

SESSION WEEKLY

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Reflections

Eight-hour days began to last longer as members raced to meet the first committee deadline of March 19. Committee chairs were working overtime to get policy bills prepared for discussion on the House floor.

The race continues for the next six weeks — right up until May 17 when legislators must adjourn the first of two years in the 81st biennial session. By law, work must end at midnight of the third Monday following the third Saturday of the fifth month, in an odd-numbered year.

When the House and Senate reconvene in the second year, legislative business must be completed during a time not to exceed a total of 120 days within the two-year period. Only the governor can convene a special session any time during the Legislature's interim period, but he cannot control its duration.

As of the March 19 deadline, members had introduced a record 2,182 bills in the House. Of these, hundreds had moved out of House committees to be heard in the chamber by the full House. Many are yet to be acted on, while some have been re-referred to other committees. Any bills that originated in the House this session will now only be heard in finance committees, Ways and Means, or the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

All activity around the Capitol now increases. Lobbyists can be seen on their cell phones talking more to unknown listeners; they also hang out more often at the chamber door, hoping to discuss a bill with a legislator. As the cafeterias get more crowded, it becomes difficult to get in and out during a quick lunch break. Also, staff and members get a bit tired, but understandably so.

March 19 can be considered the halfway mark of this first year of session. By now, new pages in the sergeant's office have learned how to dodge the crowds blocking the hallways and filling the elevators in the State Office Building. And they've learned the names and faces of 134 members. Now, standing and walking for hours is not even a major problem.

Committee deadlines prevail year after year. In spite of increased activity or lack thereof on some bills, everyone's hard work results in new policies for Minnesotans and funding to keep the state in operation.

A second deadline comes up on March 31, when bills that met the first deadline must have their companion file passed out of policy committees in the other legislative body.

The final deadline for this Legislature is April 16. By then, every major funding bill is pieced together with directives or appropriations for issues favored by each caucus in the House and Senate, as well as special projects on the governor's list.

Once the smoke clears on Tuesday, May 18, legislators head home to all corners of the state. One can only surmise that the total number of bills passed, failed, or vetoed during the first five months of 1999, will be worthwhile for every resident in the state of Minnesota.

—LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: Speaker Steve Sviggum leads House Republicans to a meeting in Room 217 in the Capitol.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

First Reading

Transportation spending . . .

Urge to cut fees, need for funding pressure lawmakers

By Sarah Hallonquist

Efforts to lower Minnesota's license tab fees are beginning to resemble the process of negotiating a potential tax rebate. Everybody has a plan, but none of the plans are the same.

While neither the House nor the Senate has passed a bill yet, committees in both bodies have heard several proposals, including one supported by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

But with the looming possibility of a tab fee reduction, lawmakers on the House transportation committees are clamoring to find a way to fill the gap that would result in the state's highway fund. Currently, less than 1 percent of the state's general fund dollars are targeted toward transportation.

Add those two factors to a multi-billion dollar list of proposed transportation projects for the next two decades, and you get a funding crunch that some legislators see as exacerbating the already contentious process of getting a major transportation project approved.

The House Transportation Finance Committee approved a bill March 17 that would lower tab fees but not in the manner proposed by the governor.

Sponsored by Rep. Bill Kuisle (R-Rochester), the plan would lower tab fees for most vehicles and provide a constitutional amendment to make sure transportation funding is secured in the future.

The bill (HF446) would increase highway funding, but at the expense of about \$120 million from the general fund — money usually dedicated to other government agencies. Kuisle's bill now moves to the House Taxes Committee.

The transportation finance panel rejected the governor's plan, which was tacked onto another tab fee reduction bill under consideration.

Ventura wants to change the current system so that motorists would pay no more than \$75 to renew their license tabs each year. Under his plan, vehicle owners would pay the current tax only during the first year of their vehicle's life.

The current registration tax rate is \$10 plus 1.25 percent of the vehicle's suggested retail price. However, when the vehicle is 3 years old, the percentage is dropped to 90 percent and is lowered consistently as the vehicle ages. When a vehicle is more than 10 years old, the motorist pays a flat fee of \$35.



Lawmakers on House transportation committees are studying a number of plans to reduce license tab fees while maintaining funds for highway and transit projects statewide.

Photo illustration by Tom Olmscheid

Ventura would retain the current depreciation schedule for vehicles more than 1 year old, but if the calculation comes to more than \$75, the motorist would only have to pay the \$75.

If the calculation is less than \$75 but more than \$35, than the motorist would pay that amount. That would leave cars more than 10 years old still paying the \$35 flat fee, under the governor's plan.

But both proposals would leave a hole in the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund, a pot that provides money for highway projects statewide.

The governor is recommending a transfer of money from the general fund to cover the losses for the first year. But in subsequent years, the loss to the fund would increase to an estimated \$40.3 million in 2003.

The current highway system is supported largely by a state constitutional amendment that dedicates certain percentages of the gas tax and fees for license plates and tabs to a highway fund.

That fund is divided into three parts: 69 percent goes to the trunk highway fund, 29 percent goes to the county state-aid highway fund, and 9 percent goes to the municipal state-aid street system.

Federal subsidies, driver's license fees, and other miscellaneous funds also support the trunk highway fund. The state can also sell bonds to pay for highway projects.

Kuisle's bill would constitutionally dedicate 50 percent of the proceeds from the motor vehicle sales tax to transportation projects. Thirty percent would go into the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund, and 20 percent would go into a new transit assistance fund. The remaining 50 percent would stay in the general fund, where the all proceeds from the motor vehicle sales now go.

Voters would be asked to approve this provision by voting on a constitutional amendment placed on the November 2000 ballot.

In the 1980s, the Legislature put into law a plan to transfer some motor vehicle sales tax money into the highway fund, but it was not secured with a constitutional amendment. The state did transfer a small percentage of motor vehicle sales tax revenues for a few years, but the Legislature repealed the law when the general fund needed the extra money.

Some lawmakers want to see all motor vehicle sales tax funds devoted to transportation projects. Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) said the Kuisle proposal is a "Band-Aid" on transportation funding. She said she would

rather see the committee ask for 100 percent of motor vehicle sales tax proceeds from the beginning.

"What concerns me is that we settle for too little," Hausman said.

Because the House has been focusing on working out details of a potential income-tax reduction, the success of a cut in tab fees remains an unanswered question in the House Taxes Committee.

Yet another way to raise transportation revenue is to increase the gas tax, but lawmakers have expressed doubts about doing so in light of the state's budget surplus.

The Senate Transportation Committee passed a tab fee reduction plan with a \$60 million provision for light rail funding, which has not been a priority for the House committees this year.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), chair of the House Transportation Policy Committee, is sponsoring two bills that would address other aspects of transportation projects. One bill (HF939) would transfer the funding of the Minnesota State Patrol to the general fund, instead of the trunk highway fund.

The other bill (HF698) would set up a major transportation projects commission made up of legislators and a corps of gubernatorial appointees. In an attempt to "de-politicize" the process of getting highway construction projects approved, the commission would have the sole authority to rubber-stamp projects submitted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Workman said he wants to see the dollars used efficiently for transportation-related projects. But he joins his House colleagues in their worries that transportation funding is not high-profile enough to get attention.

"If we've got good times, and we can't get an increase in funds, what's going to happen in bad times?" said Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston). 🐼

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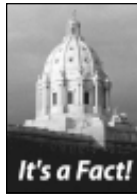
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Railroad heir brought family ethic to House



that would raise district judge salaries from \$9,500 to \$13,500 per year.

The lawyer said that he was particularly concerned that judges make a decent living because he had judicial aspirations of his own.

In his reply, Hill promised that attorney — a fellow named Warren Burger — that he would support an increase but that he wasn't sure he could support the entire amount recommended in the bill.

While Hill may not have realized that his young solicitor would go on to become chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, he was no stranger to prominent Americans.

Hill's grandfather, James J. Hill, made the family fortune in railroads, and the family dominated public life in St. Paul at the turn of the century.

Louis W. Hill Jr. was the first member of the Hill dynasty to become politically active, serving in the Minnesota House from 1937 to 1951.

Although born to wealth and affluence, Hill was required to earn his way into the family business.

He was given his first job as assistant timekeeper, extra gang, for Great Northern Railway in St. Paul in 1927.

Hill adopted that same "common man" philosophy when he began his quest for office in 1937. He campaigned for seven months, pushing every doorbell in his district — the area along Summit Avenue in St. Paul often called the "silk-stocking ward."

But Hill didn't confine his campaigning to those who owned the stately mansions; he was often seen talking with kitchen help, maids, deliverymen, and doormen.

Hill, only 34 at the time, ran as a liberal and was elected in a year when Franklin D. Roosevelt swept to the presidency.

The Yale-educated Hill beat the incumbent, Albert Kueffner, in the primary and

defeated both Daniel D. O'Connell and Kueffner, who ran as an independent, in the general election.

Several pundits of the day wondered whether Hill was running because he had nothing better to do or because he was genuinely interested in public service.

One newspaper noted Hill was "rich enough to be an idler without distinction" but added that if he wanted to follow the family tradition of hard work, "he'll find plenty of it in government."

Hill brought with him to the House a broad background in philanthropic and civic organizations, including work with the Minnesota Historical Society.

His district included the Minnesota Club, which at the time boasted members including such luminaries as Elmer L. Andersen, president of H.B. Fuller Co.; Charles K. Blandin, president of Blandin Paper Co., and William L. McKnight, chairman of the board of 3M.

But Hill's tenure in the House proved to the satisfaction of most that his interests were varied and diverse. Among other causes, he championed setting up game farms for pheasant hunters. And his capacity to grasp the problems of the disadvantaged was large.

Hill's votes reflect a diversity of viewpoints, sometimes staunchly conservative — at least by today's standards — and at other times, quite liberal.

In his waning days in the House, Hill was appointed to the Tuberculosis Facilities Commission. The panel was charged with examining the 12 sanitariums in the state devoted to assisting people recovering from the dreaded disease.

Interestingly, some of the issues surrounding those institutions remain concerns today — adequate funding, rehabilitation programs, reducing the size and intrusiveness of the institutions, and providing adequate benefits and services. Hill expressed an inordinate capacity for care and concern where victims of tuberculosis were concerned.

Hill died April 6, 1995, at his home in North Oaks. He was 92.



Rep. Louis W. Hill Jr.

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Wolf plan moves ahead

The House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee approved a bill March 16 that would establish a statewide wolf management plan.

Supporters say the plan is necessary because the federal government is set to remove the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act.

A group of 34 citizens representing various interests began meeting as a roundtable in 1997 to discuss ecological issues and other controversial aspects of a wolf management plan.

That roundtable led to a bill (HF1415), sponsored by Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus).

But the bill was amended in the House Agriculture Policy Committee, and some of the original roundtable participants testified against the new version.

Tom Meyers, a regional director for the Minnesota Conservation Federation, urged the environment panel to return the bill to its original text because the changes undermine the consensus of the 34 participants in the roundtable.

"None of us got what we wanted, but every one of us got what we needed at that time. And we all raised our hand and voted yes," Meyers

said. "As it stands, (the bill) breaks the consensus irrevocably."

Others testified that the consensus was already weakened because the group was trying to meet a deadline and they felt pressured to reach an agreement in order to avoid having to accept a plan they liked even less.

Under the bill, illegal hunting of a gray wolf would be a gross misdemeanor and the restitution value of a wolf would be set at \$250.

Also, a trained guard animal could protect livestock from gray wolves, a gray wolf could be killed if it attacked a human or threatened livestock or other animals, and a person could harass a gray wolf if it is within 500 yards of people, buildings, livestock, or other domestic animals. A killed wolf would have to be reported to a conservation officer within 48 hours.

In addition, trapping and hunting procedures would be established if the wolf population exceeds 1,600. Trapping and hunting would not be allowed in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Karlyn Berg testified against the bill on behalf of the U.S. Humane Society. She said the plan should be "ecologically sound, based on responsible stewardship."

"We have always supported taking wolves for (attacking livestock)," she said. "But it shouldn't be allowed if farmers don't follow good husbandry."

Berg said her organization advocates farming practices — including using guard animals — that discourage wolves from attacking, instead of having farmers simply shooting wolves.

Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) defended the amended version of the bill, saying it would give wolves more than one million acres of sanctuary. And the wolf population in Minnesota has exceeded the requirements to come off the endangered list, which has led to more conflicts with people.

"The Endangered Species Act has really done something in Minnesota," he said. "If the number of wolves is already higher than (required to be dropped from list), why would we allow the numbers to continue to grow even further?"

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) proposed an amendment that would restore the bill to the roundtable plan that was introduced, but the committee rejected the proposal.

"We don't legislate by roundtable; we legislate by representative democracy," said Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City).

The bill now moves to the House floor.

Can farmers market?

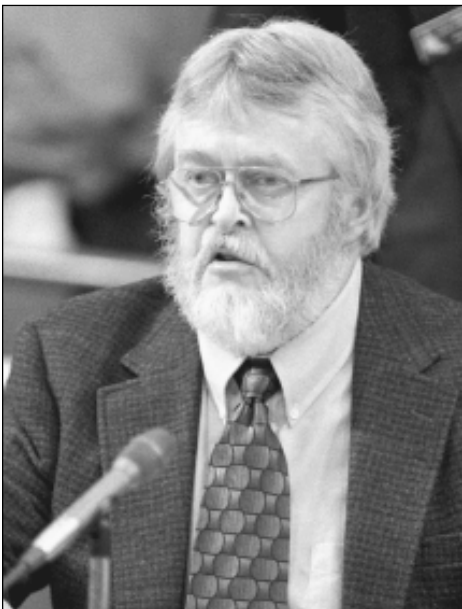
You can grow the greatest product in the world, but if you can't find someone to buy it, it's worthless. That's the logic used by supporters of a marketing program called "Minnesota Marketplace."

A bill (HF1091) that would provide \$950,000 in seed money for the plan over the next two years was approved March 17 by the House Agriculture Policy Committee.

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake), sponsor of the bill, said the idea is to connect producers with consumers. He told the committee that currently most farmers simply drop their product at the local elevator and let them do the marketing.

Under "Minnesota Marketplace," cooperatives would be formed to find and create produce markets.

Each dollar of state money would be matched by 50 cents of private money. The organization would focus on the needs of west-central and northwestern Minnesota, areas of the state particularly hard-hit by the most recent farm downturn.



Tom Meyers, left, regional director for the Minnesota Conservation Federation, expresses concern over a wolf management bill presented March 16 to the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee. Karlyn Berg, right, from Humane Society of the United States, testifies in opposition to the bill at the same hearing.

The idea has broad support from growers associations across the state.

Kurt Knutson, president of the Minnesota Barley Growers Association, said it's tough for Minnesota's farmers to compete with foreign markets where agriculture is often heavily subsidized. He said farmers are traditionally good at producing but poor at marketing.

Zachary Fore, a University of Minnesota cropping systems specialist, said farmers today grow a lot of crops that are not profitable. With a concentrated effort on finding markets, that situation could be turned around.

Westrom said he envisions the idea as a pilot project and believes the organization will be self-supporting within five years.

Members of the agriculture panel generally supported the idea, but wanted to make certain this new program wasn't a duplication of other efforts.

Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) said the state already supports the Agricultural Utilization and Research Institute, which has similar goals.

Knutson said the new organization would have close ties to the institute but would do work that isn't being accomplished anywhere else.

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) said the institute is devoted more to technology transfer and not to soliciting markets.

"We need to work collaboratively to get beyond where we are today bringing value-added closer to the consumer," Ness said, adding that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and other entities would also have to get on board eventually to make it work.

The bill moves to the House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee.

ARTS

Prison art challenged

The state usually spends 1 percent of a building's construction budget to buy art, but a bill that would prohibit that money from being spent on art for state correctional facilities won approval from two House committees.

"I believe we as legislators are here to set priorities, and as much as art adds to the ambiance of a prison, I feel this is not a wise way to use state resources," said Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), sponsor of the bill (HF82).

The bill was approved March 11 by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee and March 18 by the House Capital Investment Committee.

A 1984 state law authorizes the appropria-

tion, which is administered through the Minnesota Department of Administration, based on the costs of a new building or alteration project that costs more than \$500,000. The money can be used for art in or around the building.

Seifert said that law allows up to \$890,000 to be spent on art for the state correctional facility being built in Rush City. But, he said, officials for that project do not plan to spend that much money for art.

However, other correctional facilities have used the 1-percent appropriation for art projects. The correctional facility in Faribault has used the money for three different art projects: \$40,000 for five benches sculpted from granite, \$44,000 for a mural and trellis at the entrance of a building for visitors, and \$15,000 for several murals with messages that are designed to encourage inmates to stay out of prison after they are released.

Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) said that the 1-percent appropriation can be used to connect the hosting community to the prison — like a sculpture in a prison gate — or in public spaces.

"There are other ways of looking at this than just saying no to 1 percent," she said.

"I just think that in a world of priorities, this just isn't a high priority for people," Seifert said.

The bill now moves to the House floor.



BANKING

Banking in Outing



Signed
by the
governor

A new law effective March 16 will allow a bank to open a branch office in the small community of Outing, located in southern Cass County.

The law provides an exception to current state law that prohibits banks from operating in townships. Outing is an unincorporated city in Crooked Lake Township.

Minnesota's "home office protection law" allows banks to establish branch offices in cities with a population less than 10,000 only with consent from all the banks that have their home office in that city. Banks are also prohibited from getting around that law by opening in townships just outside city limits.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby), House sponsor of the new measure, said First National Bank of Crosby had planned to open an office in Outing, assuming it was an incorporated city. Because Outing has its own post office and zip code, many people don't realize that it has never been incorporated, she said.

Sen. David Ten Eyck (DFL-East Gull Lake) sponsored the proposal in the Senate.

HF248*/SF324/CH7



BUDGET

The cost of government

The House passed a resolution March 15 that would set targets for the price of government over the next four years. The vote was 111-21.

Current law requires that the Legislature pass a concurrent resolution every two years stating revenue targets in relation to personal income for the upcoming two budget periods.

The resolution passed by the House states that the price of government over both the 2000-01 and 2002-03 budget periods shouldn't exceed 17.3 percent of personal income.

The Senate version of the resolution calls for targets of 17.6 percent for 2000-2001 and 17.5 percent for 2002-2003.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), sponsor of the resolution, said that the House version of the resolution would call for \$390 million less in taxes over the 2000-2001 budget than the Senate version.

The concurrent resolution passed in 1997 set the maximum share of personal income collected in taxes at 17.8 percent in 1998-99 and 17.7 percent in 2000-01.

"I think we're showing a very steady decline in the price of government as a percentage of Minnesota's income," Bishop said.

The resolution now goes back to the Senate.



CHILDREN

Defrauding day care

Fraud could be occurring in about 10 percent of state-funded child-care programs in Minnesota, said Dan Haley, director of the Program Integrity Projects Team at the state's Department of Human Services.

Haley testified in support of a bill (HF1318) that would set up a fraud-prevention program aimed specifically at child-care programs. The bill was considered March 15 by the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee.

Child-care fraud can take many forms, including parents falsifying their incomes to qualify for assistance or lying about the cost of child care in order to make a profit from assistance provided by the state government and the federal government.

Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) is sponsor-

ing the bill, which calls for a statewide application form for all child-care programs. Currently, all 87 counties administer child-care funds and programs using separate application forms, making it difficult for officials to keep track of families in the system.

In addition, the bill would set up penalties for people who intentionally commit child-care fraud. The first offense would result in a three-month suspension from child-care assistance, the second offense would result in a six-month suspension, and the third offense would deny assistance for two years. After a fourth offense, a person would be permanently ineligible to receive child-care assistance.

Haley, whose program already investigates welfare fraud, said his investigators could start working on child-care fraud immediately after the measure becomes law. He said the bill is a "necessary first step in child-care program integrity."

Sykora said the \$350,000 per year that would be spent to investigate child-care fraud would allow programs to recoup much more than that in lost funds. She said she expects child-care programs will continue to grow in Minnesota and that more money would be saved in the long run under her bill.

The committee took no action on the bill, but it will consider the proposal for inclusion in the omnibus family and early childhood education finance bill.

Unlicensed day care

A bill that would extend legal unlicensed day care in Minnesota ran into a nursery full of opposition March 16, but the measure still managed to win approval from a House committee.

The proposal (HF802) would make permanent the state authorization of certain unlicensed day-care operations that the 1997 Legislature allowed on a temporary basis.

Current law allows unlicensed day-care providers to take care of unrelated children if the children are from no more than three other families; there are no more than four unrelated children; there are no more than two children under two years old; and there are no more than five children being cared for at any given time.

Bill sponsor Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) told the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee that the temporary 1997 law was passed in response to concerns about the availability of day care as more parents moved into the labor force in the aftermath of welfare reform.

He also said that previous to 1997 there was

Attention getter



Rep. Carlos Mariani, right, keeps 9-month-old Mary Beth Little occupied as her mother, Gina, a Faribault resident, testifies March 17 before the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee. Gina Little told the committee about the positive effects early childhood education programs have had for her and her children.

no numeric limit on the number of children who could be cared for by an unlicensed operation.

He said without a continuation of the 1997 law, families would be out in the streets looking for child care. He estimated there are between 12,000 and 16,000 legal unlicensed in-home day care operations in the state.

The number of licensed facilities has been decreasing.

Opponents argued that passing the bill would lower standards for child care in the state. They said unlicensed facilities can be operated by people who have not undergone a background check or completed safety and health training. Also, unlicensed providers are not required to be part of ongoing in-service programs.

"None of us know it all," said Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie).

Otremba, who has worked with preschool education programs, said the state should be trying to increase the number of facilities under licensure, rather than sanctioning unlicensed operations.

Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) noted that even kennels for boarding dogs are licensed.

And Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) said that if the state is going to require mothers to work under welfare reform, it has a responsibility to assure day care operations are safe.

"It's not hard to get a license," said Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin). "Would you go to an unlicensed doctor or dentist?"

The bill goes to the House floor.



CRIME

DWI bill stalls

Members of the House Transportation Finance Committee rejected a bill March 17 that would lower the blood-alcohol level at which a driver can legally operate a motor vehicle.

The bill (HF1004), sponsored by Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), would cut the legal limit for drunkenness from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent. The lower limit would apply to the operation of automobiles, off-road vehicles, and motorboats. And the bill would apply the new limit to hunting with a firearm or bow.

Proponents argue that the proposed limit is reasonable and that it would result in a reduction in DWI-related fatalities. Opponents say that the bill would focus law enforcement resources on social drinkers, while most problems are caused by chronic offenders.

According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, the average male would have to drink four standard drinks in an hour and the average female would have to drink three standard drinks in an hour to reach the 0.08-percent level.

A number of factors affect the body's ability to process alcohol, including the duration of drinking, weight, ingestion of food, and gender. A standard drink is a 12-ounce glass of beer, a five-ounce glass of wine, or a one-and-a-half-ounce shot of hard alcohol.

Last year, separate versions of the DWI bill

passed the two bodies of the Legislature but stalled in a conference committee as legislators struggled to work out the difference between the bills.

The House version of the bill would have lowered the standard for legal drunkenness in Minnesota from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent for all drivers. The Senate version passed last year would have applied the lower limit only to repeat DWI offenders.

DNA from more offenders

The list of crimes for which offenders are required to submit DNA samples would be expanded under a bill approved March 13 by the House Crime Prevention Committee.

Current law requires only sex offenders to submit DNA samples to a statewide database kept by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

The bill would add several crimes not considered sex offenses to the list of crimes for which offenders must submit samples. Those crimes would include murder, assault, kidnapping, and burglary.

Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji), sponsor of the bill, said the proposal is an attempt to gather information on offenders who commit "predatory" crimes.

But Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) said the bill represents an expansion into a sensitive area of privacy rights. He said the original law only authorized DNA samples for sex offenders because of the unique nature of the evidence.

"This bill totally changes the whole concept of that," he said.

Fuller said that keeping DNA on file is no different than keeping fingerprints on file.

"If a person doesn't want their DNA taken, I suggest that they don't commit these crimes," Fuller said.

Frank Dolejsi, director of the forensic science laboratory at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, said that several states are taking DNA samples from criminals other than sex offenders. He said Virginia requires DNA samples from all convicted felons, which includes a much larger list of crimes than those in Fuller's bill.

The bill (HF1328) now goes to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

Protecting prison guards

The House passed a bill March 15 that aims to give corrections workers more protection on the job. The vote was 123-7.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Jim

Knoblach (R-St. Cloud), seeks to protect workers from the spread of blood-borne pathogens such as hepatitis and the HIV virus.

It would allow corrections employees to request that an inmate give a blood sample after the employee has had significant exposure to the inmate.

If the inmate refuses to give the sample, the bill would provide for a process through which the corrections worker could obtain a court order to force the inmate to comply.

The test results would be private data to be released only for diagnosis and treatment of the employee. Penalties would be provided for unauthorized release of the test results.

The bill (HF741) now goes to the Senate.



EDUCATION

Blocking porn on Web

Lawmakers considered a bill March 16 that would require all school and library computers to have software filters that block children's access to pornography on the Internet.

The House Education Policy Committee discussed the bill (HF923) but did not vote on it.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Jim Seifert (R-Woodbury), would also require all school districts to adopt Internet use policies.

Tom Prichard, president of the Minnesota Family Council, said the bill's goal is to protect children and it follows the same argument as restricting children's access to pornographic magazines in stores.

"With just a couple clicks of the mouse, children are able to access the most vulgar, perverse material imaginable," Prichard said.

Bob Meeks, director of governmental relations for the Minnesota School Boards Association, said the bill is not necessary because many schools already monitor Internet use and have adopted policies restricting access to pornographic material.

Judy Bull, a school media specialist in St. Paul, said software filters only block words, not images. In addition, she said many of the filters don't work because they end up restricting access to legitimate World Wide Web sites.

For example, a medical research site might be restricted because it contains the word "sex."

Bull said many of her students use Internet search engines designed specially for children.

The bill does not include an appropriation for schools to buy the blocking software. However, because the state would require schools to purchase software, some lawmakers pressed for state funding to support the initiative.

The measure will be considered by the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.

Dealing with disruptive kids

A bill that would allow teachers more authority to remove disruptive students from class was approved March 16 by the House Education Policy Committee.

House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) is sponsoring the bill (HF16), which is supported by many education organizations including the teachers union Education Minnesota.

The bill would lower the standard for student behavior that constitutes grounds for dismissal or removal from the classroom.

Current law allows schools to dismiss students for conduct that "materially and substantially" interferes with other students' rights to an education or a teacher's ability to teach. Such conduct can include carrying a weapon in school, but there is no clear-cut definition.

Pawlenty's bill would clarify that conduct level as behavior that "significantly" affects the classroom atmosphere. The provision would also extend beyond the classroom into any school function such as recess, a school assembly, or a meeting in a principal's office.

Pawlenty said his bill would put order into the classroom and strengthen teachers' abilities to manage their classrooms.

"We can't just focus on the rights of the disruptive students," Pawlenty said.

But Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said the bill is only symbolic in nature and it would not have much of an effect on schools.

Several groups cautioned lawmakers against the bill, saying it would make it easier to kick students out of school, which would harm them in the long run.

Claudia Fuentes, a lobbyist with the Urban Coalition, said lowering the threshold for dismissal would disproportionately affect students of color and perpetuate racial biases in schools.

But Pawlenty said that if the bill does become law, schools should not use it as a tool against students. However, he said, the problem of disruptive students is a common complaint from teachers.

"There are real issues affecting real people, and we need to deal with them genuinely," he said.

The bill moves to the House floor.

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



ELECTIONS

Initiative bill gains ground

A bill that would allow citizens to directly place on the ballot proposed changes in state law or in the Minnesota Constitution was approved March 10 by the House Ways and Means Committee and March 17 by the House Rules Committee.

Under current law, only the Legislature, with the governor's approval, can change laws or put a constitutional amendment question on the ballot.

The bill (HF484) would place a constitutional amendment on the ballot for the 2000 general election that would allow voters to choose if they want the power of initiative and referendum.

Such a constitutional change would give citizens the ability to enact an initiative law, repeal an existing law, or put constitutional amendment questions on future ballots by filing a petition.

Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), the bill's sponsor, said other states have similar initiative and referendum laws, and he said those laws promote higher voter turnout and increased accountability of lawmakers.

Under Paulsen's plan, an initiative would go on the ballot if a petition is signed by 5 percent of the number of voters who voted for governor in the previous election. That threshold would have to be met in three-quarters of the state's congressional districts and on a statewide basis. And a constitutional amendment question would go on the ballot if a petition is signed by 8 percent of those voters.

The requirement regarding congressional districts is designed to make it difficult for an initiative or referendum to be placed on the ballot without support from different regions of the state.

Opponents of initiative and referendum laws say that many measures are too complex to be simply stated on a ballot and voted on without the extensive information, deliberation, and debate that help lawmakers make decisions.

The bill now moves to the House floor.



FAMILY

Making marriage stick

Married couples or couples planning to wed in Minnesota could opt to have a covenant marriage, under a bill approved March 13 by the House Civil Law Committee.

Bill sponsor Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) said her bill would give couples the

option of having "a deeper, more committed marriage."

The bill would create a new type of marriage called a covenant marriage, and it would provide procedures for entering into such an arrangement.

Covenant marriages would differ from standard marriages in that they would be exempt from the state's no-fault divorce laws.

Under the bill, divorce in a covenant marriage would only be granted in cases of adultery, abandonment, physical or sexual abuse, or when a spouse has committed a felony-level crime and is incarcerated.

Marital counseling would be required before couples could enter into the covenant marriage, under the bill.

Chuck Shreffler of Minneapolis testified in support of the bill. He said that his ex-wife and three children live in Colorado following his no-fault divorce. He said the spouse seeking the divorce has the most leverage under current divorce laws.

"The person who is the least committed in the relationship has the most power," he said, "and I don't think that's right."

Shreffler said all marriages are lifelong commitments and the covenant marriage would simply be "full disclosure" of that fact.

Tom Prichard, president of the Minnesota

Family Council, said that Minnesota's no-fault divorce law makes divorce too easy.

"It's easier to get out of a 30-year marriage than a \$100 business deal," Prichard said.

Prichard said that according to surveys done by his organization, two-thirds of married adults say that marriage is weaker today than 30 years ago and two-thirds of people who are divorced now say they wish they had tried harder to save their marriage.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), a family law professor at Hamline University Law School, said that the provisions dealing with mandatory premarital counseling are a good idea and should be applied to all marriages.

But the current no-fault divorce laws are working well and should be left alone, he said.

"If two parties don't want to remain married, why should the state stand in their way?" he said.

The bill (HF1571) now goes to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

Grandparents' rights

The House Civil Law Committee gave initial approval March 17 to a bill that would expand child visitation rights for grandparents.

The bill (HF764), sponsored by Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound), would eliminate current restrictions on when a grandparent can be granted visitation rights to allow courts more discretion in such cases. And the bill would mandate mediation in cases where visitation by the grandparent is contested.

Smith said that the mediation process would take these important issues out of the "cold courtroom" and place them in a setting where compromises can be worked out between the parties in dispute.

Muriel Hinich and Donna Zieska, co-directors of Grandparents Preserving Families, testified in support of the bill.

Hinich said that she hasn't seen her 16-year-old granddaughter for more than ten years. She said the notion of grandparents not participating in the lives of grandchildren would have been outrageous years ago.

"God would strike you dead if you ever said it," she said. "No child should lose their grandparent while (the grandparent) is still alive."

Zieska said she was involved in a six-year dispute over visitation with her grandchild and was finally awarded visitation.

"This would have never happened if we had positive mediation at the start," she said.

But Stephen Arnott, an attorney with the family law section of the Minnesota State Bar Association, said that adding more visitation

Pine Point proposal



Ken Litau, superintendent of schools on the White Earth Reservation, explains the need for state aid to replace the Pine Point School during a March 17 meeting of the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.



GAME & FISH

Hunting preserves approved

A plan to allow a limited number of elk and deer farmers across the state to open fenced-in shooting preserves is progressing through the House, and with it comes a debate over the ethics of hunting versus the interests of the agricultural community.

Farmed cervidae — the biological name for the family of animals including elk and deer — are currently raised on Minnesota farms for fiber, meat, animal byproducts, or as breeding stock.

Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) is sponsoring a bill (HF710) that would expand the permitted uses of farmed cervidae to include stocking them on 10 licensed shooting preserves.

The House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee approved the measure March 15.

Shooting preserves would contribute millions of dollars in feed and fencing purchases to their local economies, elk farmer Larry Winter told the committee.

Winter, speaking on behalf of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association, said that an animal killed by a patron of a shooting preserve would bring in 10 times the dollar value that slaughter would yield.

"We need to have something to do with our aging bulls who are ready for slaughter," he explained. "It's something that's going to keep us alive instead of turning into a butcher facility."

Shooting preserve operators could charge up to \$8,000 per animal or whatever the market would support, Holsten said.

"This is a value-added practice for the farmers," he said. "When these animals' ultimate purpose is to end up wrapped in a bag in the freezer, what difference should it make how they get there?"

Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, animal rights groups, and even some hunters — an unusual alliance — testified that shooting farm-raised, fenced-in animals is completely different from traditional hunting.

"This would be a canned hunt," said Linda Hatfield of the Humane Society of the United States. "It is cruel, inhumane, and disrespectful to the animal."

The state of Texas allows exotic species hunts of retired zoo animals, Hatfield said, and she fears cervidae shooting preserves would open up the door for those activities in Minnesota.

"I am a hunter, I am a fisher, and I had a venison hamburger for lunch," said Tom



Donna Zieska, left, and Muriel Hinich, co-directors of Grandparents Preserving Families, testify in favor of a bill that would expand grandparent visitation rights. The women addressed the House Civil Law Committee on March 17.

rights to parties other than the parents will result in increased litigation.

He said the current law does a good job of balancing the interests of grandparents and parents in these cases. The current law also allows judges to use their own judgment on which cases to refer for mediation, he said, unlike Smith's bill, which would require it.

"Mediation is not the answer for all disputes," Arnott said.

The committee also gave approval to two additional bills, HF1787 and HF1646, dealing with child visitation for parties other than parents.

HF1787, sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), would allow court appointed guardians to petition judges to allow visitation for foster siblings.

And HF1646, sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), would allow other family members, such as adult siblings, uncles, aunts, or cousins, to petition the courts for visitation rights to the child.

These bills now go to the House floor.



GAMBLING

Gambling bills advance

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved two bills March 12 that would allow new forms of gambling in Minnesota.

The first was a bill that would allow a card club to operate at a Shakopee horse track and direct a share of the profits to increasing race purses.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), sponsor of the bill (HF1281), said Canterbury Park is trying to compete against tracks in other states that can offer higher purses due to proceeds from other forms of gambling.

"The better horses go to Iowa, and that also means horse farms go to Iowa," he said.

Osskopp estimated that proceeds from a card club would raise the purses at Canterbury by about \$2 million to \$3 million annually. The track's purses are currently around \$4 million, and purses at Prairie Meadows race-track in Iowa total about \$15 million.

The committee also accepted an amendment offered by Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) that would allocate some of the proceeds of the card club to the commissioner of health and human services for a program to help compulsive gamblers.

The committee did not act on a bill (HF1374), sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), that would allow slot machines and blackjack at Canterbury Park.

But the lawmakers did approve a bill (HF686) that would allow dice games in bars.

"This is already a legal activity," said Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) sponsor of that bill.

Under gambling statutes, a private, social bet is not considered illegal, he said. But under liquor statutes, dice are not allowed in bars.

Bar patrons often play dice games, such as "liar's poker," "500 rummy," or "6-5-4" for small stakes or to buy drinks, Dehler said.

Dehler's bill and the measure proposing a card club at Canterbury Park now move to the House floor.

Meyers, a regional director for the Minnesota Conservation Federation. "My concern is the image that this paints of hunters in Minnesota."

Meyers questioned the ethics of advertised, guaranteed hunts, saying they would not provide fair chases.

Wayne Edgerton, an official with the Department of Natural Resources, said he opposes the bill because of the potential negative repercussions it could have upon the public's perception of hunting, especially after a majority of voters in the last election approved a constitutional amendment in support of traditional hunting.

The bill moves to the House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee.



GOVERNMENT

Keeping tabs on fees

State agencies would not be able to impose or increase fees without legislative approval, under a bill advanced March 16 by the House State Government Finance Committee.

Under the measure, budget proposals for each state agency would have to list proposed fee changes or new fees, including admission fees to state facilities and charges for goods, services, regulation, or licensure.

Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview), committee chair and sponsor of the bill (HF1471), said many fees are already in statute but that many are established through rules promulgated by state agencies. The bill would enable the Legislature to review all of those fees.

Krinkie said the bill would help solve the problem of temporary fees becoming permanent or being used for purposes other than those for which the fees were originally intended.

For example, Krinkie said, a fee for businesses making Uniform Commercial Code transactions — which is collected by the secretary of state's office — was originally intended to pay for computer upgrades but now goes into the general fund.

The bill would not apply to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

The measure now moves to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Coverage for survivors



Dependents of peace officers and firefighters who are killed in the line of duty will continue to be eligible for health insurance coverage, even if they are not covered at

the time of the person's death, under a law effective March 17.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), allows a spouse who is not covered as a dependent at the time of the death — but was eligible or later became eligible to be covered — to be a dependent on the employer's health plan.

A 1997 law provided health coverage to officers and firefighters and their dependents, because many who were disabled by duty-related injuries were receiving pensions but were not eligible for health-care coverage.

Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the legislation in the Senate.

HF49*/SF162/CH12



HEALTH

Abortion information sought

The House Civil Law Committee narrowly approved a bill March 15 that would establish a system for reporting data about certain minors who receive abortions. The vote was 8-6.

The bill (HF377) would require physicians to report information, including age and race, about minors who receive abortions after obtaining a judge's permission instead of parental consent. The statistical data would become public.

Under current law, doctors are required to notify parents or guardians at least 48 hours before performing an abortion on a minor.

But minors can bypass the parental notification by receiving a judge's permission.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), sponsor of the bill, said there is no good documentation to show how so-called "judicial pass through" is working, how often it is used, or what criteria judges use in granting their permission.

Goodno's bill would establish a reporting form that physicians would have to submit annually. The bill also specifies that the statistical data compiled from the reports would be public and outlines a process by which concerned citizens can sue the state to get access to the report.

"We have no idea how many minor girls are going through the bypass," said Jackie Schwietz, a spokeswoman for Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life. "That's what we want to find out."

Goodno amended his bill to provide data privacy protections for minors having abortions and for physicians who perform the procedures.

But some committee members expressed concern that the bill does not provide adequate protection for the judges who rule on such cases because the reports would provide information on specific counties and some counties have only one judge.

The bill, approved earlier by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee, now goes to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

Suburban history



Don Wiegert, *standing*, a founding member of the Maplewood Area Historic Society, speaks March 17 before the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee. The committee was considering a bill that would provide funds to relocate historic farm buildings in Maplewood. Also on hand were Maplewood City Councilor Sherry Allenspach, *left*, bill sponsor Rep. Betty McCollum, *second from right*, and Robert Overbey, a member of the Maplewood Area Historical Society.

Tobacco money plans

A proposal for spending the state's windfall from 1998's tobacco settlement was approved March 15 by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

The bill (HF1600) would establish four endowments with the money, an idea supported by Gov. Jesse Ventura. Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), sponsor of the bill, said about \$1.3 billion total would be set aside under his proposal.

A Minnesota Families Foundation would be created with \$600 million; a medical education and research costs fund would be established with \$100 million; a health professional education and medical research endowment would be founded with \$350 million; and a local public health endowment fund of \$260 million would be created.

Debate on the bill centered around an amendment — accepted by the committee — that would allow money from the medical education and research endowment to go to research activities that are conducted in non-educational settings. Under the bill, those activities could be sponsored by any Minnesota-based nonprofit organization.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) objected to that provision, saying the primary purpose of the endowment in his mind is to educate medical personnel.

Both Greenfield and Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth) said Minnesota's educational facilities are the appropriate arena for research, and they reminded committee members that about \$80 million in federal support for those facilities has been cut.

Greenfield said he opposed state funding for medical research because it is the purview of the federal government. Anything the state could contribute would only be "chump change," he said.

But Goodno said the bill doesn't require money be given to entities not engaged in training medical personnel, it only affords eligibility for those organizations. He added that there are entities other than the University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic that are doing research.

Earlier this year, the committee approved a separate measure that would dedicate tobacco settlement revenue to eliminating the state's health-care provider tax.

The committee also rejected a different endowment plan earlier this session. That plan was included in a bill (HF223), which is sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley). The committee approved a heavily amended version of Leppik's bill after it had been stripped of the endowment-related provisions. The version of the bill that emerged

from the committee would provide some funds for grants to help local anti-smoking initiatives.

Goodno's endowment plan now heads to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

Resolution says hands off

Some lawmakers believe the U.S. Congress should not be casting its eyes upon Minnesota's tobacco settlement money.

The House passed a resolution March 15 that aims to tell the federal government just that. The vote was 129-1.

The resolution, sponsored by Rep. Jim Seifert (R-Woodbury), would remind federal officials that they were not part of Minnesota's suit and inform them that the federal government has no right to the money.

The federal government has said it may be entitled to a portion of state tobacco settlements as repayment for its share of Medicaid costs.

Breathing room



Stacy Enzmann, a fourth-grader at Crooked Lake Elementary School in Andover, listens as her mother, Connie, testifies March 15 before the House K-12 Education Finance Committee. Connie Enzmann told the committee how her daughter had difficulty breathing while attending school before the building's air intake system was improved. The committee was hearing a bill that would create standard management procedures for such facilities.

But the proposed resolution notes that Minnesota's lawsuit was based on business issues, not health issues. It also would call on Minnesota's U.S. senators and representatives to support legislation — already introduced in Congress — that would prohibit federal recovery of any state tobacco settlement payments.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) expressed concern the resolution could actually overstate the case. And he said that can be more damaging at times than understating the argument.

Seifert disagreed and reminded Greenfield of the original grounds under which the case was filed, alleging illegal business practices on the part of tobacco companies and not claiming that their product was defective.

The measure (HF719/SF757*) goes to the governor.

Ambulance volunteers



Volunteer ambulance drivers in Minnesota now have a precise definition in state law, under a new law effective March 16.

The law defines ambulance drivers as volunteers, who as such are not entitled to minimum wage and other workers' protections even if they receive some financial compensation for their services. The need for a definition grew out of a legal debate over wage and hour laws.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the measure.

HF214*/SF241/CH8

New purchasing plans



Ambulance services will be allowed to participate in shared service purchasing arrangements for supplies, materials, and equipment, under a new state law effective Aug. 1.

Supporters of the legislation said ambulance services need more flexibility in approaching purchases, particularly of expensive items such as vehicles. They also expressed concerns that pending changes in the way federal programs reimburse ambulance services may have a negative financial impact.

Current state law requires government-owned ambulance services to let bids on equipment costing over \$25,000. The new law will allow co-ops to purchase ambulances, the most costly expenditure an ambulance provider faces.

The law was signed March 16 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Rep. Gregory Davids (R-Preston) and Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy) sponsored the legislation.

HF302*/SF579/CH13

Protection for peer review

Ambulance services and first responders would have the benefit of peer review under a bill the House passed March 11. The vote was 129-0.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), would allow ambulance services to consider controversial incidents without being subject to discovery should a lawsuit arise.

Peer review is used extensively in a number of medical professions to find solutions and to prevent further problems. In many cases, information exchanged in peer reviews is protected from legal discovery. The idea is that the protection will allow a free discourse so medical professionals can learn from each other's experiences and improve service.

The bill would extend that peer review protection to ambulance services and their employees.

The bill (HF463) moves to the Senate.



HIGHER EDUCATION

More aid for students

Students would be responsible for paying for a smaller share of their college education when they receive state grants, under a proposal considered March 17 by the House Higher Education Finance Committee.

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) is sponsoring a bill (HF210) that would lower to 40 percent the amount a post-secondary student is expected to contribute to his or her education.

Under current law, students who apply for state grants are expected to come up with 47 percent of their educational costs. The remaining 53 percent is made up by federal and state grants and other sources

Tuma said the cost of college has risen well past the rate of inflation and that his bill is a step toward keeping students' costs down.

His is not the only proposal calling for lowering the student share. On March 17, the committee also discussed a bill sponsored by Rep. Julie Storm (R-St. Peter) that would lower the student's expected contribution to 45 percent. That bill (HF1363) originated from a request from the state's Higher Education Services Office, which doles out the grants.

The committee may consider the bills again

this session for inclusion in the omnibus higher education finance bill.

Helping part-timers

A bill that would make college more affordable for independent and part-time students was considered March 15 in the House Higher Education Finance Committee.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) is sponsoring the bill (HF1096), which addresses a growing population of part-time and non-traditional students attending post-secondary institutions.

"A lot of people today need to work to go to school, and that's driving students into part-time [school]," said Morrie Anderson, chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

Anderson told lawmakers that he supports the bill because it would help attract and retain part-time students, a trend of college attendance he expects will continue.

"The system is clearly biased toward full-time students, and I don't know if that's where we should be today," he said.

Seifert's bill has two parts. The first would

reduce the percentage of the expected contribution on which the state's student-aid grant calculation is based for independent students and independent students with children.

The second part of the bill would change how grants are calculated for part-time students. Right now, the state estimates the cost of school attendance based upon the number of credits a student is taking, and financial aid is reduced as the student takes less credits. This often disqualifies students altogether from state grant eligibility because their cost of attendance is too low.

The bill would change that system by requiring the state to reduce grants proportionately according to the full cost of attendance. Many part-time students would be able to receive state grant money or see their grant dollars increase.

The committee may consider Seifert's bill for inclusion in the omnibus higher education finance bill.

Allowing more state aid

A bill that would allow some students to receive financial aid increases was considered March 17 by the House Higher Education Finance Committee.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) is sponsoring the legislation (HF1686).

Last year, Congress increased the maximum amount of money college students can receive under a federal Pell Grant from \$2,700 to \$3,000 per year.

However, Minnesota students did not see an increase because the state's own grants to students are based partly on how much a student is awarded in Pell Grant money. When the Pell Grant amount increases, the state grant amount decreases, so the student receives the same amount of aid.

The bill would cap at \$3,000 the Pell amount on which the state bases its own grant adjustment. The cap would not allow students to realize more aid now, but in the case of expected federal increases in Pell amounts, it would allow students granted more than \$3,000 to continue to receive maximum state aid as well.

Carlson said his bill would allow the neediest students to receive Pell Grant increases. He said these students were the target of the federal increases in the first place.

The committee is expected to consider the bill for inclusion in the omnibus higher education finance bill.

Child care funding



Amal Yusef testified for the Somali Women's Association on behalf of a bill calling for funding child care for African immigrants and refugees during a March 15 hearing of the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee.

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Office at (651) 296-2146



HUMAN SERVICES

Law expands eligibility



A new state law will make it easier for people with developmental disabilities to access the Consumer Support Program operated by the Department of Human Services.

Effective March 16, the new law eliminates an income cap for participation in the program.

Under prior law, people were ineligible for the program if their income was equal to or more than the level at which they would be required to pay a parental fee for medical assistance services and county social services. (That would translate to an income level that is the lesser of 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines or \$30,000 annually.)

The program is generally used to pay for in-home support services received by qualifying individuals.

Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings) and Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) sponsored the new measure.

HF356/SF73*/CH10



INSURANCE

Coverage for ear implants

A bill that would require health insurers and health maintenance organizations to cover costs related to an implant device that helps people hear was approved March 16 by the House Commerce Committee.

Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), chair of the committee, said he usually opposes mandates on the insurance industry but that he changed his mind on this bill after hearing the testimony of Julie Ainsworth. Two of Ainsworth's three sons were born deaf but can hear with the help of cochlear implants.

The implant is connected to an external microphone and miniature computer that transmits sounds to the auditory nerve, bypassing the damaged inner ear.

While some insurance plans cover costs of cochlear implant surgery, most plans do not cover post-operative expenses such as speech therapy or implant maintenance, said Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), sponsor of the bill.

Ainsworth estimated that the surgery costs about \$40,000 to \$50,000. But each part of the implant is fragile, and they often need to be repaired or replaced, which also costs thousands of dollars.

Speech therapy and auditory training are

also necessary, Ainsworth said. Her sons have learned sign language, and they are learning the English language, including reading and writing.

Ainsworth said people who have lost their hearing and then received cochlear implants say the quality of sound produced by the devices is similar to people talking underwater. That plus the fact that her sons could not hear before receiving the implants makes the therapy and training necessary, she said.

"They are so normal, but they work really, really hard just to live their lives," she said.

She suggested that people try watching television with the volume turned down and then imagine similar barriers to every conversation throughout the day.

The bill would require coverage of surgical costs and other expenses related to cochlear implants.

The bill (HF186) now moves to the House floor.



LAW

Real estate rewrite



Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law March 15 that makes several technical changes to the state's real estate laws.

Among other things, the measure eliminates the requirement that owners of registered land have an owner's duplicate certificate of title in order to sell the land.

The law also makes several minor changes to the Common Interest Ownership Act governing housing cooperatives and condominiums. Most provisions of the new law are effective Aug. 1.

The changes were recommended by the real property section of the Minnesota State Bar Association.

Rep. Jim Seifert (R-Woodbury) and Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville) sponsored the measure.

HF382/SF343*/CH11



SPORTS

Snowmobile stud solution

A bill that would help pay for snowmobile-stud damage to public paved trails was approved March 17 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

However, committee members disagreed on how much money it will take to repair the damage.

The bill (HF928), sponsored by Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar), would require snowmobilers to buy a \$10 sticker to use metal traction devices, or studs. A 1997 law prohibits using the studs on paved public trails, and proceeds from the \$10 fee would be used to repair damage to those trails caused by illegal stud use.

How much will it cost to repair the damage?

Dennis Asmussen, an official from the Trails and Waterways Division of the Department of Natural Resources, said he is confident in the department's \$1.5-million damage estimate. Department staff surveyed the damage last summer and projected the costs at \$15,000 per mile for a 1-inch pavement overlay. The state has a total of 200 miles of paved trails, and about 100 miles have been damaged by snowmobiles with studs.

However, local and county governments have built an additional 100 miles of paved trails. Representatives of the Minnesota Association of Counties estimate the costs of repairing the damage to those trails at \$20,000 per mile, because some areas will require a 1.5-inch overlay.

Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) said that estimate is too high. Bakk said that the engineer who designed the Mesabi Trail in northern Minnesota gave an estimate of \$5,000 per mile for an overlay and \$15,000 per mile to build a new trail.

The state already has some money to pay for trail repairs. A 1998 law required snowmobilers to buy a \$50 sticker to use studs on their snowmobiles, but that law was repealed March 4. Asmussen said \$754,000 had been collected from sales of the \$50 stickers as of March 11.

The state Department of Revenue estimates the \$10 sticker will generate about \$800,000 per year.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) questioned the philosophy of the bill, because it would make law-abiding snowmobilers pay for damage caused by lawbreakers.

"Instead of paying for more (conservation officers) to enforce the laws, we're paying to fix the blacktop every year," he said.

The bill now moves to the House Ways and Means Committee.



TAXES

Ventura's tax plan

A bill containing key portions of Gov. Jesse Ventura's tax-relief proposal for the coming biennium drew cheers and jeers March 16 from the House Taxes Committee.

The bill (HF890), sponsored by Rep.

Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) outlines Ventura's plans for tax cuts, tax discounts, farm assistance, and simplifying the state's tax code.

The one-time discount proposals drew fire from both sides of the aisle.

"Why so leery of permanent tax reductions?" Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) asked Department of Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith.

The governor's proposal calls for an average 6.75-percent cut in individual income tax, targeted to working middle-income families and toward fixing the so-called "marriage penalty."

Also included are proposed one-time income tax discounts of 3 percent in tax year 1999 and 1.5 percent in 2000.

"How many years do we have to have a surplus before we say, 'This is what we will tax and no higher?'" Rest asked. "Enough is enough."

She said the hesitation to make permanent cuts year after year has made the Legislature look ridiculous.

Abrams said he shares those concerns, but that the plan was a result of the governor's advisers being "super-cautious."

Smith said that was the case because "the governor has to be there when things go south."

And Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) said he believes caution is a good thing because the economy tends to go through cycles.

"Prudence is not a bad thing," he said.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) said she supports the governor's proposal to lower the passenger automobile registration tax and supports his plan to eliminate the June accelerated payment for sales tax paid by businesses.

Other concerns were expressed that the governor's plan to help agriculture has become a political game of one-upping. Ventura had originally proposed spending \$10 million for farm relief, but he has since amended that to \$60 million, with another \$20 million annually over the next three years.

Rep. Bill Kuisle (R-Rochester), who is sponsoring the farm support plan favored by the House Republican caucus to provide assistance to all farmers, said the governor's plan to target certain farmers he considers needy is dividing the agricultural community.

Smith said no aid formula is going to be perfect, but he added that not all farmers are in the same financial shape and that's why the governor believes the money should be targeted.

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Help for flooded cities

It was two years ago that flooding in the Red River Valley caused millions of dollars in damage. The high waters have gone away, but the affected cities are still struggling to recover financially.

To help the process, Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) is sponsoring two bills that would allow more money for and latitude in existing programs.

The first measure (HF1143) would provide \$1.5 million in additional border city enterprise zone credits for Breckenridge, Dilworth, East Grand Forks, and Moorhead. The credits can be used to reduce any tax to retain existing or attract new businesses.

The second bill (HF1133) would allow those cities and Ortonville to exceed the maximum statutory dollar limits established in 1998 on tax reductions for development projects.

Goodno told the House Taxes Committee March 15 that enterprise zone credits are needed to help the cities battle back from flood damage and to fight off competition for new industry and jobs coming from North Dakota and South Dakota.

He said the competitiveness issue existed prior to the flood but has grown worse in recent months.

He also said the 1998 law addressing tax reductions for development projects was capped at just under \$2 million because of an

"unrealistic" fiscal note provided by the Department of Revenue.

As a result, the program hasn't worked as well as it should. Goodno said the exact details of how the additional revenue would be accounted for haven't been dealt with.

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

An affordable option

Owners of manufactured housing parks in Minnesota claim they are providing much-needed affordable housing and that they ought to pay less in taxes.

That was the gist of March 15 testimony before the Property Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee in favor of a bill that would decrease the class rate on manufactured home parks from 2 percent to 1 percent.

The bill (HF1313) is sponsored by Rep. Julie Storm (R-St. Peter).

Steve Riegert, owner of Camelot Park in North Mankato, said the tax break is needed to help keep lot rent rates down. He also said that it is inherently unfair for residents of a home across the street from the park to pay less than his tenants, noting that the park pays a disproportionate share of costs for infrastructure services.

Several committee members expressed concern that the tax break might be used to line the pockets of park owners while lot rents remained unchanged and improvements went uncompleted.

Storm said her bill would require half of the savings to be used for investment in capital improvements or for direct assistance to homeowners for home improvements.

The measure was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Storm's bill is similar to a proposal discussed earlier this session and sponsored by Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar). Hackbarth's bill (HF1064) includes a provision that would replace lost revenue in impacted cities with over \$7 million in Home and Agriculture Credit Aid from state coffers during the next biennium.

Power company seeks break

Two powerful forces intersect on the quiet prairie of Lakefield Junction in southeastern Minnesota — a 42-inch natural gas pipeline and a 345-kilovolt high-voltage electric transmission line.

That means it's considered an ideal location for a gas-fired peak electricity generating facility.

A Nebraska company hoping to develop the

St. Patrick's Day song



Tom Jung of Hastings performs a St. Patrick's Day rendition of "An Irish Lullaby." Jung, who works as an assistant captain in the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Office, led both Irish and non-Irish lawmakers and staff in the sing-along March 17 in the House chamber.

facility outlined its plan March 16 before the House Taxes Committee, which heard a bill (HF887) that would exempt the facility from paying property taxes.

Robert Knudsen, general manager for business development of Tenaska Inc. of Omaha, Neb., said the project will help address an expected nationwide energy shortfall in the next decade.

His company's facility would use six gas turbines to provide electricity to utilities throughout the Midwest to help them meet peak demands.

He said without the tax break, the project probably wouldn't be economically feasible, and the company may be forced to look at what he said are less ideal sites in Iowa or in another state with a more friendly tax outlook.

The project would mean an additional \$575,000 annually to coffers of Martin County and the city of Trimont, according to the bill's sponsor, Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont).

The project would generate only three additional jobs on an intermittent basis, but Knudsen said Martin County and the state would benefit from 150 construction jobs over a two-year period and the long-term business impact in communities across the area.

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Farm property taxes

Financially strapped farmers often can't shoulder additional tax burdens, so when rural Minnesota school districts ask voters for more money to build facilities, they're often turned down.

That sets up a battle in many of those communities, with city residents accusing farmers of being anti-education. Farmers counter that they're as much for education as anyone, but they simply can't afford to pay the large assessments on their agricultural property the bond issues bring with them.

"Total farm income was at a 17-percent net loss last year," Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) told the Property Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee March 15. "The farmers are losing money and being taxed on their losses."

Mulder is sponsoring a bill (HF401) that would exempt agricultural homestead property of up to 320 acres from all school district taxes, except for the portion of the tax for the house, garage, and surrounding one acre of land. To be eligible for the exemption, the owner would have to actively farm the property and derive at least \$30,000 in income from farming.

The bill would replace the money lost to

school districts with a state appropriation through the K-12 education budget.

Mulder called it a permanent tax cut for farmers and said it is essential to preserve small farmers and the communities around them.

Keith Eitrem, a board member of the Pipestone-Jasper School District in the southwestern corner of the state, told the committee that voters in his district already turned down a \$23.5 million bond proposal and a similar plan is on the ballot April 13.

Eitrem said the district's high school was built in 1917, doesn't meet code, and isn't upgradable. He said the dilemma is particularly tough for him because he's a banker as well as a school board member.

"I know my farmers can't afford to pay more, yet I know we have to protect the quality of education in our district," Eitrem said.

While most on the panel were sympathetic to the district's plight, several noted that it isn't only farmers who are feeling the crunch.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) said that when a bonding proposal appears on the ballot in his school district, it's the senior citizens that get hammered. He suggested a better solution might be to unlink property taxes and education finance.

Mulder agreed, adding that education funding should mirror the economy and that income tax is the appropriate funding source.

Mulder said until more sweeping reforms are enacted, he wants to see farmers receive help immediately, with an eye toward solving problems both for farmers and educators in the future.

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.



TOURISM

The Wilder way



A road named after one of Minnesota's most famous authors is changing its route, under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Effective March 19, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Highway near Rochester is able to be rerouted from a U.S. highway to a county highway.

Currently the specially designated route runs through a mostly commercial area on heavily traveled U.S. highways 14 and 52. After the reroute, it will use a county road and pass by the Olmsted County Historical Society, which is planning to develop exhibits about the famed pioneer author.

The historical center has a log cabin that resembles one in which the Ingalls family lived. Plans for a prairie restoration project are

underway, and the historical society wants to name the prairie in the author's honor.

The Ingalls family did not live in the Rochester area, but Pa Ingalls once worked in Olmsted County. And Laura Ingalls Wilder is known to have traveled through the city many times on her trips to neighboring states.

Rep. Bill Kuisle (R-Rochester) and Sen. Kenric Scheevel (R-Preston) sponsored the measure.

HF157*/SF379/CH16



TRANSPORTATION

Plan to scrap tests

A bill that would repeal the state's motor vehicle emission testing program is headed to the House floor after being modified and approved March 12 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

The bill (HF7) originally called for eliminating the testing requirements July 1, 2000, but under an amendment offered by the proposal's sponsor, Rep. Barb Haake (R-Mounds View), the date was moved ahead six months to Jan. 1, 2000.

Haake said the earlier date would be most prudent for taxpayers, and that it became feasible after the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency said it expects the Twin Cities will be in compliance for carbon monoxide levels by that time.

The testing program was signed into law in 1988 by then-Gov. Rudy Perpich. It was created in response to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finding that the seven-county metro area's carbon monoxide level exceeded federal and state standards. The program went into effect in mid-1991 for all vehicles built after 1976.

In 1995, then-Gov. Arne Carlson signed a bill that exempted new cars up to five years old from emissions testing. That measure cut by one-third the number of vehicles required to undergo inspection each year.

Emissions inspections cost \$8 per vehicle and are assessed as part of vehicle registration.

Gov. Jesse Ventura's biennial budget proposal also calls for the repeal of the emissions inspection program, contingent upon federal approval of air quality standards approval. Under the governor's budget, the program would be repealed as of Aug. 1.

For an unofficial list of Minnesota commissioners and appointed agency heads on the World Wide Web go to: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/comm.htm>

Sane lanes saved

Lawmakers on the House Transportation Policy Committee rejected a chance March 16 to put an end to controversial metro-area "sane" lanes.

Sane lanes, otherwise known as high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, operate on two heavily traveled highways in the metro area.

One runs on Interstate 35W between Lakeville and Bloomington, and the other runs on Interstate 394 between St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis.

Rep. Doug Reuter's proposal (HF367) would have eliminated those designated lanes, in which carpools and buses travel during peak traffic hours.

Reuter (R-Owatonna) said he thinks the lanes are not being used to their expected capacity. He said drivers of single-occupancy vehicles who see an empty lane while sitting in rush-hour traffic are motivated to break the law and use the HOV lane.

"I just think it's time to admit that something isn't working and correct it," Reuter said.

But Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) said the HOV lane on I-394 does work.



Glen Carlson, an engineer with the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Traffic Management Center in Minneapolis, testified against a pair of bills that would eliminate the "sane" lanes on interstates 35W and 394, and require a study of freeway ramp lights in the metro area. Both bills were rejected by the House Transportation Policy Committee.

She said it reduces the traffic going into the Lowry Hill tunnel.

Several suburban bus company representatives also argued against the bill, saying the lanes allow buses to make quick trips, which attracts commuters.

Beverly Miller, a staff member at the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority, said bus ridership has increased 7.5 percent in the I-35W corridor with the help of the HOV lane. Eliminating the lane would hurt bus service, she said.

With an estimated population growth of 650,000 by 2020, some lawmakers expressed concern that shutting down HOV lanes would give people the wrong message about promoting mass transit.

"If we believe that we're heading in the right direction, then I don't believe we can block off access to those HOV lanes," said Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska).

Ramp meters find support

A plan to study metered freeway ramps was rejected March 16 by the House Transportation Policy Committee.

Rep. Doug Reuter (R-Owatonna) is sponsoring the bill (HF442) that would shut down all meters on freeway ramps for one month to look at how meters affect traffic flow.

"They may work and they may not work," he said. "But we don't know yet."

Reuter said he thinks too many people abuse the meter system and that the money would be better spent on road or bridge repair.

Many lawmakers on the committee disagreed and said they have not heard from many constituents requesting the meter study.

But Rep. Dan Larson (DFL-Bloomington) said his constituents have expressed frustration regarding drivers who don't abide by the meter system.

"The people in my district would probably support life without parole for the violators," Larson said.

Glen Carlson, manager of the Traffic Management Center in the Department of Transportation, said the 400 existing metered ramps cost about \$2.5 million and are proven safety devices.

"The problem is we don't have enough freeway capacity," Carlson said. "The ramp meters are not the problem."

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) also objected to the study because of safety concerns. She said the meters provide protection against accidents and help relieve some congestion on freeways that already have limited capacities.

"I have a difficulty even thinking of turning these (meters) off," she said.

Parking cheats targeted

A bill that would enhance law enforcement officials' ability to crack down on handicapped parking violators was considered March 15 by the House Transportation Finance Committee.

Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) is sponsoring the bill (HF1053).

The bill would repeal a \$1 per month credit on registration taxes for vehicles with disability plates, thus bringing in \$644,976 in highway funding over the next two years.

That money would pay for a computer network to list names of anybody holding a disability parking certificate. Currently, law enforcement officials have no way of tracking in a timely manner who might be using a counterfeit, expired, or stolen handicapped parking hang tag.

The new system would cost about \$140,000 to set up and would allow officials to obtain the information 24 hours a day. The bill would also tighten up the process by which disability certificates are issued.

The committee did not take any action on the bill, but lawmakers will consider including it in this year's omnibus transportation finance bill.

City limits on speed

A bill that would let cities set their own speed limits was approved March 18 by the House Transportation Policy Committee.

The bill (HF1196) is sponsored by Rep. Henry Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth) and is similar to a plan that stalled on the House floor last year.

Under Van Dellen's proposal, all cities and towns would be able to set their own speed limits on residential and other local streets. It would only apply to roads over which cities have jurisdiction.

Van Dellen said the bill would give authority to cities to set lower speed limits in certain residential areas or potentially dangerous routes.

Under current law, city streets have a speed limit of 30 miles per hour, and cities can apply to the Minnesota Department of Transportation to have the limits lowered.

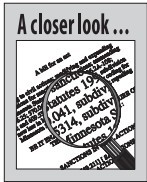
Some lawmakers opposed the bill, saying that differing speeds on county and city roads could confuse motorists and create speed traps.

But Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) supported the measure. He said many streets in Minneapolis have cars parked on both sides and the city should have the authority to lower limits in those areas to ensure traffic safety.

The bill moves to the House floor.

Bills may ban certain procedure, require waiting period

By Paul Wahl



A pair of controversial abortion-related bills advanced through two House panels March 16 and 17 and are headed for more committee debate.

Both proposals sparked passionate debate, but perhaps the most emotional testimony came on behalf of a measure that would ban so-called "partial-birth" or late-term abortions.

Lawmakers and others are so divided on the issue that they can't even agree on an exact definition of the medical procedure targeted by the proposal.

The bill (HF177), sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), uses the term "partial-birth" to describe certain late-term abortions. But opponents of the bill use the phrase "intact dilation and extraction" to refer to the same procedure.

Mulder's bill would provide civil and criminal penalties for performing such abortions. Under the proposal, a woman receiving an illegal late-term abortion, her spouse, and, if she is under 18, her parents, could sue doctors to recover psychological and physical damages resulting from the procedure. Performing such abortions would also be a felony offense, punishable by up to two years in prison plus fines.

And the procedure would remain legal only in cases necessary to save the life of the mother.

The House Health and Human Services Policy Committee approved the measure March 16 and the House Civil Law Committee gave its approval March 17. Both committees rejected amendments that would have eliminated the criminal penalties and expanded exceptions to the ban to include preserving the health or fertility of the mother or when there is proof of severe fetal anomalies.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) offered one such amendment in the health and human services committee and Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) offered a similar one before the civil law panel.

Both Greenfield and Skoglund argued that as drafted, Mulder's bill would be unconstitutional, saying that similar laws have been struck down in other states.

The U.S. Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision protecting abortion rights remains the country's highest ruling concerning abortion. A ban on late-term abortions was



Rep. Richard Mulder presents his controversial plan to ban late-term abortions, which won approval from two key House committees March 16 and 17. Mulder is shown here in March 16 testimony before the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

approved by the Congress, but it was vetoed by President Bill Clinton in 1997, essentially leaving the matter up to individual states.

Since then, 25 states have adopted bans. The laws have been challenged in 18 of those states. Only South Dakota, Mississippi, Indiana, Tennessee, Virginia, Oklahoma, and South Carolina have bans on the books that have not been challenged.

But Mulder said his bill would not violate the Roe vs. Wade ruling because it does not apply to most abortions. He said that 90 percent or more of so-called "partial-birth" abortions are performed in the fifth and sixth month of pregnancy and often when the mother and baby are in good health.

"My bill bans a procedure," Mulder told members of the civil law panel. "It does not ban abortions. The procedure is never necessary."

Exceptions to the proposed ban were a sticking point for many as well. Supporters of Mulder's bill said that proposed amendments to expand the exceptions only clouded the issue.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said additional language offered by Greenfield to allow the procedures in order to "preserve the fertility of the female" sounded like a medical loophole.

"Exactly how do you document that?" Haas asked.

But Connie Perpich, an official from Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, said that her group's concern is that without the expanded language, a woman's doctor would be prevented from using a full range of medical services in tending to health care needs.

Jeri Rasmussen, a member of the board of the National Abortion Federation, said physi-

cians could find themselves forced to choose between what's legal and what's best for a patient if the bill passes. She said that as far as she knows, the procedure is not performed in Minnesota.

In fact, just how often the late-term abortions are performed remains unclear. Mulder said there is no exact known number, but in a recent court case in New Jersey, witnesses said about 1,500 had been performed in that state in one year.

The same two House committees also approved a second bill (HF178) relating to abortion during the same hearings.

Under the proposal, sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), a woman would be prohibited from receiving an abortion unless she voluntarily provides informed consent to the procedure.

To be informed, the woman would have to receive specific information at least 24 hours prior to the procedure.

The information would have to detail the medical risks associated with abortion, risks related to carrying the fetus to term, the probable age of the fetus, the likelihood that the mother could qualify for medical assistance should she have the child, and how the father could be legally forced to help support her and the child.

The bill would also establish civil penalties for any woman, and for the parents of a minor woman, who has an abortion without informed consent.

Informed consent would not be required in medical emergency situations.

A 1998 omnibus health and human services bill that included a ban on "partial-birth" abortions passed the House, but the ban did not make it out of a House-Senate conference committee. And although 75 House members had said they would not support a final omnibus bill without the ban, the last-minute addition of abortion-reporting requirements helped the bill win final passage.

A law requiring doctors and medical facilities to provide the state with information concerning abortions performed went into effect July 1, 1998.

HF177 moves to the House Crime Prevention Committee, and HF178 goes to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee. 🐼

Governor's Desk

CH1-CH17

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 governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor

doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he 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.mainserver.state.mn.us/governor/>
(select "It's a New Day" and then click on "Legislative Logs")

Key:

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

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
1	88	139*	Campaign finance and public disclosure board member qualifications specified	2/17/99	
2	29	26*	Mississippi education center previous grantee changed to the city of Grand Rapids, and condition imposed	2/17/99	
3	107	133*	Minneapolis and St. Paul residency requirements repealed	3/4/99	
4	40	6*	Snowmobile metal traction device use restrictions modified and recreational vehicle rulemaking authority modified	3/4/99	
5	121*	171	Health related licensing board licensees infection control	3/8/99	
6	424*	370	Nonregistered pesticide distribution permitted for certain uses outside the state	3/8/99	
7	324	248*	Crooked Lake detached banking facility	3/15/99	
8	241	214*	Emergency medical services volunteer ambulance attendant definition	3/15/99	
9	464*	536	Carisoprodol classification as controlled substance effective date delay	3/15/99	
10	73*	356	Consumer support program for persons with functional limitations financial eligibility criteria modification	3/15/99	
11	343*	382	Real estate provisions modifications	3/15/99	
12	162	49*	Peace officers or firefighters killed in line of duty spouse health insurance coverage	3/16/99	
13	579	302*	Ambulance services shared service purchasing	3/16/99	
14	301*	74	Health care directive form modification	3/16/99	
15	416	453*	Minneapolis skilled workers and apprentices deferred compensation plan participation	3/18/99	
16	379	157*	Laura Ingalls Wilder historic highway route modification	3/18/99	
17	564	454*	Nursing home administrators sharing authority expansion	3/18/99	

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

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Unofficial list as of 3/5/99

Bill Introductions

HF1897-HF2182

Monday, March 15

HF1897—Clark, K. (DFL)
Family & Early Childhood
Education Finance

Substance abuse intervention in neighborhoods program grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1898—Daggett (R)
Environment & Natural
Resources Policy

Wadena County authorized to privately sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF1899—Olson (R)
K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 882, Monticello, technology grant authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1900—Mulder (R)
Jobs & Economic
Development Policy

Historic Pipestone Indian school buildings transfer authorized, pipemaker museum and resident academy restoration planning grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1901—Broecker (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Ramsey County; Lake Owasso intermediate care facility replacement authorized.

HF1902—Jennings (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Delivery vehicle mounted rear lighting authorized and department of public safety allowable lighting recommendations required.

HF1903—Bakk (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Canada; foreign country incorporated railroads required to install signalized grade crossing protection at all grade crossings in Minnesota.

HF1904—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Ranier authorized to prohibit running railroad locomotive parking within the city.

HF1905—Seifert, M. (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Governor authorized to veto agency rules.

HF1906—Tunheim (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Warroad to Baudette connecting railroad speed limit required.

HF1907—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Canada; railroad entry fee imposed and penalty provided.

HF1908—Tunheim (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Canada; trains entering Minnesota from a foreign country required to be inspected, and penalty imposed.

HF1909—Larson, D. (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
DNL65; Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties preschool airport noise insulation provided.

HF1910—Gunther (R)
Jobs & Economic
Development Policy
Housing finance agency home improvement and equity take-out loans, and family stabilization rental assistance provided; community rehabilitation fund use clarified; and consumer-owned housing revolving account established.

HF1911—Mariani (DFL)
Jobs & Economic
Development Finance
Science Museum of Minnesota opening grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1912—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP) provisions modified and money appropriated.

HF1913—Pugh (DFL)
Commerce
Metropolitan area utility transmission line upgrade siting regulated.

HF1914—Swenson (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 2859, Glencoe-Silver Lake, long-range facility study conducted, and money appropriated.

HF1915—Leighton (DFL)
Jobs & Economic
Development Policy
Workers' compensation third-party liability provisions modified, filing of attorney fee statements required, special compensation fund procedures modified, and alternative cost allocation accounts provided.

HF1916—Solberg (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Itasca County tax increment financing district creation authorized, and taconite mine direct reduction plant and steel mill adjacent power plant development powers provided.

HF1917—Hausman (DFL)
Transportation Finance
Metropolitan and greater Minnesota transit appropriated money.

HF1918—Van Dellen (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 277, Westonka, referendum revenue adjusted.

HF1919—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural
Resources Policy
Preferred waste management practices expanded to include methane gas recovery.

HF1920—Ozment (R)
Crime Prevention
Dakota County community justice zone pilot project established and money appropriated.

HF1921—Dawkins (DFL)
Civil Law
Relative custody and adoption assistance maximums modified to correspond to foster care assistance rates, obsolete AFDC references repealed, and money appropriated.

HF1922—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
Individual income tax restructured.

HF1923—Mares (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement membership modified.

HF1924—Otremba (DFL)
Environment & Natural
Resources Policy
Todd County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water and wetland.

HF1925—Otremba (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Independent School District No. 786, Bertha-Hewitt, teacher retirement clerical error corrected.

HF1926—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Telemedicine network established, interstate telemedicine service regulated, medical assistance reimbursement authorized, grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1927—Storm (R)
Crime Prevention
Police agency shared information management system established and money appropriated.

HF1928—Bishop (R)
Environment & Natural
Resources Policy
Olmstead County authorized to convey tax-forfeited land bordering public water and wetland.

HF1929—Westerberg (R)
Jobs & Economic
Development Policy
Home ownership pilot project established under the family stabilization program and money appropriated.

HF1930—Van Dellen (R)
K-12 Education Finance
School district referendum allowance maximum increased.

HF1931—Trimble (DFL)
Jobs & Economic
Development Finance
Contaminated site cleanup and development grant program funded, and money appropriated.

HF1932—Jennings (DFL)
Commerce
Rental vehicle insurance coverage regulated.

HF1933—Boudreau (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Day training and habilitation task force established, and new payment and rate structure developed.

HF1934—Bradley (R) K-12 Education Finance Independent School District No. 535, Rochester, special education revenue adjustment grant provided, and money appropriated.	HF1944—Wenzel (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Policy Paul Bunyan state trail route modified.	HF1954—Paymar (DFL) Crime Prevention Crime victim and witness services pilot project grant program established, and money appropriated.	HF1965—Finseth (R) Environment & Natural Resources Policy State land drainage benefit payment responsibility transferred to the commissioner of finance and money appropriated.
HF1935—Harder (R) Health & Human Services Finance Approved nursing facility completed projects replacement cost new calculation modified.	HF1945—Wenzel (DFL) Agriculture Policy Meatpacking industry possible illegal practices investigated by the attorney general, report required, and money appropriated.	HF1955—Goodno (R) Health & Human Services Finance Regional coordinating boards provisions modified, radioactive material regulatory authority provided, speech pathologist and audiologist fees modified, lead safety provisions modified, penalties provided, and money appropriated.	HF1966—Mulder (R) Commerce Wind energy mandate modified and portion set aside for farmers, wind energy revolving loan account created, utility renewable energy obligations regulated, and money appropriated.
HF1936—Dempsey (R) Jobs & Economic Development Policy Hastings Le Duc mansion refurbished, bonds issued, and money appropriated.	HF1946—Ness (R) Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Department of Agriculture appropriated money.	HF1956—Goodno (R) Health & Human Services Finance Human services appropriations bill.	HF1967—Tunheim (DFL) Taxes Cities with reduced commercial and industrial property market values provided increased local government aid distributions.
HF1937—Bishop (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs County services districts established, county cooperation required, and boards and advisory committees authorized.	HF1947—Jennings (DFL) Commerce Brewer and wholesaler judicial remedies modified.	HF1957—Haas (R) Health & Human Services Policy Senior drug program annual fee eliminated, qualified Medicare beneficiary asset limit eligibility increased, and study required.	HF1968—Davids (R) Commerce Medicare supplemental insurance federally required changes provided.
HF1938—Anderson, B. (R) State Government Finance Camp Ripley national guard youth camp operation and staffing assistance provided, and money appropriated.	HF1948—Munger (DFL) Transportation Policy Amtrak; passenger rail service connecting the Twin Cities, Duluth, and the Iron Range studied; and money appropriated.	HF1958—Haas (R) Health & Human Services Policy FATHER welfare-to-work demonstration project participants direct child support payments authorized, and money appropriated.	HF1969—Juhnke (DFL) Taxes Agricultural homestead acreage subject to a lower property tax class rate increased, and homestead and agricultural credit and adjustment provided.
HF1939—Howes (R) Environment & Natural Resources Policy Motorized wheelchairs and devices operated by persons with physical disabilities authorized on nonmotorized state trails.	HF1949—Munger (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Policy Omnibus packaging regulation bill; mandatory recycled content requirements provided, transport packaging regulated, beverage packaging requirements provided, wood waste and product residue marketing plan required, and penalties provided.	HF1959—Bradley (R) Health & Human Services Policy Human services county-based purchasing implementation date and provisions modified.	HF1970—Mares (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS) and Department of Employee Relations (DOER) required to report correctional plan employee count to Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.
HF1940—Jennings (DFL) Commerce Renewable energy development funding requirements modified and required expenditures specified as recoverable.	HF1950—Johnson (DFL) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Citizens advisory council on food, report required, and money appropriated.	HF1960—Gray (DFL) Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Child care system obsolete reports eliminated.	HF1971—Stanek (R) Commerce Minnesota wireless emergency telephone services act adopted.
HF1941—Clark, K. (DFL) Judiciary Finance Substance abuse intervention in neighborhoods program grants provided and money appropriated.	HF1951—Workman (R) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Grimm farmstead restoration grant provided and money appropriated.	HF1961—Otremba (DFL) Taxes Low-income housing tax credit provided.	HF1972—Biernat (DFL) K-12 Education Finance Statewide youth athletic program provided and money appropriated.
HF1942—Bakk (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Policy County natural resources land in lieu tax payments provided inflation adjustment.	HF1952—Abrams (R) Taxes Additional homestead classification qualifications prohibited.	HF1962—Otremba (DFL) Commerce Inherited metabolic disease equal insurance coverage required.	HF1973—McGuire (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Birth information release provided to adopted persons and money appropriated.
HF1943—Bakk (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Policy Cook County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.	HF1953—Reuter (R) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Owatonna infrastructure improvement grant provided and money appropriated.	HF1963—Howes (R) Civil Law State and political subdivisions prohibited from bringing certain suits against firearms or ammunition manufacturers.	HF1974—Kuisle (R) Taxes Transit system and provider purchased motor vehicles and replacement parts sales and use tax exemption provided.
HF1944—Clark, K. (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Policy Cook County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.	HF1954—Reuter (R) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Owatonna infrastructure improvement grant provided and money appropriated.	HF1964—Finseth (R) Environment & Natural Resources Finance Red River basin flood water management grants provided and money appropriated.	

HF1975—Wolf (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
State archaeologist appointment process and position classifications modified.

HF1976—Mahoney (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
St. Paul Stroh's brewery site acquisition and development funded and money appropriated.

HF1977—Lenczewski (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) board of trustees required to reduce spending disparities between campuses.

HF1978—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Tangible personal property awarded as prizes in games of skill or chance considered property for resale.

HF1979—Rostberg (R)
Crime Prevention
Critical incident stress management (CISM), fire assistance support team (FAST) grant program established and money appropriated.

HF1980—Osskopp (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Child support mediation pilot program established, evaluation required, and money appropriated.

HF1981—Lenczewski (DFL)
Taxes
Local government city aid base reduced as aid appropriations increase.

HF1982—McGuire (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Medical assistance coverage of over-the-counter 5-hydroxytryptophan provided.

HF1983—Dorn (DFL)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
South central children's project in Blue Earth County appropriated money.

HF1984—Abrams (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Department of revenue sign required.

HF1985—Buesgens (R)
Transportation Policy
Motor vehicle registration suspension authorized when owner fails to file transfer of interest, detachable form required, and money appropriated.

HF1986—Nornes (R)
Transportation Policy
Trunk highway No. 59 designated as Otter Trail Veterans memorial drive.

HF1987—McCollum (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Minnesota River valley birding trail developed and money appropriated.

HF1988—Otremba (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Free of charge health care services provided MinnesotaCare tax exemption.

HF1989—Otremba (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
School districts with a substantial enrollment of students eligible for free or reduced priced meals provided additional compensatory revenue.

HF1990—McCollum (DFL)
Taxes
Lawful gambling tax collection date modified.

HF1991—Chaudhary (DFL)
Civil Law
Foster care placement deadline specified and permanency planning time period shortened.

HF1992—Krinkie (R)
Education Policy
Teacher contract qualified economic offer provided.

HF1993—Workman (R)
Transportation Policy
Seasonal road restrictions task force established and study required.

HF1994—Marko (DFL)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Family communication initiative grant program established to provide services to families with deaf or hard-of-hearing children, and money appropriated.

HF1995—Mulder (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 303, Lake Benton, fund balance penalty reimbursement provided, and money appropriated.

HF1996—McGuire (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Revision of public waters list authorized to include additional water basins.

HF1997—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
Comprehensive low-income tax credit provided replacing the working family tax credit, dependent care tax credit, education credit, and property tax refund; and money appropriated.

HF1998—Rest (DFL)
Taxes
Marriage penalty and property tax provisions modified, income tax rates reduced, alternative minimum tax exemption increased, and constitutional amendment proposed dedicating motor vehicle sales taxes to the highway user trust fund.

HF1999—Paulsen (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Constitutional amendment proposed limiting the scope of the legislature during the second year of each biennial session.

HF2000—Lenczewski (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Medicare supplemental coverage for low-income seniors study authorized.

HF2001—Abrams (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Reapportionment commission established, legislative power to change the number or senators and representatives limited, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2002—Lenczewski (DFL)
Taxes
Roth IRA conversions excluded from definition of household income relating to property tax refunds.

HF2003—Olson (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Health plan companies required to make health plans available that limit coverage for abortions.

HF2004—Abeler (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
AIDS prevention program modified to include human papilloma virus prevention.

HF2005—Molnau (R)
Transportation Finance
Transportation revolving loan fund appropriation provided for highways.

HF2006—Chaudhary (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Inmate chemical use and mental health assessment required, treatment required, records maintained, free weights and cable television prohibited, and work assignments and other programs required.

HF2007—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Digital television broadcast equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF2008—Van Dellen (R)
Taxes
Certain homeowners provided additional property tax refund.

HF2009—Hausman (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
St. Paul provided appropriation for natural science education coordinator for Como Park.

HF2010—Paulsen (R)
Commerce
Workers' compensation self-insurance regulated, and reporting and financial requirements provided.

HF2011—Bishop (R)
Higher Education Finance
Southeastern Minnesota regional public safety training center appropriation provided.

HF2012—Harder (R)
Agriculture Policy
Veterinary practice requirements modified and procedures clarified.

HF2013—Hausman (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Work first transitional employment project appropriation provided for refugee and immigrant communities.

HF2014—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Gray wolf management provided, including hunting and trapping provisions, and criminal penalties provided.

HF2015—Finseth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Consolidated conservation lands designated as wildlife management areas by rule.

HF2016—Dawkins (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Miscellaneous property and motor vehicle forfeiture provisions modified.

HF2017—Mahoney (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Administration and health departments directed to adopt newest editions of certain building code standards.

HF2018—Holberg (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Wastewater funding provided for Cedar Lake township in Scott County, and bond sale authorized.

HF2019—Pawlenty (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Board of invention appropriation provided.

HF2020—Holberg (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Wastewater funding provided for New Market/Elko project, and bond sale authorized.

HF2021—Bishop (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Vertical heat exchanger contractor license provided, and training requirements established.

HF2022—Chaudhary (DFL)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Adult graduation aid formula modified.

HF2023—Krinkie (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Proponents of new or expanded occupational regulation required to provide written reports to legislature.

HF2024—Seifert, J. (R)
Health & Human Services Policy

Medicaid facility preadmission screening requirement exemption extended for Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington counties.

HF2025—Chaudhary (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

General community education revenue increase provided, and money appropriated.

Wednesday, March 17

HF2026—Sviggum (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Small city economic development district use for commercial developments modified.

HF2027—Storm (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

St. Peter permitted to lay fiber dark optic cable.

HF2028—Seagren (R)
Taxes

Bloomington fiscal disparities contribution adjustment requirement eliminated.

HF2029—Van Dellen (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Plymouth tax increment financing district provided local contribution requirement waiver.

HF2030—Van Dellen (R)
Taxes

Health care provider tax exemption provided for medical examinations for the purposes of insurance, litigation, and employment.

HF2031—Kubly (DFL)
Taxes

Renville County authorized to impose an aggregate production tax.

HF2032—Gunther (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Housing finance agency affordable rental investment fund, community rehabilitation fund, and housing trust fund programs appropriated money.

HF2033—Buesgens (R)
K-12 Education Finance

National Association of Student Councils' 1999 national convention grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2034—Entenza (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

Violence prevention through the development of songs, performance, and recorded educational resources grant program established; and money appropriated.

HF2035—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Commercial businesses operating on shoreland permitted to rebuild.

HF2036—Hackbarth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Anoka County trails previous appropriation provisions modified.

HF2037—Hackbarth (R)
Transportation Policy

Town roads not providing adequate turnaround space at cul-de-sacs and dead ends improvement remedy provided, and county board spending limit increased.

HF2038—Mullery (DFL)
Crime Prevention

Possession of a pistol with an altered, removed, or absent serial number provided mandatory minimum sentence.

HF2039—Mullery (DFL)
Crime Prevention

Level III sex offenders prohibited from residing within 500 feet of another level III sex offender.

HF2040—Mullery (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Hennepin County supplemental retirement program terms modified.

HF2041—Kuisle (R)
Transportation Finance

Personal rapid transit planning and design provided and money appropriated.

HF2042—Bishop (R)
Crime Prevention

Obsolete statutory provisions repealed.

HF2043—Tuma (R)

Health & Human Services Finance
Intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation (ICF/MR) funding transferred to the medical assistance program.

HF2044—Anderson, B. (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Burial expense reimbursement increased, deceased workers memorial developed, and occupational safety and health (OSHA) penalty provisions modified.

HF2045—Bishop (R)
Judiciary Finance

Rochester; southeastern Minnesota regional public safety training center development and construction provided, and money appropriated.

HF2046—Hausman (DFL)
Higher Education Finance

University of Minnesota soccer stadium developed, women's athletic program use specified, and money appropriated

HF2047—Mulder (R)

Health & Human Services Policy
University of Minnesota rural preventative health care program established, rural medical community information resource system operation provided, and money appropriated.

HF2048—Murphy (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 704, Proctor, ice arena safety improvements authorized through health and safety program.

HF2049—Harder (R)
Agriculture Policy

Pesticide registration and aquatic pest control licensing provisions modified, fertilizer reporting requirement clarified, and obsolete rules repealed.

HF2050—Skoglund (DFL)
Crime Prevention

DWI; repeat offender electronic alcohol monitoring requirements modified.

HF2051—Huntley (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Duluth firefighter consolidation account surviving spouse benefit increased.

HF2052—Kielkucki (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Wright County surplus land private sale authorized.

HF2053—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
Certified neonatal nurse practitioner medical assistance coverage provided.

HF2054—Wenzel (DFL)
Agriculture Policy

Dairy farming task force created and money appropriated.

HF2055—Workman (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Local government service fees authorized.

HF2056—Carlson (DFL)
Education Policy

University of Minnesota Regent Candidate Advisory Council recommendation process modified.

HF2057—Gleason (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Government airline ticket purchases limited.

HF2058—Carruthers (DFL)
Civil Law

Pollution Control Agency data classification provided.

HF2059—Folliard (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

First-year teacher induction program grants provided, national board for professional teaching standards certification process participation encouraged, and money appropriated.

HF2060—Fuller (R)
Crime Prevention

Minnesota Correctional Facility-Sauk Centre authorized to accept parole status youth.

HF2061—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Local units of government bonding for conservation easement acquisition authorized.

HF2062—Carruthers (DFL)
Transportation Finance

Hennepin County and west metro area driver improvement pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF2063—McElroy (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy

World Trade Center Corp. eliminated, and assets and liabilities transferred to the Department of Trade and Economic Development.

HF2064—Carruthers (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Fiscal disparities exemption provided to superfund sites developed under a development action response plan.

HF2065—Ness (R)
K-12 Education Finance

Third and fifth grade reading, mathematics, and writing tests, and eighth grade basic skills reading and mathematics tests norm references established; and money appropriated.

HF2066—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy

Office of minority health established, and powers and duties specified.

HF2067—Westerberg (R)
Crime Prevention

Extended jurisdiction juvenile offenders in violation of stayed sentences prohibited from receiving time served credit.

HF2068—Jaros (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Teachers retirement association service credit purchase authorized for former Lydia special education co-op teachers.

HF2069—Jaros (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy

Minnesota family investment program (MFIP) transitional standard child only cash grants modified.

HF2070—Sviggum (R)
Taxes

Taconite production permanent tax rate provided and taconite economic development fund distributions increased.

HF2071—Swenson (R)
Transportation Finance

County turnback account appropriated money.

HF2072—Westrom (R)
Transportation Finance

Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation funded, and money appropriated.

HF2073—McGuire (DFL)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Federal welfare-to-work grant money state match for child care assistance funding provided.

HF2074—Marko (DFL)
Transportation Policy

Driver testing facilities and operations expanded and improved, adult driver license applicants required to hold six month instruction permits, department of public safety publications paid advertisements authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2075—Mahoney (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, stability demonstration project established, and money appropriated.

HF2076—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Chippewa County; recreational trail resurfaced from Milan to Lac Qui Parle lake and money appropriated.

HF2077—Lieder (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Norman County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF2078—Tomassoni (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

School district public safety revenue provided.

HF2079—Tomassoni (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Statewide medical program established to provide free or reduced-cost health care to veterans.

HF2080—Seifert, M. (R)
K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 2167, Lakeview, new school powered by gasification constructed, and money appropriated.

HF2081—Storm (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance

St. Peter tree planting grants provided and money appropriated.

HF2082—Nornes (R)
Health & Human Services Finance

Nursing facility purchase price used in property reimbursement rate determinations.

HF2083—Peterson (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

Minnesota River valley education district and southwest Minnesota workforce development center program and services colocation grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF2084—McCollum (DFL)
Taxes

Individual income tax damages awards exemption provided.

HF2085—Tuma (R)
Taxes

Senior-owned homesteads estimated market value increases prohibited.

HF2086—Peterson (DFL)
Transportation Policy

Super-2 highway; trunk highway nos. 7 and 212 segments reconstructed.

HF2087—Krinkie (R)
Taxes

Property tax use for light rail transit prohibited.

HF2088—Solberg (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Aitkin County Growth Inc. tax payment grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2089—Biernat (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

Area learning centers building lease aid provided.

HF2090—Cassell (R)
Education Policy

College and university hazing policy distribution provision modified.

HF2091—Cassell (R)
Higher Education Finance

Farm and small business management programs, and tuition assistance funded; and money appropriated.

HF2092—Ness (R)
K-12 Education Finance

Interactive television program funding restored.

HF2093—Erickson (R)
K-12 Education Finance

Urban educator professional development program grants established and money appropriated.

HF2094—Seagren (R)
K-12 Education Finance

Collaborative Urban Educator, southeast Asian teacher licensure, and circles of support in educational leadership programs funded; additional salary authorized for graduates; and money appropriated.

HF2095—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes

Working family credit based on federal earned income tax credit.

HF2096—Westrom (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Grant County infrastructure improvement grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2097—Solberg (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 316, Greenway, full-day daily kindergarten program grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF2098—Solberg (DFL)
Higher Education Finance

Itasca community college facilities construction authorized.

HF2099—Tuma (R)
Health & Human Services Finance

Intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation (ICF/MR) services and resident relocation funding modified.

HF2100—Wagenius (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy

Lead testing and child lead poisoning treatment reimbursement by stationary sources emitting large amounts of lead required and civil cause of action provided.

HF2101—Hilty (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Government training service provided an exemption from the solicitation process and money appropriated.

HF2102—Bakk (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Larsmont design project wastewater funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2103—Lindner (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Council on Affairs of Chicano Latino People appropriated money.

HF2104—Schumacher (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Zimmerman wastewater funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2105—Bishop (R)**Ways & Means**

Legislative Advisory Commission review of federal funds purpose changes provided, state finance information submission dates modified and coordinated, and expenditure forecast bonding component provided.

HF2106—Sykora (R)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Child care basic sliding fee assistance eligibility modified.

HF2107—Kahn (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Iraq; president, Congress, and other national and international officials memorialized to lift the economic sanctions against Iraq.

HF2108—Abeler (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

School district immunization follow-up activities funded and money appropriated.

HF2109—Boudreau (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 656, Faribault, local levy authorized, fund transfer allowed, and money appropriated.

HF2110—Wolf (R)**Commerce**

Qualified small and medium-sized wind energy facilities renewable energy production incentives provided.

HF2111—Murphy (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Proctor authorized to impose an additional sales tax for construction and improvement projects.

HF2112—Murphy (DFL)**Judiciary Finance**

Carlton County criminal prosecution expenses reimbursement provided and money appropriated.

HF2113—Boudreau (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Nursing home services and elderly waiver services prepaid medical assistance eliminated.

HF2114—Davids (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Professional architect, engineer, surveyor, landscape architect, geoscientist, and interior design services bid solicitation process exception provided.

HF2115—Workman (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 112, Chaska, eastern Carver community collaborative project capital planning grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF2116—Howes (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

North ten mile sanitary district wastewater funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2117—Howes (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

East Gull Lake projects wastewater funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2118—Howes (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Longville wastewater funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2119—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Dependent care credit, education credit and subtraction, and working family credit inflationary and family size adjustments provided; and money appropriated.

HF2120—Osthoff (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Additional critical habitat license plates purchase provided and money appropriated.

HF2121—Haas (R)**Transportation Finance**

Brooklyn Park; Trunk Highway No. 52 overpass feasibility, cost, and safety studied; and money appropriated.

HF2122—Entenza (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Center for Victims of Torture appropriated money.

HF2123—Tuma (R)**Education Policy**

Advocacy organization representatives allowed to serve as lay advocates; and individual education plan meeting, conciliation conference, and mediation session attendance one-time reimbursement provided.

HF2124—Tuma (R)**Education Policy**

Interagency dispute procedure affecting persons with disabilities ages three through 21 developed and implemented.

HF2125—Clark, K. (DFL)**Taxes**

Cities required to discharge unpaid tax obligations of Neighborhood Revitalization Program nonprofit contractors.

HF2126—Abrams (R)**Taxes**

Fiscal disparities abatement authorized, school district uniform abatement authority provided, and provisions clarified.

HF2127—Abrams (R)**Taxes**

Public debt use limitations and conditions modified and imposed.

HF2128—McElroy (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Board of Boxing abolished and boxing regulation studied.

HF2129—Broecker (R)**Judiciary Finance**

Criminal justice, corrections, and public safety appropriations bill.

HF2130—Anderson, B. (R)**Crime Prevention**

Runaway children in need of protection or services (CHIPS) provided treatment, notice required, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF2131—Howes (R)**Taxes**

County water implementation tax levy and base grant awards increased, and money appropriated.

HF2132—Greiling (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Urban agricultural high school created, planning grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF2133—Finseth (R)**Taxes**

East Grand Forks and Warren provided temporary local government aid increases, and money appropriated.

Thursday, March 18**HF2134—Wenzel (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Criminal gang prosecution council created, strike force support provided, guidelines developed, and attorney general jurisdiction provided.

HF2135—Holsten (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Natural resources, youth sports, agriculture, and wastewater funding provided; and money appropriated.

HF2136—Holsten (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Bayport storm sewer reconstruction project grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2137—Jennings (DFL)**Commerce**

Telecommunications service regulated.

HF2138—Dempsey (R)**Taxes**

Historic structure rehabilitation expenditures income tax credit provided.

HF2139—Murphy (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minnesota State Retirement system (MSRS) and state troopers retirement average salary definition modified.

HF2140—Westfall (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Cromwell Township flood damage mitigation funded and money appropriated.

HF2141—Kalis (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

St. Clair; LeSueur River stream bank stabilization grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2142—Tingelstad (R)**Judiciary Finance**

DARE advisory council grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2143—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
State travel office feasibility and benefits studied.

HF2144—Kahn (DFL)
Education Policy
University of Minnesota incumbent regents provided exemption from advisory council evaluation requirement.

HF2145—Nornes (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Otter Tail County surplus land conveyance authorized.

HF2146—Nornes (R)
Taxes
Fergus Falls community center construction materials and supplies sales tax exemption provided.

HF2147—Nornes (R)
K-12 Education Finance
School district sparsity revenue distance factor increased.

HF2148—Workman (R)
Rules & Legislative Administration
Constitution; sovereignty of the people and states reaffirmed, original intention of the Constitution of the United States restored, and principles provided.

HF2149—Workman (R)
Taxes
Sales, use, and motor vehicle sales tax rates reduced.

HF2150—Workman (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Employee and student political fund solicitation negative checkoffs prohibited.

HF2151—Dehler (R)
Higher Education Finance
University of Minnesota health-related tuition offset trust fund established and funding provided through cigarette tax revenue.

HF2152—Otremba (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
Cancer awareness and prevention funded, health data classification provided, and money appropriated.

HF2153—Gray (DFL)
Taxes
Property tax and state aid special taxing districts expanded to include the middle Mississippi River watershed management organization.

HF2154—Fuller (R)
Transportation Finance
Local bridge road approach funding authorized through previous transportation bonding authority.

HF2155—Vandevier (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Elementary school supplemental literacy program grants provided and money appropriated.

HF2156—Reuter (R)
Civil Law
Economic loss arising from the sale of goods regulated.

HF2157—Murphy (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement actuarial cost allocation modified.

HF2158—Swenson (R)
Judiciary Finance
Center for Reducing Rural Violence funding continued and money appropriated.

HF2159—Harder (R)
Taxes
Jackson tax increment financing district duration extended.

HF2160—Reuter (R)
Taxes
Owatonna Pearl Street 911 center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF2161—Olson (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Traumatic brain injury demonstration project appropriated money.

HF2162—Olson (R)
Commerce
Seat belt use automobile insurance premium reduction required.

HF2163—Olson (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake, technology grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2164—Jennings (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
County natural resources land in lieu tax payments modified and money appropriated.

HF2165—Holsten (R)
Commerce
Internet, interactive computer services, digital broadband services, and high-speed data and Internet access services regulation restricted.

HF2166—Tuma (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 659, Northfield, community resource center grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2167—Solberg (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
PELRA; retired employees unilateral benefits modifications considered an unfair labor practice.

HF2168—Carruthers (DFL)
Civil Law
Multiple defendants aggregate fault allowed related to comparative negligence.

HF2169—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Public trails and park facilities surveyed for accessibility to persons with disabilities and money appropriated.

HF2170—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Board of Water and Soil Resources shoreland protection pilot program created, and money appropriated.

HF2171—Smith (R)
Commerce
Real property titles required to be registered by 2030 and requirements phased-in.

HF2172—Solberg (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission membership increase authorized.

HF2173—Smith (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
State professional unit employee positions classified.

HF2174—Chaudhary (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Columbia Heights tax increment financing district extended and expenditures authorized.

HF2175—Krinkie (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Public safety building safety division established and duties transferred.

HF2176—Workman (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Payments to employees for political purposes regulated.

HF2177—Ozment (R)
Taxes
Agricultural and open space property taxation task force established, study required, and appointments provided.

HF2178—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Sales and use tax revenue portion dedicated to the game and fish fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2179—Krinkie (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Rush City correctional facility operation proposal requests required and facility operator selected.

HF2180—Workman (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Regional rail authority provisions modified, facilities financing provided, intergovernmental agreements and payments authorized, and general obligation bonds issued.

HF2181—Tingelstad (R)
Capital Investment
Anoka County courthouse improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2182—Dempsey (R)
Capital Investment
Minnesota Veterans Home in Hastings improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Legislative history can be researched in printed materials at the Legislative Reference Library or, for the years since 1995, on the Internet.
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Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

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MONDAY, March 22

8 a.m.

Canceled

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: Canceled.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: Department of Human Services budget presentation continued.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: HF918 (Kielucki) Taconite mining grant program appropriated money. Other bills to be announced.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

Agenda: HF2041 (Kuisle) Personal rapid transit planning and design provided and money appropriated.

HF1917 (Hausman) Metropolitan and greater Minnesota transit appropriated money.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: Department of Administration budget presentation continued.

10 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: SF98 (Knutson) Granting prosecutors discretion not to disclose a victim's or witness' date of birth.

HF2058 (Carruthers) Pollution Control Agency data classification provided.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: Department of Natural Resources budget overview.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: HF1895 (Boudreau) Asian-Pacific American mental health graduate program student grants established, and money appropriated.

HF1391 (Leppik) Tobacco settlement money disposition provided, health professional education and medical research endowment fund created, and money appropriated.

HF2098 (Solberg) Itasca Community College facilities construction authorized.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: HF1137 (Greiling) Special education reciprocity agreements developed, special education funding provided, state revenue source provided for court-placed unreimbursed tuition, and money appropriated.

HF1186 (Greiling) Special education revenue and excess cost revenue modified, and pre K-12 special education pupil weighting increased.

HF1220 (Dempsey) Child care and treatment instructional aid provided, placement provisions modified, uniform billing system and approval of education programs provided, and money appropriated.

HF1357 (Carruthers) Limited English proficiency and special education programs two-year lag replaced with one-year lag.

HF1360 (Tomassoni) Special education revenue and excess cost revenue modified, and pre-kindergarten special education pupil weighting increased.

HF826 (Johnson) School year minimum instructional days report provided and money appropriated.

Property Tax Division/ TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: HF1700 (Paulsen) Metropolitan revenue distribution altered to provided distribution to counties based on uncompensated health care costs.

HF1515 (Daggett) Certain assisted living facility property tax exemption provided.

HF1952 (Abrams) Additional homestead classification qualifications prohibited.

HF1869 (Van Dellen) City local government minimum per capita aid amount established.

HF167 (Wenzel) State-paid agricultural property taxes provided, and money appropriated.

HF1210 (Gleason) Percentage of rent constituting property taxes increased.

12:30 p.m.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: Attachment, bonding and early childhood development presentations by Dr. Byron Egelund, Irving B. Harris professor of child development, University of Minnesota; and Dr. William Bart, professor of educational psychology, University of Minnesota.

Canceled

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen

Agenda: Canceled.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

TUESDAY, March 23

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: HF770 (Abeler) Essential community provider status application deadline removed.

HF863 (Tingelstad) Putative fathers' adoption registry, communication and contact agreements, and postadoption report requirements and procedures modified.

HF1602 (Abeler) Prescription drug coverage for the senior drug program clarified, medical assistance eligibility and income provisions modified, and other health care provider provisions clarified.

HF1563 (Entenza) Child support procedures and requirements modified, certain clarifications made, account created, and money appropriated. HF1687 (Tingelstad) Child welfare provisions modified.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

Agenda: To be announced.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker
Agenda: To be announced.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman
Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie
Agenda: Budget presentations by Office of Administrative Hearings and Amateur Sports Commission.

10 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek
Agenda: To be announced.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares
Agenda: To be announced.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: HF1231 (Ness) Telecommunications access grants provisions modified, Minnesota Education Telecommunications Council modified, and money appropriated.
HF1199 (Cassell) K-12 education technical amendments bill.
HF1573 (Gray) Minnesota adolescent parenting grant program provided, and money appropriated.
HF1677 (Carlson) Metro homework hotline grant authorized, and money appropriated.
HF1723 (Dempsey) Children's Museum Ready? Set. Read! program grant provided and money appropriated.
HF1773 (Dawkins) Youth works program legislative report required and money appropriated.
HF404 (Erickson) Advanced placement and international baccalaureate programs funded, and money appropriated.
HF823 (Ness) School district transportation reserved revenue accounts authorized.
HF1459 (Johnson) Learning academy training expanded, library site technology grants eligibility requirements modified, database access program for public libraries and school modified, and money appropriated.
HF1452 (Boudreau) Library for the blind and physically handicapped appropriated money.
HF888 (Erickson) Multicounty, multitype library systems and basic system support grants funded, and money appropriated.
HF1202 (Ness) Minnesota foundation for student organizations funding provided.
HF1914 (Swenson) Independent School District No. 2859, Glencoe-Silver Lake, long-range facility study conducted, and money appropriated.
HF1832 (Swenson) All-day kindergarten students pupil weight increased.
HF1007 (Lindner) Independent School District No. 728, Elk River, year-round school/extended week or day grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1356 (Wenzel) Operational skills instructor funding authorized for Central Lakes College, Brainerd campus.

HF2009 (Hausman) St. Paul provided appropriation for natural science education coordinator for Como Park.
HF1972 (Biernat) Statewide youth athletic program provided and money appropriated.
HF1863 (Johnson) Substitute teacher state-paid medical benefits provided and money appropriated.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment
Agenda: To be announced.

TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: HF656 (Daggett) Tree growth tax law public hunting and fishing requirement exception created for nonindustrial privately owned forest land.
HF723 (McElroy) Employer provided transit benefits income tax credit created.
HF1372 (Harder) Sales and use tax exemption provided for materials and supplies used in expansion of an agricultural processing facility.
HF1322 (Paulsen) Corporate franchise education expenses credit authorized.
HF1136 (Carlson) Higher education income tax credit provided.
HF2007 (Abrams) Digital television broadcast equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness
Agenda: Governor's budget request for Department of Agriculture.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach
Agenda: To be announced.

COMMERCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids
Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

Child Care Workgroup/ FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora
Agenda: Child care issues.

4 p.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: Presentation on the ombudsperson for mental health and mental retardation's budget. Presentation on the ombudsperson for families' budget.
Department of Human Services' budget presentation continued.

6 p.m.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: Continuation of morning meeting.

WEDNESDAY, March 24

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: To be announced.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: HF669 (Goodno) Medical Assistance income standard increased.
HF1260 (Tingelstad) Medical Assistance reimbursement rate maximums increased relating to special transportation services.
HF912 (Jennings) Medical Assistance reimbursement geographic groups redefined, nursing facility rate increase negotiations authorized, and money appropriated.
HF332 (Mulder) Rural health clinics and federally qualified health center services cost-based reimbursement continued.
HF1047 (Wejcman) Anorexia; Medical Assistance coverage of anorexics authorized.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy
Agenda: To be announced.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau
Agenda: HF698 (Workman) Major transportation projects commission established and report required.
HF1294 (McElroy) Prorated motor vehicle license fees authorized after dealer transfer.
Other bills to be announced.

10 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith
Agenda: HF478 (Haas) Structured settlement payment rights protected related to tort or workers' compensation claims.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten
Agenda: Department of Natural Resources budget overview.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik
Agenda: General education overview and general fund expenditure report, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: To be announced.

Canceled

Property Tax Division/ TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt
Agenda: Canceled.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: HF1295 (Clark, J.) Property tax homestead treatment extended to include property leased to family farm corporations. HF1771 (Kuisle) Agricultural tax relief provided through offer-in-compromise program and income tax exemption provided. HF1821 (Harder) Brown County property tax credit provided for tornado damaged property and money appropriated. HF1839 (Van Dellen) Printing activities sales and use tax exemption provided. HF886 (Erhardt) State agency libraries sales and use tax exemption provided. HF1087 (Harder) Farmer income averaging authorized for income tax purposes.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth
Agenda: HF509 (Swenson) Manure digester technology demonstration project shared loans provided, manure waste methane recovery system energy purchase required, rebates provided, and money appropriated. HF1235 (Swenson) Livestock production facilities exempted from ambient hydrogen sulfide standards on days manure is being removed from barns or manure storage facilities. HF688 (Kubly) Hydroponic greenhouses corporate farm law exemption provided.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora
Agenda: HF883 (Nornes) Chemical abuse prevention matching grants provided to community collaborative projects and money appropriated. HF1697 (Nornes) Male responsibility and fathering grants provided, and money appropriated. HF647 (Sykora) Maximum child care assistance reimbursement increased, payment requirements modified, and streamlined system developed. HF1864 (McGuire) Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP) and basic sliding fee child care assistance program consolidated, and projected costs forecasted and recognized in the fund balance. HF1960 (Gray) Child care system obsolete reports eliminated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen
Agenda: HF1290 (Larsen, P.) Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport; Bloomington, Minneapolis, and Richfield airport impact zones

and tax increment financing districts authorized; airport impact fund created; and Metropolitan Council activities permitted.
Other business to be announced.

Subcommittee on Regulated Industries/ COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf
Agenda: To be announced.

4:30 p.m.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

217 State Capitol
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora
Agenda: HF1209 (Boudreau) Child care worker training grants provided, advisory committee created, and money appropriated. HF1610 (Nornes) Child care improvement grants modified, and money appropriated. HF1857 (McGuire) Child care resource and referral programs, and child care development grants provided; and money appropriated. HF2073 (McGuire) Federal welfare-to-work grant money state match for child care assistance funding provided.

5 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares
Agenda: HF1314 (Lenczewski) MSRS general state employees retirement plan service credit purchase for prior temporary employment authorized for a certain person. HF1853 (Mares) Public employees police and fire plan and local police and fire consolidation account provisions modified. HF1483 (Tomassoni) Minimum fire state aid relief association eligibility expanded. HF1487 (Wenzel) Minimum fire state aid eligibility expanded to post-1993 relief associations. HF1444 (Krinkie) Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) provisions modified. HF1842 (Swenson) Glencoe area health center employee privatization pension benefit accommodation provided. HF256 (Kahn) Minneapolis Firefighters Relief Association provisions modified. HF1561 (Mares) Metropolitan Council authorized to offer early retirement incentive. HF1076 (Rifenberg) Volunteer firefighter supplemental retirement benefit maximum increased. HF1830 (Stanek) Minneapolis Police Relief Association authorized fund disbursements modified. SF1886 (Sams) Retirement eligibility for Bertha-Hewitt school district teachers. HF1743 (Jennings) Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) military service credit purchase authorized for a certain Rush City school district employee. HF1302 (Pugh) Teacher earning limitations resumed for returning retirees. Other items designated by chair.

6 p.m.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy
Agenda: To be announced.

6:30 p.m.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: To be announced.

THURSDAY, March 25

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley
Agenda: Member bills.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner
Agenda: To be announced.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker
Agenda: To be announced.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman
Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie
Agenda: Budget presentations on public television and public radio.

10 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek
Agenda: To be announced.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares
Agenda: To be announced.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment
Agenda: To be announced.

TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: HF584 (Dawkins) Low-income housing income tax credit provided. HF1961 (Otremba) Low-income housing tax credit provided.

HF1335 (Hasskamp) Sales tax exemption provided for construction materials used in building Hallett Community Center in Crosby.
HF1334 (Howes) Sales tax exemption provided for equipment and materials used to make improvements to certain resorts.
HF1485 (Howes) Deep Portage environmental learning center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.
HF900 (Rest) Working family income tax credit percentages modified.
HF1997 (Dawkins) Comprehensive low-income tax credit provided replacing the working family tax credit, dependent care tax credit, education credit, and property tax refund; and money appropriated.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness
Agenda: Governor's budget request for Department of Agriculture and Minnesota Board of Animal Health.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach
Agenda: To be announced.

COMMERCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids
Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

30 minutes after session

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: HF1858 (Rhodes) Crisis intervention hotline pilot project established for the metropolitan area Hmong community and money appropriated.
HF948 (Huntley) St. Louis County; statewide adolescent compulsive gambling prevention and education project grant provided, and money appropriated.
HF910 (Finseth) Rural mental health services grants provided and money appropriated.
HF818 (Nornes) Residential mental health facility upgrades established and money appropriated.
HF834 (Boudreau) Adult mental illness crisis housing assistance program created and money appropriated.

FRIDAY, March 26

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: To be announced.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: HF756 (Westfall) Clay County nonprofit dental services grant provided and money appropriated.
HF424 (Westfall) Living-at-home/block nurse program expanded and money appropriated.
HF1116 (Huntley) City of Duluth appropriated money for a family practice residency program for northeastern Minnesota.
HF1770 (Fuller) Senior nutrition meals provided increased funding and money appropriated.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy
Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek
Agenda: To be announced.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten
Agenda: Department of Natural Resources budget overview.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik
Agenda: HF1547 (Bishop) Minnesota State Colleges and Universities capital improvements authorized, and money appropriated.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: To be announced.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkle
Agenda: To be announced.

TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: HF25 (Pawlenty) Charitable contributions federal income tax subtraction allowed for persons who do not itemize deductions.
HF108 (Pawlenty) Charitable contribution income tax credit provided.
HF109 (Pawlenty) Charitable contribution income tax credit provided.
HF224 (Ozment) Charitable contributions excluded from alternative minimum taxable income.
HF89 (Rest) Nonprofits provided grants for volunteer assistance to low-income taxpayers, and money appropriated.
HF1311 (Dawkins) This old house; property tax valuation exclusion for certain improvements application requirements modified.
HF1505 (Carruthers) Nonprescription drugs and residential fuels exempted from sales tax.
HF1511 (Carruthers) General sales tax rate reduction provided.

12 noon

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: HF634 (Bradley) Crisis nursery development funding increased and money appropriated.
HF1146 (Howes) Indian Child Welfare Defense Corporation provided grants to promote Indian Child Welfare Act compliance.
HF1364 (Koskinen) New chance program appropriation provided in Hennepin County.
HF1443 (Abeler) Independent living skills training program funded for persons with epilepsy and money appropriated.
HF1852 (Stanek) Asian-American juvenile crime intervention and prevention program grant provided and money appropriated.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: To be announced.

Joint FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE/ JUDICIARY FINANCE

217 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Barb Sykora,
Rep. Sherry Broecker
Agenda: Takeover of the Office of Drug Policy by House Judiciary Finance Committee.

Committee Deadlines

Each year the House and Senate set deadlines by which most bills must be heard in a committee and forwarded through the process. The deadlines weed out some of the thousands of bills introduced each year.

The first 1999 committee deadline is **Friday, March 19**. That means to be considered further, a bill must pass out of all necessary policy committees in its house of origin.

The second committee deadline is **Wednesday, March 31**. By that date, all bills other than those containing appropriations will have to be passed out of all policy committees in the both the House and Senate. To meet the second deadline, bills will have to be acted upon before 4 p.m. March 31.

The third deadline is **Friday, April 16**. All omnibus appropriations bills will have to pass out of a finance committee by that date.

Of course, there are exceptions to the deadlines. The House Ways and Means, Taxes, and Rules and Legislative Administration committees are exempt, as are the Senate Finance, Taxes, and Rules and Administration committees. Also, a bill can be heard after the deadlines if the rules committee in either body allows it.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Speaker of the House: Steve Sviggum
Majority Leader: Tim Pawlenty
Minority Leader: Thomas W. Pugh

MINNESOTA INDEX

Competition at the airport

Rank of Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport among U.S. airports, in passengers served	13
Rank among world airports	19
Rank of Northwest Airlines among world airlines, in passengers served	5
Number of gates at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport	70
Number controlled by Northwest	53
Number of new gates at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport since 1991	5
Number of those controlled by Northwest	4
Number of new gates planned by 2002	12
Northwest passengers in 1997, in millions	55
Percent of passengers to, from, or passing through Twin Cities in 1998 who flew Northwest	81
Percent in 1975	45
Year U.S. airline industry was deregulated, allowing airlines to set their own routes and prices	1978
Year Northwest began airline service in Twin Cities	1927
Year Northwest began service from Twin Cities to Asia	1947
Year until which Northwest provided the only nonstop service from Twin Cities to destinations outside North America	1997
Percent of passengers at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport who were connecting between two flights, in 1997	55
Percent in 1985	45
Percent in 1980	33
Number of major U.S. airports to which Northwest had no scheduled nonstop competition from Twin Cities, September 1998	16
Number of those airports that are in Los Angeles	3
Number that are in Washington, D.C.	3
Percent decline in average fares at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport from 1990-1998	13
Percent above national average (for 45 similar airports) paid by Twin Cities passengers in 1998	49

Source: *Flight Plan: Airline Competition in Minnesota, 1999, Minnesota Planning.*

For more information

For general information, call:
House Information Office
(651) 296-2146 or
1-800-657-3550

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:
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(651) 296-2314

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the status of a specific bill, call:
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