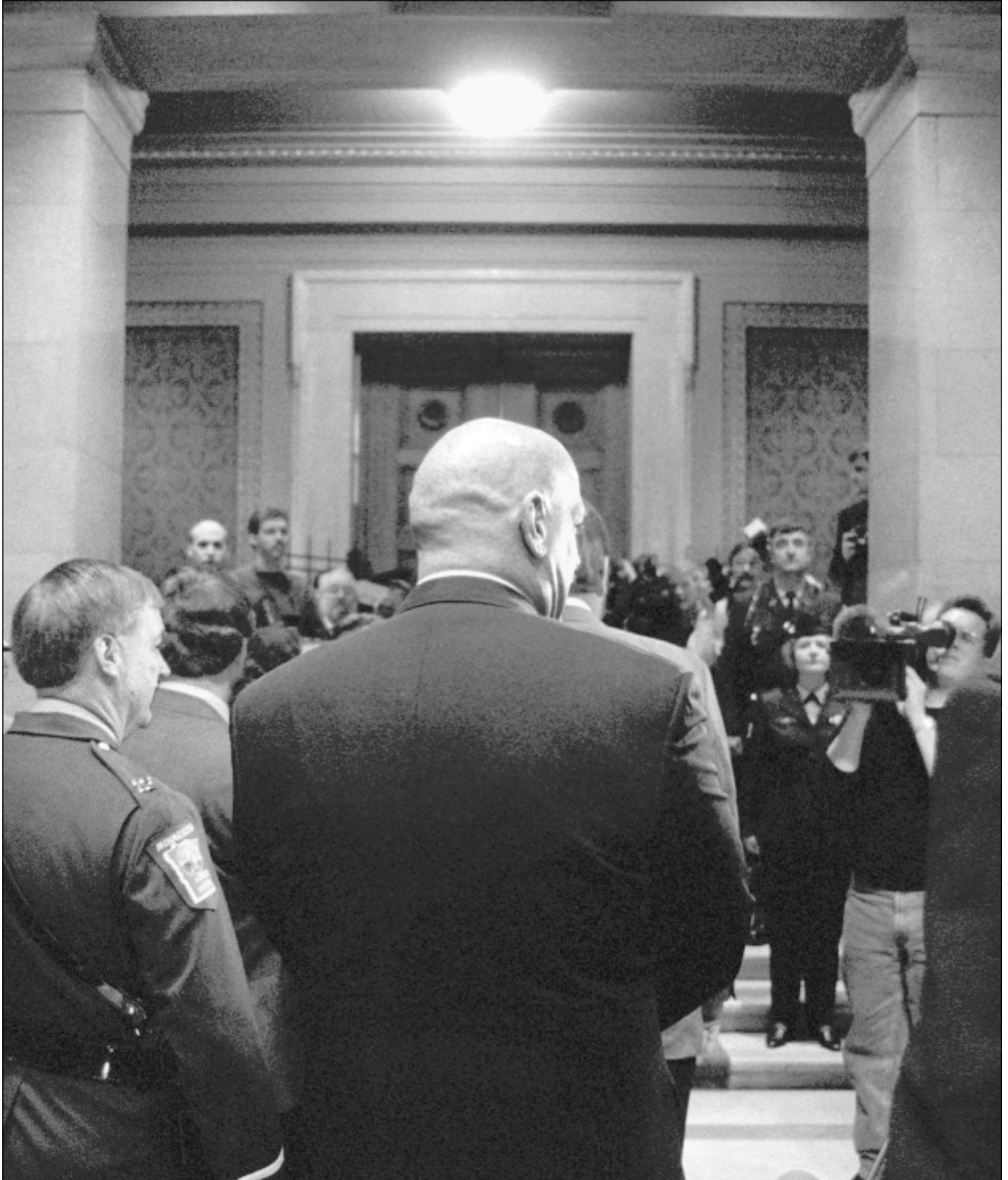


SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ March 5, 1999 ♦ Volume 16, Number 9



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.

Printed on recycled paper which is 50% recycled, 20% post-consumer content.



SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • March 5, 1999 • Volume 16, Number 9

Reflections

"Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I have the honor to announce the arrival of the governor of the great state of Minnesota."

The Chief Sergeant-at-Arms speaks these words in the well of the House chamber before the governor is escorted in to address the joint session of the Legislature. By law, "The governor shall communicate by message to each session of the Legislature . . ."

As protocol before a State of the State address, Senate members are announced to the House members and guests. Once they are escorted in, the joint session of the Legislature is convened by the speaker, who serves as the presiding member. All the constitutional officers and justices and judges of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals are announced and escorted in.

Protocol also directs the courtesy of inviting former governors to hear an official message to the Legislature by the newly elected governor. When Gov. Jesse Ventura gave his State of the State address March 2, three former governors were present: Wendell Anderson, Arne Carlson, and Al Quie.

Ventura's speech marked the 89th such message to the Legislature. But the messages were not titled "State of the State" until 1969, when Gov. Harold LeVander gave the 65th official message to the joint body.

After statehood, the Legislature met annually until 1879. Then, under Gov. John S. Pillsbury, lawmakers began to meet every two years. The Legislature did not meet in 1880, so Pillsbury was unable to set fiscal policy for state needs. When the St. Peter State Hospital was destroyed by fire, he personally paid for the rebuilding, and was reimbursed later by the Legislature.

Once again in 1973, the Legislature began to meet annually, but in biennial sessions.

During early statehood, most messages to the Legislature were delivered along with the governor's inaugural address in the Capitol rotunda. But in 1983 Gov. Rudy Perpich gave a separate inaugural address away from the Capitol for the first time, at Hibbing High School on the Iron Range, some 189 miles away.

Ventura joins the ranks of some memorable governors like Samuel R. VanSant, a riverboat man whose term of office brought the state into the 20th century; "hard-working and hard-swearing" David M. Clough, a lumber baron; and John A. Johnson, Minnesota's first native-born governor. Like the messages of these former governors, Ventura called for more money for public education and tax reform.

In Ventura's State of the State speech, he also advocated for self-sufficiency and restraint. Like governors in the past, he can only strongly suggest an agenda and hope the Legislature will act in his favor.

But most everyone is in agreement with his first words to the joint session and invited guests: "The state of the state is great!"

—LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: Gov. Jesse Ventura pauses in front of the House chamber before being announced to deliver his State of the State address to the joint convention of the House and Senate on March 2.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

First Reading

Financing K-12 education . . .

Bills would help Minnesota's lowest-funded schools

By Sandy Donovan

Closing the gap between Minnesota's wealthier school districts and its poorer ones has been a concern of lawmakers throughout the 1990s.

"Districts with property wealth have access to the best educational resources," said Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), who's sponsoring one of several proposals this year that would create a new category of school funding aimed specifically at decreasing the disparity between poor and wealthy districts.

"The Legislature has tried over the years to increase equity, but the gap still remains," Kielkucki said.

Currently, Minnesota's public school finance system is split between the state, which picks up about 68 percent of the tab, and individual districts, which fund the rest through property tax levies.

But since voters must approve all local referendums to increase school funding, those levies remain largely optional and vary throughout the state. Currently, per student funding in the state's most flush districts is about \$1,081 more annually than per student spending in the lowest-funded districts.

In theory, school districts with the highest property values would have the highest-funded schools, but critics of the system say even that is not always true. Districts with high percentages of private-school students, retirees, or "over-extended" suburban families can have a hard time passing an excess-levy referendum. Also, areas with high concentrations of seasonal property or farms can have a lower tax base than other suburban or urban districts.

Kielkucki's plan (HF582) would establish a new component of state education revenue called equity revenue. Equity revenue would go, on a sliding scale, to all districts that fall below the 95th percentile in total school funding. Total funding includes all state revenue and funding generated through local levies.

Under the bill, equity aid would start at \$25 per pupil unit for districts at the 95th revenue percentile, and would gradually increase to \$100 per pupil for districts with the lowest



Additional state funding would be directed to poorly funded school districts in an effort to lessen the disparity between districts that get a lot of revenue through local levies and those that get very little, under proposals considered by the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.

revenue. Per pupil funding is distributed according to weighted student counts, which provide more money for secondary students than for elementary students.

The bill also calls for an across-the-board basic funding allowance increase of 5 percent annually. That would amount to \$176 more per pupil in fiscal year 2000, and another \$189 per pupil the following year.

Kielkucki estimates that the plan would close the annual funding gap between the richest and poorest districts by about \$100 per pupil,

and initial calculations show that the price tag for the state would be about \$64 million in the first year.

Officials from school districts around the state appeared March 1 before the House K-12 Education Finance Committee to plug Kielkucki's proposal.

"This certainly gets us going in the right direction," said G. L. Carlson, superintendent for the St. Peter School District.

Carlson said St. Peter schools would stand to receive about \$76 per pupil in increased

funding under Kielkucki's bill, which would "go a long way for class-size reduction, a reading program, and technology upgrades."

Lawmakers also heard from Minnesotans who would benefit directly from equity funding.

Josie Boyle, a junior at Stillwater Area High School, told the committee that low revenues in her district meant she would not be able to continue with a five-year French program she began in the eighth grade. The district has a policy of only forming elective classes of 20 or more students, and since 15 of 28 people have dropped out of the language program, Boyle said the last leg will not be offered.

Although post-secondary study is an option for her, Boyle said she would have to travel into Minneapolis or St. Paul for such a course and would waste valuable time and money travelling that far.

"If I lose one year of language, I'll lose much of what I've learned and that's also a waste of time and money," she added.

But some lawmakers said situations like Boyle's aren't unique to districts with comparatively low or no local referendums.

"All schools need more money, it's not just a matter of inequity," said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville). "I'd support more money for the general fund rather than for this."

Greiling said that one of the school districts she represents, Roseville, would not stand to

"The Legislature has tried over the years to increase equity, but the gap still remains."

—Rep. Tony Kielkucki

receive any equity aid under Kielkucki's proposal. Although the district is one of the state's wealthiest, factors like higher teacher salaries and a strong special education focus leave little extra money for other programs, according to her.

"We may not be as far ahead of you as you think when it comes to playgrounds and computers," she said.

Other lawmakers, including Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), said providing straight equity aid would diminish local control of schools and would not reward districts whose taxpayers support a large referendum. All but 70 of Minnesota's 400-plus school districts have some amount of local levy. The St. Paul School District, which has no levy, would be the major beneficiary of Kielkucki's proposal.

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) is sponsoring another bill (HF269) that would also create equity aid, but the measure would distribute the additional funding only to districts with total revenues of below the state's 25th percentile.

Ness' plan would provide enough money to those districts to bring them up to that 25th percentile, at which per pupil total spending is estimated at \$4,365. The state's general education formula allowance now stands at \$3,530 per pupil. Ness estimates that his plan would cost the state roughly \$32 million per year.

"This targets the poorest of the poor and tries to give them help," Ness said.

At the heart of both equity aid proposals is a belief that the quality of public education should be more equal across the state and less dependent on property wealth. Lawmakers have worked toward that goal in the past, most notably in a 1993 referendum reform law and in a graduations standards equity aid component of the 1998 omnibus education law.

The 1993 law increased the state's share of education funding, which had dipped to 56 percent, to more than 61 percent. That share rose from 61.9 percent in fiscal year 1998 to more than 67 percent for fiscal year 1999, and it is slated to top 69 percent by fiscal year 2000.

The 1993 law also mandated a cap on local referendums, which currently stands at \$807 per pupil.

And, in the first real step towards statewide equity, that law "equalized" the first \$315 in per pupil funds from local levies, meaning that state aid is added to those dollars based on the district's property tax base.

The 1998 graduation standards equity aid gave an extra \$34 per pupil to districts that are not at the referendum cap and that have not renewed their levies during the past five years.

The House education panel will consider HF269 and HF582 for inclusion in this year's omnibus education funding bill. 🐼

Stassen's 1939 speech hits familiar themes



It was almost exactly 60 years ago that Gov. Harold Stassen vowed to reduce government spending and decrease the state's debt in his annual address to the Legislature.

Stassen, who at 31 was the nation's youngest governor, was beginning his first term in office when he delivered a 1939 speech that touched on issues that still occupy lawmakers today.

He described to legislators his simple philosophy on the task of developing a budget for the state, and he said voters "placed their decisive stamp of approval" on his ideas in the November 1938 election.

"We were determined that we should spend less money in the next biennium than we had in the past biennium," he said.

Stassen matter-of-factly listed priorities including "spending less money, adequately meeting the needs of men and women who through no fault of their own are in need of public assistance, maintaining our education system, pressing onward for a progressive program on social betterment and security, avoiding new taxes on real estate, reducing total indebtedness of the state, and avoiding placing additional burdens on business and enterprise."

Although he is now known by some only for his repeated, quixotic runs for the presidency, Stassen was a rising star when he became governor. He would go on to win re-election to the office in both 1940 and 1942, and he would shine on the national and international stages, beginning with his speech before the Republican National Convention in June 1940 and continuing through his work to help create the United Nations.

In his 1939 budget address, Stassen noted a few areas that would be exceptions to his plans for an overall reduction in state spending. He proposed increasing the state's funding for "old-age assistance," and urged the Legislature to revise laws on property tax, pensions, and the "children's responsibility section" as they related to care of the elderly. Stassen also advocated relief to Minnesota veterans and increases in financing for the state's

education system, including post-secondary education.

Those spending increases could be accomplished by cuts in "almost every other department and activity of the state, including the office of the governor," he said.

Among his targets were eliminating unnecessary state boards or agencies and reducing the number of inspectors who traveled throughout the state.

Stassen did propose to create one new board to study unemployment and other issues on the Iron Range. One of his suggestions was to increase state taxes on iron ore by changing occupational and royalty rates from 8 to 10 percent, reversing a change that had been made two years earlier.

Stassen said his plan would reduce the state's total expenditures from just more than \$82 million to just more than \$79 million for the biennium. The current two-year budget in Minnesota tops \$20 billion.

A key aspect of Stassen's plan included investment strategies to help the state bond for new buildings. He recommended borrowing \$1.7 million for the state's building program, but he said the state could reduce its total debt by the end of the biennium from \$133 million to \$124 million, a savings of about \$9 million.

One problem with the state's budget was that the state was missing out on lost revenue from interest on state funds, Stassen explained.

He said, "We have at the present time in our trust fund for schools and other purposes over \$10 million of funds which are not invested, but are lying idle because it is not possible to secure the type of investment specified . . ."

Stassen, who left the governor's office in 1943 to join the Navy and its Pacific Fleet, went on to help draft the U.N. charter, serve as president of the University of Pennsylvania, and hold a post in the Eisenhower administration. He was a serious contender in the 1948 presidential campaign, battling New York Gov. Thomas Dewey for the Republican nomination. That was the closest he would come to the presidency.

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Healthy hog bill passes

The state would purchase pseudorabies vaccines for infected swine under a bill the House passed overwhelmingly Feb. 25. The vote was 110-21.

The bill (HF414) would provide \$1.5 million to help quell an outbreak of the highly contagious disease, which is not harmful to humans but causes pigs to have reproductive problems and to gain weight more slowly.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) is sponsoring the measure. He said farmers have done a good job over the years working to decrease incidences of pseudorabies, but in recent months, there has been a resurgence of infected herds.

While the bill had strong support, several representatives were not hog-wild about the idea.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) said he believes pseudorabies flared because farmers facing declining pork prices decided to gamble and not vaccinate.

He said the bill rewards errant behavior and teaches farmers they do not have to be responsible because the state will bail them out. He said appropriating funds would lead the state down the "road to socialized medicine for pigs."

Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters) said hog farmers themselves should solve the problem using dollars from a check-off program to match state dollars.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) said she does not want to do anything for pigs the state would not do for children. She pointed out that the hog vaccine would be provided to farmers for free yet the state charges a co-payment for prescriptions under state-run health care programs.

Supporters of the bill reminded critics that hog farmers have lost hundreds of millions of dollars in the past few months as prices on the open market plummeted.

Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) said the state had an "absolute obligation" to help continue the efforts to reduce and eliminate pseudorabies and lamented the fact the amount of funding in the bill isn't higher.



CRIME

Lower limit for DWI

Following a failed attempt last year, some lawmakers hope that 1999 will be the year to lower Minnesota's blood-alcohol standard from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent.

A bill (HF1004) aimed at accomplishing that goal was given initial approval by the House Crime Prevention Committee on March 2. The vote was 12-2.

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

"When a person in Minnesota is using a dangerous device, we want to make sure that person is not impaired," Goodno told the committee.

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



David Johnson, chief of police in Blaine, testifies in favor of a bill that would lower the blood-alcohol limit from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent for DWI and other offenses.

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

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), co-sponsor of Goodno's bill, said the proposal is simply about public safety.

"We want to make sure that when people go on the road, they will know that they will be safe," he said.

Entenza said that the 0.08-percent limit is a reasonable limit for society to set and that research indicates that all drivers are impaired at that level of blood-alcohol content.

Mike Asleson, DWI trainer with the Minnesota State Patrol, told the committee that the change in the law would result in a reduction in Minnesota's DWI-related traffic fatalities. He said the bill also sends a message to people that the state is getting tough on drunk driving.

"It just says that we cannot tolerate this continued death toll," he said.

But Jim Farrell, executive director of the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association Inc., disagreed. He said that 0.08-percent laws passed in other states have shown varied results in DWI-related arrests and fatalities, and he questioned whether the laws have truly been effective.

Farrell also cited a recent New England Journal of Medicine report stating that the risk of being killed by a driver using a cellular phone is higher than the risk of being killed by a driver at a 0.08 percent blood alcohol level.

"My concern is that in our desire to make things right, we need to do things that make sense," he said.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) offered an amendment that would have applied the lower 0.08-percent limit only to repeat DWI offenders. Under the amendment, the 0.10-percent limit would have applied for all other drivers. That amendment was rejected by the committee.

Last year, separate versions of the DWI bill passed the two bodies of the Legislature but stalled in a conference committee as legislators struggled to work out the difference between the bills.

The House version of the bill, then sponsored by Entenza, would have lowered the standard for legal drunkenness in Minnesota from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent for all

drivers. The Senate version passed last year, like Bishop's amendment, would have applied the lower limit only to repeat DWI offenders.

Goodno's proposal now goes to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

Penalties for furnishing booze

Responding to the tragic deaths of teenagers like Janice Rabideaux and Kevin Brockway, lawmakers gave initial approval to bill that would toughen penalties for providing alcohol to people under the legal drinking age.

Sixteen-year-old Janice Rabideaux of Cloquet died from alcohol poisoning after a 1997 Halloween party where alcohol was provided by an adult.

Cliff Rabideaux, Janice's father, testified in support of the bill, which was approved March 2 by the House Crime Prevention Committee.

"I have to deal with this the rest of my life," he said. "I hope none of you ever have to deal with this."

Rabideaux said that the person who provided the alcohol to his daughter never spent any time in jail for the crime.

Kevin Brockway of St. Paul died in an alcohol-related car crash following a New Year's Eve party on Dec. 31, 1997, where vodka had been provided by an adult. Brockway was 16 years old at the time.

Tom Brockway, Kevin's father, told the committee that providing alcohol to an underage person is like giving that person "poison," because young people cannot handle the responsibility.

Under current law, a person who provides alcohol to someone under the age of 21 who then becomes intoxicated and causes death or great bodily harm is guilty of a gross misdemeanor crime. If that person sells the alcohol to the underage person, the adult is guilty of a felony.

The bill would increase the crime of provid-

ing alcohol to someone underage from a gross misdemeanor to a felony.

"This is a loophole that needs to be closed, and I want you to close it," Brockway said.

The Crime Prevention Committee reviewed two identical bills, HF261, sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), and HF245, sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown). The committee approved HF261. Lawmakers took no action on HF245.

Entenza's bill now goes to the House floor.

More judges wanted

Responding to a 41-percent increase in caseloads in the last 10 years, the state's district courts have made use of several methods to increase efficiency. But court officials say these stopgap measures can only do so much and new judges are needed to handle the workload increase.

A plan to provide those additional judges was approved by the House Crime Prevention Committee during a joint hearing with the House Civil Law Committee on Feb. 26.

The bill (HF542), sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), would provide 18 new trial court units — one judge, one law clerk, and one court reporter for each unit. The proposal would increase the number of judges in nine of the state's 10 judicial districts.

The bill would transfer three existing judgeships to judicial districts that are in greater need. And it would provide \$9.3 million over the biennium to pay for the new positions.

Heidi Green, manager of the research and evaluation unit of the Minnesota Supreme Court, said that the proposal would provide a 6.5-percent increase in judgeships since the last time new judges were approved in 1995. Meanwhile, she said, caseloads have increased by 10 percent over the same period.

The bill now goes to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

Protecting 911 callers

A law frequently used to prosecute domestic assault offenders would be clarified under a bill approved March 1 by the House. The vote was 130-0.

Under a 1997 law, prosecutors can charge a person who interferes with a phone call to a 911 dispatcher with a gross misdemeanor crime. The law is often used against domestic assault offenders who try to prevent their victims from calling the police for help.

The bill (HF193/SF255*) would expand the law to include all emergency calls to police, ambulance services, or fire departments, not just calls placed through 911.

Bill sponsor Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) said his bill would also cover calls made directly to local police departments on other phone lines.

The bill now goes back to the Senate.

Better tracking of criminals

Lawmakers have given initial approval to a proposal seeking more integrated criminal justice information systems.

Currently, individual law enforcement agencies use several different computer systems, often to track the same information.

The bill (HF1118), approved Feb. 26 by the House Crime Prevention Committee, would provide \$1.2 million in matching grants for county and statewide development of integrated systems. The bill also outlines how these systems should work.

Bill sponsor Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) said his bill comes as a result of the recommendations of Minnesota HEALS.

Minnesota HEALS—which stands for Minnesota for Hope, Education, and Law and Safety—is a consortium made up of corporate, community, and law enforcement groups.

The organization was started by corporate leaders in 1997 in response to a rise in violent crime, and is currently working in several at-risk Twin Cities neighborhoods to address crime, housing, employment, and health issues.

Pat Hoven, vice president for social responsibility at Honeywell Corporation and HEALS spokesperson, said that an integrated system would provide law enforcement an important crime-fighting tool. She said that such a system would accelerate the arrest, prosecution, and sentencing of criminals.

"The time is now to fix the problem," she said. "We need information sharing."

Dale Good, director of information technology at the state Supreme Court, said that there are over a thousand autonomous local criminal justice information systems in the state, including individual systems for city police departments, county sheriffs, district courts, public defenders, and city and county attorneys.

He said that the bill would provide coordination and funding that would complement the work of the criminal and juvenile justice information policy group, which has been working on statewide criminal justice information issues.

"To really finish the job, we need to drill down into the local levels," he said.

Stanek's bill would also expand the membership of the policy group, adding two members with private-sector information systems



Two fathers, Tom Brockway of St. Paul, left, and Cliff Rabideaux of Cloquet, testify in support of a bill that would increase penalties for providing alcohol to someone under 21 years old. Brockway's 16-year-old son died in an alcohol-related car crash, and Rabideaux's daughter, also 16 years old, died from alcohol poisoning. Both consumed alcohol provided by adults.

experience and a member from the attorney general's office. And the bill would give the group the authority to review the grant proposals.

The proposal now goes to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

Putting heat on criminals

A program aimed at cracking down on crime in two St. Paul neighborhoods was so successful, it should be emulated statewide.

That's the opinion of Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) who is sponsoring a bill (HF788) that would provide \$3.5 million toward that aim.

The bill would establish crime reduction aid for cities that have a high crime index. Under a funding formula, cities that are property poor would receive aid according to the number of serious crimes reported.

Dawkins told the Property Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee that residents of his district who are afraid to step outside their homes are as much in need of aid as financially troubled farmers.

Funding would be used to intensify proactive community policing efforts, as was accomplished through the Heavy Enforcement Activities for Thirty Days program (called HEAT) in St. Paul.

Commander Richard Gardell, of the St. Paul Police Department, who headed HEAT, said the effort was successful because it combined federal, state, and local resources. He said the program had overwhelming support in the community, and he told how residents came out of their homes to applaud officers making drug arrests and to offer assistance.

Citizen complaints fell by one-half in the neighborhoods where the program was established.

He said the officers were able to be more pro-active in providing services to the community because they were relieved of having to handle emergency responses.

Under the funding formula, Minneapolis and St. Paul would receive the greatest amounts.

While lauding the idea, several representatives were concerned about the funding formula.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) said low property wealth is used as a factor for requesting state aid far too often and results in an unfair tax burden on residents of his district.

Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) said she is troubled by the fact that among the 11 cities that would qualify for aid, several are small tourist towns in the northern part of the state.

She said she supports the idea of help for inner-city neighborhoods, but she questioned if the state should pay for policing for the "mischief and misbehavior" of tourists in cities such as Crosby, Baxter, and Brainerd.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) said tourism-related crime is a problem in those communities, and the issue is worthy of state support.

She said that during peak tourism periods when the population of resort communities swells, the number of law enforcement officials remains the same.

The bill could be considered for inclusion in an omnibus bill later this session.



EDUCATION

Flood still troubling schools

Although it's been nearly two years since heavy flooding damaged the Red River Valley area of northwestern Minnesota, East Grand Forks Superintendent John Roach told lawmakers that his school district is still several years away from a complete recovery.

Three newstate-of-the-art schools have been completed to replace the three lost to flood waters, but it's the loss of students that has the district in a particular bind.

There are 350 fewer students in East Grand Forks classrooms today than there were two years ago, which is a drop of 14 percent. And since the bulk of school funding is paid to districts on a per pupil basis, that declining student population means a loss of about \$1.8 million per year in state aid.

But, Roach said, the district still needs to operate the same number of buildings and buses, and it's not much cheaper to run a classroom of 20 students than one of 23.

Extra state funding, in the form of declining pupil unit aid, helped the district in 1997 and 1998, and a bill (HF130) under consideration this year would extend that funding over the next three years, while gradually phasing it out by fiscal year 2002.

In addition to East Grand Forks, the bill would provide the same aid to the equally hard-hit districts of Ada-Bourup, Argyle-Stephen, Breckenridge, Climax, Kittson-Central, and Warren-Alvarado-Oslo.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), was discussed March 3 by the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.

Roach told the committee that he is optimistic that East Grand Forks will make a full recovery and that the extra state aid would mean that the school district could be ready to accommodate new students as people move back into the area.

"The fear we have is that if we have to devastate our school district, that will certainly play a role in people's decision to relocate to East Grand Forks," he said.

Many lawmakers supported the plan, but some objected to the practice of continuing to provide special, targeted funding boosts to specific areas when school districts across the state are facing financial hardships.

"The system doesn't work and we keep dealing with it one piece at a time," said Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville).

Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), who chairs the K-12 committee, agreed that lawmakers on the panel need to continually ask the question, "How much do we do [for individual districts] at the expense of an increase in the general fund for everyone?"

The committee did not vote on HF130 but will consider it for inclusion in an omnibus K-12 finance bill.

Putting kids on public transit

A bill that would provide money for high-school students to use public transportation was considered by the House K-12 Education Finance Committee Feb. 26.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), who is sponsoring the proposal, said financial details have yet to be worked out, but the bill would provide grants from the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning to school districts that use public transportation. Districts would be required to match every \$4 of grant money with \$1 of district funding.

"(The bill) is still a work-in-progress, but it will give schools an option for transporting students from one location to another," Biernat said.

School districts need that option, Biernat said, because they increasingly have situations where small groups of students need to be transported, making traditional school buses a costly alternative.

Several factors contribute to those changing transportation needs, especially in the Minneapolis School District. In that city, Biernat said, more families are moving around the city, while the district has a policy of keeping kids in the same schools even if parents move across the district and away from regularly scheduled school bus routes. Also, more and more remedial programs are being offered after school hours, leaving groups of students who need rides home.

And a rise of charter schools and open-enrollment programs demand alternative transportation as well.

"We're looking at ways to disperse and de-concentrate poverty in the inner city," Biernat

said. "We need ways to get kids who live in areas of poverty to have a chance to get public transportation outside the city."

Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) questioned districts' potential liability for accidents that could occur on public buses, and Biernat agreed that issues of safety would have to be examined.

And lawmakers from rural and suburban areas objected that the bill would only serve urban districts that already have adequate public transportation.

"Transportation needs are everywhere, not just uniquely in Minneapolis," said Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton). "I would prefer we look at every school district's needs."

A 1998 bill, also sponsored by Biernat, that would have allowed students in Minneapolis and St. Paul to ride public buses was voted down by a House transportation panel last year.

The education panel took no action on this year's bill (HF455), but may consider it for inclusion in its omnibus K-12 funding measure this session.

Funds to fight lawsuits

The Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning would receive an additional \$3 million for costs associated with two Twin Cities-area lawsuits against the state, under a bill being considered by the House Ways and Means Committee.

The money would help fund the attorney general's ongoing legal work regarding the two suits.

In one case, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a collection of parents and students filed suit in 1995 against the state, alleging that children in the Minneapolis schools are receiving a constitutionally inadequate education, mostly because of the district's high minority and low-income population. They seek to have the court order some type of desegregation plan.

In St. Paul, the school district and some parents and students also filed suit against the state, alleging that state funding is not enough for the district to provide a constitutionally adequate education. They seek more state revenue, particularly for special education and limited English proficiency programs.

Mark Levinger, assistant attorney general for the state, told members of the House K-12 Education Finance Committee on March 1 that while both cases are in mediation, neither is close to settling. He said that each case is larger than any other ever handled by the attorney general's office, in terms of the number of documents, number of witnesses, costs,

Big cat in the hat



Gov. Jesse Ventura models his new "Cat in the Hat" cap for grade-school students in the Capitol rotunda. The students gave the governor the hat after he read "Life is Fun" by Minnesota author Nancy Carlson at a March 1 Read Across America event.

staff, and ramifications for the state if either suit is lost.

Levinger said the requested money would be used to pay for mediation proceedings as well as the ongoing preparation for both suits in case they do go to trial. The St. Paul case is slated for trial in this fall, and while a trial has not been set in the NAACP case, Levinger said it could be set any time.

The \$3 million would be in addition to the \$1.3 million already appropriated for the cases for the 1998-99 biennium. Levinger said that a loss in the St. Paul case would likely cost the state several hundred million dollars per year, basing estimates on similar cases around the country that have either been settled or had rulings against states. And if the state were to lose the NAACP case, he said, that could also cost up to hundreds of millions of dollars, although costs for transportation and facilities to comply with a desegregation order are hard to estimate.

The funding request is part of an omnibus state government deficiency payments bill (HF878), sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) and being considered by the House Ways and Means Committee. The K-12 finance panel informally endorsed the proposal.

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>

Summer school finance plan

More students would be able to attend remedial summer school, under a bill considered by the House K-12 Education Finance Committee on March 3.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), would provide funding for basic skills summer programs, which would be available to all students that haven't passed a state-required basic skills test in reading, writing, or math.

Ness said that since the state stopped funding summer school programs 11 years ago, more and more children have been having trouble with what should be basic skills.

"If we don't do something now, this problem is only going to get worse," he said.

Many school districts now use area learning centers for summer programs, but Ness said the centers are rare in rural areas, and children are better served if they can go to their own schools.

"We need to have this available at a site where the kids have easy access and we don't have to bus them around," he said.

Several districts currently use funding from the state's learning year program to pay for summer school, but that program is set to be repealed July 1.

Ness estimated that his proposal would cost about \$1.1 million per year, but if the learning year program is not reinstated, those costs could climb substantially.

The education finance panel took no action on the bill (HF268) but will consider it for

inclusion in the omnibus K-12 funding bill later this session.

Shrinking school districts

Although enrollment in Minnesota schools continues to grow statewide, the overall increase only masks a problem of declining enrollment in most of the state's school districts, especially in rural areas.

And since the majority of state funding for schools is based on the number of students served, declining enrollment puts districts in a financial crunch.

Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) is sponsoring several bills aimed at alleviating the problem. He told the House K-12 Education Finance Committee March 3 that while most urban districts are seeing annual growth of about 2.5 percent and suburban districts are largely holding steady, many rural areas have declining enrollments of up to 10 percent.

"It's not a large enough gap that a district can really lay off a teacher, but it's large enough to create a funding problem in the district," he said.

One of Tomassoni's bills (HF485) would provide districts with declining pupil unit aid, which would equal the state's basic formula allowance (\$3,530 per pupil) times the number of declining pupil units. Declining pupil units would equal the difference between a district's pupil units for the current year and the number from three years' prior. (Pupil units are weighted student numbers that give more weight to secondary students than elementary students as a way of determining state aid.)

The bill would provide \$49.8 million for fiscal year 2000 and \$72.8 million for fiscal year 2001 for the declining pupil unit aid.

Another bill (HF315) would provide declining enrollment aid by modifying the definition of pupil units to be the greater of the district's actual pupil units during the current year, or the district's three-year average pupil unit count.

A third Tomassoni bill (HF754) would appropriate \$250,000 to study the extent and impact of declining enrollments.

Tim Collins, superintendent for the Blue Earth School District, told lawmakers that his district is typical of most rural districts with shrinking student counts. He said his district has been cutting costs wherever possible, has consolidated twice since 1996, and has been trying to pass an excess-levy referendum to make up for declining state funding.

"But it's so difficult to pass a levy when the farm crisis leaves farmers in no position to

support one, and we have five towns in one district with schools in only two towns," he said. "I can guarantee how those people in communities with no schools will vote."

Collins says the district has average class sizes of 28 students in elementary and junior high schools, and is only offering two foreign languages in the high school. And when elective classes get cut, he said, more students opt for post-secondary opportunities, leaving the district with even less revenue.

"I believe we've cut as much as we can," he told lawmakers, adding that he didn't think his district was any worse off than most in rural areas.

The committee did not vote on any of the bills, but will consider all three when it puts together an omnibus K-12 funding bill later this session.

Sports bill stalls

A bill that would have expanded extracurricular options for home school and charter school students was rejected March 4 by the House Education Policy Committee.

Lawmakers voted 18-17 not to approve the bill.

Rep. Arlon Lindner (R-Corcoran), is sponsoring the bill (HF321), which would allow students attending home schools or non-public schools outside their districts to participate in extracurricular activities sponsored by the school district in which they reside.

Under current law, it is up to individual school districts whether to allow outside students to participate in extracurricular activities. Schools can refuse students because of financial or other reasons.

Danny Quam, a resident of Maple Grove, has two sons who attend a charter school located in the Anoka-Hennepin School District. However, he requested that his sons be allowed to play football in the Osseo School District in which his family lives for two reasons.

The first was that the charter school does not have a football team. Secondly, Quam wanted his children to play sports with children they had played with in the local park system's sports. But because his children do not attend a school located in the Osseo district, he was told they would have to play for a team within the Anoka schools.

Officials from school administrator groups told the committee they oppose the bill because allowing outside students to participate in extracurricular activities could result in children already in the school system being passed over for outside students who are more talented.

Other objections to the bill came from some lawmakers who fear it would lead to athletic recruiting by allowing more students to choose their schools based on athletic possibilities.

Rodrick Atkins, a senior at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, said the bill would give too much latitude to home school and charter school students who had already opted out of the public school system.

He said that having "part-time players" who don't attend the school with their teammates can take away the team emphasis of sports.

Care for diabetic kids

Too often, school personnel don't have the experience to deal with students who have diabetes, said Jim McGowan, a volunteer with the American Diabetes Association.

McGowan testified March 2 before the House Education Policy Committee in support of a bill that would establish a task force to study how children with diabetes are cared for in schools.

The committee approved the bill (HF605), which is sponsored by Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield).

According to data from the American Diabetes Association, nearly one in every 600 children develops diabetes. And those children and their families deal with varying degrees of acceptance from school professionals and peers, said McGowan, whose 13-year-old son has diabetes.

Because most cases of diabetes require some form of insulin supplement, school age children receive insulin at different times throughout the day. Their food intake is also monitored to control blood sugar levels.

The task force described in the bill would be charged with recommending a statewide standard of care for diabetic students while they are in school.

The standard would include procedures for how teachers could help incorporate a student's medical needs into his or her school day and for coordination of care between school, parents, and health care providers.

In addition, the task force's guidelines would recommend how schools could learn to implement treatment for individual students. Most cases of diabetes, although similar, require different levels of treatment depending on the individual person. The bill aims to help school professionals learn to recognize how those cases differ and what treatment is needed.

The task force would be made up of 11 members including school administrators, diabetes educators, school board members, teachers, health care professionals, and parents of diabetic students. The group would

have to report its recommendations to the Legislature by Feb. 15, 2000. At that point, lawmakers would decide whether to implement the recommendations in schools.

The bill moves to the House Government Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

Teaching reading better

A bill that would create a grant program for schools to help ensure that students can read by the end of second grade was approved March 4 by the House Education Policy Committee.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring the bill (HF219), which would provide money for schools to implement reading programs that fit a set of criteria outlined in the bill. The plan has already been piloted by some Minneapolis and St. Paul schools.

The criteria for the reading programs include high levels of parental involvement and the use of reliable screening tools to measure reading levels in first and second grades.

Schools would receive grant dollars determined by the number of students with reading problems, and a local match would be required. The grant amounts have yet to be determined.

"This is a doable bill to get all of our children reading by second grade," said Barbara Taylor, a professor at the University of Minnesota and author of a reading program used by students and teachers in a St. Paul school.

Taylor's curriculum uses small groups and individual instruction time for students. It stresses problem-solving skills that can help students learn words by looking for clues, instead of being told the word by a peer or teacher.

Some lawmakers objected to the bill, saying schools can use their staff development grants to pay for the teacher training.

However, Wagenius said a state commitment through her bill would send a message to schools and students.

"I want us to make that absolute commitment for all children to learn to read," she said.

The bill moves to the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.



ELECTIONS

Change for primary elections

A bill that would rename and reschedule Minnesota's primary elections was approved March 1 by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee.

The primary election would be renamed "state party nominating election" to reflect its purpose, said Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), sponsor of the bill (HF272).

And, under the bill, that election would be held the fourth Tuesday in June. Primary elections are currently held the Tuesday after the second Monday in September, which Abrams said is the latest date for those elections in the nation.

The earlier date would benefit the electorate, Abrams said, because major parties would endorse their candidates sooner, allowing those candidates more time to debate each other before the general election.

Another provision of the bill would modify the requirements for constitutional office candidates to get their name on the ballot for a party nominating election. Candidates would have to get 20 percent of the votes cast in the party's state endorsing convention, or they could file an affidavit and a petition.

A valid petition would need signatures from each of the state's eight congressional districts. The petition would need signatures equal to 5 percent of the vote for that office from each district in the most recent primary, or party nominating election. For example, a person running for attorney general would have to get the number of signatures equal to 5 percent of the people who voted for attorney general.

"It would allow people who are serious about the political process either to go through the party or through a petition process," Abrams said.

Under the bill, a person could still appear on the ballot as an independent candidate without participating in the nominating elections or filing a petition.

The bill now moves to the House floor.



EMPLOYMENT

Shortfall for blind services

State Services for the Blind would get \$370,000 to address a short-term budget deficit, under a special funding bill recommended by the governor. But some who use the agency's services suggest that the shortfall is a symptom of a larger problem.

Richard Davis, assistant commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Economic Security, oversees State Services for the Blind. He told the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee March 1 that the deficit comes from an increase in the need for services while the funding level has remained the same. He said the agency has taken steps to prioritize services and cut costs.

But Wally Hinz, a member of the Rehabilitation Advisory Council for the Blind, said that the shortfall may be due to agency mismanagement. He said that an independent audit is needed to ensure the financial stability of the agency.

"Financially, this agency is flirting with a heart attack that could be of fatal proportions," Hinz said.

State Services for the Blind provides job training and other services to persons who are blind or visually impaired.

The special appropriation is a part of a \$14.6 million deficiency funding bill (HF878) that seeks to address immediate state government needs. That bill is sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester).

Although the committee doesn't officially have possession of the bill, the committee will make recommendations to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), chair of the Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee, said his committee will make an informal recommendation no later than March 8.

Reference law reconsidered

Given Robert Pannier's past employment record, he should have never been hired as a teacher for Norwood Young America Central High School.

Pannier left two metropolitan-area high schools after being accused of engaging in inappropriate behavior.

At Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights, he left after being warned not to use vulgarity and sexual innuendo in his class.

And at Eagan High School, where Pannier left after 19 days of employment, students complained that he was telling sexually explicit stories and asking female students for pictures of them.

Pannier was later hired by the Norwood Young America school without revealing that he had taught in Eagan.

In January 1998, Pannier was arrested and charged with having sex with a 15-year-old student.

A bill (HF310) approved March 1 by the House Civil Law Committee seeks to give

Legislative history can be researched in printed materials at the Legislative Reference Library or, for the years since 1995, on the Internet. Find directions at:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/leghist/histstep.htm>

employers freedom to provide information that would prevent cases like this.

Eagan High School Principal Tom Wilson testified in support of the bill. He said that it was difficult to get information from past employers on Pannier.

"Our frustration was that we couldn't get any candid information on this candidate," he said.

Wilson said that the current system encourages past employers just to give "name, rank, and serial number" because employees can easily sue if they feel they have been unfairly characterized.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud), would raise the bar for lawsuits in these cases. It would require that employees prove that the employer intentionally and maliciously gave false information, and that the information caused harm to the employee.

The bill also outlines how past employers should provide the information to prospective employers.

Knoblach said that his bill balances the needs of employers and the rights of employees.

"I believe that it is a start to providing important information, and I believe that it does provide adequate protection to potential employers," he said.

Margaret Warig of Woodbury testified against the bill. She said that she sued her employer over sexual harassment, and that false evaluations were submitted by the supervisor who harassed her.

She said that the law needs to provide protection to employees in cases like hers.

"What if I had to use them as a reference?" she said. "They could have said anything they wanted to and where would I be today?"

The bill now goes to the House floor.



GOVERNMENT

One-year lobby ban

Legislators would not be able to work as paid lobbyists at the Minnesota Legislature for one year after leaving office under a bill passed by the House on March 1. The vote was 101-30.

Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), is sponsoring the bill (HF9). He said it is an attempt to reduce cynicism from the public and not an attempt to criticize the work of a lobbyist.

The bill would be a step in response to the perception that lobbying former colleagues on behalf of a special interest group is a conflict of interest, Kielkucki said. He described the bill as "a way to police ourselves."

"Whether it is founded or not, the percep-

tion exists," he said. "This is one way to show the public that we are concerned about this, and we will not lobby for one year."

Not everyone agreed with Kielkucki, and some lawmakers questioned why the bill would not apply to former staff members or constitutional officers.

"What is the actual need for this bill?" asked Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia).

No former legislator who has become a lobbyist has been accused of wrongdoing, Rukavina said. And under the same logic, he said, commissioners of state departments or agencies who become lobbyists should be subject to the same one-year ban.

Other opponents said the bill would prevent former legislators from doing unpaid lobbying for worthy causes.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) defended the bill, saying it is "one small step in restoring the public's trust."

"We need the public behind us, not against us, and I don't think it's that big of a sacrifice for any of us to make," he said.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Funds for Y2K project

The Office of the Secretary of State is in the process of upgrading its 12-year-old computer system, and the approach of the year 2000 is giving that process a sense of urgency.

The office has requested an additional \$975,000 to make the system Y2K compliant by July 1.

The House State Government Finance Committee informally recommended approving the request March 4, and it will be included in a state government deficiency bill (HF878) under consideration by the House Ways and Means Committee. That bill is sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester).

Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer said she became aware of the problem shortly after she took office in January.

The office has seven major databases, each with a separate function, and they are all at risk of failure. Those databases correspond to the office's main functions, including voter registration, election reporting, and business services like the Uniform Commercial Code and records of tax liens.

When the office began the process of upgrading its old mainframe system, Kiffmeyer said, the cost and amount of time the project would take were "grossly underestimated." In April 1998 the estimated cost was \$2.1 million but current estimates are \$6 million to \$7 million, she said.

The basic plan was to replace the mainframe by creating a new client server system.

Each of the seven major databases was to be included in the system one at a time. Three of those databases are close to completion, but the other four are behind schedule.

The \$975,000 request would pay for three major areas: \$450,000 to complete the client server system for three of the seven databases; \$225,000 to fix the mainframe to make the four remaining databases Y2K compliant; and \$300,000 to upgrade the network of workstations in Minnesota counties.

A Y2K project manager would be responsible for monitoring the costs and achieving deadlines to get the project done.

Kiffmeyer pointed out that the office generates revenue from fees and surcharges. That money was originally intended to be used for upgrading the state's computer system, but it is not specifically dedicated for that purpose.

In fiscal years 1998 and 1999, the secretary of state's office generated \$12.8 million in business filing fees; \$2.9 million in Uniform Commercial Code fees; and \$2.3 million in Uniform Commercial Code surcharges.

Eric Lipman, deputy secretary of state, said that money all goes into the state's general fund. The office's budget allocation for those years was \$13 million, but the fees and surcharges brought in about \$19 million.

Benefits bill passes

Dependents of peace officers and firefighters who are killed in the line of duty can continue to receive health insurance coverage under current law, and the House passed a bill March 1 that would extend that practice. The vote was 129-0.

The bill (HF49) would provide the same benefit to a spouse who was not covered as a dependent at the time of the death but was eligible, or later becomes eligible, to be a dependent on the employer's health plan.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), sponsor of the bill, said current law does not allow continued health insurance coverage for a spouse who is covered under a separate policy at the time of the death of the peace officer or firefighter. The bill would allow a person in that situation to be covered under their spouse's plan.

The current law was passed in 1997 because many officers who had been disabled by duty-related injuries were receiving pensions but were not eligible for health coverage.

The bill now moves to the Senate.

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HEALTH

Care limits considered

Growth in the number of physician assistants and their impact, especially in rural areas, has been a part of the changing landscape of health care for the past few years.

Physician assistants are trained and licensed to help lessen the load for doctors, and they assume much of the responsibility for routine care services in clinics and hospitals.

But how much medicine should a physician assistant be allowed to practice without direct oversight by a supervising physician?

At least enough to be able to help out in the event of a disaster situation, according to Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul), who is sponsoring a bill (HF598) aimed at accomplishing that goal.

McCollum told the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 2 that there were instances during the 1997 flooding in the Red River Valley in which physician assistants had to pull back from assisting, even though they were military-trained in emergency medicine.

She said they didn't feel comfortable performing services because, in some cases, the supervising physician was a long distance away and in others, they weren't covered for emergency services under their supervisory agreement.

The bill would grant immunity from civil liability to physician assistants who are providing free volunteer care in disaster situations, and it would provide immunity to physicians who supervise physician assistants providing such care.

The bill also would allow physician assistants specifically to provide care in disasters without having physician and physician assistant agreements, as long as the physician assistants are appropriately supervised.

Critics said the intention is good but the bill carries a variety of problems. They expressed concerns that the bill might limit legal remedies in instances of malpractice and questioned if the bill might not have the impact of lowering standards of care.

McCollum admitted that the state's trial lawyers are uncomfortable with the bill in its current form. She hopes to meet with those concerned as the bill progresses.

"We want to assure that we have people practicing medicine properly," McCollum said. "If not, they should be sued."

The committee voted to send along the bill with no recommendation. The measure moves to the House Civil Law Committee.

Ingredient disclosure stalls

A bill that would expand reporting of hazardous substances in tobacco products stalled March 2 in the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

The bill (HF636) would require cigarette manufacturers to reveal the presence and quantity of hazardous substances defined by the U.S. Surgeon General in a three-page list. Existing law requires only the reporting of levels of ammonia or ammonia compounds, arsenic, cadmium, formaldehyde, and lead by brand.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul), the bill's sponsor, said consumers have a right to know everything that is in the various brands of cigarettes available for purchase.

Holding up a can of soup, he told the committee that almost every consumer product sold requires some sort of ingredient listing by law and cigarettes should not be an exception.

Paymar said the bill would also help cities that prohibit the sale of certain hazardous substances by ordinance.

Critics on the committee questioned if the existence of agents on the surgeon general's list in products besides cigarettes would be required to be revealed. Critics also expressed

concerns about how the requirements would be enforced and disputed Paymar's claim that knowing what was in a cigarette could lead to less smoking.

But Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) said she knew of people who had quit or at least considered quitting after they had learned exactly what was in a cigarette.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) said that to ensure the reports were accurate, the state's labs would have to gear up to test for all of the ingredients on the list, which would be cost-prohibitive.

Two anti-smoking lobbying groups — Smoke Free 2000 Coalition and Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota — sent letters to the committee urging support for the proposal.

"Although tobacco is like no other legal product on the market — insofar as it will lead to disease and premature death if used properly — there's no reason tobacco's toxic agents should be concealed from the public," said Judy Knapp, executive director of the Minnesota Smoke-Free Coalition in St. Paul. "No other consumer product receives such special protection, yet no other product is as deadly or addictive."

The committee rejected the bill on a 12-8 vote.

Counterfeit crackdown



John Bliss, president of the International Anticounterfeiting Coalition, shows counterfeit and authentic products side-by-side to demonstrate how consumers can be easily fooled by counterfeiters. Bliss testified Feb. 26 before the House Crime Prevention Committee in favor of a bill that would impose new penalties for the manufacture and distribution of counterfeit products.

Regulatory concerns addressed

The debate over the use of bed rails in the state's nursing homes has prompted Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) to sponsor a bill (HF615) to encourage state regulators and nursing homes to work together more closely for the benefit of residents.

Bradley was also the sponsor of separate bill (HF40) aimed at clarifying policies on the use of bed rails in those facilities. That bill was passed by the House on Feb. 22.

Now it's time to work on the issues that caused the flap in the first place, Bradley told the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee on March 2.

"There are a number of deep-seated concerns about the relationship between regulators, the nursing homes, and patients," Bradley said.

The bill, which was approved by the committee, calls for training and education for state-licensed providers prior to using any new regulatory guidelines or other materials in training those who inspect nursing homes. It also requires that copies of statements of deficiencies and related letters pertaining to federal certification surveys be made available to nursing homes, when it is legal to do so.

The bill would also prohibit the practice of

ending nurse's aid training as part of an action against a nursing home when problems are discovered. And it would prohibit the use of "immediate jeopardy" fines unless the violation initially occurred within 48 hours before or shortly after the arrival of state inspectors.

The use of those practices drew loud protests from nursing home operators during the dispute over bed rail use. Operators said some immediate jeopardy fines were levied for incidents that had occurred five months earlier.

Finally, the bill would change the way the state may impose fines on nursing homes; end a mandatory two-hour check of incontinent residents and those who must be positioned; and appropriate money to study data related to falls and the use of physical restraints.

Much of the discussion on the bill centered around the mandatory checks.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) said she believes that leaving those checks up to staff is not sufficient, considering that nursing homes have great turnover of staff and some workers are limited in their use of English. She expressed concerns that nursing home staff would not be able to understand the lengthy care plan mandated for each patient.

Nursing home operators assured McCollum and others that they are careful to assure that anyone with limited English skills is teamed with a more experienced worker.

They pointed out that the two-hour check requirement for incontinence does not account for the natural patterns of bodily functions and can result in bruises from unnecessarily and repeatedly being roused from bed for toileting.

Iris Freeman, executive director of Advocacy Center for Long Term Care, cautioned that state regulators should not be asked to become consultants or counselors to nursing homes, adding that they should be "neither mean-spirited nor buddies."

Bradley said he does not believe his bill calls for an unnatural alliance between regulator and regulated and stressed that everyone has a role to play in quality assurance.

The bill moves to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

Parking for the pregnant

The House passed a bill March 1 that would allow handicapped parking permits for women with high-risk pregnancies. The vote was 127-0.

The bill (HF296) is sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz. Under the measure, handicapped parking would be extended to women whose doctors certify that walking would endanger the life of the woman or the fetus.

Current law regarding handicapped parking does not include women with high-risk pregnancies as being physically disabled.

The bill moves to the Senate.



HUMAN SERVICES

Raise for health workers

Fast food workers often receive higher pay than the personal care attendants who provide life-sustaining services to the disabled across the state.

That was one of the arguments used in support of a bill (HF499) that would boost state reimbursement rates for a variety of health care services by 5 percent.

Hundreds of people who provide care and who receive that care packed the Health and Human Services Finance Committee hearing room March 2. More than a dozen testified in favor of the idea.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Jim Seifert (R-Woodbury), explained the intent of the funding is to hike the pay for those "in the service trenches."

He said passing the legislation would reaffirm the state's commitment to home- and community-based services, adding that without wage increases, the care programs could break down and more residents could be forced into institutions.

Those who spoke told the committee that average wages are low, there were fewer people choosing personal care as an employment option, those who do have no career track, and the turnover rate is staggering.

Ben May, a personal care attendant from Minneapolis, said he makes less than \$8 per hour and is often forced to work 72 hours straight because of the staff shortfall.

One industry group estimates it costs \$3,000 to train a personal care attendant, and if a worker doesn't stay on the job for two years, the agency providing the training takes a loss.

Terry Adamson of New Hope said she fears that with the poor working conditions, people who she considers undesirable may end up providing care.

Adamson, who has cerebral palsy, said she and others like her must be able to rely on the honest intentions of care providers who come into their homes each day.

"My life depends on it," she told the committee.

The bill carries a \$280 million price tag for the coming biennium.

Seifert admitted that was a lot of money, but he added that not passing the bill would bring

with it an even larger problem — the collapse of the home- and community-based care system.

Many of those programs developed as the state moved away from institutional settings for those with disabilities.

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

Removing job barriers

Many of Minnesota's disabled residents are caught in a Catch-22.

Because of their medical condition, they qualify for medical assistance. But while many are able to work, some do not because employment generally means a loss of eligibility for medical assistance.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) is sponsoring a bill (HF670) he hopes will help improve the situation.

"The disabled want to work, but we as government don't allow them to work," Goodno told the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee, which approved his bill March 2.

Goodno's bill would require the state to provide medical assistance coverage for people who are employed, eligible for the Supplemental Security Income program, have assets of less than \$20,000, and pay required premiums.

The issue is a matter of taking personal responsibility, Goodno told the committee. He referred to Gov. Jesse Ventura's State of the State speech earlier in the day advocating self-sufficiency.

Supporters said disabled individuals should not be penalized for saving money for a down payment for a house or a car.

And although the bill would cost the state money, a portion would be recovered through additional income taxes the disabled workers would pay, said Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan).

The bill moves to the House floor.



LAW

Hike for jury stipends

Last year's tobacco trial netted the state a \$6.1 billion settlement. However, juror David Olson estimates that he lost up to \$50,000 because of the four-and-a-half month trial.

Olson testified March 3 before the House Civil Law Committee in favor of a bill (HF351) that would provide relief to jurors in long-running civil trials.

During the tobacco trial — which was eventually settled outside of court — Olson said he

was paid \$30 a day. In the meantime, he was responsible for raising his two daughters and for paying a \$1,300 monthly house payment. He was forced to refinance his home and to rely on credit to pay the bills, he said.

Olson said he tried to tell the judge that the case was causing economic hardship, but the judge was not convinced.

"Why should the juror have to pay?" Olson said.

Under the bill, which is sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), judges could provide jurors an additional daily stipend up to \$75 in the cases of economic hardship. Litigants would have to cough up the additional funds, and judges would decide how much each litigant would pay.

Bishop said that he is sponsoring the bill to address "the huge injustice in the way we treat jurors."

But Olson said Bishop's plan might not go far enough.

"Even with this (\$75) a day plus the additional \$30 from the county, it wouldn't have helped me," he said.

Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound), chair of the committee, laid the bill over to give Bishop time to work with judges on his proposal.

No liability for dispatchers

Emergency dispatchers would be free to give over-the-phone medical instructions to callers without fear of legal troubles, under a bill approved March 3 by the House Civil Law Committee.

The bill (HF541), sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), would exempt dispatchers from civil liability when in the course of an emergency call, they provide medical information before emergency responders arrive on the scene.

Currently, some municipalities are advising dispatchers not to give medical information over the phone because the local unit of government could possibly be held liable in a lawsuit.

"Time is of the essence for these types of procedures," said Duane Flynn, fire chief for the city of Duluth.

Flynn told the committee that the life of a person in a medical emergency can depend on what happens in the first three minutes of the crisis. By simply suggesting that the person making the call tilt the victim's head back and clear an airway for breathing, emergency dispatchers may save a life.

Or the dispatcher may be able to provide more detailed information before help can arrive, he said.

"We can literally tell them over the phone how to do CPR," Flynn said.

The bill now goes to the House floor.



TAXES

Taxing the tailor

A stitch in time may save nine, but you'll probably have to pay sales tax on all 10 of them.

The efforts of hard-working tailors and seamstresses in Minnesota should not be subject to sales tax, according to Rep. Larry Howes (R-Hackensack). He is sponsoring a bill (HF396) that would exempt repair and alteration of clothes from taxation.

Howes told the House Taxes Committee March 2 that it is generally not the state's policy to tax for "necessities of life," such as food and clothing. He said there exists an inequity in the law he hopes his bill will sew up.

Howes said that if you purchase an expensive suit from an upscale department store and it does the alterations, you aren't charged sales tax. However, if you purchase clothes at

a yard sale and take them in for alterations, you are charged tax.

The Minnesota sales tax applies to most tangible personal products and a limited number of services. In 1987, as part of an effort to increase state revenues, a number of services were added to the sales tax base. The alteration business was among them, along with cleaning, pressing, and storing clothes.

Eliminating the tax on alterations would result in a loss to the state of about \$2.5 million that's slated to be collected from 350 businesses over the next biennium.

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

Cutting the liquor tax

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) doesn't believe taking a drink is a sin, but he says the tax you pay on the alcoholic beverage you purchase might be.

Rukavina is sponsoring a bill (HF617) that would gradually reduce the tax rate on alcoholic beverages from 8.5 to 6.5 percent by 2003.

Rukavina told the House Taxes Committee March 2 that he's not asking for an exemption, only a reduction as a "matter of fairness."

Rukavina and those who testified in favor of the bill pointed out that the tax is particularly onerous for border communities, such as Duluth, because Wisconsin has a much lower tax.

A spokesman for the Municipal Beverage Association, which represents communities with city-owned liquor stores, said 35 retail outlets have gone out of business in recent years, many of them in border cities, as a result of the tax.

The state collects nearly \$23 million in alcoholic beverage taxes every two years from 4,500 retailers.

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

Gambling tax targeted

Two bills aimed at reducing taxes on lawful gambling were discussed Feb. 25 by the House Taxes Committee.

The first bill (HF393), sponsored by Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), would reduce the rate by 50 percent, and the second bill (HF507), sponsored by Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee) would lower the rate 20 percent.

Some types of gambling were first made legal in Minnesota in 1976, and a statewide tax was imposed in 1987, and first collected in 1989. But by that year, due to the state's fiscal

It's alive



Four-year-old Benjamin Kocer takes a closer look at an Australian bearded dragon resting on the arm of Minnesota Zoo volunteer Judy Rouse. Zoo officials, seeking to increase awareness of the zoo's programs and legislative requests, brought reptiles and other zoo animals to the Capitol rotunda March 3.

crisis, the tax was raised and expanded to include more types of gambling.

"In a small town of 1,200 people, the organizations end up sending more to the state than they have available for donations," Daggett said.

The rate was reduced by 5 percent last year but needs to go lower, supporters said.

King Wilson, executive director of Allied Charities of Minnesota, said the more organizations pay in taxes, the less money is available to go to nonprofit and tax-exempt charities across the state.

"During the deficit years, these groups did their part," he added. "Now it's time for a payback."

Wilson presented information showing the increased popularity of lawful gambling over the years. Since the opening of casino gambling and the institution of the state lottery in 1989, the numbers have leveled some.

Over 3,100 lawful gambling sites operate in the state. More than 400 of them are run by veterans groups, 300 by fraternal organizations, 30 by religious organizations and the rest by a combination of varied groups.

"Minnesotans like to gamble," Wilson said. "We probably lead the nation."

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) noted that there is no level playing field in gambling in Minnesota because casinos are unregulated and untaxed.

He ticked off a list of organizations in his community he said wouldn't exist or would be curtailed without lawful gambling.

He also pointed out that lawful gambling is highly regulated and spending on expenses is capped.

Finseth's bill would cost the state \$55 million in tax revenue over the coming biennium. Daggett's bill would carry a \$23 million price tag.

Both bills may be heard again when the committee begins compiling the omnibus tax bill in the coming weeks.

Ventura's new rebate plan

Hopes were running high that a compromise might be near for the House and Senate conferees discussing a rebate of a large portion of the state's projected budget surplus.

Moments before the House-Senate conference committee was expected to convene March 3, Gov. Jesse Ventura's office announced they would recommend raising proposed caps on a potential tax rebate.

Under the governor's new proposal, the ceiling would rise from \$2,000 to \$5,000 for couples and from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for individuals.

Ventura also indicated support for a Senate proposal to add as rebate beneficiaries 320,000 people who would have been excluded in his original plan.

A plan by the commissioner of revenue to use data that takes into account family size and federally adjusted gross income in figuring rebates was also unveiled March 3.

The proposals drew praise from Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) who leads the House conferees on the conference committee.

"The governor deserves great praise for trying to move the process forward by being forthcoming on the caps," said Abrams, who also chairs the House Taxes Committee. "This is a step in the right direction."

Abrams said he would wait to see exactly how the rebates would shake out when new schedules are produced and then proceed from there.

The House originally passed a rebate bill (HF1) calling for money to be returned based on income taxes paid. The Senate's original version more closely resembled Ventura's proposal, calling for a rebate based on a sales tax formula.

The conference committee has met several times over the past two weeks, but has come to no agreement on the major issues dividing the bodies.



TRANSPORTATION

Illegal auto registrations

Approximately 35,000 vehicles on Minnesota roads are not registered or are registered illegally in other states, according to a report issued by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

The report also states that as many as 480,000 vehicles are not insured. That number represents about 12 percent of all vehicles in the state.

The report, called the Registration and Insurance Study, was directed by the 1998 Legislature. Lawmakers asked the department to find the number of unregistered and uninsured vehicles in the state, and to investigate the possibility of developing a shared information system that would aid in enforcing the state's insurance and registration laws.

Minnesota has a mandatory insurance law that requires vehicles to be insured while they are being operated. The state also requires that all vehicles driven primarily in Minnesota by state residents be registered in the state.

However, the study shows that many people register their cars in neighboring states to avoid paying the state's registration fees, which are higher than neighboring states. The report states that many of those people were told by

Mussel man



Jay Rendall, exotic species coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, shows members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee a clump of zebra mussels. He spoke in support of a bill that would modify laws designed to halt harmful exotic species March 4.

friends and family members that they could register their cars out of the state and are unaware it is illegal.

While department officials said the numbers in the report are estimates, they did indicate that the state loses up to \$6.8 million each year in registration and sales taxes for motor vehicles.

Along with the study, the Legislature required the department to investigate unregistered vehicles in the state. In a five-month period, the Minnesota State Patrol Vehicle Crimes Task Force recovered \$212,000 in back taxes resulting from the investigation.

Alice Gonzalo, assistant director of the department's Driver and Vehicle Services Division, said once the word spread about the investigation, there was an influx in registrations. In exchange for voluntarily paying back taxes on their vehicles, the task force did not prosecute the individuals who came forward.

In assessing the feasibility of a database, the report concluded that sharing information with other states is cost effective. However, sharing information with insurance companies would have to be done by the state instead of a private database service.

The Legislature originally directed the department to find out if a private vendor could gather insurance information, but responses from insurance companies prompted the department to recommend otherwise. Insurance vendors were concerned that their customer information could be available to competitors, and the department also found that an in-house insurance database would cost less in the long run.

Gonzalo said the department would likely bring a proposal to the Legislature next year after the results of a national study on mandatory insurance reporting are released.

More security for Ventura

Beefed-up security for the state's new governor and additional license plates for the state's growing car inventory would be funded under a deficiency payments bill (HF878) now being considered by the House Ways and Means Committee.

The House Transportation Finance Committee informally recommended \$829,000 in supplemental transportation-related appropriations March 3.

A sum of \$200,000 was recommended to step up security for Gov. Jesse Ventura. Minnesota State Patrol officials said the increase is needed because the Ventura family is living at two residences — their Maple Grove ranch and the state-owned mansion in St. Paul.

Some lawmakers questioned the need for

more security and asked if there are other options that would be more cost-effective.

State Patrol Chief Anne Beers said the size of Ventura's property in Maple Grove — 34 acres — makes the job of security more complicated. She said without the appropriation, the department would incur a heavy payroll load for overtime hours.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) said he thought the state patrol's request was legitimate for the job of protecting the governor, who he said was the most unique governor in the country.

"I think if we go over to the mansion, we aren't going to find six patrols playing cribbage," Workman said.

Lawmakers also recommended \$629,000 to fund license plate manufacturing. Earlier in the session, officials from the Department of Public Safety told legislators an increase of automobiles on the road has caused a shortage in license plates. Without the emergency funding, the state would run out of license plates on April 1.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) is sponsoring the so-called deficiency bill, which proposes more than \$14 million in one-time supplemental appropriations to state agencies for the current biennium.

Bikers seek change

The House Transportation Policy Committee approved a bill March 2 that would repeal a law some motorcyclists consider to be punitive.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) is sponsoring HF858, a bill that would strike a Minnesota law that allows into evidence proof of whether a motorcyclist was wearing a helmet in lawsuits where the cyclist is seeking damages.

Bob Illingworth, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Motorcycle Riders Association, said under the current law, motorcyclists can be punished for not wearing helmets even when the accident is not their fault. The state does not require motorcyclists to wear helmets.

He gave the example of a motorcycle rider sitting at a stoplight and being hit by a drunk driver. If the rider were injured but did not wear a helmet, that fact can be used as evidence by insurance companies to reduce or eliminate damages awarded to the rider.

Often motorcyclists settle out of court to avoid the possibility that their helmet use, or non-use, could affect their settlements, Illingworth said.

Workman, who recently purchased his first motorcycle, said that motorcycle users are very concerned about safety.

"I think it's something of a fairness issue," he said.

In another action, the committee approved a bill (HF766), sponsored by Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Vadnais Heights) that would allow motorcycles to display a blue rear brake light. Under current state law, only emergency vehicles, snowplows, and road maintenance vehicles can display the blue light.

Both bills move to the House floor.

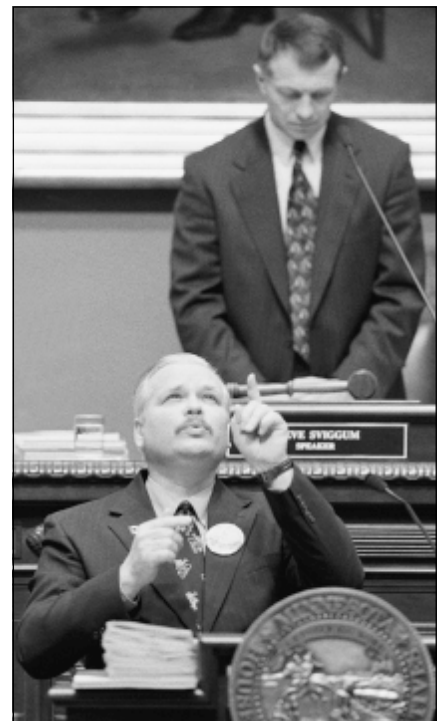


"Who is going to volunteer to drive their chair over it?" asked Dennis Delmont, spokesperson for the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, at a March 4 meeting of the House Civil Law Committee.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) was demonstrating a device laid across the road by police officers to stop high-speed pursuits. When the offender drives his or her car over the so-called "stopstick," hollow nail-like pins deflate the tires and immobilize the car.

Stanek's bill (HF381) includes funding to provide these devices to local law enforcement agencies. The committee is considering the bill for inclusion in the omnibus judiciary finance bill.

Silent prayer



Rev. Robert Westerhaus of the Deaf Community Church in Richfield signs the invocation prior to the joint convention of the Legislature for Gov. Jesse Ventura's State of the State address March 2.

Ventura charts course for his atypical administration

By Sarah Hallonquist

In his first State of the State address, Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura vowed to run the executive branch in a style akin to a corporate chief executive officer.

And the corporation — the state of Minnesota — is in excellent shape, he said.

"The state of the state is great," Ventura told a joint convention of the House and Senate in the House chamber March 2.

Current and former members of the judicial and executive branches, including former governors Wendell Anderson, Arne Carlson, and Al Quie, were also in attendance.

Unlike during his ad-libbed inaugural speech, Ventura used a prepared text for this 47-minute address.

He was not specific as to the state's successes, but instead laid out his plans to change how government operates and to restructure tax laws. He also outlined his management philosophy for his next four years in office: choose good people, set expectations, delegate authority, and hold people accountable.

"What binds us are beliefs in a new day where ideas, not money, govern how we work," Ventura said of his cabinet, whose members span a political continuum and come from both the public and private sectors.

The governor spoke of his belief in personal responsibility, self-sufficiency, and an empowered citizenry.

Borrowing from Abraham Lincoln he said, "The role for government is to do only what the people cannot do for themselves."

Ventura said his administration will focus on investing in the state's future and not on entitlement programs, a plan that he said allows for the success of programs that benefit all citizens.

"I stand before you as governor willing to say what too many politicians at all levels of government have been scared to say: The free ride is over," he said.

Ventura named four priorities he'll work on while in office: education, transportation, smaller government, and trade and economic development. His address offered few or no surprises, highlighting much of what he presented in his biennial budget proposal in February.

For education, he proposed \$600 million in new spending, of which \$150 million would go to reducing class sizes. Private school vouchers, a plan former Gov. Arne Carlson vigor-



House Speaker Steve Sviggum greets Gov. Jesse Ventura at the speaker's desk in the House chamber just prior to the governor's State of the State address.

ously advocated, should not be a part of the state's education policy, Ventura said.

He also urged parents to become more involved in their children's schools and called for more PTA groups to organize in local school districts.

Ventura said after listening to parents, students, and teachers, he would offer a new plan for education funding and policy next year.

In the area of taxes, the governor proposed restructuring the property tax system.

"Let's face it — we've lost any logic to this system," he said. "Property taxes no longer are tied to the services that are delivered."

He said the current system punishes people for fixing up their properties, instead of charging them less when good properties require fewer governmental services.

In addition to property tax changes, Ventura reiterated his support for user fees instead of across-the-board taxes, which he said would allow for users to evaluate fee structures and programs.

Ventura also said the state's taxes should be market competitive.

"It doesn't take much for Minnesota consumers to migrate over the borders where sales tax or motor-vehicle license fees are lower," he said.

To support the state's economy, the governor said he would act as the state's salesman in his travels, selling its resources and promoting

it as a place to travel and do business. But to support the state's market, agricultural relief is a necessity, he said.

Ventura's budget originally proposed \$10 million for farm relief, but in his speech he said he would be willing to invest an additional \$50 million over the next three years for farmers in crisis situations.

Ventura made his transportation agenda clear.

"I'll know we're successful when I can ride light rail from downtown Minneapolis to the megamall, and take commuter rail from St. Cloud to the Twin Cities," he said.

He offered little detail on how he would accomplish his goals. However, his biennial budget proposal includes spending increases for education and transportation, and a permanent income tax cut. Ventura has also suggested sunset clauses and built-in evaluations for many government programs.

In addition to his budget priorities, Ventura said he would concentrate on being accessible to his employees.

"It should not be a shock-the-world event when the governor visits the state Department of Revenue," he said.

While visiting state departments in the last month, Ventura said he met people who had worked for the state for 30 years and had never met a governor.

Ventura's speech garnered applause from

both sides of the aisle, eliciting support from DFLers and Republicans often at different points.

Republicans lauded the governor's commitment to lowering income taxes, scaling back state government, and decreasing legislation. DFLers cheered for Ventura's sales tax rebate plan and his call for light-rail transit in the Twin Cities.

But while Ventura appealed to some lawmakers on their favorite topics, he also admonished them on some issues.

"Vote your conscience, not your caucus," he told legislators.

He advised them to make the Capitol a welcoming place and encourage their constituents to become more politically active.

Ventura also hinted at a unicameral legislature in his push for a smaller government.

"Until we stop measuring the success of a legislative session by how many bills are heard or passed, there is no hope of controlling spending or the sprawl of government regulation," he said.

Ventura promised that the ideas expressed in his speech would guide him throughout his term.

"For as long as I am governor, there will be no surprises about why I am signing or vetoing legislation," he said. "These are my beliefs and principles unless I am convinced through a visible, public debate that they need to be changed." 🐼

Party leaders see good and bad in Ventura speech

By Jon Fure and Paul Wahl

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle said they agreed with some parts and disagreed with other pieces of Gov. Jesse Ventura's State of the State address.

House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) was no exception.

"I think the governor gave a wonderful address from the standpoint of core philosophy and principles that we as Republicans will embrace — self-sufficiency, more individual responsibility, smaller government, empowering parents in the education of their children. Those are principles that we certainly are going to embrace," he said.

But, Sviggum said, he would have liked to hear more on the necessity of reducing taxes.

"Certainly he mentioned it, but we feel that is the cornerstone of this Legislature," he said.

And both Sviggum and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) said they had hoped Ventura would have advocated more assistance for Minnesota farmers.

The governor did advocate reforming the state's property tax system, asking, "Why don't we start over?"

And Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), chair of the House Taxes Committee, said he would welcome such a proposal, but Ventura will need to take the initiative to garner broad support among lawmakers.

"We want to be supportive of the governor, but we have had plenty of studies of the property tax system," Abrams said. "We have studied and studied property tax for the past 20 years.



House Speaker Steve Sviggum, left, and House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty offer the Republican response to the governor's speech.

"If (Ventura) has a proposal for real, permanent property tax reform, I guarantee I will give it not only a hearing, I will give it a series of hearings to get plenty of citizen input."

Overall, Abrams said Ventura presented "a good vision for Minnesota," and that the Republican Party generally supports Ventura's goals for smaller and more efficient government, lower taxes, and better education.

House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) said DFLers seemed to be standing up and applauding more often than Republicans.

"The governor talked about issues that are important to him, that are a high priority for him, that fell right in line with the DFL caucus in the House," Pugh said.

Some lawmakers questioned the governor's remarks concerning former

heads of state. Ventura had said that he is "more in touch with state government than any governor in recent times at this point in my term." Having visited each of the state departments and agencies, Ventura said he met some people who have "worked 30 years for the state and never met a governor."

Those remarks were noted by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), chair of the House Commerce Committee.

"I thought it was inappropriate for him to criticize previous administrators who governed this state," he said. "I think they all did a good job, Republican or Democrat, and they should be honored for their service."

Davids said that he spoke to former Gov. Al Quie, who was among those attending the speech, and that Quie said he also visited each of the state's departments early in his administration.

And Davids asked a rhetorical question of the current governor. "For all he wants to do to further his agenda, where are the bills?"



House Minority Leader Tom Pugh is surrounded by the media as he reacts to the State of the State address.

Kelliher brings unusual mix of rural, urban experience

By Grant Martin

Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher's idea of a vacation during the 1998 campaign might not sound relaxing to everyone. She spent the last



Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher

week in July bicycling 300 miles across Minnesota with family members to raise money to fight multiple sclerosis.

Kelliher (DFL-Mpls), whose sister-in-law has multiple sclerosis, logged over a thousand miles of training for the ride sponsored by the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Minnesota. She said that the hours of training gave her time to reflect.

"For me, it was really precious alone time," she said. "I would often just bike by myself. I could think about issues a lot, and I would spend time thinking about things in general. It was really a nice break."

Kelliher lives in the Bryn Mawr neighborhood of Minneapolis with her husband David and their two young children. She has worked as a neighborhood activist for the neighborhood association and also as a staff person in both the House and Senate.

In addition to cycling, Kelliher also enjoys writing creative nonfiction. She has had several essays published, including an essay about growing up on a Blue Earth County dairy farm during the farm crisis of the early 1980s.

"That was a huge experience to go through that turbulent time in the farm economy," she said. "Actually my family was able to make it through it, but it was never quite the same in the sense of farming."

Kelliher said that those experiences taught her how public policy can affect people's lives. And she said it makes the current farm crisis debate very real for her.

"Here, when we are talking about farm policy, I feel very connected to people who are in crisis," she said. "For some people, it's the second time that they've gone through a crisis because they went through the crisis in the '80s."

Kelliher's work as a neighborhood activist gave her an opportunity to get to know the issues affecting her district.

"It was a really great way to learn about issues by dealing with them on the front end," she said. "I'd deal with a lot of issues that would then go to the city council, the park board, or over here to the Legislature."

While working for the neighborhood association, Kelliher helped to develop a home improvement loan program and initiatives to connect neighborhood residents with local educational opportunities.

Kelliher also acted as a liaison between the neighborhood and the state Department of Transportation on the Interstate 394 expansion.

She said that transportation and transit issues will be among her main interests while serving in the House.

"It seems like a funny thing to be passionate about in some ways," she said. "But I really have a passion for finding ways to do transportation and transit funding that work for the parties that need it to work for them."

Kelliher said that she is encouraged by Gov. Jesse Ventura's approach to transportation and is happy with the appointments of Ted Mondale as chair of the Metropolitan

Council and Elwyn Tinklenberg as commissioner of transportation.

"I think that the governor is moving in the right direction," she said. "He's giving it a lot of attention, and I really applaud him for that."

Kelliher won the seat vacated by former Rep. Dee Long, the first woman to serve as speaker of the Minnesota House. Kelliher said that following a 20-year veteran presents some unique challenges, but she has a plan to overcome them.

"I think that what I've been focusing on as the new person in the district is really connecting with constituents and listening to them very earnestly about their concerns and being responsive to them," she said. "And I think that will help in the transition time."

Kelliher said that like Long she hopes to concentrate on a few issues, such as transportation, that will define her own legacy in the House.

"When I was door-knocking, people would say that I had some pretty big shoes to fill," she said. "I'd say that I plan on bringing my own pair of shoes."

District 60A

1995 population: 32,261

City: Minneapolis

County: Hennepin

Location: inner city

Top concern: "Transportation and transit are very important issues for the district and for me personally. I feel a real connection to those."

— Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher

Minnesota State Agencies

(Area code 651)

Agriculture	297-2200
Commerce	296-4026
Corrections	642-0200
Children, Families and Learning	582-8200
Economic Security	296-3644
Employee Relations	297-1184
Job Information	296-2616
Finance	296-5900
Health	215-5803
Human Rights	296-5663
Toll Free	1-800-657-3704
Human Services	296-6117

Labor and Industry	296-6107
Military Affairs	282-4662
Natural Resources	296-6157
Public Safety	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services ...	296-6911
Fire Marshal	215-0500
Alcohol and Gambling	
Enforcement Division	296-6159
State Patrol	297-3935
Pollution Control Agency	296-6300

Public Service	296-5120
Revenue	
Taxpayer Assistance	296-3781
Toll Free	1-800-652-9094
Trade and	
Economic Development	297-1291
Office of Tourism	296-5029
Transportation	296-3000
Veterans Affairs	296-2562
State Information	296-6013

Westerberg begins by working to end marriage penalty

By Paul Wahl

Rep. Andrew Westerberg (R-Blaine) was content to work behind the scenes in Republican politics for nearly 25 years before deciding to run for office.



Rep.
Andrew Westerberg

He worked on campaigns for other people, served in various capacities for the party, and helped organize and run conventions.

He recalls one particular convention at the St. Paul Civic Center some years back.

"I was called off the convention floor to go to Unity Hospital where my wife was having a baby," Westerberg said. "The hospital had one of those two-sided elevators and as I stepped in one side, they wheeled my wife in from the other side and we went up and had a baby."

Two hours later, he was back on the convention floor.

"I can't remember a time when I didn't want to be involved," Westerberg said. "I wanted to make a difference."

The 1998 election was not the first time Westerberg had faced his opponent, former Rep. Mike Delmont. Two years earlier, Westerberg lost by about 800 votes. This time around, Westerberg won by a similar margin.

His campaign centered on tax-cutting themes.

"We're the second highest-taxed state in the nation," Westerberg noted. "That's ridiculous."

He said his message was simple, and voters understood.

The overwhelming popularity of Gov. Jesse Ventura in Westerberg's district didn't hurt, either. Although Westerberg said his hard work was the key, he acknowledges the "Jesse factor" probably did have something to do with his margin of victory.

"I'm happy he's our governor," Westerberg said. "I really support him. I like the way he speaks his mind. I like the way he's not afraid to tell people the way it is. He makes mistakes. I fully expect to make mistakes. That's going to happen sometimes when you're trying."

Two initiatives Westerberg is sponsoring this session are closely linked to policies advocated by Ventura.

One proposal would reduce the so-called "marriage penalty" in the state's tax code. Under current law, married couples who file joint tax returns end up paying more than individual filers at the same income level.

"Not only is this a tax penalty, but it's a penalty against families," Westerberg said. "We need to do whatever we can to strengthen families."

He is also sponsoring a bill that would continue funding for a program in the Centennial School District to study the impact of smaller class sizes on the overall learning environment.

Westerberg recognizes that a freshman lawmaker probably would not get a shot at leading the charge for such an important piece of legislation as eliminating the marriage penalty were it not for his party's status as the new majority in the House.

So he is enjoying the opportunity. His name is on several pieces of legislation stemming from his work on the House Crime Preven-

tion Committee. He also serves on the House Jobs and Economic Development finance and policy committees.

But he also notes that being in the majority party often brings more responsibility, leaving less time to work on individual legislative initiatives. He said that with the crush of a busy schedule during the session, it's important to prioritize.

"I went from spending 60 hours a week in my insurance business to five hours in the month of January," Westerberg said.

His method of operation for the past 20 years in business has been to learn everything about every single aspect and facet of insurance.

"I tried to do that here with everything that touched my desk and soon found that, hey, this is not going to work," Westerberg said. "You must specialize in certain areas."

Westerberg has turned his focus toward being a clearinghouse for information, funneling as much of what crosses his desk as he can back to his constituents.

"The best way to be a good representative is to be a good communicator," he said.

District 51A

1995 population: 36,032

Largest city: Blaine

County: Anoka

Location: northwest metro

Top concern: "To restore accountability and responsibility in government. Government should take care of essential services and work together with the private sector to help accomplish what individuals cannot accomplish on their own."

— Rep. Andrew Westerberg

Constitutional Officers

Governor

Jesse Ventura
130 State Capitol
75 Constitution Ave.
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Lieutenant Governor

Mae Schunk
130 State Capitol
75 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-3391

Attorney General

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Bill Introductions

HF1149-HF1483

Tuesday, March 2

HF1149—Bishop (R) **Crime Prevention**

Conditional release board created and authority to release certain older prisoners who do not pose a danger to the public provided.

HF1150—Davids (R) **Commerce**

Funeral and burial expenses insurance regulated, and funeral establishments authorized to sell and receive commissions.

HF1151—Howes (R) **Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Waste Management Act technical changes provided.

HF1152—Paymar (DFL) **Crime Prevention**

Pretrial release condition violation provided criminal penalties.

HF1153—Paymar (DFL) **Civil Law**

Juror compensation studied by the Supreme Court.

HF1154—Goodno (R) **Health & Human Services Finance**

Nursing home moratorium exception provisions modified.

HF1155—Finseth (R) **Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Cost-share assistance provided to Thief River Falls for dredging on the Red Lake River.

HF1156—Rhodes (R) **Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Metropolitan area voluntary inclusionary housing policy incentives provided, policy defined, and money appropriated.

HF1157—Boudreau (R) **Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

LeSueur County authorized to privately sell and convey tax-forfeited lands bordering public water.

HF1158—Rifenberg (R) **Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Fence construction and maintenance expenses sharing exemption provided to land owners establishing a lack of need.

HF1159—Stanek (R) **Crime Prevention**

Correctional officers discipline procedures act adopted.

HF1160—Koskinen (DFL) **K-12 Education Finance**

School finance system equity and general education formula allowance increased, and money appropriated.

HF1161—Dempsey (R) **Transportation Policy**

Port authorities authorized to retain state commercial navigation project lease and management contract revenues.

HF1162—Jennings (DFL) **Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Taylor Falls Interstate Park fire and rescue operations support grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1163—Workman (R) **Commerce**

Rental-purchase agreements regulated, cash price of property calculation provided, and cost-of-lease service charges limited.

HF1164—Erhardt (R) **Taxes**

Property tax education credit expanded to include seasonal recreational property and name changed to general education credit.

HF1165—Buesgens (R) **Transportation Policy**

Low-speed vehicles regulated.

HF1166—Chaudhary (DFL) **K-12 Education Finance**

Elementary class size reduction program established, referendum equalization revenue formula provided, and money appropriated.

HF1167—Lenczewski (DFL) **Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Tax increment financing district pooling authorized for deficits caused by property tax changes.

HF1168—Gerlach (R) **Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Election law clarified and simplified.

HF1169—Holberg (R) **Crime Prevention**

Financial records search warrant time period extension by district courts authorized.

HF1170—Holberg (R) **Crime Prevention**

Domestic assault within seeing or hearing distance of a child provided increased criminal penalties.

HF1171—Holberg (R) **Crime Prevention**

Prosecutors granted discretion related to victim or witness birth date disclosure.

HF1172—Holberg (R) **Crime Prevention**

Harassment and stalking crime enhanced penalty provision expanded to include violations from another state.

HF1173—Pelowski (DFL) **Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Firefighter arbitration procedures provided.

HF1174—Mulder (R) **Health & Human Services Policy**

Board on Aging health insurance counseling and assistance grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1175—Haas (R) **Commerce**

Financial institution fees, charges, and time periods regulated; part-time banking locations authorized; and conforming changes provided.

HF1176—Greenfield (DFL) **Health & Human Services Policy**

State board of physical therapy established, rulemaking required, and licensing requirements provided.

HF1177—Clark, K. (DFL) **Health & Human Services Policy**

Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) post-employment training authorized for certain participants, and money appropriated.

HF1178—McElroy (R) **Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Landlord prelease deposits regulated and civil penalties provided.

HF1179—Mares (R) **Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Teachers Retirement Association and first class city teacher retirement fund association service credit purchase authorized for military service, out-of-state teaching, and maternity leaves.

HF1180—Mares (R) **Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

MSRS, PERA, and TRA retirement annuity formula computation provisions modified.

HF1181—Rest (DFL) **Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Alternative annexation procedure provided.

HF1182—Kuisle (R) **Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

County economic development authorities authorized.

HF1183—Seifert, J. (R) **Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Secretary of state service of process, notice requirements, and business organization names regulated; and conforming changes provided.

HF1184—Knoblach (R) **Commerce**

One call excavation notice system damage provisions modified.

HF1185—Haake (R) **Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Game refuge deer hunting permits percentage issued to senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

HF1186—Greiling (DFL) **K-12 Education Finance**

Special education revenue and excess cost revenue modified, and preK-12 special education pupil weighting increased.

HF1187—Johnson (DFL) **K-12 Education Finance**

General education basic formula allowance increased, training and experience revenue restored, and money appropriated.

HF1188—Gleason (DFL)**Commerce**

Real property loans and private mortgage insurance (PMI) regulated, prepayment penalties prohibited, escrow account interest required, and mortgage originators and servicers net worth requirements repealed.

HF1189—Wejcman (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Mental health professional defined related to medical assistance coverage.

HF1190—Harder (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Westbrook Care Center hospital and clinic improvement grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1191—Larson, D. (DFL)**Commerce**

Real property loans and private mortgage insurance (PMI) regulated, prepayment penalties prohibited, escrow account interest required, and mortgage originators and servicers net worth requirements repealed.

HF1192—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

Sales tax payment and refund requirements for exempt capital equipment sales repealed.

HF1193—Nornes (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

First Call Minnesota federal reimbursement claims processed by the Department of Human Services.

HF1194—Wenzel (DFL)**Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Garrison, Kathio, West Mille Lacs Lake sanitary district grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1195—Van Dellen (R)**Civil Law**

Second and fourth judicial district tenants screening report requirements modified.

HF1196—Van Dellen (R)**Transportation Policy**

Metropolitan area cities and towns authorized to set speed limits within their jurisdiction.

HF1197—Van Dellen (R)**Taxes**

Income tax credit for increased research activities extended to noncorporate taxpayers.

HF1198—Hackbarth (R)**Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

Anoka County authorized to privately sell surplus state land.

HF1199—Cassell (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

K-12 education technical amendments bill.

HF1200—Harder (R)**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

State agricultural experiment stations appropriated money.

HF1201—Ness (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Family farm partnership definition modified.

HF1202—Ness (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Minnesota foundation for student organizations funding provided.

HF1203—Kubly (DFL)**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

University of Minnesota farm safety and health program appropriated money.

HF1204—Rostberg (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Commissioner of agriculture appropriation provided for the county agriculture inspection program.

HF1205—McGuire (DFL)**Civil Law**

Electronic access to data clarified, data access notice requirements modified for students and employees, deadlines for providing data changed, and government entities required to report acquisition of surveillance devices.

HF1206—McGuire (DFL)**Civil Law**

Data access procedures published, data practices compliance required in privatization contracts, model policies prepared, historical director required to assist in records management; information policy training program appropriated money.

HF1207—Dorman (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

General education basic formula allowance increased, pupil unit weightings increased, learning and development revenue expanded, class size reduction provided, and money appropriated.

HF1208—Paulsen (R)**Commerce**

Brewer wholesaler agreement terminations authorized under certain circumstances.

HF1209—Boudreau (R)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Child care worker training grants provided, advisory committee created, and money appropriated.

HF1210—Gleason (DFL)**Taxes**

Percentage of rent constituting property taxes increased.

HF1211—Larsen, P. (R)**Crime Prevention**

Sale, possession, purchase of, or mislabeling of dog or cat fur provided misdemeanor penalties.

HF1212—Gray (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

First grade preparedness program expanded, and money appropriated.

HF1213—Rostberg (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 911, Cambridge-Isanti, provided grant for year-round optional school, and money appropriated.

HF1214—Haas (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Nursing home bed moratorium exception provided.

HF1215—Pelowski (DFL)**Transportation Policy**

Southern rail corridor grade crossing minimum safety standards provided.

HF1216—Abeler (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Practical examination requirements modified for chiropractors licensed in other states.

HF1217—Abeler (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Certain state employee exempted from public pension plan disability benefit offset from workers' compensation benefits.

HF1218—Buesgens (R)**Taxes**

Income tax subtraction provided for military pay for personnel serving outside of the state.

HF1219—Kahn (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

State agencies required to promote bicycle commuting by state employees.

HF1220—Dempsey (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

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

HF1221—Finseth (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Commissioner of natural resources appropriated money for construction of ring dikes.

HF1222—Leighton (DFL)**Civil Law**

Uniform Statute and Rule Construction Act adopted.

HF1223—Tunheim (DFL)**Agriculture Policy**

Disaster assistance payments provided to certain farmers, and money appropriated.

HF1224—Holberg (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Cedar Lake area water and sanitary sewer district established.

HF1225—Ozment (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Annexation by ordinance limited.

HF1226—Ozment (R)**Taxes**

Use of tax increment revenues for social or recreational facilities prohibited.

HF1227—Entenza (DFL)**Education Policy**

School guidance counselor to student ratio established.

HF1228—Greenfield (DFL)**Transportation Policy**

Peace officers authorized to issue seat belt citation after stop for violation of certain ordinances or vehicle registration laws.

HF1229—Westerberg (R)**Crime Prevention**

Kidnappers required to register as predatory offenders.

HF1230—Chaudhary (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Senior citizen drug program eligibility expanded.

HF1231—Ness (R)**Education Policy**

Telecommunications access grants provisions modified, Minnesota education telecommunications council modified, and money appropriated.

HF1232—Hackbarth (R)
Crime Prevention

Death penalty imposed in certain first-degree murder cases, automatic appellate review and statutory framework provided, and money appropriated.

HF1233—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture Policy

Service contractor investment protection provided to commercial solid or liquid manure management or application services.

HF1234—Solberg (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 319 joint library project continued.

HF1235—Swenson (R)
Agriculture Policy

Livestock production facilities exempted from ambient hydrogen sulfide standards on days manure is being removed from barns or manure storage facilities.

HF1236—Kubly (DFL)
Agriculture Policy

Joint and several liability provided for permit violations of owners of animals in feedlots.

HF1237—Kubly (DFL)
Agriculture Policy

Feedlots required to assure ability to pay environmental damages.

HF1238—Dehler (R)
Agriculture Policy

Industrial hemp classified as an agricultural crop, growers required to be registered, and criminal penalty imposed.

HF1239—McGuire (DFL)
Civil Law

Office of public access to government data established, and duties transferred.

HF1240—Kahn (DFL)
Crime Prevention

Criminal sexual conduct involving consenting adults repealed.

HF1241—Bishop (R)
Education Policy

University Center Rochester appropriation for course and degree offerings.

HF1242—Vandever (R)
Taxes

Sales and use tax and motor vehicle excise tax rate reduced.

HF1243—Sykora (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Special assessment rate for the workforce investment fund lowered, and provisions governing the fund modified.

HF1244—Dehler (R)
Crime Prevention

Consideration of past treatment for alcohol or controlled substance use prohibited for purposes of driver's license sanctions, and revocation provided for violation of a "no alcohol" condition of a driver's license.

HF1245—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture Policy

Price discrimination prohibited in certain livestock transactions, reports and notices required, enforcement provided, and civil penalties imposed.

HF1246—Solberg (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy

MinnesotaCare included in county-based purchasing, and purchasing provisions modified.

HF1247—Kubly (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

Enhanced pairing combination aid provided.

HF1248—Howes (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Harmful exotic species provisions modified relating to natural resources.

HF1249—Goodno (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Development limited in unincorporated areas abutting municipalities.

HF1250—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
State and local election voting age changed from 18 to 16, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1251—Rest (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Purchase of prior service credit authorized for a certain employee of Independent School District No. 281, Robbinsdale, and mandated partial employer payment of the purchase amount.

HF1252—Murphy (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Money appropriated for a snowmobile trail to connect the Willard Munger state trail and the North Shore state trail.

HF1253—Harder (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Bingham Lake wastewater system connected to city of Windom, and money appropriated.

HF1254—Ness (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Secondary career and technical education funding formulas modified.

HF1255—Skoglund (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Gamma hydroxybutyrate classified as a controlled substance.

HF1256—Clark, K. (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Youthbuild program appropriated money, and youth employment program provisions modified.

HF1257—Rostberg (R)
Taxes
Income tax credit provided for certain expenses incurred related to tobacco-related illness, and money appropriated.

HF1258—Entenza (DFL)
Civil Law
Summary dissolution process revived relating to family law.

HF1259—McGuire (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Reporting requirements expanded for health professionals concerning injuries resulting from alcohol or controlled substance related accidents, and civil and criminal immunity expanded for reports by health professionals.

HF1260—Tingelstad (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Medical assistance reimbursement rate maximums increased relating to special transportation services.

HF1261—Ness (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Local government paid wages information required for prevailing wage determinations.

HF1262—Ness (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Prevailing wages and comparable worth of occupations consistency required.

HF1263—Olson (R)
Commerce
Board of electricity required to adopt rules authorizing sign contractor special licenses.

HF1264—Dawkins (DFL)
Civil Law
Uniform guardianship and protective proceedings act adopted.

HF1265—Workman (R)
Transportation Policy
Rural residential district speed limits provided.

HF1266—Mullery (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Women encouraged to enter nontraditional careers, grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1267—Pawlenty (R)
Civil Law
Economic loss arising from the sale of goods provisions established related to the uniform commercial code.

HF1268—Greiling (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
State agency rulemaking regulated.

HF1269—Ness (R)
Agriculture & Rural Development Finance
Urban agricultural high school created, planning grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1270—Finseth (R)
Agriculture & Rural Development Finance
Urban agricultural high school created, planning grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1271—Westrom (R)
Commerce
Uniform farm and equipment dealers warranty reimbursement act adopted.

HF1272—Abrams (R)
Civil Law
Court administration costs in specified judicial districts funded by the state, court employee collective bargaining provisions established, taxes imposed, and money appropriated.

HF1273—Ozment (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Eminent domain damage award reductions prohibited for agricultural, metropolitan preserve, or RIM program land.

HF1274—Daggett (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Provisional firearms safety certificate provided for persons with mental disabilities and assisted hunting authorized.

HF1275—Cassell (R)**Crime Prevention**

Firearm carry permit issuance provided, and issuance criteria established.

HF1276—Ozment (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Watershed management organization board membership modified.

HF1277—Bishop (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Wastewater treatment provisions modified and money appropriated.

HF1278—Peterson (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Farm and small business pollution control permit requirements mediation authorized for hardship cases and money appropriated.

HF1279—Peterson (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Montevideo recreational trail completion grant provided, bonds authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1280—Buesgens (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Jordan wastewater treatment facility construction grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1281—Osskopp (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Card club activities authorized for a Class B operator of a Class A racetrack.

HF1282—Jennings (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Municipalities authorized to provide contract bid specifications, design, and construction standards.

HF1283—Osskopp (R)**Crime Prevention**

Federal disaster relief fund state matching grants authorized, open appropriations provided, reporting requirements specified, and money appropriated.

HF1284—Hilty (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Banning Junction area water and sanitary sewer district authorized.

HF1285—Harder (R)**Transportation Policy**

Agricultural aircraft registration tax exemption provided.

HF1286—Kahn (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board authorized to distribute and sell hydroelectric power, Mississippi River at St. Anthony Falls protected, and city definition modified.

HF1287—Dorn (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Mankato area growth management and planning study grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1288—Seifert, M. (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Marshall regional emergency response training center construction provided and money appropriated.

HF1289—Entenza (DFL)**Commerce**

Sale of alcohol or providing alcohol to under age persons civil and criminal penalties imposed, under age alcohol purchase minimum fine provided, liquor law compliance check grants authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1290—Larsen, P. (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport: Bloomington, Minneapolis, and Richfield airport impact zones and tax increment financing districts authorized; airport impact fund created; and Metropolitan Council activities permitted.

HF1291—Swenson (R)**Transportation Policy**

School bus types redefined to allow seating for two extra persons.

HF1292—McGuire (DFL)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Child care assistance administration technical and conforming changes provided.

HF1293—Marko (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Washington County taxpayer's personal information disclosure provisions expiration date extended.

HF1294—McElroy (R)**Transportation Policy**

Prorated motor vehicle license fees authorized after dealer transfer.

HF1295—Clark, J. (R)**Taxes**

Property tax homestead treatment extended to include property leased to family farm corporations.

HF1296—Mares (R)**Education Policy**

School district swimming pool levy provided.

HF1297—Wenzel (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Little Falls fishing museum and environmental center planning grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1298—Storm (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Bridges program; rental housing assistance program for persons with a mental illness or families with an adult member with a mental illness appropriated money.

HF1299—Howes (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Minnesota Conservation Corps fees deposited in a special revenue fund for corps projects and administration.

HF1300—Hackbarth (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Agricultural chemical use liability claim defense coverage by insurers required.

HF1301—Vandever (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

State park additions, deletions, and name changes provided; land exchange and transfer authorized; state wayside abolished; and Rock County authorized to privately sell surplus state land.

HF1302—Pugh (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Teacher earning limitations resumed for returning retirees.

HF1303—Goodno (R)**Commerce**

Health plan company uniform complaint resolution and external appeal processes established, and money appropriated.

HF1304—Pugh (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Senate and House of Representatives size reduced, length of terms modified, unicameral law enactment provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1305—Sviggum (R)**Transportation Policy**

Kenyon excess highway easements transfer required.

HF1306—Clark, K. (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Lead center services medical assistance coverage provided and federal waivers authorizing window replacement medical assistance coverage required.

HF1307—Clark, K. (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Disabled working individuals medical assistance coverage provided.

HF1308—Skoglund (DFL)**Transportation Policy**

Motor vehicle registration suspension authorized when transferee fails to apply for a new title within allotted time, certificate of title detachable form and completion required, and money appropriated.

HF1309—Bradley (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Nursing home administrator licensing; board of examiners for nursing home administrators; immunity for complainants, board members, and staff; and acting administrator permits provisions modified.

HF1310—Goodno (R)**Crime Prevention**

Juvenile justice provisions clarified, and child protection and delinquency laws separated.

HF1311—Dawkins (DFL)**Taxes**

This old house; property tax valuation exclusion for certain improvements application requirements modified.

HF1312—McElroy (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minnesota electronic authentication act provisions modified.

Thursday, March 4

HF1313—Storm (R)**Taxes**

Manufactured home parks property tax class rate decreased.

HF1314—Lenczewski (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

MSRS general state employees retirement plan service credit purchase for prior temporary employment authorized for a certain person.

HF1315—Mulder (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

School district nos. 411, Balaton, 402, Ivanhoe, 404, Lake Benton, 418, Russell, 584, Ruthton, and 409, Tyler, cooperative secondary facility planning and administrative expenses grant provided; and money appropriated.

HF1316—Mulder (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Lake Benton visitor center and railroad depot planning grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1317—Daggett (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Becker County nursing facility medical assistance rate increase provided.

HF1318—Sykora (R)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

State agency child care assistance program duties clarified, program integrity and fraud investigation provided, and money appropriated.

HF1319—Workman (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Chanhassen tax increment financing district extension provided.

HF1320—Pelowski (DFL)**Education Policy**

School district discipline policy review participation expanded and crisis management policies provided.

HF1321—Hausman (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

St. Paul Como Park zoo and conservatory maintenance subsidy provided, and money appropriated.

HF1322—Paulsen (R)**Education Policy**

Corporate franchise education expenses credit authorized.

HF1323—Nornes (R)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Family visitation center grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1324—Cassell (R)**Education Policy**

Teacher training improvement collaborative pilot program established, public college and school district involvement provided, and money appropriated.

HF1325—Kielkucki (R)**Education Policy**

Individual income tax credit for eligible education expenses expanded to include tuition for music teacher instruction.

HF1326—Abeler (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Family, foster, and day care human services licensing and reporting requirements modified.

HF1327—Stang (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Laboratory school grant provision expanded to include school operations and money appropriated.

HF1328—Fuller (R)**Crime Prevention**

DNA; convicted predatory criminals required to provide biological specimens for analysis.

HF1329—Broecker (R)**Civil Law**

Government data access and computer program copyright provisions modified.

HF1330—Mahoney (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Sober high school pilot program grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1331—Trimble (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

St. Paul Port Authority job skills partnership program funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1332—Huntley (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Abortion data reporting requirements repealed.

HF1333—Daggett (R)**Commerce**

Wood sale contracts regulated.

HF1334—Howes (R)**Taxes**

Sales tax exemption provided for equipment and materials used to make improvements to certain resorts.

HF1335—Hasskamp (DFL)**Taxes**

Sales tax exemption provided for construction materials used in building Hallett community center in Crosby.

HF1336—Seifert, J. (R)**Commerce**

Continuity of contracts provided relating to European currency.

HF1337—Carruthers (DFL)**Taxes**

Motor vehicles qualifying for the lieu tax on older passenger automobiles definition expanded.

HF1338—Smith (R)**Crime Prevention**

Privatization of correctional facility services regulated, nonsecurity institutional contract review provided, inmate work for private employers restricted, and report required.

HF1339—Gerlach (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Public employer hiring freeze imposed.

HF1340—Trimble (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

St. Paul housing funding provided.

HF1341—Abrams (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minnesota amateur sports commission grants authorized for youth athletic facilities, and money appropriated.

HF1342—Entenza (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Chemical use assessment conducted and report submitted for certain alcohol-related violations by underaged persons.

HF1343—Abeler (R)**Education Policy**

Charter school program design specifications modified, and teachers authorized to perform administrative functions.

HF1344—Schumacher (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Benton County tourism tax increment financing project authorized.

HF1345—Winter (DFL)**Agriculture Policy**

Pollution control agency animal feedlot registry required.

HF1346—Knoblach (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Training procedures for local election officials modified, and money appropriated.

HF1347—Gerlach (R)**Crime Prevention**

Community custody authorized as alternative to jail terms.

HF1348—Holberg (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Tort liability exception clarified relating to snow and ice accumulation on municipal property.

HF1349—Swenson (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Population threshold for municipal state transportation aid eligibility abolished.

HF1350—Bakk (DFL)**Taxes**

Koochiching and St. Louis counties hospital district tax levy increased.

HF1351—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Health plan company acceptance of sole community pharmacies required.

HF1352—Entenza (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Counties authorized to establish programs for alternative responses to child maltreatment reports.

HF1353—Carlson (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

School district referendum equalization revenue increased, class size reduction program established, and money appropriated.

HF1354—Gunther (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Minnesota talented youth math project expanded, and money appropriated.

HF1355—Hausman (DFL)**Education Policy**

English as a second language ESL instructors in Adult Basic Education, ABE, programs licensure requirements exception provided.

HF1356—Wenzel (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Operational skills instructor funding authorized for Central Lakes College, Brainerd campus.

HF1357—Carruthers (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Limited English proficiency and special education programs two-year lag replaced with one-year lag.

HF1358—Rhodes (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

School-linked prevention and early intervention grant program for children established, and money appropriated.

HF1359—Mahoney (DFL)
Crime Prevention

Crime victim restitution and reparations provisions clarified and expanded, time limit for filing claims extended, and exception provided for all child abuse cases.

HF1360—Tunheim (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

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

HF1361—Mulder (R)
Taxes

Certain agricultural property eliminated from the property tax base for new debt service levies for Independent School District No. 2689, Pipestone-Jasper.

HF1362—Mulder (R)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

At-home infant child care program provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1363—Storm (R)
Higher Education Finance

Higher education student share reduced, and child care grant program modified.

HF1364—Koskinen (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance

New chance program appropriation provided in Hennepin County.

HF1365—Clark, K. (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Commissioner of labor and industry to adopt standards for ergonomics to reduce the incidence of repetitive motion injuries, and advisory task force established.

HF1366—Buesgens (R)
Education Policy

Advisory group established to make recommendations on strategies to address the needs of students who fail to meet the requirements of the state's high school graduation rule.

HF1367—Buesgens (R)
K-12 Education Finance

Youth service program revenue increased.

HF1368—Dawkins (DFL)
Commerce

Age discrimination prohibited in automobile renting to persons at least 21 years of age.

HF1369—Rostberg (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Uncashed checks of a political subdivision exempted from uniform disposition of unclaimed property act.

HF1370—Rostberg (R)
Agriculture Policy

Organic agriculture promotion and funding provided, advisory task force expiration date extended, and money appropriated.

HF1371—Harder (R)
K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 81, Comfrey, tornado damage appropriation provided.

HF1372—Harder (R)
Taxes

Sales and use tax exemption provided for materials and supplies used in expansion of an agricultural processing facility.

HF1373—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Tax-forfeited land sale authorized in Washington County.

HF1374—Holsten (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Gaming machines and card games authorized under the direction of the state lottery, horse racing purse payments established, and Minnesota fund advisory task force established.

HF1375—Workman (R)
Taxes

Property tax exemption provided certain electric utility property.

HF1376—Kelliher (DFL)
Crime Prevention

Resolution memorializing the United States Senate to ratify the United Nations convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

HF1377—McElroy (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Dakota County Housing and Redevelopment Authority renamed, and powers of the Dakota County community development agency provided.

HF1378—Leppik (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Minnesota Technology, Inc. appropriation provided for Minnesota Project Innovation.

HF1379—Jennings (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Environmental assessment worksheet requirements modified for metal shredding facilities in Mississippi River area.

HF1380—Jennings (DFL)
Higher Education Finance

Pine Technical College virtual reality center appropriation provided.

HF1381—Hausman (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Minnesota access facilities development act provided for acquisition and development of soccer and other amateur athletic facilities, and money appropriated.

HF1382—Fuller (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Bemidji authorized to exercise power of eminent domain for acquisition of certain trust fund land.

HF1383—Wilkin (R)
Health & Human Services Policy

Optometrist licensing provisions modified.

HF1384—Wolf (R)
Commerce

Energy conservation improvement program provisions modified relating to public utilities.

HF1385—Carruthers (DFL)
Civil Law

Data practices provisions modified relating to personnel data, criminal history data made public, and other classified.

HF1386—Mulder (R)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Early Childhood Family Education, ECFE, revenue increased, expectant parent activities included, and money appropriated.

HF1387—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Taxes

Biomass electrical generating facility construction provided sales and use tax exemption on materials and equipment purchases.

HF1388—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

World War II veterans memorial construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1389—Juhnke (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Kandiyo tax-forfeited land public sale authorized.

HF1390—McElroy (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Alternative collateral pool provided for deposit and investment of local public funds.

HF1391—Leppik (R)
Higher Education Finance

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

HF1392—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy

Minnesota Family Investment Fund, MFIF, provisions modified relating to earned income disregard, food stamps, and employment services; food assistance to legal noncitizens continued, and TANF administrative cap proposed.

HF1393—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy

Human services technical changes and statutory cross-references provided.

HF1394—Pawlenty (R)
Commerce

Uniform Commercial Code secured transactions provisions adopted, and revised Article 9 provided.

HF1395—Rhodes (R)
Health & Human Services Policy

Group residential housing block grant pilot project created and money appropriated.

HF1396—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Wastewater treatment facilities meeting federal water pollution control act standards and wastewater infrastructure financing provided, and money appropriated.

HF1397—Stang (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Stearns County tax increment financing district housing and redevelopment actions ratified.

HF1398—Peterson (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Dawson tax increment financing district duration extended.

HF1399—Erhardt (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Municipal tax increment financing district creation limited.

HF1400—Stang (R)
K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 740, Melrose, health and safety revenue accelerated grant payment authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1401—Erhardt (R)
Taxes

Senior citizen homeowner additional property tax refund provided, and money appropriated.

HF1402—Erhardt (R)
Taxes

Income tax rebate provided and money appropriated.

HF1403—Buesgens (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Scott County; Blue Lake wastewater treatment plant consumptive groundwater use permit approved.

HF1404—Swenson (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Swan Lake migratory waterfowl refuge designated and refuge provisions modified.

HF1405—Johnson (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

School restructuring grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1406—Solberg (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 4, McGregor, energy improvements levy authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1407—Folliard (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

Early elementary class size reduction program funded and money appropriated.

HF1408—Knoblach (R)
Taxes

Central Minnesota events center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF1409—Carruthers (DFL)
Taxes

Motor vehicle transfer provisions modified for the purpose of exempting gifts from vehicle sales tax.

HF1410—Knoblach (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

St. Cloud tax increment financing district housing and redevelopment expenditures authorized.

HF1411—Paulsen (R)
Civil Law

Property management company and apartment building managers and employees authorized to appear in conciliation and unlawful detainer court on behalf of their employers.

HF1412—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Wildlife management area designation orders rescinded and consolidated conservation areas account appropriations reinstated.

HF1413—Seifert, J. (R)
Health & Human Services Policy

Maltreatment investigative licensing data access use clarified and expanded, welfare and death review committee data classification provided, and revenue tax credit data access expanded.

HF1414—Boudreau (R)
Health & Human Services Policy

Deaf and hard-of-hearing services division provisions modified.

HF1415—Finseth (R)
Agriculture Policy

Gray wolf management provided and criminal penalties imposed.

HF1416—Haas (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Tax increment financing district parcel inclusion effective date modified.

HF1417—Mahoney (DFL)
Crime Prevention

DNA; predatory offender DNA specimen required.

HF1418—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Policy

Minnesota families foundation established, medical education and research costs and local public health endowment funds created, tobacco settlement funds dedicated, and money appropriated.

HF1419—Hasskamp (DFL)
Commerce

Health plan coverage age limit for cleft lip and palate extended to the required age limit for dependent coverage.

HF1420—Paymar (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy

St. Paul West Seventh Street/Gateway area enhancement funded and money appropriated.

HF1421—Wilkin (R)
Health & Human Services Policy

Temporary podiatric permit extension provided and requirements modified.

HF1422—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes

Mortgage registry and deed tax proceeds excess credited to the community rehabilitation fund account.

HF1423—Anderson, B. (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Precinct caucus procedures modified, preference balloting established and reported, and presidential primaries eliminated.

HF1424—Rostberg (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Uniform disposition of unclaimed property act exemption provided for uncashed political subdivision checks.

HF1425—Carruthers (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

First-grade preparedness program made permanent and money appropriated.

HF1426—Tingelstad (R)
Health & Human Services Policy

Well notification fees, advisory council on water supply systems and wastewater treatment facilities terms, rural hospital grant provisions, and health professional student loan repayment provisions modified.

HF1427—Rostberg (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Natural resources software and intellectual property sale and licensure authorized; and youth snowmobile operation, drivers license safety designations, nongame wildlife check-off, and forestry development project provisions modified.

HF1428—Wolf (R)
K-12 Education Finance

Student-based education finance system provided.

HF1429—Holsten (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Stillwater historic territorial prison wall fortified, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1430—Tuma (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Leased lakeshore lot exchange or sale provisions modified.

HF1431—Dawkins (DFL)
Civil Law

Contracts for deed recording requirements modified, minimum contents specified, civil cause of action established, sample forms and educational materials provided, and money appropriated.

HF1432—Hausman (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy

St. Paul RiverCentre and skyway system underground connection grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1433—Hausman (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy

St. Paul RiverCentre and skyway system underground connection grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1434—Tingelstad (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Minnesota Children's Museum project greenstart grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1435—Buesgens (R)
K-12 Education Finance

Richard Green institute grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1436—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy

University of Minnesota Medical School primary care physician training initiative appropriated money.

HF1437—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Sustainable forest resources act repeal date modified.

HF1438—Jaros (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

University of Minnesota, Duluth, police officer prior service credit recredited by the public employees police and fire plan.

HF1439—Howes (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Minnesota Conservation Corps appropriated money.

HF1440—Boudreau (R)
Health & Human Services Policy

Intermediate care facilities payment rate determination modified, local system needs planning process required, and statewide advisory committee established.

HF1441—Tunheim (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

General education revenue equity aid component created and money appropriated.

HF1442—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

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

- HF1443—Abeler (R)**
Health & Human Services Finance
Independent living skills training program funded for persons with epilepsy and money appropriated.
- HF1444—Krinkie (R)**
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) provisions modified.
- HF1445—Vandevener (R)**
Civil Law
Injury or death resulting from equine activities limited liability provided.
- HF1446—Rhodes (R)**
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Office of environmental assistance, public service department, transportation regulation board, and departments of administration, public safety, and corrections reorganization codified.
- HF1447—Tomassoni (DFL)**
Transportation Policy
Motor vehicle license plate impoundment modified in cases where the violator is not the owner.
- HF1448—Jaros (DFL)**
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Minnesota Technology, Inc. natural resources research institute grant provided and money appropriated.
- HF1449—Wilkin (R)**
Health & Human Services Policy
Persons with mental retardation day training and habilitation rate variance criteria modified.
- HF1450—Kielkucki (R)**
K-12 Education Finance
Five star school accreditation program established and money appropriated.
- HF1451—Kielkucki (R)**
Agriculture Policy
Agricultural research grants board established, cropland levy authorized, agricultural property tax rates reduced, and money appropriated.
- HF1452—Boudreau (R)**
K-12 Education Finance
Library for the blind and physically handicapped appropriated money.
- HF1453—Rhodes (R)**
Health & Human Services Policy
Adolescent health program grant established, and money appropriated.
- HF1454—Rostberg (R)**
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Community forest improvement grants provided.
- HF1455—Hausman (DFL)**
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Riparian forest management provided.
- HF1456—Bakk (DFL)**
Taxes
Certain delinquent tax abatement authorized in Lake County, Two Harbors, and Lake Superior Independent School District No. 381, and land conveyance recorded upon abatement.
- HF1457—Chaudhary (DFL)**
State Government Finance
Red Tail project appropriation provided to honor the Tuskegee airmen.
- HF1458—Jennings (DFL)**
Health & Human Services Finance
Certain Chisago County nursing facility reimbursement provision modified.
- HF1459—Johnson (DFL)**
K-12 Education Finance
Learning academy training expanded, library site technology grants eligibility requirements modified, database access program for public libraries and school modified, and money appropriated.
- HF1460—Jennings (DFL)**
Health & Human Services Finance
Certain Chisago County nursing home reimbursement provisions modified.
- HF1461—Skoglund (DFL)**
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Commissioner of natural resources authorized to enter into a lease of land at Fort Snelling.
- HF1462—Solberg (DFL)**
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Seaway Port Authority of Duluth appropriation provided for a warehouse, and bonds issued.
- HF1463—Pelowski (DFL)**
Education Policy
Commissioner of administration authorized to develop and distribute a policy on student records and other data on school-aged children, and money appropriated.
- HF1464—Jaros (DFL)**
Transportation Policy
Percentage of public transit operating costs paid by provider of large urbanized service reduced.
- HF1465—Carruthers (DFL)**
Civil Law
Revisor of Statutes instructed to recodify data practices law, and annual updates provided.
- HF1466—Dorman (R)**
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Albert Lea police and fire survivor retirement benefit increase allowed.
- HF1467—Sykora (R)**
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Early Childhood and Family Education, ECFE, children and family support programs provided, and money appropriated.
- HF1468—Olson (R)**
Education Policy
School districts required to provide remedial instruction to students failing minimum core course requirements, and cost reports required.
- HF1469—Chaudhary (DFL)**
K-12 Education Finance
Additional compensatory revenue authorized for free or reduced price meals in certain school districts.
- HF1470—Wolf (R)**
Commerce
Sale of alcoholic beverages authorized at Northrop Auditorium on University of Minnesota campus.
- HF1471—Krinkie (R)**
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Legislative approval required for fee increases, expiration dates provided for certain fees, and conforming changes made.
- HF1472—Mulder (R)**
Transportation Policy
Special number plates for collector aircraft provisions modified.
- HF1473—Clark, J. (R)**
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Minnesota Technology, Inc. inventors congress grant provided and money appropriated.
- HF1474—Smith (R)**
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Water quality cooperative activities restricted within two miles of incorporated municipalities.
- HF1475—Nornes (R)**
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
School district adult basic education service level defined, basic population aid provided, and money appropriated.
- HF1476—Stang (R)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Increased levy authorized North Fork Crow River watershed district.
- HF1477—Rostberg (R)**
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Environmental improvement pilot program modified and made permanent.
- HF1478—Holsten (R)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
City annexation area division into urban and rural service districts authorized for the purpose of property taxation.
- HF1479—Entenza (DFL)**
K-12 Education Finance
School district definition modified related to homeless students, homeless student count date clarified, education program grants provided, and money appropriated.
- HF1480—Fuller (R)**
Judiciary Finance
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension facilities constructed in St. Paul and Bemidji, and money appropriated.
- HF1481—Hausman (DFL)**
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Como Park education and resource center construction completed, and money appropriated.
- HF1482—Lenczewski (DFL)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Metropolitan Radio Board sunset date extended.
- HF1483—Tomassoni (DFL)**
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Minimum fire state aid relief association eligibility expanded.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: Minnesota Zoo budget presentation.
Office of Environmental Assistance budget presentation.

HF878 (Bishop) State governmental operations supplemental funding provided and money appropriated.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: Metro Area Planning and Metropolitan State University planning presentations, Morrie Anderson, Dennis Nielsen, Phil Davis, and Monica Manning of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: HF242 (Dawkins) School district compensatory revenue modified to reflect enrollment changes.

HF618 (Abeler) School districts with significant enrollment eligible for free or reduced price lunches provided additional compensatory revenue.

HF782 (Biernat) School district basic skills intervention program funding created and money appropriated.

HF785 (Biernat) School district basic skills revenue enhanced, English language learner funding extended, compensatory revenue cap removed, free and reduced price meal eligibility under-reporting adjusted, grant program created, and money appropriated.

HF824 (Biernat) School district compensatory revenue allocation flexibility continued.

HF827 (Rest) Virtual school district created and money appropriated.

Property Tax Division/ TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: HF1009 (Broecker) Green acres property tax treatment extended to certain dissected agricultural property.

HF1063 (Paymar) Senior citizens' property tax deferral program maximum allowable household income increased.

HF1064 (Hackbarth) Manufactured home parks property tax class rate modified, and homestead and agricultural credit aid adjustment provided.
HF1089 (Rifenberg) Agricultural property debt service and referendum levy property tax credit provided, and money appropriated.

12:30 p.m.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: Report on federal funds requested by Department of Children, Families and Learning to set up a child care computer network.
Summary of governor's bill.

HF873 (Mulder) CLEAR Corps; lead hazard reduction project grant provided and money appropriated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen

Agenda: HF174 (Stang) Richmond annexed to the Paynesville area hospital district.

HF627 (Larsen, P.) Washington County; housing and redevelopment authority commissioners' term length modified.

HF726 (Knoblach) Political subdivision capital project grant standards provided.

HF526 (Mullery) Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board employee appointment provided.

Subcommittee on Regulated Industries/ COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

Agenda: HF358 (Wolf) Coin-operated and public pay telephones deregulated, and telecommunication provider anticompetitive activity administrative penalties assessed.

1:45 p.m.

Library Subcommittee/ Legislative Coordinating Commission

546 State Office Building

Chair to be announced

Agenda: Elect chair.

Review Legislative Reference Library's proposed budget for 2000-01 biennium.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

6 p.m.

Subcommittee on Employee Relations/ Legislative Coordinating Commission

112 State Capitol

Chair to be announced

Agenda: Elect officers.

Adopt subcommittee rules.

Review/approve subcommittee bill.

Review/approve budget proposal for 2000-01 biennium.

Other items approved by the chair.

TUESDAY, March 9

7 a.m.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

Agenda: HF165 (Stang) Disability license plate issuance allowed for motor vehicles modified for use by disabled persons.

HF1053 (Opatz) Disability parking regulatory provisions modified, certain vehicle registration fee credits abolished, and local ordinances

MONDAY, March 8

7:15 a.m.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

Tours

Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

Agenda: Tour, Department of Transportation Traffic Management Center, 1101 4th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Tour, Department of Transportation Waters Edge Building, 1500 W. County Road B2, Roseville.

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: HF879 (Knoblach) Local units of government regulatory relief provided.
HF801 (Knoblach) Minnesota Partnership for Action Against Tobacco not considered a state agency, and report required.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: Department of Human Services budget presentation.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Department of Economic Security budget presentation.

10 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: HF510 (Biernat) Child and medical support order administrative process repealed, family law magistrates appointed, and money appropriated.

regulating long-term parking authorized.

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: HF332 (Mulder) Rural health clinics and federally qualified health center services cost-based reimbursement continued.

HF429 (Bradley) Programs for persons with developmental disabilities alternative licensing system pilot project duties transferred to the Region 10 Quality Assurance Commission, federal waiver request required, and money appropriated.

HF912 (Jennings) Medical assistance reimbursement geographic groups redefined, nursing facility rate increase negotiations authorized, and money appropriated.

HF467 (Goodno) Medicare certification exemption allowed for nursing facilities under certain circumstances and criteria specified.

HF480 (Workman) Carver County intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation (ICF/MR) reconfiguration project authorized.

HF640 (Bradley) State Advisory Council on Mental Health membership, duties, and reporting requirements modified.

HF834 (Boudreau) Adult mental illness crisis housing assistance program created and money appropriated.

HF958 (Greenfield) Employers authorized to provide workers' compensation benefits through health insurance, nursing facility 24-hour coverage contracts authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1028 (Leppik) Rule 80; Golden Valley nursing facility medical assistance reimbursement rate modified for residential rehabilitation services.

Note: Meeting will continue in 5 State Office Building at 7 p.m.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

Agenda: HF663 (Daggett) State project wage payment provisions modified.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker

Agenda: HF1004 (Goodno) DWI; maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered for hunting, handling explosives, criminal vehicular operation, and operating a motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or watercraft.

HF158 (Stanek) Credit for time served intent clarified, presumption in favor of consecutive sentences created, specific findings required for concurrent sentences, and sentencing guidelines conforming changes required.

HF13 (Stanek) Criminal gang oversight council and strike force operation funded, grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF683 (Clark, K.) Restorative justice program grants and training funded, and money appropriated.

Department of Public Safety Bureau of Criminal Apprehension budget presentation.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: Budget presentations by Capitol Area Architectural & Planning Board, and governor's office.

10 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: HF12 (Seifert, J.) Three strikes; mandatory life sentence imposed for persons convicted of a third violent felony offense.

HF135 (Bishop) Repeat assault offenders with prior delinquency adjudications provided enhanced penalties.

HF732 (Osskopp) Offenders convicted of failure to appear after release required to pay incurred costs.

HF733 (Osskopp) Defendant restitution request challenge time period limited.

Others to be announced.

Note: If necessary, meeting will continue in 118 State Capitol at 3 p.m.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: HF41 (Pelowski) Minnesota science and mathematics foundation established, and money appropriated.

HF819 (Ness) Adult English as a Second Language program requirements modified.

HF973 (Tomassoni) Lola and Rudy Perpich Minnesota Center for Arts Education name changed to Perpich Center for Arts Education.

HF577 (Tuma) Private career school requirements modified and clarified.

HF1058 (Reuter) Business, trade, and correspondence schools legislative review required; and training firms operation authorized.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: HF1151 (Howes) Waste management act technical changes provided.

HF581 (Rostberg) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund payments for failing individual sewage treatment systems authorized.

HF1277 (Bishop) Wastewater treatment provisions modified and money appropriated.

HF842 (Fuller) Cross-country ski pass provisions modified.

HF841 (Opatz) Central Minnesota regional parks and trails plan created in Stearns, Benton, and Sherburne counties.

TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: HF703 (Van Dellen) Single factor sales apportionment adopted related to corporate franchise tax.

HF273 (Munger) Biosolids processing equipment sales and use tax exemption clarified.

HF324 (Jennings) Ski area machinery and equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF422 (Clark, K.) Vitamin, mineral, and whole food supplement sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF681 (Jaros) Vitamins and minerals sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF611 (Rest) Materials used in metalcasting sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF671 (Molnau) Road and bridge maintenance equipment purchased by counties sales tax and motor vehicle sales tax exemption provided.

HF809 (Skoglund) Tree trimming and stump removal services sales tax exemption provided.

HF1099 (Kuisle) Vehicles used by interstate carriers exempted from sales tax.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: Governor's budget request for the Department of Agriculture.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knobloch

Agenda: University of Minnesota's presentation on Higher Education Asset Preservation Renewal Account continued.

Testimony on cancellation projects continued.

COMMERCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids

Agenda: HF747 (McElroy) Mandatory dram shop liability insurance minimum coverage increased.

HF583 (Gunter) Township Mutual Insurance Company investments regulated.

HF1066 (Seifert, M.) Township mutual insurance company territories of operation regulated.

HF1163 (Workman) Rental-purchase agreements regulated, cash price of property calculation provided, and cost-of-lease service charges limited.

HF180 (Wolf) Safety regulated for persons on amusement rides.

HF1303 (Goodno) Health plan company uniform complaint resolution and external appeal processes established, and money appropriated.

2:30 p.m.

Subcommittee on Land/ ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: HFXXXX (Juhnke) Authorize public sale of certain tax-forfeited land that borders public water in Kandiyohi County.

HF1044 (Howes) Cass County authorized to privately sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF1042 (Finseth) Red Lake County authorized to privately sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

WAYS & MEANS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dave Bishop

Agenda: Revenue forecast, Department of Finance Commissioner Pam Wheelock and Assistant Commissioner Peggy Ingison.

Budget resolution.

3 p.m.

Legislative Audit Commission

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Program evaluation topic selection.
Review of program evaluation report: *Counties' Use of Administrative Penalties for Solid and Hazardous Waste Violations*.
Review of financial audit reports: Office of Technology and Minnesota State Retirement System.

6 p.m.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

Agenda: HFXXXX (Finseth) Wolf management bill.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: HF928 (Hackbarth) Snowmobile metal traction device use on paved public trails prohibited, sticker required, and money appropriated.
HF1070 (Howes) Resident lifetime game and fish licenses provided, trust fund established, fees imposed, and report required.
HF1130 (Hackbarth) Iron Range off-highway vehicle recreation area expanded, advisory committee expanded, management plan provided, and money appropriated.
HF107 (Dehler) 24-hour angling license fee reduced, and lottery machine issuance authorized.
HF1279 (Peterson) Montevideo recreational trail completion grant provided, bonds authorized, and money appropriated.

6:30 p.m.

Subcommittee on Gaming & Technology/ GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Osskopp

Agenda: HF686 (Dehler) Dice games authorized in retail establishments licensed to sell alcoholic beverages.
HF1281 (Osskopp) Card club activities authorized for a Class B operator of a Class A racetrack.
HFXXXX (Holsten) Slots at Canterbury Downs.

WEDNESDAY, March 10

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: HF1086 (Reuter) 800 Megahertz radio purchase authority cancelled.
HF914 (Krinkie) Charitable organization annual reports required to include government agency funding information.
HF605 (Tuma) Diabetes and schools task force established, and money appropriated.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: Department of Human Services budget presentation.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Department of Economic Security budget presentation continued.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

Agenda: HF811 (Wolf) Scott County State-Aid Highway No. 27 preliminary engineering and environmental studies funded, and money appropriated.
Testimony by Department of Transportation Deputy Commissioner Ed Cohoon.

10 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: HF1267 (Pawlenty) Economic loss arising from the sale of goods provisions established related to the uniform commercial code.
HF1124 (Smith) Bleacher safety requirements provided, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: Citizens Council on Voyagers National Park budget presentation.
Board of Water and Soil Resources budget presentation.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: Mayo Medical School budget proposal, Dr. Anthony Windebanks.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: HFXXXX (Wolf) Providing for a student-based system of education finance.

Canceled

Property Tax Division/ TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: Canceled.

TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: State Aids and Credits presentation by House Research.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

Agenda: HF779 (Finseth) Farmer-lender

mediation act sunset repealed and mediation program transferred to the Minnesota Extension Service.

HF1052 (Molnau) Agricultural crop security interests regulated and collateral treatment modified.

HF808 (Ness) Bovine paratuberculosis diagnosis data classification provided, Board of Animal Health executive secretary name changed to executive director, and sale of cattle limitations repealed.

HF384 (Anderson, B.) State and county fair food handler license provisions modified.

HF1238 (Dehler) Industrial hemp classified as an agricultural crop, growers required to be registered, and criminal penalty imposed.

HF447 (Winter) Livestock price discrimination prohibited and civil penalties provided.

HF486 (Bakk) Riparian landowners and aircraft operators allowed bulk delivery of nonoxygenated gasoline.

Note: Meeting will continue at 5 p.m. in 10 State Office Building.

FAMILY & EARLY

CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: HF93 (Tunheim) Adult basic education aid funding formula modified to include eligibility for a sparsity allowance, and money appropriated.

HF847 (Sykora) First Call Minnesota; statewide family and community services information and referral system established, and money appropriated.

HF594 (Clark, K.) Teen-age prostitution prevention and intervention grants provided, and money appropriated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen

Agenda: HF420 (Haas) Brooklyn Park; housing improvement area established.

HF619 (Hackbarth) Shooting ranges preserved, net losses limited, and relocation costs provided.
HF773 (Westfall) Fire department expense reimbursement provided for costs incurred extinguishing motor vehicle fires within highway or interstate rights-of-way.

HF1140 (Leighton) License fees on coin and currency activated amusement machines limited.

Subcommittee on Regulated Industries/ COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

Immediately following session

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: HF981 (Holsten) Deer, bear, elk, and moose tag requirements modified.

HF1013 (Holsten) Dark house and fish house licensure requirement exemption provided to occupied shelters left on the ice less than a day.
HF1274 (Daggett) Provisional firearms safety

certificate provided for persons with mental disabilities and assisted hunting authorized.
HF810 (Marko) Archery bow transportation requirements modified.
HF866 (Bakk) Blaze orange requirement exemption provided to trappers.

3 p.m.

WAYS & MEANS

316 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Dave Bishop

Agenda: HF670 (Goodno) Medical assistance eligibility expanded to include employed persons with disabilities.

HF50 (Dempsey) Goodhue County levy limit adjustment authorized for certain payments in lieu of tax.

SF407 (Swenson) McCloud West School District, facility grant.

HF112 (Bishop) Fraudulent use of another's personal identity provided felony penalties, and civil forfeiture of property authorized.

HF878 (Bishop) State governmental operations supplemental funding provided and money appropriated.

4 p.m.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen

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

HF840 (Wenzel) Garrison; local contributions for tax increment financing district authorized.
HF985 (Workman) Chanhassen tax increment financing district extended and requirements modified.

HF1006 (Milbert) Inver Grove Heights tax increment financing district duration extended and tax increment use specified.

HF676 (Hilty) Carlton County cemetery levy for Sawyer authorized.

4:30 p.m.

Subcommittee on Health Care Directives/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

400N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lynda Boudreau

Agenda: HF537 (Boudreau) Complementary and alternative health care freedom of access act adopted.

HF685 (McCollum) Massage and oriental bodywork therapist registration system established, rulemaking authorized, and penalties imposed.

HF949 (Abeler) Midwifery practice and licensure requirements clarified.

5 p.m.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

Agenda: HF779 (Finseth) Farmer-Lender Mediation Act sunset repealed and mediation program transferred to the Minnesota Extension Service.

HF1052 (Molnau) Agricultural crop security interests regulated and collateral treatment modified.

HF808 (Ness) Bovine paratuberculosis diagnosis data classification provided, Board of Animal Health executive secretary name changed to

executive director, and sale of cattle limitations repealed.

HF384 (Anderson, B.) State and county fair food handler license provisions modified.

HF1238 (Dehler) Industrial hemp classified as an agricultural crop, growers required to be registered, and criminal penalty imposed.

HF447 (Winter) Livestock price discrimination prohibited and civil penalties provided.

HF486 (Bakk) Riparian landowners and aircraft operators allowed bulk delivery of nonoxygenated gasoline.

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: Report on July 1, 1998 actuarial valuations and recommendations for actuarial assumption and standards changes, Thomas K. Custis, F.S.S. Milliman and Robertson, Inc., consulting actuary retained by the commission.
HF152 (Rostberg) Cambridge Regional Human Services Center extended treatment options; program employees provided correctional employee retirement plan coverage.

HF410 (Entenza) Correctional employees retirement plan service credit provided.

HF435 (Milbert) MSRS; service credit purchase authorized for a certain member.

HF1080 (Boudreau) Rice County correctional employees public employees police and fire plan coverage ratified.

HF1179 (Mares) Teachers Retirement Association and first class city teacher retirement fund association service credit purchase authorized for military service, out-of-state teaching, and maternity leaves.

HF589 (Mares) Qualified tax-sheltered annuity vendors expanded for the purpose of employer contributions.

HF708 (Mares) Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS), Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), and Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) authorized to purchase or construct an administrative building.

Other items as designated by the chair.

6:30 p.m.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Department of Economic Security budget presentation continued.
State Services for the Blind program.

THURSDAY, March 11

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: HF959 (Goodno) Supplemental aid recipients with special needs provisions modified.
HF1047 (Wejman) Anorexia; medical assistance coverage of anorexics authorized.

HF1023 (Haas) Employer-subsidized health coverage program established.

HF807 (Howes) Rural hospital improvement grant program expanded, medical assistance coverage of telemedicine conferences and critical access hospital outpatient fee cost-based system provided, uniform billing established, and money appropriated.

HF1126 (Abeler) Date restrictions removed on definitions relating to day care licensing.

HF1127 (Abeler) Noncertified boarding care homes provisions, Medicaid reimbursements, and client records for assisted living home care providers modified.

HF1216 (Abeler) Practical examination requirements modified for chiropractors licensed in other states.

HF860 (Boudreau) Board of Dentistry hygienist membership increased.

HF408 (Goodno) Practice of pharmacy definition modified and patient counseling defined.

HFXXXX (Seifert, J.) Agency bill.

HFXXXX (Boudreau) Agency bill.

Note: If necessary, meeting will continue after session in 10 State Office Building.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

Agenda: HF798 (Anderson, B.) Injured employees civil remedies provided in cases of employer safety violations.

HF877 (Wolf) Unemployment; re-employment insurance procedure modifications and technical changes provided to conform with federal requirements.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker

Agenda: HF542 (Bishop) Number of district court judges increased.

HF717 (Seifert, J.) Housing calendar consolidation program extended outside the 2nd and 4th judicial districts.

HF338 (Larsen, P.) Emergency management grant program created and rulemaking authorized.

Department of Public Safety Bureau of Criminal Apprehension budget presentation continued.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: Budget presentations by state auditor's office and attorney general's office.

10 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: HF13 (Stanek) Criminal gang oversight council and strike force operation funded, grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF839 (Pawlenty) Defense of dwelling clarified related to use of deadly force, and duty to retreat in self-defense situations limited.

HF1055 (Van Dellen) Methamphetamine crime provisions expanded, booby trap criminal penalties imposed, child neglect and endangerment conviction provisions clarified and consecutive sentencing authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1255 (Skoglund) Gamma hydroxybutyrate classified as a controlled substance.

Note: If necessary, meeting will continue 30 minutes after session in Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: HF954 (Buesgens) Substitute teacher licenses provided and probationary period consecutive year provisions modified.
HF953 (Gleason) Nonresident truant student termination from the enrollment options program provided.
HF881 (Dawkins) Ramsey County; after-school enrichment program role clarified.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: HFXXXX (Tuma) Lakeshore lease lot exchange.
HFXXXX (Rostberg) Department of Natural Resources technical bill.
HFXXXX (Osskopp) Minnesota Pollution Control Agency technical bill.

TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: HF890 (Abrams) Income tax rates and marriage penalty reduced; sales, cigarettes, and liquor accelerated tax liability repealed; motor vehicle registration tax modified; agricultural assistance provided; and money appropriated (governor's tax bill).

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: Governor's budget request for the Department of Agriculture.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

Agenda: To be announced.

COMMERCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids

Agenda: HF270 (Osskopp) Minnesota Comprehensive Health Insurance policies providing number one or two plan benefits prohibited from imposing a maximum lifetime benefit limit.
HF1150 (Davids) Funeral and burial expenses insurance regulated, and funeral establishments authorized to sell and receive commissions.
HF1175 (Haas) Financial institution fees, charges, and time periods regulated; part-time banking locations authorized; and conforming changes provided.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

6 p.m.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Room to be announced
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

Agenda: Wastewater treatment bills to be announced.

FRIDAY, March 12

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: To be announced.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: Department of Human Services budget presentations.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: To be announced.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: HF7 (Haake) Motor vehicle emissions inspection program repealed.
Board of Soil and Water Resources budget presentation continued.
Department of Natural Resources budget presentation continued.
HF1301 (Vandever) State park additions, deletions, and name changes provided; land exchange and transfer authorized; state wayside abolished; and Rock County authorized to privately sell surplus state land.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: To be announced.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: HF241 (Dawkins) Integration revenue following students to charter schools authorized.
HF784 (Biernat) Charter school students, nonpublic students, and students subject to hazardous conditions transportation funding increased; and money appropriated.
HF820 (Seagren) Charter schools; referendum revenue and integration revenue provided, building lease aid increased, leased facilities real estate taxes eliminated, start-up funding payment schedule established, and money appropriated.
HF859 (Seagren) A Chance to Grow/New Visions; Minnesota learning resource center program start-up costs funded and money appropriated.
HF871 (Sykora) Charter school districts provided.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: Department of Revenue budget presentation continued.

TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: Motor vehicle sales tax.

HF161 (Ozment) Sales and use tax and motor vehicle sales tax rates reduced, and political subdivisions and lottery tickets sales tax exemption provided.

HF252 (Westfall) Sales, use, and motor vehicle sales tax rates reduced for one year.

HF575 (Lenczewski) Sales, use, and motor vehicle sales tax rates reduced.

HF890 (Abrams) Income tax rates and marriage penalty reduced; sales, cigarettes, and liquor accelerated tax liability repealed; motor vehicle registration tax modified; agricultural assistance provided; and money appropriated (governor's tax bill - motor vehicle section).

12:30 p.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: 1022 (Abrams) Health maintenance organizations regulatory authority transferred to commissioner of commerce.

HF1034 (Abrams) Health care liability act adopted, health care plan coverage and treatment classification regulated, and remedies provided.

SATURDAY, March 13

10 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: HF817 (Wagenius) Relative ex parte temporary child custody provisions expanded.
HF821 (Reuter) National origin discrimination by businesses prohibited.

HF963 (Knobloch) Firefighter previous employment background investigations authorized, disclosure requirements and immunity provided, and civil and criminal penalties imposed.

HF1098 (Van Dellen) Uniform statutory rule against perpetuities amended relating to trusts.
HF1195 (Van Dellen) 2nd and 4th judicial district tenant screening report requirements modified.
HF1144 (Lindner) Public nuisance definition and provisions modified.

E-mail schedules

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Minnesota House of Representatives 1999 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
		Room*				Room*	
49A	Abeler, Jim (R)	581	1729	33A	Lindner, Arlon (R)	417	7806
45A	Abrams, Ron (R)	585	9934	47A	Luther, Darlene (DFL)	371	3751
19B	Anderson, Bruce (R)	411	5063	67A	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	223	4277
3A	Anderson, Irv (DFL)	343	4936	55A	Mares, Harry (R)	401	5363
6A	Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	345	2190	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	209	9714
59A	Biernat, Len (DFL)	303	4219	57B	Marko, Sharon (DFL)	221	3135
30B	Bishop, Dave (R)	453	0573	55B	McCollum, Betty (DFL)	239	1188
25B	Boudreau, Lynda (R)	473	8237	36B	McElroy, Dan (R)	437	4212
30A	Bradley, Fran (R)	559	9249	54A	McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	259	4342
53B	Broecker, Sherry (R)	533	7153	39B	Milbert, Bob (DFL)	243	4192
35B	Buesgens, Mark (R)	415	1072	35A	Molnau, Carol L. (R)	443	8872
46B	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	279	4255	21B	Mulder, Richard (R)	515	4336
47B	Carruthers, Phil (DFL)	217	3709	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	387	4262
10B	Cassell, George (R)	421	4317	7A	Munger, Willard (DFL)	283	4282
52A	Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	311	4331	8A	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	357	2676
23A	Clark, James T. (R)	583	9303	20A	Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	509	4344
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	307	0294	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946
11A	Daggett, Roxann (R)	439	4293	19A	Olson, Mark (R)	501	4237
31B	Davids, Gregory M. (R)	367	9278	16A	Opatz, Joe (DFL)	281	6612
65A	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	215	5158	60B	Orfield, Myron (DFL)	377	9281
14A	Dehler, Steve (R)	491	7808	29B	Osskopp, Mike (R)	449	9236
29A	Dempsey, Jerry (R)	549	8635	66A	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	273	4224
27A	Dorman, Dan (R)	579	8216	11B	Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	393	3201
24A	Dorn, John (DFL)	201	3248	37A	Ozment, Dennis (R)	479	4306
64A	Entenza, Matt (DFL)	213	8799	42B	Paulsen, Erik (R)	445	7449
42A	Erhardt, Ron (R)	591	4363	38B	Pawlenty, Tim (R)	459	4128
17A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	407	6746	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	331	4199
1B	Finseth, Tim (R)	517	9918	32A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	295	8637
44A	Folliard, Betty (DFL)	211	3964	13B	Peterson, Doug (DFL)	287	4228
4A	Fuller, Doug (R)	525	5516	39A	Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	267	6828
36A	Gerlach, Chris (R)	531	5506	46A	Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	277	4176
63B	Gleason, Mark S. (DFL)	313	5375	28A	Reuter, Doug (R)	507	5368
9A	Goodno, Kevin (R)	563	5515	44B	Rhodes, Jim (R)	409	9889
58B	Gray, Gregory (DFL)	229	8659	32B	Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	423	1069
62A	Greenfield, Lee (DFL)	207	0173	18A	Rostberg, Jim (R)	545	5364
54B	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	253	5387	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	375	0170
26A	Gunther, Bob (R)	379	3240	17B	Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	327	5377
52B	Haake, Barb (R)	429	0141	41A	Seagren, Alice (R)	477	7803
48A	Haas, Bill (R)	569	5513	57A	Seifert, Jim (R)	577	7807
50A	Hackbarth, Tom (R)	575	2439	21A	Seifert, Marty (R)	593	5374
22B	Harder, Elaine (R)	487	5373	2B	Skoe, Rod (DFL)	321	4265
12A	Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)	353	4333	62B	Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	251	4330
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	245	3824	34A	Smith, Steve (R)	503	9188
8B	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	241	4308	3B	Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	309	2365
37B	Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	433	6926	33B	Stanek, Rich (R)	543	5502
56A	Holsten, Mark William (R)	381	3018	14B	Stang, Doug (R)	597	4373
4B	Howes, Larry (R)	431	2451	24B	Storm, Julie (R)	527	7065
6B	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	351	2228	28B	Swiggum, Steve (R)	463	2273
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	291	4246	23B	Swenson, Howard (R)	539	8634
18B	Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	237	0518	43B	Sykora, Barb (R)	403	4315
48B	Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)	349	5510	50B	Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	567	5369
15A	Juhnke, Al (DFL)	329	6206	5B	Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	233	0172
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	255	4257	67B	Trimble, Steve (DFL)	289	4201
26B	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	317	4240	25A	Tuma, John (R)	369	4229
60A	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)	231	0171	1A	Tunheim, Jim (DFL)	335	9635
20B	Kielkucki, Tony (R)	521	1534	34B	Van Dellen, Henry Todd (R)	571	5511
16B	Knoblach, Jim (R)	451	6316	51B	Vandever, Ray (R)	529	4124
49B	Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	301	4231	63A	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	227	4200
53A	Krinkie, Philip (R)	365	2907	61B	Wejman, Linda (DFL)	203	7152
15B	Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	315	4346	12B	Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	389	4247
31A	Kuisle, William (R)	565	4378	51A	Westerberg, Andrew (R)	523	4226
56B	Larsen, Peg (R)	551	4244	9B	Westfall, Robert L. (Bob) (R)	553	6829
40A	Larson, Dan (DFL)	225	7158	13A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	557	4929
27B	Leighton, Rob (DFL)	261	4193	38A	Wilkin, Tim (R)	413	3533
40B	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	337	4218	22A	Winter, Ted (DFL)	247	5505
45B	Leppik, Peggy (R)	485	7026	41B	Wolf, Ken (R)	359	5185
2A	Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	323	5091	43A	Workman, Tom (R)	537	5066

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

List as of March 4, 1999

*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Senate 1999 Members

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-
66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5537	54 Marty, John (DFL)	326 Cap.	5645
41 Belanger Jr., William V. (R)	113 SOB	5975	39 Metzzen, James P. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4370
13 Berg, Charles A. (Ind.)	G-51 SOB	5094	2 Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261	32 Morse, Steven (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5649
48 Betzold, Don (DFL)	306 Cap.	2556	29 Murphy, Steve (DFL)	301 Cap.	4264
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931	25 Neuville, Thomas M. (R)	123 SOB	1279
28 Day, Dick (R)	147 SOB	9457	52 Novak, Steven G. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4334
20 Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131	43 Oliver, Edward C. (R)	121 SOB	4837
14 Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	149 SOB	2084	34 Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282
62 Flynn, Carol (DFL)	120 Cap.	4274	19 Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981
49 Foley, Leo (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4154	65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	139 SOB	8138	37 Pariseau, Pat (R)	109 SOB	5252
50 Hanson, Paula E. (DFL)	328 Cap.	3219	27 Piper, Pat (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	9248
58 Higgins, Linda I. (DFL)	227 Cap.	9246	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
24 Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	120 Cap.	6153	57 Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	297-8060
5 Janezich, Jerry R. (DFL)	328 Cap.	8017	63 Ranum, Jane B. (DFL)	306 Cap.	297-8061
40 Johnson, Dave (DFL)	111 Cap.	9261	45 Robertson, Martha R. (R)	125 SOB	4314
15 Johnson, Dean E. (R)	117SOB	3826	35 Robling, Claire A. (R)	151 SOB	4123
6 Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881	53 Runbeck, Linda (R)	107 SOB	1253
18 Johnson, Janet B. (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5419	11 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	328 Cap.	297-8063
46 Junge, Ember R. (DFL)	205 Cap.	2889	12 Samuelson, Don (DFL)	124 Cap.	4875
44 Kelley, Steve (DFL)	321 Cap.	297-8065	31 Scheevel, Kenric J. (R)	129 SOB	3903
67 Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	323 Cap.	5285	47 Scheid, Linda (DFL)	317 Cap.	8869
30 Kiscaden, Sheila M. (R)	135 SOB	4848	7 Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188
16 Kleis, Dave (R)	143 SOB	6455	60 Spear, Allan H. (DFL)	120 Cap.	4191
36 Knutson, David L. (R)	133 SOB	4120	17 Stevens, Dan (R)	105 SOB	8075
51 Krentz, Jane (DFL)	235 Cap.	7061	1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660
56 Laidig, Gary W. (R)	141 SOB	4351	4 Ten Eyck, David J. (DFL)	G-24F Cap.	4913
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205	42 Terwilliger, Roy (R)	115 SOB	6238
10 Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655	22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
21 Lesewski, Arlene J. (R)	131 SOB	4125	38 Wiener, Deanna L. (DFL)	303 Cap.	297-8073
3 Lessard, Bob (DFL)	111 Cap.	4136	55 Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	325 Cap.	6820
33 Limmer, Warren (R)	127 SOB	2159			
8 Lourey, Becky (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	0293			

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Majority Leader: Tim Pawlenty
Minority Leader: Thomas W. Pugh

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota women in public office

Women currently serving in the Minnesota House of Representatives	35
As percent of total members	26.1
Women in Minnesota House, 1998	40
As percent of total members	29.9
Women currently serving in the Minnesota Senate	22
As percent of total senators	32.8
Women as percent of all Minnesota legislators, 1998	28.4
In 1996	30.4
In 1990	21.4
In 1980	7.5
In 1970	0.5
Women currently serving in Minnesota constitutional offices (governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer, attorney general)	4
As percent of total officers	66.6
Women currently serving as judges in Minnesota courts	62
As percent of total seats	22.2
On Supreme Court, out of seven seats	2
On Court of Appeals, out of 16 seats	3
On district courts, out of 256 seats	57
Women currently serving as county attorneys in Minnesota, out of 87	7
As percent of total	8
1998 total of women serving as county commissioners in Minnesota, out of 448 seats	77
As percent of total	17
1998 total of women serving as school board members in Minnesota, out of 2,398 seats	796
As percent of total	33
Percent of Minnesota mayors who were women in 1997	13.5
Percent of city councilors who were women in 1997	24.4

Source: *Women in Elected Office — 1998 Election Results*, 1998, Commission on the Economic Status of Women.

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