

SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ April 9, 1999 ♦ Volume 16, Number 14



Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1999-2000 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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Session Weekly (ISSN 1049-8176) is published weekly during the legislative session by the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **Session Weekly**, Public Information Office, Minnesota House of Representatives, 175 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.

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Minnesota House of Representatives • April 9, 1999 • Volume 16, Number 14

Reflections



When the lawmakers returned from a spring break this week of April 5, they took up the work left in committee by debating bills that will fund state programs. Eight of those bills addressed money to be appropriated for constructing new recreation and scenic trails or improving some already in place.

Minnesota's trail systems are approximately 18,000 miles of multi-use surface used for hiking, biking, running, walking, and skiing. Other trails get used for snowmobiling, horseback riding, and off-highway motorized vehicle use. These pathways, like 789 miles of cross-country skiing trails, are supervised by the Department of Natural Resources. Others are part of some state, city, and county facilities, with grants-in-aid from the DNR.

Trails, for the most part, are constructed through old rail passages — paths that serve as natural, scenic routes for users to take advantage of the outdoors. An old 12-mile railroad stretch between Rochester and Pine Island became the first trail to be completed in 1974. Of all the railroad pathways in the United States, comprising a total of 10,000 miles, Minnesota is second only to Wisconsin in use of corridors that once were railroad beds.

At a time when legislators are trying to help save the livelihood of small towns across the state, multi-use trails are a boon to municipalities. Bills for funding trails would help connect some towns and help add to their economic well-being. A bill sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), for example, would make a snowmobile trail connection to the Willard Munger State Trail and the North Shore State Trail. Also, a bill sponsored by Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) would provide planning funds for a Cannon River Valley trail.

Some of the other state-funded trails across the state include the Gateway State Trail, the Minnesota Valley Trail, and the Casey Jones Trail. Others are the Root River, Luce Line, Forestville, Heart-land, Gandy Dancer, and Sakatah Singing Hills trails.

Two easily recognizable state trail names are the Paul Bunyan State Trail and the Lake Wobegon Regional Trail between Albany and Avon.

The Paul Bunyan State Trail has only 57 miles completed on its 100-mile route from outside Brainerd to Bemidji. The trail is named for the famous folk hero, who, with his blue ox, Babe, tramped out 15,261 lakes across the state of Minnesota. According to folklore, Bunyan did some other phenomenal things in his job as a logger. As the story goes, he scooped out Washington State's Puget Sound to float logs to the mill.

The first large statue of Bunyan in Minnesota was built in Bemidji in 1937. He and Babe guard Lake Bemidji. Legislators are now helping to hook them up with another Paul Bunyan statue 100 miles away in Brainerd, through a multi-purpose pathway so that many people may use it and other trails connecting with it.

—LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: Springtime light fills the Capitol dome.

— Photo by Tom Olmscheid

First Reading

Farmers in crisis . . .

Several plans aim to ease agricultural struggles



From low hog prices to wheat scab disease, Minnesota farmers are facing hard times this year, and lawmakers are considering several proposals aimed at helping the agriculture industry.

By Paul Wahl

Things aren't great down on the farm.

Whether they're hog producers or wheat or barley growers, most farmers agree they're facing a down-cycle the likes of which hasn't been seen in years.

No one is willing to say for sure what has caused the price of hogs to plummet over the past year. But one vocal group of producers and at least one House member believe they've found the culprit — contracts between those who raise pigs and those who buy them.

By one estimate, nearly two-thirds of the hogs raised in Minnesota are sold under contract to meat processors. And that has ruined the free market, critics say.

Two bills are being considered to address the issue.

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) would like the state to spend \$25,000 to establish a task force to review issues related to concerns about contracts.

Westrom told the House Agricultural and Rural Development Finance Committee on April 6 that he's trying to keep an open mind, but he believes there are "some changes that could be made" in the contracting process.

His bill (HF479) would create a 20-member task force charged with looking at all aspects of the producer-processor relationship.

Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) is sponsoring a bill (HF447) that would shine the light of public scrutiny on the contracting process.

The bill would prohibit meat packers from paying different prices for livestock received from different producers, unless there is a clear and specific reason for the price variance — other than simply the existence of a contract.

Winter told the committee that the bill also

would require the bid process to be open and public with daily price reports by packers to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Supporters of Winter's plan claim meat processors — not supply-and-demand market forces — are dictating the prices. Knowing who is being paid what would help put farmers in a better negotiating position, they argue.

Jim McTeak, president of Babcock Swine, a breeding operation in Martin County, testified that he believes contracts are to blame for the failure of the swine market to function as it has in the past. He said contracts have created a false security in the industry, which is harmful in the long run.

Those who favor contracts maintain they are simply part of a business practice that assures farmers of a fair price and packers a sufficient supply of high-quality livestock.

And the defenders of contract pricing, such as the Minnesota Pork Producers Association and Hormel Foods Corp., argue that contracts have actually saved the hog industry in Minnesota. Most of the contracts are between processors and small operators.

Earlier this session, a Hormel spokesman told the committee that his company is simply protecting its investment at its plant in Austin by sewing up much of its animal supply.

Hog farmers say that if they want to expand their operations, banks require them to be locked into contracts as a form of security on their loans.

The problems in Minnesota agricultural industry extend beyond the dip in hog prices. If you're growing crops instead of livestock, you're not immune to the economic troubles.

For wheat and barley growers, help from the Legislature may take the form of increased

dollars for researching scab, or blight, a crop disease that has caused over \$2 billion in losses to producers in the state since 1993. Scab is linked to the persistent wet weather experienced in northwestern Minnesota.

A bill (HF1528) aiming to spend \$1.6 million over and above existing research dollars currently allocated for the next biennium was discussed April 7 by the Agricultural and Rural Development Finance Committee. Bill sponsor Rep. Rod Skoe (DFL-Clearbrook) said farmers in his northwestern Minnesota district have been particularly hard hit by the disease and that all available resources must be turned toward finding a solution.

The outlook is bleak.

Gary Lemme, a plant researcher for the University of Minnesota and co-coordinator of the school's Scab Initiative, said the investigation of scab — also called *Fusarium head blight* — has been ongoing since 1994 and that Minnesota now leads the country in its commitment of both money and resources to solving the problem.

Twenty researchers in three locations are working on hundreds of test plots. Thus far, they've developed four new varieties of grains, but none have proved to be scab resistant.

In addition to searching for more hearty varieties, researchers are also trying to determine how farmers can better manage scab infestations, including developing a machine that will replace human eyes in determining the level of scabby kernels in wheat.

In addition to state money, federal dollars are being thrown into the effort, along with money from the Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council and a similar organization formed by barley growers.

Despite the massive effort, Lemme said the

complete solution might not be discovered for more than five years.

While some farmers are willing to wait for researchers to find an answer to the blight problem, others are moving on to other crops.

To assist those growers, Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet) is sponsoring a bill (HF1083) that would boost funding for the Agricultural Utilization and Research Institute in Crookston to provide technical assistance and grants. The proposed \$3 million would also fund market research for the alternative crops. Swenson said his idea is that the money would be in addition to appropriations already targeted for the institute.

Swenson's bill also contains money for feedlot manure process and odor control technology research, and it would provide money to help farmers pay for crop insurance. In all, the bill includes more than \$20 million in spending proposals.

All bills mentioned above are being considered for inclusion in the omnibus agriculture funding bill, but Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), who chairs the agriculture finance panel, warned lawmakers that there may not be enough available money to fund all proposals.

Lawmakers have begun the final push to assemble the omnibus bill.

Legislators are also considering other plans to help farmers survive. The grandest one is a proposal to spend \$80 million in direct payments to farmers, included in a budget surplus rebate bill (HF1) that is currently before a House-Senate conference committee. 🐾

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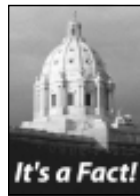
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An early model of independent politics



Gov. Jesse Ventura was not the first Minnesota politician to spurn the support of special interest groups.

When Hannah Kempfer was elected to the House in 1922, she was adamant that she would only represent her district as a whole and she refused party or special interest endorsements during her campaign. She ended up serving nine non-consecutive terms as an independent from Otter Tail County.

She was one of four women elected to the House in the first election year that women were allowed on the ballot. Hailing from the small town of Erhard, near Fergus Falls, Kempfer was also the first rural woman elected to the Legislature.

Running at the urging of her Otter Tail County friends, the former schoolteacher and farmer's wife even rejected an endorsement offer from the Nonpartisan League.

"I would rather stand for the principle of representing all of the people of Otter Tail County and be defeated than to be elected under circumstances that oblige me to vote according to the dictation of any party or individuals," she wrote to the league's leaders on Oct. 25, 1922, following a primary election victory.

"My guiding principle will be 'equal opportunities for all with special privileges to none,'" she said.

Kempfer served on House committees including game and fish, public welfare, public health and hospitals, and appropriations. Her committee membership reflected her legislative interests, which included preserving wildlife, improving medical institutions, and providing for the welfare of women and children. She pushed for lowering taxes, although she never served on a taxes committee.

In 1927, she chaired the game and fish committee, securing the passage of legislation that required anglers to obtain licenses annually at a fee of 50 cents. The new law

angered some of her constituents, and she narrowly won re-election in 1928. But because of some lingering resentment from Otter Tail anglers, Kempfer was defeated in 1930, only to be re-elected in 1932.

Throughout her House career, she retained her fierce independent political stance. "I never depend on lobbyists to instruct me, but I do listen to the pro and con arguments and then do what seems to me the best," she wrote in a campaign advertisement.

Once a female colleague introduced a bill that would have repealed all discriminatory laws against women. Kempfer requested after the bill's first reading that it

be postponed indefinitely. She opposed the bill because she thought women should have some protection in law, and she succeeded in getting a majority to agree with her. The bill's sponsor reportedly never forgave Kempfer.

H a n n a h

Kempfer's childhood experiences of being both an orphan and an immigrant flavored her later legislative career. She was born Dec. 22, 1880, on an English ship at sea to a stewardess and an unknown sailor. She was left at an orphanage in Stavanger, Norway, and adopted in 1881. Her new family emigrated to America in 1886, settling in Minnesota's Mower County and later moving to Otter Tail County.

At age 17, she became a rural schoolteacher, teaching her first school of 60 students in 1898. Five years later, she married Charles Taylor Kempfer. They did not have any children, but they were foster parents to many orphaned boys and girls.

Articles about Kempfer during her first House campaign focused heavily on her humble beginnings. A headline in the St. Paul Daily News following her election proclaimed, "Minnesota Woman, Once Norwegian Waif, Will Take Seat in Legislature January 2."

Continued on page 23



Reps. Hannah Kempfer, left, and Mabeth Hurd Paige confer in the House Chamber.

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Processing plant subsidies

Lawmakers are considering a bill that would provide low-interest loans to help develop new meat processing facilities and would provide subsidies for the meat produced at the plants.

Financing from state coffers would enable the Prairie Farms Cooperative to begin construction on a meat processing facility in Dawson, and state money would aid the owner of a South St. Paul meat processing plant who must relocate his operation.

A bill offering loans of up to \$500,000 through the Rural Finance Authority of the Department of Agriculture was considered April 6 by the House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee.

The bill (HF543) is sponsored by Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison).

The bill also calls for subsidies that would be distributed in a way similar to the practice currently used to promote ethanol production. The state pays ethanol producers a subsidy for each gallon produced.

Peterson's bill would give the meat processors 10 cents per pound of beef or pork produced for human consumption. The subsidy would be one-half that amount for poultry products.

Livestock would have to come from Minnesota farms, and the subsidy would be available for only the first five years of operation of the new facilities.

The total of all meat producer payments would be capped at \$1.6 million per year.

Peterson said Prairie Farms is a public and private initiative, and Gov. Jesse Ventura lauded the cooperative's efforts in his State of the State message.

Dennis Timberman, spokesman for Prairie Farms, said the idea of a processing plant came about because of the lack of market access for producers in western Minnesota.

Timberman added that state funds would be used as a guarantee for the project, because bond underwriters are reluctant to participate in agricultural projects due to the current economic downturn in the industry.

Building the plant would bring 45 jobs paying \$12 per hour or more, according to David Bovee, city manager of Dawson.

"In a city of 1,800, that means a lot," Bovee said.

The community would also make a sizeable investment to provide infrastructure to accommodate the new processing plant, Bovee added.

Peterson's bill would also provide a similar low-interest loan for a livestock processing program that would offer meat slaughtered according to Hmong customs. The loan would help Paochang Yang, owner of Long Cheng-Hmong Livestock and Meat Processing Market in South St. Paul.

Yang told the committee he has been in business at his location on Hardman Avenue for nine years, but he was thwarted by zoning laws when he attempted to expand there. Now he needs a new site and hopes to build a new plant, which would offer meat slaughtered in accordance with Hmong customs.

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), chair of the agriculture panel, praised the ideas in the bill, but he expressed concerns that the price tag could be too high.

Research continues



Dr. Gary Lemme, the Fusarium head blight coordinator at the University of Minnesota's West Central Experiment Station, testifies in favor of continued crop disease research funding April 7. See related story on page 3.

The bill was laid over for possible consideration in the omnibus agriculture and rural development funding bill.

More on manure board

Including more voices in the debate over how manure should be managed in Minnesota is the aim of a bill considered by the House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee.

The measure (HF816) would expand the state's Feedlot and Manure Management Advisory Committee by four members — adding two solid manure applicators and two commercial liquid manure applicators, none of whom could be livestock producers. There are currently 20 members.

Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison), the bill's sponsor, said the people applying manure to agricultural ground as a natural fertilizer should have as much say as the producers, politicians, environmentalists, and others who already sit on the committee.

Applicators use a variety of methods to receive and spread manure, in accordance with state and federal laws.

Steve McCourquodale, a solid manure applicator from Paynesville, told lawmakers April 6 that applicators needed a voice to help balance the interests at the table. He said there about 100 businesses such as his in the state and that the decisions made by the committee can greatly impact their livelihood.

The committee was created in 1994 as a cooperative effort between the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Pollution Control Agency. It is charged with suggesting policies for research, monitoring, and regulatory activities regarding feedlot and manure management.

The change is expected to cost the state less than \$1,000 a year.

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the Agriculture and Rural Development Finance omnibus bill.

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BUSINESS

Mechanics get raw deal

The House passed a bill April 6 that would tune up the law to allow repair shops to collect fees owed to them by customers. The vote was 90-33.

Bill sponsor Rep. Jim Seifert (R-Woodbury) said that the plan was brought to him by auto repair shops who rent cars to their customers to use while their cars are being repaired. He said some people are skipping out on the charges for the rental cars and the auto repair shops have little recourse.

Seifert's bill would give auto repair shops the authority to hold the cars being repaired until the owner pays the rental fees on the borrowed car, as long as the fees are reasonable.

"This is an objective fraud, and the bill will stop the fraud," Seifert said.

The bill (HF793) now goes to the Senate.



CHILDREN

Millions targeted for kids

The House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee on April 7 approved a half-billion dollar spending bill that would boost funding for some child-care programs, early childhood education, and adult basic education.

The bill (HF1467) would spend \$467.5 million in state money, which would be matched by \$70 million in federal funds. The measure totals about \$15 million more than Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget proposal.

Nearly \$4 million would go to support adult basic education programs in rural Minnesota, and \$2.8 million would be appropriated for early childhood education.

The state's basic sliding fee child-care program would get an 11-percent funding increase, and the at-home infant care program would be expanded.

Lawmakers said those two initiatives are aimed at removing more families from an already burdensome waiting list for child-care programs. However, family co-payments for child-care subsidies would be increased to fund the expansions.

The committee spent much of its time debating how to divide funds between a list of multi-million dollar grant requests for several programs, including transitional housing, lead-poisoning education, teen-age pregnancy prevention, child care for immigrants, and early childhood education.

Under the bill, appropriations for those programs range from \$965,000 for early childhood education, and \$88,000 for adolescent parenting programs.

A small portion of special state revenue funds would be used for grants to educate young fathers, prevent teen-age violence, and support a community housing program in St. Louis Park.

In addition, the committee approved a plan that would investigate child-care assistance fraud. The bill includes a proposal for a new universal form for applicants seeking public child-care subsidies. The proposed form is aimed at helping county and state officials keep track of families receiving child-care assistance.

The bill, sponsored by committee chair Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), moves to the House Taxes Committee.



CRIME

When a day is not a day

The House approved a bill April 6 that would make a day in jail mean a day in jail. The vote was 113-13.

The bill would require that each offender spend an actual 24 hours in a county jail or the workhouse for each day sentenced. For the first and last days, the offender would be required to spend at least 12 hours in confinement.

Bill sponsor Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) called his bill "an attempt to get at truth in sentencing."

He said that some jurisdictions in the state are being very liberal in their interpretation of what constitutes a day in jail, and often any time spent in jail counts as a day, even if it is just a couple of hours.

Carruthers said that a person could be put in jail at just before midnight, get released just after midnight, and have that period counted as two days.

"That's not right," he said. "That's what makes the public cynical about sentences."

The bill (HF1128) now goes to the Senate.

Making no-shows pay



Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law April 1 that will help prosecutors recoup costs when defendants don't show up for court appearances.

Under current law, criminal defendants who skip a court appearance can be charged with the additional crime

of failure to appear in court. Judges can order jail time and fines for defendants found guilty of failing to appear.

The new law, effective Aug. 1, will also allow judges to order those defendants to pay any costs incurred by the county or city attorney.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) and Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville) sponsored the measure.

HF732/SF99*/CH27

Chipped teeth and broken bones

The House rejected a bill April 6 that would have changed the legal definition of substantial bodily harm. The vote was 100-20 against the measure.

Substantial bodily harm is a definition used in the state's criminal law to establish the degree of crimes committed and the subsequent punishment for those crimes.

The term outlines the level of physical harm suffered from the crime. Substantial bodily harm falls between bodily harm and great bodily harm under the law.

For example, a person commits assault in the third degree when that person inflicts substantial bodily harm, and upon conviction can be sentenced to up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

The bill (HF172) would have stated that substantial bodily harm includes the fracture of a bone or cartilage, or the chipping or loss of a tooth.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), the bill's sponsor, said that judges interpret the current law to include broken bones. But he said breaking a person's nose or chipping a tooth should also be treated as substantial bodily harm in all cases.

Critics of the bill argued that the bill would go too far in specifying the exact nature of these crimes and that judicial discretion should be applied in each individual case.

Punishing domestic abuse

The House passed a bill April 6 that would expand the law allowing for increased penalties for repeat domestic assault offenders. The vote was 124-0.

Under current law, judges can impose an increased penalty for those found guilty of a second domestic assault within five years of the first offense.

The law also provides a list of prior convictions — such as criminal sexual conduct or making terroristic threats — where the increased penalty can be applied for a first time domestic assault conviction.

The bill, sponsored by Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), would add the crime of malicious punishment of a child to the list of prior convictions.

Pawlenty said that malicious punishment of a child is a form of domestic abuse and should be in the list of prior offenses.

The bill (HF143) now goes to the Senate.



DEVELOPMENT

Limiting preferential treatment

Preferential treatment in bids for state projects is given to small construction companies that are located in economically disadvantaged parts of the state, or companies owned by women, people with disabilities, or people of color.

Companies that meet those requirements can be awarded a bid if their bid is up to 6 percent higher than the lowest bid.

The preferential treatment program is administered by the Minnesota Department of Administration. A bill (HF875) that would limit a company's eligibility in the program may be included in this year's omnibus state government finance bill.

Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), sponsor of the bill, said that some companies have received preferential treatment for many years and should now be left to stand on their own. The bill would allow companies to be eligible for only five years. It was considered April 7 by the House State Government Finance Committee.

"When it started, the program had laudable goals, and it had a window of time for companies (to be eligible), but that window was taken out by rule," Bakk said. "If our intent is to get minority-owned businesses established, I don't think this program accomplishes that."

Bakk described one example where a company from Little Falls was awarded a bid for a \$1.7 million park project in Grand Rapids even though a company based in Grand Rapids had the lowest bid.

A company that has received the special treatment for five years should be able to figure out how to submit the lowest bid, Bakk said.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) disagreed, saying the state has subsidized farmers and other special interests on an ongoing basis and that businesses that meet the requirements should continue to receive the preferential treatment.

"We have this program for good reason, and I think it works well," she said.

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.



EMPLOYMENT

Job training program

The House passed a bill April 7 aimed at helping the state implement the new federal Workforce Investment Act. The vote was 116-8.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), would amend the state's data practice law to allow information sharing between job training providers and the Minnesota Department of Economic Security required under the federal law.

The bill would also require the department to release summary information on the performance of these training programs based on the data provided.

The Workforce Investment Act, signed by President Clinton in August 1998, seeks to make current job training resources more effective.

Borrowing from Minnesota's Workforce Centers, the Workforce Investment Act stresses the "one-stop" approach, where job services are housed in one neighborhood office.

The federal law also establishes workforce investment boards made up of representatives of business, labor, and community organizations to establish state and local job training strategies. And the law provides criteria to assess the individual program's success based on employee and employer expectations.

Boudreau's bill (HF1038) now goes to the Senate.



ENVIRONMENT

Tobacco bucks for recreation

A bill that would appropriate \$500 million from the state's settlement with major tobacco companies to fund state parks, trails, wastewater systems, and recreational programs may be included in the House environment and natural resources omnibus finance bill.

The bill (HF2135), sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), would divide the funds among six different areas that Holsten said promote healthy lifestyles or better air and water quality.

The plan would give \$50 million to the Amateur Sports Facilities Commission for youth sports facilities, \$100 million to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission for parks and trails in the seven-county metropolitan area, \$100 million to the commissioner of natural resources for grants to local units of government, \$100 million to the Public Facilities Authority to upgrade waste-

water infrastructure, and \$100 million to the commissioner of agriculture for revolving accounts for best management practices such as rural septic systems.

"So far we've had such a narrow scope of where those (tobacco settlement) dollars go," Holsten said. "If they are not returned to the taxpayers, they have been targeted toward health, but the question is, what is health?"

Lawmakers on the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee considered Holsten's bill April 7.

The committee, which Holsten chairs, has heard several bills aimed at repairing recreational trails or building new trails throughout the state. Paying for all of those requests would cost about \$65 million, and Holsten said that money is not available in the environment and natural resources budget.

He said the bill has some support from other committee members, but it will have to compete with many proposals to spend the tobacco settlement dollars.

"This is a step in the right direction," said Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul). "Health isn't just smoking cessation."

The bill will be considered for inclusion in the environment and natural resources omnibus finance bill.

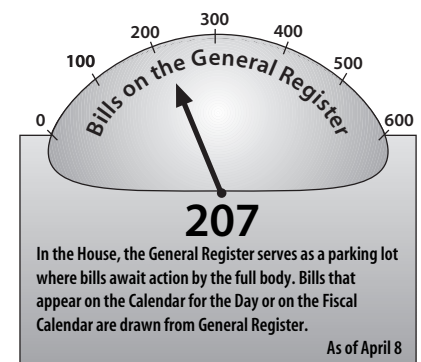
Drainage issues considered

A bill that would appropriate money to three counties for unpaid ditch assessments on Consolidated Conservation Lands in northwestern Minnesota may be included in the omnibus environment and natural resources finance bill.

The House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee considered the bill (HF1705) April 7.

The lands are state-owned lands designated for conservation. The state received the lands in exchange for paying off ditch bonds issued by those counties in the 1920s and 1930s.

The bill is sponsored by Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji), who said an agreement was



reached between the Department of Natural Resources, the attorney general's office, and three of the seven counties where the lands are located. The agreement will involve surveying land to re-determine the benefits of drainage ditches to property owners.

Fuller estimated the cost of studying the benefits would be \$460,000. Property owners would then be assessed fees to pay for improvements to those drainage ditches in Beltrami, Marshall, and Roseau counties.

The bill was held over for possible inclusion in the House environment and natural resources omnibus bill.



GOVERNMENT

More pay for politicians?

A legislative advisory panel is recommending a pay increase for the governor, lawmakers, judges, and heads of state agencies.

The Compensation Council submitted its biennial report containing these suggestions to House and Senate leadership April 7.

The council suggests that the governor's salary be increased 7.5 percent in January 2001 and 2.5 percent in January 2002. The governor currently receives \$120,303 annually.

For legislators, the council recommends a 5-percent increase beginning in January 2001 and a 2.5-percent increase in January 2002. Legislators currently earn \$31,140.

The recommendation also includes a possible pay chart for constitutional officers. Under the proposal, the attorney general would receive 85 percent of the governor's pay, the state auditor would receive 75 percent, the secretary of state would receive 65 percent, and the lieutenant governor and state treasurer would receive 55 percent.

Also under the recommendation, the salaries for judges would be increased 3.5 percent in both 2001 and 2002, and judges also would be given an increase based on the average increase of state employees' salaries.

And the council recommends that the governor be given the authority to raise the salary of an agency head without approval of the Legislature. Currently, new salary raises don't take effect until the Legislature approves the increase.

The Compensation Council is charged by state law with making salary recommendations for constitutional officers, agency heads, judges, and legislators.

The 16-member council is made up of lawmakers and appointees of the governor and of the chief justice of the state Supreme Court.

Lawmakers have yet to take any action on the recommendations.

No go on zoo dough

A bill that would fill holes in the budget for the current fiscal year was defeated April 6 in the House. The vote was 74-49 against the proposal.

The bill (HF878) included appropriations to the Minnesota Zoological Board, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, and the departments of Children, Families and Learning, Economic Security, Human Services, and Public Safety.

The measure, which is likely to be reconsidered this session, would provide \$17.6 million to those agencies and departments.

The two major areas of debate were a proposed \$600,000 for the Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley and an \$829,000 request from the Department of Public Safety.

The zoo's request would offset losses from lower-than-expected attendance. Of the Department of Public Safety's request, \$629,000 would pay for license plates for new automobiles, and \$200,000 would fund additional security for Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), sponsor of the bill, said the state already pays one-third of the zoo's budget and that the zoo has been in the same financial situation several times before.

The zoo asked for \$1 million in aid, but the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee moved to reduce the amount in the bill to \$600,000 and to allow the zoo to increase gate fees to make up the remaining deficit.

But some House members disagreed with that logic.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said the Senate and Ventura both advocate honoring the zoo's original request. But Bishop argued that he and other legislators have told zoo officials that they need to resolve these budget problems.

"What are we here for if we just say to these state agencies, 'When you get into a hole we'll bail you out?'" Bishop asked.

On a lopsided vote, the House rejected an amendment to restore the \$1 million request to the bill.

Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) objected to allowing the zoo to increase fees. He said the Legislature had allowed the zoo to stop scheduling "free days," but only if the zoo's fees would not increase. Trimble proposed an amendment to allow the zoo to increase fees only if one or two free days are scheduled per month, but the amendment failed.

House members also disagreed on whether

Kids in kilts



Four-year-old Angus Jameson, left, Brooklyn Park, and his sister Anna, 2, donned traditional Scottish attire with their mother Christine in a celebration of Scottish heritage in the Capitol rotunda April 6. The event was sponsored by Clann Tartan, a Minneapolis-based historical group dedicated to teaching Scottish history.

the state should pay for additional security for Ventura. Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) said no other Minnesota governor has been as widely known as Ventura and he said State Patrol officers have put in overtime to accommodate the increased demands for security.

But Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said that money has also gone toward some questionable expenses, such as a driver for Lt. Gov. Mae Schunk.

"I've never heard of a lieutenant governor being afforded a driver," Kahn said.

Among the other proposals in the bill, about \$11.7 million would go to the Minnesota Department of Human Services to make up for a budget shortfall due to a delay in federal reimbursements for MinnesotaCare, a state-subsidized health care plan. Although the state and the federal government have reached an agreement concerning the delayed funds and reimbursements began March 1, the deficiency funding is still needed to cover costs the department has had to cover in the past months.

Also under the bill, the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning would receive \$3.5 million primarily to pay legal costs from two major lawsuits. Both suits — one in Minneapolis and one in St. Paul — involve claims that school districts are providing constitutionally inadequate education.

Other appropriations proposed in the bill are \$15,000 in legal fees for a lawsuit involving the Campaign Finance and Disclosure Board and a \$370,000 boost for the State Services for the Blind.

Revamping the IRRRB

House Speaker Steve Sviggum's plan to replace lawmakers who serve on the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) with appointed citizens was reviewed April 7 by the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee.

Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), who was recently appointed to the IRRRB by Sviggum (R-Kenyon), presented the bill to the committee.

He said the IRRRB's current makeup causes constitutional problems, because legislators are prohibited from holding other public offices.

The IRRRB oversees six different accounts that appropriate money for environmental or economic development projects in northeastern Minnesota. The board administers funds received through a specific tax paid by mining companies in the area.

Under current law, the House speaker appoints five state representatives to serve on the

board, and the Senate Subcommittee on Committees appoints five state senators.

Sviggum's bill would require the governor to appoint 10 board members who are not legislators. No more than six board members could support the same political party and all would have to live in the Iron Range tax relief area.

Kielkucki said the IRRRB is a unique agency and that the speaker's plan would encourage more citizen participation in the work of the board.

"I don't believe it is the speaker's intention to alter that uniqueness," he said. "It's to enhance the uniqueness."

The bill (HF249) was laid over by the committee for possible inclusion in its omnibus finance bill.

Council faces elimination

The Internet and other advances in information technology have helped improve communication between various units of government, but a group that facilitates that communication is scheduled to be disbanded this year.

A bill (HF987) that would continue to appropriate state funds to the Intergovernmental Information System Advisory Council was considered April 8 in the House State Government Finance Committee.

Funding for the council is not in Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget proposal, but Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), sponsor of the bill, said questions surrounding the year 2000 prob-

lem and other issues make this the wrong time to get rid of the group.

The council includes members from various cities, counties, libraries, and school districts throughout the state and officials from several state agencies and departments, including the Office of Technology.

Tim Breza, executive director of the council, said its responsibilities include acting as a liaison among different units of government, training employees on electronic financial reporting, helping local units of government avoid potential Y2K problems, and other related duties.

The bill was held over for possible inclusion in the omnibus state government finance bill.



HEALTH

Abortion bills considered

Three bills relating to abortion were discussed April 8 by the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee. All three were laid over for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus finance bill.

HF177, sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), would ban certain procedures, called partial-birth abortions. It also would establish criminal penalties for violating the ban and would allow civil penalties to be sought.

HF178, sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), would prohibit a woman from receiving an abortion unless she receives cer-

Conservation corps



Minnesota Conservation Corps crew leader Dana Hall, a Savage resident, testifies in American Sign Language in favor of a bill that would provide funds for the corps and its projects. Hall appeared April 7 before the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.



Jackie Schweitz, spokeswoman for Minnesota Citizens Concern for Life, *right*, and Teresa Melson, spokeswoman for the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, *left*, listen from different sides of the aisle as Rep. Richard Mulder explains his bill that would prohibit certain abortions. Schweitz testified in favor of three abortion-related bills that were before the health and human services committee, while Melson testified against the measures.

tain information and completes a 24-hour waiting period before the procedure.

HF377, sponsored by Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), would amend the state's abortion reporting statutes to include abortions performed on minors with a judge's permission, rather than a parent's consent.

In several committee hearings this year, opponents of all three bills have argued that they are unconstitutional and would make it difficult for women to obtain a legal procedure.

Supporters claim the bills are reasonable and responsible ways to address legitimate concerns about abortion issues.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) questioned why the committee would consider including the proposals in the omnibus finance bill, when each is a significant policy issue in and of itself. He said they might more properly belong in separate bills sent to the House floor.

Goodno, chairman of the committee, said he determined that the bills would have fiscal effects and therefore the omnibus bill was the proper spot.

Mulder's bill, calling for the ban on certain late-term abortions, is expected to cost \$27,000 for the biennium primarily to pay for two mailings to physicians alerting them to the new requirements.

Boudreau's bill, which would require a waiting period, carries a \$192,000 price tag for the biennium, mostly to pay for the printed material that would be used to meet the "informed consent" language.

Goodno's bill, dealing with judicial consent for minors, would cost over \$100,000 for the biennium, the largest portion devoted to staffing in the Minnesota Department of Health to accumulate, verify, and disseminate the information required to be collected.

Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth) said he fears Gov. Jesse Ventura would veto the committee's omnibus bill if abortion-related sections were included.

Goodno said that message has not been communicated to him by the governor or his staff.

Hands off tobacco bucks



Gov. Jesse Ventura agrees with lawmakers from both bodies on one thing — the U.S. Congress should not be casting its eyes upon Minnesota's tobacco settlement money.

Ventura put his name on a resolution March 29 that reminds the federal government it was not part of Minnesota's suit against the tobacco companies and informs it 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.

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

Rep. Jim Seifert (R-Woodbury) and Sen. Ember Reichgott Junge (DFL-New Hope) sponsored the resolution.

HF719/SF757*/Res. 2

Traveling medical training

Rural health care providers have a difficult job.

Most of them work long hours for small organizations that don't have an abundance of funding for ongoing training. Many of them cannot escape their work to travel to the Twin Cities for specialized training.

So how do you assure that they can recognize and treat life-threatening emergencies? Take the classroom to them.

That's the concept behind a bill (HF215), sponsored by Rep. Larry Howes (R-Hackensack), which proposes \$206,000 in funding directed toward the Comprehensive Advanced Life Support (CALS) project.

Howes told the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee on April 6 that a pilot program established in 1997 has been extremely successful.

The primary focus of CALS is training medical personnel in a team approach to anticipate, recognize, and treat emergencies before serious injury or cardiac arrest occurs.

A major component of the program is a two-day advanced training course conducted in community hospitals throughout Minnesota, designed for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, and allied health care professionals.

Kari Ebert, program coordinator for CALS,

Final deadline ahead

The third and final committee deadline of the 1999 session is fast approaching.

All omnibus finance bills will have to pass out of committee by Friday, April 16. The omnibus spending bills were exempt from the first two committee deadlines.

The first deadline was for committees to approve bills in the house of origin. The second deadline was for committees to approve bills that met the first deadline in the other chamber.

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.

After the committee deadlines pass, much of the action shifts to the House floor and to conference committees, where differences between House and Senate bills are reconciled.

told the committee that 13 courses have been given since the program began with about 20 health care professionals attending each one.

Several on the committee asked why the program couldn't be supported entirely with revenue from fees and without a grant from the state.

Ebert said each course costs about \$8,000 to produce and participants are charged from \$200 to \$350 each, depending upon their specialty.

Without the state money, the courses would not be affordable, defeating the purpose of the program, Ebert said.

"Most of the hospitals we work with have very little in the way of budget for ongoing education," Ebert added.

In some cases, the hospitals don't have the equipment needed for the training, so it is donated by CALS.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), a physician who has had the training, said one of the primary benefits of the traveling classroom is that it encourages medical personnel to keep their training current. While many may make the effort and absorb the expense of traveling to Minneapolis for the training once, they are not likely to do it a second or third time, he said.

Besides the provider course, the program also offers a day-long benchmark skills lab at Hennepin County Medical Center. The lab covers more than 50 skills necessary for critical stabilization of emergency patients.

In addition to state money, physician groups, foundations, and educational facilities support the program. It also depends heavily on hours donated by medical personnel who help coordinate CALS.

Ebert said funds have also been used to provide courses to instructors.

CALS is also exploring other educational formats, such as videotapes and instruction via the Internet.

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus health and human services finance bill.

address misstatements of fact or law, or if the defense's argument is prejudicial or inflammatory.

The bill, sponsored by Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), would guarantee the prosecutors a right to respond following the defense's final arguments. The response could address only issues brought up by the defense's argument.

Pawlenty said it is only fair that prosecutors who have the heavy burden of proving the case be allowed to go last. He said that Minnesota is the only criminal system in the nation that allows the defense to go last.

"The current process does not work," he said. "We are out of step with the rest of the world."

Pawlenty also said that crime victims and victims' families suffer under the current system. He said sometimes the last thing that victims' families hear in the courtroom are disparaging remarks from the defense about the victim, and the prosecution doesn't get a chance to challenge the claims.

Critics argue that the bill violates the separation of powers clause in the state constitution and that the Legislature shouldn't interfere in court procedures, an area that should be overseen by the courts themselves.

"If there is a problem, let's let the courts look into it," said Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin).

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) said that only about 5 percent of all criminal cases go to trial and that about 80 percent of those result in convictions.

He said that means prosecutors have about a 99 percent conviction rate (when plea agreements and trial convictions are taken together). That, he said, shows the system to be working well for prosecutors.

"Changing final arguments is a poor idea," he said.

The bill (HF197/SF198*) now goes to the governor.

give the same authority to Minnesota's 1,793 townships.

The measure came as a result of a case in New Scandia Township in Washington County. In 1994, prosecutors charged the township's former chief of police with misconduct by a public employee while serving as chief.

Although the case was dismissed by a judge in 1995, the former employee incurred \$4,500 in legal fees.

And because she worked for a township and not a city or county, the employee could not seek reimbursement from the local government.

Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Springs) and Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy) sponsored the measure.

HF475*/SF517/CH30

Challenges to state rules

Rules adopted by state agencies could be contested by local units of government under a bill approved April 7 by the House State Government Finance Committee.

The bill (HF879) would allow a local unit of government, such as a city council or a county board of commissioners, to petition an agency to amend or repeal a rule. The local unit of government would have to provide evidence that the rule is unnecessary or that there would be a less costly or intrusive way to achieve the rule's purpose.

A state agency that receives a petition would have 30 days to respond to the petition and 90 days to act on the request. If the agency disagrees with the petition, the issue would be settled by an administrative law judge.

The local unit of government that starts the petition would have to pay half the costs of the administrative hearing.

Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud), sponsor of the bill, said the costs to a local unit of government make it unlikely that the petition process would be used more than once or twice in a year.

The bill now moves to the House Rules Committee.

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>



LAW

Last word for prosecutors

Prosecutors would get the last word in criminal trials, under a bill the House passed April 8. The vote was 97-29.

Current Minnesota law states that the prosecutor goes first in final arguments and is followed by the defense attorney. The law allows the judge to give the prosecutor a response to the defense's final arguments only to



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Employees' legal fees



The governor signed a law that will allow townships to reimburse certain legal costs to employees.

Under current law, cities and counties can reimburse legal costs of employees charged with committing crimes while performing their official duties. The law requires that the payment must be approved by the district court.

The new law, effective April 2, will simply



SAFETY

Making bleachers safer

A bill that would establish safety requirements for bleacher seats may be included in the House state government finance omnibus bill.

The bill (HF1124), sponsored by Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound), would require bleachers, such as those in sports arenas or other facilities, to include guardrails or safety nets. Open spaces between floorboards, seats, and guardrails would have to be four inches or less, or safety nets would have to be installed.

The bill also would provide money for grants to help pay for upgrades to make bleachers comply with the safety standards, but no amount has been specified.

Smith said there have been at least 40 accidents involving children falling from bleachers this year, including one death. Six-year-old Toby Lee of Mound died in January after falling from a set of bleachers while attending a hockey game at a Hutchinson arena.

Current state building code requires bleachers to have a maximum gap of nine inches between floorboards, seats, and guardrails. But some older bleachers, such as those in Hutchinson, are exempt from those guidelines under a grandfather clause. Smith said Toby fell through a 13-inch gap in those bleachers.

"This bill is the first step in an area that's been ignored," Smith said.

Considering the bill April 7, lawmakers on the House State Government Finance Committee debated the proposed effective date of Jan. 1, 2001. Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said there is less risk of injury from bleachers that meet the current nine-inch safety standards and that establishments that meet those standards should be allowed more time to comply with the proposed stricter rules.

But Smith said he opposes any grandfather clause because of the accidents that have occurred. He said the Hutchinson arena recently spent \$750,000 on remodeling but did not have to fix the bleachers.

The 2001 effective date would allow enough time to bring bleachers into compliance, Smith said.

However, the committee did accept another amendment offered by Kahn that would make the requirements effective immediately for new bleachers that are built after July 1, so that bleachers built this summer and fall would not need to be upgraded in two years.

Similar legislation has been introduced in Congress that would regulate all bleachers manufactured in the United States, said Rep. Doug Reuter (R-Owatonna). He said if Min-

nesota laws are different from federal requirements, every set of bleachers that is built in Minnesota would need special modifications.

U.S. Rep. Jim Ramstad, sponsor of the federal bill, said his plan is compatible with the state proposal and that he has worked with Smith to make the federal and state safety standards the same.

"We believe people should have a reasonable expectation of safety in public venues," he said. "The federal guidelines will provide that in an economical way."

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus state government finance bill.



TAXES

Rebate maneuver stalls

House members scuttled a once-innocuous tax bill March 31, refusing to vote on the measure after the Senate attached a plan for a \$1.3 billion sales tax rebate to the otherwise minor measure.

House Republicans have said that they would not support the Senate-favored sales tax rebate unless it included permanent, across-the-board income tax cuts.

The House passed a rebate bill (HF1) based on income taxes paid. That proposal is now in a House-Senate conference committee along with the Senate's sales tax rebate plan. The bills have been tied up in conference committee for weeks.

The original version of the bill recently caught up in the tax-rebate debate aimed only to get Goodhue County through a sticky tax situation.

HF50, sponsored by Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings), would increase Goodhue County's levy limit base for taxes payable in 1999 by \$422,323 and allow the county to recertify an increased levy up to the new limit.

The bill was initially passed by the House March 18 and sent to the Senate. It returned with a significant and controversial amendment. The amendment basically called for a sales tax rebate like the one Gov. Jesse Ventura has endorsed.

After 90 minutes of parliamentary maneuvering on the House floor, the bill was laid on the table. It could be resurrected later in the session.

Both Dempsey and Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) criticized the move by the Senate. Osskopp said the measure is a local bill to help Goodhue County and nothing more, adding that he resents the games being played.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), chair of the House Taxes Committee, said he regrets

allowing Dempsey's bill to travel on its own, rather than rolling it into the larger omnibus tax bill. That decision, he said, was based on the need to take action before the end of March to keep the county's tax process unimpeded.

The problem for Goodhue County arose out of a tax court decision in 1996 in which Northern States Power Co. challenged its tax assessment and won.

The result was a hole in Goodhue County's levying ability, and Dempsey's bill would allow the county to fill that hole.



TRANSPORTATION

Setback for light rail

An omnibus transportation measure advancing in the House would not fund a light-rail transit program advocated by Gov. Jesse Ventura. In fact, the bill would spend \$28.8 million less than what Ventura has recommended in his budget.

Ventura's proposal includes \$60 million for construction and design work on the proposed light-rail line running through the Hiawatha corridor from downtown Minneapolis to the Mall of America in Bloomington.

But the funding plan approved by the House Transportation Finance Committee on April 8 does not include any money for the project, which has been in the planning stages for more than a decade.

The committee did recommend an 11-percent increase for the Twin Cities bus system, but Metro Transit officials said that amount would not be enough to keep up with expected service expansions.

Also not part of the bill was a \$776,000 request for additional security for Ventura. The committee did approve a request for a transfer of three state troopers for executive protection, but lawmakers did not include the additional funding in the bill for more Capitol Security personnel to guard the governor.

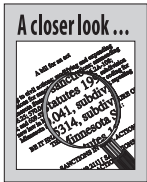
The bill, sponsored by Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska), who chairs the transportation committee, would spend a total of \$3.32 billion.

It would provide \$20 million for a revolving loan fund that could be used by municipalities for road or bridge repair. In addition, state road construction spending would increase by \$60.5 million over the next two years. The measure also would establish a major transportation projects commission that would recommend construction projects to the Legislature each year.

The measure will be introduced as a committee bill and has not yet been assigned a House File number. It moves next to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Small plaque in rotunda prompts emotional criticism

By Sarah Hallonquist



For half a century, a Spanish-American War plaque has hung on a wall in the Capitol rotunda, much to the dismay of many Filipino-Americans.

The plaque honors the 13th Minnesota Volunteer regiment, sent in 1898 to fight the Spanish in the Philippines. However, Americans actually ended up fighting the Filipinos, who had been seeking independence from Spanish rule. The Spaniards had relented by the time the Minnesota regiment arrived, and they granted control of the Philippines to the United States.

One account estimates that 220,000 Filipinos and 4,000 Americans died in the war, which lasted from 1898 to 1901.

But, critics say, the plaque doesn't tell that

ment the information contained on the existing one. The second plaque would have hung adjacent to the current plaque, which was placed in the Capitol in 1948.

Critics of the 51-year-old plaque include many Filipino-American organizations that charge that it is racially offensive and historically inaccurate. It refers to General Emilio Aguinaldo, then-president of the Philippines, as a "chief," which some say makes an incorrect reference to Aguinaldo as an Indian tribal leader.

"It's very degrading to our people who have contributed to our fight for freedom," said Jocelyn Ancheta, a member of the Filipino American Women's Network. "We will not remain silent."

While lawmakers recognized the plaque's inaccuracies, some committee members objected

Lawmakers on the committee accepted an amendment offered by Rep. Doug Reuter (R-Owatonna) that would simply call for removing, and not correcting or replacing, the plaque.

In 1997, members of the Philippine Study Group of Minnesota approached the Capitol Area Architecture and Planning Board about changing the information on the plaque. In anticipation of the 100th anniversary of Filipino independence, the group wanted the plaque changed to reflect what really happened.

That move prompted the architecture board to re-evaluate its policy regarding inaccurate artwork or requested changes to the Capitol's design. In addition, the board set up a temporary display in the rotunda for the centennial celebration. The untold story was the focus of the display, which stayed in the Capitol from June 1998 to February 1999.

Along with the Minnesota Historical Society, the architecture board is charged with preserving the Capitol's design. It oversees major renovations and has the final word on monuments, works of art, and other additions to buildings on the Capitol complex.

In late 1998, the board adopted a new process of review, and the study group's request is the first to embark on the board's formal process. The request must first be considered by the historical society, which will judge the plaque's historical accuracy. However, if the bill passes and the plaque is removed, the board's process would be superseded.

"I don't really care what the historical society thinks," Osskopp said, who offered to personally take the plaque down after the committee meeting. "It's historically inaccurate."

Nancy Stark, the board's executive director, said she would rather see the plaque proposal go through the review process because there are options to consider apart from what is laid out in the bill.

Stark said it is unfortunate that the Philippine Study Group chose to work through the Legislature instead of the board, which has accepted the group's application for review.

Lawmakers did not approve or reject Dawkins' bill, but the panel will consider it for inclusion in the omnibus state government finance bill. 🐼



Keith Severson, right, and Gavin Johnson, both of Roseau, take a closer look at the Spanish-American War plaque in the Capitol rotunda while visiting the Capitol with the 4-H Club on April 8.

whole story; instead it reads, "They battled to free the oppressed peoples of the Philippine Islands, who suffered under the despotic rule of Spain."

A bill considered April 7 by the House State Government Finance Committee would remove the plaque from the Capitol and donate it to the Minnesota Historical Society, which could display it along with a "corrected" explanation of Minnesota's involvement in the war.

The bill (HF899), sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), originally called for \$10,000 to design a second plaque to supple-

ment the idea of a corrective plaque and argued that it should be taken down completely.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) said such plaques should be reserved only for "awesome moments in our history." For that reason, he said a corrective plaque is not needed.

Plaques are not commissioned whenever American troops are sent off to fight, especially when those troops are ordered to do something they might not be proud of doing, Osskopp said.

"It isn't a piece of art anymore, it's a piece of garbage," he said.

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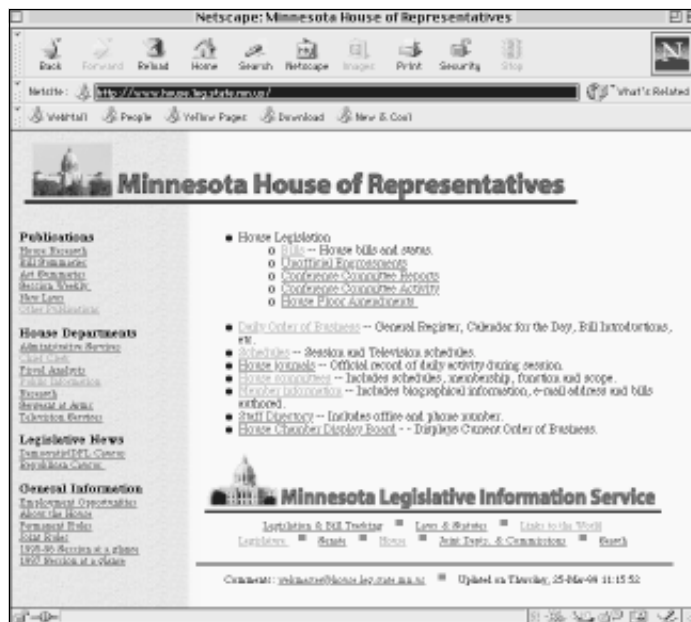
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by Senate Information in Room 231 of the Capitol.

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Since then, broadcasts have also been made available via satellite statewide. Outstate residents should consult with cable operators for time and channel information, or view a program listing on the House Television Services' Web site at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hvtv/hvtv.htm>.

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Both the House and Senate pages provide access to bill tracking functions, and you can find easy-to-understand bill summaries on the Web. You may search for a bill by number or by using key words likely to be found in the bill's title. You can also search by chief author, other authors, statutory citation, or revisor's number.

Bills from previous sessions are also available for search.

If you are interested in a current list of bills being heard by a particular committee, select the committees link and click on the commit-



A committee hearing room in the State Office Building features interactive television technology through which lawmakers can communicate with people at more than 80 sites around Minnesota.

tee of your choice and then choose the "legislation" option.

You can also find schedules of bills to be heard on the floor, committee schedules, television schedules, house journals, and a staff directory of the House and Senate.

If you're not sure where to find information on the Legislature's Web site, take advantage of a new searching capability added this year.

Direct your browser to <http://search.state.mn.us/leg/> and enter your topic. A high-powered search engine will bring up links to relevant information.

All of the information on the site can be

read, sent to a printer, or saved as files on your computer for future reference. The site is also compatible with browsers used by the visually impaired.

You can also view *Session Weekly* on the Internet, with all graphics and photos intact, at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/swkly.ssi>. *Senate Briefly* can be accessed from the Senate Web page.

Questions or comments regarding the House Web site may be sent via e-mail to the webmaster at: webmaster@house.leg.state.mn.us.

Constitutional Officers

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How a Bill Becomes a

Idea

1 A bill is an idea for a new law or an idea to change an old law. Anyone can suggest an idea for a bill — an individual, consumer group, professional association, government agency, or the governor. Most often, however, ideas come from legislators, the only ones who can begin to move an idea through the process. There are 134 House members and 67 senators.

Legal form

2 The Office of the Revisor of Statutes and staff from other legislative offices work with legislators in putting the idea for a new law into proper legal form. The revisor's office is responsible for assuring that the proposal's form complies with the rules of both bodies before the bill can be introduced into the Minnesota House of Representatives and the Minnesota Senate.

Authors

3 Each bill must have a legislator to sponsor and introduce it in the Legislature. That legislator is the chief author whose name appears on the bill along with the bill's file number to identify it as it moves through the legislative process. There may be up to 34 co-authors from the House and four from the Senate. Their names also appear on the bill.

General Register

7 In the House, the General Register serves as a parking lot where bills await action by the full body. Bills chosen to appear on the Calendar for the Day or the Fiscal Calendar are drawn from the General Register.

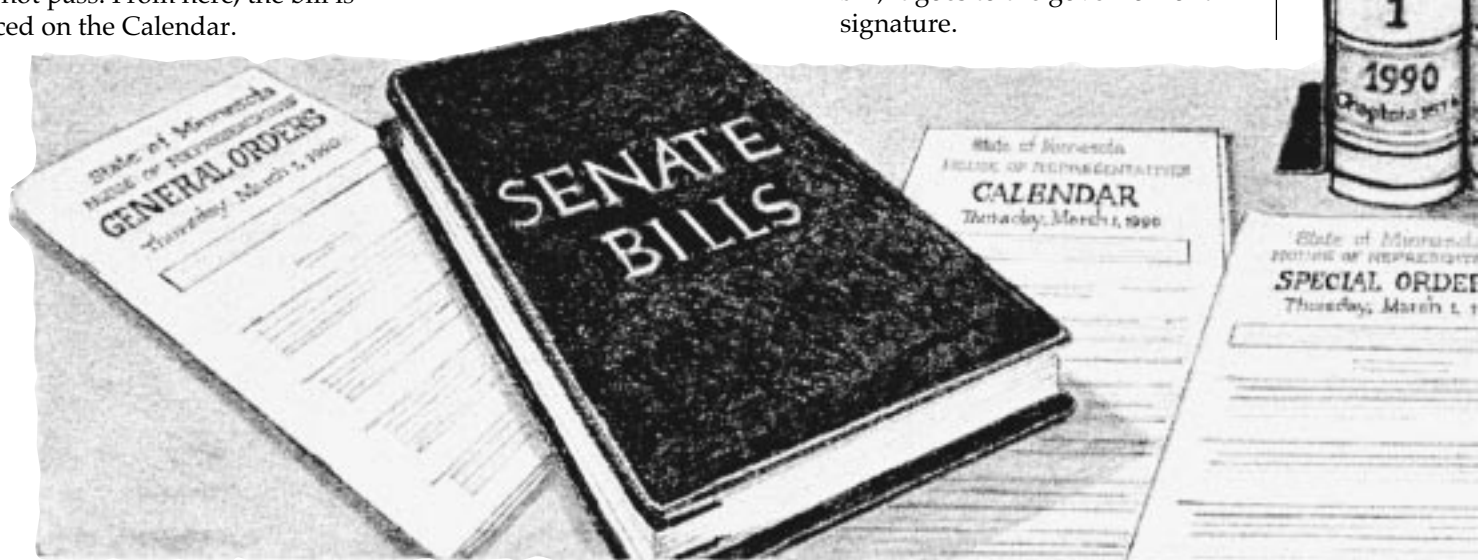
In the Senate, a different procedure is used. Bills are listed on the General Orders agenda. Senate members, acting as the "committee of the whole," have a chance to debate the issue and offer amendments on the bill. Afterwards, they vote to recommend: passage of the bill, progress (delay action), or further committee action. And sometimes they recommend that a bill not pass. From here, the bill is placed on the Calendar.

Calendar for the Day

8 In the House, the Calendar for the Day is a list of bills the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee has designated for the full House to vote on. Members can vote to amend the bill, and after amendments are dispensed with, the bill is given its *third reading* before the vote of the full body is taken. The House also has a Fiscal Calendar, on which the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee or House Taxes Committee can call up for consideration any tax or finance bill that has had a second reading. The bills are debated, amended, and passed in one day.

In the Senate, bills approved by the "committee of the whole" are placed on the Calendar. At this point, the bill has its *third reading*, after which time the bill cannot be amended unless the entire body agrees to it. Toward the end of the session, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration designates bills from the General Orders calendar to receive priority consideration. These Special Orders bills are debated, amended, and passed in one day.

A bill needs 68 votes to pass the House and 34 votes to pass the Senate. If the House and Senate each pass the same version of the bill, it goes to the governor for a signature.



Introduction

4 The chief House author of the bill introduces it in the House; the chief Senate author introduces it in the Senate. Identical bills introduced in each body are called *companion* bills. The bill introduction is called the *first reading*. The presiding officer of the House then refers it to an appropriate House committee for discussion; the same thing happens in the Senate.

Conference

9 If the House and Senate versions of the bill are different, they go to a conference committee. In the House, the speaker appoints three or five representatives, and in the Senate, the Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee on Rules and Administration selects the same number of senators to form the committee. The committee meets to work out differences in the two bills and to reach a compromise.

Committee

5 The bill is discussed in one or more committees depending upon the subject matter. After discussion, committee members recommend action — approval or disapproval — to the full House and full Senate. The House committee then sends a report to the House about its action on the bill; the Senate committee does likewise in the Senate.

Floor

10 The conference committee's compromise bill then goes back to the House and the Senate for another vote. If both bodies pass the bill in this form, it is sent to the governor for his or her approval or disapproval. (If one or both bodies reject the report, it goes back to the conference committee for further consideration.)

Floor

6 After the full House or Senate accepts the committee report, the bill has its *second reading* and is placed on the House agenda called the General Register or the Senate agenda called General Orders. (A committee can recommend that non-controversial bills bypass the General Register or General Orders and go onto the Consent Calendar, where bills usually pass without debate.) After this point, House and Senate procedures differ slightly.

Governor

11 Once the governor has the bill, he or she may: sign it, and the bill becomes law; veto it within three days; or allow it to become law by not signing it. During session, the House and Senate can override a governor's veto. This requires a two-thirds vote in the House (90 votes) and Senate (45 votes). The governor also may "line-item veto" parts of a money bill, or "pocket veto" a bill passed during the last three days of the session by not signing it within 14 days after final adjournment. ▼

1999 Minnesota House Membership by Seniority

22nd term

Munger, Willard (DFL)*

14th term

Anderson, Irv (DFL)*
Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)
Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)
Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)

13th term

Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)
Osthoff, Tom (DFL)

12th term

Jaros, Mike (DFL)*
Murphy, Mary (DFL)
Skoglund, Wes (DFL)*

11th term

Greenfield, Lee (DFL)
Sviggum, Steve (R)

10th term

Clark, Karen (DFL)

9th term

Bishop, Dave (R)
Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)
Tunheim, Jim (DFL)

8th term

Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)
Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)
Ozment, Dennis (R)
Rest, Ann H. (DFL)

7th term

Carruthers, Phil (DFL)
Dawkins, Andy (DFL)
Dorn, John (DFL)
Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)
Milbert, Bob (DFL)
Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)
Rukavina, Tom (DFL)
Trimble, Steve (DFL)
Wagenius, Jean (DFL)
Winter, Ted (DFL)

6th term

Abrams, Ron (R)
Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)
Hausman, Alice (DFL)
McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)
Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)

5th term

Davids, Gregory M. (R)
Erhardt, Ron (R)
Goodno, Kevin (R)
Krinkie, Philip (R)
Leppik, Peggy (R)
Mariani, Carlos (DFL)
Orfield, Myron (DFL)
Peterson, Doug (DFL)
Smith, Steve (R)
Wejcman, Linda (DFL)

4th term

Dehler, Steve (R)
Dempsey, Jerry (R)
Finseth, Tim (R)
Greiling, Mindy (DFL)
Holsten, Mark William (R)
Huntley, Thomas (DFL)
Lindner, Arlon (R)
Luther, Darlene (DFL)
McCollum, Betty (DFL)
Molnau, Carol L. (R)
Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)
Olson, Mark (R)
Opatz, Joe (DFL)
Pawlenty, Tim (R)
Rhodes, Jim (R)
Seagren, Alice (R)
Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)
Van Dellen, Henry Todd (R)
Wolf, Ken (R)
Workman, Tom (R)

3rd term

Anderson, Bruce (R)
Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)
Boudreau, Lynda (R)
Bradley, Fran (R)
Broecker, Sherry (R)
Daggett, Roxann (R)
Entenza, Matt (DFL)
Gunther, Bob (R)
Haas, Bill (R)
Harder, Elaine (R)
Knoblach, Jim (R)
Larsen, Peg (R)
Leighton, Rob (DFL)
Mares, Harry (R)
Marko, Sharon (DFL)
McElroy, Dan (R)
Mulder, Richard (R)
Osskopp, Mike (R)
Paulsen, Erik (R)

Rostberg, Jim (R)
Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)
Stanek, Rich (R)
Swenson, Howard (R)
Sykora, Barb (R)
Tuma, John (R)

2nd term

Biernat, Len (DFL)
Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)
Clark, James T. (R)
Erickson, Sondra (R)
Folliard, Betty (DFL)
Hackbarth, Tom (R)*
Hilty, Bill (DFL)
Juhnke, Al (DFL)
Kielkucki, Tony (R)
Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)
Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)
Kuisle, William (R)
Mullery, Joe (DFL)
Nornes, Bud (R)
Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)
Paymar, Michael (DFL)
Reuter, Doug (R)
Rifenberg, Michelle (R)
Seifert, Marty (R)
Stang, Doug (R)
Tingelstad, Kathy (R)
Vandever, Ray (R)
Westfall, Robert L. (Bob) (R)
Westrom, Torrey (R)

1st term

Abeler, Jim (R)
Buesgens, Mark (R)
Cassell, George (R)
Dorman, Dan (R)
Fuller, Doug (R)
Gerlach, Chris (R)
Gleason, Mark S. (DFL)
Gray, Gregory (DFL)
Haake, Barb (R)
Holberg, Mary Liz (R)
Howes, Larry (R)
Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)
Larson, Dan (DFL)
Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)
Mahoney, Tim (DFL)
Seifert, Jim (R)
Skoe, Rod (DFL)
Storm, Julie (R)
Westerberg, Andrew (R)
Wilkin, Tim (R)

* non-consecutive terms
House members serve two-year terms.

Governor's Desk

CH1-CH45

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
Res. 1	544*	638	Resolution for Minnesota/Ontario border lakes trade agreements violation resolution.	3/26/99	
Res. 2	719	757*	Resolution to prohibit federal recoupment of state tobacco settlement recoveries.	3/29/99	
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	
18	610	649*	Safe drinking water act public water supply definition modification.	3/25/99	
19	812	914*	Legislative Electric Energy Task Force membership modification.	3/25/99	
20	434	593*	St. Cloud paramount arts district regional arts center grant recipient change.	3/25/99	
21	48	50*	Public utilities performance based natural gas purchasing plans sunset repeal.	3/25/99	
22	137*	463	Collector watercraft license numbers and display requirements exemption.	3/26/99	
23	56*	90	Health care provider actions statute of limitations modification.	3/26/99	
24	193	255*	Emergency telephone (911) calls interference crime expansion.	3/29/99	
25	165	460*	Special disability license plates for modified motor vehicles.	3/29/99	
26	438	407*	McLeod West School District #2887; secondary educational facility grant.	3/29/99	

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

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
27	609*	564	Landscape irrigation systems rain check installation requirement.		4/1/99
28	99*	732	Criminal offenders costs payment for failure to appear after release.	4/1/99	
29	1280	1305*	Kenyon Trunk Highway #56 relocation easements transfer.	4/1/99	
30	517	475*	Town officers or employees criminal charges defense costs reimbursement.	4/1/99	
31	381	379*	Mortgage registry and deed taxes technical corrections and administrative changes.	4/1/99	
32	183*	144	Civil Commitment; minors voluntary chemical dependency admission and treatment parental consent conditions modifications.		
33	413*	418	Physicians, acupuncturists and athletic trainers licensing and registration requirements modifications.		
34	492*	518	Minnesota State University, Mankato authorized to construct the Taylor Center multipurpose facility.		
35	766*	739	Motorcycle blue lights display.		
36	1126*	862	Family day care licensure child age groupings definitions.		
37	1258*	487	Marriage dissolution summary process revival.		
38	733	117*	Criminal offenders restitution challenge hearing requests time limit.		
39	640*	488	Mental Health State Advisory Council membership representation requirements modification.		
40	1336	727*	Contracts continuity under European currency.		
41	2024	1660*	Government innovation and cooperation board local government services delivery laws or rules exemptions.		
42	1986	1888*	Otter Tail veterans memorial drive designation.		
43	1184	794*	One call excavation notice system requirements modifications.		
44	1265	1150*	Rural residential districts speed limit.		
45	414*	428	Pseudorabies control program continuation appropriation and vaccine reimbursement requirement.		

Ventura uses first veto to kill sprinkler bill

By Jon Fure

Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed his first bill April 1, calling it "a classic example of unnecessary government intervention."

The bill, aimed at ensuring that lawns and gardens are not over-watered when it rains, was sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) and Sen. Leonard Price (DFL-Woodbury).

Landscape irrigation systems can be equipped with a sensor, called a "rain check," that shuts off the system when there is sufficient moisture in the soil. The bill would have required the sensors to be installed on all new irrigation systems but would not have applied to agricultural systems.

Proponents of the measure said it would save millions of gallons of water. The devices cost about \$35.

Ventura, in his veto message, wrote that the problem is "better left to the judgment of manufacturers and consumers."

"Citizens who are heavy users of irrigation systems and are concerned about the conservation of water should be willing to pay a little extra for these devices in return for lowering their water bills, without the burden of a government mandate that will be virtually impossible to enforce," the governor continued. "Manufacturers who are concerned about being competitive would do well to either absorb the costs of these devices or demonstrate the value to consumers, without turning to government to force all competitors to act in a similar manner."

Ozment said manufacturers have tried to solve the problem but have been unsuccessful.

When the bill (**HF564/SF609*/CH27**) was discussed in the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee, proponents said landscape irrigation systems are often contracted through a competitive bidding process. If a company voluntarily adds extra costs for a rain check, it could mean the project would be awarded to a competitor.

"My concern is if people don't do it voluntarily, millions of gallons of water will go through the treatment process, which is very expensive, and then go through the irrigation systems while it's raining. [That] doesn't make any sense," Ozment said. "However, I agree that [Ventura's] solution is best, and I will work even harder to make that occur."

Ventura's first veto came earlier in his term than the first vetoes of other governors in recent history.

Former Gov. Arne Carlson's first veto was in early May of his first term. He vetoed a bill that would have imposed tougher regulations for pipe fitters handling lines that contain chlorine. Carlson said existing regulations were sufficient.

Gov. Rudy Perpich did not veto a single bill in his first term. The bill that eventually broke his streak of 1,054 bills signed into law came during his second term, when he vetoed a measure that would have prohibited any city, county, or township from imposing rent controls.

Gov. Al Quie's first veto was of a bill that would have allowed children under age 18 into public dance halls or discos. Children ages 15 and under could have gone to those establishments with their parents, and 16-

and 17-year-olds could have gone with their parents or with a written note from their parents. Quie pointed out that many dance halls served liquor, and he said allowing younger children into those places was not in the public interest.

The bill Ventura vetoed was returned to the Senate, which did not exercise its option to attempt to override the veto. If at least two-thirds of the senators voted to override, the measure would have gone on to the House for similar consideration.

Ozment said he didn't expect an override attempt on such a relatively minor bill, and he said that the veto has increased the public's awareness of the issue.

The last time a veto override attempt was successful was in 1982. That year, two vetoes by Quie were overridden. One was a bill to remove the education commissioner from the State University Board. The other bill allowed the state to pay medical insurance benefits to state employees who take early retirement.

Those two were the first successful overrides since 1967, when a 3-percent state sales tax was established. Gov. Harold LeVander had said he would veto the bill unless the public was allowed to vote on the issue. The measure also increased corporate taxes, and it authorized the corporate and sales tax revenue to be allocated along with \$70 million in state surplus revenue to reduce property taxes. LeVander vetoed the bill as promised, and both chambers voted to override the veto. The House vote was 93-41, and the Senate vote was 47-20.

Bill Introductions

HF2347-HF2373

Wednesday, April 7

HF2347—Larsen, P. (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
HIV; sexually transmitted infections prevention and treatment appropriated money.

HF2348—Larsen, P. (R)
Taxes
Automatic income tax rebate provided and money appropriated.

HF2349—Schumacher (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Private sale of state land in Benton County authorized.

HF2350—Broecker (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Ramsey County intermediate care facility for persons with mental retardation (ICF/MR) field audit disallowances reimbursed, spend-up limit exemption provided, and money appropriated.

HF2351—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Petroleum tank release cleanup and inspection fees agreements with American Indian tribes authorized.

HF2352—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Qualifying housing facilities property tax classification, tax increment financing, and tax abatement previous provisions re-enacted; and retroactive application provided.

HF2353—Greiling (DFL)
Taxes
Education homestead credit extended to qualifying low-income rental housing.

HF2354—Greiling (DFL)
Taxes
Homes eligible for valuation exclusion for certain improvements provided increased market value.

HF2355—Howes (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Fishing license requirement exemption authorized for area learning center supervised at-risk teens.

Thursday, April 8

HF2356—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Home health services nursing supervision medical assistance coverage provided.

HF2357—Carruthers (DFL)
Taxes
Rent constituting property taxes percentage increased.

HF2358—Knoblach (R)
Taxes
Central Minnesota events center and other projects city referendum options modified, and construction materials sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF2359—Hilty (DFL)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Independent School District No. 577, Willow River, early childhood education center and community resource center construction grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF2360—Hilty (DFL)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Carlton County children and family services collaborative grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2361—Clark, J. (R)
Taxes
Redwood Falls community center construction materials sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF2362—Murphy (DFL)
Taxes
Hermantown community indoor sports and physical education complex and Proctor community activity center construction materials sales and use tax exemptions provided.

HF2363—Hasskamp (DFL)
Taxes
Home care income tax credit provided and money appropriated.

HF2364—Rostberg (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Youth ice facilities municipal debt refund obligations issuance authorized and conditions provided.

HF2365—Clark, J. (R)
Taxes
Springfield community center construction materials sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF2366—Reuter (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Commissioner of Children, Families, and Learning required to provide protective software to school districts and money appropriated.

HF2367—Dempsey (R)
Taxes
Qualifying public utilities limited property tax relief authorized.

HF2368—Fuller (R)
Capital Investment
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension satellite facility design and construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2369—Swenson (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Employers licensed for pest control or agricultural applications provided work place accident and injury reduction program requirements exemption.

HF2370—Luther (DFL)
Transportation Finance
Brooklyn Park; Edinburgh trail pedestrian bridge construction over Trunk Highway No. 252 provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2371—Finseth (R)
Capital Investment
East Grand Forks and Warren dike construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2372—Wolf (R)
Commerce
Minnesota retail electric competition act adopted, civil remedies provided, and money appropriated.

HF2373—Ness (R)
Education Policy
Learning Network of Minnesota II (LN II) established, and activities developed by the Minnesota Education Telecommunications Council (METC) and the Higher Education Advisory Council (HEAC).

Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

Secretary of the Senate
231 Capitol 296-0271
Voice mail/order bills 296-2343
Chief Clerk of the House
211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, Senate
110 Capitol 296-2887
Index, House
211 Capitol 296-6646
Information, Senate
231 Capitol 296-0504

Information, House
175 State Office Building 296-2146
TTY, Senate 296-0250
Toll free 1-888-234-1112
TTY, House 296-9896
Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

For information updates, call

House Calls at (651) 296-9283.

All meetings are open to the public.

Sign language interpreter services:

(651) 224-6548 v/tty

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In the body of the message type:

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MONDAY, April 12

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: HF1769 (Abeler) Senior citizen drug program eligibility expanded and money appropriated.

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.

SF194 (Berglin) Health plan companies essential community provider status application deadline elimination.

HF1955 (Goodno) 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.

HF1959 (Bradley) Human services county-based purchasing implementation date and provisions modified.

HF2047 (Mulder) University of Minnesota rural preventative health care program established, rural medical community information resource system operation provided, and money appropriated.

Member bills.

Note: This meeting will continue at 3 p.m. in 10 State Office Building, if necessary.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker

Agenda: Construction of omnibus bill.

10 a.m.

Property Tax Division/ TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: HF36 (Erickson) Onamia permitted an extension for commencement of tax increment financing district activities.

HF612 (Seifert, M.) Minneota tax increment financing district expenditures authorized.

HF1397 (Stang) Stearns County tax increment financing district housing and redevelopment actions ratified.

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

HF2258 (Chaudhary) Fridley tax increment financing district duration extended.

HF1572 (Dawkins) St. Paul tax increment financing district extended.

HF2126 (Abrams) Fiscal disparities abatement authorized, school district uniform abatement authority provided, and provisions clarified.

HF2227 (Abrams) Local contribution rate reduced for housing districts relating to tax increment financing.

HF1226 (Ozment) Use of tax increment revenues for social or recreational facilities prohibited.

HF1167 (Lenczewski) Tax increment financing district pooling authorized for deficits caused by property tax changes.

HF985 (Workman) Chanhassen tax increment financing district extended and requirements modified.

HFXXXX (McElroy/Rest) General Law pre-1982 pooling.

HF1410 (Knoblach) St. Cloud tax increment financing district housing and redevelopment expenditures authorized.

HF1916 (Solberg) Itasca County tax increment financing district creation authorized, and taconite mine direct reduction plant and steel mill adjacent power plant development powers provided.

11:45 a.m.

RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

316 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Tim Pawlenty

Agenda: Calendar for the Day.

12 noon

The House meets in session.

30 minutes after session

Property Tax Division/ TAXES

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: Continuation of morning meeting.

3:30 p.m.

WAYS & MEANS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dave Bishop

Agenda: Transportation finance omnibus bill.

Higher education finance omnibus bill.

Jobs & economic development finance omnibus bill.

TUESDAY, April 13

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: HF1600 (Goodno) Tobacco settlement money disposition provided, Minnesota families foundation established, health-related endowment funds created, and money appropriated.

HF223 (Leppik) Tobacco prevention board and endowment fund created, and money appropriated.

HF1609 (Storm) Long-term care provisions and nursing facilities payment rates modified.

Member bills.

Note: This meeting will continue 30 minutes after session in 10 State Office Building, if necessary.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker

Agenda: Construction of omnibus bill.

10 a.m.

TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

Immediately following session

TAXES

*****Room to be announced*****

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: HF2333 (Seagren) K-12 Education Finance omnibus bill.

HFXXXX (Sykora) Family & Early Childhood Education Finance omnibus bill.

HF73 (Larsen, P.) Year 2000; local government units mutual aid authority clarified, health department required to collect and disseminate information regarding possible problems and solutions, immunity provided, and money appropriated.

6 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: Omnibus agriculture bill.

WEDNESDAY, April 14

8 a.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: Omnibus agriculture bill.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: To be announced.

Note: This meeting may continue 30 minutes after session in the Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building, if necessary.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker

Agenda: Construction of omnibus bill.

12 noon

The House meets in session.

2 p.m.

Topic Selection Subcommittee/ Legislative Audit Commission

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Selection of program evaluation topics for consideration by the full Legislative Audit Commission.

6 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: Omnibus agriculture bill.

THURSDAY, April 15

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: Health and human services omnibus bill.

Note: This meeting will continue 30 minutes after session in 10 State Office Building.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: Omnibus agriculture bill.

TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

30 minutes following session

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: Continuation of morning meeting.

FRIDAY, April 16

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: Health and human services omnibus bill.

Note: This meeting will continue 30 minutes after session in 10 State Office Building.

10 a.m.

TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: To be announced.

12 noon

The House meets in session.

30 minutes following session

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: Continuation of morning meeting.

Continued from page 4

Securing rights for illegitimate children became a favorite cause of Kempfer's. She successfully sponsored legislation that gave children born out of wedlock the same rights as children of married parents.

"A child should not be punished for what is no fault of its own," she said in response to a floor debate over her bill during which some crude remarks were made about illegitimate children.

"I want to do all I can to improve the lot of these poor children because I am one of them," she told her colleagues. "I am an illegitimate child; I know what it means."

Kempfer is also remembered as the first woman to sit in the House Speaker's chair. She took the gavel for one day on Jan. 28, 1925, and the press reported she had difficulty presiding over a heated debate concerning the gasoline tax.

She died Sept. 27, 1943, at the age of 62, barely a year after retiring from the Legislature.

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

Former House doorman Charlie Ward dies

The House observed a moment of silence April 6 to honor Charlie Ward, who died April 3, about a year after he retired from his post as doorman of the House chamber.

Ward, who was 79 years old, worked for the House Sergeant-at-Arms Office for 15 years, including 11 years as doorman. He was known for his good sense of humor and for his good-natured manner of keeping uninvited guests out of the House chamber. He also was known for requiring credentials of anyone he didn't know, including governor's staff, journalists, senators, or new House members.

Before working for the sergeant's office, Ward had worked for 35 years in the Anoka

post office. He retired in 1980 as postmaster.

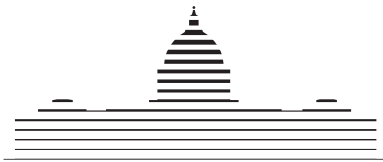
Ward was born and raised in Anoka and attended St. John's University. He joined the National Guard in 1939 and was on active duty from 1941 until the end of World War II in 1945. He was wounded during the invasion of Italy, but he returned to duty in France and Germany. And he was involved in the invasion of Southern

France, the invasion of the Aleutian Islands, and the North Africa campaign.

Ward is survived by his wife, Bernice, six children, two brothers, two sisters, and many grandchildren, nieces, and nephews and friends in the Legislature.



Charlie Ward



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

Speaker of the House: Steve Sviggum
Majority Leader: Tim Pawlenty
Minority Leader: Thomas W. Pugh

MINNESOTA INDEX

Motor vehicle crash facts

Minnesotans with a driver's license, December 1997	3,487,770
Vehicles registered in Minnesota, December 1997	3,769,845
Traffic crashes in 1997	98,625
In 1996	105,332
Crash fatalities in 1997	600
In 1996	576
Fatal crashes in 1997 involving male drivers under age 14	2
Involving female drivers under age 14	0
Fatal crashes in 1997 involving male drivers over age 85	14
Involving female drivers over age 85	3
Crash injuries in 1997	46,064
In 1996	47,161
Minnesota traffic fatalities per 100 million miles of travel in 1997	1.3
In U.S.	1.7
In Minnesota in 1968	5.3
Known alcohol-related traffic fatalities in 1997 (record low in Minnesota)	178
Number of those that involved pedestrians who had been drinking	11
Drunken driving arrests in 1997	30,168
Percent male	81
Percent under age 21	11
Percent of known alcohol-related crashes that occurred between	
1 a.m. and 2 a.m.	14
Motorcycles involved in fatal crashes in 1997	24
Snowmobiles involved in fatal crashes in 1997	6
Police vehicles involved in fatal crashes in 1997	3
Crashes in which illegal or unsafe speed was a contributing factor in 1997	5,623
In which weather was a contributing factor	2,212
In which talking on a CB radio or phone was a contributing factor	43
Percent increase in fatal crashes between 1991 and 1998 on roads where	
speed limit was raised in July 1997	66
Percent increase on roads where speed limit was not increased	2

Sources: *Minnesota Motor Vehicle Crash Facts, 1997*, Office of Traffic Safety, Minnesota Department of Public Safety; *Traffic Safety Impacts of Speed Limit Increases, 1998*, Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

For more information

For general information, call:
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