County creation and boundary change procedures modification.	198	5/24			8/1
2510	Johnson, J.	2249*	Betzold	Revisor's bill.	201	5/29			5/30
				<b>REGULATED INDUSTRIES</b>					
1367*	Wolf	1306	Metzen	Owner-occupied residential housing program to use rental energy revolving loan funds.	147	5/21			5/22
659	Wolf	722*	Metzen	Energy conservation, production and regulatory provisions modifications.	212	5/29			Various
				<b>TAXES</b>					
2037	Abrams	2208*	Pogemiller	Public finance and debt provisions modifications.	214	5/29			5/30 (Sec. 13-42); 8/1
				<b>TRANSPORTATION POLICY</b>					
208*	Workman	551	Dille	Resolution urging authorization of funding for modernization of waterways.	R4	5/17			
368	Stang	63*	Fischbach	Stearns County Highway 55 bridge designated as Old St. Anne's pass.	14	4/6			8/1
416	Rifenberg	400*	Kierlin	Hokah authorized to vacate roads if necessary due to extensive damage.	17	4/9			Upon local compliance
37	McElroy	480*	Johnson, Dean	Repeals obsolete traffic regulations.	24	4/13			8/1
57*	Molnau	27	Robling	Certain crimes against children named disqualifying offenses for school bus drivers' licenses.	25	4/13			6/1
1404	Kuisle	1709*	Johnson, Dean	Exempts towed implements of husbandry from tail lamp requirement.	43	4/24			4/25
1383*	Workman	1598	Schwab	Motorcycle handlebar height restrictions repealed.	60	4/30			8/1
1085	Workman	1155*	Langseth	Motor home and other defined recreational equipment width limitations modified.	83	5/10			8/1
254	Seifert	930*	Schwab	Transportation obsolete rules repealed.	89	5/10			5/11
1830	Workman	2006*	Schwab	Motor vehicle accident data public availability.	91	5/10			8/1
2181	Workman	2225*	Pappas	Certain school buses operation by licensed child care providers.	97	5/15			Various



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1172	Workman	1056*	Sabo	School bus driver's licenses validity verification requirement.	98	5/15			8/1
1549	Wenzel	1772*	Samuelson	C. Elmer Anderson Memorial Highway outdoor advertising restriction.	103	5/15			5/16
1596*	Workman	1599	Chaudhary	Small vehicle passenger service definition expanded to wheelchair-accessible vehicles.	112	5/17			8/1
2161	Stanek	2005*	Foley	State Trooper Theodore "Ted" Foss Memorial Highway designated on I-90 in Winona County.	113	5/17			8/1
887	Leppik	910*	Robertson	Residential roadway definition modification for traffic regulations purposes.	119	5/17			8/1
1817	Workman	1821*	Murphy	Utility facilities regulation modified in railroad rights-of-way.	122		5/18		
2203	Clark, J.	2142*	Kelly, R.C.	County highways or town roads property condemnation judicial review.	139	5/21			5/22
256	Howes	174*	Moe	Gross weight seasonal increase for transporting carrots authorized.	156	5/22			8/1
708*	Workman	1113	Johnson, Dean	Well drilling machines and equipment registration tax exemption clarified.	188	5/24			5/25
1973*	Workman	2106	Terwilliger	State highways in municipalities regulated and conforming changes provided.	191	5/24			5/25 wq
1488	Workman	1769*	Ourada	Transportation and highway provisions modifications.	213	5/29			8/1
				<b>WAYS &amp; MEANS</b>					
634*	Haas	648	Kelly, R.C.	Payment of claims against the state.	169	5/24			7/1
				<b>SPECIAL SESSION</b>					
6	Leppik	11*	Wiener	Omnibus higher education finance bill.	1	6/30			Various
10	Holsten	10*	Price	Omnibus environment, natural resources, and agriculture finance bill.	2	6/29	liv		Various
4*	Sykora	5	Lourey	Omnibus family and early childhood education finance bill.	3	6/30			Various
5*	McElroy	12	Anderson	Omnibus jobs, housing, and economic development finance bill.	4	6/30	liv		Various
1*	Abrams	13	Pogemiller	Omnibus tax bill.	5	6/30			Various
2*	Seagren	6	Stumpf	Omnibus K-12 education finance bill.	6	6/30			Various
26	Leppik	18*	Knutson	Apartment manager background checks.	7	6/30			8/1
7	Molnau	7*	Johnson, Dean	Omnibus transportation, public safety, and judiciary finance bill.	8	6/30	liv		Various
3	Goodno	4*	Berglin	Omnibus health, human services, and corrections finance bill.	9	6/30			Various
9	Krinkie	9*	Cohen	Omnibus state government finance bill.	10	6/30	liv		Various wq
none	none	21*	Moe	Transitional financing for certain government functions under certain conditions.	11		7/2		
8*	Knobloch	25	Langseth	Capital bonding bill.	12	6/30	liv		7/1
none	none	1*	Betzold	Revisor's bill.	13	6/30			Various wq



The Minnesota Legislature is not the only state's governing body to have problems settling important issues this year. Other states have encountered disputes over many issues including lottery proceeds, offensive email messages, highway transportation and urban development.

The South Carolina Legislature concluded a three-day special session on June 29 and worked out its remaining issues after reaching a budget agreement during the previous week. The main debate was about the use of state lottery proceeds. The Democratic governor had wanted to use the proceeds for government spending but faced opposition in the Senate. An agreement was reached to use the proceeds for educational purposes.

The governor had also experienced problems on other issues in dealing with the first Republican-controlled Senate since the Reconstruction era.

Another issue that has consumed legislators is a joke e-mail message sent out in the South

## Special sessions

### Not just Minnesota, many other U. S. states head into extra innings

Carolina House encouraging female staff members to wear more revealing clothes.

The Washington Legislature also suffered problems this session due to having 49 Republicans and 49 Democrats in the House. There is no tie-breaking vote. Legislators have battled over bills that address transportation problems, sex-offender housing, and shoreline regulation. Moreover, the citizens of Washington decided in voter-approved ballot measures to cut taxes, but to also increase spending for education.

Legislators finally came to an agreement on the state's budget shortly before midnight June 21 and averted a government shutdown, which would have been the first in the state's history.

The state of Connecticut held a week-long spe-

cial session, which ended on June 28, and came to agreement on its budget and government spending limits. The agreement was reached two days before the end of the fiscal year and three weeks after the regular session ended.

The Colorado Legislature also held a special session in May to settle disputes on how to solve the state's problem of urban sprawl and development. Legislators failed to reach an agreement during that session and Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar is now proposing that another session be held in August or September.

In addition, the heavily populated states of California, Pennsylvania, and New York have historically taken extra time to reach budget agreements. The state of New York hasn't reached an agreement on time for the last 17 years.

**(Seth Kaplan, an intern in the House Public Information Office who wrote this story, will be a junior at the University of Iowa next fall. He is studying political science and journalism.)**



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

A felony drunken driving penalty is created by a new law passed in 2001.

Continued from page 17.

In addition, the bill includes \$3.7 million for increased treatment and supervision of sex offenders.

The goal of the new funding is to reduce caseloads for probation officers. The increases were not included in the governor's budget.

In addition, the original House proposal eliminated funding for the Ombudsman for Corrections, an independent office that investigates complaints on the behalf of inmates against the department. However, the bill reflects the Senate provision and provides full funding for the ombudsman at \$659 million for the biennium.

Salary and benefit increases are provided for the State Public Defender's Office, the Board of Public Defense, the District Public Defense and Corrections Department in the bill.

Other changes from the original House position include an increase in funding for the Public Defense Corporations, which help provide legal aid and consultation to various groups of people throughout the state. The corporations will receive \$325,000 extra over the biennium. The House originally provided no extra funding and the Senate provided about \$450,000.

2001 Special Session: HF3/SF4\*/CH7

# Reflections

Budget approvals are not an easy task for a tripartisan government.

More than usual, it requires extreme levels of compromise and give and take to agree on fiscal policy that will be satisfactory to all parties.

The state's political parties in control of the House, Senate, and governor's office started out the 2001 Legislative Session with their own set of revenue projects to try and get enacted. By the end of session on May 21, they had not agreed on a new budget.

Minnesota had not experienced such an impasse since 1971. Then, under two parties, the House, Senate, and governor could not agree on tax reform, reapportionment, and the way the state funds K-12 education in a special session that lasted for five months.

This special session, the demands by legislators or the governor were — unlike a few other states — not driven by how to find dollars in a \$757 million tax package, but where to spend them.

The recently completed special session to finalize the budget for the next two years was a major learning experience for policy makers, political scientists, and legislative observers. It was a textbook exercise in arbitration, compromise, and cooperation to try and resolve differences in property tax reform, tax rebates, and health care. Legislators also had to resolve funding for transportation, education, and other spending bills.

Annually, some states across the country have come to expect such fiscal stalemates. During the past 17 years the New York Legislature has never enacted a budget by the cutoff date of April 1.

Like other legislative sessions, one of New York's major obstacles this year was compromise on education between its Senate and State Assembly.

While some states with a June 30 end of fiscal year (except New York and California) had not resolved spending differences by June 25, 35 states passed their budget bills or enacted resolutions on time. Others like Tennessee are still struggling to arrive at workable solutions to keeping their states running.

Tennessee has more than an \$860 million shortfall. Although it passed a very bare bones budget last year, lawmakers

are addressing the same situation by trying to create even deeper cuts. The state does have a very high sales tax, but no personal income tax.

Other states like Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, South Carolina,

Tennessee, Washington, and West Virginia convened special sessions to complete their work — mostly on budget considerations.

Between 1991 and 1994, a few states either shut down or had a fiscal crisis due to a national recession. Even today, with the fiscal problems some states are encountering, others like Massachusetts and California somehow manage to stay in operation by implementing emergency edicts.

Yet, the many days and weeks of sleepless hours at the Capitol do not quite compare to New York's 17-year legislative deliberate entrenchment and monthly or periodic spending resolutions. Nor does Minnesota have to face Tennessee's problem — a large shortfall for two years in a row.

Now that lawmakers have gone back to districts across the state in time for July 4 and the associated town festivals and parades, they can say their work has been done, not to everyone's liking, but completed until the next time.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Lobbyists and department heads scramble to get a copy of the latest proposal during a June 13 hearing of the taxes working group.

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Special Session 2001

Number of calendar days in special session .....	20
Number of legislative days .....	9
Longest day, June 29-30, in hours .....	16.5
Shortest day, June 18, in minutes .....	23
Number of House bills introduced in special session .....	35
Number passed .....	13
Number signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura .....	12
Number of fiscal bills signed .....	11
Number of full bills vetoed in the special session .....	1
Number bills line-item vetoed .....	4
Number of line-item vetoes .....	13
Longest finance bill, health and human services, in pages .....	780
Approximate sheets of paper used for copies of special session bills.....	175,000
For House Journals .....	70,000
Total number of Journal pages .....	620
Pages on last day .....	27
Most hours spent by one revisor on one bill (taxes) .....	24
Shortest, (state government finance) .....	2.5
Number of consecutive days spent on tax bill by one revisor, in days .....	5
Time of June 30 special session adjournment .....	3:29 a.m.
Hours away from a government shutdown .....	20.5
Number of working days in 2001 regular session .....	118
Number of legislative days .....	59
Number of House bills introduced in the regular session .....	2,565
Senate bills .....	2,407
Number passed .....	218
Number vetoed by the governor from the regular session .....	10
Number of line-item vetoes from the regular session .....	0
Days between the end of the special session and beginning of next session at noon Jan. 29, 2002 .....	213

Sources: House Chief Clerk's Office, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, House Public Information Office

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# Interim Report SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

NOVEMBER 28, 2001  
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 23

In this issue:

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

NEW MEMBER GREG BLAINE, AND MORE

HF2566-HF2585

# Session Weekly

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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Business • 5  
Consumers • 5  
Employment • 6  
Government • 7

Health • 7  
Industry • 8  
Insurance • 8

Recreation • 8  
Safety • 9  
Transportation • 23

### FEATURES

**At issue: Health** — A House committee is traveling around the state to hear concerns and solutions to the ongoing problem of rising health care premiums and costs. • 10

**At issue: Recreation** — Policy makers are considering a proposal to open a state-run casino in an effort to boost revenue. • 11

**At issue: Safety** — State health and public safety officials discuss Minnesota's readiness in the event of a bioterroristic attack at two House committee hearings. Though they say the state has a higher level of preparedness than many others, improvements are still necessary. • 12

**Places** — About 35,000 Minnesotans gathered at the State Capitol for a memorial service after the Sept. 11 attacks. Included here are thoughts and photos from the day. • 13

**Places** — Officials have made some security changes at the Capitol since Sept. 11. But the buildings are still open to the public for tours and special events. • 17

**People** — Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) has left the House of Representatives to serve as the Minnesota director of rural development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. • 18

**People** — Rep. Greg Blaine (R-Little Falls) was sworn in as the newest member of the House of Representatives Nov. 15. He was elected to the District 12B seat vacated by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) who resigned in August. • 19

**Process** — Each year, the House of Representatives takes an informal poll of folks at the Minnesota State Fair. More than 9,100 fairgoers weighed in. But this year, young people at the fair also added their two cents. • 20

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's a Fact: After further review	4	Reflections: Sept. 11	27
Bill Introductions: Pre-filed bills		Minnesota Index:	
Nov. 2 (HF2566 – HF2585)	24	Homeless in Minnesota	28
Resources: House of Representatives/ Senate Members	25, 26		

On the cover: Members of the House Capital Investment Committee pause during a bonding tour of the Como Park Conservatory in St. Paul Oct. 4.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid



# Contributing to change

Lawmakers examine proposals to modify Minnesota's campaign finance system, while balancing the interest of free speech

By DAVID MAEDA

At both the state and federal levels, policymakers have been examining the intrinsic and often troublesome relationship between politics and money.

The Election Subcommittee of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee held a daylong hearing Sept. 8 to discuss specific proposals dealing with the state's campaign finance system.

At the core of the debate was whether limiting the amount someone can contribute to a campaign violates free speech rights.

Proposals ranged from limiting the amount of money that could be spent on campaigns to removing existing limits altogether.

In 1974 Minnesota became one of the first states to establish a public financing system for campaigns, via the income tax check-off program, which allows people to contribute to political parties — who then distribute money to candidates — when filing state income tax forms. At the same time, a tax credit was established for contributions to candidates for state offices. A refund program later replaced that credit.

Candidates choosing to participate in the funding program are required to sign a spending limit agreement. The limit varies depending on the office being sought and is adjusted to reflect changes in the consumer price index. Participation in the program in 1998 was around 98 percent.

In the late 1990s, Maine and Arizona passed legislation establishing a voluntary full public financing option for candidates who agree to not take private funds.

Now Minnesota lawmakers are considering similar proposals.

HF1626, sponsored by Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), would expand the disclosure requirements on contributions and expenditures.

Haas said the bill, written in conjunction with the governor's office, focuses on restricting the use of contributions to political parties, caucuses, and funds, commonly referred to as "soft money."

The bill would prohibit candidates who participate in the state's public campaign financing system from accepting contributions from political committees or political funds.

It would also provide expanded restrictions and disclosure on independent expenditures: those that expressly advocate the election or defeat of a candidate but are made apart from any candidate's campaign.

"There is so much misleading information that goes out at times in an election that people throw up their hands and say 'Why should I vote?'" Haas said.

The bill would establish an independent expenditure matching account that would provide loans to candidates to respond to independent expenditures made against them.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED  
David Schultz, a political science professor at Hamline University, testifies about campaign finance reform during a Sept. 8 meeting of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee's Election Subcommittee.

"This is not a Republican or Democrat issue," said Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), the sponsor of a similar bill (HF2318). "We shouldn't be running against each other, we should be running for the office."

But Jackie Schwietz, executive director of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, said independent expenditure restrictions likely would not withstand free speech constitutional challenges.

She said such restrictions would ultimately give the wealthy more power because the proposals are aimed at limiting the power of political action committees (PACs), not individuals willing to spend their own money.

"What PACs are, at least from our perspective, are individuals who come together with small amounts of money and pool the resources so they can have voice in the process," she said.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) said problems with the current system are not caused by too much money, but rather not enough.

Osskopp is sponsoring HF567 that would adopt a system similar to the ones operated in Arizona and Maine. It would create a voluntary system in which participating candidates would receive funding after agreeing to accept spending limits. The bill establishes different threshold amounts from a specified number of contributors depending on the office sought before a candidate would become eligible.

"The drive for campaign finance reform comes from a group of people who believe money is the root of all evil in politics and if you take the money out of the system that somehow ensures a fairer or cleaner election. I disagree with that (vehemently). I believe this bill begins the process of really giving us a way to ensure a fair and clean election."

Beth Fraser from the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action said reforms in Maine and Arizona have changed the political culture of those states.

Candidates found support from people "excited to hear their politician wasn't going to be bought off," she said. Additionally a perception exists

that money buys influence and Maine and Arizona voters were excited their \$5 contribution “really makes a difference.”

Osskopp said other campaign finance reform proposals would do little to change the system other than ensuring that incumbents have an even greater chance of winning re-election.

“You want to take the money out of campaign finance? Please. As an incumbent I beg you keep taking money out of the system because I’ll be here forever and so will you,” Osskopp said. “The less money in the system means the more likely incumbents get re-elected.”

He used the 2000 election as an example, saying that his opponent had no choice but to resort to a negative attack because she lacked name recognition.

Osskopp said the cost of the drafted bill would be about \$30 million for the 2002 election but could be as much as \$60 million depending on the amount spent in the governor’s race.

“This bill says if the people really want a fair and clean election, it’s going to cost a lot of money,” he said.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said the cost of the proposed reforms would make it difficult to support at a time where other priorities need be met.

“If I go home after the session in 2002 and they ask me what I accomplished and I say, ‘Well I doubled the (Political Contribution Refund) program so there’s more money for my campaign account and more money for your campaign account... but never mind that we’re going to lay off another 20 teachers at Marshall High School,’ — I’m not real sure that’s something that’s going to go over real well back in my community.”

David Schultz, a Hamline University political science professor, said hard money contributions increased by 264 percent in Minnesota from 1996 to 2000 and soft money contributions increased by 226 percent.

“People are choosing not to vote because of the relationships between money, your perceived behavior, and what they think is going on,” Schultz said.

Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) questioned the wisdom of acting on perceptions rather than educating the public on “what’s really going on.”

“That’s part of the problem we have in our society,” he said. “We work on perceptions therefore we never take at face value, we don’t trust much anymore, we don’t take people at their word. I’ve always taught my students you trust the person, you take the person at their word until they prove you wrong.”

Continued on page 27



## After further review ...

### Dome would have kept Gopher football at Memorial Stadium

As the Minnesota Vikings and University of Minnesota examine plans for a possible domed stadium on the school’s Minneapolis campus, it is not the first time such an arrangement has been proposed.

In the late-1970s a plan was introduced that would transform the university’s Memorial Stadium to a domed facility and more.

A 1979 report by Geiger, Berger, and Associates of New York entitled “A collegiate athletic center and public spectator stadium: University of Minnesota” shows how such a transformation would have taken place and why it was needed.

“Due to weather, design, and present purpose this prime campus space is used for only a fraction of the potential time and does not meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff for year-round lifetime sports activities,” according to a summary of the New York report from the Amateur Sportsman’s Club of Minnesota.

Nevertheless, the report said the stadium had “tremendous potential” to be better utilized. Benefits of a refurbished Memorial Stadium would include improved facilities for intercollegiate activities, plus the ability to provide for physical education classes, as well as leisure time recreational and recreational sports programs. If not at the stadium, the programs would be elsewhere on- or off-campus with less accessibility for all.

Included in the proposed \$63 million project was enclosing the stadium’s west end, lowering the playing field 18 feet for better sight lines in lower seating sections (which would have been made retractable), installing theater-style seats, 102 sky boxes, a new scoreboard/message board, new restrooms and concession stands, and the installation of synthetic turf and a six-lane track.

Seating capacity in a renovated stadium would be 65,000, compared to the previous 53,000 permanent seats.

The facility was to be covered with an air-supported roof made of Teflon-covered fiberglass supported by a network of steel

cables attached to a ring around the stadium.

By comparison, the Metrodome, which opened in 1982, cost \$68 million including team contributions.

Other than a roof, the most striking change was to occur where the horseshoe-shaped stadium was open.

The newly designed west end would have



Memorial Stadium, circa 1960.

enough space for offices and athletic endeavors throughout six levels. Much of the space would be under or behind the stadium seating. The report states that space would be available for “swimming, diving, basketball, volleyball, tennis, badminton, gymnastics,

squash, handball, boxing, wrestling, judo, karate, golf driving, and weight lifting.

Laboratories for various physical education classes were also proposed in the center along with office spaces on three levels. The center would have open wells between floors.

Three levels of the new center would have been visible through a 30-foot glass wall separating the stadium from Cooke Hall. The glass would have also allowed most offices a view of the stadium field, gymnasium, pool, or outdoors.

Officials forecast the project would produce revenue for the university, the report states, because the facility could be used by outside groups. It could have been home to the Minnesota Vikings, in addition to being made available for special events such as concerts and high school activities.

Professional engineers studied the stadium in 1975 and 1979 and concluded, “The basic frame, exterior wall structure, and foundation are quite solid.” It was also noted that with no repairs the stadium would need to be closed in 10 years.

Reconstruction would have taken 17 months, spanning one football season.

Ultimately the Board of Regents decided in 1981 to move Gopher football games to the Metrodome, effective one year later. Memorial Stadium was demolished in 1992.

(M. Cook)

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

## ★ BUSINESS

**Airline aid sought**

After the events of Sept. 11, Congress passed a \$15 billion relief package to help the country's struggling airline industry.

The House Taxes Committee met Oct. 2 at Eagan City Hall to discuss whether the state should play a role in further helping Minnesota-based airlines.

Northwest Airlines President Doug Steenland said the terrorist attacks dealt a devastating economic blow to the industry and the unprecedented action by Congress helped preserve and stabilize the health of airlines.

"Without the federal aid package I believe that there was a material risk that the entire United States airline transportation system could have found itself in liquidation," he said.

The grounding of planes across the country following the terrorist attacks and the gradual resumption of service cost airlines more than \$5 billion, Steenland said.

During 2000 the industry employed 1.2 million people and served 670 million passengers, he said. Airlines also paid more than \$10 billion in federal and state employment taxes, along with \$2.2 billion in corporate income, property, and other taxes.

Due to lost revenue, Northwest laid off in

excess of 10,000 employees, including 4,500 in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota.

"There is no harder decision or one that causes more pain than one which means the loss of jobs and the difficulty that creates for our people and their families," Steenland said.

David Banmiller, president and chief executive officer of Sun Country Airlines, said there are ways the state could provide some relief. He said property tax relief along with changes in the way unemployment insurance tax rates are calculated would help his airline.

"We cannot allow the terrorists who hijacked our country's airplanes to also hijack our country's way of life and way of doing business," he said.

Jeff Hamiel, executive director of the Metropolitan Airports Commission, said the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport also felt a significant impact by the Sept. 11 attacks.

"The bottom line is that this dramatically altered current operations of the airport, and quite frankly the way we will operate from this point forward," he said.

Hamiel said the loss of revenue from sources like parking and food and beverage sales, combined with the loss of fees collected from the airlines prompted much action by the commission, including freezing new hiring and

nonessential purchases and cutting back on capital improvement projects.

One project that continued — the light-rail transit tunnel running underneath the airport — drew criticism from some lawmakers.

"I think it would be money better spent keeping employees on rather than drilling holes," said Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan).

House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) expressed concern about the safety of having a tunnel directly underneath the airport where passengers on the light-rail line could get on at any point without any security present.

Hamiel said the commission and Federal Aviation Administration would continue to examine security issues. He added that the commission was continuing to work with the other entities involved to discuss the airport portion of the project.

## ★ CONSUMERS

**Privacy debate**

Effective July 1, 2001, the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Services Modernization Act concerning the disclosure of nonpublic personal information gives citizens added security in the sharing of their data.

In Minnesota four bills remain from the 2001 legislative session that relate to the legislation. The new act does not preempt state laws containing tougher standards, nor does it prohibit the creation of such.

"I don't mind if Minnesota leads the way in protecting its citizens," Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) said at an Oct. 30 joint hearing of the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Policy Committee and the Senate Commerce Committee.

The federal act prohibits the disclosure of nonpublic personal information, such as financial data, unless the consumer was given a chance to opt out. It further requires companies to inform clients of its privacy policy at the start of a relationship and annually thereafter. Many people have since received documents from their banks, credit card companies, and insurance companies offering them the chance to opt out of the information sharing.

The Minnesota attorney general's office has said it supports the notion of keeping health or financial records from being disclosed only after a consumer opts in, such as what was



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

David Banmiller, president and chief executive officer of Sun Country Airlines, tells the House Taxes Committee that the airline's long-term viability was threatened by the events of Sept. 11.

proposed by Rep. Dan Larson (DFL-Bloomington) in HF579. Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) sponsors a Senate companion, SF567.

“Opt in is more consistent with privacy expectations that consumers have,” said Erik Lindseth, a lawyer in the office’s consumer division.

However, two opt-out bills authored in the House by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), chair of the House committee had support as well.

Both HF1493 and HF1983 would enact privacy principles of the federal act into Minnesota insurance laws and would prohibit the disclosure of personal health information without patient consent.

Other than a few technical matters, the primary difference in the bills is where the language comes from. HF1493 is a variation of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners’ privacy law, and HF1983 comes from the National Conference of Insurance Legislators.

HF1493 has no Senate companion. Sen. Edward Oliver (R-Deephaven) sponsors a companion to HF1983 (SF1543) in the Senate.

“We believe the opt-out provision in either bill is a necessary and valuable step to protect Minnesota consumers and protect a strong, vital, and healthy financial services industry in Minnesota,” Commerce Commissioner Jim Bernstein said, noting that “tens of thousands” of Minnesotans are employed in the financial services sector.

He said either bill would protect Minnesotans while at the same time still allow financial companies to market their services and products. “We hear from consumers who want information on services that are out there.”

A fourth bill (HF2170/SF2042) would incorporate new federal references into state law and permit state enforcement of the act. Davids and Oliver are the sponsors.

No action was taken on any bill.

## ★ EMPLOYMENT

### Help wanted

The slowing economy and the attacks of Sept. 11 have had a major impact on the state’s unemployment programs.

The House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Policy Committee and the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee held a joint hearing in Eagan Oct. 2 to gather background information on how lawmakers should respond to the situation.

“Unfortunately business is up and we are

inundated with layoffs,” said Paul D. Moe, director of the Department of Trade and Economic Development’s dislocated worker program.

The program aids unemployed workers in finding new jobs by providing services such as resume writing assistance, skill assessment, and by helping remove barriers to employment such as daycare and transportation issues.

Much attention since Sept. 11 has been directed at the impact on the airline industry, but department Commissioner Rebecca Yanisch said many related businesses were also affected.

“When we talk about the ripples not just from the airline industry itself but the broader travel and tourism industry, it is a very large part of our economy here in Minnesota,” she said.

Yanisch said that along with the airlines, businesses in the hospitality, restaurant, and related services sector make up a \$7 billion industry in Minnesota, providing more than 170,000 jobs.

The department estimates that for each of the 4,500 layoffs at Northwest Airlines following the Sept. 11 attacks two other jobs will be affected in Minnesota. Nationally, it is estimated that six other jobs will be affected by each layoff as the ripple effect spreads through the industry.

A large number of unemployed workers will also have a direct impact on the state’s unemployment compensation program, said John Weidenbach, the unemployment insurance director of the Department of Economic Security.

Unemployed workers are eligible for up to

### STATE STRIKE



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Striking state employees rally Oct. 10 in front of the State Capitol. The 2001 strike was the largest by state employees in Minnesota history, and lasted from Oct. 1 to Oct. 14.

26 weeks of compensation according to non-partisan staff from House Research. The amount of compensation is based on one-half of the employee's salary up to \$452 per payment.

Kip Hedges, president of Machinists Local 1833, said of the nearly 8,000 members in the union, about 1,300 were laid off by Northwest Airlines and many are now struggling to get by.

"It's not only raining, but there is a hurricane 50 miles off the coast and it's coming closer," he said.

Hedges said the "vast majority" of members affected did not qualify for the airline's severance package, and he urged lawmakers to tie any state assistance to the airline to help for unemployed workers.

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### Task force examines joint work

Several members of the House and Senate have formed a task force to examine ways the Legislature can work together more, particularly in an effort to alleviate the end-of-session crush and make the process more open and accessible to the public.

The task force had its first meetings Oct. 18 and 19. Though the group didn't make any final decisions, members laid the foundational issues that they must resolve while recommending changes to the rules governing joint meetings of the bodies.

Among items discussed, members proposed conducting more joint committee hearings, allowing more flexibility for bills to travel between the House and Senate for the purpose of resolving disagreement, and limiting the hours groups of either body may meet to avoid late night meetings and overtaxing staff.

Top among the task force's priorities is the goal of enhancing the openness and accessibility of the legislative process to Minnesota citizens. Other key goals include improving communication and cooperation between the House and Senate, as well as making the decision-making process more open and deliberative.

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) and Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) served as co-chairs of the group.

Members suggested that the House and Senate could eliminate confusion on appropriations bills by establishing in the joint rules which bills will specifically be debated.

Both House and Senate rules now dictate specifically which omnibus appropriations bills will be debated. However, they are not the same, which can cause significant delay and

confusion when a conference committee is required to work out the differences.

Another proposal to alleviate that problem would allow the House and Senate to "shuttle" bills back and forth, acting on amendments and other items, in an effort to reach agreement without a conference committee, or only a short conference committee.

Members suggested this proposal would further open up the process and give members more of a stake in each provision of the bill.

Joint committee meetings, where members of both the House and Senate would be allowed to vote on measures, were also proposed to the task force.

Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township) discussed a bill she proposed during the 2001 session, sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) in the House, which would encourage the development of more joint committees, similar to those that operate in several other states.

One of the primary concerns expressed by the task force involved how large and unwieldy joint committees could become, and the physical space they demand for meetings. Members also pointed out the deliberate differences between the House and the Senate that may be lost in a joint committee.

Krentz acknowledged the concerns, but emphasized how far joint committees could go in resolving differences early on and making testifying easier for both state agency staff and citizens as they'd only have to go before the committee once.

The plan would allow members of both bodies to have the same information for reference, and Krentz said she felt joint committees would allow members to create better policy for the state.

The task force plans to meet at least twice more before the legislative session begins Jan. 29, 2002, at which time it will make recommendations to the full Legislature.

## ★ HEALTH

### Abortion funding, protection

Two bills relating to public funding of abortion services and rights to those services provided in the Minnesota Constitution were presented for discussion before a joint House committee Nov. 13.

The House Civil Law and Health and Human Services Policy committees met to hear the bills. No votes were taken.

The first bill (HF657), sponsored by Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo), challenges public funding for abortion services. The bill proposes to amend the Minnesota Constitu-

tion to say that it does not compel the state to use its own funds for abortion services. Such a measure would require approval from both the full Legislature and a majority of voters at the next general election.

At the root of the debate is a Minnesota Supreme Court case from the early 1990s that ruled unconstitutional a state law that prohibited the use of state funds for abortion services with certain exceptions. Those are that the abortion would be necessary to prevent the mother's death or the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest.

In the case, *Doe v. Gomez*, which was decided in December 1995, the Minnesota Supreme Court held that the funding prohibition infringed on an individual's right to decide whether to terminate a pregnancy.

At issue in the case was whether the state could offer medical assistance payments for the full range of birth-related health care services but deny state aid for abortion services. The court determined that such a situation unduly influenced a woman's decision to terminate a pregnancy.

The decision says the state cannot refuse either medical assistance or general assistance medical care payments for women acquiring abortion services when necessary for "therapeutic care." The decision does not define therapeutic.

However, a dissenting opinion in the case noted that funding decisions should solely be determined by the Legislature and exercising a constitutional right does not necessarily entitle a person to governmental financial aid.

Lipman's bill would effectively reverse the *Gomez* decision by placing the language directly in the constitution, rather than in law. He argued that the court's decision oversteps separations of power between the legislative and judicial branches.

The *Gomez* case contended that the plaintiffs had health conditions, which were aggravated by a pregnancy and therefore doctors recommended abortion to alleviate the problems. Several witnesses testified that the conditions cited were treatable and did not necessarily endanger either the life of the mother or potentially the life of the fetus.

Others argued that abortion is an elective procedure and as such would not be covered by most insurance plans. Supporters of Lipman's bill also contended public funding of abortion is technically a subsidy for a service provided by private businesses.

The other bill (HF54), sponsored by Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), proposes a constitutional amendment to require that the Minnesota Constitution be interpreted the same as the U.S. Constitution with regard to the ability to obtain abortion services.



Kielkucki said as a result of the *Gomez* case, the Minnesota Constitution has been interpreted to provide broader protection for abortion services than the U.S. Constitution allows. For example, a federal law prohibits any federal funds from being spent to fund abortion unless such a procedure is necessary to save the life of the mother or the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest.

Former Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman was one of only two witnesses testifying against the measure at the hearing. He said the moral issues surrounding abortion should have no impact on the decision whether public funds are allocated to pay for them.

The fundamental decision, he said, is whether all people will stand the same under the law. He urged the committee to treat all women the same, regardless of economic status.

Several committee members questioned whether either proposal would affect abortion services only, or could be interpreted to also affect birth control. Authorities testified that Minnesota law defines abortion and under that definition, birth control would not be affected.

## ★ INDUSTRY

### Patrolling petroleum prices

Two leading state officials disagreed regarding whether Minnesota gas stations participated in price gouging the evening of Sept. 11.

Fifteen days later, Commerce Commissioner Jim Bernstein told members at a joint hearing of the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development and Senate Telecommunications, Energy and Utilities committees that panic buying by the public led to some retailers raising their gas price to between \$3 and \$5 per gallon.

In the days following the terrorist attacks, Bernstein talked to some owners whose stations raised their prices, and he was told they did so to prevent further panic, believing that customers wouldn't continue to buy gas if it was selling for such an abnormally high price.

But Attorney General Mike Hatch said blaming the consumers was wrong, and that in a time of crisis some station owners were taking advantage of the situation.

"It's absolutely hogwash for this administration to blame the consumer for the price gouging that was taking place," Hatch said. "This isn't a private market we're talking about. We're talking about a utility that is very important to the mobile society we live in. On

Tuesday, Sept. 11 we were at a point of a crisis. In a time of a crisis you don't pig out."

Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) said that prior to Sept. 11 the House committee had planned a hearing to discuss the lack of gas price stability in the state. The night of the attacks he received a phone call from a constituent wondering what the Legislature was going to do about stations charging more than twice the amount that they charged prior to the attack.

Davids said he also talked to some station owners in the following days. They said that they received a fax from suppliers warning that they could not guarantee the supply or price of gas.

Bernstein said Gov. Jesse Ventura's administration believes putting a cap on the price retailers can charge customers would ultimately limit supply and cause price increases.

"It would be catastrophic for Minnesota," Bernstein said. "The marketplace in Minnesota does work effectively. Despite some price spikes and temporary shortages, we have a very competitive marketplace. We have choices no matter where we live in Minnesota where to buy gasoline."

Hatch said that a press conference that he, Davids, and Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) had called questioning why some stations raised their gas prices so high caused station owners to correct their prices.

Although he doesn't support regulating the price of gasoline, Hatch said lawmakers should continue to look at what happened. He said 14 states have passed legislation allowing the governor to declare a state of emergency during which time the state could regulate a utility.

## ★ INSURANCE

### Fraud reform

Insurance fraud is on the increase in Minnesota, the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Committee was told Nov. 13.

"Insurance fraud happens every day and is big business in Minnesota," said Sandy Drendel, a team manager with the State Farm Insurance Special Investigation Unit. She said the cost of insurance fraud in the state is estimated at around \$2.4 billion a year.

Howard Goldblatt from the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud said the problem is growing nationwide. Fraud ultimately causes premiums to increase and affects the cost of doing business in a state.

Goldblatt said that in Brooklyn, N.Y., it isn't uncommon for a 20-year-old to pay between \$2,000 and \$5,000 for automobile insurance,

in large part due to fraudulent claims. He did not say how long that fee provided coverage.

"The issue is real, the impact is real, and it involves real money," said Bob Johnson, representing the Insurance Federation of Minnesota.

Now Minnesota policymakers are looking to follow states such as New York, Florida, and New Jersey that have passed laws designed to go after those who participate in fraudulent practices. However, no bills have yet been put forth.

Committee members were told insurance fraud is difficult to prosecute because of a lack of resources and the complexity of crimes that often involve numerous individuals and jurisdictions.

Drendel said in one case a person who filed a claim involving a house fire admitted to setting fires in five different parts of the house but ultimately was not prosecuted.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) said legislation should be targeted at specific holes in current law until the magnitude of the problem can be properly determined. Overly broad legislation could end up hurting "innocent injured people," he said.

Committee Chair Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) agreed. "We don't want to get to the point where we think that all claims are fraud because clearly they're not."

Department of Commerce Commissioner Jim Bernstein said the administration will likely support legislation creating an insurance fraud unit inside the department.

"The purpose of the fraud unit is to go after fraud," Bernstein said. "Its purpose is not to enable the insurance industry to deny claims."

Bernstein said the unit should be a public-private partnership that would have a four- or five-year limit after which time the Legislature could come back and review the effectiveness of the unit.

## ★ RECREATION

### Stadium funding debate

The Minnesota Twins may be down to their last at-bat, but 18 individuals have begun to meet about a way to help extend the game.

A Tripartisan Task Force on Stadium Issues gathered Nov. 20 for the first of eight tentative meetings. The group, consisting of representatives, senators, government officials, and members of the public, are to examine whether the state should get involved in construction of a new stadium for the Twins and/or a shared facility for the Vikings and University of Minnesota.

The House, Senate, and Gov. Jesse Ventura

appointed an equal number of members to the task force.

Much of the first-day discussion centered on the benefits of the Twins to the state — on and off the field.

Former players Bert Blyleven, Kent Hrbek, Harmon Killebrew, and Kirby Puckett testified about the value of baseball to Minnesota and of the importance of having players being active in the community. Hrbek said he has a golf tournament for ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, each year and Puckett recently raised \$500,000 with his celebrity pool tournament.

"Between Kirby and I we've raised \$7 million to \$8 million that stays in the community. And we're just two guys," Hrbek said.

"Every Minnesotan treasures people like (Hrbek and Puckett) and what they do for this state," said State Finance Commissioner Pam Wheelock, a task force member. But, she emphasized, the task force needs to remember its duty is to look at what is the rationale for public investment in a new stadium.

Other task force members asked if a new stadium would mean more fans, and presumably more money for the team, resulting in better players and a consistently competitive team on the field.

"It will not make the Twins an automatic World Series winner," Hrbek said. "You still need to play it on the field."

"We continue to be the only sports team that's won anything," Puckett said as he and members laughed.

Other discussion centered on what Congress is doing regarding baseball's antitrust exemption, and the Twins' ability to break their lease to play the 2002 season in the Metrodome.

Andy Shea, an attorney working with the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, said Major League Baseball cannot interfere with the contract. "The games are scheduled and they will go on."

Upcoming task force meetings are scheduled to discuss the plight of Vikings and Gophers in their attempt to get a new, shared facility (Dec. 6), and a public hearing in Alexandria on Dec. 13. A meeting in Rochester is tentatively planned for Jan. 15.

Information on meeting dates, agendas, and times is available on the Web at [www.house.leg.state.mn.us/taskforces/stadium.htm](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/taskforces/stadium.htm).

Task force members are also encouraging residents to submit comments to them via e-mail at [stadium@house.leg.state.mn.us](mailto:stadium@house.leg.state.mn.us). Committee staffers are looking into the possibility of a phone line whereby people can leave voice mail messages. More information on that is expected at a future meeting.



Former Minnesota Twins Kent Hrbek, left, and Kirby Puckett testify about the impact baseball and its players have in the community during the first meeting of the Tripartisan Task Force on Stadium Issues.

## ★ SAFETY

### Concealed carry continues

Members of the House Civil Law Committee met in Austin Oct. 29 to hear testimony on a bill that stalled during the 2001 session — but in the Senate, not the House.

HF1360, sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), passed the House 85-46 on April 9. The bill would change the conditions under which permits to carry concealed weapons are granted in the state.

The bill's Senate companion, sponsored by Sen. Pat Pariseau (R-Farmington), failed to move out of committee last session.

As it passed the House, the bill would make Minnesota a "shall issue" state concerning concealed weapons permits, thereby requiring county sheriffs to grant permits if applicants meet certain criteria as defined in law.

Under existing law, permits are granted or denied by either the sheriff or the police chief, depending on the size of the community. For example, a person living in Minneapolis, St. Paul, or Rochester would submit an application to the police chief, rather than the county sheriff, because in that instance, the city has a larger department than the county.

The bill would also require that the applicant pass a series of background checks, complete a gun safety course, not be listed in the state's criminal gang registry, and be at least 21. Penalties for violating certain firearm laws would also be stiffened under the bill.

Boudreau, and witnesses supporting the bill, said existing law allows "law-abiding" people to be denied permits based on "personal bias or political influence." She said the hearing would help raise awareness of the issue statewide.

"Citizens living in one community are not less deserving than citizens in another community," she said. "Peace officers alone cannot protect life. We need the citizens, and yes, sometimes armed citizens."

Law enforcement officers, gun safety instructors, and businesspeople, who say they are vulnerable given their duties and the distances they travel, testified to being denied a permit, though they felt they demonstrated a need.

Others testified that only geography affected permit decisions. Art Pavlish, who lives just outside of the Rochester city limits, recently received a permit in Olmsted County after being denied a permit when clerks mistakenly thought he was applying to the Rochester police chief.

Olmsted County Sheriff Steve Borchardt, who testified at the hearing on behalf of the state county sheriff's association, agreed that current law can be inconsistent, which is bad public policy. However, the association still opposes changes to law as they appear in the bill.

Borchardt cited a number of concerns and places where compromise might be possible:

- Many sheriff's departments do not have the resources to process all the applications that will likely be submitted.
- Police chiefs should be equal partners in granting permits because of knowledge of their communities.
- Local officials need some discretion to account for items that would not appear on background checks, such as violent misdemeanor offenses, chemical dependency, and delinquent child support.

Two health professionals spoke against the bill, citing public health concerns. Rebecca Thoman, executive director of Citizens for a Safer Minnesota, testified that statistics show 70 percent of firearms deaths in the state are suicide.

She also said the proposal would not allow authorities to consult with families of possibly mentally ill applicants to determine whether they would be capable of handling a firearm.

"Crime is not what this is really all about," Thoman said. "What we need to be concerned about is the accessibility of a loaded firearm."

Highlights continued on page 23

# Going up

Hearings offer information as to why health care costs are increasing, along with premiums

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

**H**oyt Hsiao operates Shaw-Lindquist Assoc., Inc., a small construction company in Eagan employing about 135 people. While most of those employees are covered by collective bargaining, the company must buy health insurance for 25 office staff.

Historically the company, begun by Hsiao's father, has committed to 100 percent coverage for employees, Hsiao said. However, employees have had to bear more of the cost since 1994. And in the past three years, serious medical conditions in the small group, coupled with high costs, has driven premiums to nearly \$9,000 annually per person, while benefit levels are going down.

Those are the consequences of insuring a small group of people in today's marketplace, he said.

Hsiao was one of several citizens and business owners who participated in a series of hearings held around the state by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee in an effort to address the rapidly escalating costs. Hsiao testified Sept. 26 at the committee hearing in Vadnais Heights.

Committee Chair Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) said the increasing cost of health care is the most important issue in health care. The hearings were an effort to find solutions the Legislature could explore to help contain costs.

"If you continue to have the escalating costs and those get passed around between employers and employees and so forth," he said, "that's not going to sustain itself. It comes to the place of being unaffordable."

In addition to the Vadnais Heights hearing, members gathered to hear testimony in Hallock Oct. 3, Fergus Falls Oct. 4, and Northfield Oct. 16.

At the Sept. 26 meeting, Julie Sonier from the Health Economics

Program at the state Department of Health gave a brief overview of health insurance in Minnesota, including sources, private market trends, and issues surrounding mandated benefits.

In 1999, 72 percent of Minnesotans had private health insurance, with another 23 percent receiving insurance through one of several public programs. Only 5 percent of the state population was uninsured.

As for employers who offer coverage, most medium-sized firms and large firms — those

with 50 or more employees — make insurance available to employees. A high percentage of smaller firms do not offer insurance.

In addition, according to the most recent survey, about 85 percent of employees purchase health insurance through their employers statewide.

A higher percentage of employees purchase insurance in the Twin Cities metropolitan area than in Greater Minnesota, as well. Plan specifications and wages may be factors affecting that, Sonier said.

Though current survey information is not available, officials estimate that nearly 70 percent of insurance costs are still absorbed by employers.

Data does establish a trend in the private health insurance market toward increasing premiums, according to Sonier's presentation.

Premiums began increasing in 1998 and rose more than 10 percent in both 1999 and 2000.

Sonier also showed that expenses actually increased beginning in 1995 and premiums were not immediately increased to cover those costs. The sharp spike at the end of the 1990s may be explained by the need for insurers to cover the increased costs.

Nevertheless, that correction seems to have stopped, and increased premiums do seem to reflect increased costs, she said. Preliminary estimates also suggest costs will slow down in the near future.

Sonier's presentation addressed issues that may contribute to increased health care costs, such as labor costs, a disconnect between price and consumption of services, a surge in prescription drug expenses, technology, and some other factors such as health care labor market shortages.

In reference to mandated costs, Sonier said, surveys do not indicate a direct causal relationship between mandated benefits and increase premiums. While they do raise costs, they realistically only account for about 7 percent of increases. It depends more on the nature of mandates than the actual number of mandates, she said.

Continued on page 22



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Anne Lundstrom of All Flex, Inc. testifies on the increased cost of health care for her employees during an Oct. 16 hearing of the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee in Northfield.

## Cashing in

American Indian tribes provide mixed support for state-run casino as economic development and revenue-raising tool



PHOTOS BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Mille Lacs Band Princess Jada Grapp and Mille Lacs Band Elder Beatrice Taylor testify against a state-run casino while Bobby Whitefeather, chair of the Red Lake Nation, below, testifies for a state-run casino during an Oct. 18 hearing of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee in St. Cloud.

By DAVID MAEDA

Profits from the 18 American Indian-owned casinos in Minnesota have helped some reservations address a variety of economic issues. Now some policy makers believe that allowing the state to participate in casino gambling would provide similar benefits to the state while not severely affecting American Indian gaming.

However, while they're getting support for some sort of partnership from the state's two largest tribes, lawmakers are hearing protests from other parts of the American Indian community.

The idea of a state-run casino has been banned about for many years. In times of budget deficits where the need for additional revenue is more clear, proposals to boost revenue have been discussed on a variety of issues ranging from sports stadium funding to rural economic development projects.

The House Governmental Operations and



Veterans Affairs Policy Committee took public testimony in St. Cloud Oct. 18 on proposed plans for a state-run casino. The committee has

scheduled further hearings Dec. 5 and Dec. 12 in St. Paul to discuss four casino bills.

Two of the state's largest tribes, the White Earth Band and Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, have expressed some support for a partnership with the state in a jointly owned casino.

The two tribes do not belong to the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association. Bobby Whitefeather, chair of the Red Lake Band, said his tribe was once a member of the association but later decided the interests of the tribe were not being served.

Whitefeather said partnering with the state would help the tribe meet its development challenges and develop its economy.

He said the number of tribal members that receive assistance from the Minnesota Family Investment Program, the state assistance program for low-income families, has continued to increase.

Existing gaming revenue has helped pay for essential government services, he said, but revenue from a joint partnership with the state in operating a casino in the Twin Cities metropolitan area would help provide increased funding for concerns such as health care and housing shortages for tribal members.

John McCarthy, executive director of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association, said a state-run casino would "destroy the good work that has been done by tribal governments."

He said tribal governments paid \$15.9 million in fees and services to local units of government in 2000 and the casinos have provided great economic benefit not only to the tribes but also to surrounding communities.

"Tribal gaming has spawned the growth of reservation economies like no other economic development tool," McCarthy said.

Jada Grapp, a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, urged committee members not to allow anything that would take away necessary revenue. A student at Nah Ah Shing, one of the four tribal contract schools in the state, she said gaming has helped preserve culture and tradition in American Indian communities.

"All across the United States Indian culture is beginning to disappear. Without Indian gaming, many of these cultures would have died," she said.

Continued on page 23

# At the ready

State agencies examine legal authority, contingency plans, and preparedness in the face of possible threats of bioterrorism

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

In the wake of anthrax scares across the United States following the Sept. 11 tragedies, Minnesotans are turning to state officials for the answer they want to hear: we're safe.

And officials are willing to reply in kind, but they're also admonishing the public to have a level head and use good common sense in digesting the information people see, hear, and read.

They're also being cautious to suggest that while the state is ahead of most other states, there's still a lot of work to do.

"Minnesota has one of the strongest public health systems in the country," said Jan Malcolm, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health. "I don't want to kid you. As strong as those (preparedness) plans are, as strong as our basic framework for public health protection is in this state, we do appreciate that the events of Sept. 11 put everything into a new context, and that what once was almost unimaginable to us now is something that we think we need to ... make sure that we have the actual practical capacity to respond to."

Malcolm further suggested that Minnesotans need good information about the threats that exist and inaccurate information may have caused many in Minnesota and around the nation to panic needlessly.

"I would say that we are not at this moment in time facing a public health crisis in this country," she said. "We're facing a communications and education crisis about the nature of these issues and what we as a society can do and must do to respond to them."

Malcolm testified at the Nov. 5 joint hearing of the House Crime Prevention and Health and Human Services Policy committees, the second such hearing called to address public



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**John Callinan, a St. Paul postal inspector, testifies on the post office's preparedness for bioterrorism before a Nov. 5 joint hearing of the House Health and Human Services Policy and Crime Prevention committees.**

safety in Minnesota following the Sept. 11 attacks in Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, and New York City.

The House Judiciary Finance and Crime Prevention committees also met jointly Oct. 11 to discuss the state's preparedness. However, officials said they're concerned about the way people are reacting to anthrax occurrences nationwide.

"There's a whole new perspective on white powdery substances," joked Rep. Fran

Bradley (R-Rochester), chair of the health policy committee, in his opening comments. Bradley said he didn't intend to diminish the seriousness of bioterrorism but wanted to bring some perspective to the situation.

"I hope today we can take a deep breath," he said. "Let's at least do this from a rational, common sense, good science approach."

Officials from state agencies charged with guarding public health and public safety testified about the state's preparedness from two fronts: what the state is prepared for and what the Legislature may need to do during the 2002 session to maintain that level of readiness.

Several projects already in progress Sept. 11 put Minnesota ahead of most states, officials said.

Officials had previously recognized the need for more cooperation between different agencies with expertise in terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. As a result, federal and state officials formed a joint terrorism task force in 2000. It falls under the direction of the FBI.

"We were sorely lacking that type of cooperation," said Hennepin County Sheriff Pat McGowan, who spoke on behalf of the task force at the Oct. 11 hearing. As a result of the task force, he said, "I think in Minnesota, we were way ahead of the curve."

McGowan and several other officials emphasized that the task force has helped improve inter-agency communication to an unprecedented high level.

"I have never witnessed the cooperation of federal and local agencies as I have here," said Ray Morrow, as-

sistant special agent in charge of the Minneapolis office of the FBI.

Federal funds also helped start a special unit in the Minnesota National Guard intended to perform field detection of chemical weapons. The unit is trained to examine and identify substances that may or may not be dangerous.

Lt. Col. Earl Juskowiak commands the

Continued on page 22



# Minnesota remembers

35,000 travel to the State Capitol after Sept. 11 attacks to mourn, reflect, and find renewed hope in the face of terrorism



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

About 35,000 people gather in front of the Minnesota State Capitol Sept. 16 for the Minnesota Remembers ceremony. Gov. Jesse Ventura called the event as a chance for Minnesotans to send their wishes to the victims of Sept. 11 and gather to mourn the lost lives.

Gov. Jesse Ventura summoned Minnesotans to the State Capitol Sept. 16 for a memorial service following the Sept. 11 attacks on New York City, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. Minnesotans need to come together to deal with the tragedies, Ventura said.

And about 35,000 answered his call, despite the rainy weather and long distances.

The event, "Minnesota Remembers: A Memorial from the Heartland," brought more than just individuals and families looking for some comfort in the time of turmoil. Emergency personnel, members of the armed forces, veterans, and community leaders also participated to mourn the victims and to honor those in New York and Washington who were risking their lives to help save others.

Thousands of American flags dotted the crowd and dozens of fire trucks with raised buckets lined John Ireland Boulevard between the Capitol and the St. Paul Cathedral.

Music, moving speeches, military formations, and poignant moments of silence marked the ceremony. Those in attendance had the opportunity to send wishes and donations to the people of New York, which Gov. Ventura delivered later in September.

As a tribute to the Minnesotans who were lost in the Sept. 11 tragedies and those emergency personnel who risked their lives in the rescue effort, the *Session Weekly* staff has assembled the following pages.

On them, you will find the heartfelt words of Erik Aamoth, a House employee who lost his brother in the World Trade Center. You will see the powerful images impressed upon those who attended the service.

You will also find reflections from staff of the House Public Information Office in attendance at the ceremony. We hope you find them both a comfort and sign of hope during this time of crisis in our country.

— THE EDITORS

## *Standing together important after attacks*

It was raining.

I spent most of the morning Sept. 16 hoping the heavy gray clouds would disappear and the sun would shine on the Sept. 11 memorial service scheduled that afternoon at the State Capitol. Instead, the skies decided to open as I was getting ready to leave.

The weather left me in a decidedly uncertain mood. But it didn't affect my resolve to attend the memorial. The minute it was announced, I contacted many of my closest friends to see if they would accompany me and then join me at my home for a warm-up and some very needed conversation.

I wanted nothing more than to have those people whom I value most in my life, outside of my family, with me. Together we had just celebrated the wedding of my closest friend. And together, we mourned the loss of life and acknowledged an event that had jarred us all to our very core.

It's selfish, but I know for a fact that all of us were extremely thankful we hadn't lost anyone in the Sept. 11 tragedies. I fought back tears as I heard the strength in Erik Aamoth's voice as he spoke about his brother, whom he lost in the World Trade Center.

My heart went out to him as I thought about my own brother and how much I love him, how his wife has become like a sister to me, and how much joy his beautiful children bring to my life.

The tears flowed freely when I thought about losing that.

I looked over at my friend who was accompanied by her brother, a former U.S. Navy officer. He worked on the fighter jets – probably some of the same ones flying over Afghanistan now. He spent six months on the U.S.S.

Continued on page 14

## Sept. 11 forced a focus on the important things in life

*"We have done with Hope and Honour, we are lost to Love and Truth. We are dropping down the ladder rung by rung. And the measure of our torment is the measure of our youth. God help us, for we knew the worst too young."*

*-Rudyard Kipling*

I had marked Sept. 11 in my calendar months in advance. For me it was supposed to be a day of celebration and duty. It was the day I had agreed to serve as an election judge, partly out of a sense of civic responsibility. It was also the day my favorite writer, Bob Dylan, was set to release a new CD of 12 original songs. I couldn't wait to hear what the man had to say.

As the events of the day unfolded it, of course, became a day of something entirely different that no words or deeds could explain.

It all seemed too big (and certainly too scary) to comprehend, let alone believe. It was more than mourning the loss of so many lives. It was more than the absurdity of trying to come to grips with how anyone could commit such a horrendous act of hatred.

Like so many others, the days after were spent trying to maintain some kind of equilibrium while at the same time not knowing what to do next.

One undeniable outcome of the terrorist attacks of New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C. is that it has forced people to think a little about what being an American is about. The senselessness of the attack made us want to pull together and to mourn as a nation.

Likewise, one of the things I've learned as I've struggled to deal with the grief over my mom's death two years ago was that seeing her die, holding her hand as she breathed her

last breath, forever changed my perspective on things. It wasn't as if I could ever just go back to every day life and get as upset about trivial things especially after losing such a valued perspective and close friend.

In a way Sept. 11 touched a similar vein. Lifelong irritants and pet peeves like people who don't use their turn signals, people who don't return phone calls, and people who make promises they fail to keep aren't worth getting upset over in the long run. Life is too short to let yourself be bothered by such things.

Thus, I was glad when my favorite new

mother asked if I wanted to go with her to the service being held on the State Capitol steps Sept. 16. We walked down Summit Avenue in the drizzle and were immediately impressed by the fire trucks from cities throughout the state lined up and down John Ireland Boulevard with their ladders extended and with flags atop each one. Equally impressive was the huge flag on the roof of the Cathedral, currently under renovation.

I'm not one who usually enjoys being in crowds, but



Gretke Langeland Dillion from Wayzata holds her daughter Samantha Martin as they listen to speakers during the Minnesota Remembers ceremony.

PHOTOS BY TOM OLMSCHIED



Flowers wrapped in wax paper, an American flag, and a message in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Washington.



Message written in English and Arabic rest on the Capitol steps, left in New York City, and Pennsylvania.

it was nice being able to share in the moment and spirit with 35,000 others — and one of my best friends. I even got to hold the divine baby. To have lil’ Henry Louis look up at me with the bluest of eyes and then grin was a breathtaking, life-affirming moment.

That grin may just have been an innocent reflex, but it was full of reassurance nonetheless.

Who knows what kind of world Henry will know 20 years down the road, but the values and spirit so present that day was remindful of some lyrics from Dylan’s CD: “Po’ boy, never say die. Things will be all right, by and by.”

(D. MAEDA)

## ‘...My brother will always be alive to me.’

*Editor’s Note: The following is the text of the speech delivered by Erik Aamoth on Sept. 16 at the State Capitol memorial service, “Minnesota Remembers: A Memorial from the Heartland.” Aamoth’s brother, Gordy, was working in the World Trade Center Sept. 11 and is presumed dead. Aamoth was asked to speak on behalf of the Minnesota families who lost a loved one in the Sept. 11 tragedies. Aamoth is the committee administrator for the Economic Development and Tourism Division of the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee.*



**Erik Aamoth**

I am honored to be here representing my brother Gordy, my family and friends, and all the Minnesotans, including Tom Burnett and Charles Burlingame, who were victimized by the tragedy that shook New York and Washington D.C. on Sept. 11.

I would first like to thank the members of the organizing committee, Governor Ventura, the House, and the Senate for arranging this celebration of the lives of Tuesday’s victims.

I would also like to pay my heartfelt respect to the members of the rescue community who have risked their lives in the face of extreme danger. My family and I are forever indebted to the firefighters, law enforcement, and emergency personnel for your valiant efforts.

*My brother is alive.*

He will be alive to me for the rest of my life. Whether he has survived (pause) or not, my brother will always be alive to me. He was my hero when I was a child and my friend when I was an adult. I loved him because he was true to himself. I used to call him the “Great Gatsby” because of his majestic, sometimes flamboyant personality. I loved him for his vanity, how he always had to be the center of attention. I loved him for his sense of humor; he had a way of needling me — sometimes it made me want to punch him in the nose — but most of the time it made me laugh, and I knew he was really telling me he loved me. I will miss his unique sense of style, his big smile, and his mischievous laugh. But most of all I miss his heart.

Gordy loved his family. He was always giving my parents tips on raising my brother and me, and even after I grew up he loved to tell me what to do. I rarely listened, but I tolerated his suggestions because I knew his heart was in the right place. Gordy lived the last nine years of his life in New York. He was infatuated with the fast pace, big business, and the lifestyle there. But judging from the hundreds of phone calls, cards, and well wishers that we have received this week, I know his heart never left Minnesota. My family and I will never be able to express our gratitude to those who supported us in our time of need.

Normally, we think of heroes as soldiers of war or rescue people, like the ones represented here. But I think Gordy and the other victims of this attack are also heroes because they gave up their lives pursuing their dreams: working, striving, achieving, and exercising the freedoms that define democracy. The hijackers attacked those freedoms, they took away our countrymen, they took away our friends, and they took away our family members. But they can never take away our way of life, and they can never take away our memories of these fallen heroes.

This has been a difficult week for the Aamoth family — as it has been for many others. We have cried and we have mourned. But our family has discovered a strength and unity that we never knew we had. I hope the memory of the heroism of Gordy and the other victims will help all of us, around the world, discover the same strength and unity.

*Thank you again, and God Bless America!*



**Presiding Bishop-Elect Mark Hanson from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America speaks on behalf of the religious community, emphasizing the need for tolerance following Sept. 11. Representatives from all facets of the religious community in the Twin Cities participated in the event.**

**Continued from page 11**

Enterprise that helped patrol the Persian Gulf.

One of the first things his parents told him after the Sept. 11 tragedy was how thankful they were he wasn't enlisted anymore. I saw that same thankfulness in his wife's eyes as she reached for his hand at the memorial service.

But I also saw the tremendous pride that he carries while wearing his jacket from the Enterprise. Though he's not in active service anymore, his heart is still there and he knows the important role the armed forces play.

He felt a true respect shown by those in attendance that day for all current and former members of the U.S. military.

Sept. 11 did at least one good thing. It made us appreciate what we have.

But beyond the immediate effects of Sept. 11 were the subtle fears it conjured in all of us. We no longer felt safe to move about the country at will. Terrorists used many of our own freedoms against us and we didn't know how to react to that.

We were looking to our leaders to tell us what to do, where to go, how to respond. Maybe that's why so many people showed up on the Capitol lawn that rainy Sunday.

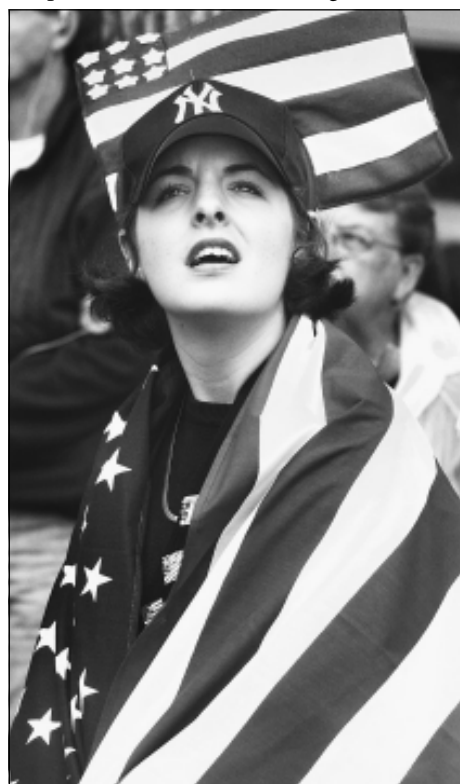
I have a hunch that it was something more than that. Lots of experts have speculated that Sept. 11 was a wake-up call to our patriotism. But I think it goes even further.

For the first time in my life, the Sept. 16 memorial helped me understand the vehement patriotism my parents had always taught us. They had lived through wars — both of them were born just before the inception of

World War II. They remember Pearl Harbor.

My grandfather lost his sight in World War I. My mother was active in military booster organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars during her youth.

In our house, you didn't fly the Stars and Stripes without understanding how it was



**Shelly Lee of St. Paul wraps herself in the flag as she watches doves being released during the Minnesota Remembers ceremony Sept. 16 on the State Capitol grounds.**

taken care of. You didn't hear the Star Spangled Banner without standing, making sure your hat or cap were removed, and placing a hand respectfully over your heart.

I never truly understood why that was so important. Sure, they're symbols of our ancestors' sacrifices and we understand their historical significance. But it never seemed like something I would personally have to face.

I've never really had to deal with such a serious threat to our nation before. I was too young to really remember Vietnam. The Gulf War wasn't real to me — it never quite seemed like our fight. And it seemed like it was over as soon as it began.

But that Sunday in September, the importance became so real to me it was almost overwhelming. It's hard for me to put into words the feeling of looking all around you and knowing everyone is feeling the same thing.

Every speech evoked applause and respect — and sometimes cheering. Military formations brought the crowd to its feet. Hundreds of emergency personnel illustrated their proud traditions with uniforms and equipment. Everyone in the crowd was waving a flag — some large enough to put on a pole, others small enough to hold in your hand. And the toot of a fire engine's horn prompted many to wave a flag or raise an arm in salute.

We knew in a minute that we needed one another — that no matter what our differences, it was vitally important that we be unified. It was never more evident than when my friends all clasped hands and bowed our heads in prayer with the crowd, and many of them didn't even believe in prayer prior to Sept. 11.

It was a tremendously comforting feeling at a time when it seemed our notions of safety were crumbling around us.

Here's another good thing about Sept. 11 — that week, Americans everywhere began reaching out to one another for help and support.

And the most wonderfully affirming thing happened just as the memorial service began. The rain stopped. Though the sun didn't shine brightly through the clouds, it did warm St. Paul that afternoon.

It gave us all a renewed strength that was palpable to everyone there. And with that strength we stood defiantly together, ready to conquer enemies of our country and our way of life — while still protecting the freedoms that accompany it.

**(M. KIBIGER)**

# Safety first

Changes implemented at Capitol buildings since terrorist attacks, but officials focus on maintaining business as usual

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

Security at the State Capitol has changed since the Sept. 11 attacks in Washington, D.C. and New York City. However, officials do not intend to make security so onerous as to restrict the regular business conducted in the buildings.

School groups, special tours, and seasonal events continue at the State Capitol unperturbed. And officials are being careful not to alarm patrons or overemphasize security at the Capitol when there have been no credible threats to the building or its occupants.

"I think it's safer today than it was Sept. 10," said Capt. Tom Fraser, head of Capitol Security, "because of the environment and not because of what we're doing now."

Fraser says that there are always individuals who may target the State Capitol because it's the seat of government for Minnesota. Sept. 11 had no effect on that. But citizens are more aware because of Sept. 11, which helps officials notice unusual circumstances before they become a problem.

The committee that oversees Capitol security recently recommended several changes that will continue the efforts to better monitor people in Capitol complex buildings. Fraser said he thinks the enhanced measures will serve as a deterrent to any inappropriate or potentially destructive behavior.

All buildings in the complex have been limited to one public entrance, with the exception of the Capitol building itself. Plans are to place security guards at the public entrances to register and monitor visitors during regular business hours.

"No matter where you come into the system, you have to pass by someone" and at a minimum show identification, Fraser said. "If you've got that sometimes people will refuse" and simply leave the building.

There are no immediate plans to institute metal detection devices at the entrances, unless there is a particular incident that would warrant such high security, Fraser said.

Officials note there needs to be a balance between the security needs of the complex and

the fact that they are public buildings, historical monuments to government attended daily by regular citizens. Fraser said security should not be too restrictive.

"Nobody wants the Capitol and the (State Office Building) to become fortresses," said

Charlie Weaver, commissioner of the state Department of Public Safety at a recent hearing where he addressed Capitol security. "But we certainly need to be smart."

In keeping with the philosophy of preparedness, the oversight committee also recommended purchasing four more metal detection devices (both stationary and handheld wands) for the Capitol complex. The detectors would only be used if a situation warranted increased security, Fraser said.

Capitol Security already has one metal

Continued on page 23

## New public entrances on the State Capitol Complex

After Sept. 11, Capitol Security instituted a new policy that limits access to buildings on the Capitol complex to only one or two entry points. Those open entrances are listed below.

Building	Services	Public access door
<b>Administration</b> 50 Sherburne Ave.	State Treasurer	Sherburne Avenue entrance
<b>Centennial</b> 658 Cedar St.	Legislative Auditor, Campaign Finance Board, Department of Finance, Minnesota Planning, Department of Employee Relations	Cedar Street entrance
<b>Ford</b> 117 University Ave.	Minnesota Bookstore	University Avenue entrance
<b>History Center</b> 345 Kellogg Blvd.	Historical Society, libraries, exhibits	Kellogg Boulevard entrance*
<b>Judicial Center</b> 25 Constitution Ave.	State court system, law library, Supreme Court	South main entrance on Constitution Avenue
<b>Stassen</b> 600 North Robert St.	Department of Revenue	Robert Street front entrance
<b>State Capitol</b> 75 Constitution Ave.	DFL Senators, legislative hearings, legislative offices, governor, Lt. governor, attorney general	South main entrance**
<b>State Office</b> 100 Constitution Ave.	All House members, Republican Senators, legislative hearings, and commission's offices, secretary of state, legislative reference library	All first floor entrances
<b>Transportation</b> 395 John Ireland Blvd.	Department of Transportation	Rice Street entrance
<b>Veterans Service</b> 20 West 12th Street	Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Military Affairs, Minnesota National Guard	west wing lobby entrance

\*John Ireland Boulevard entrance will remain open for tour groups.

\*\*West entrance along Constitution Avenue will open during the legislative session.



# New job, same focus

Veteran legislator leaves House when president offers new opportunity to shape rural economic development

By Mike Cook

**R**ep. Steve Wenzel may have left the House for a federal position, but he has not stopped working on an issue that was important to him during 29 years in the Legislature.

Wenzel, a DFL representative from Little Falls, resigned from his District 12B seat in August when President George W. Bush named him the state director of rural development in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"This is an area where I can do a lot of good for all rural communities in Minnesota, not only for my home area," he said. "I want to help keep people located in these areas and keep rural Minnesota strong and prosperous. That's in everyone's best interest."

His new position entails overseeing an agency that generates about \$300 million annually for rural development — much of it in the form of grants and loans to rural areas for developing infrastructure, new housing, and new business. U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development is the federal government's lead agency for rural economic development.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for me to play a hands-on role in promoting our rural economy and helping rural communities create new jobs and build infrastructure," he said, much like he did for nearly the past three decades.

"I've always fought for the best interests of family farmers and rural Minnesota in my time as a legislator," he said. "This position will let me work directly with rural communities and I believe truly make a difference in the quality of life for rural people."

Wenzel laughs a little in that he, a DFLer, was recommended by a Republican, Minnesota First District Congressman Gil Gutknecht, and appointed by a Republican president.

"I strongly share the president's vision for a prosperous and strong rural America," Wenzel said. "He made it clear during his campaign and after the election that he would include Democrats in his administration in order to



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**Former Rep. Steve Wenzel left the Minnesota House of Representatives when he was named state director of rural development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture by President George W. Bush in August 2001.**

achieve national unity. I'm very honored and proud to work for President Bush."

During his legislative career, Wenzel, 54, was a mainstay on the House agriculture committees, including 16 years as chair of the policy committee when the DFL controlled the House.

"Members of both caucuses stated I was always fair to everyone on the committee. I gave most bills that were requested a hearing, regardless of which party they came from," he said.

Wenzel lists among his greatest accomplishments the Minnesota Over-Order Premium law, which placed a surcharge on milk processors to help increase dairy farm incomes. Prior to the U.S. Supreme Court invalidating the law, \$7 million was raised for state dairy producers.

Agriculture was not the only concern he had during his 15 terms. Wenzel said he was also involved in crime prevention, public safety

issues, pro-life measures, education, and special infrastructure and other projects for his district.

He also regards as a significant achievement his sponsorship of a 1989 overhaul of Minnesota's sentencing guidelines that substantially increased penalties and prison sentences for violent crime. Subsequent amendments included the sentence of life without parole for those who commit murder during a rape or kidnapping, and for the killing of a peace officer.

In his home district he is most proud of the creation of the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery at Camp Ripley, a place he refers to as "Minnesota's Arlington."

First elected in 1972, Wenzel never tallied less than 60 percent of the vote in his district on Election Day. Twice he ran unopposed. That great margin may be attributed in part to Wenzel's connectivity to his former constituents. He was known for sending congratulations letters to high school graduates, couples on 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries, and other folks who did something special.

"I could not have asked for a better district or greater people to represent," he said.

His advice to Greg Blaine, the new District 12B representative, is to stay close to the constituents as they have high expectations of whom they elect.

Among them will be Wenzel, who in addition to a willingness to offer any advice, will remain where his roots are. "I'm home every weekend. I'm a lifelong resident of Little Falls and Morrison County. Always have and always will be." 🐾

## STEPPING DOWN

**Rep. Stephen Wenzel**

**DFL**

**District 12B — Little Falls**

**Terms: 15**

**Career Notes:** First elected at age 24, Wenzel was tied with three other DFLers (Irv Anderson, Lyndon Carlson, and Phyllis Kahn) for most seniority in the House. He was a mainstay on both agriculture policy and finance committees in the House, including 16 years as agriculture policy chair. During his tenure, he missed just one session day due to the illness of his late mother.

# Giving it a try

Newest representative looks to bring common sense, hard-working approach to St. Paul

By Mike Cook

It was happenstance that started Rep. Greg Blaine (R-Little Falls) on his road to the Minnesota House of Representatives.



Rep. Greg Blaine

The republican was elected Nov. 6 to replace Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) as the representative for District 12B.

Blaine and his wife, Michelle, were in a Duluth restaurant this summer when they saw Wenzel as they prepared to leave. Since Blaine's father, Jerry, knew Wenzel from past lobbying efforts at the Capitol, the Blaines stopped to say hello.

"Steve insisted we sit down," Greg Blaine said. "I had been reading that he was being considered for an appointment (to a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture)." They talked about the Legislature and campaigning.

During their conversation, Blaine said Wenzel encouraged him to run because he fit the profile of the district. "At first I laughed about it. He said 'You're the perfect person. This is a farm district and the person that fills this seat should have a farm background.'"

The conversation lasted for about 90 minutes inside the restaurant and about another hour outside. "He kept saying that he wanted me to think about it," Blaine said, noting he was getting more excited the more they talked.

After returning home Blaine continued to discuss the possibility with his family and workers at his dairy farm. He decided to enter the race on Aug. 10 — just 11 days before the endorsing convention and less than three weeks after his Duluth meeting with Wenzel.

Though Wenzel did not officially endorse either

candidate, he said that Blaine is "a very worthy successor."

Blaine has always had an interest in politics. He said he's even thought about running for the Legislature before. He recalls talking to his father, who has served on a township board "for over 30 years" many times about politics, but the younger Blaine was always more interested in the state level.

"I never thought I'd have the opportunity to serve," he said, referring to Wenzel's 29 years representing the district. "It's something I thought I had the capability to be effective at."

Blaine, 40, has no experience in a publicly elected position, such as school board or city council. However, he has been involved in leadership at his church and with the Jaycees.

"In talking with constituents they like that I am not tied bureaucratically and have no hidden agenda," he said. "They also like that I'm a common sense, hard-working person — a prime example of the people of District 12B."

He may not have a specific agenda, but there are issues Blaine will fight for, most notably agriculture. He expects to replace Wenzel on both the House Agriculture Policy and finance committees.

Both seem an ideal fit for Blaine, who owns Bartchelle Dairy in Little Falls. He has run the

farm full-time since 1996, after 15 years as a press foreman for a printing company. The farm now has about 180 head of cattle, including 70 milking cows, which Blaine tends to in the morning. They also farm about 400 acres of corn and alfalfa.

In addition to agriculture, Blaine said two key issues are education and pro-life measures, such as the women's right to know bill and stopping partial-birth abortions, which he says are a key concern in his district.

"I believe this district is one of the strongest pro-life areas of Minnesota," he said.

Education was one of the top issues mentioned by residents during the campaign. "My big point is to try and restore some equitable funding to rural areas," he said.

Blaine knows that other issues the Legislature may deal with in 2002 are a potential budget shortfall and publicly funding a new stadium for the Minnesota Twins, which he would have a hard time supporting until baseball "gets its house in order."

"I'll have ears like a cornfield to find out what people think," he said of potential budget discussions. "I'll just try to give the best product to people at the least cost. Belt-tightening is something nobody likes but it will force people to become better managers. It's a good accountability check."


Blaine is well-aware that constituents will be watching his actions closely. "People of my district will keep me in line. They expect accountability. I feel my voice is a gift from God and I will use it for the betterment of the people of this district." 



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

With wife Michelle by his side, Rep. Greg Blaine is sworn into office Nov. 15 by House Speaker Steve Sviggum during a ceremony in the House chamber. The republican from Little Falls replaces former Rep. Steve Wenzel, who accepted a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in August.

## DISTRICT 12B

### District 12B

**1998 Population (estimate):** 34,912

**Largest cities:** Little Falls, Baxter

**Counties:** Cass, Crow Wing, and Morrison

**Location:** north central Minnesota

**Top concern:** "Having lived in Little Falls all my life, I understand what residents expect from our government. We expect fair funding for our schools and affordable health care for our seniors. We also expect the Legislature to stimulate economic growth in our farming community and to use our tax dollars wisely."

— Rep. Greg Blaine

# Speaking out

State fair provides an opportunity for all Minnesota citizens — even young people — to weigh in on issues

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

Some of them may need a little coaxing or a clue, but eventually most Minnesota school-age children will be able to identify the current governor of the state as Jesse Ventura.

And they may be a little rusty on some of the basics of government, like how a bill becomes a law and who represents Minnesota in Washington. Nevertheless, Minnesota's youth have very clear opinions regarding issues that face them both in and out of the classroom — which is often the place state policies affect children.

And some of those opinions may surprise you. Staff from the House Public Information Office asked younger fairgoers questions about proposals to ban soda pop in schools, require students to say the Pledge of Allegiance

tific poll for fairgoers, but that is often targeted to voting-age Minnesotans. This year, staff wanted to see what was on young people's minds.

Many of the children said it was important to say the Pledge of Allegiance in school at least once per week. It's a matter of respect for your country and understanding why that's important, they say.

Others said it wasn't as important for older students as for children in elementary school.

School uniforms and dress codes received mixed reviews, with some students saying they should be able to wear what they want while others said it would be easier if there were a dress code in school.

Others said some classmates get picked on when they don't wear certain kinds of clothes and that affects what they think about going

tant so you can learn lots of things and be smart."

Others acknowledged they look forward to the nice long break during the summer and the school year doesn't need to be longer if it cuts into that.

Soda pop is unnecessary during school hours, many said, but would be appropriate after school or even during lunch. Others said it's just something else to drink and the issue really isn't a big deal.

Students agreed for the most part that if they're considering a tattoo or piercing, they should talk it over with their parents first and get their approval.

"You should need to get parental permission so you don't do something on impulse and regret it later," said Jeff Miller, 16, from Richfield.

No, was the consensus on state aid for stadiums. While many of the children said they'd like a stadium for either team, they don't think the state should pay for it. Furthermore, they don't think the Twins or Vikings will necessarily move just because they don't get a new stadium.

House members working at the fair agreed issues important to children should not go unnoticed. In particular, two members who worked at the House booth at this year's fair know firsthand the power of the youth lobby.

Reps. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) and Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) both sponsored a bill in the 2001 session regarding registration of beer kegs. The bill would have required liquor stores to gather personal information, such as driver's license number and address, from people purchasing kegs, in an effort to reduce availability of alcohol to minors.

The idea was supported in large part by teens — not old enough to drink or to vote, but concerned about what drinking was doing to themselves and their peers.

"It was effective — just telling the story about their lives," said Dehler. "Some of them became alcoholics actually and it started out with easy access to kegs. ... Now they want to stop it."

McGuire said she introduced the bill initially nine years ago but kept bringing it back because of the student involvement. The bill passed the House in 2001 and awaits Senate approval.

"What kids say, that makes a difference," McGuire said. "We as policy-makers need to pay attention to young kids. They are the future. Even if they aren't voting yet, they are going to be future voters and they will have an impact on what's going on in our state."

Assistant Editor Mike Cook and Writer David Maeda contributed to this report.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Thousands of Minnesotans visit the House of Representatives booth in the Education Building at the Minnesota State Fair, where they meet lawmakers, gather educational materials, and take the opinion poll.

each week, and to lengthen the school year.

Youth also answered questions about whether they should have their parents' permission to get tattoos or body piercings, whether schools should require a dress code or uniforms, and whether the state should pay for new stadiums for professional sports teams.

Each year the office puts together an unscien-

to school.

They don't mind the idea of year-round school, as long as there are more long breaks during the year. Students say a longer school year would help them learn and retain more.

"Some kids think that the summer is the most important thing," said Cortney Seavey, 8, from Andover. "But I think school is the most impor-

## 2001 state fair poll results

# More than 9,100 people 'vote' at House booth



### 1. Should the state make talking on a cellular phone while driving illegal?

Yes	58.4%	(5,320)
No	33.8%	(3,079)
Undecided/No Opinion	7.0%	(641)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—, —	(62)

### 2. Should people be required to show a picture ID at their polling place before they are given a ballot to vote?

Yes	75.0%	(6,829)
No	18.3%	(1,669)
Undecided/ No Opinion	6.0%	(550)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—, —	(54)

### 3. Should the legal blood-alcohol limit for drunk driving be lowered from .10 percent to .08 percent?

Yes	56.1%	(5,109)
No	37.5%	(3,416)
Undecided/No Opinion	5.3%	(478)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.0%	(99)

### 4. Do you support construction of a state-owned and state-operated casino in Minnesota?

Yes	34.2%	(3,111)
No	56.7%	(5,157)
Undecided/No opinion	8.4%	(766)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—, —	(68)

### 5. Should the state Board of Education, which was abolished in 1999, be re-established?

Yes	41.4%	(3,764)
No	29.2%	(2,656)
Undecided/No Opinion	28.4%	(2,588)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—, —	(94)

### 6. Do you support tougher penalties for hunters and anglers who violate the state's game and fish limit laws?

Yes	70.9%	(6,457)
No	16.6%	(1,512)
Undecided/No Opinion	11.5%	(1,045)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—, —	(88)

### 7. Should grocery stores be allowed to sell wine?

Yes	57.5%	(5,232)
No	35.7%	(3,252)
Undecided/ No Opinion	5.9%	(541)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—, —	(77)



In 2001, more fairgoers took the House state fair poll than ever before.

### 8. For several years, state law has required that unleaded gasoline contain a certain percentage of the fuel additive ethanol. Should the state require that diesel fuels also contain a percentage of the additive biodiesel, a liquid fuel derived from organic oils?

Yes	51.4%	(4,677)
No	21.0%	(1,913)
Undecided/ No Opinion	26.5%	(2,419)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.0%	(93)

### 9. Do you believe county sheriffs and police chiefs should have the discretion to grant or deny applications for state residents to obtain a concealed weapons permit?

Yes	48.5%	(4,417)
No	38.5%	(3,504)
Undecided/ No Opinion	11.7%	(1,066)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.3%	(115)

### 10. In general, do you think the state should provide support, through interest-free or low-interest loans, to professional sports teams desiring to build new facilities?

Yes	25.8%	(2,345)
No	67.3%	(6,123)
Undecided/ No Opinion	6.1%	(556)
Left blank/vote not tallied	—, —	(78)

(All percentages are rounded off to the nearest one-tenth. Percent total votes left blank or not tallied are included for those above 1 percent.)

Note: The Minnesota House of Representatives' survey is informal and unscientific. It is simply a measurement of the opinions expressed by those who took the time to complete the poll while visiting our booth at the fair. Our main purpose in conducting this opinion poll was to familiarize fairgoers with some of the issues that have recently been discussed by the Legislature and issues that may be debated during the 2002 legislative session.

## House members who appeared at the fair

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka)  
 Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffero Township)  
 Rep. Connie Bernardy (DFL-Fridley)  
 Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault)  
 Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester)  
 Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan)  
 Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal)  
 Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls)  
 Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph)  
 Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Red Wing)  
 Rep. D. Scott Dibble (DFL-Mpls)  
 Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato)  
 Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton)  
 Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton)  
 Rep. Chris Gerlach (R-Apple Valley)  
 Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls)  
 Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont)  
 Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin)  
 Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson)  
 Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar)  
 Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls)  
 Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Wells)  
 Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids)  
 Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls)  
 Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley)  
 Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo)  
 Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights)  
 Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls)  
 Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls)  
 Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake)  
 Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie)  
 Rep. Tim Pawlenty, Majority Leader (R-Eagan)  
 Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park)  
 Rep. Connie Ruth (R-Owatonna)  
 Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall)  
 Rep. Anthony (Tony) Sertich (DFL-Chisholm)  
 Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls)  
 Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood)  
 Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey)  
 Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior)  
 Rep. Mark Thompson (DFL-New Hope)  
 Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls)  
 Rep. Scott Wasiluk (DFL-Maplewood)  
 Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda)



## Health continued from page 10

Underlying costs, such as prescription drugs and physician services, have much more of an impact.

"That's what's going to drive premiums in the long run," Sonier said.

Witnesses at the hearings confirmed that notion, particularly with regard to prescription drugs.

Several witnesses expressed concern regarding the aggressive marketing of prescription drugs to the general public. Primarily of concern is that many people will request a particular brand name medication from their doctor, fully unaware of the actual cost.

Most insurance plans include a co-payment for prescription drugs, so consumers often don't even know the cost associated with their prescriptions.

Health care providers also testified that they're not sure where the increased costs are coming from. Particularly in the rural areas, the higher premiums either employers or citizens are paying are not necessarily getting to the facilities.

While costs are going up everywhere, witnesses said the increases are especially difficult for small businesses and small groups of insured to absorb.

The effect: many businesses are being forced to offer plans with decreased health insurance benefits in order to cover more of the premium costs or pass those costs on directly to employees. Often that leads to employees requesting higher salaries to defray the costs.

While employers like Hsiao don't relish that option, it does have its benefits.

"It brought them more into the role of understanding what insurance does cost," he said.

Greater Minnesota is also getting hit hard, particularly the border communities that are competing with insurers in other states. In addition, smaller communities are struggling to attract qualified professionals to provide health care services, whether they are doctors, nurses, or pharmacists.


Chuck Ness, director of the Minnesota Rural Health Cooperative in Fergus Falls, testified Oct. 4 that most professionals are willing to drive long distances to larger communities in order to make a better wage and obtain better benefits.

Committee members and witnesses recognized the complicated nature of health care costs, but there were a number of policy recommendations that were consistently repeated at the hearings.

- Cost controls are not necessarily going to sufficiently fix the problem. Jim Van Houten, who purchases health insurance for employees at MSI Insurance, testified Sept. 26 that controls merely spread costs around. They don't reduce them.
- Reduce mandates or taxes, particularly to small providers.
- Encourage the use of medical savings accounts and other pre-tax funding options.

- Increase powers of health care purchasing alliances created in the early 1990s. The alliances are authorized to combine purchasing power for smaller employers, the working uninsured, and farm families.

Ness also suggested that the state continue to audit and investigate the practices of not-for-profit health care provider networks such as Allina Health System, Minnesota's largest provider. Attorney General Mike Hatch's office has scrutinized their practices carefully in recent months, stopping just short of recommending criminal prosecution.

The committee plans to meet both before and after the 2002 session commences Jan. 29. Representatives from the state's providers of health insurance will have an opportunity to testify at those hearings. 

### For more information

The Minnesota Department of Health has created several fact sheets for the general public relating to bioterrorism, including information about anthrax, smallpox, handling mail, and current hoaxes.

The information can be found on the department Web site <http://www.health.state.mn.us/bioterrorism/index.html> or call the department at (651) 215-5800.

## Safety continued from page 12

55th Civil Support Team, which covers Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as North and South Dakota. He testified that the unit, which recently received its full certification, works in conjunction with the state Department of Health. The unit performs field analysis on a substance that will later be fully identified through testing at the state laboratory.

The unit is fully funded by the federal government but is subject to the authority of state and local law enforcement. Juskowiak said the unit has been called upon several times to help identify suspicious substances, even before Sept. 11.

National Guard personnel are also providing additional security at several airports throughout the state, particularly Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, since the tragedies.

So far, the National Guard is not providing extra assistance to the state's nuclear power fa-

cilities, however, said Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver. He testified that he had been meeting with officials from the plants and law enforcement agencies providing assistance to them. While the plants are raising their own levels of awareness and security, they don't feel they need the Guard.

Weaver also previously testified that the nuclear plants have an already heightened level of security due to the nature of nuclear power.

However, local law enforcement agencies where the plants are located are accumulating large amounts of overtime they may need to be reimbursed for. Weaver suggested creating a kind of revolving fund to help agencies defray some of those costs.


Weaver also said the department's Division of Emergency Management is re-evaluating the decision to eliminate three of four hazardous materials teams in the state. Previously, there were four teams headquartered in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and Greater

Minnesota. However, now there is only one team, located in St. Paul, and several smaller chemical assessment teams placed around the state.

Several officials testified that there may be other policy-related or financial remedies the Legislature can provide in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. They hinted at funding requests when the session begins in January 2002, as well as policy initiatives relating to investigating crimes.

Malcolm and State Epidemiologist Dr. Harry Hull also suggested that more legal authority may be needed for quarantine purposes in the event of an outbreak.

In the end, officials agreed there is more to be done in preparation, but it's part of an ongoing effort to maintain public safety in Minnesota.

"Terrorism is not something we can think about for six months because it's a hot topic and then forget about it," McGowan said. 



## Recreation continued from page 11

David Strom, legislative director of the Taxpayers League of Minnesota, said it is not the role of government to compete with private industries "because it is profitable to do so." He said profits from a state-owned casino would distort spending decisions by the Legislature.

"The establishment of a state-run casino is one of the worst ideas that regularly comes before the state Legislature," Strom said.

Mary Jevney, a resident of Mille Lacs County, said she preferred to end all gambling in the state, but because that is unrealistic she


believes that at the very least the state should tax and regulate casinos.

"We often hear about the economic boom Indian casinos have provided to rural areas but we seldom hear about the problems," she said citing the necessity for increased law enforcement and gambling addiction programs.

Noel Maanum, also a resident of Mille Lacs County, said the issue is one of fairness and competition. He said the only protection consumers have against an "unscrupulous" business is either government regulation or competition.

Maanum said a state-run casino would have

smaller maximum bets on slot machines that would pay out more often than existing machines. He said that would ultimately mean a reduction in the money people spent on gambling.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) countered that the cost of building a casino would require a high profit margin due to land and construction costs, plus salaries and benefits for 4,000 new state employees. If the casino were built in downtown Minneapolis as has been proposed, he said the cost of buying the land would be between \$200 million and \$400 million. 

## Capitol security continued from page 17

detector, which is sometimes used for events at the governor's residence and elsewhere.

The committee also recommended having more uniformed state troopers assigned to the Capitol to provide full coverage of the grounds during open hours seven days a week.


The plan, Fraser said, is to enhance security to the minimum committee recommendations through the end of May. In order for that level of security to continue, he said, the Legislature must act during 2002 to fund security at a higher level.

Other proposals to further enhance

security were not recommended at this time but should be considered in the future, the report suggested. They build on a comprehensive Capitol Security report from January 2000.

That report recommended upgrading the security force to 51 licensed officers. Currently, Capitol Security is allotted 41 full-time equivalent positions, though only 31 are filled. Additionally, officers are not licensed peace officers.

The January 2000 report also recommended increased security for elected positions, such

as constitutional officers, and for the governor's residence. It suggests purchasing 14 metal detection devices for specific access points. 

### For more information

Various special events are planned throughout the year at the State Capitol, particularly over the holidays. All events are open to the public.

For more information about events at the State Capitol or to schedule a tour, contact (651) 296-2881.

## Highlights continued from page 9

### ★ TRANSPORTATION

#### Focus on State Patrol

The House Transportation Finance Committee trekked to the St. Cloud City Hall Oct. 11 for a hearing regarding the State Patrol.

The hearing was one of several during the first two weeks of October that were moved away from state buildings during the state employees' strike.

Members reviewed procedures by the State Patrol and asked several questions about the complicated funding system that provides the department's budget.

Most of the State Patrol budget comes from the Trunk Highway Fund because its primary responsibility is the safety of the state's highways.

The primary concern of the witnesses at the hearing was the high-frequency radio system being installed statewide. The goal of the system is better coverage and communication between law enforcement agencies.

However, not all departments or regions of

the state have access to the necessary technology. Troopers testified that they are concerned about finding themselves in a tough situation with no access to a radio.

"It's an accident waiting to happen," said Corporal Peter Teigen from the St. Cloud district.

"The issue here is how do we give these officers radios that will fill their needs," said Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska), the committee chair.

Col. Anne Beers, State Patrol chief, testified that the department is working to improve coverage, but it's taking time to work out all the bugs. They recognize the need for reliable equipment, she said.

Members also expressed concern about services the State Patrol provides to both private events and other law enforcement agencies. Particularly, members raised the help troopers provided in drunken driving enforcement efforts near St. Cloud State University.

St. Cloud officials testified that federal grants paid for the enforcement and troopers merely assisted in patrolling the detail.

Beers also addressed extra costs to handle

security at a rally held Aug. 25 by the Ku Klux Klan on the State Capitol grounds. Approximately \$37,000 in extra security was paid by the state for the rally. Local police and sheriff's departments providing mutual aid to the state absorbed other costs.

Beers noted that the State Patrol used scheduling to alleviate much of the potential overtime costs. She also said that the event had a high potential for conflict and ended relatively peacefully, despite the number of counter-protesters who attended the rally.

"Madame chair," Beers said, addressing Molnau, "that was a tremendous undertaking by the Minnesota State Patrol. That was the largest number of demonstrators. ... We had total control."

**The 2002 legislative session begins on Tuesday, Jan. 29 at noon.**

## Pre-filed Bills

Friday, November 2, 2001

### HF2566—Stanek (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Antiterrorism grants provided to local law enforcement agencies for training and equipment, and money appropriated.

### HF2567—Eastlund (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

National guard and other military reserve units state salary differential payments required for units called to active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and local governments authorized to pay similar salary differentials.

### HF2568—Wilkin (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Metropolitan Airports Commission transferred to the Department of Transportation; bond, other debt, and eminent domain authority transferred; and other technical provisions modified.

### HF2569—Dempsey (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Nuclear power plant security and patrol local law enforcement funding provided, and money appropriated.

### HF2570—Wolf (R)

#### Commerce, Jobs &

#### Economic Development Policy

Automobile insurance authorized to cover damage to glass on the same basis as damage to other parts of an automobile, auto glass market survey revolving account repealed, and money appropriated.

### HF2571—Clark, K. (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Legislative commission on international trade standards established.

### HF2572—Clark, K. (DFL)

#### Taxes

Qualifying affordable housing contribution income tax credit authorized.

### HF2573—Juhnke (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs &

#### Economic Development Policy

Real estate task force funding surcharge omission corrected.

### HF2574—McElroy (R)

#### Regulated Industries

Biodiesel fuel use incentives provided.

### HF2575—Howes (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Snowmobile grant-in-aid trail system funding provided and money appropriated.

### HF2576—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Commerce, Jobs &

#### Economic Development Policy

Furnace certification required at time of property sale.

### HF2577—Bradley (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Service animal use provisions modified relating to seeing eye, hearing ear, service, or guide dogs.

### HF2578—Folliard (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Pollution Control Agency programs authorized and funding provided, and money appropriated.

### HF2579—Nornes (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Fergus Falls solid waste combustor pollution control equipment upgrade grant provided, bonds authorized, and money appropriated.

### HF2580—Dehler (R)

#### Civil Law

Juror per diem provided and hourly compensation equal to federal minimum wage.

### HF2581—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Civil Law

Terrorism; felony penalties provided for planning, encouraging, or committing certain terroristic acts intended to affect the conduct of government or advance an ideological or other system of belief.

### HF2582—Winter (DFL)

#### Higher Education Finance

Minnesota West Community and Technical College facility remodeling provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2583—Krinkie (R)

#### Taxes

Legislative deadline imposed for action on omnibus bills.

### HF2584—Clark, K. (DFL)

#### Taxes

Qualifying affordable housing contribution income tax credit authorized.

### HF2585—Anderson, I. (DFL)

#### Regulated Industries

Toll charges prohibited for telephone calls originating and terminating within a school district.

House members will have a second opportunity to pre-file bills for the 2002 Legislative Session on Friday, Dec. 7. Pre-filed bills will be given a first reading when the House reconvenes on Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2002. Committees may hold hearings on pre-filed bills but may not take official action until after the first reading. Copies of pre-filed bills are available from the Chief Clerk's Office and on the House Web site.

## Looking for the Committee Schedule?

Many House committees are meeting during the interim to discuss issues and conduct tours. While committees are not allowed to vote on legislation while the Legislature is adjourned, the interim period is a good time to conduct informational hearings throughout the state.

The House Committee Schedule is updated

periodically during the interim as meetings are announced. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the House Web site at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/wsched.htm> or call the committee schedule hotline at (651)296-9283.

You can also subscribe to an e-mail listserv that

provides updates to the committee schedule right in your inbox. To subscribe, point your browser to <http://www3.house.leg.state.mn.us/scripts/lyris.pl?join=houseschedule> and fill out the form.

For more information, contact House Public Information at (651) 296-2146 or (800) 657-3550.

# Minnesota House of Representatives 2002 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
	Room*				Room*		
49A	Abeler, Jim (R)	581	1729	27B	Leighton, Rob (DFL)	289	4193
45A	Abrams, Ron (R)	585	9934	40B	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	337	4218
19B	Anderson, Bruce (R)	411	5063	45B	Leppik, Peggy (R)	485	7026
3A	Anderson, Irv (DFL)	343	4936	2A	Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	323	5091
6A	Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	345	2190	33A	Lindner, Arlon (R)	417	7806
48B	Bernardy, Connie (DFL)	329	5510	56B	Lipman, Eric (R)	567	4244
59A	Biernat, Len (DFL)	303	4219	47A	Luther, Darlene (DFL)	349	3751
30B	Bishop, Dave (R)	453	0573	67A	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	377	4277
12B	Blaine, Greg (R)	387	4247	55A	Mares, Harry (R)	401	5363
25B	Boudreau, Lynda (R)	473	8237	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	203	9714
30A	Bradley, Fran (R)	559	9249	57B	Marko, Sharon (DFL)	279	3135
35B	Buesgens, Mark (R)	445	1072	9B	Marquart, Paul (DFL)	311	6829
46B	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	283	4255	36B	McElroy, Dan (R)	437	4212
10B	Cassell, George (R)	421	4317	54A	McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	259	4342
23A	Clark, James T. (R)	551	9303	39B	Milbert, Bob (DFL)	243	4192
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	307	0294	35A	Molnau, Carol L. (R)	443	8872
11A	Daggett, Roxann (R)	439	4293	21B	Mulder, Richard (R)	515	4336
31B	Davids, Gregory M. (R)	549	9278	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	389	4262
62A	Davnie, Jim (DFL)	335	0173	8A	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	357	2676
65A	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	215	5158	20A	Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	509	4344
14A	Dehler, Steve (R)	491	7808	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946
29A	Dempsey, Jerry (R)	575	8635	19A	Olson, Mark (R)	501	4237
60B	Dibble, D. Scott (DFL)	369	9281	16A	Opatz, Joe (DFL)	277	6612
27A	Dorman, Dan (R)	579	8216	29B	Osskopp, Mike (R)	521	9236
24A	Dorn, John (DFL)	201	3248	66A	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	273	4224
18A	Eastlund, Rob (R)	449	5364	11B	Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	393	3201
64A	Entenza, Matt (DFL)	261	8799	37A	Ozment, Dennis (R)	479	4306
42A	Erhardt, Ron (R)	591	4363	42B	Paulsen, Erik (R)	545	7449
17A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	407	6746	38B	Pawlenty, Tim (R)	459	4128
52B	Evans, Geri (DFL)	211	0141	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	209	4199
1B	Finseth, Tim (R)	517	9918	32A	Pelowski Jr, Gene (DFL)	295	8637
44A	Folliard, Betty (DFL)	281	3964	1A	Penas, Maxine (R)	553	9635
4A	Fuller, Doug (R)	525	5516	13B	Peterson, Doug (DFL)	287	4228
36A	Gerlach, Chris (R)	531	5506	39A	Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	267	6828
63B	Gleason, Mark S. (DFL)	313	5375	44B	Rhodes, Jim (R)	409	9889
9A	Goodno, Kevin (R)	563	5515	32B	Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	423	1069
52A	Goodwin, Barbara (DFL)	353	4331	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	375	0170
58B	Gray, Gregory (DFL)	327	8659	28A	Ruth, Connie (R)	415	5368
54B	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	253	5387	17B	Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	217	5377
26A	Gunther, Bob (R)	379	3240	41A	Seagren, Alice (R)	477	7803
48A	Haas, Bill (R)	569	5513	21A	Seifert, Marty (R)	593	5374
50A	Hackbarth, Tom (R)	577	2439	5B	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL)	233	0172
22B	Harder, Elaine (R)	583	5373	2B	Skoe, Rod (DFL)	321	4265
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	245	3824	62B	Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	251	4330
47B	Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	227	3709	57A	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	359	7807
8B	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	207	4308	34A	Smith, Steve (R)	503	9188
37B	Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	433	6926	3B	Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	309	2365
56A	Holsten, Mark William (R)	381	3018	33B	Stanek, Rich (R)	543	5502
4B	Howes, Larry (R)	431	2451	14B	Stang, Doug (R)	597	4373
6B	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	351	2228	28B	Sviggum, Steve (R)	463	2273
53B	Jacobson, Carl (R)	429	7153	7A	Swapinski, Dale (DFL)	331	4282
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	291	4246	23B	Swenson, Howard (R)	539	8634
18B	Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	237	0518	43B	Sykora, Barb (R)	403	4315
34B	Johnson, Jeff (R)	487	5511	46A	Thompson, Mark (DFL)	223	4176
24B	Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	241	7065	50B	Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	507	5369
67B	Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	229	4201	25A	Tuma, John (R)	533	4229
15A	Juhnke, Al (DFL)	371	6206	51B	Vandever, Ray (R)	529	4124
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	255	4257	63A	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	239	4200
26B	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	317	4240	61B	Walker, Neva (DFL)	213	7152
60A	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)	231	0171	12A	Walz, Dale (R)	527	4333
20B	Kielkucki, Tony (R)	367	1534	55B	Wasiluk, Scott (DFL)	225	1188
16B	Knoblauch, Jim (R)	451	6316	51A	Westerberg, Andrew (R)	523	4226
49B	Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	301	4231	13A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	557	4929
53A	Krinkie, Philip (R)	365	2907	38A	Wilkin, Tim (R)	413	3533
15B	Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	315	4346	22A	Winter, Ted (DFL)	247	5505
31A	Kuisle, William (R)	565	4378	41B	Wolf, Ken (R)	571	5185
40A	Larson, Dan (DFL)	221	7158	43A	Workman, Tom (R)	537	5066

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

\*All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted, St. Paul, MN 55155; List as of Nov. 19, 2001

# Minnesota Senate 2002 Members

Phone			Phone		
District/Member/Party	Room*	(651) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	(651) 296-
66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	120 Cap.	5537	54 Marty, John (DFL)	325 Cap.	5645
56 Bachmann, Michele M. (R)	125 SOB	4351	39 Metzen, James P. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4370
41 Belanger Jr., William V. (R)	113 SOB	5975	2 Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577
13 Berg, Charles A. (R)	G-25 SOB	5094	29 Murphy, Steve (DFL)	306 Cap.	4264
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261	25 Neuville, Thomas M. (R)	123 SOB	1279
48 Betzold, Don (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	2556	43 Oliver, Edward C. (R)	117 SOB	4837
52 Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	325 Cap.	4334	34 Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931	60 Orfield, Myron (DFL)	227 Cap.	4191
28 Day, Dick (R)	147 SOB	9457	19 Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981
20 Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131	65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802
14 Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	G-15 SOB	2084	37 Pariseau, Pat (R)	109 SOB	5252
49 Foley, Leo T. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	4154	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
26 Fowler, Chuck (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5713	57 Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7-8060
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	139 SOB	8138	63 Rantum, Jane B. (DFL)	120 Cap.	7-8061
58 Higgins, Linda I. (DFL)	328 Cap.	9246	53 Reiter, Mady (R)	132D SOB	1253
24 Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	205 Cap.	6153	46 Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	2889
40 Johnson, David H. (DFL)	124 Cap.	9261	18 Ring, Twyla (DFL)	306 Cap.	5419
15 Johnson, Dean E. (DFL)	124B Cap.	3826	45 Robertson, Martha R. (R)	141 SOB	4314
50 Johnson, Debbie J. (R)	149 SOB	3219	35 Robling, Claire A. (R)	143 SOB	4123
6 Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881	62 Sabo, Julie A. (DFL)	317 Cap.	4274
44 Kelley, Steve (DFL)	321 Cap.	7-8065	11 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	328 Cap.	7-8063
67 Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	323 Cap.	5285	12 Samuelson, Don (DFL)	120 Cap.	4875
32 Kierlin, Bob (R)	127 SOB	5649	31 Scheevel, Kenric J. (R)	129 SOB	3903
4 Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4913	47 Scheid, Linda (DFL)	303 Cap.	8869
30 Kiscaden, Sheila M. (R)	135 SOB	4848	27 Schwab, Grace (R)	151 SOB	9248
16 Kleis, Dave (R)	107 SOB	6455	7 Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188
36 Knutson, David L. (R)	133 SOB	4120	17 Stevens, Dan (R)	105 SOB	8075
51 Krentz, Jane (DFL)	111 Cap.	7061	1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205	42 Terwilliger, Roy (R)	115 SOB	6238
10 Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655	5 Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	111 Cap.	8017
21 Lesewski, Arlene J. (R)	131 SOB	4125	22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
3 Lessard, Bob (IP)	G-51 SOB	4136	38 Wiener, Deanna L. (DFL)	303 Cap.	7-8073
33 Limmer, Warren (R)	121 SOB	2159	55 Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	301 Cap.	6820
8 Lourey, Becky (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	0293			

\*Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

## Minnesota House and Senate Membership

<b>1</b> A • Rep. Maxine Penas-(R) B • Rep. Tim Finseth-(R) Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-(DFL)	<b>15</b> A • Rep. Al Juhnke-(DFL) B • Rep. Gary W. Kubly-(DFL) Sen. Dean E. Johnson-(DFL)	<b>29</b> A • Rep. Jerry Dempsey-(R) B • Rep. Mike Osskopp-(R) Sen. Steve Murphy-(DFL)	<b>43</b> A • Rep. Tom Workman-(R) B • Rep. Barb Sykora-(R) Sen. Edward C. Oliver-(R)	<b>57</b> A • Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL) B • Rep. Sharon Marko-(DFL) Sen. Leonard R. Price-(DFL)
<b>2</b> A • Rep. Bernie L. Lieder-(DFL) B • Rep. Rod Skoe-(DFL) Sen. Roger D. Moe-(DFL)	<b>16</b> A • Rep. Joe Opatz-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Knoblach-(R) Sen. Dave Kleis-(R)	<b>30</b> A • Rep. Fran Bradley-(R) B • Rep. Dave Bishop-(R) Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-(R)	<b>44</b> A • Rep. Betty Folliard-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Rhodes-(R) Sen. Steve Kelley-(DFL)	<b>58</b> A • Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL) B • Rep. Gregory Gray-(DFL) Sen. Linda Higgins-(DFL)
<b>3</b> A • Rep. Irv Anderson-(DFL) B • Rep. Loren A. Solberg-(DFL) Sen. Bob Lessard-(IP)	<b>17</b> A • Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R) B • Rep. Leslie J. Schumacher-(DFL) Sen. Dan Stevens-(R)	<b>31</b> A • Rep. William Kuisle-(R) B • Rep. Gregory M. Davids-(R) Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-(R)	<b>45</b> A • Rep. Ron Abrams-(R) B • Rep. Peggy Leppik-(R) Sen. Martha R. Robertson-(R)	<b>59</b> A • Rep. Len Biernat-(DFL) B • Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL) Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-(DFL)
<b>4</b> A • Rep. Doug Fuller-(R) B • Rep. Larry Howes-(R) Sen. Anthony G. "Tony" Kinkel-(DFL)	<b>18</b> A • Rep. Rob Eastlund-(R) B • Rep. Loren Geo Jennings-(DFL) Sen. Twyla Ring-(DFL)	<b>32</b> A • Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL) B • Rep. Michelle Rifenberg-(R) Sen. Bob Kierlin-(R)	<b>46</b> A • Rep. Mark Thompson-(DFL) B • Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson-(DFL) Sen. Ann H. Rest-(DFL)	<b>60</b> A • Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher-(DFL) B • Rep. Scott Dibble-(DFL) Sen. Myron Orfield-(DFL)
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<b>7</b> A • Rep. Dale Swapinski-(DFL) B • Rep. Mike Jaros-(DFL) Sen. Sam G. Solon-(DFL)	<b>21</b> A • Rep. Marty Seifert-(R) B • Rep. Richard Mulder-(R) Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-(R)	<b>35</b> A • Rep. Carol L. Molnau-(R) B • Rep. Mark Buesgens-(R) Sen. Claire A. Robling-(R)	<b>49</b> A • Rep. Jim Abeler-(R) B • Rep. Luanne Koskinen-(DFL) Sen. Leo Foley-(DFL)	<b>63</b> A • Rep. Jean Wagenius-(DFL) B • Rep. S. Gleason-(DFL) Sen. Jane B. Rantum-(DFL)
<b>8</b> A • Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL) B • Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL) Sen. Becky Lourey-(DFL)	<b>22</b> A • Rep. Ted Winter-(DFL) B • Rep. Elaine Harder-(R) Sen. Jim Vickerman-(R)	<b>36</b> A • Rep. Chris Gerlach-(R) B • Rep. Dan McElroy-(R) Sen. David L. Knutson-(R)	<b>50</b> A • Rep. Tom Hackbarth-(R) B • Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-(R) Sen. Debbie J. Johnson-(R)	<b>64</b> A • Rep. Matt Entenza-(DFL) B • Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL) Sen. Richard J. Cohen-(DFL)
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<b>13</b> A • Rep. Torrey Westrom-(R) B • Rep. Doug Peterson-(DFL) Sen. Charles A. Berg-(R)	<b>27</b> A • Rep. Dan Dorman-(R) B • Rep. Rob Leighton-(DFL) Sen. Grace S. Schwab-(R)	<b>41</b> A • Rep. Alice Seagren-(R) B • Rep. Ken Wolf-(R) Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-(R)	<b>55</b> A • Rep. Harry Mares-(R) B • Rep. Scott Wasiluk-(DFL) Sen. Charles W. Wiger-(DFL)	
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Continued from page 4

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo), the subcommittee chair, presented a proposal he may introduce next session that would eliminate contribution limits for individuals, repeal candidate spending limits, and eliminate the campaign fund tax check-off program.

It would redirect funds to pay for a voter's guide providing information about state candidates and constitutional amendments.

"Having government out of the business of underwriting campaigns and focusing greater effort on developing good citizenship and developing information that is of use and of interest to voters is certainly a new approach and one that deserves further inquiry," he said.

Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) said that allowing even more money into the system is not the approach the state should take.

"Eliminating the limits moves us in the direction that the federal government currently has. It's my perception that people believe Minnesota's system is better," Kubly said. "We should be looking for something that will give everyone an equal voice rather than those with a greater amount of dollars." 🐼

## Minnesota State Agencies

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Military Affairs .....	282-4662
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Public Safety .....	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services ...	296-6911
Fire Marshal .....	215-0500
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State Patrol .....	297-3935
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Taxpayer Assistance .....	296-3781
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Economic Development .....	297-1291
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State Information .....	296-6013

# Reflections

To say that just about every person living in the United States was in some manner affected by the tragedies that hit the country on a quiet, sunny morning in September is a major understatement.

It was particularly true when word came that some Minnesotans, or their relatives and friends, had lost lives in the devastation of that fateful day.

I was already in a state of shock, having lost my best friend and mentor, David Rassman, to a sudden heart attack a couple of days before while he was on a ladder at work.

Additionally, I was fearful that relatives who live only 10 blocks from "Ground Zero" in New York City were in harms way.

I mustered enough energy to call but could not get through. A major concern was for one of my cousins. I had sent her an overnight letter the day before and knew she would have gone to work to receive it — only a block from the World Trade Center.

A few days later, I received the news that all the relatives were safe, except one. Just 10 blocks from home, a distant cousin, Keith Glascoe, and his entire squad of Ladder Company #21 lost their lives.

Like most of us, I questioned these tragedies. I also thought about my late, good friend of 23 years.

Rassman was a spectacular visual artist. When he spent one session at the House as an assistant with the tax committee, he

painted portraits of House members and others. Most importantly, at about that time he began a journey of finding peace through the beliefs of American Indians, and he had begun to share with others his newfound ability to combine his art with his true beliefs and spirit.

As staff and many others came together in patriotic unity at the Capitol on Sept. 16, I watched the rally on television.

I was trying to sort out the uncanny and sudden departure of my friend who taught me so much, while at the same time wondering

what was happening in the world.

Rassman was suddenly gone as though he had a much more important mission elsewhere with no time to say goodbye to friends.

For sure, one thing that will never be explained is a sketch he made some years ago of a street scene in lower New York City. The street in the sketch ended at the World Trade Center, some distance away. Yet his final product in pastel showed the cityscape — very rainy and gloomy, with no Twin Towers in sight.

Now like those towers, he and those few Minnesotans, along with New York City firefighters, police officers, and rescue workers are gone so unexpectedly, but all will leave their footprints on the sands of time.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

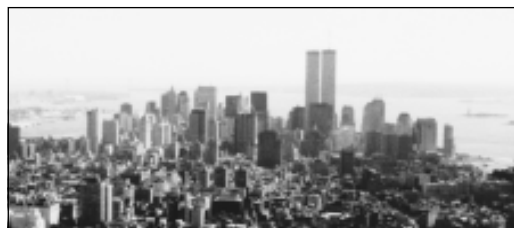


PHOTO BY PAUL BATTAGLIA

Lower Manhattan before Sept. 11.

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MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Homeless in Minnesota

Estimated number of Minnesotans that were homeless or had unstable housing on a one-night survey in October 2000 .....	21,329
In October 1991 .....	7,980
Number of homeless families on the night of the survey in 2000 .....	1,413
Percent increase since 1991 .....	325
Percentage of those homeless the night of the survey who lived in Minnesota less than two years .....	28
In 1991 and 1994 .....	39
Number of people living in temporary housing and non-shelter locations .....	7,589
Percent increase from 1997 .....	36
Women in temporary housing with at least one child, as percent .....	60
Children experiencing homelessness in November 2000 .....	3,067
Percent increase since 1985 .....	844
Homeless parents reporting that at least one of their school-aged children has some type of learning or school-related problem, as percent .....	41
Percentage of homeless parents unable to obtain needed childcare .....	32
Approximate percentage of people of color in the state .....	10
Approximate percentage of homeless adults that are people of color .....	65
Military veterans, as approximate percentage of homeless population .....	16
Percentage of homeless people who are employed .....	41
In 1991, as percent .....	19
Percentage of 2000 homeless adults employed full-time .....	26
In 1991, as percent .....	8
Percentage of homeless reporting they are unable to pay anything for rent .....	14
Percentage in 1991 .....	24
Percentage of women that were homeless at least in part due to abuse in the past year .....	30
Homeless men reporting chemical abuse problems, as percent .....	41
Women, as percent .....	22
Percentage of homeless men that received inpatient alcohol or drug treatment in previous two years .....	24
Percentage of homeless women .....	14
Number of statewide transitional housing programs as of October 2000 .....	98
In October 1997 .....	78

Source: Homeless adults and children in Minnesota: Statewide survey of people without permanent shelter, Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, August 2001

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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