

SESSION WEEKLY

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Update

By law, the legislative session in an odd-numbered year must complete business at midnight on the first Monday after the third Saturday of the fifth month. Therefore, deliberations must be completed by May 19, 1997. This means very long days for everyone, but most staff and the work they perform prevail as the silent heroes in these final hours.

It is not unusual for staff to work 12 to 18 hours a day as they research amendments, rewrite bills, or even as they assist members with preparing their meeting schedules; ensure that all legislative decisions are accurately recorded; and perform many other legislative duties unseen by the general public. In a two-week period, some individuals accrued more time than the 88 hours they get paid for. One, for example, chalked up 182 hours, while another spent 177 hours accomplishing assigned responsibilities!

As House members meet in session to move bills toward passage, other legislators meet with the Senate in conference committees to iron out differences in companion bills. This can be a marathon effort for staff who must be available at all times to assist with accomplishing whatever is necessary to get bills passed on to the governor.

Silent heroes usually serve as observers of the legislators in conference. Quietly, they watch as members sometimes go through a process likened to an acrimonious Monopoly game standoff ("You can have Park Place; I will take Boardwalk!") before companion bills go back to the respective legislative bodies.

Other silent heroes perform their duties in House Research, the revisor's office, majority and minority caucus leadership, the reference library, caucus media and research departments, the Fiscal Analysis Department, the House Public Information Office, the Sergeant's office and Educational Programs, and administrative services and supply. Heroes also include legislative assistants and committee administrators to the elected body, TV Services, and Duplicating, where bills and House Journals get printed, often at 3 a.m.

It is not uncommon to see the main desk staff of the Chief Clerk's Office working at their stations two hours after session has ended. Others in the clerk's office maintain the status of bills, proofread, search the index for names or numbers of bills for individuals, and perform other duties to keep the process flowing.

Other heroes like the editors, writers, and photographers of House Information and its assistants who answer hundreds of telephone inquiries, also spend an unusual amount of hours on an ongoing basis to give an up-to-date account of the Legislature and its actions.

Particular tribute is given to the pages in the Sergeant's office who are always the last to leave a committee meeting or a late night session.

About 209 hours are left (as of 7 a.m., May 9) before the 1997 Legislative Session must adjourn. Legislators and staff have "... miles to go before [they] sleep!"

—LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: Daffodils add softness and warmth to the State Capitol's granite landscape.

— Photo by Andrew Von Bank

Highlights

Drunk drivers . . .

DWI changes: Lowering the legal limit controversial

By Celeste Riley

An omnibus DWI bill cleared the House Ways and Means Committee on May 7, and now heads to the House floor. An often challenged provision to lower the legal blood-alcohol limit from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent remains in the bill.

HF1004/SF985* is an effort to tighten laws that discourage and prohibit driving while under the influence of alcohol. Last year in Minnesota, police made 38,900 DWI arrests, a significant jump from the year before, when 33,355 arrests were made, according to Alan Rodgers of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

"Last year was the most [arrests] we've ever had," Rodgers said. "There were so many [that] I questioned the number. It had been going down" in previous years. Of 576 traffic deaths in Minnesota in 1996, about 200 were alcohol-related, he said. Nationwide, alcohol played a role in 17,000 of 40,000 traffic deaths.

An amendment to limit the 0.08 standard to repeat offenders only, as the Senate version of the bill currently does, was narrowly defeated. Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) said that the lower standard will unnecessarily criminalize people and does not accurately reflect the facts about alcohol impairment. He said that people pulled over for unrelated traffic offenses, such as a burned out headlight, could be arrested for a failed breath test, even though their driving wasn't affected.

"They [bill supporters] want a presumption of guilt. They don't want to have to prove the cases," Bishop said. "We're going to apply [the lower standard] whether or not driving and behavior are being influenced."

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), the bill's sponsor, said that the new standard would save lives. A House Research Department report states that based on studies of other states, the lower level could save about 14 lives every year in Minnesota and about \$6.3 million in associated social costs.

The 0.10 standard is arbitrary and "wasn't based on research," Entenza said, adding that new understandings of impairment from



Drinking and driving continues to threaten Minnesotans. Last year in Minnesota, police made 38,900 DWI arrests, a significant jump from the year before, when 33,355 arrests were made. A provision in the omnibus DWI bill would lower the legal blood-alcohol limit from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent.

blood alcohol content strongly support a lower limit. Further, he said, drivers who cause alcohol-related fatalities are overwhelmingly first-time offenders, which is why he wants to make sure the measure is not weakened. He was backed by Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake), who said, "We need to send a message to everyone that you need to be sober when you drive."

If the bill becomes law, Minnesota will join 10 other states and nine countries with 0.08 percent limits. Seven countries now set the limit below 0.08 percent.

According to information compiled by the House Research Department, the new limit would mean that a 175-pound man could drink three drinks in an hour within the legal limit; the fourth would put him over it. A 130-pound woman could drink two drinks in an hour, but would reach a blood-alcohol level of 0.077 percent, bringing her closer to the limit than a man would be at three drinks.

Other factors, of course, would make a difference, such as the amount of food people eat and how quickly they drink.

In addition to lowering the legal blood-

alcohol limit, the bill also would lower to 0.04 percent the legal limit for drivers under 21 years old. An amendment to eliminate the provision was defeated by a 13-8 vote.

"This will make criminals out of kids," said Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia). "[A person] isn't drunk at 0.04."

Swenson disagreed. "We know statistically that young drivers are overrepresented in fatal crashes. They're inexperienced with driving and with drinking and are generally immature, making them more dangerous on the road. They kill themselves and they kill others," Swenson said. "All people are impaired to some degree [at 0.04 percent]. These people are impaired more."

While state law prohibits any alcohol consumption by people under 21, the 0.04 percent provision would make it easier to apply DWI penalties to youthful offenders.

The bill also would stiffen penalties for DWI offenses. A first offense is now a misdemeanor; the second, a gross misdemeanor. Under the bill, a third offense or more within 10 years would fall under a new classification of enhanced gross misdemeanor, which could mean two years in jail and a \$3,000 fine.

Mandatory criminal penalties also would be restructured. A second gross misdemeanor offense would carry a 30-day minimum sentence in jail. Under the enhanced gross misdemeanor provisions, a third DWI within 10 years would net a 90-day minimum jail sentence with at least 30 days served; the fourth offense within 10 years would net a 180-day minimum sentence with at least 30 days served; a fifth or greater offense within 15 years would result in a one-year minimum jail sentence with at least 60 days served. The remainder of any sentence not served must be served on home detention using electronic monitoring or under an intensive probation program. If an enhanced gross misdemeanor offense involves the endangerment of a child or an alcohol concentration of 0.20 or more, the minimum penalties would be advanced by one level. In other words, a person whose crime would normally be a misdemeanor would be charged with a gross misdemeanor if either of the two conditions applied.

Additionally, those awaiting trial could agree to electronic alcohol monitoring as a means of being released from detention. Under the program, the person could not consume any amount of alcohol and would provide at least one breath sample daily via special equipment, which enables the results to be transmitted to authorities through the telephone.


Alcohol monitoring also could be used as part of a sentence after a conviction. People with two or more convictions within five years (or three or more within 10 years) would participate in alcohol monitoring in addition to other probation or sentencing conditions. Just as under pre-trial monitoring conditions, no alcohol consumption is allowed. The bill also says that the offender may be required to pay the cost of the monitoring.

Other bill provisions include:

- Increased sanctions and penalties for drivers who drink and drive at a blood alcohol level of 0.20 or more, which is twice the current minimum level of impairment. Gross misdemeanor penalties would apply even for a first offense, as would court-ordered counseling at the court's discretion. Electronic alcohol monitoring would be mandatory as a condition of pre-trial release.
- Drivers arrested for DWI offenses would no longer be able to demand that a second alcohol concentration test be conducted by an independent tester.
- The cost to have a driver's license reinstated after a suspension or revocation for any traffic offense would be increased from

\$20 to \$25.25. For people convicted of DWI, the current \$260 fee would remain the same.

- Authorities would have an easier time imposing vehicle forfeiture penalties for DWI offenses. Instead of having to wait for a conviction, cars could be impounded after the offender's driver's license has been revoked.
- A "not-a-drop" standard would apply to school bus drivers. This means any alcohol detected could result in the loss of a driver's license. Currently, bus drivers are subject to a 0.04 blood-alcohol level to define impairment. Drivers of commercial vehicles would be breaking the law with a level of 0.04 or more blood alcohol content.

Entenza said the bill would have a positive fiscal impact because it increases fees for driver's license reinstatement and suspensions and other fees. Rukavina said the costs of the bill will be "astronomical" because it would tie up the court system and cost police departments more for additional DWI testing. 



BUSINESS

Unauthorized switches



The practice is known as slamming and loading. A long-distance telephone company sends a customer a check, a sweepstakes form, or a survey. What the customer often doesn't realize is that by participating or signing, they've authorized the company to remove ("slam") the customer's long-distance service and replace ("load") it with a new one.

A new law signed by the governor establishes the practice as consumer fraud and authorizes the attorney general's office to take action at a customer's request.

The law, effective April 30, 1997, says it is fraudulent to change a customer's service without the customer's verified consent, and that it is the responsibility of the telephone company to prove consent.

"If there's any question" on the customer's part about the switch being legally authorized, "the company has to have an authorization in writing," said Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington), the House bill's sponsor.

A 1996 law required that a long-distance company reinstall a customer's original service at no charge and then re-bill the customer at a lower rate if the original charges would have been lower. The new bill adds that the company could be required to ab-

sorb the long-distance costs accrued while the unauthorized service was in effect.

Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch) sponsored the Senate proposal.
HF1123*/SF1156/CH68



CHILDREN

Studying autism



A bill to establish a task force to study the treatment of autism has been signed into law.

Autism is a disorder that affects children and consists of a preoccupation with inner thoughts, daydreams, delusions, and hallucinations. The individual lacks a connection with reality and the self often predominates to the total exclusion of the rest of the world.

Under the new law, the departments of human services and children, families and learning are charged with establishing the task force which will study the spectrum of autistic disorders; treatment options, including behavioral therapy, and outcome data on these treatment options; the role of schools, state agencies, and counties in providing services to children with autism; funding options for children with autism; the use of behavioral therapy day treatment programs, and the use of school and Medical Assistance funds for these programs.

A final report is due to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 1999, and must make recommendations on how to improve the treatment options available to children with autism using existing dollars. Also, it must recommend ways to inform and educate families with autistic children on available resources and expertise for the treatment of autism.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) and Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester) sponsored the new law, which becomes effective Aug. 1, 1997.

HF750/SF652*/CH69



CRIME

Harassing, stalking, sentencing



A new law to strengthen the state's anti-stalking law and toughen penalties for those violating orders for protection and restraining orders was signed by the governor.

The law defines harassing or stalking behavior as intentional conduct that the offender knows or has reason to know would cause the victim to feel frightened, threat-

ened, oppressed, persecuted, or intimidated. Importantly, the bill states that prosecutors would not be required to prove that the offender intended to cause those reactions in the victim, only that the offender knew or should have known that the conduct would cause the reactions and that the victim did, in fact, experience them. In the event a dangerous weapon is used during a harassment or stalking violation, the offense would be punished by a mandatory minimum sentence. If the weapon is a firearm, a three-year penalty applies for the first offense, and a five-year penalty applies to subsequent offenses; if the dangerous weapon is not a firearm, a one-year penalty applies to the first offense, and a three-year penalty applies to subsequent offenses.

The changes were necessary given a recent Minnesota Supreme Court ruling that weakened the current stalking law.

The law also creates felony penalties for violating an order for protection or a harassment restraining order under certain circumstances. Such cases will include violations occurring within five years after sentencing from two or more previous protection or restraining order violations, or if the offender possessed a dangerous weapon during the offense.

Other violations of restraining orders will draw the felony penalty if the act is motivated by race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age or national origin; if the offender intends to interfere with a judicial proceeding or retaliate against an official involved in a case; if the victim is a minor and the offender is at least three years older; or if the offender falsely impersonates another.

Under the law, offenders could be sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. A minimum of 30 days in jail (and counseling) will be mandated for a felony protection order violation in cases where the court stays the sentence as a condition of probation.

Finally, the law clarifies that an offender may not waive the right to be sentenced under the state's sentencing guidelines. The provision is a result of the Minnesota Supreme Court's ruling in *State v. Givens*, and is intended to promote consistency and predictability in judicial sentencing.

In the *Givens* case, the defendant agreed to accept probation instead of incarceration for a purse-snatching offense. However, under the conditions of the agreement, if he violated probation, he would serve double the jail time recommended under the guidelines. The offender later did violate probation, but appealed the sentence.

The law makes it clear that while the guidelines are advisory to the courts, they are not rights that a defendant can waive.

The law also states that if a defendant agrees to be sentenced outside the guidelines, he or she may not appeal the sentence after 90 days or after committing another crime, whichever is first.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) and Sen. Ember Reighcott Junge (DFL-New Hope).

HF5*/SF32/CH96



EDUCATION

Statewide testing finalized

A bill that would establish a statewide testing system requiring uniform exams to be given to virtually all students at several grade levels is on its way to the governor.

The bill (**HF2179*/SF1934**), sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), would require uniform statewide testing of third, fifth, and eighth graders beginning in the 1997-1998 school year.

The bill passed both the House (102-32) and Senate (59-0) May 5.

Opatz said the tests would be an integral part of the state's move toward an education system that demands schools and students be more accountable for taxpayer funds invested in education.

Statewide testing had been a controversial issue at the Capitol in years past, but this year

it drew bipartisan support. Proponents claim such testing would provide a reliable means for comparing the performance of schools and districts.

The first law passed during the 1997 session (**HF1*/SF3/CH1**) mandated that statewide testing would begin during the 1997-1998 school year. Opatz's bill prescribes how that testing system will work.

Under the bill, the basic skills tests in reading and math — already required under the state's graduation rule and first given to students in the eighth grade — would count as the statewide test for that age group.

Third and fifth graders would be given tests selected by the Department of Children, Families and Learning. The department could use a test it has developed or a nationally recognized test such as the California Achievement Test or the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Any test used in the statewide testing system would have to be aligned with the state's graduation standards.

The version of the bill initially approved by the House also called for testing of 11th graders beginning during a later year, but the Senate bill did not call for testing at the high school level.

Instead, the bill now would ask districts to assess the performance of students at the secondary level according to the standards within the Profile of Learning, a state-developed system of measurements of overall student performance, and a part of the newly developed graduation standards.

The bill calls for the assessment of second-

Statehood week



Sixth graders from Washington Elementary School in New Ulm, Minn., got a special lesson from historic site guide Pamela Larson May 7 as part of Minnesota Statehood Week. State Capitol guides dressed in period costumes and debated the merits of the proposed 1857 boundaries for the new state of Minnesota. To commemorate Statehood Day, which is May 11, the week will culminate in the once-a-year lighting of the Capitol rotunda chandelier.

ary students to begin during the 1999-2000 school year, but it leaves the choice of testing instruments and processes to the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The commissioner would be required to report to the Legislature in 1998 on plans for assessment at the high school level.

The bill would allow only narrow exceptions to the statewide testing requirements. For example, students who are new to this country and are not proficient in English would be exempt.

Another provision in the bill would require that the 1997-1998 test results from each school and each district be used to establish a baseline against which their future performance could be measured.

Test results would be reported to the public in three forms: a raw number representing the mean score for each school and district, a mean score of all students except those who are new to a school or district, and a mean score of all students except those receiving limited English proficiency instruction.

The results released to the public also would include the number of students on free and reduced-price lunch programs, the number of special education students, and the number of students with limited English proficiency at each site.

Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), who chairs the House K-12 Education Finance Division, said the new testing system is important mostly because it will inform parents and other taxpayers.

"Students have always taken tests," Kelso said. "It's not the tests that work to help schools and help students. It is the change that comes with public understanding of student achievement."

ELECTIONS

Absentee voting

Any voter who wishes to vote by absentee ballot could do so under a bill passed by the House May 6 on an 81-50 vote.

HF74/SF78* would eliminate existing restrictions that bill supporters say keep absentee participation unnecessarily low. However, voters still would be asked to state a reason — any reason — for voting by absentee ballot.

Under current law, voters must provide one of several reasons to vote outside an official polling place: an expected absence from the precinct, illness, disability, religious discipline, observance of a religious

holiday, or service as an election judge in another precinct. The bill would eliminate those provisions.

"This way no one has to lie about being out of the precinct," said Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), the bill's sponsor. "We can help about 5 percent of the public to participate in the process who are not currently participating."

Opening the process of absentee balloting is intended to increase voter participation, according to Osthoff and Secretary of State Joan Grove, who previously testified in support of the bill. In Ramsey County, where a four-year pilot program for unrestricted absentee balloting began in 1993, absentee voters have grown to 12 percent, compared with a statewide average of 6 percent.

Bill sponsors believe the proposal will especially encourage the elderly to vote, given recent consolidations of polling places that have made their locations more difficult for such residents to reach.

"Last election we were able to get the numbers up in my district — which has one of the lowest turnouts in Minnesota — by a few thousand votes," said Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul). "We did it by knocking on doors and getting people to register. A lot of people took advantage of the ability to vote by absentee ballot without having to articulate a reason."

The absentee ballot initiative is not the same as a vote-by-mail program, proponents have noted. In the latter, ballots are automatically sent to all registered voters. With absentee voting, voters must request that a ballot be sent to them.

Other provisions would enable hospital patients to have ballots delivered to them by hand. The bill also says that individuals could receive only one ballot each, and ballots can be received and sent via fax machine.

The bill now goes to a conference committee.

Vote by mail

Under a bill passed by the House May 6, more Minnesotans would be able to vote by mail. The vote was 72-59.

Under current law, rural cities and towns with 400 or fewer registered voters are able to conduct mail-in elections. **HF168/SF703***, sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), would allow voters in precincts with 50 or fewer voters to vote by mail. Adding the precinct designation, even with the smaller number of voters, allows more areas to participate in mail-in voting. That's because some towns with populations of more than 400 lie in more than one county,

creating very small precincts within metropolitan areas.

The bill would allow those precincts to avoid the expense of operating a polling place and other election-related efforts for their limited number of voters.

"This is a bill that allows very small precincts to vote by mail. Statewide, it affects only about 284 registered voters," Tunheim said.

The bill now returns to the Senate.



GOVERNMENT

New home for revenue

Consultants retained by the Legislature to study alternative locations for the Department of Revenue building have recommended that the agency relocate to a new site in Inver Grove Heights.

Jim Steinmann, the executive director of the Los Angeles-based SGS Group, said at a May 6 informational meeting of the House Capital Investment Committee and the Senate Finance Committee's State Government Division that his firm had evaluated four possibilities, including refurbishing the department's existing 10 Riverfront Plaza building, opposite downtown St. Paul on the Mississippi River. Of the four, he said, constructing a new building at the intersection of Interstate 494 and Highway 52 in Inver Grove Heights presents the most cost-effective solution to the department's need for more space. The project, he said, carries a price tag of \$49.5 million.

"We support his recommendation for construction in Inver Grove Heights," said revenue department Assistant Commissioner John Lally, adding that the proposal emerged out of a competitive-bid process.

The revenue department has occupied its current site since 1988, when it relocated from the Centennial Office Building. At that time, the state negotiated a five-year lease — with five one-year renewal options — with St. Paul's JLT Group, who built the building to department specifications. Last year, the department exercised its last renewal option and paid JLT \$6.3 million in rent.

Now, according to the SGS study, the department, has outgrown the riverfront building. It will need even more space by 2010, when it will employ nearly 1,500 workers. Perhaps more importantly, Steinmann said, the pace of technological innovation shows no sign of slowing and the new building would provide an increased capacity to expand the department's information infrastructure.

"We have built into specification every bit of specification for technology that we are aware of in 1997," Steinmann said. "This is a 40-year building, at least."

A new building, Steinmann said, would cost less than retrofitting the existing location, which he said also has air quality issues.

The latest SGS report represents something of a departure from previous recommendations. At a Feb. 25 meeting, Steinmann presented the joint committee with two metropolitan locations: a downtown St. Paul site at East 11th and Wabasha streets or the corner of 13th and Robert streets, currently occupied by the state's motor pool. The Inver Grove Heights location would be nearly \$50 million cheaper than either of those, according to the latest analysis.

James Erickson, representing JLT, disagreed with Steinmann's remarks. The state, he said, could purchase the Riverfront Plaza building for \$38.9 million, \$10 million cheaper than the cost attached to the SGS proposal. That money, he said, could be applied toward renovations.

"I want you to know, you have a Cadillac of a building here," Erickson said, adding that he was not aware of any air-quality concerns. "We have an elegant proposal on the table. We have a magnificent building in downtown St. Paul . . . negotiate with us."

Erickson also pointed out that current law requires the Legislature to locate its principal administrative offices in or near the Capitol, a point that Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) reiterated.

"If we start doing this, we're never going

to stop," Trimble said of the move toward the suburbs. "There'll always be land somewhere that's cheaper. What are we going to do with that [Riverfront Plaza] land, peddle it off to McDonald's?"



HEALTH

Managing managed care

A bill that would create a patient protection act in Minnesota to help consumers and doctors better deal with health plans and insurance companies passed the House May 6. The vote was 132-0.

HF1365/SF960* is a beginning and a delicate compromise between consumer groups, health care providers, health maintenance organizations (HMOs), and insurance plans, said House sponsor Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls).

Although she asked lawmakers not to alter her bill and risk dismantling the compromise, several amendments were successful.

Calling the bill "Swiss cheese" with "holes everywhere," Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) successfully offered an amendment he said would provide more consumer protection.

He labeled the original bill not tough enough and said the compromise leaned too far in favor of the HMOs and insurance companies.

It is important to note, however, that the bill would not affect self-insured businesses, which the state cannot regulate. Roughly

one-third of Minnesotans are in self-insured plans.

Below are some of the highlights of the bill.

- Health plans would be prohibited from retaliating against doctors and other health care providers simply because they criticized a health plan's coverage or made a recommendation about the desirability of a plan. Doctors and other providers also would be free to discuss — without fear of retaliation — diagnostic, treatment, or referral options not covered or limited under the health plan.

Insurance companies and HMOs also could not punish a health care provider for advocating on behalf of a patient or for telling the patient about the financial agreement between himself or herself and the health plan.

Furthermore, health plans could not retaliate against doctors or other providers who support or oppose legislation and testify on bills either before the Legislature or the U.S. Congress.

Retaliation can take many forms. A health plan, for instance, could choose to eliminate a doctor from its network of providers.

- In certain cases, health plans now hire outside doctors — often from other states — to review what medical tests or procedures are appropriate for which conditions. They can overrule the recommendation of a patient's doctor. Under the bill, only doctors licensed in Minnesota could review cases involving Minnesota patients. This, Abrams said, would help keep the review doctors accountable.

- Customers enrolled in a health plan or even potential customers would have the right to see a clear explanation of the health plan's financial agreement with the doctors and other providers in its network. Specifically, portions of the agreement that would in any way make it advantageous for the provider to limit the care offered must be disclosed.

- Under the bill, patients would be notified of their right to their medical records. The measure states that every time a health record is generated, the provider shall notify the patient of his or her right to receive a copy. This provision is the result of an amendment by Rep. Eileen Tompkins (R-Apple Valley).

- A separate provision introduced by Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) requires health plans to make public their top five highest salaries, including all types of compensation.

Welfare rites



The Grim Reaper, played by Yellow Cloud, of Duluth, was on hand with the Minnesota Welfare Rights Coalition as they protested Minnesota's new welfare law in the Capitol rotunda May 7.

- The departments of commerce and health would review contracts between health plans and doctors and assess civil penalties for violations.
- Health plans would be required to establish, when appropriate, a way for consumers to apply for a standing referral to a specialist. Oftentimes, a patient must see their regular doctor over and over again to get permission to see a specialist.
- Several state agencies would be required to study together the feasibility of consolidating the numerous consumer help offices existing today. Currently, the state has between 15 and 20 different places in government for consumers to call to complain about their health care, said Rep. Tom Huntley (DFL-Duluth).
- The Department of Commerce and the Department of Health would be required to report to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 1998, on how to develop a complaint resolution process for health plans to offer to their customers.

The bill heads next to a conference committee to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions.

Health care directives



A Minnesota driver's license can tell you a lot about a person besides age, height, and weight. A new state law, effective Jan. 1, 1998, will allow for a bit more information to be included on that small plastic card.

Existing law requires a driver's license application to include space to indicate whether a driver has a living will, a document that declares a person's preferences for medical treatment to prolong life under dire circumstances.

A short message to emergency and medical personnel is included on the licenses of people who indicate that they have living wills.

The new law will expand the health-care related information that can be included on a driver's license.

Under the law, the license application will allow people to indicate if they have a "living will/health care directive," and the change will be reflected in the message that appears on licenses.

The expanded license designation will serve people who have granted another person durable power of attorney for health care and people who have other written advance health care directives allowed under state law.

(Durable power of attorney for health care is an arrangement by which someone is designated to make decisions regarding medical treatment for you if you are unable to make those decisions yourself.)

Gov. Arne Carlson signed the measure into law April 28. The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) and Sen. Jane Ranum (DFL-Mpls).

HF179*/SF178/CH60



INDUSTRY

Underground communication

Beneath public streets, countless miles of lines and cables run under the pavement, all carrying services for water, electricity, sewer, natural gas, telephones, and cable television.

The underground has become even busier in recent years with the advent of new technologies and new uses for the technology, such as those for telephones. The result? Increased demand for limited space.

The House passed a bill May 2 that would regulate the rights-of-way to the underground for telecommunications and related companies. **HF322/SF442***, sponsored in the House by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), was passed on a 128-4 vote. Jennings said the bill is the result of months of negotiation between local governments and industry members, and successfully balances public and commercial interests.

Under the proposal, towns and cities would manage underground access by requiring: registration and permits; plans for construction; construction performance bonds and insurance coverage; and project data reports. They also could establish installation and construction standards; location requirements for equipment and facilities; coordination and timing requirements; and removal requirements for abandoned equipment.

Cities may recover "actual costs" from the companies for providing administrative services, such as processing applications, conducting inspections, and issuing permits, but may not charge more. Currently, cities can charge only \$25 in fees. The telecommunications companies remain fully responsible for returning road or other surfaces to their previous condition.

Cities must treat companies equally, according to the bill, and may not deny underground access except when necessary for health or safety reasons, or in the event of a substantial breach of the terms and conditions of access (or several other related conditions).

In the event of a dispute, the bill would require a review by the authorized unit of government, which would have to submit a report in support of its decision. A company then could ask to have the matter settled through arbitration, paid for equally by both parties.

Finally, the bill would direct the Public Utilities Commission to develop a set of statewide standards to govern use of the right-of-way. The rules would apply to construction standards, maintenance, and repair. A report to the Legislature would be due by November 1997.

The bill now returns to the Senate.



INSURANCE

Managing diabetes



Health plans will be required to provide coverage for training and education to assist diabetics in managing their disease under a new state law effective Aug. 1.

The measure passed 124-5 in the House April 18 and 62-2 in the Senate April 21. Gov. Arne Carlson signed the legislation into law April 28.

The law will expand a 1994 law requiring medical insurance companies and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for syringes, blood-testing devices, and other equipment diabetics need.

The aim of the new law is to ensure diabetics are properly trained to use the medical equipment and to monitor their own condition. The law also will require medical nutrition therapy to be included in health coverage.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) and Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton).

HF653/SF495*/CH57

Preventing rate hikes



A new state law effective April 29 will prevent insurance rate hikes for people who are passengers on city buses involved in traffic accidents.

Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the measure in the Legislature. Gov. Arne Carlson signed the proposal into law April 28.

The impetus for the legislation came from an 86-year-old resident of Farrell's legislative district in St. Paul.

The woman was injured in January 1997 after she boarded a city bus to return to her East Side home. As the woman walked toward an open seat, the bus slammed to a stop to avoid a collision.

The sudden stop sent the woman toppling backwards, bouncing off the windshield, and landing at the bottom of the steps inside the bus door. She spent five days in the hospital with a variety of injuries and has since endured weeks of physical therapy.

Unfortunately, the woman had to absorb another blow when informed that the bus company would not pay for any of her medical expenses. That, she was told, was the responsibility of the her own insurance company.

The state's no-fault insurance law requires that the woman's coverage come under her own automobile insurance policy.

The new state law provides a remedy for people in such a situation without taking on the highly controversial area of no-fault law.

The law prohibits insurance companies from increasing a policyholder's premium if the person is involved in an accident while a passenger in a bus, taxi, or commuter van.

According to Farrell, his constituent did not see an increase in auto insurance rates after the incident on the city bus, but the law will prevent anyone else in similar circumstances from seeing a rate hike.

HF1045*/SF759/CH64



LABOR

Wage hike approved

Minnesota's minimum-wage workers would get a pay increase under a bill approved by the House May 8 on a vote of 76-56.

HF892, sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), would raise the state's minimum wage for employees of large businesses (those with gross sales over \$500,000 annually) to \$5.40 per hour on Sept. 1. Workers at small businesses would have to be paid at least \$5.15.

Currently in Minnesota, there are three separate minimum wage levels. Businesses with more than \$362,500 in annual sales must pay their workers at least \$4.25 an hour, while companies with lesser sales must pay a minimum of \$4 per hour. A federally mandated minimum wage of \$5 per hour affects only businesses with annual gross sales of more than \$500,000. The federal level will increase to \$5.15 on Sept. 1, 1997.

Rukavina characterized **HF892** as a small gesture of support for Minnesota's working

Floor session



Kelly Rand Waters, of Minneapolis, found a sunny spot in the rotunda to attend to her 4-month-old daughter, Sequoia, during a rally celebrating International Midwives Day. The Minnesota Midwives Guild and Minnesotans for Midwifery, together with other interested organizations, are a part of the Midwives Regulation Task Force, which is pursuing state licensure for direct-entry midwives in Minnesota.

class and, in light of the recent welfare reform legislation requiring recipients to work, necessary to sustain a decent standard of living. The bill, he said, would put nearly \$500 into the pocket of someone holding down a minimum-wage job.

He also compared the increase to another bill now before the Legislature that would raise the pay of many of Minnesota's judges and state agency executives.

"I think that we should certainly make a commitment here today," Rukavina said. "Certainly the lowest paid workers in Minnesota deserve a raise."

Opponents of the bill argued that the free market, not the state, should determine wages. Indeed, said Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) the increased wage under **HF892** could hardly be termed a "livable wage."

"The fact of the matter is," Sviggum said, "it's not the role of the government to determine what the wage level is."

During the course of debate on the floor, several members pointed out that Gov. Arne Carlson will most likely veto **HF892**. Carlson vetoed similar legislation in 1994 and 1996.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.



METRO AFFAIRS

Electing the Met Council

A bill that would transform the Metropolitan Council into an elective body passed the House May 6 on a vote of 68-62.

The Metropolitan Council, created in 1967, is responsible for comprehensive regional planning for the seven-county metropolitan area. One of the largest regional governments in the nation, it also oversees the regional bus system, several wastewater treatment facilities, and Metro Mobility, a transit operation serving the disabled. It has an annual budget of about \$360 million, which is partially paid by property taxes, and manages about 3,500 employees. The council is governed by a board of 17 members appointed by the governor, each representing a different portion of the metro region.

"The Metropolitan Council is the second largest unit of local government in the state" after Hennepin County, said Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls), the bill's sponsor. He said that when an official body has as much authority as the council, it should be and usually is elected. "Taxation without representation is fundamentally contrary to our constitution."

Under **HF423**, Metropolitan Council elections would be nonpartisan and public funding provided for qualified candidates. Salaries of council members would dip from \$20,000 annually to \$12,000. The change, offered by

Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport), was approved on a voice vote.

Other amendments set limits of campaign spending for Met Council offices, set up a Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee, and set 1996 as the council's tax levy base year.

Several other amendments failed, including one from Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) to limit campaign contributions from non-citizens to Met Council candidates. Under questioning, Seifert said that his amendment was trying to be proactive in response to the foreign contribution scandal at the federal level. "We don't have to wait until the defecation hits the fan to take action," Seifert said.

The amendment failed on a 68-62 vote.

HF423 now goes to the Senate.

(See March 21, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 12, and March 28, 1997, *Session Weekly*, page 15.)



TRANSPORTATION

Travel time slashed

Speed limits would increase on Minnesota interstates and divided highways under a bill awaiting action from Gov. Arne Carlson.

The proposal calls for speed limits to jump from 65 mph to 70 mph on rural interstates, from 55 mph to 65 mph on metropolitan area interstates, and from 55 mph to 65 mph on four-lane, divided highways throughout the state.

However, the bill would leave the speed limit at 45 mph on a piece of Interstate 35E stretching from Interstate 94 south to Seventh Street in St. Paul.

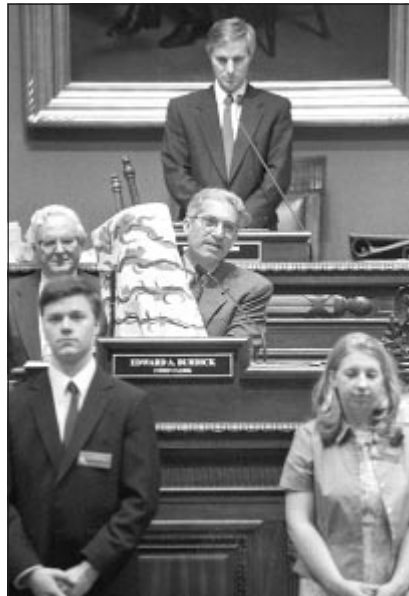
The proposed speed limit hikes are included in a bill (**HF458/SF724***) sponsored by Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar). The House approved a bill May 5 by a margin of 120-13.

Last year, lawmakers moved to boost the speed limit to 65 mph on rural, divided highways, but Gov. Arne Carlson blocked the increase by ordering the commissioner

Correction

The May 2, 1997, *Session Weekly* reported that seniors, like the disabled, currently receive free fishing licenses. Free senior fishing licenses were eliminated by the 1994 Legislature. Seniors pay a discounted rate of \$4.50 for their license instead of the \$14 fee. People with disabilities do receive their fishing licenses free of charge.

Holocaust remembrance



In recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Week, Rabbi Joseph A. Edelheit, of Temple Israel, held Torah scroll No. 248 from the Czech Memorial Scroll Trust as he led a prayer on the House floor May 5. The scroll, which survived the holocaust, is from Tabor, Bohemia, where all people of Jewish heritage were killed.

of transportation to maintain the current 55 mph limit on such roads.

The current proposal would void that order, reinstating the speed limit increase approved by the Legislature last year. And the bill would add new increases.

Carlson has said that he will not allow an increase in speed limits unless it is accompanied by additional funding to hire more state troopers to tighten up enforcement. Juhnke's bill does not include any such funding, but it could be included in separate legislation being considered this session.

Juhnke's bill is not the first speed limit increase to be approved by the House this year. In early April, House members passed a separate bill (**HF1540**) calling for a jump in speed limits, but it stalled in the Senate.

The earlier bill would have increased the speed limit on a stretch of Interstate 35E in St. Paul that has become known as the "practice freeway" because of its 45 mph limit.

After years of controversy over whether to build the stretch of highway, the debate shifted to the speed allowed on the road after it was completed in the late 1980s.

Critics of the 45 mph limit argue it is unnecessary and largely ignored by motorists, but supporters claim the lower limit was crucial to the agreement to complete construction of the freeway and keeps noise

levels down in surrounding neighborhoods.

Under Juhnke's bill, the limit would remain at 45 mph on the approximately four-mile segment of Interstate 35E.

Title transfers

Car buyers who fail to promptly transfer the title on the vehicle would face new penalties, under a bill passed May 5 by the House. The vote was 132-0.

The bill (**HF609/SF1404***), sponsored Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), would clamp down on violators of state law regarding title transfers.

Some car buyers do not transfer the title on a vehicle for a variety of reasons, Erhardt said. For example, the buyer may not want to pay for insurance or may not have a driver's license. (State law requires proof of insurance and a valid driver's license in order to obtain a title.)

To get around the law, some illegal drivers buy cheap used cars with plenty of time left on the tabs and do not follow title transfer requirements.

When a title is not transferred, problems can arise for car sellers, who may be held liable for parking tickets or other infractions occurring after the vehicle has been sold.

Currently, it is a misdemeanor for a buyer to fail to apply for a title transfer within 14 days of acquiring a vehicle. The bill would give buyers just 10 days to apply for a title transfer and to pay the necessary fees.

The Department of Public Safety would suspend the registration on the vehicle if the buyer does not transfer the title within 10 days of the sale, under the bill.

If the vehicle registration is suspended, the buyer would have to pay an additional \$5 reinstatement fee along with the normal title transfer charges. If after 14 days the buyer still has not transferred the title, an additional \$2 late fee will be applied.

Also, law enforcement officers could impound a vehicle if the registration has been suspended because the buyer failed to transfer the title.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

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

Disgruntled folks seek pay from joint panel

By F.J. Gallagher

A couple of years ago, in the kitchen of one of Minnesota's correctional facilities, a fight broke out among several inmates. In the ensuing melee, one of the prisoners found himself on the business end of a frozen pork chop taken up as a weapon by one of the combatants.

Unfortunately, the handsome young prisoner, who had hoped to pursue a career in modeling upon his release from the big house, got his face cut in the brawl, thereby dashing any dreams he had of earning a living on the strength of his good looks.

So, like hundreds of other inmates who suffer property losses or on-the-job injuries where the state may be responsible, he filed a claim (based on a loss of future income) with the Minnesota Legislature's Joint House-Senate Subcommittee on Claims.

The subcommittee, said clerk D'Ann Knight, did not compensate "Pork Chop Charlie," as he came to be known to claims personnel.

"Ninety percent of the claims come from inmates," Knight said, adding that she processes about 200 of them a year. "We're sometimes called the Court of Last Resort."

Some of the claims, she said, seek compensation for injuries suffered by prisoners, conditionally released inmates, or patients at state hospitals who work in a community service program. The vast majority, though, come from prisoners for lost or damaged property.

The subcommittee, Knight said, will not hear any claims with a value of less than \$10.

"It's amazing, though, how many claims I get that are right around \$11," she said.

Randy Hartnett, the Department of Corrections' assistant claims officer, said an inmate starts the process by filing a claim at the institution. The majority of them, he said, have some validity and are paid by the facility.

"After all," Hartnett said, "we have thousands of inmates who have tens of thousands of pieces of property that are moved thousands of times, and sometimes things do get lost or damaged."

Hartnett reviews those claims the institution denies, and if he denies it also, writes a letter to the prisoner explaining why. At that point, he said, the inmate can bring the claim before the legislative subcommittee. Claims over \$2,500 automatically go to the subcommittee.



Although 90 percent of the claims made against the state for compensation come from inmates, politicians file them, too. Several years ago, this gate at the State Office Building's parking ramp malfunctioned and began closing on cars before they had cleared the gate path. Legislative staffers and lawmakers alike found themselves filing before the Joint House-Senate Subcommittee on Claims. Some call it the "Court of Last Resort."

It used to be, Hartnett said, that inmates could file a claim for free, but in 1994 the Legislature attached a \$5 fee to the process. If the claim is upheld, the fee is returned.

"I think what that did is eliminate a lot of the specious claims," he said.

Of course, not all claims come from prisoners.

For example, Knight said, several years ago, a number of state employees — and legislators — filed claims after the gate at the State Office Building's parking garage malfunctioned and began closing before cars had cleared the gate path. At first, she said, the car owners contacted the Department of Administration about making good on the damage, but the department refused because the consequences were not the result of any state employee's action or inaction.

The disgruntled automobile owners turned to the subcommittee for relief.

"Needless to say," Knight said, "the subcommittee ordered the department to pay it."

Last year, the annual claims bill included \$4,180 to a Grygla, Minn., individual who overpaid tax on an airplane purchase in 1989 and another \$4,000 to a man who built a useless stone wall to prevent erosion based on erroneous information from the Department of Natural Resources.

The subcommittee, Hartnett said, also

hears claims from citizens who suffer damages due to the actions of escaped prisoners or who feel they have been injured by the department. In these cases, according to a memo issued by subcommittee counsel Craig Lindeke (who is also an attorney in the Office of the Revisor of Statutes), the group acts as a "court of equity" and is not bound by legal or procedural rules. Instead, the memo says, the subcommittee pays claims "if rules of fundamental fairness requires it."

Members of the 80th Legislature's claims subcommittee, which meets seven or eight times a year to hear cases, have yet to be named.

"I hear they'll be named after the session," Knight said. 🐾

Where to find information

House Public Information Office
175 State Office Building
(612) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

This nonpartisan office provides: committee meeting schedules, legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* newsmagazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

State medical licensing follows public's pocketbooks

By Steve Compton

Minnesota is an internationally recognized center for medical innovation. Open heart surgery, pacemakers, artificial heart valves, organ and bone marrow transplants all were pioneered here. The state is home to world-renowned medical institutions such as the Mayo Clinic, University of Minnesota Medical College, Abbott-Northwestern Hospital, and Medtronic.

It hasn't always been this way. When the Minnesota Territory was first settled by non-natives, a variety of unregulated health care practices were common. European immigrant and Native American families shared and practiced traditional folk medicine handed down for generations in their respective cultures. On the other end of the spectrum were allopathic, homeopathic, and eclectic physicians trained at various East Coast and European colleges and universities. In between were all manner of bone-setters, snake oil hucksters, and self-proclaimed "doctors."

Various surgeons served with the U.S. Army at Fort Snelling, but the first trained private practitioner is thought to be Dr. Christopher Cork. A graduate of the University of Heidelberg, Cork set up practice in a tamarack log house on the banks of the St. Croix River in 1841. Dr. John Jay Dewey, the first physician to call St. Paul home, hung out his shingle in 1847.

By 1851, there were 11 trained allopathic doctors in the state. The term allopathy is applied to standard medical practice as we know it today. It is the treatment of disease by medicines that produce effects opposite of those produced by the disease. In 1853, the allopaths organized themselves into the Minnesota Medical Society, a forerunner of today's Minnesota Medical Association.

One of the reasons Minnesota's early allopathic practitioners had trouble establishing themselves was that their profession had largely lost public confidence. While allopathy had made great strides in the scientific understanding of human anatomy and dis-

ease pathology in the 1700s and early 1800s, the therapies it offered, such as bloodletting and the administration of toxic medicines, did more harm than good. When a medical doctor appeared at a patient's door, the Grim Reaper often followed.

Allopaths, homeopaths in harmony

Homeopathy, another major branch of medicine practiced in early Minnesota, was more popular with the public. Homeopathy is based on the idea that diseases are cured by giving very small doses of drugs, which in a healthy person and in large doses would

laws restricting other medical practitioners by the 1850s. When Minnesota became a state in 1858, no medical regulation was included in the state's laws.

In addition to allopaths and homeopaths, there were a few eclectic physicians who formed their own medical society in 1861. The eclectics borrowed freely from all schools of thought, using herbal, homeopathic, and allopathic cures to treat their patients. Present day naturopathy has been called "the new eclectic medicine."

Relations between Minnesota's allopathic and homeopathic physicians were both con-

tentious and cooperative. In their respective professional journals, they criticized each other's medical theory and practice. But in the real world of patient treatment, individual doctors borrowed freely from the other school's techniques, and allopaths and homeopaths often consulted with each other.

The first Minnesota medical law regulated not the practitioners, but those beyond the reach of their treatment. A bill passed in 1875 allowed all legally constituted medical colleges and associations to claim the bodies of persons buried at public expense for purposes of dissection and study.

Homeopaths, who had formed their own medical society in 1867, attempted to pass state medical regulations in 1870 and 1875. They joined forces with the allopaths in 1880 and got a bill through the Senate. But in the confusion following the 1881 State Capitol fire, the House never acted on the bill.

The Minneapolis Homeopathic Hospital began taking in patients in 1882 and the Minnesota Homeopathic Medical College

opened in 1886 in Minneapolis.

Finally in 1887, the state passed laws regulating medical practice and created the Minnesota Medical Examiners Board to license and oversee physicians.

Formal education

The following year, the University of Minnesota founded its Medical Department.



Beginning July 1, 1997, acupuncturists will need a license to practice in Minnesota. The state is an internationally recognized center for medical innovation, but it hasn't always been that way. When the Minnesota Territory was first settled by non-natives, a variety of unregulated health care practices were common.

produce symptoms like those of the disease. The big advantage of homeopathy was that, even when ineffective, the treatment at least was not harmful. Patients under homeopathic care had a higher survival rate and the public responded by flocking to homeopathic doctors.

Public revulsion against allopathic treatments had caused many states to repeal all

The Minnesota Homeopathic Medical College was incorporated as a separate college of medicine alongside the allopathic medical college. Both had identical curricula, but homeopaths had additional training in homeopathic therapeutics and *materia medica*. The university's homeopathic college lasted 21 years and its graduates had a higher success rate in passing the state licensing exam than those from the allopathic college.

Homeopathy's reluctance to improve its training standards in other states or to submit to scientific testing left the profession open to persistent criticism by the American Medical Association throughout the 19th century. That, combined with dramatic improvements in allopathic medicines and other therapies, led to a gradual decline in public interest in homeopathy. The university's homeopathic college was shut down in 1909 when only three students enrolled. The last meeting of the Minnesota Homeopathic Medical Society was held in 1923.

Homeopathy was revived in the 1960s and is practiced today by private nonlicensed practitioners, naturopathic doctors, and a few medical doctors and nurses. Due to their non-toxic nature, homeopathic remedies are widely available without prescription. They are sold at health food stores and were recently added to the product line at Byerly's grocery stores.

Founded in 1995, the Northwestern School of Homeopathy in Minneapolis now offers a 36-month training program in classical homeopathy. The Minnesota Homeopathic Association was started this year with 15 members and the goal of achieving legal definition and certification of homeopathic practice in the state, said association president Valerie Ohanian. The association hopes to be included in the Legislature's deliberations about complementary medicine (See sidebar).

Osteopathy gains equal status

Unlike homeopathy, osteopathic medicine grew out of allopathy. Osteopathic doctors receive training similar to medical doctors but with a special emphasis on the body's musculo-skeletal system. The first osteopathic office in Minnesota was opened in Red Wing in 1894 by doctors Harry and Charlie Still, sons of osteopathy's founder Andrew Taylor Still.

The state was in the middle of an epidemic of black diphtheria when the new doctors arrived and they threw themselves into the battle, helping many survive after local doctors had admitted defeat. The medical doctors were so upset that they had the Stills

arrested and jailed for practicing medicine without a license.

But the brothers didn't stay behind bars for long. A noisy mob of people whose families had been helped by the osteopaths gathered around the jail demanding their release. The sheriff, fearing a riot, set the doctors free. From that day, the osteopaths were escorted on their calls by two stalwart men,

"Big Ole" and "Little Ole" Olson, whose children had been saved by the Stills.

The Minnesota Osteopathic Medical Society was founded in 1899 and is still active today. Legislation to license osteopathic physicians first passed in 1909 and was expanded in 1923. With no school of osteopathy, there are currently only about 150 osteopaths practicing in Minnesota.

Naturopathic licensing ...

State to study complementary medical therapies

When the omnibus Health and Human Services bill (SF1908) went to a conference committee this week, it contained a \$20,000 appropriation and other provisions to study the scope of complementary medicine practiced in Minnesota.

That provision was all that remained of a bill (HF396/SF523) introduced this session to license and regulate naturopathic doctors. The original bill was sponsored by Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls) in response to a request from a naturopathic doctor, Helen Healy; and the Minnesota Association of Naturopathic Physicians.

Last summer, the state Board of Medical Practice accused Healy of practicing medicine without a license and sought an injunction to stop her from doing so. Healy's practice includes treating clients with herbal remedies, nutritional counseling, and massage, among other natural and non-invasive techniques. She has practiced in St. Paul since 1983.

The legal action taken against her prompted an outpouring of support for Healy from clients and other supporters of alternative medical care. The case ended in September when Healy and the medical board signed an agreement allowing her to continue providing naturopathic consultation but prohibiting her from calling herself a physician and, among other restrictions, requiring that she have each client sign an informed consent form at least once each year.

The bill would have provided state licensure and regulation for naturopathic doctors under the auspices of the Board of Medical Practice. Licensed naturopaths would have been required to complete a four-year degree in naturopathy at a recognized college and a two-year internship under a licensed practitioner. The bill passed the Senate Health and Family Security Committee and even gained the support of the Minnesota Medical Association, which has traditionally opposed licensing naturopaths. But when it reached the Senate Government Operations and Veterans Committee, all references to naturopathy were deleted, leaving only provisions for a study of complementary medicine. Those provisions were later incorporated into the omnibus Health

and Human Services bill.

This was the third recent attempt to license naturopaths in Minnesota. Previous bills had been introduced in 1986 and 1993. From 1927 to 1974, naturopaths were able to legally practice by simply registering with the state Board of Healing Arts. Since then, they have existed in legal limbo.

The complexity of medical licensing combined with dozens of committee hours devoted to welfare reform this session pushed the naturopathic issue to the back burner. In addition, legislators heard complaints from a variety of people who have been practicing under the label of naturopathy but who lack the four-year degrees that would have been required for licensing under the bill. Lawmakers in both houses are promising that subcommittees will hold hearings on complementary medicine during the interim this summer and fall.

"The irony for me is that the state is saying I can't practice without a license and yet they haven't set up a licensing procedure," Healy said.

Healy is one of six naturopathic doctors in the state that hold four-year degrees. "Naturopaths don't come to Minnesota because it doesn't have licensure," Healy said. Twelve other states, mostly on the east and west coasts, do license naturopaths.

Current state law permits only medical doctors and osteopaths to "prevent or diagnose correct or treat in any manner or by any means, methods, devices, or instrumentalities, any disease, illness, pain, wound, fracture, infirmity, deformity or defect of any person" except by authority of the board.

Healy said that definition is overly broad and could be construed to prohibit a parent from giving their child vitamins or to shut down weight-loss clinics. "They could just remove that clause from the law and I would be safe," said Healy, who said her practice does not include pharmaceutical medicines or surgery.

Massage therapists and Oriental body workers also came in for licensing this session (HF1135/SF1011) but their bill died in committee for many of the same reasons. They also will be included in the complementary medicine study and interim hearings.

—S.C.

Rise of complementary medicine

Since the 1970s, public disenchantment with mainstream medicine has grown. As allopathic medicine has evolved ever more miraculous high-tech diagnostic gadgets and invasive therapies, some patients have become more alienated from the medical mainstream. Increasingly, health consumers have turned to alternative healers for a more humanistic and holistic approach to their health needs.

A 1993 study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* indicated that one-third of all Americans were using some form of alternative health care, spending a total of \$14 billion annually, mostly out of their own pockets. In the Twin Cities, a 1995 study conducted by the health organization Allina revealed that two-thirds of area households had used some form of alternative therapy in the past two years.

These studies have not gone unnoticed by the medical industry. Local health care providers have responded by including acupuncture, massage, chiropractic, nutrition, reflexology, biofeedback, meditation, herbal therapy, and other alternatives along with mainstream medicine, in a mix that is now being called complementary medicine. HealthPartners, Allina, HealthEast, and United Hospital all have recently incorporated complementary therapies.

The University of Minnesota has added alternative therapies to its medical school curriculum and the College of St. Catherine is offering a 10-month course to bring health care professionals up to speed on the various complementary models.

With all of this change taking place, state regulation has some catching up to do.

The most recent addition to medical licensing in Minnesota was for acupuncturists. Since President Richard M. Nixon opened relations with China in the 1970s, there has been a growing interest in acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine in this country. This trend has been fed in Minnesota by the influx of East Asian immigrants since the end of the Vietnam War.

Chinese medical practice and theoretical development traces its history back 4,500 years and is based on ideas about the flows of bioelectrical energy in the body. Western medicine has accepted acupuncture for limited purposes such as anesthesia and pain treatment.

The Acupuncture Association of Minnesota was founded in 1979 and approached the Department of Health about licensing in 1980, according to Edith Davis, a founding member of the organization and president of the Minnesota Institute of Acupuncture and Herbal Studies. Fifteen years later, in

1995, the Legislature approved licensure for acupuncturists under the state Board of Medical Practice. That provision goes into effect on June 30 of this year.

The acupuncture association currently has about 35 members and estimates there are 70 trained acupuncturists in the state. That number has been fed by the 32 graduates of the Minnesota Institute of Acupuncture and Herbal Studies in St. Paul. Founded in 1990, the school offers a three-year program in acupuncture and an additional year covering herbal therapies.

The state Board of Medical Practice currently licenses 14,423 physicians (both medical and osteopathic doctors) to practice in Minnesota. The board consists of five public members, 10 licensed medical doctors and one doctor of osteopathy. The board also regulates physical therapists, athletic trainers, physicians assistants, respiratory care practitioners, athletic trainers, and health care corporations.

Chiropractic, perhaps the oldest alternative therapy, has been licensed by its own board in Minnesota since 1919. Separate state boards also govern licensing for nurses, optometrists, pharmacists, and podiatrists.



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Speaker Dunn's platter turns up tarnished in Texas

By Nick Healy

A Texas woman's garage sale bargain turned out to be a long lost memento of a former speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives and a link to an unusual chapter in the history of the Legislature.

Forty-two-year-old Mission, Texas, resident Frances Wilson knew she had found something valuable when she lifted a tarnished platter from the table at a garage sale not far from her border-town home late last year.

"It was so heavy I said, 'Darn, I wonder what that is,'" Wilson said. "I looked at the back and it said sterling silver, so I knew it would be at least worth its weight."

Wilson paid the 50-cent asking price, took the platter home, and later began to scrub away the thick layer of black that covered the entire piece. Armed only with a steel wool pad, Wilson cleaned away enough filth to uncover the Minnesota state seal inscribed on the oval-shaped platter, along with a special message revealing its origin.

"Presented to the honorable H.H. Dunn, speaker of the House of Representatives, by the members of the 37th session. 1911," reads the inscription.

How did an 86-year-old gift to a Minnesota politico find its way to a junk sale at the opposite end of the country? That remains a mystery. Just who was Dunn? That is an interesting story in its own right.

"He must have been a pretty important fellow," Wilson said. "This is not a play-thing. This is a very valuable antique."

Indeed, Howard H. Dunn did hold an important post in the Legislature, but he was something of a political oddity with a brief career marked by unusual entrances and exits.

Dunn first came to the Legislature in 1897, when he assumed a Senate seat amid controversy.

The seat in the upper chamber had belonged to Frank A. Day, a Martin County newspaper publisher who held the position of president *pro tempore* of the Senate.

In January 1895, fresh from election to a four-year term, Day was elevated to lieutenant governor when Gov. Knute Nelson was chosen to represent Minnesota in the U.S. Senate and his second-in-command, David M. Clough, moved up to the governor's office.

But Day did not want to relinquish his position in the Senate, and he continued to act as a member of the body.

At the opening of the 1897 session, Day arrived to take his seat, but Dunn, who was practicing law in Fairmont, Minn., at the time, also was there, with a certificate of election in hand and prepared to take the oath of office.



Former Speaker of the House H. H. Dunn

Photo courtesy Secretary of State's Legislative Manual

After some debate, the Senate decided that Dunn was rightly entitled to the seat. He served the remaining two years of Day's term, but Dunn then left politics for more than a decade. (The Minnesota Supreme Court later rejected the Senate's decision, but the ruling came after the conclusion of the 1897 session.)

Dunn's name did not show up on a ballot again until 1910, after he had moved his law practice to Albert Lea, Minn. He was elected to the House as a Republican, and the 44-year-old managed the now-unthinkable feat of becoming speaker in his first term in the lower chamber.

Various accounts of Dunn's climb to the speaker's chair agree that his selection for the job was very much a product of the uncertain political times. The Legislature was dominated by Republicans then, but members of the party were hardly unified.

Many had followed the progressive lead of Theodore Roosevelt, but others were more conservative defenders of the status quo. The temperance movement also produced sharp lines of separation.

The fight for the speakership came down

to Dunn, a "wet" supported by the brewery lobby, and fellow Republican Joseph A.A. Burnquist, a "dry" backed by the Anti-Saloon League of Minnesota.

"[P]olitical agents of the brewers were active in [Dunn's] behalf," according to Dunn critic Lynn Haines in a review of the 1911 session published that year. Dunn's detractors also claimed the "brewery machine" extended generous political favors to those who supported him.

Dunn oversaw the House during the 1911 session and the special session of 1912, neither of which produced significant legislation favored by the prohibition movement.

However, the 1911 session did produce important legislation of another variety. That year, lawmakers passed a measure abolishing capital punishment in the state.

Dunn returned to the House for the 1913 session, but by then the tide had turned in favor of the progressives within his party. He did not seek another turn as speaker, nor did he seek re-election to the House the following year.

For now, the sterling silver platter given to Dunn at the height of his atypical political career remains in the hands of an amateur antique and cookie jar collector in Texas.

Wilson said she would like to see the platter returned to Minnesota, but she wants a fair price for the piece. She is hoping to get \$2,500 for the platter, although an antique dealer told her it could be worth as much as twice that.

"When you know you've got an antique and you know it's worth something, you don't want to give it away," Wilson said.

She contacted the Minnesota Historical Society in December 1996, and was told to take a picture of the platter and mail it in along with a letter indicating the asking price. The historical society would have to consider the historical value of the platter and an acquisitions committee would have to decide in favor of purchasing it before any deal could be completed.

Wilson said she is still planning to send the necessary information to the historical society, but in the meantime, she is open to other offers.

"I know it would be worth more to the people of Minnesota than it is to the people of Texas," Wilson said. 🐾

A partial listing . . .

1997 House Files incorporated into omnibus bills

If you've lost track of some of the bills you have been following during the session, you may find them on one of these pages. The section includes unofficial listings, as of a certain date, of the House Files that are contained in the various omnibus bills and other larger bills.

Ongoing floor and conference committee action may well alter the makeup of these bills before they reach the end of the legislative process. In many cases, the language found in the major bills may not be exactly as it appears in the original House Files due to amendments that happen along the way.

The list was compiled by the House Public Information Office from a variety of sources, including committee administrators, fiscal analysts, and legislative analysts. In some cases, the location of each of the smaller bills is indicated by article and section numbers in the larger bill. In other cases, the Senate companion file and author is listed along with the House File number and author. Each bill is accompanied by a brief description of its content.

An asterisk after a House or Senate file number indicates the version of the bill that is under consideration.

If you're interested in following conference committee action (and have access to the World Wide Web) point your Web browser to: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

You can also stop by the office and pick up a "Today" sheet which provides the daily meeting schedule.

If you have questions, call the House Public Information Office, (612) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550 or the Senate Information Office, (612) 296-0504 or 1-888-234-1112.

More bill listings will appear in the next issue of *Session Weekly*.

Crime

As of April 24, 1997

Omnibus Crime Prevention Bill

HF163/SF1880* (Murphy)

*Amendments are noted by two asterisks (**)*

HF28 (Skoglund) Interference with privacy offense in presence of minor. (Art. 5, Sec. 15)

HF29 (Skoglund) ** Residing in Minnesota without permission under interstate compact. (Art. 9, Sec. 16)

HF83 (Skoglund) Fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle. (Art. 3, Sec. 14)

HF93 (Skoglund) ** Aiding an offender. (Art. 3, Sec. 15)

HF95 (Skoglund) Community notification concerning federal inmates. (Art. 5, Sec. 17)

HF96 (Skoglund) ** Controlled substances (methcathinone). (Art. 4, Secs. 4 and 5)

HF97 (Skoglund) ** Aggregating sales of controlled substances. (Art. 4, Secs. 8, 11, and 13)

HF98 (Stanek) ** Helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. (Art. 8, Sec. 9)



So far 2,200 bills have been introduced during the 1997 Legislative Session. Some of those bills will make it into law, some won't, and still others will join forces and become incorporated into larger bills.

HF119 (Skoglund) Judicial discretion restricted related to reduction of minimum mandatory fines, surcharges, and penalty assessments. (Art. 3, Sec. 4)

HF135 (Skoglund) Legislative auditor study on costs of crime. (Art. 3, Sec. 28)

HF147 (Weaver) ** Release of investigative data relating to crimes perpetrated by a juvenile; notification of victim when sentence modification occurs. (Art. 7, Secs. 5, 6, and 22)

HF163 (Skoglund) ** Gang strike force; pilot program for juvenile drug offenders; gang intervention services; teen court program; sex offender end-of-confinement review committee. (Art. 5, Secs. 5, 6, 7 and 8; Art. 6, Sec. 1; Art. 8, Sec. 5)

HF195 (Bishop) ** Victim impact statement; notice of appeal to victims; victim and witness advisory council. (Art. 7, Secs. 21, 23, 29, 30, and 31)

HF196 (Bishop) ** Crime victims reparations; release of peace officer records of children to crime victims. (Art. 7, Secs. 6, 26, 27, and 28)

HF225 (Broecker) ** Authorizing peace officers to arrest person within four hours of a violation for failure to yield. (Art. 3, Sec. 1)

HF226 (Macklin) Notification of victims of vehicle theft. (Art. 7, Sec.1)

HF234 (Macklin) ** Jail booking and confinement fee (Art. 9, Sec. 28)

HF261 (Farrell) Motor vehicle theft. (Art. 3, Sec.18)

HF338 (Chaudhary) ** Inmates' and parolees' computer and Internet access. (Art. 9, Secs. 15 and 17)

HF350 (McGuire) Interfering with 911 call. (Art. 3, Sec. 23)

HF504 (Murphy) ** Probation service providers. (Art. 9 Secs. 18-21, 23, 24, 28, 29, and 31)

HF509 (Murphy) ** Mandatory minimum sentence for persons who use or attempt to use deadly force against a peace officer. (Art. 3, Sec. 10)

HF541 (Bishop) **Community notification law. (Art. 5, Secs. 6, 7, and 8)

HF616 (Skoglund) ** HIV and hepatitis testing. (Art. 9, Secs. 1, 3, 4, 25, 26, and 27)

HF617 (Weaver) ** Law enforcement authority to exchange juvenile records. (Art. 8, Sec. 2)

HF619 (Weaver) Payment of restitution before fines. (Art. 7, Secs. 16, 17, and 24)

HF674 (Kraus) Including government entities as victims for the purposes of restitution. (Art. 7, Secs. 16, 17, and 19)

HF746 (Pugh) Corrections privatization. (Art. 9, Secs. 6-10 and 30)

HF762 (Wejzman) ** Community service pilot project for children. (Art. 2, Sec. 6)

HF933 (Olson, M.) ** Restitution work group. (Art. 2, Sec. 4)

HF946 (Hasskamp) Enforcement of orders for protection issued in other states. (Art. 7, Sec. 14)

HF954 (Swenson) ** Clarifying and extending the jurisdiction of the ombudsman for corrections. (Art. 9, Secs. 11, 12, and 13)

HF969 (Chaudhary) ** Expanding the responsibilities of the criminal alert network. (Art. 8, Sec. 4)

HF1011 (McGuire) Clarifying procedures and terminology for presentence domestic abuse investigations. (Art. 7, Sec. 18)

HF1031 (Hasskamp) ** Domestic abuse; visitation issues; orders for protection; pilot project for combined jurisdiction family court. (Art. 7, Secs. 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 15)

HF1033 (Entenza) Criminal penalties for certain unlawful acts against elderly or disabled persons. (Art. 3, Sec. 13)

HF1150 (Greenfield) HIV Testing. (Art. 9, Sec. 2; Art. 4, Secs. 1 and 2)

HF1175 (Clark) ** Increasing penalties for certain repeat misdemeanor violations. (Art. 3, Sec. 5 and 9)

HF1197 (Weaver) County administrative subpoena power. (Art. 3, Sec. 3)

HF1212 (Johnson, R.) Assaults on human service employees. (Art. 3, Sec. 11)

HF1218 (Van Dellen) Conforming the laws involving the sale and possession of heroin to those involving cocaine. (Art. 4, Secs. 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12)

HF1226 (Broecker) Juvenile probation law enforcement community partnership. (Art. 2, Sec. 3)

HF1229 (Biernat) ** Limiting disclosure of victim and witness information. (Art. 7, Sec. 20)

HF1234 (Stanek) Department of Public Safety film rentals. (Art. 8, Sec. 20)

HF1235 (Stanek) Technical correction to ensure vehicle driver is held liable when vehicle is driven without insurance. (Art. 3, Sec. 2)

HF1241 (Pugh) ** School-based probation pilot project. (Art. 2, Sec. 3)

HF1308 (Murphy) ** DARE programs and training. (Art. 4, Sec. 16)

HF1455 (Wejman) Exception to crime of female genital mutilation for midwives. (Art. 3, Sec. 12)

HF1501 (Skoglund) Indecent exposure crime while confining or restraining another person. (Art. 5, Secs. 1, 11, 12, 13, and 16)

HF1504 (Pugh) Allowing court to extend sex offender's term of probation. (Art. 5, Secs. 9 and 10)

HF1516 (Chaudhary) Landlord-tenant provisions. (Art. 10, Secs. 2-4, 7, and 8)

HF1566 (Winter) Firefighter training. (Art. 2, Sec. 7)

HF1580 (Mullery) ** Witness tampering. (Art. 3, Secs. 16, 17, and 27)

HF1586 (Skoglund) ** Arson. (Art. 8, Secs. 10-17)

HF1657 (Skoglund) CHIPS. (Art. 6, Secs. 2, et. seq.)

HF1825 (Biernat) Registration under predatory offender registration law. (Art. 5, Secs. 1, 2, 3, and 4)

HF1987 (Evans) Drug-free zone around chemical dependency treatment facilities. (Art. 4, Secs. 3, 6, 9, 12, 14, and 15)

HF795 (Koskine) Sliding fee child care. (Art. 4)

HF843 (Clark) Lead abatement. (Art. 2)

HF879 (Seagren) Change revenue formula for ABE. (Art. 3)

HF882 (Dawkins) Pilot/stipends to neighborhood organizations for services to families. (Art. 2)

HF928 (Wejman) Child care demonstration project. (Art. 4)

HF965 (Delmont) Funding for collaboratives. (Art. 2)

HF991 (Clark) Child care grants. (Art. 4)

HF1121 (Delmont) Child development education loans/training incentives. (Art. 4)

HF1363 (Junke) Willmar child care prevention. (Art. 1)

HF1405 (Mariani) Head Start funding. (Art. 3)

HF1406 (Seagren) Funding for adults with disabilities. (Art. 2)

HF1485 (Solberg) Greenway Readiness Program. (Art. 1)

HF1492 (Jefferson) Adolescent parenting and prevention pilot. (Art. 2)

HF1667 (Luther) ABE Funding for adults with disabilities. (Art. 3)

HF1676 (Pawlenty) Infant development project. (Art. 1)

HF1720 (Rhodes) Clarify what schools close on governor's snow days. (Art. 1)

HF1760 (Delmont) Start up child care grants. (Art. 4)

HF1761 (McGuire) Juvenile assessment centers — pilot project grants. (Art. 2)

HF1799 (Trimble) Meals/snacks for children in licensed day care reimbursed. (Art. 4)

HF1811 (Rhodes) Meadowbrook housing collaboration. (Art. 2)

HF2046 (Nornes) Grant to Fergus Falls. (Art. 1)

HF2047 (Winter) Televised GED programs. (Art. 3)

HF2116 (Jefferson) Northside Career and Technology Center funding. (Art. 2)

HF2147 (Kinkel) Omnibus FACE Finance Bill.

As of April 16, 1997

Omnibus Higher Education Finance Bill

HF2136/SF1888* (Pelowski)

House files were incorporated into HF2136 in total or in part.

HF130 (Carlson) College savings bonds. (Art. 2)

HF273 (Pelowski) Virtual U. Minnesota. (Art. 1)

HF304 (Opatz) No \$ - HEAC Joint Planning. (Art. 1)

HF375 (Bettermann) Art. 13, HF33 governor's budget bill - Edvest. (Art. 2)

HF648 (Johnson, R.) Law School Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP). (Art. 1)

HF1100 (Tuma) HESO modifications. (Art. 2)

HF1132 (Ness) Require technical education diploma/certificate. (Art. 3)

HF1233 (Opatz) St. Cloud Hospital/Mayo Family Practice. (Art. 1)

HF1364 (Bettermann) Modifying provision on private trade schools. (Art. 4)

HF1385 (Bettermann) Physician Loan Forgiveness Program. (Art. 2)

HF1686 (Kubly) Extend farmer-lender mediation. (Art. 3)

HF1713 (Dorn) Continued employment for distinguished service professorships. (Art. 3)

HF1715 (Johnson, R.) Delay student referendum on statewide affiliation. (Art. 1)

HF1758 (Pelowski) HESO - Library Information Network. (Art. 1)

HF1809 (Winter) Minnesota Agricultural Education. (Art. 3)

HF1826 (Clark) Interpreters/Translators Pilot. (Art. 1)

HF1911 (Pelowski) Increase HEFA bonding authority. (Art. 3)

HF1929 (Winter) Land purchase/transfer of local parcels - MnSCU. (Art. 3)

Education

As of April 22, 1997

Omnibus Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Bill

HF2147* (Kinkel)

HF99 (Clark) Emergency Housing Grants. (Art. 3)

HF368 (Koppendrayner) Department of Children, Families & Learning. (multiple articles)

HF725 (Wagenius) Early childhood technology grant program. (Art. 1)

HF769 (Schumacher) Department Technical and Administrative Policy bill. (Art. 4)

HF1951 (Milbert) Land exchange - MnSCU/Inver Grove Heights for public library. (Art. 3)

HF2054 (Johnson, R.) K-12 tutoring/college work study. (Art. 2)

As of April 23, 1997

Omnibus K-12 Education Finance Bill

HF1684*/SF1925 (Kelso)

HF14 (Jennings, Kelso, Johnson A) Chisago Lakes, Taylors Falls debt service allocation. (Art. 4)

HF53 (Solberg) Hill City fund transfer, forgiving fund balance reduction. (Art. 7)

HF60 (Greiling) Anti-hazing in schools; schools to develop policies. (Art. 7)

HF82 (Mares, Carlson, Kelso, Carruthers, Broecker) Year-round school/ extended week or day pilot. (Art. 5)

HF89 (Gunther) Restore Madelia fund balance reduction. (Art. 1)

HF129 (Opatz) Statewide testing system. (Arts. 5 and 6)

HF134 (Sviggum, Kelso) Medford fund transfer. (Art. 7)

HF139 (Ness) Art. 6 HF33 governor's budget bill. (Art. 9)

HF160 (Winter) High School Entrepreneurship Pilot Program. (Art. 3)

HF239 (Tuma) New Prague pre-Labor Day school start. (Art. 7)

HF263 (Abrams, Van Dellen, Stanek, Leppik, Kelso) Wayzata pre-Labor Day school start. (Art. 7)

HF303 (Johnson A, Kelso, Entenza, Carlson) Disciplinary policies. (Art. 7)

HF307 (Koppendrayner) Art. 7, HF33 governor's budget bill - school finance reform. (Art. 1)

HF315 (Seagren) Art. 4, HF33 governor's budget bill - charter schools (Art. 5)

HF330 (Luther) School bus safety. (Art. 1)

HF345 (Folliard) FY 1998 levy adjustment over three years. (Art. 1)

HF357 (Sykora, Opatz, Wolf, Seagren, Paulsen) Art. 12, HF33 governor's budget bill - lab schools. (Arts. 3 and 5)

HF404 (Abrams) FY 98 Levy Adjustment. (Art. 1)

HF437 (Kelso) Wilder Foundation charter school bill. (Art. 5)

HF468 (Peterson, Hilty, Kubly, Davids, Carlson) Remove minimum school size for DSEA. (Art. 4)

HF474 (Kalis) DSEA for Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton. (Art. 4)

HF573 (Luther) Funding for low income concentration grants. (Art. 2)

HF574 (Luther) Osseo levy for at-risk students. (Art. 2)

HF575 (Weaver) Pornography blocking software for schools. (Art. 7)

HF576 (Greiling) Flexibility in using learning development revenues. (Art. 1)

HF579 (Tunheim) Extending exemption for Badger — reduction in general education revenues. (Art. 1)

HF584 (Greiling) Expanding charter school and intradistrict open enrollment. (Art. 5)

HF597 (Tomassoni) Modify supplemental revenue reduction. (Art. 1)

HF604 (Lieder) Modify sparsity for debt service aid. (Art. 4)

HF607 (Davids) Funding for MN Homework Helpline. (Art. 5)

HF643 (Olson, E.) Pine Point School permanent status. (Art. 2)

HF652 (Johnson, A.) Targeted breakfast funding; technology for nutrition analysis. (Arts. 6 and 9)

HF676 (Rifenberg, Siefert, Kielkucki, Stang, Bettermann) Modify eligibility for DSEA. (Art. 4)

HF720 (Westfall, Koppendrayner) Lake Park pre-Labor Day school start. (Art. 7)

HF724 (Molnau) Computerized transportation routing system. (Art. 1)

HF752 (Tomassoni) Hibbing — common teacher retirement. (Art. 4)

HF757 (Harder) Modify debt service eligibility. (Art. 4)

HF769 (Schumacher) Department Technical and Administrative Policy bill. (multiple articles)

HF772 (Evans) Facilities air quality initiatives. (Art. 4)

HF831 (Biernat, Koppendrayner, Entenza, Seagren, Johnson, A.) Funding for alternative education programs. (Art. 2)

HF847 (Entenza) Funding for school lunch program. (Art. 6)

HF850 (Weaver) Remove compulsory age of instruction. (Art. 6)

HF888 (Peterson) Adult farm management levy for Dawson-Boyd. (Art. 3)

HF891 (Harder) Sanborn interdistrict cooperation agreement. (Art. 4)

HF893 (Delmont) Class size project — Centennial School District. (Art. 7)

HF897 (Greiling) Performance contracts for superintendents. (Art. 6)

HF911 (Koppendrayner) Isle pre-Labor Day school start. (Art. 7)

HF957 (Hausman) Modify operating revenue/learning year program. (Art. 1)

HF961 (Greiling) Code of ethics for supervisory personnel. (Art. 5)

HF964 (Murphy) Expanded use of interactive TV revenues. (Art. 9)

HF1018 (Koppendrayner) Capitol grant — Isle. (Art. 4)

HF1028 (Dawkins) Extending Youth Works program. (Art. 3)

HF1044 (Farrell) Construction — St. Paul community-based school. (Art. 5)

HF1047 (Johnson, R.) S. Central Talented Youth Program. (Art. 5)

HF1052 (Koppendrayner) PSEO for non-public students. (Art. 1)

HF1062 (Tomassoni) Historic building aid. (Art. 4)

HF1105 (Nornes) Fergus Falls fund transfer. (Art. 7)

HF1107 (Tuma) Extending Options Plus. (Art. 2)

HF1114 (Boudreau) Technology funding for state academies. (Art. 9)

HF1120 (Tomassoni) Funding multi-county, multitype library systems. (Art. 8)

HF1124 (Schumacher) Modify distribution formula for library grants. (Art. 8)

HF1139 (Lieder) Permitting use of revenue for Goodridge and Fisher. (Art. 4)

HF1158 (Greiling) Funding for children's library services. (Art. 8)

HF1206 (Murphy, Johnson A., Kelso) Funding for physical fitness equipment — community/school Esko. (Art. 7)

HF1216 (Entenza, Seagren, Kelso, Leighton, Mares) LEP funding. (Art. 2)

HF1262 (Olson E) Fosston fund transfer. (Art. 7)

HF1272 (Kelso, Entenza, Seagren, Carlson, Mares) Grant for national teacher standards program. (Art. 5)

HF1280 (Tomassoni) Instructional days — governor's snow day. (Art. 7)

HF1311 (Kelso, Biernat) Extended day, week, year. (Art. 5)

HF1321 (Folliard) Metro integration/magnet school. (Art. 2)

HF1339 (Ness) Restore public transportation funding. (Art. 2)

HF1366 (Winter, Harder) Small school viability pilot project. (Art. 3)

HF1403 (Johnson R) First-grade preparedness. (Art. 2)

HF1407 (Dorn) Model school for truancy. (Art. 7)

HF1419 (Finseth) Modify secondary vocational aid. (Art. 3)

HF1428 (Dehler) Central MN area learning center funding. (Art. 2)

HF1454 (Jennings) Open enrollment technology program. (Art. 9)

HF1498 (Leighton) Summer food service/breakfast outreach. (Art. 8)

HF1526 (Rest) Learning year revenue for 1/2 day kindergarten. (Art. 1)

HF1527 (Westrom) Restore fund balance reduction for Herman/Norcross. (Art. 1)

HF1573 (Folliard) Aquila Community Together Project. (Art. 7)

HF1607 (Carlson) Lifework learning centers — S.

HF1652 (Ness) Modify secondary vocational ed aid. (Art. 3)

HF1660 (Evans) Funding to implement anti-discrimination policies. (Art. 7)

HF1669 (Wenzel) Grant for a mid-state education district. (Art. 4)

- HF1684 (Kelso) MN International Center — classroom connection. (Omnibus K-12 Finance Bill)
- HF1723 (Greiling) Gifted and talented programs. (Art. 5)
- HF1741 (Biernat) Crime prevention through plays and workshops. (Art. 7)
- HF1762 (Solberg) Joint library operations, Nashwauk and public library. (Art. 8)
- HF1813 (Paulsen) Project Protect. (Art. 7)
- HF1835 (Schumacher) Advanced placement. (Art. 5)
- HF1889 (Lieder) Pre-Labor Day school start — Crookston. (Art. 7)
- HF1916 (Entenza) Wilder St. Paul community school funding. (Art. 5)
- HF1923 (Sykora) Partners for quality improvement grants. (Art. 7)
- HF1934 (Kelso) Shared visions education finance bill. (Art. 5)
- HF1977 (Slawik) South Washington Co. education funding changes. (Art. 1)
- HF1998 (Mulder) Tuition payments for students in non-Minnesota schools. (Art. 4)
- HF2002 (Harder) Remote access program in Storden-Jeffers, Lamberton, Sanborn. (Art. 9)
- HF2003 (Bettermann) Minnesota School-to-Work. (Art. 3)
- HF2014 (Folliard) Exempt Hopkins from limits on participation and support. (Art. 4)
- HF2015 (Folliard) Family Connections Aid. (Art. 8)
- HF2021 (Carlson) Homework hotline. (Art. 5)
- HF2036 (Johnson A.) Telecommunications access grants. (Art. 9)
- HF2039 (Entenza) Urban educator program — DCFL. (Art. 5)
- HF2054 (Johnson, R.) Work-study tutoring in public schools. (Art. 3)
- HF2061 (Leighton) School-to-work/modify student participation. (Art. 3)
- HF2068 (Tunhiem) Regional ants. (Art. 9)
- HF2083 (Leighton) School-to-work/Lifework development. (Art. 3)
- HF2096 (Dorn) Work group on alternative school calendars. (Art. 7)
- HF2122 (Stang) Belgrade fund transfer. (Art. 7)
- HF2125 (Tomassoni) Media specialist for Nett Lake School District. (Art. 2)
- HF2126 (Tomassoni) Insurance/Unemployment comp grant for Nett Lake. (Art. 2)
- HF1267 (Osthoff)/SF1183 (Kelly) St. Paul Police and Fire Consolidation Accounts: limitations on reductions in certain survivor benefits. (Sec. 11)
- HF1640 (Harder)/SF1433 (Vickerman) PERA: treatment of privatized Jackson Medical Center-Tracy Hospital employees. (Secs. 16 and 18)
- HF883 (Stang)/SF626 (Fishbach) PERA; treatment of privatized Melrose Hospital-Pine Villa employees. (Sec. 17)
- HF73 (Rukavina)/SF51 (Janezich) Eveleth Police and Fire Post retirement increase. (Sec. 19)
- Article 3: General Employee Retirement Modifications**
- HF769 (Delmont)/SF717 (Metzen) Deferred Compensation Program: increase in investment options. (Secs. 1 to 3)
- HF1129 (Kahn)/SF995 (Morse) Teachers Retirement Association (TRA): revision of sabbatical leave contribution requirements. (Secs. 4 to 6)
- HF1130 (Kahn)/SF996 (Morse) Individual Retirement Account Plan (IRAP) and Higher Education Supplemental Plan: various administrative changes. (Secs. 7, 8, and 10)
- HF1128 (Kahn)/SF997 (Morse) Higher education supplemental plan revising contribution procedures. (Sec. 9)
- HF1127 (Kahn)/SF922 (Morse) IRAP: expansion of plan. (Secs. 10 to 17)
- Article 4: Actuarial Assumption Modifications**
The source was LCPR97-13
- Article 5: Miscellaneous Provisions**
LCPR97-48, section 1)
- HF305 (Wagenius)/SF188 (Ranum) Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Fund Association (MTRFA): purchase of service credit by part-time teacher. (Sec. 2)
- Article 6: Volunteer Fire Service Pension Maximums**
- HF568 (Delmont)/SF466 (Terwilliger) Volunteer fire relief associations: increase in flexible service pension maximums.
- Article 7: Retirement Coverage Modifications for Transferred University of Minnesota Academic Health Center Employees**
- HF127 (Kahn)/SF922 (Morse) Retirement coverage modifications for transferred University of Minnesota Academic Health Center employees, as amended.
- Article 8: General Statewide Employee Pension Plan Modifications**
- HF1270 (Kahn)/SF1171 (Morse) TRA and IRAP: modification in reporting and remittance requirements. (Secs. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 9)
- HF1726 (Kahn)/SF1191 (Morse) MSRS general/pension coverage for seasonal revenue employees. (Secs. 3, 4, and 7)
- HF1765 (Jefferson)/SF1545 (Morse) Tax sheltered annuity programs; vendor qualifications. (Sec. 8)
- Article 9: Pension Modifications with Local Application**
- Amendment SCS0637A-1: Amortization aid following actuarial assumption change. (Sec. 1)
- HF1357 (Jefferson)/SF1099 (Pogemiller) Minneapolis Police Relief Association; unclaimed property dedication. (Secs. 2 and 3)
- HF752 (Tomassoni)/SF694 (Janezich) TRA; resetting retirement date for Hibbing High School teachers. (Sec. 4)

Government

As of May 2, 1997

Omnibus Retirement Bill
SF995* (Kahn)

The following is a listing, by article, of the source bills as amended and contained in SF995, second engrossment. The sections indicated below refer to sections in SF995, second engrossment, in which the source bill, as revised by any amendments, appears.

Article 1: Police State Aid and Retirement Coverage Costs

HF300 (Kahn)/SF163 (Pogemiller) Police State Aid Program

Article 2: Various Local Pension Modifications

HF170 (McCollum)/SF34 (Wiger) Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA): excluding St. Paul School District pipefitters from PERA coverage. (Secs. 1, 8, and 12)

HF907 (Garcia)/SF798 (Johnson, D.H.) Richfield Firefighters Relief Association: preconsolidation benefit improvement. (Secs. 2 to 6, 9 and 10, 13 and 14, and 19)

HF1355 (Solberg)/SF1232 (Lessard) Nashwauk Trust Account: revisions of post-retirement adjustment authority. (Sec. 7)

Article 10: Investment Reporting Modifications

HF2041 (Ozment)/SF1793 (Morse) all funds; investment performance reporting.

Article 11: Correctional Retirement Plan Modifications

HF1249 (Murphy)/SF674 (Knutson) MSRS Correctional; inclusion of certain Red Wing service periods.

Article 12: Miscellaneous Provisions

HF1506 (Kahn)/SF1428 (Pogemiller) MSRS; exemption from re-employed annuitant limitations. (Sec. 1)

Amendment LCPR97-49; TRA; beneficiary designation change. (Sec. 2)

Amendment LCPR97-90; PERA; purchase of service for disabled St. Paul Parks and Recreation Division employee. (Sec. 3)

As of April 25, 1997

**Omnibus State Government Finance Bill
SF1905* (Rukavina)**

HF120 (Kahn)/SF100 (Runbeck) Establishes Office of Technology.

HF188 (Long)/SF180 (Stumpf) Coxa Knutson (planning money only).

HF217 (Opatz)/SF820 (Hottinger) Land planning.

HF256 (Slawik)/SF447 (Frederickson) Department finance earnings reports.

HF285 (Delmont)/SF265 (Lesewski) Gambling Control Board account.

HF401 (Greiling)/SF742 (Marty) State employee parking fees (only a repealer of a statute left of the bill).

HF444 (McCollum)/SF445 (Metzen) Gulf War Veterans' bonus.

HF518 (Entenza)/SF292 (Junge) Sign language interpreters.

HF635 (Entenza)/SF428 (Kelley, S.P.) Only North Star II and IT Community Resource Development.

HF741 (McGuire)/SF502 (Betzhold) Data Privacy Advisory Council.

HF1000 (Long)/SF738 (Morse) Community-based planning.

HF1087 (Rukavina)/SF1008 (Marty) Prescription drug program.

HF1113 (Luther)/SF1061 (Scheid) Law Enforcement Web Network.

HF1221 (Kahn)/SFnone Changing membership of Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

HF1317 (Marko)/SF1122 (Flynn) Local government responsibilities advisory council established.

HF1320 (Jefferson)/SF1263 (Higgins) Restoration of WWII fighter plane honoring Tuskegee Airmen.

HF1374 (Stanek)/SF1117 (Kelley, R.C.) Wireless enhanced 911 service.

HF1399 (Milbert)/SFnone Ice rinks/Mighty Ducks.

HF1473 (Clark)/SF1363 (Hottinger) Corporate subsidy reform commission established.

HF1536 (Wagenius)/SF1639 (Beckman) Economic policy and strategic planning survey.

HF1563 (Garcia)/SF1563 (Wiger) STAR - handicapped/disabled.

HF1583 (Mullery)/SF1809 (Johnson, D.J.) Nellie Stone Johnson bust in Capitol.

HF1782 (Rukavina)/SF1696 (Metzen) Youth sports programs.

HF1793 (Kinkel)/SF1577 (Ten Eyck) Park Rapids Veterans' memorial.

HF1869 (Anderson, I.)/SF1851 (Anderson) LCC - Citizenship Program

HF1945 (Anderson, I.)/SF1752 (Lessard) Voyageur interpretive and conference center.

Minnesota House and Senate Membership

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6 A • Rep. Thomas Tom Bakk-DFL B • Rep. Thomas Huntley-DFL Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-DFL	20 A • Rep. Robert* Bob* Ness-R B • Rep. Tony Kielkucki-R Sen. Steve Dille-R	34 A • Rep. Steve Smith-R B • Rep. Todd Van Dellen-R Sen. Gen Olson-R	48 A • Rep. Bill Haas-R B • Rep. Alice M. Johnson-DFL Sen. Don Betzold-DFL	62 A • Rep. Lee Greenfield-DFL B • Rep. Wes Skoglund-DFL Sen. Carol Flynn-DFL
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9 A • Rep. Kevin Goodno-R B • Rep. Robert L. Bob Westfall-R Sen. Keith Langseth-DFL	23 A • Rep. Barb Vickerman-R B • Rep. Howard Swenson-R Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-R	37 A • Rep. Dennis Ozment-R B • Rep. Bill MacKlin-R Sen. Pat Pariseau-R	51 A • Rep. Mike Delmont-DFL B • Rep. Doug Swenson-R Sen. Jane Krentz-DFL	65 A • Rep. Andy Dawkins-DFL B • Rep. Carlos Mariani-DFL Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-DFL
10 A • Rep. Bud Nornes-R B • Rep. Hilda Bettermann-R Sen. Cal Larson-R	24 A • Rep. John Dorn-DFL B • Rep. Ruth Johnson-DFL Sen. John C. Hottinger-DFL	38 A • Rep. Tim Commers-R B • Rep. Tim Pawlenty-R Sen. Deanna Wiener-DFL	52 A • Rep. Salveer Chaudhary-DFL B • Rep. Geri Evans-DFL Sen. Steven G. Novak-DFL	66 A • Rep. Tom Osthoff-DFL B • Rep. Alice Hausman-DFL Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-DFL
11 A • Rep. Roxann Daggett-R B • Rep. Ken Otremba-DFL Sen. Dallas C. Sams-DFL	25 A • Rep. John Tuma-R B • Rep. Lynda Boudreau-R Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-R	39 A • Rep. Thomas W Pugh-DFL B • Rep. Bob Milbert-DFL Sen. James P. Metzen-DFL	53 A • Rep. Phil Krinkle-R B • Rep. Sherry Broecker-R Sen. Linda Runbeck-R	67 A • Rep. Jim Farrell-DFL B • Rep. Steve Trimble-DFL Sen. Randy C. Kelly-DFL
12 A • Rep. Kris Hasskamp-DFL B • Rep. Stephen G. Wenzel-DFL Sen. Don Samuelson-DFL	26 A • Rep. Bob Gunther-R B • Rep. Henry J. Kalis-DFL Sen. Tracy L. Beckman-DFL	40 A • Rep. Mark P. Mahon-DFL B • Rep. Kevin Knight-R Sen. Dave Johnson-DFL	54 A • Rep. Mary Jo McGuire-DFL B • Rep. Mindy Greiling-DFL Sen. John Marty-DFL	
13 A • Rep. Torrey Westrom-R B • Rep. Doug Peterson-DFL Sen. Charles A. Berg-Ind	27 A • Rep. Ron Kraus-R B • Rep. Rob Leighton-DFL Sen. Pat Piper-DFL	41 A • Rep. Alice Seagren-R B • Rep. Ken Wolf-R Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-R	55 A • Rep. Harry Mares-R B • Rep. Betty McCollum-DFL Sen. Charles Wiger-DFL	
14 A • Rep. Steve Dehler-R B • Rep. Doug Stang-R Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-R	28 A • Rep. Doug Reuter-R B • Rep. Steve Sviggum-R Sen. Dick Day-R	42 A • Rep. Ron Erhardt-R B • Rep. Erik Paulsen-R Sen. Roy W. Terwilliger-R	56 A • Rep. Mark Holsten-R B • Rep. Peg Larsen-R Sen. Gary W. Laidig-R	

List as of April 24, 1997

Governor's Desk

CH86-CH122

Bills await governor's action

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
- do nothing, which results in the bill becoming law in the first year of the biennium. The timing of these actions is as significant as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is that the gover-

nor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each

house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Internet access to this information is available at:
<http://www.governor.state.mn.us> (select "legislative issues" folder)

Key:
CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
86	209*	210	Child placement provisions modifications.	5/6/97	
87	756*	691	State demographer population estimate procedures modified.	5/6/97	
88	810	839*	Employment search firm bond requirements modified.	5/6/97	
89	1144	951*	County boards authorized to assign duties of auditor and treasurer.	5/6/97	
90	1148	1037*	Scott County auditor appointment.	5/6/97	
91	1840	1669*	Benton County offices modification.	5/6/97	
92	890	890*	Motor vehicle broker regulation provided.	5/6/97	
93	1356	1155*	Mental health case management services.	5/6/97	
94	469	36*	Hospital districts authorized to provide services to persons not in need of nursing home care.	5/6/97	
95	311	574*	Disabled residents fishing license requirements exemption.	5/6/97	
96	5*	32	Stalking bill.	5/6/97	
97	694	512*	State employment provision modifications.	5/6/97	
98	182	351*	Legislative Coordinating Commission assigned responsibility for review of legislative reviews.	5/6/97	
99	1029	950*	Teacher background check working group recommendations adopted.	5/6/97	
100	246	513*	Nuisance acts definition expansion.	5/6/97	
101	1379	1146*	Duluth Miller-Dwan Medical Center non-profit corporation creation.	5/6/97	
102	861	662*	Volunteer psychology practitioner licensure requirements established.	5/6/97	
103	75	38*	Medical practice board records maintenance requirements.	5/6/97	
104	1118	413*	Municipal water use permit established.	5/6/97	
105	2129	1894*	Flood-related disaster relief provided and money appropriated.	5/6/97	
106	340	472*	Cigarette and tobacco products sales tax provisions recodification.	5/6/97	

*The legislative bill marked with an asterisk denotes the file submitted to the governor.

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
107	289	101*	Long-term care provisions modification.	5/6/97	
108	342	166*	Impounded motor vehicles sale waiting period reduction.	5/6/97	
109	664*	301	BWSR contributions acceptance authority expansion.	5/8/97	
110	1381	329*	Veterinary services lien provisions modified.	5/8/97	
111	713	525*	Wastewater treatment facility privatization ownership restrictions modified.	5/8/97	
112	1373	813*	Child custody transfer provided via consent decree.	5/8/97	
113	291	333*	Home care providers establishment.	5/8/97	
114	1243	1179*	Snow plowing vehicles seasonal over-width permits.	5/8/97	
115	1106	1693*	Employees exclusive representatives recognition.		
116	1078	854*	Displaced public employees' rights.		
117	630	683*	Self-insured employee benefit plan dissolution notification required.	5/8/97	
118	745	399*	Workforce service areas designation.	5/8/97	
119	1908	1165*	Tree planting stock production restricted.	5/8/97	
120	1702	741*	Respiratory care practitioners registration and regulation.	5/8/97	
121	1287	156*	Utility deposit interest payments regulated.	5/8/97	
122	932	536*	Public nuisance definition expanded.	5/8/97	

Do you know?

What a difference a decade or two makes. Royce Hanson's 1989 book, *Tribune of the People: The Minnesota Legislature and Its Leadership*, provides a look at the Legislature during the 1980s and offers a historical perspective. But the book also reveals how much things have changed in just 10 years.

Back then, for example, House members could eat and drink at their desks without restraint. Today, they use restraint.

But there are other fundamental changes that have forever altered the way lawmakers — and the lawmaking process — works.

Until the 1970s, only the speaker and majority leader had private offices. Each member's desk on the House floor served as his or her office, where they often met with constituents. In 1963, House Speaker Lloyd Duxbury closed the floor to visitors an hour before ses-

sion "to give members a little time free of interruptions," Hanson writes. Back then, formality was seen as obstructing expedience. Today, it's likely to be seen as promoting it.

Instead of the army of highly trained research analysts who today help draft most bills and attend every committee hearing, in the 1970s "there was no professional staff to assist members in drafting bills, conducting research, or serving constituents." Members used telephones from a bank in the hallway outside the chamber and shared a common secretarial pool. The revisor's office — which makes sure every bill says what it means and means what it says in the proper legalese — was adjacent to the Supreme Court. Today, the office and its 56 employees sit atop the State Office Building, and cover the entire seventh floor.

But perhaps the biggest change has

been in the lawmaking task itself, which has grown progressively more complex and the pace more frenzied since sessions became annual events with a 1972 constitutional amendment.

In the 1960s, when members met for three or four months every two years, legislative service could be viewed "as a regular but minor invasion of their work life," even for leadership. Today, members are more likely than ever before to consider legislative service a primary career.

In Hanson's book, the age of the "citizen legislature" was thought to be on the wane. It cited many retiring members who left the Legislature because of the increased workload and modest pay.

That trend may be continuing. In 1963, no House member professed to be a full-time legislator, the same as in 1973. In 1983, 11 said they were; today, 18 make that claim.

Bill Introductions

HF2185-HF2200

Friday, May 2

HF2186—Kalis (DFL)
Capital Investment
 Bonding bill authorizing spending to acquire and better public land and buildings, capital improvements provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF2187—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Ways & Means
 Flood relief provided, and flood victims' real estate and assets protected from creditors.

Monday, May 5

HF2188—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
 Civil commitment provisions modified related to release on pass for persons committed as mentally ill and dangerous.

HF2189—Olson, E. (DFL)
Taxes
 Property tax abatements authorized for property that has lost value due

to flood damage, low-income housing credit priority established, and money appropriated.

HF2190—Marko (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
 Transportation fund established for highway and transit capital purposes, motor fuel tax rates increased, terms defined, and constitutional amendment proposed.

Tuesday, May 6

HF2191—Molnau (R)
Transportation & Transit
 Motor vehicle emissions inspection program repealed.

HF2192—Chaudhary (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
 Housing finance agency residential rehabilitation loan report required.

HF2193—Clark (DFL)
Ways & Means
 Telephone assistance program expanded to include low-income fami-

lies with children, and voice mail assistance pilot programs established.

Thursday, May 8

HF2194—Chaudhary (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
 Fridley historical museum restoration provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2195—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
 American Indian business loan revolving account established, and money appropriated.

HF2196—Munger (DFL)
Rules & Legislative Administration
 State lottery dedication to Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund duration extended, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2197—Pawlenty (R)
Taxes
 First income tax bracket rate reduced.

HF2198—Seifert (R)
Governmental Operations
 English designated as the official state language.

HF2199—Huntley (DFL)
Education
 Glensheen mansion in Duluth capital repairs provided, and money appropriated.

HF2200—Pugh (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
 Uniform commercial code information license regulation article adopted.

Coming Up Next Week . . . May 12 - 16, 1997

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change. For information updates, call House Calls at (612) 296-9283. All meetings are open to the public. Sign language interpreter services: (612) 282-2331 v/tty To have the daily and weekly schedules delivered to your e-mail address, send a message to: listserv@hsched.house.leg.state.mn.us In the body of the message type: **subscribe h-schedules**

MONDAY, May 12

9 a.m.

Subcommittee on Topic Selection/ Legislative Audit Commission
 118 State Capitol
 Chr. Sen. Deanna Wiener
Agenda: Review background papers prepared by staff and the results of the legislative interest survey.

9:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.

TUESDAY, May 13

8 a.m.

Ethics
 500N State Office Building
 Chrs. Rep. Mary Murphy,
 Rep. Tim Pawlenty
Agenda: Approval of committee rules.

9:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.

WEDNESDAY, May 14

9:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.

THURSDAY, May 15

9:30 a.m.

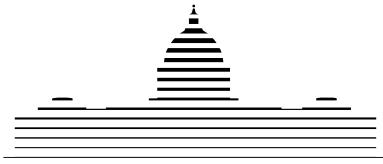
The House meets in session.

FRIDAY, May 16

9:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>



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

Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota Tourism

Total tourism expenditures, nationwide, in billions, 1995	\$440
Annual economic impact of domestic and international tourism	
on Minnesota, in billions	\$8.7
Nationwide, travel and tourism jobs, in millions	6.6
Travel and tourism jobs in Minnesota	163,000
Tourism wages and salaries paid in Minnesota, in billions, 1995	\$3.5
Tax receipts, in millions	\$800
U.S. domestic visitors to and through Minnesota on business,	
in millions, 1995	4.2
Pleasure travelers, in millions	18.2
Rank of shopping among travel activities of Minnesota visitors	1
Rank of hunting, fishing, and hiking	2
Percent of Minnesota tourist dollars spent on lodging, 1995	29
Percent of tourist dollars spent on food	23
Nationwide, rank of tourism among retail sales industries	3
Bed and Breakfast operations in Minnesota, 1985	6
in 1996	200
Minnesota state parks	68
Visitors to those parks, 1996, in millions	8.4
International visitors to Minnesota, 1995	982,100
Number of those from Canada	574,000
Estimated number of visitors to the Mall of America, in millions, 1996	40
Percent of those visitors traveling more than 150 miles to get	
to the Megamall	39
National and international charter flights during the 1996 holiday season	
bearing Mall of America shoppers as part of a group tour	23
Number of Indian-run casinos in Minnesota	17
Rank of Mystic Lake Casino, among all Minnesota tourist attractions,	
in number of visitors, 1996	2
Millions of visitors to Mystic Lake, 1996	5.2
Visitors to all Minnesota casinos, 1996, in millions	19.6
Metrodome visitors, 1996, in millions	3

Source: 1997 *Minnesota Travel and Tourism Passport*, Minnesota Office of Tourism

For more information



For general information, call:
House Information Office
(612) 296-2146 or
1-800-657-3550

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:
Chief Clerk's Office
(612) 296-2314

To find out about bill introductions or
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House Index Office
(612) 296-6646

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