

SESSION WEEKLY

A black and white photograph of a person with glasses looking down at a tablet computer. The tablet screen displays a map of Minnesota with various counties and districts outlined. The person's face is partially visible in profile, and the background is dark and out of focus.

REDISTRICTING SPECIAL FEATURE

POLITICS IN THE CLASSROOM

MEET THE WHIPS

A BUSHEL AND A PECK

HF2344 - HF2492

Flashback to 1992, 2002

Is 'faith' health care?

Should prayer count as "health care" to exempt parents from child neglect or endangerment charges?

Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) sponsored a bill to repeal the spiritual exemption in state law.

His bill came in response to the high-profile *State v. McKown* case heard by the Minnesota Supreme Court, in which the court upheld the dismissal of negligence charges filed against the parents of a 12-year-old diabetic who died in 1989. The parents were members of the Christian Science religion whose major tenets include spiritual healing.

In its 1991 opinion, the court cited the explicit language in Minnesota law that permits the good faith reliance on spiritual treatment and prayer.

"This is not an issue of freedom of religion. Adults can make a decision not to have medical care. ... Children do not have the power to make this decision," Carruthers said.

— Session Weekly Feb. 21, 1992



Tim Berceau gets pinned by Ian Stoneberg in front of the House Education Policy Committee. After testifying in support of a bill that would outlaw mixed-gender wrestling teams, the two Burnsville High School wrestlers demonstrated moves that would be considered improper off the mat. Watching the demonstration are Committee Chairman Rep. Harry Mares, left, legislative assistant Rory Koch, center, and Rep. Mark Olson.

— Session Weekly Feb. 22, 2002

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SESSION WEEKLY

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On the cover: Amy Walstien, director of education and workforce development policy at the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, views the new legislative district maps on her tablet computer. The maps were released by a Minnesota judicial panel Feb. 21.

— Photo by Paul Battaglia

HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 16 - 23, 2012

Editor's note: Once again it has been an exceptionally busy week with bills being introduced and moving through committees. But the big news of the week was the state's newly redrawn district lines. As with last week, we will not be having a First Reading story on page 3 so as to devote room to the new district maps, which you will find on pages 11-13.

Editor's note: The following Highlights are coverage of select bills heard in House committees or divisions and other House activities held Feb.16-23. Designations used in Highlight summaries: HF-House File; SF-Senate File; Ch-Chapter; and * the bill version considered by the House or the bill language acted on by the governor.

Agriculture

Biodiesel exemptions extended

When it comes to heavy machinery, you can't put biodiesel fuel into an engine before manufacturers engineer for it. This is especially true during harsh Minnesota winters when biodiesel fuel (a combustible liquid derived from soybean oil or animal fat) can gel and clog machine engines.

So even though newer tractors and farm implements are designed to accept grades of biodiesel fuel up to B20, there are still industries that rely on purer forms of diesel. For example, million-dollar train locomotives and trucks that haul minerals to Minnesota mines are not equipped to comply with state biodiesel mandates and therefore have been given an exemption, due to expire in May 2012.

HF2158, sponsored by Rep. Debra Kiel (R-Crookston), would extend the exemption until May 1, 2020. The House Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance Committee approved the bill Feb. 22, as amended, and sent it to the House floor.

Sen. Doug Magnus (R-Slayton) sponsors a companion, SF1635, which awaits action by the Senate Agriculture and Rural Economics Committee.

The eight-year extension aligns with the average life of locomotive and mining truck engines. The bill would continue to give the



PHOTO BY PAUL BATTAGLIA

Jerry Schoenfeld, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Biodiesel Council, testifies Feb. 22 on a bill that would extend biodiesel minimum content requirement exceptions until May 1, 2020.

operators the exemptions they need until new locomotives and trucks with modernized biodiesel engines can be manufactured.

— S. HEGARTY

Loan program for new farmers

A pilot project that would provide small business loans to immigrant and minority farmers could be available beginning Aug. 1, 2012, under a bill approved by the House Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance Committee Feb. 23.

HF2159, sponsored by Rep. Chris Swedzinski (R-Ghent), would grant loans up to \$10,000 to qualified borrowers. Initial funding for the revolving loan program would come from a transfer of \$225,000 in unused money in the Rural Finance Authority's Agroforestry Loan Program.

The pilot project stipulates that the funds can only be used for purchasing materials for the growing of specialty crops and livestock and may not be used for the subsequent "value-added" costs of bringing those crops and livestock products to market, such as processing and storage.

Eligible borrowers would need to be a legal

state resident; demonstrate the ability to repay the loan, which may include business training through an intermediary; and fall into one of two classifications, a protected group or a qualified noncitizen.

Because some religions do not allow for loan interest payments, an alternative fee payment could be established. Hmong, Latino and Somali farmers are some of the anticipated cultural groups who would seek the loans, according to Jim Boerboom, Department of Agriculture deputy commissioner.

The committee referred the bill to the House Commerce and Regulatory Reform Committee. Sen. Julie Rosen (R-Fairmont) sponsors SF1713, a companion that was approved by the Senate Finance Committee Feb. 23.

— S. HEGARTY

Business & Commerce

Notary public fee cap elimination

Randy Jessup owns a UPS Store in Roseville and another in St. Paul. In addition to packaging and shipping needs, his stores offer notary public services. However, they may not continue doing so because the cost-benefit ratio is not good.

Sponsored by Rep. Linda Runbeck (R-Circle Pines), HF1872 would repeal the maximum \$1 fee that can be charged for notary services. "It's sort of under the general broad category of getting government out of price setting and price controls and allowing the market to work," she said.

Approved Feb. 16 by the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee, the bill awaits action by the full House.

Jessup said there are about 85,000 notaries public in Minnesota, down about 15 percent from three years ago.

"One of the issues, I think, that has caused that is that the cost of notary has gone up," he said. "The registration fee with the secretary of state used to be \$40; it's now \$120. You also have to register with the county that you are doing notary in. In Ramsey County, it's an additional \$20."

Jessup said a number of store owners in the UPS system have decided, that because of the increased cost and liability concern, they're no longer offering a notary public

service. He said banks are also reducing their notary services, especially for people who are not customers.

He said the \$1 fee is a good deal for Minnesota consumers, noting a similar store in Iowa charges \$3-7 for notary public service, and other states charge \$10 or more.

A companion, SF1660, sponsored by Sen. Roger Chamberlain (R-Lino Lakes), awaits action by the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

— M. COOK

Education

Teacher strike rights limited

Teachers could lose the ability to strike for higher pay, if a school board were to offer them a compensation raise in proportion to the district's general education formula increase established by the Legislature that year.

Those are the limits outlined in HF269, sponsored by Rep. Keith Downey (R-Edina). The House Education Finance Committee approved the bill Feb. 22. It now moves to the full House for consideration.

Downey's bill generated support from Republicans, who believe it will lend a more balanced approach to contract bargaining in schools. They say it will give school districts flexibility when facing the decision to either hold back on compensation increases or lay off teachers.

Rep. Tim Kelly (R-Red Wing) also praised the bill's goal of deterring strikes in schools.

"I lived through that, a strike in the community. And it divides, and there's just losers. There's no winners in that. So if we can avoid any strikes, that's what we should be doing," Kelly said.

Committee DFLers said Republicans are launching another legislative attack on Minnesota's teachers, whom they argue are already not paid enough.

Rep. Tom Anzelc (DFL-Balsam Township) accused Downey of being out of touch with the lives of teachers and the needs of students.

"The further away you get from the classroom, the further you get away from kids, the more inclined you are to dream up all of these things, all of these proposals, that do nothing to focus on kids," Anzelc said.

Sen. Julie Rosen (R-Fairmont) sponsors the companion, SF250, which awaits action in the Senate Education Committee

— E. SCHMIDTKE

House passes teacher insurance bill

Teachers unions currently have authority to take action on their health plans without the agreement of districts. They may enroll in programs such as the Public Employees Insurance Program unilaterally.

Sponsored by Rep. Joe Hoppe (R-Chaska) and Sen. Gary Dahms (R-Redwood Falls), HF371/SF247* would no longer allow that.

On Feb. 16, the bill was approved 71-58 by the House. It returned to the Senate where it was laid over. A different version passed 34-28 on May 14, 2011.

The bill requires that teachers unions and districts agree to health plan changes before they could become effective. A Senate amendment adopted by the House would also address any possible insurance refunds. Since districts and teachers usually split insurance costs, under this amendment, they would each receive refund money proportionate to the amount they paid.

"I think it makes it a little more fair because the school boards that are paying part of this will now have a say in how this is done," Hoppe said.

Rep. Larry Hosch (DFL-St. Joseph) argued the bill will take autonomy away from teachers, who are already cost-conscious with their insurance.

"What this bill does is take away the freedom and the flexibility of the purchasers and consumers of healthcare to go out and use market forces to their advantage," Hosch said.

Lawmakers heard similar arguments from the public during a Jan. 31 House Education Finance Committee meeting, when there was lengthy testimony on the bill.

Leaders from both districts and service cooperatives, which help school districts to buy insurance, testified in support of the bill, saying it returns equality to bargaining. Representatives of teachers unions disagreed, saying the bill would negatively impact their options for health coverage.

— E. SCHMIDTKE

Political ban for educators

Public school employees would be banned from using district resources to further any political agenda.

Sponsored by Rep. Kurt Bills (R-Rosemount), HF329 would provide that public resources intended for educational purposes cannot be directed to promote any candidate or issue. The House Education Finance Committee approved the bill Feb. 21, which now goes to the House floor.

Bills worries school employees are supporting political ideas while on the job, when they are supposed to be acting as nonpartisan educators. He referenced a policy already in place in the Lakeville School District, which barred its staff from spending district resources on political activity after it received complaints from parents.

"Schools are a place of learning, not politics for any side," Bills said.

Jan Alswager, chief lobbyist for Education Minnesota, said the bill would infringe on educators' rights.

"This bill is overreaching. ... Is that really how we want to be interpreting freedom of speech?" she asked.

John Kysylczyn, former mayor of Roseville, pushed for more action from the committee on the issue. He asked that such use of resources be categorized as a misdemeanor. He said that by not designating this type of activity as a criminal offense, school employees are allowed opportunities that private citizens are not.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) said that she hoped Bills would not increase the list of banned activities or consequences for school employees, saying that there is often a blurred line between stating fact and political advocacy.

Sen. Dave Thompson (R-Lakeville) sponsors the companion, SF577, which awaits action by the Senate Education Committee.

— E. SCHMIDTKE

Trust lands may see reform

A century and a half after the federal government granted Minnesota millions of acres intended to benefit public schools, some legislators are wondering where the money from that land has gone.

As outlined in the Minnesota constitution, the state must use school trust lands in a way that maximizes profit, such as leasing or selling the land. The money from those transactions should then go to a permanent fund that supports schools. Lawmakers say this isn't actually happening.

On Feb. 21, the House Education Finance Committee reviewed HF2244, sponsored by Rep. Tim O'Driscoll (R-Sartell). This bill would remove the responsibility of overseeing the land from the Department of Natural Resources, which critics say has mismanaged trust lands for years. It would transfer that duty to a bipartisan committee made of legislators from both the House and Senate.

The bill was approved by the House

TALL ORDER



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

With the help of Sen. John Carlson, left, and Rep. John Persell, Gov. Mark Dayton signs Paul Bunyan's birthday card with a giant novelty pencil. The Feb. 22 signing ceremony was done in conjunction with the seventh annual Bemidji Day at the Capitol, sponsored by the Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce.

Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee. It now moves to the House Government Operations and Elections Committee. Sen. Benjamin Kruse (R-Brooklyn Park) sponsors its companion, SF1889, which awaits action in the Senate Education Committee.

O'Driscoll explained that the DNR cannot manage the land because the department's purpose is to facilitate land conservation, while the trust lands are solely intended to raise money for education. With the proper management, supporters of the bill say schools could receive millions of dollars without raising taxes.

Grace Keliher, director of governmental relations for the Minnesota School Boards Association, said the DNR misuses funds from the land by bankrolling its own department with the money, rather than supporting students.

"You need to take (this bill) to the next

step and make sure that school trust lands don't become the credit card for the DNR," Keliher said.

DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr refuted the allegation. He asked members to oppose the bill, saying that it overextends legislative responsibility and violates the state constitution.

"I'm not convinced that expanding government is a way to get increased efficiencies out of state assets," Landwehr added.

Rep. Tom Anzelc (DFL-Balsam Township) defended the DNR, citing drastic cuts over recent decades as having "starved" the department of the necessary resources to manage the lands. He also criticized the bill's approach to conservation.

"While I appreciate all of your interest in the exploitation of northern Minnesota's great resources, after a lot of struggle with this, I have concluded that this is really wrong," Anzelc said.

Rep. Denise Dittrich (DFL-Champlin), a longtime champion for trust land reform, disagreed. "If you think the current system is working, have at it. Continue on," she said.

— E. SCHMIDTKE

School ranking a possibility

Minnesota schools might face new evaluations from the Education Department, with low performers needing to submit a turnaround strategy for improvement.

Rep. Pat Garofalo (R-Farmington) sponsors HF2180 that establishes measurable areas of progress for the state's public schools. The House Education Reform Committee approved the bill Feb. 21 to move to the House Education Finance Committee. It has no Senate companion.

The bill provides that the commissioner would rank schools based on student proficiency and growth on assessments; the rate at which student disparities decrease;

and graduation statistics. Of schools that receive Title I funds, which aid schools with higher poverty rates, the 5 percent that performed the lowest will need to submit a turnaround strategy for improvement.

Under the bill, possible strategies for low-performing schools include converting into a charter school, implementing evaluation systems for staff, being replaced by a new school and transferring students to other schools in the district.

The bill prompted questions, including whether it would nullify the No Child Left Behind waiver the state recently received. Minnesota is one of 10 states with a waiver, which relieves schools from the heavily criticized education requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) said that she is concerned that the bill “puts back the federal mandate.” Garofalo responded the bill would not interfere with the waiver.

Jim Bartholomew, education policy director of the Minnesota Business Partnership, praised the bill for taking action on low-performing schools.

“This creates a structure for how the state will address concerns over those schools whose student performance consistently ranks in the bottom 5 percent,” he said.

Jan Alswager, chief lobbyist for the state’s teachers union, Education Minnesota, disagreed. She acknowledged, “Certainly there could be some changes in turnaround schools.” However, she criticized the bill’s timeline, saying it moved too quickly. She urged for more collaboration between legislators and teachers.

— E. SCHMIDTKE

Dayton signs teacher exam law

Signed
by
the
governor

Teachers-to-be are now required to pass a basic skills exam before receiving a license to teach in Minnesota.

Gov. Mark Dayton signed the new law Feb. 22. He vetoed an earlier version of the bill last session, but approved it this year following negotiations with legislators and stakeholders. The law is effective Feb. 23, 2012.

Previous law allowed those who have completed a teacher preparation program to receive up to three one-year licenses without passing a basic skills exam. According to the new statute, teaching candidates must produce a passing score on the exam before obtaining their licenses.

Rep. Andrea Kieffer (R-Woodbury),

who sponsors the law with Sen. Ted Daley (R-Eagan), introduced the legislation out of concern that teachers were instructing children while being potentially unable to pass the basic skills test themselves. She believes this measure will increase the quality and rigor of teachers in Minnesota.

HF1770*/SF1493/CH122

— E. SCHMIDTKE

Disabled student restraints

School employees with specific training can physically restrain out-of-control students with special needs. The authorization to do so may be renewed for the next academic year, if HF2293 passes.

Education staff uses a technique called “prone restraints” that involves holding the student face-down until he or she becomes calmer. The law states that prone restraints may only be used with the minimum amount of time and the force it takes to ensure the student or another person will not be injured.

Members of the House Education Reform Committee debated the need for these restraints Feb. 23. The committee laid the bill over so the sponsor, Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls), can continue refining the language.

Testifiers were divided on the benefit of prone restraints for violent students with mental disabilities. Sue Abderholden, executive director at the National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota, asked the committee to support the bill, allowing for experts to further refine the practice.

“The solution isn’t to ban restraints at this time, as much as I don’t like them. It is to continue to develop alternatives. And I would go a step further — a more robust plan,” she said.

Other mental health advocates voiced opposition to the bill. Dan Stewart, supervising attorney at the Minnesota Disability Law Center, said prone restraints could injure students. He also claimed that, too frequently, school staff uses this as an alternative to addressing real issues surrounding disabilities.

“If we can’t stop the underlying behavior, we are only kicking the can down the road,” Stewart said.

Rep. John Benson (DFL-Minnetonka) worried about reports that education staff is frequently injured during violent outbursts. He called these injuries “intolerable” and questioned whether a solution could be found to reduce use of prone restraints, while still protecting educators on the job.

The companion is SF1917, sponsored

by Sen. Pam Wolf (R-Spring Lake Park). It awaits action in the Senate Education Committee.

— E. SCHMIDTKE

Employment

No more misclassifying employees

Unscrupulous employers sometimes label their workers “independent contractors” to avoid paying things like unemployment insurance, workers’ compensation and employment taxes.

Sponsored by Rep. Tim Sanders (R-Blaine), HF2093 is intended to solve a problem that has dogged the state for years. When employers misclassify their workers as contractors, they deny them basic benefits and protections afforded to regular employees. The state currently has no effective system for identifying employers who engage in this activity.

The bill would clarify who can be legally considered an “independent contractor.” It would further instruct the Department of Labor and Industry to implement a pilot project to register anyone performing construction services in the state who is not already licensed or registered under another section of law. This program would replace the current Independent Contractor Exemption Certificate. There would be no registration fee.

“We’ve been working on this issue for several years, and hopefully we’ll be able to bring about some resolution with this bill,” Sanders said.

The House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee approved the bill Feb. 16 and referred it to the House Commerce and Regulatory Reform Committee.

A 2007 report by the Office of the Legislative Auditor found that one out of every seven employers had misclassified one or more workers in 2005. That was a conservative estimate, the report stated, because it doesn’t account for employers who pay cash “under the table” or who don’t register with the unemployment system.

The report found that the practice of misclassification was highest in industries like real estate and construction, particularly the areas of roofing, drywall and residential remodeling.

Shane Paulson, a board member of the Minnesota Association of Exterior

Specialists, said his organization has concerns about the registration process, and that the program might open the door to “unwarranted and unnecessary audits.” Sanders pledged to work with the group to address their concerns.

Sen. John Pederson (R-St. Cloud) sponsors the companion, SF1653, which awaits action by the Senate Jobs and Economic Growth Committee.

— N. BUSSE

Env. & Natural Resources

Bill would cap DNR land prices

The \$14 million price tag for more than 1,800 acres of land on the Mississippi River has drawn the scrutiny of Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), who wants to cap the price the Department of Natural Resources would pay to acquire land.

Wagenius sponsors HF2228, which would specify how much the DNR can pay. The House Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee laid the bill over Feb. 21 for possible inclusion in a committee omnibus bill. There is no Senate companion.

Wagenius objects to the value placed on the land by Crow Wing County. The county assessed the land at between \$2,000 and \$2,500 per acre, but the state has budgeted to pay \$7,045 per acre — about three times the county’s assessed price.

She said legislators “have to address the interests of the taxpayer.”

The bill would cap purchases at the lower of two real estate prices — either 20 percent more than the county assessor’s estimated market value or 10 percent above the land’s appraised value. Exceptions would be allowed for when the commissioner determines the acquisition to be a “high priority,” but documentation would be required.

Bob Meier, assistant commissioner for policy and government relations with the DNR, said the department has “some problems” with the bill.

“In this day and age, we’re only interested in high-priority (land) parcels,” Meier said, adding that current law caps the price at 10 percent above the land’s appraised value.

Meier said justifying payment of higher prices would also create additional paperwork because language in the bill would require the DNR to document why the parcels are high-priority.

— B. GEIGER

Shutdown wouldn’t stop license flow

Minnesota hunters and anglers would be able to buy game and fish licenses electronically during a government shutdown if HF2343 becomes law.

Sponsored by Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker), the bill was presented Feb. 21 to the House Environment, Energy and Natural

HISTORY LESSON



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Visitors to the Capitol Rotunda get a chance to view Civil War artifacts on display Feb. 20 as part of History Matters Day, sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society. The case contains the uniform and artifacts that belonged to 1st Sgt. Mathew Marvin of the First Minnesota Infantry.

Resources Policy and Finance Committee. It will be considered for inclusion in a committee omnibus bill.

The legislation is a response to the 2011 state government shutdown, after the House and Senate could not agree on a two-year budget with Gov. Mark Dayton. State services unavailable during the 21-day shutdown included purchasing fishing and hunting licenses.

“This is the third bill like this that would accommodate failure (to pass a budget),” said Rep. Rick Hansen (DFL-South St. Paul). He said a simpler solution would be to solve differences during session and avoid a shutdown.

Bob Meier, assistant commissioner for policy and government relations with the Department of Natural Resources, said passing HF2343 is important because it maintains cash flow even if the government shuts down.

Meier cited July and August, the first two months of Minnesota’s fiscal year, when the DNR typically sells a total of \$8.5 million of hunting and fishing licenses. The bill would not change the per-transaction electronic license purchase fee of \$3.50.

Sen. Paul Gazelka (R-Brainerd) sponsors the companion, SF1911, which awaits action by the Senate Finance Committee.

— B. GEIGER

Health & Human Services

Health care delivery changes

The way health care would be delivered to and chosen by patients on Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare would change under several scenarios, including pediatric care and the prevention of low-birth weights for babies, under a bill sponsored by House Health and Human Services Finance Committee Chairman Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka).

HF2230 would require management for the care of children with high-cost medical conditions who are frequently hospitalized or in the emergency room to expand through the use of video or audio communication technologies in the patient’s home. The goal is to reduce state-funded costs by avoiding unnecessary trips to the emergency room or hospitalization and also to improve the coordination of care between the patient and provider.

Pediatric hospital representatives said they

believe the bill would result in better patient outcomes, even though the providers may not be compensated as much for the off-site coordination of patient care.

The bill also would require the health commissioner to implement strategies to reduce the incidence of low-birth weight pregnancies and deliveries. Rep. Tom Huntley (DFL-Duluth) said low-birth weight deliveries typically cost eight times more than healthy deliveries.

Also included in the bill is Gov. Mark Dayton’s executive order to establish a competitive price bidding program for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare patients in the seven-county metropolitan area who are not elderly or disabled. The program would have to allow for at least two managed care plans, beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2014. Patient outcomes would be measured and considered when considering competitive bids from providers.

The committee laid the bill over for possible omnibus inclusion. There is no Senate companion.

—S. HEGARTY

Stricter MFIP bills raise DFL ire

Amid shouts from protesters, proposed changes to the Minnesota Family Investment Program and harsher sanctions for the improper use of electronic benefit cards were approved by a House committee.

The Minnesota Coalition for a People’s Bailout shouted, “Stop the attacks on the poor; make the rich pay more,” during the House Health and Human Services Reform Committee as it approved three bills Feb. 22.

Among the provisions, HF2080, sponsored by Rep. Kurt Daudt (R-Crown), would:

- restrict EBT card use to Minnesota and four adjacent states, such as North Dakota, where state residents may cross the border to shop or seek professional services;
- reduce certain MFIP benefits from 60 months to a 36-month time limit;
- prohibit drug offenders with convictions from the past 10 years from receiving MFIP benefits;
- change when MFIP clients exit the program from 115 percent to 100 percent of the federal poverty guidelines; and
- require clients seeking to be recertified to pay for a background check.

The bill now moves to the House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance Committee. Sen. Michelle Benson (R-Ham Lake) sponsors SF1833, the companion, which awaits action by



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Deb Konechne, representing the Minnesota Coalition for a People’s Bailout, testifies before the House Health and Human Services Reform Committee Feb. 22 in opposition to a bill that would modify Minnesota Family Investment Program eligibility, sanctions and time limits. The bill’s sponsor, Rep. Kurt Daudt, listens to the testimony.

the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Daudt also sponsors HF2081, which would permanently disqualify a person from receiving EBT cards in the future if that person is found to have purchased tobacco products or alcohol with the card. The committee approved the bill and referred it, as amended, to the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee. SF1674, a companion, is also sponsored by Benson awaits action in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Rep. Kim Norton (DFL-Rochester) called the bill “inhuman” and said “An adult has made an error . . . the children are the ones that are punished.”

A third bill, HF1956 sponsored by Rep. Sarah Anderson (R-Plymouth), also drew DFL criticism because of the way the bill’s language was crafted.

The bill would enable law enforcement to notify the Department of Human Services when a criminal suspect is arrested and multiple EBT cards are subsequently found in their possession during the intake process. Approved by the committee, the bill was

referred to the House floor, but not before DFL members and Anderson agreed that the name of the bill, "Reporting Welfare Fraud," should be changed so it is not misconstrued. It was noted that there may be several reasons why a person possesses multiple EBT cards. Additional bill language implies the suspect is already an eligible EBT card recipient.

Rep. Susan Allen (DFL-Mpls) called the language "offensive," and said it perpetuates a stereotype that welfare fraud is prevalent. She didn't see the need for a law to enable one agency to report data to another agency. Sen. Scott Newman (R-Hutchinson) sponsors a companion, SF1598, which is in the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

— S. HEGARTY

Registration for dental labs

Ever wonder where the materials come from that dentists use for filling your teeth or inserting dental implants?

The mystery would be solved under a bill approved by the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee Feb. 16. It would require dental laboratories to register with the Board of Dentistry and to track the origin of lab materials. It also would require that at least one technician in a dental laboratory be a Certified Dental Technician. The CDT designation is the only American Dental Association-recognized standard for dental technicians.

Sponsored by Rep. Tim Kelly (R-Red Wing) and Sen. John Howe (R-Red Wing), HF614/SF288*now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee. The Senate passed it last year 62-2.

"It's a big step in the right direction of informing the dentist and the patient what material is going to be placed in their body and where it's made," said Gary Iocco, Midwest Dental Laboratory Association president.

There would be a one-time \$20 registration fee so that the association could keep track of laboratories. The bill's previous requirement that labs be certified was changed to voluntary.

Dominic Sposeto, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Dental Association, said dentists may use several different labs depending upon what they want manufactured, such as a crown. "It gives the dentist the country of origin so information is in a patient's record," Sposeto said.

The Board of Dentistry no longer supports the bill because it would need to subsidize registration costs and certification isn't

required, according to Marshall Shragg, Board of Dentistry executive director.

"We're not sure there are any teeth to this," Shragg said.

"We want the markets to work this out, and we believe they will because this is a public safety issue," Kelly said.

Committee Chairman Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) successfully amended the bill to include HF1461, which he sponsors. It was part of an omnibus bill vetoed by the governor last year. As amended, the bill would require city, state and non-profit agency social workers to be licensed beginning in 2016. County social workers would be exempt from licensing — a sticking point last year.

SF1305, sponsored by Sen. Scott Newman (R-Hutchinson), is the companion to Abeler's bill. It awaits action by the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

— S. HEGARTY

Hoping to restore FAIM funding

A casualty of last year's special session to balance the state budget was elimination of the annual \$250,000 to fund the Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota program which provides education, counseling and a matching savings account for low-income wage earners.

Hoping that the February budget forecast will enable a supplemental budget, Rep. King Banaian (R-St. Cloud) sponsors HF2062, which would restore \$500,000 in FAIM funding for fiscal year 2013. The House Health and Human Services Finance Committee held the bill over Feb. 16 for inclusion in a possible committee omnibus bill. The forecast is expected to be released Feb. 29.

"I'd like you to consider if there is a supplemental budget ... that this would be a priority in what you decide to restore," Banaian said.

The program is being funded through the General Fund, but alternative funding from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families would be another option, according to Pam Johnson, research and member strategies manager for Community Action Partnership.

Members showed bipartisan support for the FAIM program, which matches each dollar of a participant's FAIM savings account with \$1.50 each in state and federal money.

"This was one of the programs out there that was a star in terms of making a difference

in people's lives," said Rep. Morrie Lanning (R-Moorhead).

A Senate companion, SF1720, sponsored by Sen. Michelle Benson (R-Ham Lake), awaits action by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

— S. HEGARTY

Protection screening disparities

Disparities between 86 child protection agencies might result in future legislation to streamline the collection of data and to close what legislators view as loopholes.

Members of the House Health and Human Services Reform Committee reacted Feb. 21 to a report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor that recommends more clarity in state laws regarding the screening of child maltreatment cases.

On the whole, the audit states that the agencies do an "adequate" job of screening and referrals, but committee members agreed with the auditor's recommendations for new laws and statewide rules.

Rep. Joe McDonald (R-Delano) noted that some of the state's child protection agencies allow people to anonymously file a report, even though state law requires the recording of a name and address. He also said there needs to be clearer policy regarding mental abuse, which can be just as damaging as physical abuse.

"If it's nowhere in law, I think we need to look at it," he said.

Of the 56,500 child maltreatment allegations reported in 2010, about 18,000 were referred to protective services. Richard Gehrman, executive director of Safe Passage for Children, said many pre-teen children and teenagers are not even considered because of limited resources within agencies. Also, teens may run away from an abusive situation and so case workers consider younger children more vulnerable, said Andrea Simonett, Catholic Charities homeless youth program director.

"That should be a red flag of sorts," said Rep. Kim Norton (DFL-Rochester). She said homeless teens are often the product of abusive homes and are just as vulnerable. She suggested working on legislation to address the older age group.

However, Legislative Auditor Jim Nobles said legislators should expect county agencies to "push back" if given unfunded state mandates. It boils down to who is paying the bulk of the services. Counties paid 57 percent

Highlights continued on page 15

House incumbent pairings

This decade's Minnesota redistricting shuffle pairs 32 incumbent House members in redrawn districts. Of the seats, six are paired Democrats, seven pair incumbent Republicans and three pair a Democrat and a Republican. It should be noted, however, that three incumbents who are paired with members of their same party have announced they will not be seeking reelection. Additionally, there are 15 open seats with no incumbent legislators.

District 4B



Rep. Paul Marquardt
(DFL-Dilworth)



Rep. Kent Eken
(DFL-Twin Valley)

District 5A



Rep. Larry Howes
(R-Walker)



Rep. John Persell
(DFL-Bemidji)

District 5B



Rep. Carolyn McElfatrick
(R-Deer River)



Rep. Tom Anzelc
(DFL-Balsam Township)

District 8B



Rep. Mary Franson
(R-Alexandria)



Rep. Mark Murdock
(R-Ottertail)
(Won't seek re-election)

District 11B



Rep. Roger Crawford
(R-Mora)



Rep. Bill Hilty
(DFL-Finlayson)

District 17A



Rep. Lyle Koenen
(DFL-Clara City)



Rep. Andrew Falk
(DFL-Murdock)

District 18B



Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen
(R-Glencoe)



Rep. Ron Shimanski
(R-Silver Lake)

District 23B



Rep. Paul Torkelson
(R-Nelson Township)



Rep. Tony Cornish
(R-Vernon Center)

District 35B



Rep. Branden Petersen
(R-Andover)



Rep. Peggy Scott
(R-Andover)

District 38B



Rep. Carol McFarlane
(R-White Bear Lake)



Majority Leader Matt Dean
(R-Dellwood)

District 39A



Rep. Bob Dettmer
(R-Forest Lake)



Rep. Bob Barrett
(R-Shafer)

District 41A



Rep. Tom Tillberry
(DFL-Fridley)



Rep. Kate Knuth
(DFL-New Brighton)

District 56A



Rep. Mark Buesgens
(R-Savage)
(Won't seek re-election)



Rep. Pam Myhra
(R-Burnesville)

District 61A



Rep. Frank Hornstein
(DFL-Mpls)



Rep. Marion Greene
(DFL-Mpls)

District 63B



Rep. Jean Wagenius
(DFL-Mpls)



Rep. Linda Slocum
(DFL-Richfield)

District 66A



Rep. Alice Hausman
(DFL-St. Paul)



Rep. Mindy Greiling
(DFL-Roseville)
(Won't seek re-election)

Want to know more?

About the 2012 redistricting court decision

<http://www.mncourts.gov/?page=4469>

How we got from there to here: the House Redistricting Committee

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/committee.asp?comm=87016>

Who represents me until 2013

<http://www.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts/>

Equal representation for 5,303,025

The political stakes don't get any higher than the reorganization of the state that happens every 10 years after the census.

In the simplest terms, redistricting is dividing the state into districts containing an equal population (a 2 percent variance is allowed) to ensure that all residents have an equal voice in the lawmaking process.

According to 2010 census figures, Minnesota added 348,446 people for an increase of 7.8 percent from 2000. This brings our population total to 5,303,025. How this population is distributed across the state, however, is cause for the lines to be redrawn.

The recent census shows that the western parts of the state have shown significant population declines, while counties situated in a line from St. Cloud to Rochester experienced growth.

While it's the Legislature's job to adjust the political lines, its track record for successfully doing so hasn't been so good. Every decade since 1913, the courts have played a significant role in determining the state's new political lines. This time around has been no exception.

After Gov. Mark Dayton and the Legislature could not reach agreement on new maps, the task fell to a five-judge panel. Their maps were released on Feb. 21.

With the full Legislature up for election this fall, the scramble now begins as members assess their new district lines, which, in some cases, will mean reassessing their political future.


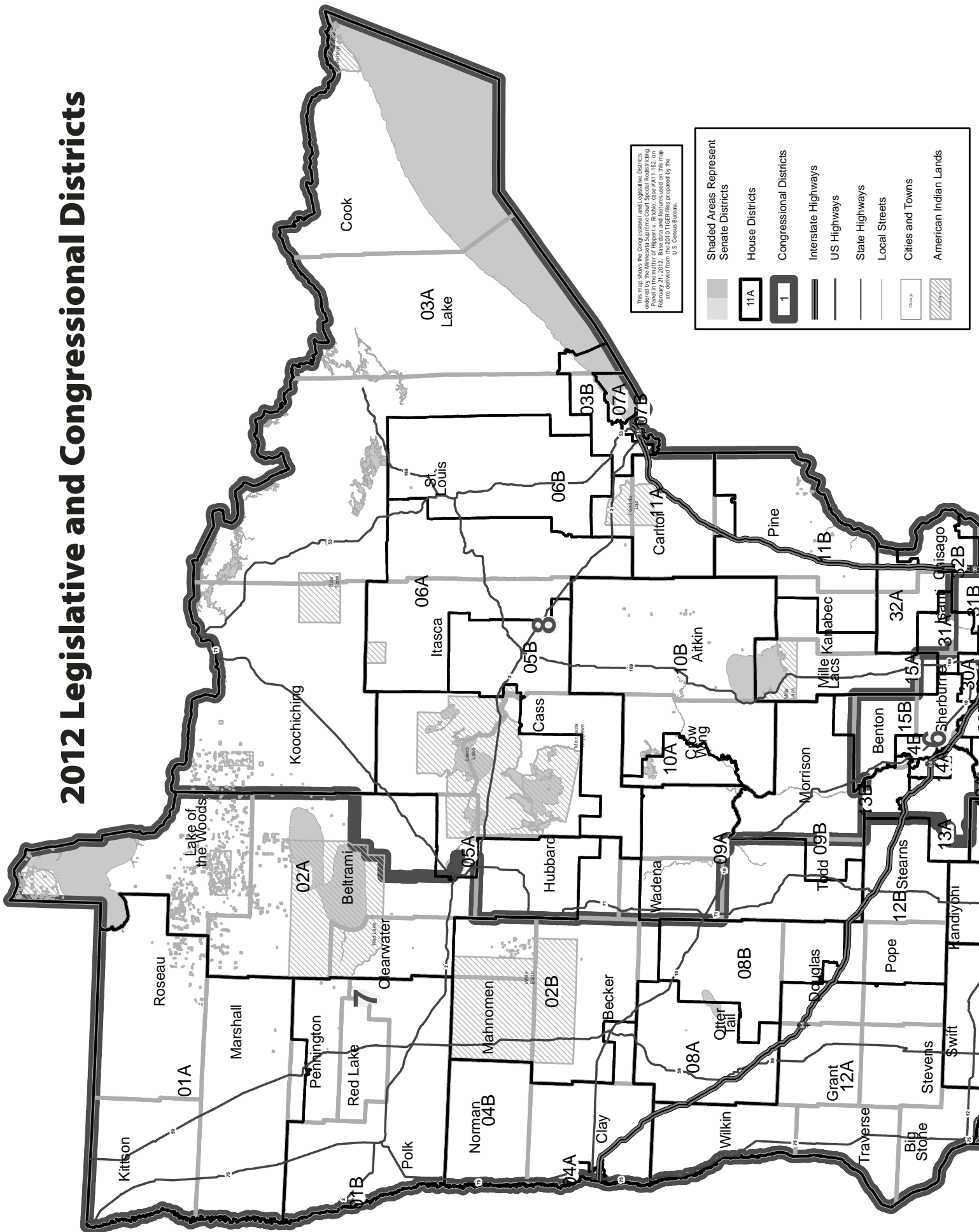
This decade's Minnesota redistricting shuffle pairs 32 incumbent House members in redrawn districts. Of the seats, six are paired Democrats, seven pair incumbent Republicans and three pair a Democrat and a Republican. It should be noted, however, that three incumbents who are paired with members of their same party have announced they will not be seeking reelection. Additionally, there are 15 open seats with no incumbent legislators. 



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

From left: Reps. Erin Murphy, Alice Hausman and John Lesch and Sen. Mary Jo McGuire scrutinize the newly released district maps Feb. 21.

2012 Legislative and Congressional Districts



This map shows the Congressional and Legislative Districts created by the Minnesota Supreme Court Special Redistricting Commission on February 21, 2012. Base data and features used on this map are derived from the 2010 TIGER files prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau.

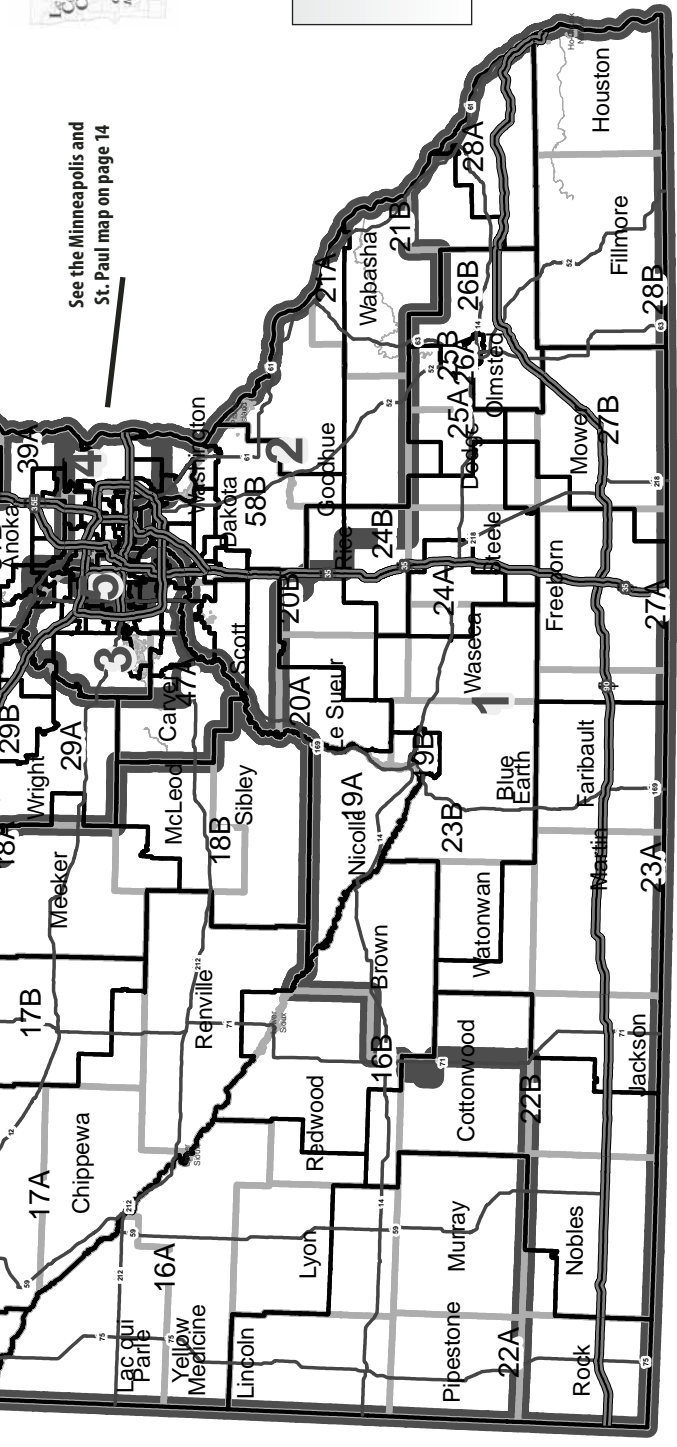
	Shaded Areas Represent Senate Districts
	House Districts
	Congressional Districts
	Interstate Highways
	US Highways
	State Highways
	Local Streets
	Cities and Towns
	American Indian Lands



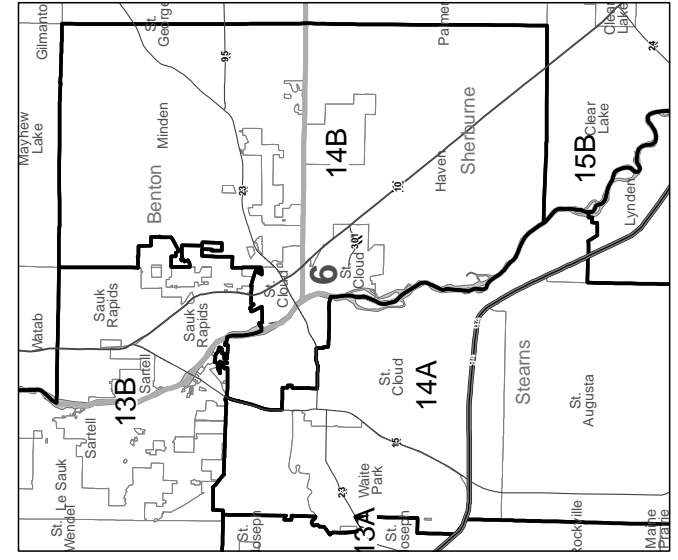
February 2012
http://gis.sleg.mn

Legislature makeup
 67 State Senate Districts
 134 State House Districts
 8 Congressional Districts

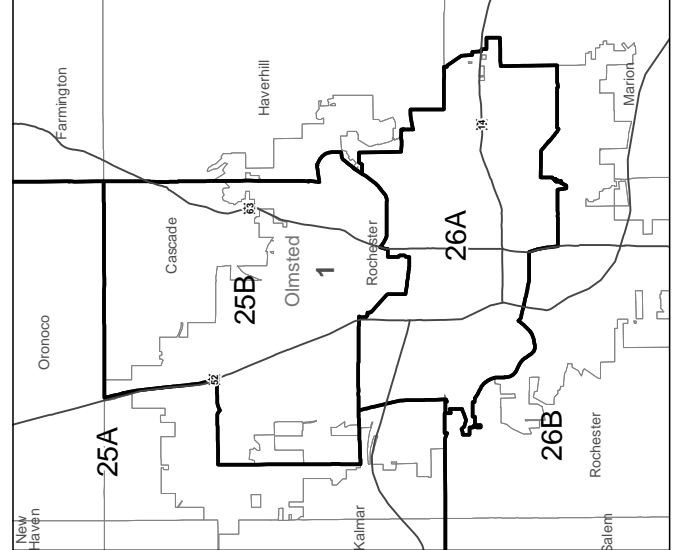
See the Minneapolis and St. Paul map on page 14



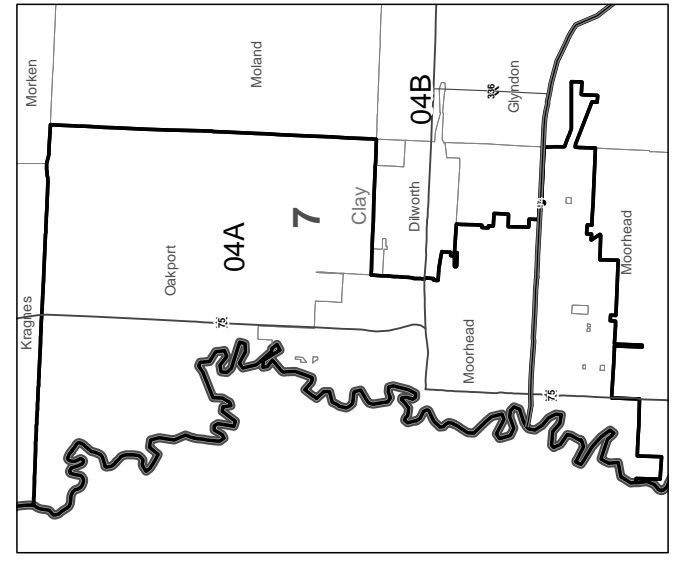
St. Cloud



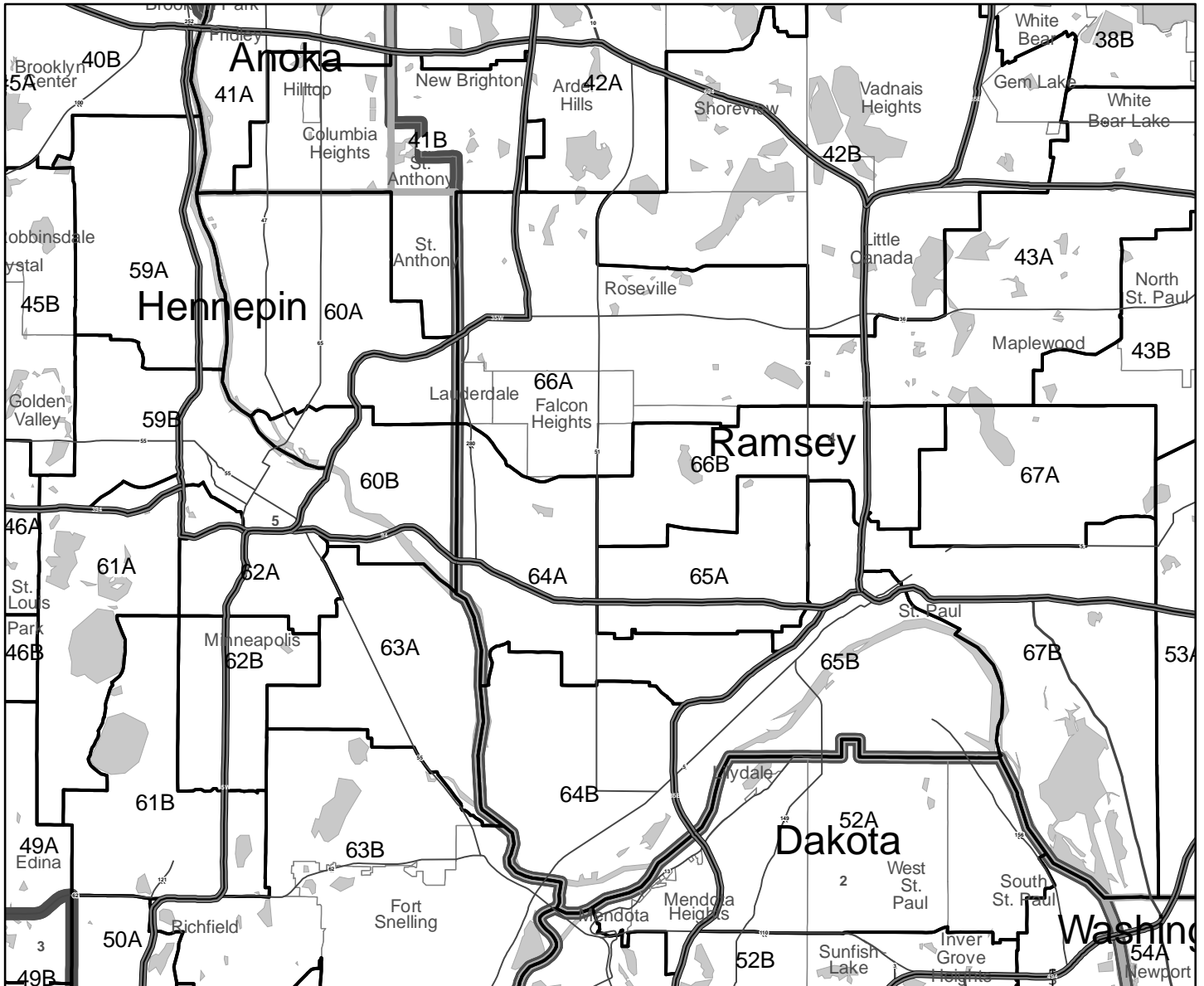
Rochester



Moorhead



Minneapolis and St. Paul



STORY BY LEE ANN SCHUTZ
GRAPHICS COURTESY OF THE LEGISLATIVE
COORDINATING COMMISSION GEOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION SERVICES
DESIGN BY PAUL BATTAGLIA

of 2010 child welfare costs, compared to 27 percent from federal funding and 10 percent from state funding.

The committee took no action on the report.

— S. HEGARTY

Higher Education

Internships for rural businesses

Greater Minnesota businesses could establish ties with post-secondary students and get tax credits for hiring up to five interns annually.

Rep. King Banaian (R-St. Cloud) sponsors HF2210 that would create a Greater Minnesota Internship Program. The program calls for partnerships with the University of Minnesota, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system and private colleges and universities.

The bill's goal would be to help stop the retreat of young adults from Greater Minnesota to the Twin Cities metropolitan area, Banaian told the House Higher Education Policy and Finance Committee. The committee approved the bill Feb. 21 and forwarded it to the House Taxes Committee.

The bill could provide employers with a tax credit of up to \$1,250 a year. Employers may receive credit for up to five interns each year.

The bill's price tag is estimated to be \$1.25 million annually plus an estimated administrative fee of 1 percent — or nearly \$2.53 million during the two-year state budget period. If approved, the program would be administered by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

Banaian said that 70 percent of the students attending St. Cloud State University go on to work in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. "You've all seen the demography and what's projected to happen in this state over the next 10 to 15 years," he said.

His legislation could provide intern opportunities for juniors or seniors in college programs related to the employer's business. The employer tax credit would equal 40 percent of the intern's pay up to \$1,250. Participating employers could not qualify for more than five interns in a taxable year.

A companion bill, SF1869, sponsored by Sen. Jeremy Miller (R-Winona), is scheduled for a Feb. 22 hearing in the Senate Committee on Higher Education.

— B. GEIGER

Local Government

Land use bill heads to floor

Opponents of frac sand mining are among those concerned about a bill that would restrict local governments' ability to put the brakes on land developments.

Sponsored by Rep. Mike Beard (R-Shakopee), HF389 would restrict the ability of cities, counties and townships to adopt interim ordinances — also known as "land use moratoria" — that can delay for up to two years development projects for which a complete land use application is pending.

Beard said the goal is to protect developers who are playing by the rules from being blindsided by moratoria that can wear them down financially. Opponents say the bill would harm local officials' ability to protect their communities.

The House Government Operations and Elections Committee voted 9-5 to approve the bill and send it to the House floor. Sen. Ray Vandever (R-Forest Lake) sponsors the companion, SF270, which awaits action by the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee.

Beard successfully amended the bill with a delete-all amendment that represents a compromise between the bill's supporters and its opponents in city and county governments.

Under the new provisions, local governments would have 30 days to adopt an interim ordinance after receiving a complete land use application. Adopting an interim ordinance would require a two-thirds vote by the local governing body, and the ordinance would be limited to one year, with no extensions.

Patrick Hynes, representing the League of Minnesota Cities, said this version is a "workable compromise" compared to the old language, which the league opposed. He added that they would still prefer to keep the current law.

Some say the bill is still too restrictive of local governments. Bobby King, an organizer for the Land Stewardship Project, said the bill would tie the hands of local governments who might be struggling to fully consider the implications of something like large-scale sand mining in their communities within the bill's 30-day time frame.

"We believe local governments need to be fully empowered to react when something unanticipated and potentially harmful is proposed in their community," King said.

The bill also includes several changes related to park dedication and other fees.

— N. BUSSE

Public Safety

Sex offender's discharge

A convicted sex offender awaits a provisional discharge from the Minnesota Sex Offender Program in St. Peter; however, the move did not trigger a community notification. The apparent loophole in the law was enough to have the House declare an urgency Feb. 20, so members could pass a bill to require community notification of sex offenders released from the program.

Under current law, law enforcement is only required to provide community notification if a sex offender is released from a halfway house into a community.

The House voted 127-1 to pass HF2394*/SF1994, sponsored by Rep. Kathy Lohmer (R-Lake Elmo) and Sen. Warren Limmer (R-Maple Grove). The Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee amended the bill on Feb. 21, and it passed the Senate 61-0 Feb. 23.

Clarence Opheim, 64, must be discharged from MSOP within 15 days of the Feb. 10 court order, according to MSOP Executive Director Dennis Benson.

He is the first person in Minnesota to receive a provisional discharge and one of 635 clients in the treatment program, which has locations in Moose Lake and St. Peter. He was civilly committed to the program after serving his prison term for sexually abusing multiple children.

"As such, Mr. Opheim's release, and the lack of public notification, creates a potentially dangerous situation for the public and children who will be unaware of his presence," House Speaker Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove) and Majority Leader Matt Dean (R-Dellwood) wrote in a Feb. 17 letter to Gov. Mark Dayton.

— S. HEGARTY

More fingerprints more cases solved

There are situations when fingerprinting is required of a suspect — most are related to felonies, gross misdemeanors or targeted misdemeanor arrests or charges. However, sometimes the step is inadvertently overlooked. Law enforcement officials say more open criminal cases could be resolved if fingerprints could be better linked to cases.

Rep. Tony Cornish (R-Vernon Center) sponsors HF2160 that would permit fingerprinting a suspect arrested for any offense.

“The fingerprint is our way to associate all records that need to be connected with that individual,” said Katie Engler, legal analyst for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

She said the bill only allows for fingerprinting a suspect re-entering the criminal justice system who was previously involved in an incident that would have required the procedure, but where it was overlooked.

The House Data Practices Subcommittee approved the bill Feb. 20 and moved it to the House Civil Law Committee. The bill has no Senate companion.

Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville) raised concerns that the bill’s provisions would open the door to fingerprinting for more incidents. Before the bill reaches the next committee, she would like to see a greater safety net cast, to ensure that local officials follow a standard similar to one set by the BCA.

— L. SCHUTZ

‘Crime of violence’ definition

The Minnesota County Attorneys Association would like to add a few felony-level crimes to the list of offenses deemed to be a “crime of violence” — a designation that restricts a felon’s ability to own or possess firearms.

HF1665, sponsored by Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen (R-Glencoe), would add felony-level convictions for fifth-degree assault, domestic assault and domestic assault by strangulation to the list of offenses described as “crime of violence.”

Under current law, a person convicted of a “crime of violence” is not entitled to ship, transport, possess or receive a firearm or other dangerous weapons. The law also provides various crime victim notification rights if an alleged offender is arrested or charged with a “crime of violence.”

The House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance Committee approved the bill Feb. 21 and referred it to the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee.

The companion, SF2057, sponsored by Sen. Ron Latz (DFL-St. Louis Park), awaits action in the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

— S. HEGARTY

Fugitive unit and search warrants

To save time and perhaps nab more fugitives, officers from the Minnesota Department of Corrections Fugitive Apprehension Unit would like the ability to apply for search warrants.

Current law prohibits them from doing so and results in pulling an officer off other duties from the agency with primary jurisdiction.

That would change under HF1938, which was laid over Feb. 21 for possible inclusion in a House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance Committee omnibus bill. Committee Chairman Rep. Tony Cornish (R-Vernon Center) sponsors the bill. The companion, SF2028, sponsored by Sen. John Harrington (DFL-St. Paul), awaits action in the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

The unit arrests an annual average of 400 convicted felons with outstanding warrants and assists the U.S. Marshals fugitive task force, according to Cari Gerlicher, DOC director of the Office of Special Investigations. The search warrants are necessary for locating cell phones that aid in capturing a fugitive, Gerlicher said.

Cornish called the bill an “efficiency measure.”

— S. HEGARTY

Domestic violence penalties

As part of a domestic assault in July 2011, a man in Hopkins held his wife against a wall by her chest and neck during an argument and then threw her to the floor.

Following the man’s arrest, Jason Hutchison, the prosecuting attorney for Hopkins, reviewed the man’s criminal history to see if he had been previously convicted of a qualified domestic violence-related offense that would have allowed Hutchison to start the case as a gross misdemeanor, rather than a misdemeanor.

Qualified domestic violence-related offenses include: murder; violating an order for protection, harassment restraining order or no-contact order; stalking; domestic assault; or criminal sexual conduct. Hutchison found none of these in the man’s past.

“What was brought to my attention by one of the police detectives was that this particular suspect had been convicted of female genital mutilation in 2000 for which he was on probation until 2001,” Hutchison told the House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance Committee



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Amy Sweasy, senior attorney with the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office, testifies before the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee Feb. 16 in support of a bill that would modify the penalty for criminal neglect of a vulnerable adult. The bill’s sponsor, Rep. Steve Gottwalt, listens to the testimony.

Feb. 16.

Sponsored by Rep. Steve Simon (DFL-St. Louis Park), HF2149 would add to the list of a qualified domestic violence-related offense the crime of female genital mutilation against a family or household member.

Approved by the committee, the bill awaits action by the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee. A companion, SF1657, sponsored by Sen. Ron Latz (DFL-St. Louis Park), awaits action by the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

“People who commit acts of FGM, a felony, and are convicted for those acts, should have those convictions used against them when they perpetrate other acts of violence on their families and family members,” Hutchison said.

— M. COOK

Vulnerable adult neglect penalties

A change that supporters believe is long overdue and could be a model for the rest of the nation has garnered the support of a House committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Steve Gottwalt (R-St. Cloud), HF1945 would create a new felony crime for intentional deprivation of a vulnerable adult, such as with food, clothing,

shelter or health care, when the caregiver “is reasonably able to make the necessary provisions.”

“Many of us have heard the horrendous stories about abuse of vulnerable adults and the fact that (the perpetrator) can only be charged with a gross misdemeanor,” Gottwalt said. He noted that the provider community, prosecutors and other “major players” worked together on the final product to make sure there were no unintended consequences to people caring for those in difficult situations. “This language is going to end up being a model for the nation,” he said.

Approved by the House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance Committee Feb. 23, it was sent to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman called current penalties inadequate. “A gross misdemeanor is the most serious penalty and that does not mean any jail time ... particularly in situations where we’d see the intentional neglect results in amputation, when we find maggots, infected ulcers, when we see people left to rot in their own waste for weeks at a time.” He noted it’s currently a two-year felony for animal cruelty and five years for child neglect.

The bill provides for three affirmative defenses:

- the person employed by a facility is unable to “reasonably make the necessary provisions due to inadequate staffing levels, inadequate supervision, or institutional policies”;
- the defendant operates or manages a facility and did not knowingly or intentionally permit an employee to permit the criminal act; and
- where the caregiver “was acting reasonably and necessarily to provide care to another identified vulnerable adult.”

Rep. Tina Liebling (DFL-Rochester) supports the bill, but is concerned about the affirmative defenses. “The state has to prove beyond a reasonable doubt every element of the offense. When you put the burden on the defendant to come forward with something and prove it by a preponderance you may be in fact requiring the defendant to prove that the defendant is not guilty, which is unconstitutional. ... I’ve seen statutes invalidated for that very thing.”

A companion, SF1586, sponsored by Sen. Warren Limmer (R-Maple Grove), awaits action by the Senate Finance Committee.

— M. COOK

Recreation & Tourism

Saints ballpark gets hearing

Supporters made their case Feb. 23 for \$27 million in state bonding for a new regional ballpark in downtown St. Paul and \$14.5 million to upgrade an events center in Mankato.

Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar) sponsors HF1677, which would fund the state’s half of a proposed \$54 million baseball facility in St. Paul. The House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee laid the bill over for possible inclusion in its bonding recommendations.

The ballpark, which would house the St. Paul Saints as well as high school and college teams, would be located on an abandoned industrial site in Lowertown. The plan is to sell the 30-year-old Midway Stadium and use the money to help defray the cost of the new facility.

St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman said the project has the support of the local business community, who see it as key to creating a vibrant downtown.

“Clearly there are job opportunities in the construction of the stadium ... but we also understand this as a jobs measure to continue to recruit companies that want to come into St. Paul,” he said.

House Capital Investment Committee Chair Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker) said he supports the project “99 percent,” and that the current field is in bad condition. He said the project represented a legitimate use of public money.

“It’s not just government’s job to fund the things that are necessary, but it’s also helpful if we enhance communities and make life more pleasant,” Howes said.

The bill has no Senate companion.

The committee also laid over HF1883, sponsored by Rep. Kathy Brynaert (DFL-Mankato). The bill would authorize \$14.5 million in bonds to help fund a \$31 million expansion and renovation of Mankato’s regional event center.

Jonathan Zierdt, president and CEO of Greater Mankato Growth, Inc., said the project will allow for more conventions, performances and sporting events that will enhance the local economy. It would also provide a permanent, year-round home to Minnesota State University, Mankato’s men’s and women’s hockey teams.

Sen. Kathy Sheran (DFL-Mankato) sponsors the companion, SF1516, which

awaits action by the Senate Capital Investment Committee.

— N. BUSSE

State Government

‘Flattening’ bureaucracy

A proposed study would look at “flattening” state agencies internal management structure to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy.

Rep. Mike Benson (R-Rochester) sponsors HF1813, which proposes contracting for one or more studies on possible internal reorganization of several major state agencies, as well as the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. The goal would be to determine whether their top- and middle-management structures are as efficient as they could be.

The House Government Operations and Elections Committee approved the bill as amended by Benson and referred it to the House State Government Finance Committee.

Benson said the goal of the bill is to examine issues like how many layers of management a decision has to go through, and how best to empower employees by pushing responsibility to the lowest possible levels of an organization.

“My hope is that when you go into (Driver and Vehicle Services), that the person there closest to the job can be empowered to make decisions rather than have to go in the back room and ask a supervisor,” Benson said.

David Post, a senior consultant with IBM, said reorganization efforts aren’t always easy and can often be highly political, but they can generate huge cost savings when done correctly.

Some DFL committee members said the bill was unnecessary, and would authorize potentially costly contracts with private vendors for work many agencies are already undertaking internally.

“How much of this is sort of code for layoffs and outsourcing and offshoring?” asked Rep. Frank Hornstein (DFL-Mpls).

Laura King, MnSCU’s chief financial officer, said she hoped MnSCU would be excluded from the bill’s provisions. She said the system has already scaled down its administrative staff and generated significant productivity increases through its own initiatives.

Sen. Carla Nelson (R-Rochester) sponsors the companion, SF1650, which awaits action

by the Senate State Government Innovation and Veterans Committee.

— N. BUSSE

No rulemaking for two years?

State agencies would be stripped of their rulemaking authority for two years, with few exceptions, under a bill that won committee approval.

Rep. Chris Swedzinski (R-Ghent) sponsors HF2211 that would prohibit agencies from creating any new rules between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2014. The House State Government Finance Committee approved the bill Feb. 16 and sent it to the House Commerce and Regulatory Reform Committee.

Rules differ from laws in that they are developed by agency staff, often through lengthy processes and usually in consultation with various stakeholders. Lawmakers typically delegate rulemaking powers to state agencies in cases where they believe professional expertise is needed in order to effectively implement laws.

Supporters of the bill argue agencies' use of rulemaking authority is out of control and has become a hindrance to economic growth. Mike Hickey, representing the National Federation of Independent Businesses, said the use of rulemaking has grown exponentially since the 1960s.

"The point of this bill is to try to take a time out on the burden of rules and regulations that have been increasing over the last several decades," Hickey said.

The bill provides for a handful of exceptions, such as in the case of situations that pose a threat to public safety or health or that involve court orders or federal requirements.

Opponents argue that far from helping businesses, the bill could throw them into chaos. John Rajkowski, director of governmental relations for the Department

CAPITOL HUNT



PHOTO BY PAUL BATTAGLIA

Donovan and Laura Rodriguez, from left, of Maplewood, and Samuel Holweger of Woodbury, plan their strategy for a Capitol scavenger hunt Feb. 20

of Labor and Industry, said the bill would damage the health care and construction industries by preventing important updates to rules that govern their operations.

Similarly, Department of Natural Resources Assistant Commissioner Bob Meier said the bill would prevent the department from establishing any hunting and fishing seasons for two years. Instead, he said lawmakers would have to do the

work themselves, debating things such as how many deer or moose per square mile is a reasonable limit, which firearms should be allowed in certain zones and numerous other policy issues.

Sen. Ted Lillie (R-Lake Elmo) sponsors the companion, SF1631, which awaits action by the Senate State Government Innovation and Veterans Committee.

— N. BUSSE

Frequently called numbers

Area code 651

House Public Information Services

175 State Office Building 296-2146
Toll-free 800-657-3550

Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol 296-2314

House Index

211 Capitol 296-6646
Meeting Call line, House 296-9283

House Research

600 State Office Building 296-6753

Senate Information

231 Capitol 296-0504
Toll-free 888-234-1112

Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol 296-2344
Voice mail/order bills 296-2343

Senate Index

110 Capitol 296-2887

Senate Counsel, Research and Fiscal Analysis

G-17 Capitol 296-4791

Governor's Office

130 Capitol 201-3400

Collaboration over discipline

Whips rely on communication as session moves forward

By ERIN SCHMIDTKE

The title of “whip” originally referred to the man who kept the hounds “whipped in” during a hunt. Nearly 100 years since the term became a part of American politics, its meaning has evolved.

Today, the role is more associated with collaboration than discipline. Rep. Larry Hosch (DFL-St. Joseph) is a minority whip. He said, “I think if you do your job right, you get to a point where you don’t have to twist arms, but you’re able to come to a consensus as a caucus with good communication.”

Whips have several different responsibilities within the House. When a vote is approaching, especially on a controversial bill, whips gauge support and relay that information to the leader. Whips are also responsible for counting members’ votes on a bill.

Oftentimes, the role requires strategizing with other leadership within the caucus. That’s something Rep. Melissa Hortman (DFL-Brooklyn Park) appreciates.

“I like having the opportunity to sit down in a smaller group and let [the minority leader] know my thoughts on things. And the role of a whip is like the role of a state rep., with the caucus being our district. The

job is to listen and let our leader know what the caucus is thinking and feeling,” she said.

Within the caucuses, whips may or may not be elected. The Republican caucus has one majority whip and six assistant whips. Only the majority whip, Rep. Rod Hamilton (R-Mountain Lake), was elected. The six assistant whips volunteered for their positions. In the DFL caucus, the four minority whips were appointed by the minority leader. Their party does not have any assistant whips.

Whips work with each other to ensure that knowledge is shared across a party. Hamilton has incorporated that into his philosophy. “If you go in with the mentality about communication and preparation, that makes the job easy,” he said.

Whips frequently need to speak with other members about issues. Because this biennium has brought many new members to the House, being in a position of whip makes it easier to become acquainted with freshmen legislators. Rep. Ron Shimanski

(R-Silver Lake), an assistant whip, said, “With 72 [Republican] members, approximately 30 of them being freshmen, it takes us a while to get around and be acquainted. It’s allowed me that personal contact.”

Being a whip means helping other whips, too. The need for mobility and rapid communication is critical on the House floor. Whips are often seated near the group of members they’ve been assigned to monitor, or on aisles so the majority or minority leader is readily accessible. That’s important, especially for Hamilton.

He highlighted his relationship with Rep. Tim Sanders (R-Blaine), who is an assistant whip. When moving quickly is required on the House floor, Sanders frequently helps Hamilton, who has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

This position has a number of challenges. The logistics the whips must manage can occasionally become a problem. Hosch and Shimanski both cited counting votes before an official floor session as a frustrating part of the job, especially when members are away from the Capitol and difficult to reach. However, it’s a small price for a position they enjoy.

“One of the things I don’t like is a day-to-day office job that has predictability and a boring atmosphere,” Hosch said. “This job definitely doesn’t have that.”

Republican whips



Majority Whip
Rod Hamilton

Assistant Majority Leaders



Kurt Daudt



Bob Gunther



Joe Hoppe



Tim Kelly



Jenifer Loon



Paul Torkelson

Democratic whips



Deputy Minority Leader
Debra Hilstrom

Minority Whips



Melissa Hortman



Larry Hosch



John Lesch



Terry Morrow

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

FEBRUARY 20 - 23, 2012

HOUSE FILES 2344 - 2492

Monday, Feb. 20

HF2344-Gruenhagen (R)

Health and Human Services Reform

Health insurance-related taxes and assessments consolidated.

HF2345-Gruenhagen (R)

Commerce & Regulatory Reform

Federally nonqualified health plan sales permitted to Minnesota residents.

HF2346-Gruenhagen (R)

Health & Human Services Reform

Financial responsibility for hospital-acquired infections specified.

HF2347-Gruenhagen (R)

Commerce & Regulatory Reform

Small employer health insurance market expanded.

HF2348-Abeler (R)

Health & Human Services Finance

Return on taxpayer investment methodology and practices for human services and corrections programs study and recommendation development money appropriated.

HF2349-Gruenhagen (R)

Commerce & Regulatory Reform

Insurance agents regulated and "facilitate enrollment" defined.

HF2350-Fabian (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Scopes allowed on muzzleloaders.

HF2351-Fabian (R)

Agriculture & Rural Development Policy & Finance

Donated venison exempted from food law regulations.

HF2352-Quam (R)

Taxes

Rochester; lodging tax authority increased, and food and beverage tax authority repealed.

HF2353-Hackbarth (R)

Government Operations & Elections

Publicly funded shooting ranges accessibility required.

HF2354-Sanders (R)

Commerce & Regulatory Reform

Plumbing requirements modified relating to sump pumps and drain tiles.

HF2355-Daudt (R)

Health & Human Services Reform

Individual who is related definition modified to include great-grandparent, great-aunt, and great-uncle.

HF2356-Daudt (R)

Commerce & Regulatory Reform

Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association compliance with the open meeting law and the Data Practices Act required.

HF2357-Nelson (DFL)

Taxes

Brooklyn Park; special tax increment financing rules provided.

HF2358-Quam (R)

Taxes

Historic structure rehabilitation tax credit sunset extended.

HF2359-Quam (R)

Government Operations & Elections

Dodge County; county recorder appointive process provided.

HF2360-O'Driscoll (R)

Government Operations & Elections

Public Employees Retirement Association; minimum monthly salary amount increased for plan coverage eligibility.

HF2361-Mahoney (DFL)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Angel investment tax credit changes made and data practices exemption added.

HF2362-Mazorol (R)

Civil Law

Uniform Community Property Rights at Death Act adopted.

HF2363-Mahoney (DFL)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Minnesota Science and Technology Authority money appropriated.

HF2364-Benson, M. (R)

Transportation Policy & Finance

Legislative routes removed from the trunk highway system.

HF2365-Wardlow (R)

Government Operations & Elections

Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day designated date changed.

HF2366-Kriesel (R)

Veterans Services Division

Special veterans' plates service branch designs added.

HF2367-Runbeck (R)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Seasonal municipal workers' unemployment benefit eligibility modified.

HF2368-Runbeck (R)

Government Operations & Elections

Voter approval required for lease financings.

HF2369-Benson, M. (R)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Permit management and coordination provided, and centralized electronic accessibility to permit applications and documentation required.

HF2370-Hackbarth (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Underground high-voltage transmission line cost allocation regulated.

HF2371-McNamara (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

State parks and recreation areas continued operation provided for when biennial appropriations have not been enacted.

HF2372-Kiel (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Board of Water and Soil Resources wetland restoration funding provided; bonds issued.

HF2373-Cornish (R)

Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance

Felony of fraudulent or other improper finance statements extended to include retaliation against a sheriff or county recorder for performance of official duties regarding real property.

HF2374-Kiffmeyer (R)

Health & Human Services Finance

Nursing facility rate equalization modified.

HF2375-Schomacker (R)

Health & Human Services Finance

Nursing facilities and the elderly waiver program rate increases provided.

HF2376-LeMieur (R)

Education Finance

School food service fund equipment purchase approval process simplified.

HF2377-Nornes (R)

Higher Education Policy & Finance

Tuition reciprocity payments account established, tuition reciprocity payments and transfers modified, and appropriations transferred.

HF2378-Vogel (R)

Transportation Policy & Finance

Design-build projects approved under pilot program completion authorized.

HF2379-Gottwalt (R)

Health & Human Services Reform

Licensing moratorium exception provided for adult foster care homes, and certification requirements established.

HF2380-Greiling (DFL)

Education Reform

Resident pupils temporarily placed in a care and treatment center allowed to continue to participate in district extracurricular activities.

HF2381-Runbeck (R)

Taxes

Property tax statements and notices modified.

HF2382-Barrett (R)

Taxes

Combined receipts tax phased out.

HF2383-Barrett (R)
Education Finance
St. Croix River Education District; building lease levy alternative uses permitted.

HF2384-Barrett (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Electrical inspections required to continue in the event of a government shutdown.

HF2385-Kath (DFL)
Education Reform
Teacher unrequested leave of absence provisions modified.

HF2386-Hancock (R)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
Heartland Trail and Itasca State Park trail connection established.

HF2387-Gauthier (DFL)
Transportation Policy & Finance
Greater Minnesota transit funding provided; bonds issued.

HF2388-Carlson (DFL)
Taxes
Lien withdrawal notice requirements modified.

HF2389-McNamara (R)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
State trail acquisition and development funding provided; bonds issued.

HF2390-Torkelson (R)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
State park and recreation area acquisition funding provided; bonds issued.

HF2391-Murphy, M. (DFL)
Government Operations & Elections
Volunteer firefighter relief association; state auditor volunteer working group 2011-2012 recommendations implemented.

HF2392-Dettmer (R)
Government Operations & Elections
Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority powers and jurisdiction provided.

HF2393-McElpatrick (R)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
Wetland Conservation Act modified.

HF2394-Lohmer (R)
Health & Human Services Reform
Minnesota sex offender program; community notification required when a person is released from the program.

HF2395-Anderson, P. (R)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
General permit use authorized and clarified.

HF2396-Benson, M. (R)
Higher Education Policy & Finance
University of Minnesota and Mayo Foundation Partnership funding provided.

HF2397-Benson, M. (R)
Capital Investment
Chester Woods State Trail appropriation availability extended.

HF2398-Anderson, P. (R)
Agriculture & Rural Development Policy & Finance
Agricultural pesticide, plant, nursery law, inspection, enforcement, food, animal, grain, and weight and measure provisions modified; and Dairy Research, Teaching, and Consumer Education Authority established.

HF2399-Hausman (DFL)
Transportation Policy & Finance
Rail capacity improvement funding provided; bonds issued.

HF2400-Quam (R)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
Minnesota State Arts Board; distribution method for funds to regional art councils modified.

HF2401-Hilty (DFL)
Education Finance
Maximum effort debt service loans early repayment authorized.

HF2402-Davids (R)
Taxes
Medical device exemptions clarified.

HF2403-Marquart (DFL)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
Flood hazard mitigation grant funding provided; bonds issued.

HF2404-Scott (R)
Government Operations & Elections
Metropolitan Council staggered, four-year terms provided for members.

HF2405-Hilty (DFL)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
State nursery plant stock sale allowed to soil and water conservation districts.

HF2406-Swedzinski (R)
State Government Finance
Marshall; Minnesota Southwest Regional Amateur Sports Facility funding provided and bonds issued.

HF2407-Swedzinski (R)
Higher Education Policy & Finance
Southwest Minnesota State University funding provided for the design of a science lab renovation; bonds issued.

HF2408-Abeler (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Disability services parental contributions modified, state agency hearings modified relating to the personal care assistance program, assessment and support planning modified, congregate rate reductions modified, housing with services consultation modified, Community First Choice Option developed, foster care licensing moratorium modified, and residential settings for home and community-based services modified.

HF2409-Shimanski (R)
Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance
Police civilian review uniform authority procedures provided.

HF2410-Mack (R)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
Minnesota Zoo funding provided for asset preservation, exhibit renewal, and master plan design and implementation; bonds issued.

HF2411-Lanning (R)
Government Operations & Elections
Teachers Retirement Association; deferred annuity augmentation rates revised for deferred annuitants.

HF2412-Gottwalt (R)
Health & Human Services Reform
Managed care plan financial reporting changes made, and an annual independent third-party audit required.

HF2413-Hackbarth (R)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
Energy resources and funding for renewable development distributed, and improvement funds provided for energy conservation & renewable development account for qualifying solar energy projects on public buildings.

HF2414-Atkins (DFL)
Commerce & Regulatory Reform
Business corporations not allowed the power to make corporate independent political expenditures.

Wednesday, Feb. 22

HF2415-Cornish (R)
Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance
Victim notification regarding offenders by Department of Corrections permitted to include electronic notification in addition to written notification.

HF2416-Rukavina (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
Minnesota Care coverage of private duty nursing, nursing home or intermediate care facilities, and personal care attendant services required, and federal home health aides certification in underserved areas by commissioner of health required.

HF2417-Anzelc (DFL)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
Snare tending requirements modified.

HF2418-Howes (R)
Commerce & Regulatory Reform
Lawful gambling net profits contribution to 501(c)(19) organizations allowed by licensed organizations.

HF2419-Garofalo (R)
Education Finance
90 percent aid payments required for charter schools in their first three years.

HF2420-Woodard (R)
Education Reform
Charter school provisions modified.

HF2421-Allen (DFL)**Civil Law**

Preadoptive and adoptive child placement proceedings modified.

HF2422-Hamilton (R)**Commerce & Regulatory Reform**

Arden Hills stadium construction, electronic pull-tabs and bingo authorized; public infrastructure improvement funding provided; bonds issued.

HF2423-Hamilton (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

ICF/DD care contingent rate reductions repealed.

HF2424-Mullery (DFL)**Taxes**

Land-banked property tax exemptions modified.

HF2425-Abeler (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Mental health physician assistants classified as mental health professionals for purposes of Medical Assistance.

HF2426-Dettmer (R)**Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance**

Peace Officer's Memorial repairs money appropriated.

HF2427-Champion (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Minneapolis; historic Masonic Temple at the Hennepin Center for the Arts renovation funding provided; bonds issued.

HF2428-Beard (R)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

Freight railroad operation-related economic development study and report to the Legislature by commissioners of transportation and economic development directed.

HF2429-Mazorol (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Technology corporate franchise tax certificate transfer program established.

HF2430-Urdahl (R)**Legacy Funding Division**

Agency rulemaking website access money appropriated.

HF2431-Banaian (R)**Government Operations & Elections**

Sunset Advisory Committee contract entrance authorized, and agency reporting on outcome-based budgets criteria specified.

HF2432-Hoppe (R)**Commerce & Regulatory Reform**

Liquor off-sale license for growlers authorized.

HF2433-Garofalo (R)**Legacy Funding Division**

At least 40 percent of the arts and cultural heritage funding required to be devoted to programs for school-age children.

HF2434-Nornes (R)**Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance**

Water diversion or sale standards set.

HF2435-Woodard (R)**Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance**

Fusion center to assist with detection, prevention, and investigation of, and response to criminal and terrorist activities provided.

HF2436-Woodard (R)**Taxes**

County purchase sales tax eliminated.

HF2437-Smith (R)**Ways & Means**

Correctional facility settlement of claims against the state provided for.

HF2438-Moran (DFL)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

School bus safety and standards provisions modified, and type III vehicles used for transporting students standards abolished.

HF2439-Kahn (DFL)**Government Operations & Elections**

Bond security requirements modified.

HF2440-Murphy, E. (DFL)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Sexual violence prevention demonstration grants money appropriated.

HF2441-Loon (R)**Commerce & Regulatory Reform**

Defensive driving refresher course requirements modified.

HF2442-Persell (DFL)**Commerce & Regulatory Reform**

Petroleum inspection fee revenue use clarified.

HF2443-Downey (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Unemployment benefit eligibility and duration modified, wage support provided for persons with disabilities, exceptions provided for persons who are starting a business, and money appropriated.

HF2444-Winkler (DFL)**Taxes**

Foreign source income preferences eliminated, foreign royalty subtraction repealed, domestic corporation definition expanded, JOBZ tax benefits modified, corporate franchise tax rates reduced, income apportionment modified, foreign operating corporations repealed, special apportionment formula repealed for mail order businesses, Minnesota Science and Technology Authority expanded, public research infrastructure grant program established, expanded research plan required, and public postsecondary research partnership established.

HF2445-Winkler (DFL)**Health & Human Services Reform**

Acetaminophen pill packaging requirements established.

HF2446-Winkler (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Emergency employment development program established, wage subsidies provided, Middle Class Jobs Act designated, Grow Minnesota Development Authority established, early warning provided, sick leave modified, business subsidy disclosure requirements amended, workplace communications clarified, minimum wage requirements modified, and money appropriated.

HF2447-Scalze (DFL)**Civil Law**

Office of Administrative Hearings judge authorized to perform marriages.

HF2448-Kiel (R)**Government Operations & Elections**

Collective bargaining agreement employee group insurance contract requirements modified.

HF2449-Lesch (DFL)**Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance**

Crimes of violence provisions modified.

HF2450-Simon (DFL)**Commerce & Regulatory Reform**

Commercial business filing requirement exception provided.

HF2451-Gauthier (DFL)**Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance**

Employers required to post employee protections under the Minnesota Human Rights Act, and certificate of compliance and filing fee time period increased.

HF2452-Gunther (R)**Higher Education Policy & Finance**

Minnesota State University, Mankato; International Renewable Energy Technology Institute funding provided; bonds issued.

HF2453-Greiling (DFL)**Government Operations & Elections**

Conference committee communications required to be open to the public, and budget negotiations required to be open to the public.

HF2454-Lenczewski (DFL)**Taxes**

Corporate franchise base expanded and rate reduced, and single-sales apportionment accelerated.

HF2455-Gruenhagen (R)**Government Operations & Elections**

Montgomery authorized to convey property for less than market value.

HF2456-Abeler (R)**Health & Human Services Reform**

Continuing care policy provisions amended, disability services and licensing provision changes made, home and community-based service standards established, and payment methodologies established.

HF2457-Hosch (DFL)**Health & Human Services Reform**

Cooper/Sams volunteer ambulance program verification requirements modified.

HF2458-Torkelson (R)
Government Operations & Elections
Advisory inspection process created.

HF2459-Kieffer (R)
Commerce & Regulatory Reform
Wine educator licensure created.

HF2460-Norton (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Severe impairment to employment provisions changed and definitions modified.

HF2461-Westrom (R)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
Coyote hunting allowed from aircraft & snowmobiles.

HF2462-Erickson (R)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
Mille Lacs walleye harvest five-year management plan legislative approval required.

HF2463-LeMieur (R)
Commerce & Regulatory Reform
Alcoholic beverages special licensing purchase authorized until the state is able to issue the necessary card.

HF2464-Davids (R)
Taxes
Liquor reporting requirements modified.

HF2465-Daudt (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Cambridge; street reconstruction project grant funding provided; bonds issued.

HF2466-Daudt (R)
Government Operations & Elections
Referendum by petition provided in an orderly annexation proceeding, and stay required for final annexation.

Thursday, Feb. 23

HF2467-McFarlane (R)
Government Operations & Elections
White Bear Lake Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association retired member death benefits payment from the special fund authorized.

HF2468-Vogel (R)
Education Finance
School district pension subtraction repealed.

HF2469-Peterson, S. (DFL)
Government Operations & Elections
Metropolitan Council members staggered terms provided.

HF2470-Cornish (R)
Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance
Criminal intelligence data classified under the Data Practices Act.

HF2471-Atkins (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
South St. Paul floodwall extension funding provided; bonds issued.

HF2472-Atkins (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
South St. Paul floodwall extension pre-design & design funding provided; bonds issued.

HF2473-Banaian (R)
Transportation Policy & Finance
Transportation public-private partnership pilot program and related regulations established.

HF2474-Murray (R)
Commerce & Regulatory Reform
Contractor recovery fund changes made.

HF2475-Hoppe (R)
Commerce & Regulatory Reform
Telecommunications regulations streamlined; civil penalties, rate regulations, regulatory requirements, and technical provisions modified.

HF2476-Holberg (R)
Civil Law
Child support 20-year survival judgments provisions eliminated.

HF2477-Slawik (DFL)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
State mineral leases eminent domain authority eliminated.

HF2478-Davnie (DFL)
Education Reform
Minneapolis School Board membership updated to conform with Laws 2006, and member removal by majority vote of board authorized.

HF2479-Johnson (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
St. Paul youth jobs corps program money appropriated.

HF2480-Winkler (DFL)
Taxes
Income and corporate franchise taxation foreign source income preferences eliminated, foreign royalties subtraction repealed, domestic corporations definition expanded; JOBZ tax benefits and apportionment of income modified; corporate franchise tax rates reduced; foreign operating corporations and mail order businesses special apportionment formula repealed; and school aid payment & property tax recognition shifts repaid.

HF2481-Morrow (DFL)
Higher Education Policy & Finance
Student course material cost reduction encouraged.

HF2482-Howes (R)
Commerce & Regulatory Reform
Construction loan changes made, and general liability loan provisions modified.

HF2483-Eken (DFL)
Government Operations & Elections
Public employee defined contribution plan in-service distributions authorized at age 66.

HF2484-Fabian (R)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
Wolf hunting provisions modified; predator control program modified.

HF2485-Howes (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Housing funding provided, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency authorized to issue housing infrastructure bonds; bonds issued.

HF2486-Ward (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
Health professional education loan forgiveness program requirements amended.

HF2487-Hackbarth (R)
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance
Metropolitan Council funding provided for regional park and open-space land acquisition and improvements; bonds issued.

HF2488-Greiling (DFL)
Education Finance
Early childhood education funding proportionately increased when the basic formula allowance increases.

HF2489-Davids (R)
Taxes
Tobacco taxation provisions modified, and definitions clarified.

HF2490-Franson (R)
Health & Human Services Reform
Health care compact created.

HF2491-Kelly (R)
Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance
Domestic abuse no contact order provided as a criminal order, and proceeding provisions modified.

HF2492-Falk (DFL)
Taxes
Canby; special tax increment financing district created.

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MINNESOTA INDEX

A Bushel and a Peck

Number of liters contained in one bushel plus one peck	44.04
Number of Minnesota farms in 2007, the last farm census year.....	80,992
In 2002	80,839
In 1997	78,755
Year the next census will be taken.....	2012
Number of farmland acres in 2007.....	26,917,962
In 2002	27,512,270
In 1997	27,560,621
In 2007, number of farms between 1 and 9 acres.....	3,687
Number between 50 and 179 acres.....	25,679
Number 2,000 acres or larger.....	1,924
In 2007, number of farms owned by families or individuals	70,055
Number owned by corporations	2,848
State inventory of beef cows in 2007	399,768
In 1997	395,059
State inventory of milk cows in 2007	459,752
In 1997	554,274
2012 Dairy Day at the Capitol.....	Feb. 21
Number of hogs and pigs sold in Minnesota in 2007	22,815,512
Number sold in 1997	12,814,319
Bushels of corn used for grain in 2007, in billions.....	1.138
Bushels used for grain in 1997, in millions.....	796
Average bushel price for corn in first 9 months of fiscal 2010-11.....	\$4.97
Average bushel price in fiscal 2009-10.....	\$3.47
Average bushel price in fiscal 2007-08.....	\$4.13
Bushels of soybeans grown in 2009, in millions.....	284
Amount of irrigated agricultural crops, in acres.....	506,000
Average annual rainfall in Minnesota, in inches.....	26
State ranking in agricultural exports	7
Amount of agricultural exports, in billions.....	\$4.28

—S. HEGARTY

Sources: National Agriculture Statistical Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Minnesota Department of Agriculture's 10 Reasons to Dairy in Minnesota; Minnesota Milk Producers Association.