

SESSION WEEKLY



2012 SESSION WRAP-UP

SESSION 2012: SUCCESSES, DISAPPOINTMENTS AND CONTROVERSIES
'PEOPLE'S STADIUM,' BONDING AND THE TAX TRIFECTA
BILLS MAKING IT TO LAW, AND THOSE THAT DIDN'T
SAYING GOODBYE

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HF3007 - HF3052

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Flashback to 1992 and 2002

New laws- A pocket pager to help catch fish

The Legislature sent approximately 245 bills to Gov. Arne Carlson for his consideration. As of April 23, he had acted upon 142, several of which were vetoed.

Awaiting action after the end of session was a compromise \$274.8 million public works bill. Overall spending in the bill targeted \$102 million for college campus projects; \$41 million for human development facilities; \$38.7 million for state government buildings; \$25.8 million for K-12 projects; \$11 million for environmental and park programming; and \$2.3 million for miscellaneous projects.

The governor signed a new law that allows use of an ice fishing gadget invented by a Minnesota entrepreneur that lets ice anglers know immediately when they've got something on the line — even when they're not paying attention. The fishing device uses a low-frequency transmitter, capable of sending a signal up to 100 feet to a pocket pager.

— Session Weekly April 24, 1992

Ventura uses 'pork stamp' to veto bonding projects

Throughout the 2002 session, Gov. Jesse Ventura received 185 bills for action, of those 175 were signed into law, two were filed into law without the governor's signature and eight bills received vetoes — including the bonding bill, which he exercised his ability to line-item. He left in more than \$500 million in projects, vetoing just under \$400 million.

In his veto letter, Ventura wrote that the Legislature spent too much money on capital projects, and said he might not have vetoed so many projects had they balanced the operating budget for future budget cycles.



A strong advocate of the Northstar Corridor, an 80-mile rail line from the St. Cloud area to Minneapolis, he cautioned legislators that if the money was not in the bonding bill, he would strike other projects he deemed less worthy. The final bill was void of any Northstar dollars.

— Session Weekly May 24, 2002

Contents

FIRST READING: Successes, disappointments and controversies • 3-5

AT ISSUE: "People's Stadium" deal gets done • 6-8

AT ISSUE: Capital investment bill not to everyone's liking • 9

AT ISSUE: Trio of tax bills land on governor's desk • 10

NEW LAWS AND VETOES: Gov. Mark Dayton acts • 11-29

AT ISSUE: Ag law helps gardeners with plants suitable for our climate • 30

AT ISSUE: Game and fish law OKs wolf hunting • 31

AT ISSUE: HHS law focus is on restoring cuts • 32

AT ISSUE: Safe haven option for newborns expanded • 34

AT ISSUE: Two transportation bills make for one law • 35

RESOURCES: Listing of governor's actions on bills for the 2012 session • 36-42

BILL INTRODUCTIONS: HF3007-HF3052 • 42-43

RESOURCES: Rosters of House members • 44

RESOURCES: Members not seeking re-election to the House • 45

MINNESOTA INDEX: 2012 Session • 46

Renew your Session Weekly subscription • 47-48

SESSION WEEKLY

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On the cover: While most eyes are focused on a stadium vote inside the State Capitol May 9, workers put wooden planks up on scaffolds around the Capitol lantern 223 feet above the ground.

— Photo by Andrew VonBank

A session of compromise

Successes, disappointments and controversies mark 2012 session

By Nick Busse

If Minnesotans remember just one thing about the 2012 legislative session, it will likely be the controversial \$498 million public subsidy for the new “People’s Stadium” to house the Minnesota Vikings. Lawmakers nearly ran out the legislative clock gathering support for the new NFL facility, which some call a boon and others call a boondoggle.



First Reading continued on page 4

But the stadium was only one piece of a much broader agenda this year: creating jobs. Lawmakers from both parties came into the 2012 session pledging to focus like a laser on that issue. And as usual, they had very different ideas of how to go about it.

House Speaker Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove) and Republican legislators hoped to make 2012 all about cutting red tape, and focused on reigning in complex business regulations. They proposed a package of government streamlining initiatives that they labeled “Reform 2.0.” They also brought forward a tax relief package aimed largely at businesses.

“If you free up the entrepreneurs, the hard-working women and men of our great state, they’ll build an economy that is sustainable,” Zellers said in a pre-session interview.

Gov. Mark Dayton and DFL legislative leaders called for a more traditional jobs plan — a \$775 million capital investment bill that would give a boost to the state’s anemic construction industry. Dayton also called for an up-or-down vote on a new stadium to house the Minnesota Vikings, which he argued would provide a source of jobs and revenue that would last for decades. The fate of that proposal seemed far less certain when the Legislature convened on Jan. 24.

“It’s going to be something that we need

to give a full and robust debate to,” was all House Minority Leader Paul Thissen (DFL-Mpls) would say on the subject.

In the end, these competing agendas set the stage for the session’s three major jobs bills: the bonding bill, the tax bill and the stadium bill.

Only two of the three survived.

After weeks of wrangling over its price tag, lawmakers passed and Dayton signed a \$496 million bonding bill in the final days of the session. The \$975 million public-private stadium project also passed the House and Senate floors, despite protests from critics who complained that the bill’s details were negotiated behind closed doors.

Both the stadium and the bonding bills were passed with DFLers shouldering the bulk of the “yes” votes. Republican leaders allowed the votes to take place in spite of intense disagreements within their own caucus about the wisdom of increasing the state’s debt load.

And so it was doubly disappointing to many Republicans when their own signature job-creation bill, the tax bill, was vetoed.

In fact, the Republicans’ would-be package of property tax cuts aimed primarily at businesses was vetoed twice, even after they reworked it to address many of Dayton’s concerns. Republican leaders accused Dayton of negotiating in bad faith.

“Unfortunately, Governor Dayton

and the Democrats in the Minnesota Legislature do not share our goal of making Minnesota a better place to do business,” Zellers said in a post-session press release.

Democrats, however, said the Republican tax plan would have grown the deficit in the next biennium. They offered their own, alternate take on how the session ended.

“This session Republicans ran a do-nothing legislature except when Democrats took the lead,” Thissen said in a press release.

Competing agendas, narratives

From a far enough distance, the 2012 legislative session might look like an example of bipartisan success.

The two biggest bills (at least from a fiscal perspective) were the Vikings stadium and the bonding bill; both passed the House and Senate with bipartisan support. But the deep ideological divide that dragged the state into a government shutdown in 2011 remained just as powerful in 2012.

One of the session’s biggest partisan battles took place in April, when Republican lawmakers passed a constitutional amendment to require photo ID for voting without a single DFL vote. All but one Republican legislator voted in favor of the measure, which will appear as a question on this November’s ballot.

Partisan differences also killed a number of the Republicans’ other top priorities, such as the “Last-in, First-out” teacher layoff reform bill. Dayton vetoed the measure, along with tort reform legislation and a number of proposed changes to collective bargaining for public employees.

Including the 2011 special session, out of the 311 bills the Republican-controlled Legislature passed since January 2011, Dayton has vetoed 54 — more than the previous governor vetoed in his entire first term.

“We had a governor that was very uncooperative,” said House Majority Leader Matt Dean (R-Dellwood). “Unfortunately, we ran into a lot of vetoes.”

In spite of this, Republicans prefer to take the long view, focusing on what they’ve accomplished in total since they took control of the Legislature less than two years ago.

“We took a state that was



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Rep. Mike LeMieur, left, jokes with his seatmates on the House floor during his May 10 farewell speech.

\$6.2 billion in deficit, a government that was out of control in a lot of different areas... and took it in a remarkably different direction,” Zellers said.

DFL leaders have a more positive take on the outcome of this session, and claim much of the credit for its achievements.

Thissen argues Republicans balanced the budget last year on the backs of the middle class, and he derided this year’s vetoed tax bill as a giveaway to businesses at the expense of ordinary Minnesotans. He also faulted Republicans for focusing their energies on divisive constitutional amendments.

As for Dayton, with the exception of the capital investment bill and the stadium bill, “I’d say the session was disappointing overall, salvaged by those two major jobs bills at the end,” he said.

The Legislature is likely to look very different next year. Twenty-six of the House’s 134 members have already announced they’re not coming back; the same goes for 13 of the state’s 67 senators. Legislators who do intend to return will all be campaigning in newly redrawn districts. 🗽

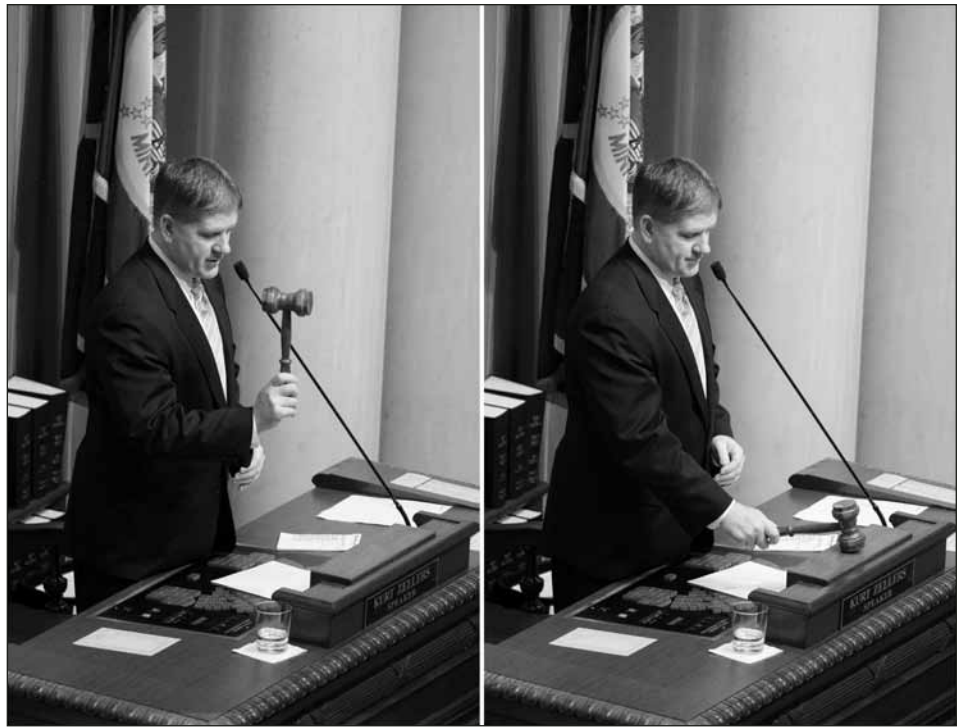


PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

House Speaker Kurt Zellers adjourns the House sine die with the last gavel of the 2012 legislative session.

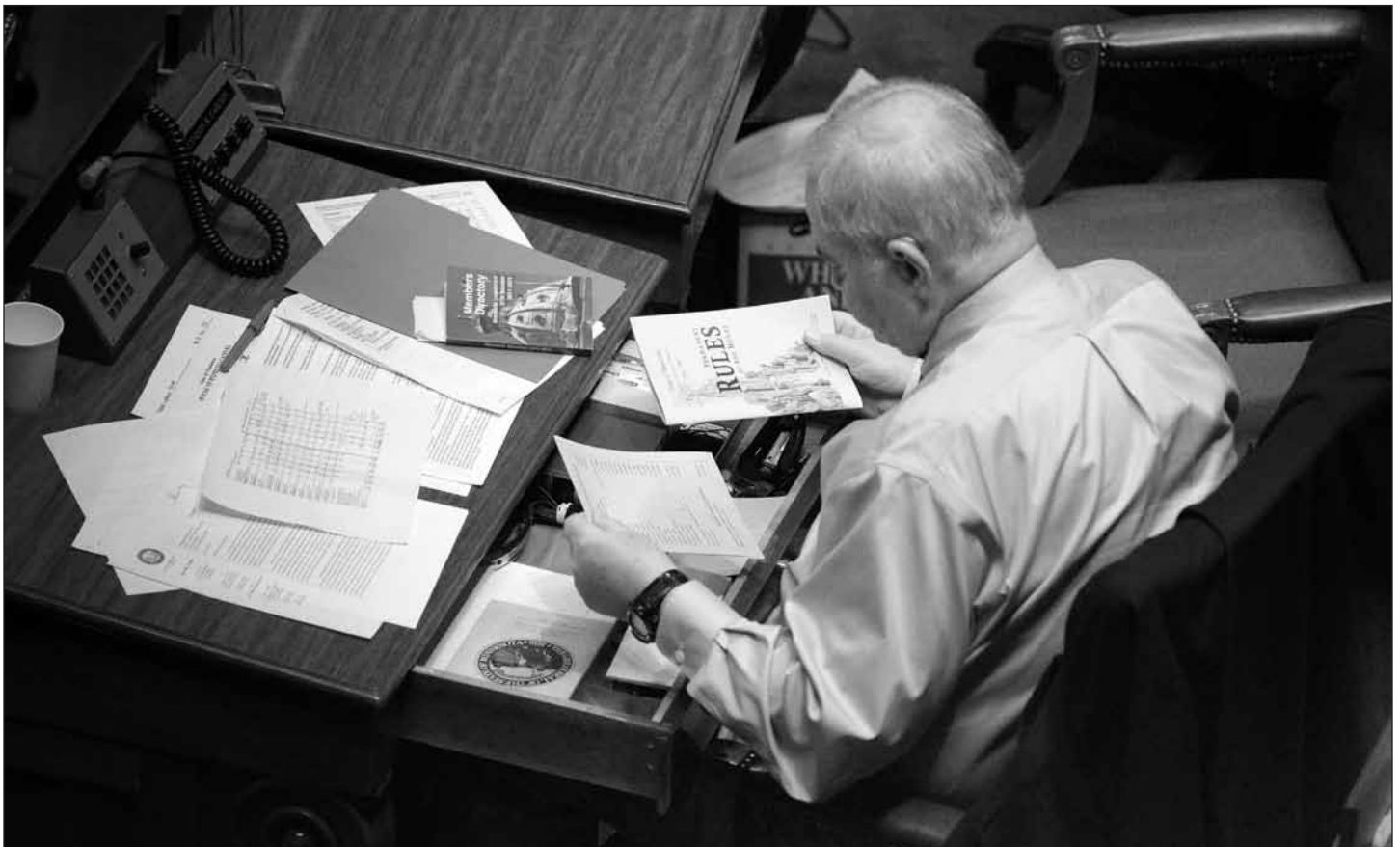


PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Rep. Lyndon Carlson Sr. cleans out his desk in the early morning hours of May 10, the last day of the 2012 session. Carlson has served in the Legislature for 40 years.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Rep. Morrie Lanning and Gov. Mark Dayton shake hands at a May 14 bill signing ceremony. Lanning is the House sponsor of the law that provides funding for a new stadium to house the Minnesota Vikings and potentially a pro soccer team.

‘People’s Stadium’ deal gets done

After years of trying, Minnesota Vikings get state approval for new home

By MIKE COOK

In a few years, the Metrodome will likely be replaced by a purple palace.

The dream of Minnesota Vikings’ owners and fans were realized when a funding plan to replace the domed facility received legislative approval, and the autograph of Gov. Mark Dayton.

“This is a great day for Minnesota, a great day for the Vikings’ fans throughout the entire country,” team owner Zygi Wilf said

May 14 after Dayton signed a law that will help build a new home for the NFL team.

Team officials say the 30-year-old Metrodome is antiquated and does not provide the needed revenue to remain competitive, nor provide a proper fan experience.

Sponsored by Rep. Morrie Lanning (R-Moorhead) and Sen. Julie Rosen

(R-Fairmont), the law calls for a \$975 million, 65,000-seat roofed state-owned “People’s Stadium” to be built primarily on the Metrodome site on the eastern edge of downtown Minneapolis. The team will cover \$477 million of construction costs; the state \$348 million; and Minneapolis \$150 million. The team could make the roof retractable at its expense, an idea that Wilf is strongly considering.

Although signed off on by the state, the project still needs final approval from the Minneapolis City Council. That vote is expected to occur May 25.

“This facility is not just for a professional football team; it’s for the whole state of

Minnesota for all kinds of events and activities that we've had the benefit of with the Metrodome," Lanning said.

The plan is to break ground next year, with the Vikings playing in the new facility in 2016. As currently envisioned, the team will play in the Metrodome through the 2014 season and then at the University of Minnesota's TCF Bank Stadium for a season, while the current stadium is razed and the new facility completed.

The team contribution is \$50 million higher than Vikings' officials consistently said the team was willing to contribute; however, it is \$55 million less than the contribution request passed by the House.

"We've agreed to contribute up front \$477 million, which remains the third-largest private contribution in NFL history. We've agreed to contribute \$13 million annually in operating costs, which is now 54 percent of the life-cycle costs of the project," Lester Bagley, the team's vice president of public affairs and stadium development said in announcing the team's approval of the deal May 10. "The Wilfs have stepped up and made a huge commitment to Minnesota and a huge commitment to Minnesota Viking fans. They've made a commitment to secure this franchise and to stabilize this franchise for the future generations in Minnesota."

"We're very, very pleased that the Minnesota Vikings and State of Minnesota have come to an agreement. We look forward to a long lifetime association," Lanning responded.

Not everyone was as excited.

"This will be a disservice to the state for many years to come," Rep. Tina Liebbling (DFL-Rochester) said a couple of hours later on the House floor. "I think the state got rolled."

State-issued bonds for the project will be funded from expanded electronic pull tabs and bingo. Sports-themed tipboards will be legalized; however, they are not tied to the law's financial structure. Instead, the lawful gambling organizations will be allowed to keep all the revenue from those



PHOTO BY PAUL BATTAGLIA

Vikings stadium supporters and opponents stand side-by-side outside the House Chamber May 7. The House passed its version of the stadium bill that day. The final bill was passed three days later.

games for lawful purposes and charitable contributions.

Supporters note that charities would get tax relief and more gambling proceeds under the law, while the state also would get more revenue. Minneapolis would kick in its \$150 million by extending until 2047 and redirecting sales taxes used to pay off construction bonds for the city's convention center to the stadium once the convention center bonds are paid off in 2020. The sales tax money comes from hospitality taxes collected from hotels, bars and restaurants.

It is anticipated that the state would get \$58 million per year in expanded gambling revenues. The charities would get \$14 million, although it is not as much tax relief as they sought.

In case the gambling revenue does not cover the state share, the bill contains two blink-on taxes: a sports-themed lottery game that is expected to produce at least \$2.1 million per year and a 10 percent admission tax on luxury seats that is estimated to bring in \$1 million annually.

Nonetheless, some members voting against the plan did so because they oppose any increase in gambling. Others said the state is overestimating how much money the expanded gambling will raise.

A supporter of user-funded financing, Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen (R-Glencoe) said increased gambling is a regressive tax,

especially on lower-income people. "We're robbing the poor to subsidize the rich."

Among arguments expressed by opponents is that the state should not be spending hundreds of millions of dollars to build a stadium for a billionaire, the team is not going to move if a deal were not completed this year and that the state has more important issues.

"If we're going to raise money or taxes of any sort, why doesn't it go to education or health care or the other things that have been cut or that we owe money to," Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) said during the initial House passage of the bill. "I don't understand the priority tonight of voting for a stadium that a lot of people will not even be able to afford tickets to go to."

Supporters countered that the facility would be home to just 10 Vikings' games a year, and possibly one or two in the postseason, leaving the other 350 or so days available for other events, including high school and amateur sports, and community festivals. They also spoke about the estimated 13,000 construction jobs — approximately 4 million hours — that will be needed to build the facility.

"It's a fantastic opportunity in this down time for us to put a bunch of tradespeople to work," said Rep. Denny McNamara (R-Hastings). "Our trades are suffering; they need the work. We can build this building at a reasonable price today. It's the right thing to do."

In the days before the legislation was debated by the House and Senate, lawmakers were flooded with phone calls and e-mails from supporters. Hundreds of purple-clad fans also showed up at the Capitol to show their support.

“The passion of the fans carried us over the top,” Wilf said.

A portion of the city sales tax money would also be reallocated to potentially rehabilitate the Target Center in Minneapolis. Lanning said that without that provision, the city would not support the stadium deal. To help on its side of the Mississippi River, the City of St. Paul will receive \$2.7 million for 20 years beginning in Fiscal Year 2014 “for the operating or capital costs of new or existing sports facilities.” City officials first plan to pay off the estimated \$35.5 million in outstanding bonds for the RiverCentre debt, and not on a new ballpark for the St. Paul Saints.

For fans of the European football — or soccer, as it’s known on this side of the

Atlantic Ocean — the law gives the Vikings an exclusive five-year agreement to bring in a professional team, a provision previously eliminated by the Senate. However, any such team will have to pay rent, unlike an earlier version of the legislation.

Other parts of the law include:

- a newly created Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority will oversee stadium operations;
- a 30-year lease for the Vikings;
- the team gets stadium naming-rights revenue;
- requiring the team to contribute 25 percent of a sale price to pay down remaining debt service if the team is sold within the first 10 years, declining to 15 percent in years 11-15 and 10 percent for years 16-20;
- the stadium must be operated in a first-class manner “consistent with other comparable” National Football League stadiums;
- construction cost overruns are the responsibility of the builder, and operating

cost overruns would be the responsibility of a newly formed public stadium authority;

- materials and supplies used to build the facility will be exempt from sales taxes;
- requiring the stadium authority “to contract with an employment assistance firm, preferably minority-owned, or owned by a disabled individual or a woman, to create an employment program to recruit, hire, and retain minorities for the stadium facility”; and
- requiring the Human Services Department to report annually to the Legislature, beginning in February 2014, “on the percentage of gambling revenues that come from gamblers identified as problem gamblers.”

“We promise you that we will work together to build a first-class facility, one that we can all be proud of for generations to come,” Team President Mark Wilf said at the bill signing ceremony.

HF2958*/SF2469/CH299 



PHOTO BY PAUL BATTAGLIA

As the sun rises on the Capitol May 10, superfan Larry Spooner is asleep on the ground at the back of the van that had been the headquarters for fans from the “Vikings World Order.” Spooner has advocated for a new stadium for more than a decade.

It's too little; it's too much

Money for new affordable housing initiative part of new bond funding

By LEE ANN SCHUTZ

Although not thrilled with the size of spending in the capital investment bill, Gov. Mark Dayton, nonetheless, signed off on the nearly \$500 million plan.

"It's not as much as I had hoped for, but [...] I signed the bill, and most of them are good and important projects, ones that will benefit the people of Minnesota, and benefit the institutions where they are going, and most importantly, will put thousands of people throughout Minnesota to work, which was the No. 1 priority of this legislative session," he said.

The law required some heavy-lifting from the DFL to move it off the House and Senate floors. Largely because of the jobs it will provide, the minority party put up the majority of the votes needed to move the bill along, even though many members said it should have included more projects. Republicans reminded them that when combined with the nearly \$500 million in bonding enacted last year that puts the biennial total close to \$1 billion.

Sponsors Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker) and Senate Majority Leader David Senjem (R-Rochester) shepherded the bill in and out of committees, watching it morph and change at each stop.

The party divide remained evident in debate on the House floor. Several DFLers acknowledged the projects in the bill, but also pointed out those that were sidelined.

"We missed an opportunity to build strong regional centers," said Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) referencing the omission of civic center funding for Mankato, Rochester and St. Cloud. However, she praised the \$44 million to begin the State Capitol building

renovation and the \$30 million in the law for affordable housing. She called the law "great for higher education as we train the workforce of the future." The law contains \$132.1 million for asset preservation and replacement projects at the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system and \$64 million to the University of Minnesota for asset preservation.

Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Savage) called the proposal, "the largest biennial borrowing package in state history. ... We are about to foist this onto the backs of the taxpayers. The projects in here can wait, but the debt is crushing."

Rep. Doug Wardlow (R-Eagan) said the bonding bill process is "befuddling," and that it needs reform. "I wish we could vote on each one of the projects" rather than making a collective decision. "If there is one project that makes us scratch our heads, then we have to vote no," he said.

In total, the new law, effective May 12, 2012, calls for \$496.4 million in general obligation bonding. Provisions include:

- \$49.4 million for Department of Transportation projects, including \$33 million for local bridge replacement and rehabilitation;
- \$47.5 million for Minnesota Sex Offender Program treatment facilities improvement; and
- \$46.5 million to the Department of Natural Resources, with \$30 million dedicated to flood mitigation.

The Department of Employment and Economic Development is allocated \$76.5 million, including \$47.5 million for the Business Development Through Capital Project Grants program.

Funded projects include:

- \$13.5 million to construct a new building addition to the Hormel Institute in Austin;
- \$3 million to construct a new regional public television station in Bemidji; and
- \$500,000 to design a floodwall extension in South St. Paul.


A new Greater Minnesota Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program receives \$6 million. Administered by DEED, the program seeks to help fund public infrastructure investment geared toward business expansion that would not occur without public financial assistance.

These competitive grants are available to local governmental units for eligible projects. The state grant must be matched with at least an equal amount from non-state sources. From the program, up to \$1.2 million as a matching grant is awarded to the Lake Superior-Poplar River Water District to help fund a water system. The grant program sunsets June 29, 2016.

The law also addresses affordable housing initiatives that Hausman said only happened because "housing advocates have been here every single day. They have had an enormous impact on the body here."

The new law allows DEED to issue up to \$30 million in bonds to finance the cost of supportive housing for those without a permanent residence; and for rehabilitation of foreclosed or abandoned housing that will be used for affordable rental housing.

The Harriet Tubman Center in Maplewood will receive \$2 million to help transition the facility to a regional safety service center for domestic violence shelter.

HF1752*/SF1463/CH293 

Tax trio trifecta

One makes it to law, but tax chair steamed over veto of 'smokin' hot' tax bill

By LEE ANN SCHUTZ

Three tax bills, two vetoes.
As the session neared closure, it was clear, at least to the House Taxes Committee chairman, that the session's success was conditioned on passage of a bonding bill to appease the DFL; support for a new stadium to house the Vikings,

a measure pushed by the governor; and business property tax relief, a Republican session priority. You could call it a "trifecta" for job creation in Minnesota, said Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston).

But in pretty short order, he saw Gov. Mark Dayton put the kibosh on the first tax bill, termed "smokin' hot" by Davids. That was followed up shortly after with the veto of a second, trimmed down version of the first tax bill. Both addressed the Republican priority of tax relief for business; but both, according to the governor, were "out of balance."

A third bill offering some targeted property tax relief to eligible homeowners, but mostly making technical changes to statute, made it to law; but neither the bill's sponsors or the governor were too happy with the product.

Credits – who pays?

The governor termed the first two tax bills "fiscally irresponsible," saying they provided tax relief for only one sector while ignoring others.

The first bill (HF2337*/SF1972/CH285) contained several tax credits for businesses and a proposed phase out of the state property tax levy paid by business owners and seasonal/recreational property owners. It would have cost the General Fund \$71.8 million in the 2014-2015 biennium. Republicans chose to pay for the provision

by using budget reserves, something that had little appeal to the governor.

Dayton gave the bill a quick turnaround before session's end as a signal of his willingness to work with the Legislature on a "balanced" tax bill.

Davids and Sen. Julianne Ortman (R-Chanhassen), the Senate sponsor, came back a few days later with HF247*/SF872/CH296, proposing to freeze the state tax property tax levy for one year. The General Fund impact of the new bill was to be \$46 million over the 2012-2013 biennium. The financial hole would have been filled by a \$27.9 million transfer from the budget reserve, with the rest (approximately \$18.4 million) to come from cost savings achieved in other bills passed during session.

Dayton nixed the "reduced version" after the Legislature adjourned sine die. He stated in his veto letter that the bill "ignored my requirement that any future spending must be paid for and avoid adding to the next biennium's projected deficit" of \$1.1 billion.

After the veto, Davids criticized the governor for not personally negotiating the tax bill, but leaving that to his revenue commissioner. "There was a workable solution," Davids said. "I should have pushed harder — demanded — that the business tax changes be part of any stadium negotiations.

He did a lot of damage with the veto. ... I wanted a tax bill signed."

The tax law that Davids finally got was enacted with reservations, according to a letter from Dayton laying out his concerns.

With various effective dates, the law:

- provides targeted tax relief for homeowners equal to 90 percent of any tax increase over 12 percent for pay 2012 only;
- freezes pay 2013 city local government aid payments at 100 percent of pay 2012 amounts for larger cities and at the greater of 2012 aid or 2013 aid under the LGA formula for smaller cities with a population under 5,000;
- provides additional aid payments of \$12,000 in 2012 and 2013 to the city of Tamarack; and
- forgives the LGA penalties for late filing of 2010 city financial reports with the state auditor provided that all reports are in by May 31, 2012.

Dayton said the reallocation of LGA funding nearly caused a veto because this provision "would create many winners (i.e., cities which would receive more aid than was allocated under the LGA formula), but also some very serious losers, who would receive considerably less money than under current law." Since the bill was passed overwhelmingly by both bodies, Dayton questioned if legislators fully understood the consequences when they voted.

He signed the law because of the \$4.1 million of property tax relief for some homeowners.

"While this program aids only those homeowners affected most severely, and only for one year despite permanent property tax increases, it is virtually the only aid this Legislature has provided them in the session," Dayton said.

HF2690*/SF2136/CH294 

NEW LAWS

JANUARY 24 - MAY 23, 2012

Editor's note: The following are governor's actions on bills through May 23. Designations used in New Law and Veto summaries: HF-House File; SF-Senate File; CH-Chapter; and *- the bill language acted on by governor.

Budget

Protections for newborn information

Parents of newborns will have the chance to more clearly understand a medical facility's newborn screening program and what happens with the blood samples and testing results it collects.

A new law, primarily crafted to align appropriations contained in the February Economic Forecast, also lays out the newborn screening provision.

Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville), who sponsors the law with Sen. Clare Robling (R-Jordan), said the provision begins to address her concern that privacy laws are not keeping pace with the changes to medical technology.

Parents would clearly have the ability to opt out of the testing prior to it taking place. The law also details how long samples and test results can be kept and how parents can revoke their consent for storage and use. While most of the law is effective Aug. 1, 2012, the newborn screening provisions takes effect May 11, 2012.

One-time appropriations made in the law include:

- \$472,000 in fiscal year 2012 to the commissioner of public safety for soft body armor reimbursements;
 - \$457,000 in fiscal year 2013 for equipment updates needed by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system;
 - \$235,000 in fiscal year 2012 to provide a match for Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster assistance;
 - \$200,000 in fiscal year 2013 for Minnesota County Veteran Service Officers to help eligible veterans discern the availability of benefits they have earned and especially those relating to post-traumatic stress disorder; and
 - \$100,000 in fiscal year 2013 to compensate honor guards at the funerals of veterans.
- The new law also makes forecast

adjustments for K-12 education programs and human services programming.

HF2967*/SF2558/CH292

— L. SCHUTZ

Fund transfers to end in 2015

Beginning in 2015, the state will no longer take money out of a pair of special accounts to help shore up the General Fund.

The fire safety account and the construction code fund, both of which are funded by special surcharges, have been tapped in recent years to help balance the state's budget. Critics say this has diverted money away from these two funds' legitimate purposes: firefighting activities and building inspections.

Effective July 1, 2015 unless otherwise noted, a new law will end the statutory transfers of money out of these two accounts. It will also reduce the respective surcharges that fund them. Specifically:

- the 0.65 percent surcharge on homeowners' insurance that funds the fire safety account will be reduced to 0.5 percent, effective July 1, 2013; and
- the \$5 building permit surcharge that funds the construction code fund will be reduced to \$1, effective July 1, 2015.

Sponsored by Rep. Carolyn McElpatrick (R-Deer River) and Sen. Al DeKruif (R-Madison Lake), the law also establishes base funding for the state fire marshal and for firefighter training and education for fiscal years 2014 and 2015. It also appropriates \$4.5 million for fiscal year 2013 to the Department of Public Safety for fire-related activities.

HF2172/SF1983*/CH289

— N. BUSSE

Business & Commerce

Business solicitation restriction

Licensed health care providers will be unable to use third parties to solicit business from those who have been in automobile accidents, unless they clearly provide their names and the clinics where they work.

Sponsored by Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) and Sen. Paul Gazelka (R-Brainerd), the law will require this information to be disclosed

to consumers. Violating the statute could result in license revocation.

Abeler explained that the law would impact companies that may use unethical business practices, such as promising specific financial damages to those injured, or using actors posing as law enforcement to attract customers.

The law is effective Jan. 1, 2013.

HF2749/SF2342*/CH255

— E. SCHMIDTKE

Licensure clarification for closers

Some misplaced cross references in law significantly changed which entities would be exempted from licensure as a real estate broker when acting as a closing agent.

A new law, effective May 2, 2012, reinstates previous law. It exempts licensed attorneys

Dear Readers:

This final issue of Session Weekly provides a wrap-up of all action during the 2012 session, as well as an opportunity to renew your Session Weekly subscription for the following two years.

At the end of every biennium, postal regulations require us to purge our mailing list and start over. On page 47, you will find information about renewing your complimentary Session Weekly subscription. Rather than returning the form to our office, you can renew your subscription online at www.house.mn/swform.htm or by calling our office at 651-296-2146 or 800-657-3550.

On page 48 there is a survey that we hope you will take time to complete.

Of course, legislative activity does not come to a standstill during the interim, and updates will be available through a number of resources:

- Session Daily, a nonpartisan electronic news source, will be updated as necessary during the interim at www.house.mn/hinfo/sdaily.asp;
- follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/MNHouseInfo or like us on Facebook at facebook.com/MNHouseInfo;
- House committee and legislative commission schedules will be updated at www.house.mn/hinfo/hinfosched.asp; and
- some meetings will be streamed live on the House website. Information is available at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hvt/schedule.asp>.

To receive any or all of these free updates from House Public Information Services, simply sign up at www.house.mn/hinfo/subscribesw.asp or call 651-296-2146 or 800-657-3550.

— Session Weekly staff

and their direct employees from being licensed by the Department of Commerce as a real estate closing agent in order to handle real estate closings.

The law is sponsored by Rep. Pat Mazorol (R-Bloomington) and Sen. Scott Newman (R-Hutchinson).

HF2705*/SF2340/CH260

— L. SCHUTZ

Licensing for satellite installers

Those who install satellite systems at customers' homes will find themselves going through a separate licensing process beginning Oct. 1, 2012.

Currently, these installers, as well as those who work with pools, heating and air conditioning, must obtain a low-voltage technician license.

Rep. Tim Sanders (R-Blaine) and Sen. John Pederson (R-St. Cloud) sponsor a new law that provides for a separate licensing structure that the sponsors believe more appropriately fits the duties of satellite installers.

Sanders said the law is needed because a 2002 statute creating the current licensing structure unnecessarily included satellite installers, whose work differs from others who need the license. He said the change will not affect the Department of Labor and Industry, which will still oversee the issuance of these licenses.

HF2732/SF2324*/CH262

— E. SCHMIDTKE

Contractor insurance law modified

A residential contractor providing home improvement or repairs cannot compensate a homeowner by paying his or her insurance deductibles in exchange for the homeowner hiring the contractor to do work covered by insurance.

This is outlined in a new law that expands a trade practices law already in place, which had previously banned only contractors doing repair or replacement of residential roofing or siding from offering to make those payments.

The law is effective Aug. 1, 2012. Rep. Joe Hoppe (R-Chaska) and Sen. Gary Dahms (R-Redwood Falls) are the sponsors.

HF2553/SF2137*/CH248

— E. SCHMIDTKE

TUNED IN



PHOTO BY PAUL BATTAGLIA

Reps. Kent Eken, Tina Liebling and Kerry Gauthier use headsets to listen to the debate on the House floor May 9. The acoustics in the House Chamber sometimes make it difficult for members to hear the proceedings.

Civil Law

More judges can perform marriages

Larry Neilson of St. Paul would like his sister to perform the marriage of his daughter. A new law will allow her to do so.

His sister is an administrative judge. While most judges are able to perform the duty, administrative judges were not, under previous law.

That will change effective Aug. 1, 2012.

Rep. Bev Scalze (DFL-Little Canada) and Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville) sponsor the law.

HF2447*/SF2106/CH241

— L. SCHUTZ

Conciliation court claim limit upped

The monetary limit for filing a civil action in conciliation court is increasing for the first time since 1994.

Effective Aug. 1, 2012, the general monetary limit will increase from \$7,500 to \$10,000. That cap will increase to \$15,000, which will coincide with the limit on forfeitures, beginning Aug. 1, 2014. Consumer credit transaction claims will keep a \$4,000 cap.

According to the Office of Attorney General, "Conciliation court is often called 'people's court' or 'small claims court' because its basic purpose is to help people recover relatively small sums of money without having to hire a lawyer. Conciliation court allows you to bring your legal disputes to a court without the hassles of confusing legal procedures and high costs. Court rules are generally simple and informal, and the cost of filing in conciliation court is low."

Opponents said this law will give Minnesota the second-highest limits in the country, which could be detrimental to consumers.

Rep. Ron Shimanski (R-Silver Lake), who sponsors the law with Sen. Julianne Ortman (R-Chanhassen), said the law is in response to a December 2011 report put forth by Minnesota Supreme Court Civil Justice Reform Task Force. He said the law meets the needs of the courts and provides a savings by removing some district court burden from hearing claims that can be addressed in the less expensive conciliation court.

HF868/SF506*/CH283

— M. COOK

Consumers

Protection against coercion

Anyone who thinks they have been coerced into purchasing a home improvement product or service from a door-to-door sales agent will have three days to cancel or request a return of payment or goods without penalty.

The protection is contained in a new law, effective Aug. 1, 2012, sponsored by Rep. Andrea Kieffer (R-Woodbury) and Sen. Ted Daley (R-Eagan).

The law also implements fraud prevention measures directed at those providing money transmitting services.

Each money transmitter shall:

- provide a clear, concise and conspicuous consumer fraud warning on all transmittal forms used by consumers;
- provide consumer fraud prevention training for agents involved with transmittals;
- monitor agent activity relating to consumer transmittals; and
- establish a toll-free number for consumers to call to report fraud or suspected fraud.

Additionally, the law protects a vulnerable adult who may be coerced by a scam artist into transmitting money.

According to the nonpartisan House Research Department, the law requires money transmitters to allow individuals to disqualify themselves from sending or receiving money transfers. The disqualification lasts for one year, unless the consumer asks for it to be in effect for a longer period or terminates the disqualification.

HF2173*/SF2067/CH234

— L. SCHUTZ

Alcohol permitted at Gopher games

College football fans will soon be able to purchase alcohol at the University of Minnesota's TCF Bank Stadium.

As part of this session's omnibus liquor law, alcohol will be available for the general public as well as those seated in suites. The law states that one of the beers served in the designated "beer garden" within the stadium must be brewed in Minnesota. The types of other beers sold would be determined by the university's Board of Regents. This section takes effect Aug. 1, 2012.

Sponsored by Rep. Joe Atkins (DFL-Inver

Grove Heights) and Sen. Chris Gerlach (R-Apple Valley), the law also:

- permits Kick's Liquor Store to operate at an interim location until the business can move to a new facility. The store was damaged beyond repair during the 2011 tornado in north Minneapolis. This is effective upon approval by the Minneapolis City Council;
- allows liquor stores to sell clothing bearing the logo of the store, effective April 28, 2012. This would expand the types of products stores may sell, which range from alcohol to home-brewing equipment to tobacco products; and
- grants liquor stores permission to hold classes where there is tasting of alcohol in limited amounts, effective April 28, 2012. Store owners previously testified that this is an additional service they would like to offer customers.

HF2784/SF2392*/CH235

— E. SCHMIDTKE

Portable electronic device insurance

Legislation regulating insurance on portable electronic devices will be clarified.

Rep. Diane Anderson (R-Eagan), who sponsors the new law with Sen. Paul Gazelka (R-Brainerd), said this insurance covers the loss or damage to portable devices such as

mobile phones, laptops and iPads. Coverage is typically sold at the place of purchase.

Legislation passed in 2010 exempted the counterperson from having to be an independent insurance agent and required a vendor to provide training and keep a list of all locations that sell the insurance. Because many more places now sell portable electronics devices, supporters said system updates are needed.

The largely technical law, effective Jan. 1, 2013, requires that the insurance must be sold separately, not as part of a package deal; allows training for the insurance to be done electronically; requires a mandated disclosure to affirmatively state that upon cancellation of the coverage that the premium will be refunded on a ratable basis to the customer; and allows coverage correspondence notice to be sent by mail or electronically.

HF2638*/SF2310/CH259

— M. COOK

Economic Development

Demolition loans, ombudsman office

Local governments will be able to apply for state loans to demolish old buildings and make way for redevelopment.

VIKINGS BONDING PROPOSAL



PHOTO BY PAUL BATTAGLIA

At an April 30 press conference, House Speaker Kurt Zellers, right, and Senate Majority Leader David Senjem discuss a bonding proposal to fund a stadium that would house the Minnesota Vikings.

NEW LAWS

The provision is among a handful of economic development programs included in a new law. Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) and Sen. Julie Rosen (R-Fairmont) are the sponsors. Unless otherwise noted, all provisions take effect Aug. 1, 2012.

The law will add demolition loans to the possible uses of a redevelopment account operated by the Department of Employment and Economic Development. The loans, which can be up to \$1 million in principal, can be used to tear down properties that pose a public safety threat and that meet certain other criteria specified in the law. They will have a maximum term of 15 years and a maximum interest rate of 2 percent. Various other terms and conditions apply.

The law also creates an ombudsman position within DEED to help small businesses navigate government regulations. The "small business advocate office" will utilize existing resources and will not require any new employees or other expenditures. The office is meant to provide "one-stop access" for businesses that require "information or assistance in obtaining or renewing licenses, meeting state regulatory requirements, or resolving disputes with state agencies."

Another provision in the law addresses an issue specific to Albert Lea, where the city has excess sewer capacity and seeks to entice new industrial developments. It allows the city to establish a "sewer charge rebate program" to incentivize new or expanded businesses. This provision is effective upon local compliance.

HF1721*/SF1441/CH288

— N. BUSSE

Education

Administrators board can enforce fees

School administrators who don't pay their annual licensing fees to the Board of School Administrators will have their licenses suspended until they make the \$75 payment.

A new law states that the board must give administrators clear notification of the consequences of missing that payment. When an administrator's license is suspended, the board must notify the administrator's district of that change immediately.

This provision is effective for fiscal year 2013 and later.

The Board of School Administrators will also see a change in its calendar from an annual year

to a fiscal year. The law provides for the board to adjust fees as needed during the transition. This section is effective May 1, 2012.

The law also clarifies that, effective Aug. 1, 2012, the board may approve as well as disapprove preparation programs for school administrators.

Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) and Sen. Gen Olson (R-Minnetrissa) sponsor the law.

HF2759/SF2535*/CH257

— E. SCHMIDTKE

Omnibus education law signed

A new law addresses veteran's military pay, postsecondary enrollment options and payment to teachers charged with a felony.

Rep. Pat Garofalo (R-Farmington) and Sen. Gen Olson (R-Minnetrissa) sponsor the law, effective Aug. 1, 2012, unless otherwise noted.

One section of the law requires school districts to pay employee salary differential to those who have been deployed in the National Guard or other reserves. Funds remaining at the end of the year can be used to pay for substitutes for the deployed employees. The change is effective for school districts with employees serving in active military duty on or after July 1, 2012.

Previously, the law oftentimes only resulted in partial payment to service members.

The law will expand postsecondary enrollment options as well. Through that program, students may take classes at certain colleges while still completing high school. The law will extend PSEO from only high school juniors and seniors to 10th grade students by permitting them to enroll in career or technical courses at qualified postsecondary institutions. If a student receives a "C" or better in the class, he or she will be able to take additional credits at the school.

Further changes to PSEO address low-income students by allowing them to apply for transportation reimbursement.

Teachers charged with felonies will also be impacted by the law. Those under that type of investigation can be suspended without pay, pending the conclusion of a hearing. This section is effective April 28, 2012.

Another part of the law provides for an individualized learning agreement for districts. Individualized learning allows schools to work with students to develop their own curriculum based on their unique interests and strengths. This section is also effective April 28, 2012.

HF2949*/SF2482/CH239

— E. SCHMIDTKE

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS RALLY



PHOTO BY PAUL BATTAGLIA

Rep. Tony Cornish, right, talks with construction workers Mike Connelly, from left, Josh Bassais and Dan McGowan who rallied May 1 with other workers in support of a new Vikings stadium.

Trust land management overhauled

Management of Minnesota's school trust lands will undergo significant changes, starting next summer.

When it became a state, Minnesota received the lands from the federal government with the requirement of using, selling or leasing them to fund education. Sponsored by Rep. Tim O'Driscoll (R-Sartell) and Sen. Benjamin Kruse (R-Brooklyn Park), the new law provides that responsibility of overseeing trust lands be removed from the Department of Natural Resources. It will transfer land oversight to a school trust lands director and the Legislative Permanent School Fund Commission.

Along with the input of the commissioner of natural resources, the legislative commission and director will review bills related to the lands and ensure the lands are managed efficiently to increase economic returns. Supporters of the new law say that the department has failed to do this. The department will continue to be the chief trustee of the lands until the law becomes effective July 1, 2013.

HF2244*/SF1889/CH249

— E. SCHMIDTKE

Education pilot program OK'd

A pilot program will allow school districts to pool resources to provide innovative delivery of programs and activities, with increased student achievement in mind.

Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) and Sen. Al DeKruif (R-Madison Lake) sponsor the law that will establish a five-year pilot project managed by the Education Department. Groups of schools will apply for the program, with three to six selected to participate. The department will then monitor the project for successful results and recommend whether it should be continued.

Erickson said that the law will provide schools with an opportunity to be innovative and "move away from the status quo of programming or the status quo of using resources. ... I think this is really an exciting time for school districts to consider this."

The law is effective May 2, 2012, and applies to the 2013-2014 through 2017-2018 school years.

HF755/SF946*/CH263

— E. SCHMIDTKE

Digital learning grad requirements

A new law sponsored by Rep. Pam Myhra (R-Burnsville) and Sen. Carla Nelson (R-Rochester) will require students graduating in 2017 and later to receive one digital learning course credit. Though the subject matter can vary from English to economics, the method of instruction would need to be based in technology.

Myhra and other supporters said the law is needed for Minnesota's students to learn needed technology skills, which will help them stay competitive in later life. Myhra believes the "blended learning" approach helps students learn about subjects that interest them at an individualized pace.

Opponents said that low-income school districts, especially those in rural areas where broadband access is less common, would be unable to meet the standards.

HF2127/SF1528*/CH273

— E. SCHMIDTKE

Elections

Election changes now law

Absentee voters will no longer have their ballots rejected just because they forget to write the date on the envelope.

The change is included in a new law that makes a handful of mostly minor changes to the state's election statutes.

Previously, absentee voters' ballots were not counted if they forgot to write in the date next to their signature on the ballot envelope. Effective June 29, 2012, voters are still required to sign the required oath, but no longer have to write in the date.

Two other provisions are included in the law:

- effective April 28, 2012, banning political party units from punishing non-endorsed candidates from running for office by imposing financial penalties; and
- effective Aug. 1, 2012, making a technical change necessary to accommodate the date for this year's Republican National Convention.

At one point, a provision was included that would have moved the state's primary from August to June, but it was removed in conference committee.

Rep. Tim Sanders (R-Blaine) sponsors the law with Sen. Roger Chamberlain (R-Lino Lakes).

HF2545/SF2296*/CH250

— N. BUSSE

Disclosure requirements for utilities

Public utility companies will be required to itemize their lobbying disclosure reports instead of just reporting a single, summary dollar amount.

A new law is designed to help the public distinguish between different types of lobbying activity by electric utilities. It will require them to separate out normal lobbying activity from cases of rate setting, certificates of need, and power plant and power-line siting in their disclosure reports.

The utilities requested the change. They argued that the old requirement of reporting a single number made it appear as if their lobbying expenditures were unusually high, when in fact much of what fell under the disclosure reporting requirements didn't amount to "lobbying" in the usual sense.

The law takes effect March 15, 2013. Rep. Joyce Peppin (R-Rogers) and Sen. Ray Vandever (R-Forest Lake) are the sponsors.

HF2684/SF2334*/CH251

— N. BUSSE

It all begins with an election certificate

If you've got \$100 to put down as a filing fee, and you can meet the following requirements, you can run for the Minnesota House of Representatives or Senate.

Those seeking to file as a candidate for the Legislature must have been a resident of Minnesota for at least a year prior to the general election.

Candidates must be a resident of the district they seek to represent for a period of six months prior to the general election, and must be 21 years of age at the time the term to be served begins.

Those seeking to file in a multi-county legislative district must file at the Secretary of State's office and those within single-county legislative districts may file at the respective county auditor's office.

Dates to know:

Filing deadline for Legislature: May 22-June 5

Primary Election: Aug. 14

Election Day: Nov. 6

Legislature scheduled to convene: Jan. 8, 2013

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's Web page at: www.leg.mn

FIRST TO FILE



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Rep. Joyce Peppin prepares for a long night in front of the Minnesota Secretary of State's Election Office May 21 in an effort to be the first to file for office May 22.

HAVA appropriations

The Office of the Secretary of State will have another \$750,000 to carry out its election administration duties.

A new law appropriates funds from the Help America Vote Act reserve account, which is funded by the federal government. Appropriating money from the fund is a routine duty for the Legislature.

The law specifies that \$120,000 of the total amount is to support local election officials and \$50,000 is for compliance with the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act.

A provision in the law also states that the office may not compensate for any funding reductions for its election duties by reducing business services.

The law takes effect July 1, 2012. Rep. Morrie Lanning (R-Moorhead) and Sen. Mike Parry (R-Waseca) are the sponsors.

HF2269*/SF1832/CH282

— N. BUSSE

Employment

Disclosure of settlement information

The Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District paid an employee more than a quarter-million dollars as part of a settlement package earlier this year. Due to legal restrictions, it was unable to provide the public with information about the agreement.

A new law, sponsored by Rep. Pam Myhra (R-Burnsville) and Sen. Dan Hall (R-Burnsville), spells out the conditions for data release relating to dismissal of a public employee, if the government entity is paying out \$10,000 or more.

Regardless of the size of a community, if a complaint is filed against a chief administrative officer or a person acting in an equivalent position, they would be required to be identified. In a city with a population of more than 7,500 or a county with a population of more than 5,000, the law

would relate to a broader category of positions.

Data relating to a complaint or charge against an employee will be public only if the complaint or charge results in disciplinary action; the employee resigns or is terminated from employment while the complaint or charge is pending; or potential legal claims arising out of the conduct that is the subject of the complaint or charge are released as part of a settlement agreement with another person.

The law is effective May 5, 2012, and applies to any agreement entered into or modified after that date.

HF2647*/SF2409/CH280

— L. SCHUTZ

Pension changes now law

The state's pension system will have to assume a lower rate of return on its investments, under a plan that supporters hope will strengthen its long-term financial outlook.

The change is one of a handful of key provisions in this year's omnibus retirement

law. Sponsored by Rep. Morrie Lanning (R-Moorhead) and Sen. Julie Rosen (R-Fairmont), it comprises the work of the bipartisan Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement.

Under the provisions, the assumed rate of return used to calculate the fiscal health of the state's pension funds will be lowered from 8.5 percent to 8 percent for a period of five years, during which time actuarial studies would determine whether further adjustments are needed.

Supporters say the change will ensure the state's pension funds have a realistic assessment of their unfunded liabilities. Since 1980, the State Board of Investment has produced annualized returns of slightly less than 10 percent; however, in the last 10 years, the rate of return has been just 5.9 percent.

Lowering the assumed rate of return will not directly impact the levels of contributions or benefits affecting current and former public employees. However, since it might increase the state's unfunded liabilities, adjustments might be needed in the future.

Other provisions in the law include a variety of technical and federal conforming changes and provisions to address a number of specific pension issues around the state.

The law has various effective dates. A more detailed, article-by-article breakdown of its provisions can be found on the commission's website.

HF2199/SF1808*/CH286

— N. BUSSE

Fighting employee misclassification

Unscrupulous employers sometimes label their workers "independent contractors" to avoid paying things like unemployment insurance, workers' compensation and employment taxes. In doing so, they deny those workers the benefits and protections afforded to regular employees.

Supporters of a new law hope it will help put an end to the practice. Effective July 1, 2012, the law will clarify who is considered an "independent contractor" and require the Department of Labor and Industry to implement a pilot project to ensure that all construction workers are properly registered with the state.

Under the provisions, anyone performing construction services in the state who is not already licensed or registered under another

section of law will have to register under the new program. This program will replace the old Independent Contractor Exemption Certificate. There will be no registration fee, but penalties may apply to those who fail to register.

A 2007 report by the Office of the Legislative Auditor found that one out of every seven employers had misclassified one or more workers in 2005. The report stated that it was likely a conservative estimate, because it didn't account for employers who pay cash "under the table" or who don't register with the unemployment system. The report also found that the practice of misclassification was highest in industries like real estate and construction, particularly the areas of roofing, drywall and residential remodeling.

The law also includes a number of technical and housekeeping changes requested by the Department of Labor and Industry. These take effect Aug. 1, 2012.

Rep. Tim Sanders (R-Blaine) and Sen. John Pederson (R-St. Cloud) are the sponsors.

HF2093/SF1653*/CH295

— N. BUSSE

Energy

Energy efficiency funds available

Community energy assistance totaling \$500,000 will be available for efficiency projects through the Department of Commerce.

Effective July 1, 2012, grants for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects will be available through June 30, 2013.

Sponsored by Rep. Paul Torkelson (R-Nelson Township) and Sen. Doug Magnus (R-Slayton), the law also requires that people or organizations receiving grants submit detailed reports of efficiency project spending to the Legislature by Oct. 1, 2013.

HF2731*/SF2216/CH237

— B. GEIGER

Easing co-op regulations

Electric cooperatives that generate more than 80 percent of their business outside Minnesota will be relieved of filling out Minnesota regulatory forms.

A new law, effective April 29, 2012, applies to electric associations that have at

least 80 percent of its member distribution cooperatives located outside the state, and that provide less than 4 percent of the electricity annually sold at retail in the state.

In lieu of filing a resource plan, the cooperative can elect to file an annual report that must include projected demand levels for the next 15 years and generation resources to meet any projected generation deficiencies.

The law is sponsored by Rep. Rich Murray (R-Albert Lea) and Sen. Dan Sparks (DFL-Austin).

HF2747/ SF2098*/CH268

— B. GEIGER

Env. & Natural Resources

Omnibus environment law signed

Fighting invasive species, helping business owners and improving water management are among the major themes of this year's omnibus environment and natural resources law.

Effective July 1, 2012, the law establishes an advisory inspection process to help businesses proactively comply with regulations. Rather than find out the hard way that they're in violation of state laws or rules and face financial penalties, businesses can contact state agencies and request an advisory inspection.

If an inspector identifies violations, the business can avoid any penalties as long as they're corrected within 60 days. Several agencies are exempted from the provisions, including the Department of Revenue. The law also states that the exemption from penalties does not apply to conduct involving fraud and various other circumstances.

Another focus of the law is combating the spread of aquatic invasive species. It increases civil penalties for transporting certain aquatic invasive species and doubles the fines for repeat offenders. Conservation officers will also be granted authority to order watercraft and other equipment to be removed from waters when necessary, and the DNR can require mandatory inspections at water access sites.

The law will also establish a new aquatic invasive species prevention program that includes educational courses and testing. Beginning July 1, 2015, the law will require that all watercraft trailers display an "aquatic invasive species trailer decal." (Failure to do so



PHOTO BY PAUL BATTAGLIA

Rep. Denny McNamara discusses the omnibus environment conference committee report on the House floor April 27.

will be punishable only by a warning, however.)

To improve watershed management in the state, the law includes a number of provisions that will allow the Board of Water and Soil Resources to better coordinate with local entities and create “comprehensive water management plans.”

Other provisions include:

- allowing local governments to establish alternative standards for subsurface sewage treatment systems, under certain conditions;
- requiring the balance of the minerals management account in excess of \$3 million be distributed proportionally to certain counties as well as the permanent school fund and the permanent university fund; and
- establishing a number of requirements for agencies to make reports and recommendations to the Legislature on various subjects.

The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2012, except where otherwise noted. Rep. Denny

McNamara (R-Hastings) and Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen (R-Alexandria) are the sponsors. HF2164*/SF1830/CH272

— N. BUSSE

Stopping aquatic invasive species

Land purchases and funding for aquatic invasive species projects are the primary focus of the 2012 omnibus Legacy Funding law, which provides \$99.9 million for prairie, forest and wetlands projects for Outdoor Heritage Fund projects in fiscal year 2013.

Sponsored by Rep. Dean Urdahl (R-Grove City) and Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen (R-Alexandria), the law includes \$11.3 million to defend Minnesota waters against Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species. That funding is part of the \$28.62 million devoted to habitats.

The largest portion of that funding, \$7.5 million, will be appropriated to the Department of Natural Resources to design, construct, operate and evaluate structural deterrents against the fish.

The University of Minnesota will receive \$1.8 million to create an Aquatic Invasive Species Cooperative Research Center. The university will collaborate with the DNR to develop aquatic invasive species controls. A portion of the funding will be spent to educate Minnesotans on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The remaining \$2.5 million will be available to accelerate existing aquatic invasive species program funding, including a best management practices program for public water access facilities and \$50,000 to produce a documentary about the challenges presented by the spread of aquatic invasive species.

The law also contributes:

- \$31.14 million for wetlands, including \$13.81 million to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore wetlands and associated upland habitat in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture Wetlands Reserve Program;
- \$24.64 million for prairie projects, including: \$4.3 million for the DNR to accelerate restoration and enhancement of wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas and land under native prairie bank easements; and
- \$15.3 million for forests, including \$11.04 million for the Mississippi Northwoods

Habitat Complex. Located near Brainerd, the 1,882-acre tract gives the state valuable river frontage.

Other funding includes a framework for a film production jobs program to be administered by the Minnesota Film and TV Board and overseen by the Department of Administration. A related effort designed to attract feature film producers to Minnesota is a \$600,000 incentive program. Funding for the incentive program will be dispersed by the board and the Independent Feature Project/Minnesota.

Funding of \$80,000 will be appropriated to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War and Dakota Conflict — \$50,000 to the Minnesota Public Television Association and \$30,000 for public radio grants. The law also contains \$35,000 to create a searchable historical rulemaking website for state agency rulemaking.

HF2430/SF2493*/CH264

— B. GEIGER

Health & Human Services

Registration for dental labs

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

A new law will require dental laboratories to register with the Board of Dentistry and track the origin of lab materials. The law calls for an initial biennial registration fee of \$50, with a biennial renewal fee of \$25.

Sponsored by Rep. Tim Kelly (R-Red Wing) and Sen. John Howe (R-Red Wing), most provisions in the law are effective Jan. 1, 2013.

The law also defines a dental laboratory as a corporation, partnership, sole proprietor or business entity engaged in the manufacture or repair of dental prosthetic appliances. This definition does not include a dental laboratory that is physically located within a dental practice if the dental prosthetic appliances are manufactured or repaired for the exclusive use of the dentist or dentists within the practice.

No registered dental laboratory will be authorized to perform or authorize any dental technological work without a valid work order from a licensed dentist, which may be handwritten, faxed or sent

electronically using an electronic signature.

During fiscal year 2013, \$15,000 is appropriated from the state government special revenue fund to the Board of Dentistry to help implement the new law.

HF614/SF288*/CH269

— L. SCHUTZ

MRI services need accreditation

Advanced diagnostic imaging services will require the provider and facility to be accredited beginning Aug. 1, 2013, according to a new law.

Sponsored by Rep. Mary Kiffmeyer (R-Big Lake) and Sen. Sean Nienow (R-Cambridge), the law is needed to protect consumers and to align with federal standards for Medicaid reimbursement policy.

Services may be accredited by the American College of Radiology, the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission or another relevant accreditation organization designated by the federal government. The facilities must report their accreditation annually to the state health commissioner.

HF2276*/SF1811/CH228

— S. HEGARTY

Electronic prescriptions permitted

Technical changes will be made to laws governing how doctors submit prescriptions to pharmacies for controlled substances, effective Aug. 1, 2012.

The modifications will allow doctors to issue prescriptions electronically in instances where current law requires prescribing through a written or oral method.

Rep. Bob Barrett (R-Lindstrom) and Sen. David Hann (R-Eden Prairie) sponsor the law.

Proponents said the technical changes should result in more efficient prescribing and a cost savings.

HF2532*/SF2128/CH246

— S. HEGARTY

Miscellaneous health policies

Medical clinics with only one or two doctors will have more time to comply with electronic prescription drug requirements. All others were required to comply in 2011. Effective July 1, 2012, the smaller clinics will have until Jan. 1, 2015, to comply.

Sponsored by Rep. Steve Gottwalt (R-St. Cloud) and Sen. David Hann (R-Eden Prairie), the new law also contains the

following provisions:

- allowing the health commissioner to include Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollee's coverage expiration dates on a monthly roster, if the provider requests it. Proponents said this will help providers prevent lapses in public health care coverage (Art. 1, Sec. 3);
- enabling counties and local social service agencies to negotiate supplemental agreements with residential placement contract vendors. The agreement must be designed to encourage successful and cost-effective outcomes for clients and may include incentive pay for positive performance;
- entering into a reciprocal agreement with Bermuda to enforce child support obligations, effective when Bermuda agrees in writing or expiring if not enforced by Dec. 31, 2013;
- allowing an exemption so that nursing service providers may participate in an elderly waiver assessment for people with disabilities; and
- exempting Webber swimming pond in Minneapolis from having to comply with certain Health Department swimming pool regulations, effective May 1, 2012.

HF2627*/SF2208/CH253

— S. HEGARTY

Council sunset dates extended

A quartet of advisory councils will have their sunset dates extended.

A new law extends the expiration date from June 30, 2012, to June 30, 2014, of the American Indian Advisory Council, which advises the human services commissioner on developing policies and procedures relating to chemical dependency and the abuse of alcohol and other drugs by American Indians, and the Citizens Advisory Council, which advises the commissioner on issues related to alcohol and other drug dependency and abuse.

Also extended by those dates are the American Indian Child Welfare Advisory Council and the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council.

The law also recognizes the authority of the Sunset Commission to review the continuance of these councils when the Human Services Department is scheduled to do so 2014.

Rep. Bob Barrett (R-Lindstrom) and Sen. Dan Hall (R-Burnsville) sponsor the law that

takes effect Aug. 1, 2012.

HF1993/SF1679*/CH271

— M. COOK

Higher Education

Bonding, textbook, changes

Bonding authority for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system will increase from \$300 million to \$405 million as part of the omnibus higher education law.

The law is effective Aug. 1, 2012, unless otherwise noted.

Sponsored by Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) and Senate President Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville), the law will allow MnSCU to fund priority projects at five state universities and design future projects at other campuses. The law is effective Aug. 1, 2012, unless otherwise noted.

The law also reallocates, beginning Jan. 1, 2013, up to \$25 million of the permanent University of Minnesota fund mineral research account for the Natural Resources Research Institute to fund development of a mining-related engineering program offered by the University of Minnesota at Mesabi Range Community and Technical College, and provide scholarships for students in the program.

MnSCU and the university must post course information, including, to the extent possible, a list of the required and recommended course materials on a website. Instructors will be required to notify bookstores of required and recommended course material at least 45 days before the start of each term.

Other provisions in the law include:

- effective July 1, 2012, both systems will be able to stay open during a government shutdown;
- the MnSCU Board of Trustees is to establish a work group to study ways to lower textbook costs for students;
- the university is to transfer \$645,000 to the Hennepin County Medical Center for graduate family medicine programs in fiscal year 2013; and
- public postsecondary institutions must grant waivers from their required student health insurance plan coverage if the student has plan coverage from another source and requests a waiver.

HF2065/SF1573*/CH270

— B. GEIGER

Local Government

Grants to EMS providers

Cities and townships will be able to make grants to first responders, just as they've done in the past with hospitals.

Effective Aug. 1, 2012, a new law will allow local governments to make grants to emergency medical services agencies that serve their communities. The grants will need to be authorized by the local town board or city council.

Under current statute, qualifying EMS agencies include any "agency, entity, or organization that employs or uses emergency medical services persons as employees or volunteers."

Rep. Carolyn McElfatrick (R-Deer River) and Sen. Tom Saxhaug (DFL-Grand Rapids) are the sponsors.

HF2861*/SF2466/CH226

— N. BUSSE

Military & Vet. Affairs

Time limit for termination hearing

In cities or counties where there are civil service boards or merit system authorities, a military veteran employed in a public service job has certain rights before he or she can be terminated. The employer must first notify the employee, which starts the clock. Within 60 days, the employee can request a hearing.

Where there is no board or authority, a three-person panel is appointed. The employee chooses one representative to serve on the panel; the employer chooses one representative; and the third panelist is a mutually agreed upon person.

A new law will change the hearing process to ensure a timely hearing. It will require the employee being terminated to identify within 60 days who they want to represent him or her at a three-person panel hearing. In some instances, hearings have been delayed for months or years because the employee did not provide a name.

If the employee does not produce a panel representative within the 60 days required, he or she will waive the right to a hearing and all other remedies available for reinstatement of employment.

Under current law, only the veteran can appeal a panel's decision. A second provision in

LONE VIEWER

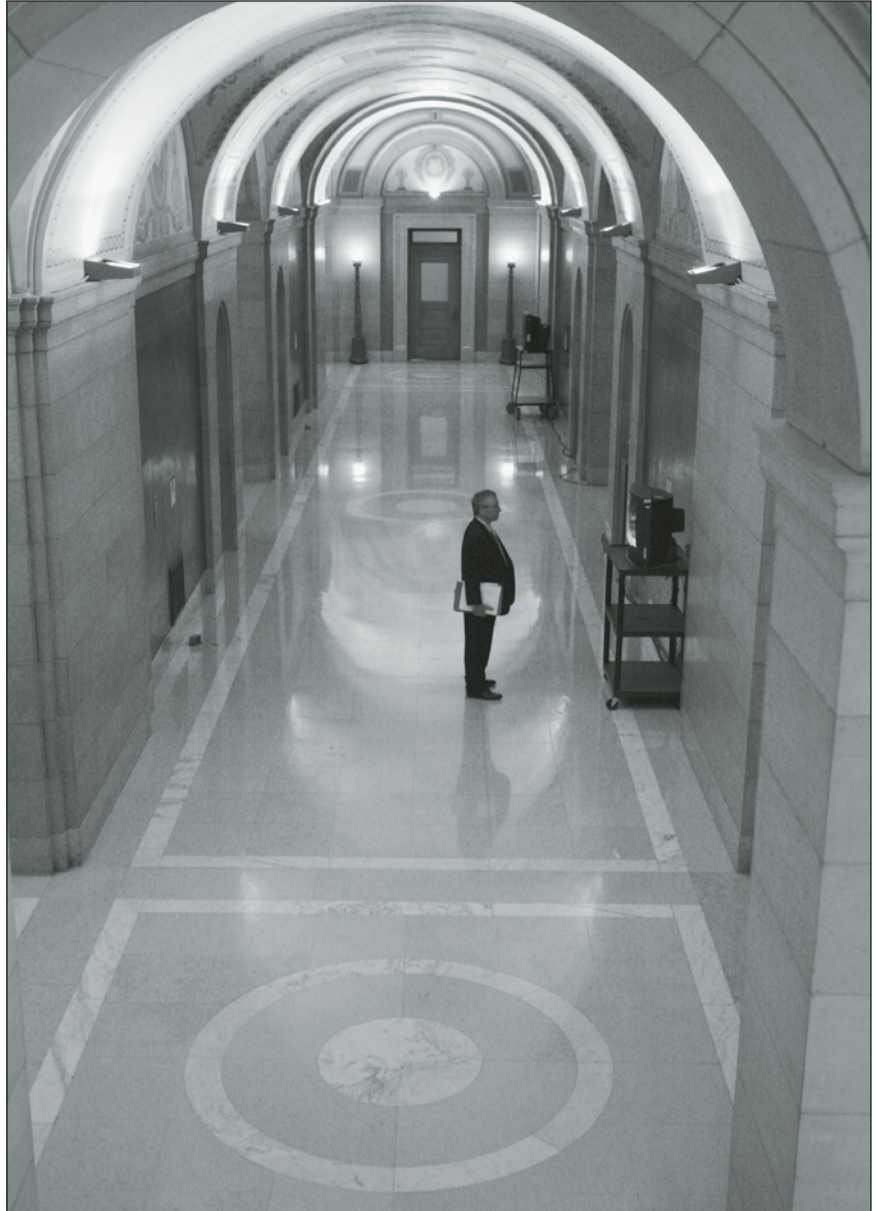


PHOTO BY PAUL BATTAGLIA

Lobbyist Bill Schreiber is the lone viewer of legislative action televised on one of the monitors in a Capitol corridor May 7.

the law will enable the employer to also appeal.

Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township) and Sen. Doug Magnus (R-Slayton) sponsor the law, which is effective Aug. 1, 2012.

HF2495/SF2316*/CH230

— S. HEGARTY

Appointments for disabled veterans

A military veteran with a disability rating of 30 percent or more will be eligible for appointment to a classified service position on a non-competitive basis.

Sponsored by Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township) and Sen. Ted Daley (R-Eagan), the new law will allow appointment of a veteran who meets the qualifying criteria and prevents interviewing anyone else. Additionally, the veteran must

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show written federal documentation of the disability and must meet the minimum qualifications for the vacant position.

Anderson estimated that there are more than 30,400 veterans in the state who fall under the category of being disabled 30 percent or more.

The law is effective Aug. 1, 2012.

HF2493/SF2354*/CH231

— S. HEGARTY

Honor guard stipends increased

Members of some military honor guards will be eligible for a larger stipend for their performances.

Effective Aug. 1, 2012, charitable gambling organizations will be authorized to pay a per diem stipend of up to \$50 per person for military honor guard, color guard or “marching unit” performances. The stipend was previously capped at \$35.

Under statute, stipends for military honor guards are among the lawful uses of gross profits from charitable gaming operations.

Rep. Bob Dettmer (R-Forest Lake) and Sen. Mike Parry (R-Waseca) are the sponsors.

HF2259/SF1754*/CH242

— N. BUSSE

Contract preference expansion

A construction bid program that allows up to a 6 percent bid preference to veteran-owned small businesses will expand.

Sponsored by Rep. Bob Dettmer (R-Forest Lake) and Sen. Al DeKruif (R-Madison Lake), a new law, mostly effective May 1, 2012, will enable the transportation commissioner to designate a construction contract to be awarded only to veteran-owned small businesses, if at least three such businesses are likely to bid.

The purpose is to help veterans transition from military to civilian life and to “keep that pool of talent here in Minnesota,” Dettmer said.

While most of the work awarded thus far has been in the area of manual labor, the law will expand bid preferences for construction-related goods and services. That may mean that veteran-owned architectural and design businesses could be included in the program.

Counties will be able to create a similar hiring preference program. This section takes effect July 1, 2012.

Goals will be set by the commissioner for prime contractors to subcontract to small

targeted businesses, such as veteran-owned companies. The prime contractors may receive financial incentives for exceeding the set goals.

A biennial report will be due to the Legislature, providing a summary of the program and recommendations for any changes.

HF1821/SF1597*/CH254

— S. HEGARTY

Public Safety

Genital mutilation enhanced penalty

Within the state’s domestic violence statutes is a list of offenses that qualify a person for an enhanced offense, potentially leading to a harsher sentence.

Effective Aug. 1, 2012, a new law adds to that list the crime of female genital mutilation against a family or household member.

The law is based on a July 2011 case in Hopkins where a man held his wife against a wall by her chest and neck during an argument and then threw her to the floor.

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

Current qualified domestic violence-related offenses include: murder; violating an order for protection; harassment restraining order or no-contact order; stalking; domestic assault; or criminal sexual conduct. None of these was in the man’s past, but he had been convicted of female genital mutilation in 2000 for which he was on probation until 2001.

Rep. Steve Simon (DFL-St. Louis Park) and Sen. Ron Latz (DFL-St. Louis Park) sponsor the law.

HF2149*/SF1657/CH227

— M. COOK

Fighting synthetic drug sale, use

It isn’t easy for law enforcement to keep up with the changing compounds of synthetic drugs, but a new law tries to help.

Sponsored by Rep. Bob Barrett (R-Lindstrom) and Sen. Scott Newman (R-Hutchinson), it will enhance the penalty

for selling such substances to a felony, expand the list of synthetic substances and grant the Board of Pharmacy expedited rulemaking authority to handle new chemical formulas used by drug producers.

The law piggybacks on a 2011 law that added substances known as 2C-E and 2C-I, “plant food,” “bath salts” and synthetic cannabinoids to the Schedule I drugs in the controlled substances chapter of state law; made it a gross misdemeanor to sell synthetic marijuana; and made possession a misdemeanor. The goal of both laws is to help keep synthetic drugs — also called designer drugs — out of storefronts and off the streets by making them more difficult to sell.

According to the law, if the Board of Pharmacy adds a drug to the schedule through expedited rulemaking they must notify the Legislature, which must ratify the addition the following session to keep it on the schedule. Additionally, there is a two-year sunset on the expedited rulemaking.

Because not all shops have been compliant with the 2011 law, and instead are willing to pay the fine for a misdemeanor in order to keep doing business, the law makes it a felony to sell synthetic drugs. Supporters hope some sellers will decide what they’re doing isn’t worth the potential price of a \$10,000 fine and five years in prison.

Courts will also be permitted to offer a diversion program to first-time users of synthetic drugs, just as they can to other first-time other drug users.

HF2508*/SF2319/CH240

— M. COOK

Explosives background check

Law enforcement will be given electronic access to the Human Services Department civil commitment data for a background check on an applicant for a permit to possess explosives.

Currently, permits for explosives and firearms require a review of civil commitment as part of a determination as to whether an individual should receive the license or permit. However, law enforcement must get that information through a phone call or written request to the department.

This technical change, effective Aug. 1, 2012, will allow law enforcement access to the electronic civil commitment records within the department. Supporters said authorizing the access, like is currently the

case with firearm permits, will minimize disruptions and promote efficiency.

Additionally, under current law it is illegal for a minor “to work in any occupation which the commissioner shall find to be particularly hazardous for the employment of children under 18 years of age or detrimental to their well-being.”

The law states this section does not apply to minors who work in permanent, non-seasonal retail stores, like a Target or Wal-Mart, even though they are selling explosives or pyrotechnics. The language was requested by the Labor and Industry and Public Safety departments. This section is effective May 3, 2012.

Rep. Kelby Woodard (R-Belle Plaine) and Sen. Warren Limmer (R-Maple Grove) sponsor the law.

HF2046*/SF1958/CH266

— M. COOK

Capitol area security

State Patrol officers can now be assigned to protect state lawmakers and other high-ranking state officials, if they’re believed to be in danger.

Effective May 2, 2012, a new law authorizes state troopers to provide security on a short-term basis in response to “credible threats” against legislators, Supreme Court justices and constitutional officers.

The law does not specify criteria for what constitutes a credible threat. Instead, that decision will be left to the governor and the commissioner of public safety.

The law also establishes an Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security, consisting of the lieutenant governor, two House members, two senators and the chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court (or their designee). The committee will meet at least four times a year to discuss security concerns and make recommendations to the Legislature. It will sunset on June 30, 2022.

Rep. Kelby Woodard (R-Belle Plaine), who sponsors the law with Sen. Michelle Benson (R-Ham Lake), said the provisions are partially a response to the January 2011 mass shooting near Tucson, Ariz., that killed or wounded 19 people, including former congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. After that incident, Gov. Mark Dayton convened a joint executive-legislative committee to make recommendations on improving security in

the Capitol Complex. The group advocated for many of the provisions embodied in the new law.

HF1607*/SF1283/CH258

— N. BUSSE

Recreation & Tourism

Card clubs, simulcasting can expand

Purses should be enhanced at Minnesota’s horse racing tracks thanks to a new law that changes statutes governing the state’s existing card clubs and allows simulcasting at tribal casinos.

Sponsored by Rep. Joe Hoppe (R-Chaska) and Sen. Claire Robling (R-Jordan), the law, in part, authorizes Canterbury Park and Running Aces Harness Park to increase the number of tables in their card rooms from 50 to 80 and increase the poker bet limit from \$60 to \$100. It also establishes limits on the number of poker tournaments the tracks can conduct; limits on the number of tables used in poker tournaments; and will allow banked and unbanked games at the establishments.

The law, effective Aug. 1, 2012, unless otherwise noted, also establishes a framework for the possible implementation of pari-mutuel simulcasting at the state’s tribal casinos of horse races conducted at the tracks.

The law also removes statutory restrictions on the concentrations of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs administered to horses, instead allowing the Minnesota Racing Commission to set those standards. This section is effective May 5, 2012.

HF2795/SF1727*/CH279

— E. SCHMIDTKE

State Government

Annual claims law

Nearly \$24,000 will be paid out to settle claims against the state “brought for losses suffered while incarcerated in a state correctional facility or for injuries suffered by and medical services provided to persons injured while performing community service or sentence-to-service work for correctional purposes or while incarcerated in a state correctional facility.”

The largest award is \$12,270.75 to Chad Westring “for wage loss resulting from permanent injuries to his spine while performing sentence-to-service work in

Todd County.” Other payments range from to \$825 to \$5,268.

Each year, a Joint House-Senate Subcommittee on Claims meets to determine which petitions will be funded. All state agencies are eligible to receive funding to cover the claims.

Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound) and Sen. Michael Jungbauer (R-East Bethel) sponsor the law, which is effective July 1, 2012.

HF2437/SF2112*/CH232

— M. COOK

Council, board sunsets delayed

Several state councils and boards scheduled to expire this year, as recommended by the Sunset Advisory Commission, have a reprieve for two or four more years.

Rep. Mary Kiffmeyer (R-Big Lake) and Sen. Terri Bonoff (DFL-Minnetonka) sponsor the law, which is effective Aug. 1, 2012, unless otherwise noted.

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council, Council on Black Minnesotans, Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans and the Indian Affairs Council and their advisory boards will now sunset June 30, 2014. The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, Amateur Sports Commission, health-related licensing boards and State Council on Disability and their advisory boards will sunset June 30, 2018.

The Office of the Legislative Auditor is directed to conduct a financial audit of the Council on Black Minnesotans by Dec. 1, 2013, and review the sunset process in 2018.

The management and budget commissioner is also directed to report the number of full-time employees and the salary structure for each agency under review by the Sunset Advisory Commission, and the Department of Administration will serve as a resource for smaller agencies preparing for their review.

The Indian Affairs Council will be required to submit an annual report to the Legislature that identifies the major problems and issues confronting American Indian people and recommendations to address those issues.

The law also abolishes the Combative Sports Commission and transfers its duties to the Department of Labor and Industry, effective July 1, 2012.

The law also:

- makes public any corrective actions taken by the Board of Medical Practice, in

VIKING 'VALHALLA'

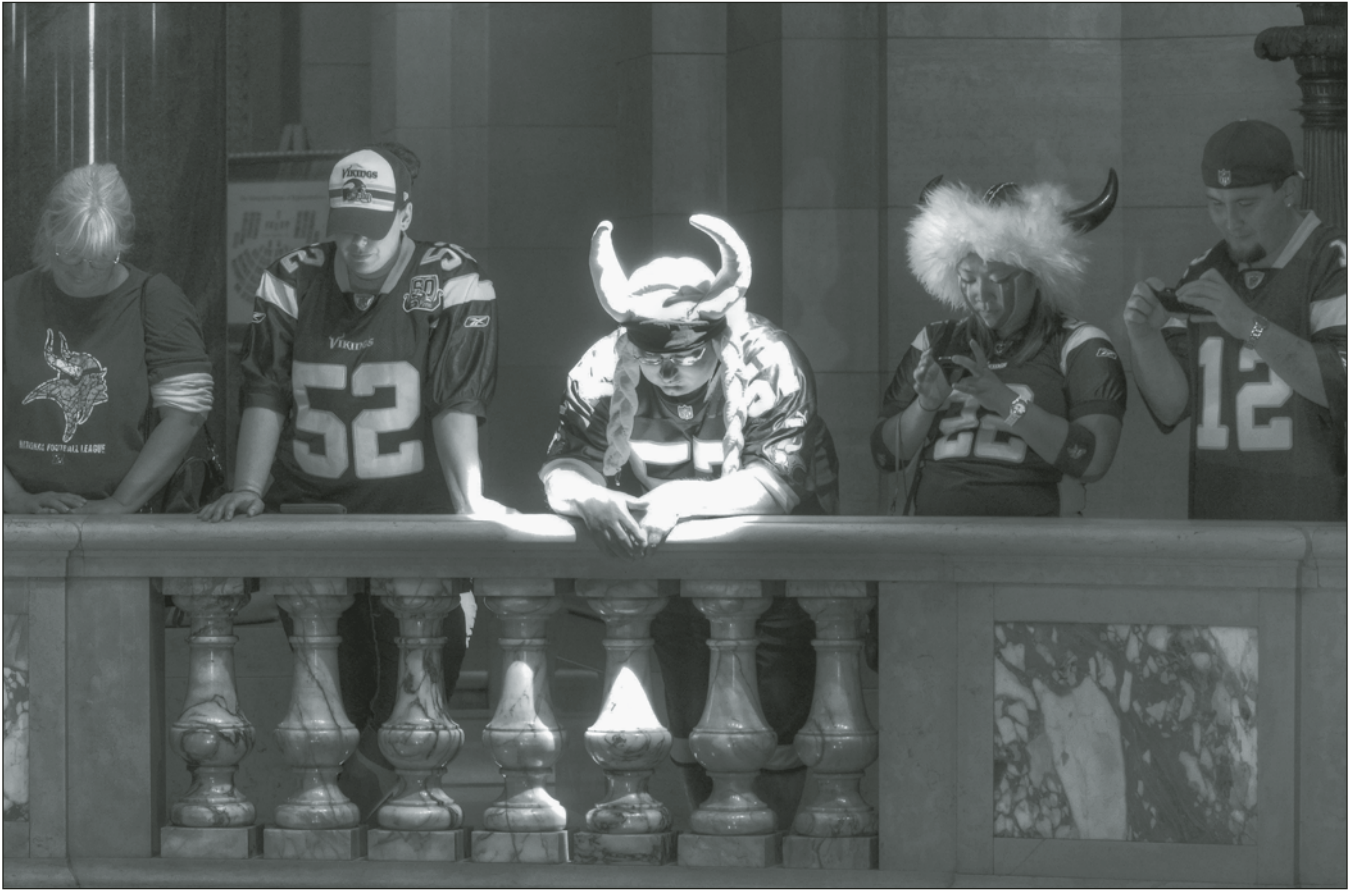


PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Vikings fans, bathed in light, enter "Valhalla" through the Capitol Rotunda May 14 as Gov. Mark Dayton signs into law a bill that will help fund a new stadium for the Minnesota Vikings.

- addition to disciplinary measures;
- makes health care professionals and facilities who fail to report actions that may result in disciplinary or corrective action, subject to civil penalties;
- requires health-related licensing boards to post on their public website the name and business address of each regulated person convicted of a felony or gross misdemeanor, beginning July 1, 2013. Malpractice judgments and disciplinary or corrective action must also be posted;
- prohibits fees paid by speech pathologists and audiologists from being transferred to the General Fund;
- requires several reports by various health licensing boards will be due the Legislature in January 2013 regarding fees, information systems, administrative support services and background checks; and
- modifies the complaint, hearing and

investigation processes for health-related licensing boards.

The new law appropriates funds from the General Fund for the Sunset Advisory Commission and from the State Government Special Revenue Fund for the various state medical and licensing boards.

HF2555*/SF2304/CH278

— S. HEGARTY

Protecting private data

A 2011 law change requires those covered by state insurance benefits to provide verification of dependent eligibility to Minnesota Management and Budget. This year's omnibus data practices law prohibits the commissioner from terminating the enrollment of a dependent in the State Employee Group Insurance Program for failing to submit proper documentation. It requires that notice be provided at least 30

days before the proposed termination, and an alternate method of compliance if the covered plan member has demonstrated that compliance is impractical.

Rep. Peggy Scott (R-Andover) and Sen. Warren Limmer (R-Maple Grove) sponsor the law that details how private data is collected, maintained or disseminated. It also updates the Data Practices Act and open meeting law.

Other provisions include:

- allowing disclosure, under certain conditions, of certain electronic licenses and registrations issued by the Department of Natural Resources, currently classified as private data;
- classifying certain data related to adopt-a-highway program participants as private data, such as home addresses (except ZIP codes), e-mail addresses and telephone numbers; and
- adding veteran status to the list of data that

VIKINGS VS. WELFARE RIGHTS



PHOTO BY PAUL BATTAGLIA

Kim DeFranco, a member of the Welfare Rights Committee, argues with Greg Hansen of Cold Spring outside the House Chamber April 30 about publicly funding a new stadium.

are public on an applicant's application for appointment to a public body.

The following items are added to the list of additional data that becomes public once an individual is actually appointed to a public body: first and last dates of military service; the existence and status of any complaints or charges against the appointee; and a final investigative report once an investigation is complete, unless access would otherwise jeopardize an active investigation.

HF1466/SF1143*/CH290

— L. SCHUTZ

Statute clarification and correction

After session ends, the Office of the Revisor of Statutes reviews the state statutes and proposes clarifications and corrections to the Legislature the following session. This

could include such items as incorrect cross references and grammatical errors.

A new law makes clarifications and corrections from sessions past and some laws enacted in 2012.

The law has various effective dates, corresponding to those of original enactment. It is sponsored by Rep. Tim Kelly (R-Red Wing) and Sen. Warren Limmer (R-Maple Grove).

HF1702/SF1420*/CH298

— L. SCHUTZ

Rulemaking oversight

Lawmakers might soon be taking a closer, more critical look at the administrative rules promulgated by state agencies.

A new law will provide for greater legislative oversight of administrative rules,

which have the full force and effect of law but which are created by state agencies rather than elected legislators. Provisions include:

- requiring agencies to assess the cumulative effect of proposed rules with existing state and federal regulations;
- requiring a number of state agencies to issue reports describing the rationale behind their existing rules and any recommended changes;
- requiring agencies to notify the Legislative Coordinating Commission of their intent to adopt any proposed rules; and
- requiring agencies to submit their rulemaking docket for the year and the previous year's rulemaking record to the relevant legislative committees.

Rep. Mike Beard (R-Shakopee) and Sen. John Pederson (R-St. Cloud) sponsor

the law, which takes effect Aug. 1, 2012.
HF2169/SF1922*/CH238

— N. BUSSE

Transportation

Salvage title requirements

Greater clarity and simplification in the administration of salvage title and damage disclosure is the goal of a new law.

The law, effective Aug. 1, 2012, changes the time an insurance company has before being required to notify the Driver and Vehicle Services Division of the Department of Public Safety of acquiring a vehicle through paying a damage claim, so that the notification must occur within 10 days of obtaining a vehicle's title instead of within 48 hours of taking possession of the vehicle.

It also provides a new monetary threshold for requiring a salvage title by raising the cutoff of self-insured vehicle owners in the amount of vehicle damage from 70 percent to 80 percent of actual cash value, while eliminating an exclusion of airbag replacement costs from the calculation of vehicle damage.

The definition of "high-value vehicle" is amended to raise the minimum value on a vehicle before being damaged from \$5,000 to \$9,000; the definition of a "late-model vehicle" is amended to make a vehicle essentially those with a model year matching the current or five preceding calendar years; and the definition of an "older model vehicle" is amended to mean all vehicles older than late model vehicles.

Rep. Tim Sanders (R-Blaine), who sponsors the law with Sen. Paul Gazelka (R-Brainerd), said the legislation is the result of collaboration between the Alliance of Automotive Service Providers, the Insurance Federation of Minnesota, the Minnesota Automobile Dealers Association and the Department of Public Safety.

HF2136*/SF1734/CH267

— M. COOK

FINAL VOTE



PHOTO BY PAUL BATTAGLIA

Members and staff watch the House Voting Board during final passage of the stadium funding bill May 10.

New laws online

A complete review of all new laws passed this year is expected to be available after July 1 on the New Laws 2012 Web page, www.house.mn/hinfo/NewLaws/NewLawsmain.asp. To receive an electronic notification when the new laws have been posted, go to www.house.mn/hinfo/subscribe.asp.

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Business & Commerce

Fire sprinklers in new construction

Snuffed out by a gubernatorial veto was a bill that would have prevented a requirement to install fire sprinklers in homes.

Under the bill, sponsored by Rep. Mike LeMieur (R-Little Falls) and Sen. Jeremy Miller (R-Winona), the state fire code or the state building code could not be changed to require the installation of fire sprinkler systems in any new or existing single-family detached dwelling unit.

Gov. Mark Dayton's veto letter states: "I take very seriously the concerns which fire safety professionals have expressed about the safety of home residents ... They are concerned that newly built homes burn more quickly, and that more firefighters are injured when floors collapse during fires. They contend that, with sprinkler systems in place, fires could be more readily contained, resulting in fewer injuries and deaths to homeowners and firefighters."

The bill would have also clarified statutory language regarding certain occupational licenses and apprenticeship agreements, which the governor expressed his support.

HF2087/SF1717*/CH284

— L. SCHUTZ

Annuity assurance changes

Customers generally purchase annuities to ensure a monthly payback during retirement. However, regulators see the need for more uniform regulation to make sure products are well-suited to the customer.

Gov. Mark Dayton vetoed a bill that he said does not provide the necessary protections for seniors or enough accountability for insurance companies.

Rep. Joe Hoppe (R-Chaska), who sponsored the bill with Sen. Roger Chamberlain (R-Lino Lakes), said it would enact model regulation adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and would make Minnesota's law "the strongest in the country — one that will be model legislation for other states."

However, in his veto letter, Dayton restated his earlier objection to the legislation.

"I made it very clear to the bill's authors and interested parties that I would not support this legislation unless it: (1) required

meaningful, independent, elevated review by insurance companies of the suitability of long-term deferred annuities for seniors in certain circumstances; and (2) limited the FINRA exemption, which would provide a huge loophole for insurers regarding annuities sold by a securities broker to senior citizens." FINRA stands for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

HF1134*/SF877/CH261

— L. SCHUTZ

Education

No extra academic oversight

Gov. Mark Dayton vetoed a plan that would have required legislative approval to any changes or revisions to the academic standards or graduation requirements after they've gone into rulemaking.

Sponsored by Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) and Sen. Carla Nelson (R-Rochester), the bill would have allowed the education commissioner to review and revise school standards and benchmarks, but would have required specific legislation to authorize those revisions as official rules.

"Minnesota's existing standards review

and revision process is carefully designed and thorough. It has successfully produced rigorous academic standards in math, science, English, language arts, social studies, and the arts," Dayton wrote in his veto letter. "Even when issues of a controversial nature emerge in specific subject areas, the current process has produced standards which have been widely accepted by stakeholders and held in high esteem nationally. This bill would delay the academic standards process by inserting it into the legislative arena."

In addition to assigning a role of the executive branch to the legislative branch, the governor also expressed concern about finding people to serve on a standards committee. He said this process would create ambiguity because the Legislature could change standards a committee worked hard to create, and there could be potential delays in implementation timelines causing loss of federal dollars that would put additional costs on local districts.

"Adding an additional review process could considerably lengthen the amount of time it would take to develop the standards, which in turn would make it difficult for districts to align, purchase, or create new curriculum to train their teachers and to

STATEHOOD DAY

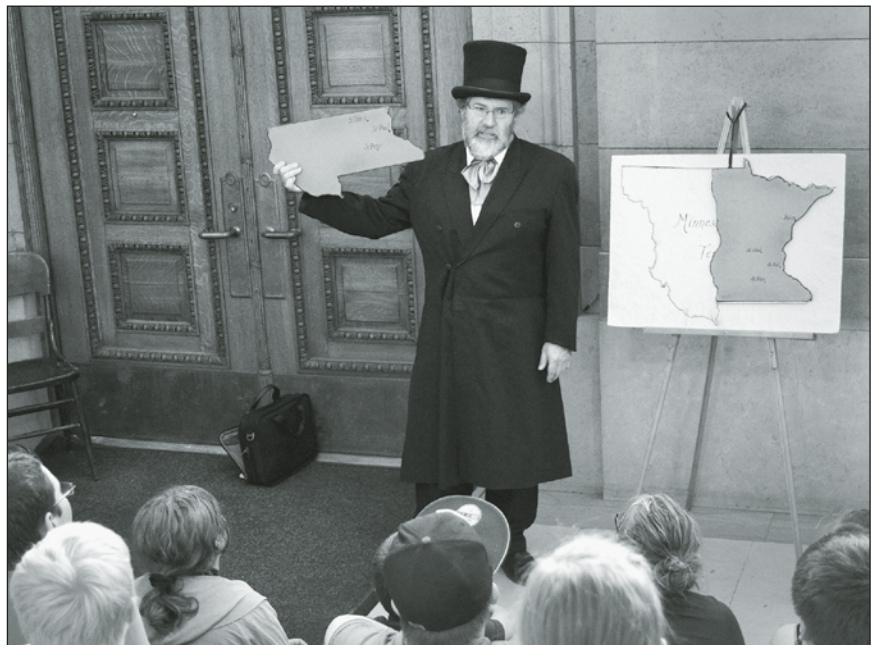


PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Kerry Foerster portrays Lewis L. McKune, an 1857 Constitutional Convention delegate, for Capitol visitors on May 11, Minnesota Statehood Day.

implement the standards,” Dayton wrote.
HF1847/SF1656*/CH281

— M. COOK

Teacher layoff policy won't change

Gov. Mark Dayton vetoed one of the most contentious education bills of the session. The so-called “Last In, First Out” bill would have addressed the procedure of teacher layoffs.

Currently, when schools need to lay off teachers, they must determine who will lose their jobs based on seniority within the district. The bill sought to change that policy by authorizing districts to use performance evaluations in making that decision.

Supporters of the bill said that it would introduce fairness to school layoffs. Proponents like Rep. Branden Petersen (R-Andover), who sponsors the bill with Sen. Pam Wolf (R-Spring Lake Park), claim that the measure would reward teachers who are most effective.

The bill drew criticism from DFLers, who expressed frustration at what they called a hasty approach to education reform. Teachers’ union representatives and the governor said the bill was part of a continued Republican assault on educators this session.

“This bill, with the rhetoric accompanying it, is yet another example of this prejudice against public school teachers,” Dayton wrote in his veto letter. “Once again they are singled out as ‘the problem,’ for which some legislators’ solution is to override the long-established rights of local school boards and teachers’ elected representatives to negotiate the terms of their employment and their dismissals.”

Though parts of the bill would have taken effect the day following enactment, it would have become fully incorporated in school policy for the 2015-2016 school year.

“It is unclear why the Legislature feels such an urgency to mandate something that will not take effect for four years. After the evaluations have been designed and tested would be a far more appropriate time for the Legislature to determine, in 2015 or 2016, how best to incorporate them into layoff decisions,” Dayton wrote.

HF1870*/SF1690/CH274

— E. SCHMIDTKE

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's
Web page at: www.leg.mn

Employment

Union contract changes vetoed

The terms of public-sector labor contracts can be extended even if they provide automatic pay or benefit increases, despite the best efforts of Republican lawmakers who tried to ban the practice.

Gov. Mark Dayton vetoed a measure that would have stopped public employees’ labor contracts from continuing past their expirations.

Bill supporters argue the unions have little incentive to settle on a new contract when the terms of the old contract already provide them with automatic compensation increases. But in his veto letter, Dayton argued that the bill would have tipped the scales too far in favor of the employers.

“The Legislature is well aware that I have opposed, and will continue to oppose, unilateral changes to the collective bargaining process,” Dayton wrote.

He also noted that the bill would have posed logistical problems for Minnesota Management & Budget, which negotiates state worker contracts.

Rep. Steve Drazkowski (R-Mazeppa) and Sen. Mike Parry (R-Waseca) are the sponsors.
HF1974*/SF2078/CH245

— N. BUSSE

Labor contract changes vetoed

A measure that would have given the Legislature greater involvement in state labor contract negotiations was vetoed by Gov. Mark Dayton.

The bill would have required Minnesota Management & Budget to notify the Legislature at least five days before executing a memorandum of understanding to amend a labor contract. In his veto letter, Dayton said the provision would “interfere with the day-to-day flexibility needed by the Executive Branch to manage most effectively and efficiently.”

The bill also proposed allowing negotiators to agree to implement unpaid leave and reductions in work hours to avoid layoffs when necessary. Dayton said this ability is already provided for under current law.

Finally, the vetoed bill contained a provision that would have made offers made by MMB during the course of contract negotiations public data. Dayton said this

would “disrupt the long-established process between the Executive Branch and its employees.”

HF1977/SF1755*/CH291

— N. BUSSE

Health & Human Services

Trust accounts plan gets vetoed

A plan to authorize the use of trust accounts to pay for health insurance premiums was met with a gubernatorial veto.

Rep. Steve Gottwalt (R-St. Cloud), who sponsored the bill with Sen. David Hann (R-Eden Prairie), said the bill would help Minnesotans achieve access to affordable health care coverage in the private market. It would have allowed multiple sources to contribute money to a unified personal health premium account that would allow a person to pay for an individual, private health insurance account. Employers would have been able to contribute on a tax-preferred basis.

Supporters said the bill would help, for example, underemployed and uninsured part-time workers.

“On the one hand, the goals of this bill are closely aligned with those of the federal Affordable Care Act,” Gov. Mark Dayton wrote in his veto letter. “Both offer new ideas for how to aggregate public and private sector contributions for purchasing private health insurance coverage. Both allow the government to take a more active role in determining how consumers find affordable health insurance policies. Both would expand and maximize the use of government-funded tax subsidies and employer contributions for the purchase of health insurance.”

However, Dayton said the bill would weaken consumer protection and the need for contributors to have a different account “would create a complex maze of interwoven funding streams, accounts and contracts. Consumers might have even less ability to know and predict their health care resources and liabilities, putting them at even greater risk of being ensnared by the health care industry’s debt collection tactics.”

The governor wrote that a health insurance exchange is a better way to go because it “would offer a consumer-friendly, online marketplace where consumers can choose

a private health insurance plan without the need for multiple accounts, contracts, and other unnecessary roadblocks.”

HF8*/SF32/CH276

— M. COOK

No licensing for abortion clinics

Abortion clinics will not be subject to Department of Health licensing and inspection requirements as proposed in legislation vetoed by Gov. Mark Dayton.

A bill sponsored by Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville) and Sen. Claire Robling (R-Jordan) would have required a clinic or health center that performs at least 10 abortions a month to be licensed and inspected by the department.

Opponents said the bill would have held clinics where pregnancies are terminated to a different standard than other types of clinics that don't require licensing and inspection, such as clinics where gall bladders and cataracts are removed.

In his veto letter, Dayton said he was advised by the department that the method of licensure was “inappropriate and unworkable.”

Under the bill, inspections would not have required advance notice and could have been conducted once or twice a year per facility.

“The six abortion clinics in Minnesota affected by the legislation are members of the National Abortion Federation, which sets clinical policy standards for performing abortions and inspects every member about every five years for the following standards: infection control, sonography, analgesia and sedation, antibiotics use, complications and emergencies. A lack of oversight of clinics that provide abortions is not an issue,” Dayton wrote.

HF2340/SF1921*/CH233

— S. HEGARTY

Administering an abortion pill

Gov. Mark Dayton vetoed a bill that would have required a doctor to physically be in the patient's room when administering the RU-486 abortion pill.

Rep. Joyce Peppin (R-Rogers) and Sen. Paul Gazelka (R-Brainerd) sponsor the bill, which would also have required the doctor to encourage the woman to return within 12 to 18 days to confirm that the pregnancy was properly terminated.

The federally-approved drug carries

a restriction that only a physician can administer the drug. But for some women, access can be a problem, so some doctors use tele-medicine practices, which matches doctor and patient, who are physically miles apart, together on a closed-circuit camera for consultation and instruction.

Peppin said there have been reported cases of excessive bleeding, incomplete termination of pregnancies or death as a result of taking the drug.

In his veto letter Dayton said, “Telemedicine has been a commonly used form of health care service delivery for nearly two decades. ... This bill's unique, new regulatory burden for a single procedure would increase the cost of health care and add unnecessary new barriers to a constitutionally protected health care service for women.”

HF2341*/SF1912/CH252

— S. HEGARTY

Request to join compact denied

Republicans hoping to ask Congress for the authority to join a health care compact are denied by a gubernatorial veto.

“This bill would be a drastic departure from our current system of shared state and federal responsibility for delivering health care services,” Gov. Mark Dayton wrote in his veto letter.

Rep. Steve Gottwalt (R-St. Cloud) and Sen. David Hann (R-Eden Prairie) sponsor the bill, which may have resulted in Minnesota requesting that Congress return Medicaid contributions to be managed by the state, without federal oversight.

Opponents said the bill was propagated by the American Legislative Exchange Council, an association for conservative state lawmakers. Gottwalt said ALEC is not the reason he sponsors the bill and that Minnesota could receive \$13.5 billion as a block grant to design its own health care system. Compact states would presumably then opt out of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

“Far beyond any objection to the federal Affordable Care Act, this bill asserts the notion that the federal government has no authority for health policy whatsoever,” Dayton wrote. “Regrettably, this Legislature has almost completely ignored the very real opportunity to assert greater control over our health care system by establishing

a state-level health insurance exchange.”

HF2339/SF1933*/CH256

— S. HEGARTY

Public Safety

Fireworks expansion is a dud

Minnesotans wanting to celebrate the Fourth of July with some personal pyrotechnics will have to remain satisfied with sparklers.

Primarily over safety concerns, Gov. Mark Dayton vetoed a bill to expand legal fireworks in Minnesota to include bottle rockets, firecrackers and other fireworks classified by the American Pyrotechnics Association as consumer fireworks. “Most Minnesotans are responsible enough to ignite and explode those inherently dangerous devices properly and safely. Unfortunately some are not,” Dayton wrote in his veto message.

“It is government's foremost responsibility to protect the safety and the well-being of its citizens. Sometimes, that requires laws which protect citizens from others. Sometimes, it requires laws to protect people from themselves. In this case, government has the responsibility to do its utmost to protect vulnerable young Minnesotans, courageous firefighters and police officers, and innocent bystanders of all ages, who could become victims of someone else's carelessness.”

Dayton further noted the state fire marshal, public safety commissioner and nearly 50 other organizations — including the police and fire chiefs associations — all expressed opposition.

Current Minnesota law allows for the use of party poppers, snappers, toy smoke devices, snakes, glow worms or sparklers, but supporters note that many Minnesotans already cross into neighboring states to spend their money for other types of fireworks and will continue to do so.

To address some local control concerns, the bill would have permitted local governments to enact ordinances restricting the use to ensure they are being safely used and in a limited timeframe. The sale and use of aerial and audible fireworks would have been restricted in Minnesota from June 1 to July 7 of any year.

Rep. John Kriesel (R-Cottage Grove) and

Sen. Michael Jungbauer (R-East Bethel) are the sponsors.

HF1774/SF1694*/CH243

— M. COOK

State Government

Redrawn lines to stay as is

There is an apartment complex in Edina where the line separating House districts cuts through a building. For the past decade, that inconsistency has caused headaches for people trying to figure out in which precinct to vote on Election Day.

While sympathetic to the situation, Gov. Mark Dayton vetoed a bill that would have clarified the line in Senate District 49, as well as a situation in Stillwater (Senate District 39). The bill is sponsored by Rep. Sarah Anderson (R-Plymouth) and Sen. Geoff Michel (R-Edina).

Every 10 years, after the census, new district lines are drawn to evenly reflect population shifts. Because the Legislature could not agree on a redistricting plan, the courts developed the new legislative and congressional lines to meet a mandated Feb. 21, 2012 deadline.

“Modifying the redistricting plan, months after the Special Redistricting Panel’s order was released is not appropriate,” Dayton wrote in his veto letter. He encouraged the cities requesting the boundary change to petition the panel.

Additionally, he indicated the bill would set a “bad precedent” and could lead to requests for further legislative adjustments. Dayton also noted his insistence that any change in election law must have broad bipartisan support. “The votes in both Chambers on this bill did not meet that requirement,” he wrote.

HF2821*/SF2424/CH265

— L. SCHUTZ

Rulemaking stays as is

Citing objections by former Gov. Tim Pawlenty to a similar bill in 2003, Gov. Mark Dayton vetoed a bill that would set limits on state agency rulemaking authority.

Sponsored by Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) and Senate Majority Leader David Senjem (R-Rochester), the bill calls for state agencies to seek legislative approval before implementing administrative rules that cost businesses or individuals \$10,000 or more.

“This would add another lengthy step to

the existing rulemaking procedures,” Dayton wrote in his veto letter. He excerpted a portion of Pawlenty’s 2003 veto letter:

“The bill essentially shifts authority for conducting rulemaking from the executive branch to the legislative branch. Under current law, the Legislature has granted the Governor’s office final approval authority on all rulemakings. This is sound policy as it provides accountability in a way that does not paralyze either branch of government.”

Dayton said the objections remain valid for this bill as well.

HF203*/SF261/CH275

— L. SCHUTZ

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To be acted on

Parenting time presumption

A bill that stirred emotional debate on the House floor is the last of the session to be resolved.

Gov. Mark Dayton has 14 days from the session’s May 10 sine die date to act on all legislation that reached his desk. As of May 23, he had yet to act on a bill termed the “Children’s Equal and Shared Parenting Act.” Inaction results in a “pocket veto,” and the governor is not required to provide a reason for the veto.

Feelings ran strong and crossed party and gender lines in floor debate on the bill, with members characterizing the measure

that would change the state’s child custody and parenting laws as “long overdue,” while others termed it “problematic and would negatively affect children for years to come.”

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Peggy Scott (R-Andover) and Sen. Pam Wolf (R-Spring Lake Park), would change the current parenting time presumption from 25 percent for each parent to at least 35 percent.

The effective date, if the governor chooses to sign the bill into law, is July 1, 2013, and it would apply only to orders adopted or modified on or after that date.

The bill specifically notes that there must be no modification of an existing parenting time order based on the amendment to the parenting time presumption until July 1, 2014, unless the child’s environment presently endangers the child’s physical or emotional health or impairs the child’s emotional development.

Earlier versions of the bill set the presumption at 45.1 percent, and would have extended this presumption to those who are not married, but where parentage has been established.

HF322*/SF1402/CH297

— L. SCHUTZ

From soils to consumption

Ag law helps gardeners determine what plants are suitable for state climate

By SUE HEGARTY

Minnesota now has a state soil. The designation of Lester as the state soil in the omnibus agriculture law coincides with the University of Minnesota's 2013 celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the soil science program and the 40-year-old Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists, according to Rep. Paul Anderson (R-Starbuck), who sponsors the law with Sen. Doug Magnus (R-Slayton).

However, a large portion of the law will require new labeling of landscape and garden stock designed to help consumers choose hardy stock for Minnesota's extreme growing conditions.

The law is effective Aug. 1, 2012, unless otherwise noted.

Planting guidelines

The new law defines "non-hardy" as a plant that cannot be expected to survive or produce flowers in certain growing zones and requires non-hardy nursery stock to be labeled as such. Sellers of nursery stock will also be required to keep balled and burlapped stock moist at all times.

Similarly, nursery stock collected from the wild must be labeled as such when sold, unless it has been grown in nursery rows at least two years; and vegetable and flower seed packets could list the number of seeds in the packet, instead of the net weight.

The Department of Agriculture's nursery and plant inspection and enforcement powers will expand to include the department's Wholesale Produce Dealer, Grain Buyer/Grain Storage, and Warehouse oversight responsibilities. The department can enter sites, inspect and sample products,

issue commissioner's orders, and pursue administrative and criminal penalties for failure to follow the Wholesale Produce Dealer, Grain Buyer/Grain Storage, or Warehouse laws.

Grains and livestock

A public grain warehouse operator's license must currently be filed before the purchase or storage of grain may occur. The operator is required to post a bond, which under the new law, is determined according to annual average storage liability.

When a grain operator takes the product to the scale, an electronic scale ticket will no longer require a signature.

Farmers who grow feed for their own livestock use will no longer be charged an inspection fee on that portion. The provision is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2012.

Dairy producers have until Aug. 1, 2017, to establish a Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority and to find a site for the design and development of a research, teaching and visitor facility. There is no state appropriation for the authority, which shall depend upon grants, gifts and donations for support.

Another livestock provision dealing with

diseased animals will remove the required quarantine zone of up to three miles from the diseased animal.

Research, renewable energy, grants


The agricultural growth, research and innovation program, which was scheduled to sunset next year, is extended until June 30, 2015. Established to promote the advancement of the state's agricultural and renewable energy industries, the authority will also be allowed to provide cost-share grants for the installation of biofuel blender pumps.

Regarding biodiesel fuel content mandates, the law exempts Coast Guard vessels from having to comply with minimum content requirements and exempts No. 1 diesel fuel from blending during the winter months due to gel problems at colder temperatures. The exemptions are effective April 29, 2012, and expire May 1, 2015.

A report is due the Legislature in 2013 and 2014 from the agriculture commissioner, in consultation with the commerce commissioner and Biodiesel Fuel Task Force, on whether to continue with any biodiesel fuel exceptions.

The law delays until Aug. 30, 2015, the current mandate that gasoline sold in Minnesota contain at least 20 percent ethanol.

The Rural Finance Authority will now be able to accept gifts, bequests, grants or interest in property for purposes pertaining to the authority, which aids farmers in securing loans to purchase acreages. In addition, the authority will establish a revolving loan account to offer loans up to \$10,000 to minorities and women for the purpose of growing horticultural products or to raise chickens to bring to market. The program will receive funding through a transfer of the balance in the agroforestry account, which is abolished.

HF2398*/SF2061/CH244 

Open season

Omnibus game and fish law OKs wolf hunting, higher fees

By Nick Busse

Minnesotans will have to pay more for virtually every game and fish license they acquire in the state, but they will also have the opportunity to hunt and trap wolves.

The omnibus game and fish law raises dozens of license fees charged to anglers and hunters in the state. The fee increases, most of which take effect March 1, 2013, were requested by the Department of Natural Resources and many private hunting and fishing groups with the goal of improving the state's conservation and wildlife management programs. As examples, a resident fishing license will increase from \$17 to \$22, and a resident deer hunting license will increase from \$26 to \$30. Fees for snowmobile registrations are also increased.

The law establishes a wolf-hunting license and specifies that revenue from the licenses is to be deposited into a special account that will be used for "wolf management, research, damage control, enforcement, and education." Wolf licenses will cost \$30 for residents and \$250 for nonresidents. The law also includes various requirements and restrictions for wolf hunters.

A "walk-in access" program is established to provide hunters with access to wildlife habitat on private land. The DNR will be allowed to enter into agreements with landowners and local units of government for this purpose, and the law specifies how and when hunters may use lands enrolled in the program. Hunters will be given the option to donate to the program when paying for their small game licenses.

Among other provisions, the law will require publicly owned shooting ranges (such as police ranges) in the seven-county metropolitan area to open their doors to the public twice in the spring and twice in the summer for DNR youth firearms safety instruction courses. This provision does not apply to Minneapolis or St. Paul, or to correctional facilities.

The following is a summary of selected provisions in the law. Except where otherwise noted, they take effect Aug. 1, 2012. Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar) and Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen (R-Alexandria) are the sponsors.

Fishing:

The following provisions are included:

- allowing certain species of fish to be harvested from infested waters and used as bait under certain circumstances;
- requiring anglers using portable ice-fishing shelters to remain within 200 feet of them unless they are properly marked with the owner's identifying information; and
- allowing the winter season for brown trout, brook trout, rainbow trout and splake to begin on Jan. 1 for lakes located entirely within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Hunting:

The following provisions are included:

- providing additional options for bear hunters to leave their portable stands overnight in a wildlife management area by leaving their driver's license number or their DNR license identification number;
- allowing the DNR to issue replacement turkey hunting licenses, under certain circumstances, for those who wish to change permit areas and/or time periods;
- strengthening penalties for those who take deer using bait and those who are convicted of a violation that involves taking of a trophy deer;
- requiring nonresident 10- and 11-year-olds to pay the big game license fee;
- clarifying restrictions on when hunters may discharge firearms within 500 feet of

- occupied buildings or livestock enclosures;
- exempting hunters from blaze orange clothing requirements when hunting deer by archery in a stationary location and when hunting small game by falconry;
- allowing certain disabled hunters to use mounted firearms or bows and electronic or mechanical devices used to discharge them;
- allowing the DNR to use administrative rulemaking to determine the payment rates for control programs for coyotes, foxes and wolves;
- eliminating a 2008 law requiring a four-week fall season for turkey in a certain permit area;
- allowing hunters to take migratory waterfowl, coots or rails in certain open-water areas designated specifically by the DNR; and
- restricting the use of body-gripping or conibear-type traps.

Miscellaneous:


The following provisions are included:

- adding the recruitment of new anglers, hunters campers and other "outdoor recreation participants" to the DNR's mission, and requiring the DNR to collect information on hunter participation and satisfaction;
- allowing electronic transactions for game and fish licenses to continue even during a state government shutdown; and
- requiring that when land is donated to the state via the DNR, the deed conveying the land must state whether the DNR is allowed to resell it.

Snowmobiles:

The following provisions are included:

- exempting snowmobiles registered by tribal governments and that have not been outside of reservation boundaries for more than 30 consecutive days from DNR registration requirements;
- requiring that at least 60 percent of the revenue collected from snowmobile registrations go toward developing and maintaining state trails; and
- clarifying when snowmobilers are allowed to use "metal traction devices" on paved public trails.

HF2171*/SF1943/CH277 

A positive balance

Omnibus health care law focuses on reform, restoring cuts and delaying pending cuts

By SUE HEGARTY

An omnibus health and human services law lays out a path for reform in several health care sectors, and restores or delays some of the cuts made in 2011 to balance the state budget.

Sponsored by Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) and Sen. David Hann (R-Eden Prairie), the law authorizes spending \$18.1 million.

Because the bill accounts for \$35 million in repayments from managed care organizations, whose gross revenues were

capped at 1 percent, there is a positive balance of \$16.8 million for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

Except where otherwise noted, the law takes effect Aug. 1, 2012.

Welfare reform initiatives

- Restricting electronic benefit transfer cash card uses to Minnesota and surrounding states;
- disqualifying anyone found guilty of using an EBT card to purchase tobacco or alcohol for one year for the first offense, two years for the second offense and permanently for the third offense;
- allowing data sharing between the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Human Services for purposes of preventing welfare fraud, effective July 1, 2013;
- stopping landlord vendor payments on public assistance rent for convicted drug felons when the shelter is deemed uninhabitable;



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Surrounded by legislators and interested parties, Gov. Mark Dayton presents Alexandra Fitzsimmons, legislative affairs and advocacy director for Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota, and her 20-month-old, Frankie, a pen used to sign the omnibus health and human services law during an April 30 ceremony.

- looking back 10 years for felony drug offenses when determining eligibility for Minnesota Family Investment Program benefits; and
- requiring personal care providers to grant immediate access to records to the Health Department if investigating Medicaid funds.

Children and family policy reforms

- Extending the number of absent days that child care providers can be reimbursed when children of young mothers, still in school, miss day care, effective Jan. 1, 2013;
- using 80 percent of grants for construction or rehabilitation of early childhood, crisis nursery or parenting centers for counties outside the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area;
- implementing a pediatric care coordination service for children with high-cost health conditions;
- requiring managed care and county-based purchasing plans to implement strategies to reduce incidences of low-birth weight; and
- requiring postpartum depression information to be available at Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program locations.

Change to previous legislation

- Repealing the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association's six-month residency requirement for Healthy Minnesota Contribution Program enrollees;
- repealing a mandate that managed health care plans report the company's five highest salaries, including all types of compensation, in excess of \$50,000;
- delaying the 20 percent rate reduction to personal care assistants who are related to the assisted person until July 1, 2013;
- delaying the mandatory bed closure for adult foster care homes until July 2013 and conducting a needs determination study during the interim; and
- delaying the 1.67 percent continuing care rate reduction until July 1, 2013, or until a federal waiver is received for persons with

intermediate care facility or developmental disabled waivers.

Adult-related provisions

- Raising the allowable earned income level to \$500 per month for employed adults with mental illness living in group homes, effective Oct. 1, 2012;
- providing exemptions to the nursing home moratorium;
- establishing a critical access nursing designation, effective April 29, 2012;
- issuing a mental health certification for adult foster care homes;
- enabling a variance for a fifth bed in a four-bed adult foster care facility to respite care;
- requiring adherence to new regulations regarding overnight supervision of residents in adult group homes;
- developing a Senior LinkAge Line referral service for older adults at-risk for long-term care;
- removing the Medical Assistance asset cap for employed persons with disabilities reaching age 65, to prevent "spending down" of finances or moving into more expensive shelter care, effective April 1, 2012;
- encouraging a provider for persons in individualized community living facilities to transfer the lease to the resident within two years; and
- expanding the shelter options for "shelter needy" adults to live in units with more than four beds, provided no more than 25 percent of the units are used for this purpose.

Studies and task forces


- Appropriating \$200,000 for a study focused on the incidence of autism among the Somali community;
- directing the Departments of Human Services; Education; Health; and Employment and Economic Development to study supportive housing models for children diagnosed with autism disorders;
- changing the name of the Ladder Out

of Poverty Task Force to the Asset Development and Financial Literacy Task Force;

- establishing the Minnesota visible child work group to improve homeless children's well-being;
- analyzing the differences in asset limit requirements in human services assistance programs and reporting findings by Jan. 15, 2013;
- requiring a nonemergency medical transportation advisory committee to advise and make policy recommendations to the Health Department;
- requiring the Human Services Department to do an emergency Medical Assistance study;
- establishing a Maternal and Child Health Advisory Task Force;
- conducting a study of health record access;
- requiring the Health Department to publicly report sexual violence data;
- directing the Human Services Department to do a feasibility study on licensing personal care attendant services;
- adding marriage and family therapy counselors to the State Advisory Council on Mental Health; and
- appropriating \$137,000 to study the capacity need for radiation therapy facilities.

Miscellaneous provisions

- Reimbursing for services performed by physician assistants and covered under Medical Assistance;
- biennially conducting an independent third-party audit of managed care plans and county-based purchasing plans, beginning Jan. 1, 2014;
- lifting the moratorium on advanced diagnostic imaging facilities, effective Aug. 1, 2014, if certain criteria are met; and
- appropriating \$300,000 to Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, upon federal approval, for medical education and research costs payments.

HF2294*/SF2093/CH247 

Frequently called numbers

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296-2314

House Index

296-6646

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296-0504

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Senate Index

296-2887

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201-3400

Looking out for children and families

Law offers new safe haven option for newborns; addresses adoption and child safety

By SUE HEGARTY

Policies regarding adoption, child support, and the care and safety of children, as well as Minnesota Family Investment Program provisions, are included in a new Department of Human Services policy law.

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) and Sen. Michelle Benson (R-Ham Lake) sponsor the law.

Child protection and foster care

The “Give Life A Chance” provision gives mothers wishing to relinquish their newborns without prosecution another legal option besides hospitals.

Effective Aug. 1, 2012, ambulances can pick up a child after a 911 call is placed by the mother or a person with the mother’s permission to give up the child. The timeline of when the mother may relinquish her child will expand from 72 hours after giving birth to seven days.

Children in foster care who turn 18 will be able to stay in foster care until age 21, if they have not been adopted.

If a child is discharged from foster care, the social service agency must develop a personalized transition plan with the youth during the 90 days preceding discharge.

Effective Aug. 2, 2012, all children in foster care for at least six months will receive a progress review for permanent placement, whereas previously only children under age 8 were reviewed. At the review, the court may order the child’s placement agency to develop a plan for permanent legal custody under certain circumstances, such as when a parent is not maintaining regular visits with the child.

If the Department of Human Services learns that a parent of a newborn was involved in the child protection system, the department may share information with

local social service agencies who may take action to ensure the newborn’s safety.

Technical updates are made to laws regarding state and federal adoption assistance funding policies and the language moved into a new section of law, effective Aug. 1, 2012.

Child protection policies are consolidated into the same chapter of law and amended so that when trying to reunify a child with a parent, an agency does not need to seek reunification if a court determines that the parent has committed an act of sexual abuse or is required to register as a predatory offender.

Child support and assistance

Another section of the law may establish a reciprocal agreement between Minnesota and Bermuda to enforce child support laws. Larger countries have reciprocity with the United States, but the federal government leaves it up to each state to share reciprocity with smaller countries. The provision was also signed into law as HF795*/SF639/CH204. The provision is effective only if Bermuda provides written agreement to enforce reciprocal child support orders.

Those who provide day care to children on child care assistance will have to follow more detailed procedures as outlined in modified provisions. For example, the daily attendance record required must be completed daily and include the times when each child was dropped off and picked up. If possible, the person dropping off or picking up the child should be the one making the recorded entry.

A program for school-age children that cares for children before or after school hours will receive an exemption from a licensing requirement until July 1, 2014.

MFIP, the state’s welfare reform program for low-income families with children, will be amended to simplify program requirements. In addition to face-to-face interviews, phone interviews will be allowed between county agencies and MFIP participants seeking to recertify their eligibility, effective Oct. 1, 2012.

Adult services


The law also addresses provisions for continuing care services, including delaying a moratorium on new adult foster care licenses from 2011 until June 30, 2014.

The human services commissioner will provide a biennial report beginning Jan. 1, 2013, about goals and priorities for administering home care services and waivers for people with disabilities. In addition, the commissioner is directed to seek federal approval for disability and community-based waivers to allow up to five individuals in a licensed adult foster care home, effective July 1, 2012.

People on elderly waivers will receive case management services from their health plan and a written coordinated service and support plan to identify the level of service needs and how those needs will be met.

The delivery of human services is transferring from Mahanomen County to the White Earth Nation and the new law directs the human services commissioner to identify, evaluate and report on efforts to effectively continue with the transfer of services. Specific recommendations are due to the Legislature by Feb. 1, 2013, on any needed legislation to complete the transfer of services to the tribe.

Another new responsibility of the commissioner is to develop a new list of diagnostic codes to define mental illness for the statewide mental health system. An advisory committee will be established to help with determining the codes.

HF1967/SF1675*/CH216 

Planes, trains and automobiles

Omnibus law addresses spectrum of transportation issues

By MIKE COOK

A merging of two omnibus bills has resulted in one new transportation law.

Sponsored by Rep. Mike Beard (R-Shakopee) and Sen. Joe Gimse (R-Willmar), the law includes provisions from both the 2012 policy bill and the 2011 version that was awaiting action in the Senate when the 2011 session concluded.

“We have a very good (law), I believe,” Gimse said.

“Although not perfect ... it moves transportation forward,” said Rep. Frank Hornstein (DFL-Mpls).

All provisions are effective Aug. 1, 2012, unless otherwise noted.

The Departments of Transportation and Employment and Economic Development are to conduct a freight rail economic development study.

“We have over 20 railroads in this state that move over 235 million tons of freight each year. For many manufacturers they’re a vital link to the customers around the country and around the world,” Beard said earlier in the session. “I believe a study can help us identify some other opportunities, some things that are hazards that we may want to avoid in the future and help us create more jobs.”

The law establishes a temporary program whereby MnDOT can enter into contracts with a construction manager/general contractor for parts of construction project administration. This section is effective May 11, 2012, and expires one year following the acceptance of 10 construction manager/general contractor contracts.

Supporters said the efficient project delivery method — best used on unique and challenging projects for which MnDOT personnel may not have the expertise — is considered a hybrid of design-bid-build, which is the majority of MnDOT contracts,

and design-build, for which the department was given authority in 2001. According to a department fact sheet, “During the design stage, the CM/GC assists the owner with developing the project scope to meet the budget, optimizing the design to reduce costs, and improve quality through innovation. When the design is nearing completion, the contractor and owner enter into a negotiated construction contract.”

One of the more controversial parts of the law will prevent speed limit violations of up to 10 mph over the limit in both 55 mph and 60 mph zones from going on a driver’s record. Currently, a ticket does not appear on someone’s driving record if the person was driving up to 10 mph over the speed limit in a 55 mph zone, or 5 mph over the limit in a 60 mph zone. The change is only effective until Aug. 1, 2014, after which point the cut-off for violations in a 60 mph zone will revert back to being up to 5 mph over the limit. A report on the impacts of the change is due the Legislature by Jan. 15, 2015.

Other provisions in the law include:

- treating electric-assisted bicycles more like pedal-powered bikes, including no longer requiring registration with the state, eliminating a license or permit requirement and preventing prohibition of e-bikes on any state or local trail where bikes are allowed, unless there is a safety issue;
- authorizing bicycles to be equipped with studded tires for better traction in snowy or icy conditions, and allowing bikes to have forward-facing white flashing lights;
- allowing payment of driver’s license and identification card fees by credit or debit card, and authorizing driver’s license


agents to impose a convenience fee;

- broadening a “first haul” exception to vehicles that exceed weight limits by no more than 10 percent and are performing the first transport of unprocessed farm products or unrefined forest products to a location within 100 miles;
- MnDOT can issue, effective May 11, 2012, a variance for licensing a public seaplane on Flekkefjord Lake, which abuts the Elbow Lake Municipal Airport; and
- funds granted for land acquisition purposes for the Highway 23 bypass project may instead be used as the state’s share of funds for airport improvements and other aeronautical purposes at the Paynesville airport.

The law provides for \$17.5 million in trunk highway fund appropriations for five projects: \$7.5 million to construct a maintenance facility addition at the Willmar district headquarters building and a remodeling of the current building; \$5.6 million for a new truck station and bridge crew building in Plymouth; \$3.3 million to construct a truck station facility in Cambridge; \$1.1 million for additions to the existing truck station buildings in Crookston, Eden Prairie and Mendota; and \$30,000 to modify a permit system that allows MnDOT to collect registration taxes for overweight vehicles being re-registered at a higher weight classification. This section is effective May 11, 2012.

Also effective that day, \$16.1 million from bond proceeds in the trunk highway fund will go to construct a Rochester maintenance facility and remodel the existing district headquarters.

Not included in the law was that in the event of a government shutdown, construction projects funded with constitutionally dedicated trunk highway funds could continue. “The governor vehemently opposed this provision and encouraged us to find a test case so that the courts could settle it,” Beard said.

HF2685*/SF2321/CH287 

GOVERNOR'S DESK

JAN. 24 - MAY 23, 2012

CHAPTERS 118 - 299

New Laws and their effective dates

Editor's note: The following chart includes the 182 bills that passed both the House and the Senate and were sent to the governor for consideration. The bills are, for the most part, sorted according to the committee of origin. An asterisk marks the version of the bill the House and Senate approved and sent on to the governor.

Governor's options

- **Enactment**

The date the governor signed the bill into law.

- **Line-item veto**

The power or action of the governor to reject individual items within an appropriations bill while approving the rest of the bill.

- **Veto**

The governor did not approve the bill.

Effective dates for new laws

Each act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day stated in the act itself, unless it specifies a different time. Examples:

- **Aug. 1, 2012**

Each act the governor signs into law, except those that make appropriations, take effect on Aug. 1 following final enactment, unless the act specifies a different date.

- **July 1, 2012**

An appropriations act, an act spending money, takes effect at the beginning of the first day of July following its final enactment, unless the act specifies a different date.

- **Day after enactment**

The act becomes effective the day after the governor signs it.

- **Upon local approval**

A special law requiring approval from the local government unit it affects becomes effective the day after the local government unit's governing body files a certificate with the secretary of state, unless the act specifies a later date.

- **Various**

Different parts of the act have different effective dates.

- **With exceptions**

Act includes other effective dates.

- **With qualifications**

Act adds conditions to the effective date.

- **Retroactive**

Act goes into effect as of a specified date in the past.

2012 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

FINAL ACTION AS OF MAY 23, 2012

HF—House File SF—Senate File							R—Resolution CH—Chapter	we—with exceptions wq—with qualifications
CH	Bill that passed	Sponsor	Companion	Sponsor	Description		Effective date	

Agriculture

124	HF1926	Swedzinski	SF1527	Dahms	Certification provided for good manufacturing practices for commercial feed and feed ingredients, voluntary certification fees authorized, rule provisions relating to animal feed modified and money appropriated.	3/2/2012
203	SF396	Koch	HF539	Anderson, B.	Agricultural pursuit clarified as not being determinative for property tax classification, and agricultural operation defined.	8/1/2012
244	HF2398	Anderson, P.	SF2061	Magnus	Omnibus agriculture law.	Various

Bonding

293	HF1752	Howes	SF1463	Senjem	Omnibus bonding law - 2012.	Various
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Budget

294	HF2690	Davids	SF2136	Ortman	Individual income, corporate franchise, property, sales and use, and other taxes and tax-related provisions changed; supplemental targeting refund provided; city aid payments modified and cities exempted from 2011 aid payment penalties; technical, minor, and clarifying changes made in enterprise zone and economic development powers, and obsolete provisions eliminated; fund transfer required, and money appropriated.	5/11/2012
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Business and Commerce

134	HF2152	Vogel	SF1739	Kruse	Real estate licensee responsibility specified for property management activities on real property owned by the licensee or by an entity in which the licensee has an ownership interest.	3/21/2012
142	SF1735	Sparks	HF2227	Anderson, D.	State bank closures for holidays clarified, state bank lending limits changed to comply with federal law, and obsolete language repealed relating to deposits payable on demand.	Various
157	SF2069	Brown	HF2544	Loon	Travel insurance offer and dissemination regulated.	7/1/2012
160	SF1793	Dahms	HF1998	Sanders	Health plan company definition modified.	8/1/2012
162	SF1934	Dahms	HF2342	Davids	Township mutual fire insurance company combination policies regulated.	4/6/2012

2012 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

FINAL ACTION AS OF MAY 23, 2012

HF—House File
SF—Senate File

R—Resolution
CH—Chapter

we—with exceptions
wq—with qualifications

CH	Bill that passed	Sponsor	Companion	Sponsor	Description	Effective date
166	SF2173	Kruse	HF2626	Lohmer	Automated drug distribution system authorized.	8/1/2012
182	SF1964	Daley	HF2263	Stensrud	Window cleaning safety measures implemented.	4/19/2012
225	HF2335	Sanders	SF1888	Thompson	Debt collection agency and registration of individual debt collector procedures amended.	8/1/2012
234	HF2173	Kieffer	SF2067	Daley	Fraud prevention measures established for money transmitters, and home solicitation sale definition clarified.	8/1/2012
235	SF2392	Gerlach	HF2784	Atkins	Liquor regulations modified, and liquor licenses authorized.	Various
242	SF1754	Parry	HF2259	Dettmer	Lawful gambling net profits for military marching, color guard, or honor guard units allowable per diem reimbursement increased.	8/1/2012
254	SF1597	DeKruif	HF1821	Dettmer	Small business set-aside program changed for veteran-owned small businesses, county set-aside programs authorized for veteran-owned small businesses, and reporting requirements changed.	7/1/2012
255	SF2342	Gazelka	HF2749	Abeler	Auto insurance claims practices regulated.	1/1/2013
259	HF2638	Anderson, D.	SF2310	Gazelka	Portable electronics insurance sale regulated.	1/1/2013
260	HF2705	Mazorol	SF2340	Newman	Closing agents regulated, and licensed attorneys and direct employees of licensed attorneys exempted from the licensing requirements for closing agents.	5/2/2012
262	SF2324	Pederson	HF2732	Sanders	Electrical licenses modified.	10/1/2012
267	HF2136	Sanders	SF1734	Gazelka	Motor vehicle damage disclosure modified.	8/1/2012
279	HF2795	Hoppe	SF1727	Robling	Card club and pari-mutuel wagering provisions modified, and regulatory threshold concentrations provided to be set by the commission.	5/5/2012
288	HF1721	Gunther	SF1441	Rosen	Redevelopment demolition loans authorized, semiannual report eliminated, small business advocate office established in the Business Assistance Center, and Albert Lea granted the authority to establish an industrial sewer charge rebate program.	Various
289	SF1983	DeKruif	HF2172	McElfratrick	Construction code fund transfer to the General Fund eliminated, and surcharges modified.	Various
Civil Law						
131	SF1183	Ortman	HF32	Dill	State and local government tort liability limits restored to pre-2008 levels, and state and local government contracts that require contractors to provide liability insurance or other security in excess of those limits prohibited.	3/16/2012
143	HF382	Hoppe	SF352	Thompson	Receiverships, assignments for the benefit of creditors, and nonprofit corporation statutes amended; and Uniform Disclaimer of Property Interests Act changed, updated, and clarified.	8/1/2012
178	SF2184	Limmer	HF2763	Westrom	Time share interests registration provided.	8/1/2012
183	SF2114	Newman	HF2476	Holberg	Child support 20-year survival judgements provisions eliminated.	Retroactively from 4/15/2010
184	SF1620	Kruse	HF1833	Dittrich	Relocation assistance amount or denial hearing required.	4/19/2012
185	SF1875	Dahms	HF2307	Daudt	Guaranty association coverage written disclosure permitted when a policy is delivered, and access expanded to accident reports to include all parties involved.	4/19/2012
201	SF2224	Pederson	HF2582	Gunther	Unemployment insurance federal conformity, policy, and other housekeeping changes made.	Various
204	HF795	Hoppe	SF639	Ortman	Bermuda; human services commissioner instructed to initiate a foreign reciprocal agreement.	Various 12/31/13
216	SF1675	Benson	HF1967	Abeler	Children and family services provisions modified, child safety and permanency reform provided including adoptions under guardianship of the commissioner, statutory provisions modified related to child support, child care provisions modified, fees modified, MFIP provisions modified, criminal penalties provided, and technical changes made.	Various
241	HF2447	Scalze	SF2106	Marty	Office of Administrative Hearings judge authorized to perform marriages.	8/1/2012
248	SF2137	Dahms	HF2553	Hoppe	Claims practices regulated.	8/1/2012
280	HF2647	Myhra	SF2409	Hall	Public data definition relating to agreements involving payment of public money clarified.	5/5/2012
283	SF506	Ortman	HF868	Shimanski	Conciliation court civil claim limit increased.	Various
Consumers						
159	SF1993	Pederson	HF2354	Sanders	Plumbing requirements modified relating to sump pumps and drain tiles.	8/1/2012
163	SF2273	Howe	HF2736	Swedzinski	Junked motor vehicle buyer class eligibility expanded, and commissioner of public safety directed to make changes to Minnesota Rules.	8/1/2012
Education						
122	HF1770	Kieffer	SF1493	Daley	Teacher candidates required to pass basic skills exam.	2/23/2012

2012 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

FINAL ACTION AS OF MAY 23, 2012

HF—House File SF—Senate File					R—Resolution CH—Chapter	we—with exceptions wq—with qualifications
CH	Bill that passed	Sponsor	Companion	Sponsor	Description	Effective date
125	HF1585	Anderson, P.	SF1322	Gimse	Minnesota State High School League; time period reduced for good faith effort before interscholastic conference membership arrangement.	3/2/2012
130	SF1213	Nelson	HF1484	Kelly	Adult education tracking system modified.	3/9/2012
136	HF300	Erickson	SF1160	Hann	Early childhood development screening notice modified.	3/27/2012
138	HF2376	LeMieur	SF1971	Gazelka	School food service fund equipment purchase approval process simplified.	7/1/2012
139	HF1524	Mariani	SF1932	Bonoff	Substitute principal continuing education requirements clarified.	3/30/2012
144	HF2078	Dittrich	SF1990	Kruse	Nonpublic pupil textbook aid expanded.	7/1/2012
145	HF2291	Mariani	SF2346	Nelson	Adult basic education; process created for contact hours lost due to a service disruption.	7/1/2012
206	HF2506	Loon	SF2059	Nelson	School district reserved staff development revenue allocation requirement stricken.	Various
207	SF1073	Nelson	HF1272	McFarlane	High school transition plan for students to successfully pursue postsecondary education and employment.	4/24/2012
209	HF2174	O'Driscoll	SF1737	Lillie	District money deposit investments authorized, and designated depositories provided.	4/24/2012
239	HF2949	Garofalo	SF2482	Olson	General education, education excellence, special education, and other programs provided for, and money appropriated.	Various
257	SF2535	Olson	HF2759	Erickson	Board of School Administrators provisions modified.	5/1/2012
263	SF946	DeKruif	HF755	Erickson	School district pilot project established to examine joint operations to provide innovative delivery of programs.	7/1/2012
273	SF1528	Nelson	HF2127	Myhra	Online learning parameters modified, graduation requirements modified, and digital learning provided.	Various
Elections						
167	HF2738	Kiffmeyer	SF1577	Newman	Voters required to present photographic identification, photographic identification provided to voters at no charge, equal verification standards required for all voters, and constitutional amendment proposed.	
208	SF2379	Limmer	HF2680	Shimanski	Jury selection limitation removed on voter list data received by courts.	8/1/2012
250	SF2296	Chamberlain	HF2545	Sanders	Absentee ballot envelope certificate modified.	Various
251	SF2334	Vandever	HF2684	Peppin	Lobbying principal reports modified.	For reports due 3/15/2013 and thereafter.
282	HF2269	Lanning	SF1832	Parry	Help America Vote Act funds determined and money appropriated.	7/1/2012
Employment						
205	HF1850	Downey	SF2253	Ortman	State employee gainsharing program maximum award increased.	8/1/2012
224	HF2614	Mahoney	SF2227	Lillie	Administrative law judge and compensation judge mandatory retirement age changed.	4/24/2012
286	SF1808	Rosen	HF2199	Lanning	Omnibus pension law.	Various
295	SF1653	Pederson	HF2093	Sanders	Independent contractor employee classification clarified, and contractor registration pilot project provided.	5/14/12
Energy						
179	SF1815	Brown	HF1989	Hackbarth	Incumbent electric transmission owner rights established, and commission procedures established.	8/1/2012
196	SF2181	Rosen	HF2650	Beard	Renewable development account regulated.	7/1/2012
237	HF2731	Torkelson	SF2216	Magnus	Community energy technical assistance and outreach assessment and grant required.	7/1/2012
268	SF2098	Sparks	HF2747	Murray	Cooperative utilities under the integrated resource planning process reporting obligations modified.	5/3/2012
Environment and Natural Resources						
150	SF1567	Ingebrigtsen	HF2095	Fabian	Environmental permitting efficiency provided, environmental review requirements modified.	4/3/2012
264	SF2493	Ingebrigtsen	HF2430	Urdahl	Legacy bill; Outdoor Heritage Fund, Clean Water Fund, and Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund money appropriated; Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation requirements modified.	Various
272	HF2164	McNamara	SF1830	Ingebrigtsen	Omnibus environment and natural resources law.	Various
277	HF2171	Hackbarth	SF1943	Ingebrigtsen	Omnibus game and fish law.	Various
Health and Human Services						
146	SF1917	Wolf	HF2293	Davnie	School districts; ability to use prone restraints extended to one additional year, and data collection.	4/3/2012
148	HF2253	Lohmer	SF1861	Benson	Out-of-state residential mental health treatment allowed for children who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing and who use American Sign Language as their first language.	8/1/2012

2012 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

FINAL ACTION AS OF MAY 23, 2012

<div> <div>HF—House File SF—Senate File</div> <div>R—Resolution CH—Chapter</div> <div>we—with exceptions wq—with qualifications</div> </div>						
CH	Bill that passed	Sponsor	Companion	Sponsor	Description	Effective date
152	HF2676	Howes	SF2330	Carlson	Abortion; grant eligibility modified for abortion alternative programs.	2/1/2012
164	SF1809	Hann	HF2237	Gottwalt	Hospital community benefit programs and health maintenance organization collaboration plans; evidence-based strategy requirements removed.	Various
169	SF1543	Rosen	HF2060	Mack	Medical Assistance coverage provided for community paramedic services.	7/1/2012, or upon federal approval, whichever is later.
170	HF2216	Hoppe	SF1910	Gerlach	Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association; premium rate-setting process flexibility permitted.	4/10/2012
175	SF1586	Limmer	HF1945	Gottwalt	Criminal neglect of vulnerable adult penalty modified.	8/1/2012
177	SF1621	Kruse	HF2097	Peppin	Child care accreditation provisions modified.	8/1/2012
180	SF1553	Carlson	HF1972	Davids	Dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistant guest license provisions modified.	8/1/2012
181	SF1626	Nelson	HF2094	Norton	Volunteer dental services coverage provided for and regulated.	8/1/2012
189	SF2360	Koch	HF2587	Garofalo	Health professional education loan forgiveness program requirements amended.	4/19/2012
193	HF2128	Quam	SF1876	Hoffman	Emergency medical personnel licensed.	4/19/2012
197	SF753	Rosen	HF1191	Abeler	Social worker licensure provisions modified.	Various
215	HF1236	Hamilton	SF973	Hoffman	Pharmacy audit integrity program established.	8/1/2012
217	SF248	Fischbach	HF383	Hamilton	New radiation therapy facility construction criteria established, and capacity study required.	8/1/2012
228	HF2276	Kiffmeyer	SF1811	Nienow	Advanced diagnostic imaging services operator accreditation required.	8/1/2012
247	HF2294	Abeler	SF2093	Hann	Omnibus health and human services law.	Various
253	HF2627	Gottwalt	SF2208	Hann	Electronic claims and electronic transaction requirement changed, health care and disability service provisions changes made, supplemental agreement provided to a contract for community social services, family stabilization service provision changes made, procedures required to establish reciprocal child support agreement with Bermuda, and public pool exemption provisions changed.	Various
266	HF2046	Woodard	SF1958	Limmer	Department of Human Services electronic civil commitment data access permitted to law enforcement for background checks on explosives possession permit applications.	Various
269	SF288	Howe	HF614	Kelly	Dental laboratories regulated, and money appropriated.	Various
Higher Education						
270	SF1573	Fischbach	HF2065	Nornes	Omnibus higher education law.	Various
Housing						
132	HF1515	Holberg	SF1272	Newman	Late fee provisions modified, and provisions clarified relating to eviction from property subject to foreclosure.	8/1/2012
198	SF1416	Fischbach	HF1595	Murdock	Manufactured home unaffixing process from real property provided.	8/1/2012
Local Government						
135	HF1738	Howes	SF1450	Carlson	Municipality detachment provided.	8/1/2012
199	HF2132	Lohmer	SF2050	Vandever	Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority and the Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority jurisdiction clarified.	Upon local approval
219	HF1175	Buesgens	SF929	Robling	Scott County; additional deputy registrar of motor vehicles authorized.	8/1/2012
226	HF2861	McElfrick	SF2466	Saxhaug	Municipalities authorized to make grants to emergency medical services agencies.	8/1/2012
Military and Veterans Affairs						
149	HF1903	Urdahl	SF1814	Parry	Honor guard stipends preference modified.	7/1/2012
186	SF1599	Daley	HF2100	Kriesel	Veterans and spouses of a disabled or deceased veteran hiring and promotion preference by private employer permitted.	8/1/2012
192	SF1689	DeKruif	HF1416	Gruenhagen	Military affairs; nonpublic employees reemployment rights protections extended.	4/19/2012
202	SF2271	DeKruif	HF2494	Anderson, B.	State award issuance to Minnesota National Guard nonmembers allowed.	8/1/2012
230	SF2316	Magnus	HF2495	Anderson, B.	Veterans removal hearing board appointment procedure modified.	8/1/2012
231	SF2354	Daley	HF2493	Anderson, B.	Noncompetitive appointment of disabled veterans in the classified service provided.	8/1/2012

2012 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

FINAL ACTION AS OF MAY 23, 2012

HF—House File
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R—Resolution
CH—Chapter

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CH	Bill that passed	Sponsor	Companion	Sponsor	Description	Effective date
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Public Safety

123	HF2394	Lohmer	SF1994	Ortman	Minnesota sex offender program; community notification required when a person is released from the program.	2/24/2012
127	SF1371	Gazelka	HF1468	LeMieur	Forfeited firearm sale by law enforcement agencies authorized to federally licensed firearms dealers.	8/1/2012
128	SF1240	Thompson	HF1535	Cornish	DWI, off-highway vehicle, drive-by shooting, designated offense, and controlled substance forfeiture laws changes made to provide more uniformity; monetary cap raised on the value of property forfeitures that may be adjudicated in conciliation court; forfeited property prohibited from being sold to prosecuting authorities or persons related to prosecuting authorities; and general criminal code forfeiture law, and necessity of conviction.	Various
151	HF1384	Davids	SF1084	Kruse	Charitable or religious organization transfers excluded from the fraudulent transfers act.	4/4/2012
153	SF2297	Dahms	HF1899	Vogel	Jacob's Law established, law enforcement notification required to social services if a child is neglected or abused outside the home, and parental rights under custody orders amended to include police reports on minor children.	7/1/2012
155	SF2084	Limmer	HF2415	Cornish	Fugitive apprehension unit authorized to apply for search warrants, commissioner directed to implement a garden-ing program at state correctional facilities, selection criteria narrowed for challenge incarceration program, and victim notification permitted to include electronic and written notification.	8/1/2012
156	SF1981	Newman	HF2409	Shimanski	Police civilian review uniform authority procedures provided.	8/1/2012
171	HF1829	Cornish	SF1648	Ingebrigtsen	County attorneys and assistant county attorneys authorized to carry firearms on duty.	4/10/2012
173	HF2333	Swedzinski	SF1870	Newman	Motor fuel theft specifically included in the theft crime, and permissive inference created.	8/1/2012
188	SF1492	Daley	HF2365	Wardlow	Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day designated date changed.	8/1/2012
194	HF1816	Benson, M.	SF2125	Ingebrigtsen	Federally licensed firearm importers, manufacturers, and dealers authorized to possess and sell firearm silencers to government agencies, the military, and other licensed firearms importers, manufacturers, and dealers.	8/1/2012
200	SF1123	Harrington	HF1245	McFarlane	Firearm possession by a minor included as unlawful for purposes of orders to enjoin gang activity.	8/1/2012
210	HF2373	Cornish	SF1874	Ingebrigtsen	Felony of fraudulent or other improper finance statements extended to include retaliation against a sheriff or county recorder for performance of official duties regarding real property.	8/1/2012
211	HF2160	Cornish	SF2108	Ingebrigtsen	Fingerprints permitted to be taken by law enforcement for any offender interacting with the criminal justice system for any offense to eliminate a suspense record.	8/1/2012
212	SF1678	Hall	HF2059	Woodard	Public defender representation, appointment, and reimbursement obligation provisions amended; and financial responsibility outlined for public defender cost, cost for counsel in CHIPS cases, pretrial appeals costs, and standby counsel costs.	Various
218	HF738	Cornish	SF1000	Ingebrigtsen	Public notice provided for the release hearing for killers of peace officers, and harassment restraining order provisions modified.	8/1/2012
222	HF2246	Daudt	SF1825	Nienow	Convictions under the original criminal vehicular operation law allowed to enhance DWI offenses, and legislative oversight corrected.	4/24/2012
223	HF469	Gruenhagen	SF574	Chamberlain	Harassment restraining order petitions jurisdiction provided.	8/1/2012
227	HF2149	Simon	SF1657	Latz	Domestic violence-related offense qualifying definition expanded.	8/1/2012
229	SF2464	Limmer	HF2896	Wardlow	Sex offender sentencing grid modification required.	4/24/2012
240	HF2508	Barrett	SF2319	Newman	State-controlled substance schedules aligned with federal controlled substance schedules, Board of Pharmacy's controlled substance regulation authority modified, and penalties provided.	8/1/2012
246	HF2532	Barrett	SF2128	Hann	Electronic prescribing of controlled substances allowed.	8/1/2012
258	HF1607	Woodard	SF1283	Benson	State patrol authorized to provide security and protection to certain government officials, and Capitol Complex security committee established.	5/2/2012

Recreation and Tourism

299	HF2958	Lanning	SF2469	Rosen	Vikings stadium bill; National Football League stadium in Minnesota provided for; Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority established; Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission abolished; local tax revenue provided for; electronic pull-tab games; electronic linked bingo games; and sports-themed tipboard games provided for; conditional imposition of taxes and collection of other revenues provided for; tax rates on lawful gambling modified; bonds issued; and money appropriated.	5/11/2012
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State Government

187	SF2060	Limmer	HF2770	Wardlow	Legislative enactments; erroneous, ambiguous, and omitted text and obsolete references corrected; redundant, conflicting, and superseded provisions removed; and miscellaneous corrections to laws, statutes, and rules made.	8/1/2012
220	HF1813	Benson, M.	SF1650	Nelson	Eligible contractor list required to be made available under a master contract program.	8/1/2012
232	SF2112	Jungbauer	HF2437	Smith	Correctional facility claims settlement against the state provided for and money appropriated.	8/1/2012

2012 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

FINAL ACTION AS OF MAY 23, 2012

HF—House File
SF—Senate File

R—Resolution
CH—Chapter

we—with exceptions
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CH	Bill that passed	Sponsor	Companion	Sponsor	Description	Effective date
236	SF1750	Carlson	HF2214	Hancock	State parks, state recreation areas, and state forests added to and deleted from, and conveyances and public and private sales of state and county lands authorized.	Various
238	SF1922	Pederson	HF2169	Beard	State agency notice to the Legislature and requirements modified for statements of need and reasonableness.	8/1/2012
249	HF2244	O'Driscoll	SF1889	Kruse	Permanent School Fund Advisory Committee changed into a legislative commission, and director provided for school trust lands.	Various
271	SF1679	Hall	HF1993	Barrett	Advisory council provisions modified.	8/1/2012
278	HF2555	Kiffmeyer	SF2304	Bonoff	Sunset review process changes implemented and Sunset Advisory Commission permitted to enter into contracts, and other provisions modified relating to state councils and agencies, and money appropriated.	Various
290	SF1143	Limmer	HF1466	Scott	Data practices technical changes made.	5/11/2012
292	HF2967	Holberg	SF2558	Robling	Equalizing factors and threshold rates updated to reflect the changed adjusted net tax capacity tax base, education and human services appropriations updated for changes reflected in the February forecast, veterans job-training program provided for, supplemental budget appropriations provided, disposition of fees modified, newborn screening provisions modified, Housing Finance Agency provisions modified.	Various
298	SF1420	Limmer	HF1702	Kelly	Legislative enactments miscellaneous oversights, inconsistencies, ambiguities and technical errors corrected.	5/11/2012
Transportation						
137	HF392	Howes	SF992	Wolf	School bus safety and standards provisions modified.	8/1/2012
141	SF1542	Gazelka	HF2441	Loon	Defensive driving refresher course requirements modified.	3/31/2012
147	HF2793	Shimanski	SF2426	DeKruif	Vehicle combination allowed to transport property and equipment.	3/31/2012
161	SF1860	Pederson	HF2316	Sanders	Solid waste definition modified to exempt highway construction, improvement or repair activities.	4/6/2012
165	HF1992	Kelly	SF1687	Ortman	Motor carrier contract indemnity provisions prohibited.	4/6/2012
172	SF2394	Howe	HF2775	Fabian	Towed implements of husbandry brake requirements amended.	8/1/2012
174	HF2187	Vogel	SF1791	DeKruif	Motor vehicle registration plate and sticker provisions amended, and dealer allowed to obtain cancellation of lien more than seven years old.	Various
176	SF2131	Howe	HF2378	Vogel	Design-build projects approved under pilot program completion authorized.	4/19/2012
195	HF2239	Benson, M.	SF2202	Nelson	Motor vehicle titling and license plate requirements amended and clarified for pioneer vehicles.	8/1/2012
287	HF2685	Beard	SF2321	Gimse	Omnibus transportation law.	Various
Vetoes						
118	SF149	Ortman	HF211	Wardlow	Liability limits modified for tort claims against the state and political subdivisions, conciliation court claims regulated, right of appeal provided on class action orders, statute of limitations on claims modified, prejudgment interest modified, attorney fees regulated, and cause of action for sex trafficking violations provided.	
119	SF373	Ortman	HF654	Wardlow	Limitation period reduced for bringing certain actions.	
120	SF429	Newman	HF747	Mazorol	Attorney fee relation to damages awarded factor provided.	
121	SF530	Ortman	HF770	Mazorol	Interest on verdicts, awards, and judgments regulated.	
126	HF1467	Cornish	SF1357	Hoffman	Firearms; public official authority to disarm individuals at any time clarified and delimited, law clarified on use of force in defense of home and person, Minnesota's self-defense and defense of home laws codified and extended, common law duty to retreat in cases of self-defense outside the home eliminated.	
129	SF134	Robling	HF212	Beard	Public employee definition modified.	
133	HF1560	Wardlow	SF993	Newman	Office of Administrative Hearings disposition of contested case hearings provided.	
140	HF545	Downey	SF1600	Daley	State budget documents required to include federal contingency planning.	
154	HF2083	Garofalo	SF2492	Olson	Omnibus K-12 bill.	
158	SF2014	Kruse	HF2404	Scott	Metropolitan Council staggered, four-year terms provided for members.	
168	SF1236	Parry	HF1418	Woodard	Successor corporation asbestos-related liabilities limited.	
190	HF1766	Lohmer	SF1630	Lillie	Child care assistance fund payments modified.	
191	SF2183	Thompson	HF2596	Doepke	Commissioner of education prohibited from enforcing unadopted rules.	
213	SF247	Dahms	HF371	Hoppe	Local government employees required to approve participation in or withdrawal from the public employees insurance program.	

2012 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

FINAL ACTION AS OF MAY 23, 2012

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214	HF1812	Stensrud	SF1846	Gazelka	Department of Administration permitted to contract for waste-hauling without determining whether state employees are able to do the work.		
221	HF1976	Leidiger	SF1842	DeKruif	Federal E-Verify program use by state appointing authorities required.		
233	SF1921	Robling	HF2340	Holberg	Abortion facility licensure required, facility license fee set, and money appropriated.		
243	SF1694	Jungbauer	HF1774	Kriesel	Fireworks personal use authorized.		
245	HF1974	Drazkowski	SF2078	Parry	Contract terms continuance not allowed after expiration of a collective bargaining agreement.		
252	HF2341	Peppin	SF1912	Gazelka	Abortion; prescribing physicians required to be physically present when abortion-inducing drugs are administered.		
256	SF1933	Hann	HF2339	Gottwalt	Health care compact created.		
261	HF1134	Hoppe	SF877	Chamberlain	Annuity products regulated, and National Association of Insurance Commissioners model regulation enacted and modified relating to suitability in annuity transactions.		
265	HF2821	Anderson, S.	SF2424	Michel	House of Representatives district boundaries adjusted within Senate districts 39 and 49, and obsolete district descriptions repealed.		
274	HF1870	Petersen, B.	SF1690	Wolf	School districts allowed to base unrequested leave of absence and discharge and demotion decisions on teacher evaluation outcomes.		
275	HF203	Westrom	SF261	Senjem	Legislative approval of rules modified.		
276	HF8	Gottwalt	SF32	Hann	Unified personal health premium accounts permitted.		
281	SF1656	Nelson	HF1847	Erickson	High school graduation requirements and academic standards revision authorization required by the Legislature.		
284	SF1717	Miller	HF2087	LeMieur	State Building Code and apprenticeship training changes made.		
285	HF2337	Davids	SF1972	Ortman	Omnibus tax bill.		
291	SF1755	Gazelka	HF1977	Drazkowski	Executive branch employee representative negotiations authorized to avoid layoffs.		
296	HF247	Davids	SF872	Ortman	State and local government finance provisions changed relating to income and corporate, property, sales and use, mineral, and miscellaneous taxes; and other provisions changed relating to local development, estate taxes, and homestead market value cleanup; and money appropriated.		
297	HF322	Scott	SF1402	Jungbauer	Parenting time presumption increased.		awaits action

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

APRIL 20 - MAY 9, 2012

HOUSE FILES 3007 - 3052

Friday, April 20

HF3007-Greiling (DFL)

Education Reform

Education provided in care and treatment settings.

HF3008-Abeler (R)

Health & Human Services Reform

Newborn screening for critical congenital heart disease required.

HF3009-Wardlow (R)

Commerce & Regulatory Reform

Freedom of employment established and constitutional amendment proposed.

Monday, April 23

HF3010-Falk (DFL)

Government Operations & Elections

Minnesota Vikings public ownership provided.

HF3011-Mullery (DFL)

Commerce & Regulatory Reform

Real estate; mortgage lenders who have foreclosed on real estate within a city required to deed the property to the city when the foreclosure has been completed, city permitted to charge the lender for any costs of repair or demolition, and lender required to pay those charges.

HF3012-Mullery (DFL)

Commerce & Regulatory Reform

Mortgage loan balance reduction and calculations required.

HF3013-Mullery (DFL)

Commerce & Regulatory Reform

Foreclosure forbearance for unemployed long-term homeowners provided.

HF3014-Mullery (DFL)

Commerce & Regulatory Reform

Homeowners facing foreclosure provided with information about the current owner of the mortgage interest in the property, the current holder of the mortgage and the third-party servicer of the mortgage loan if any.

HF3015-Mullery (DFL)

Commerce & Regulatory Reform

Future mortgage foreclosures by advertisement ineffectiveness, and homestead property foreclosure deficiency judgment unavailability by action or advertisement provided.

HF3016-Cornish (R)
Public Safety & Crime Prevention
Policy and Finance

Peace officer murderer release hearings public notice required and public participation allowed.

HF3017-Howes (R)
Taxes

Class 1c property requirements modified.

HF3018-Cornish (R)
Government Operations & Elections

Blue Earth County library board made advisory to the county board.

HF3019-Slawik (DFL)
Education Finance

Early education scholarship program funding dedicated from remaining revenue net increases raised to fund a Minnesota Vikings stadium.

HF3020-Dettmer (R)
Taxes

Sales and use tax filing requirement thresholds changed, vendor allowance provided and address-based sales tax calculator development revenue required.

HF3021-Beard (R)
Government Operations & Elections

Public contract affirmative action goals rulemaking required.

HF3022-Hilty (DFL)
Rules & Legislative Administration

Personhood and campaign contributions; application to Congress to call a constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States clarifying that the rights protected under the United States Constitution are the rights of natural persons and not the rights of artificial entities and clarifying that campaign contributions to influence elections are not speech under the First Amendment.

HF3023-Clark (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
Reparative or conversion therapy Medical Assistance coverage prohibited.

Tuesday, April 24

HF3024-Dettmer (R)
Education Reform
Military Interstate Children's Compact compliance by Department of Education required.

HF3025-Kahn (DFL)
Civil Law
Genetic information and test definitions modified.

HF3026-Abeler (R)
Health & Human Services Reform
Laser treatment regulated.

HF3027-Mullery (DFL)
Commerce & Regulatory Reform
Foreclosed homeowners' right to stay in the home for a longer period of time provided.

HF3028-Mullery (DFL)
Commerce & Regulatory Reform
Lenders required to make calculations prior to foreclosure.

HF3029-Mullery (DFL)
Commerce & Regulatory Reform
Lenders required to make post-foreclosure offers to former homeowners.

Wednesday, April 25

HF3030-Murphy, E. (DFL)
Government Operations & Elections
Minnesota Constitution amendment method changed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3031-Downey (R)
Education Reform
Open enrollment decisions; student's resident district basis provided.

Friday, April 27

HF3032-Mullery (DFL)
Commerce & Regulatory Reform
Lender sale regulated for a foreclosed property to a person who has an unremediated local housing code violation.

HF3033-Loeffler (DFL)
Government Operations & Elections
Metropolitan Sports Authority established to provide planning and financing for a new stadium for the Minnesota Vikings.

Saturday, April 28

HF3034-Dettmer (R)
Higher Education Policy & Finance
Title IX implementation study required in Minnesota public and postsecondary education.

HF3035-Hilstrom (DFL)
Transportation Policy & Finance
Driver feedback and safety-monitoring equipment requirements added, and annual reporting provided for.

Monday, April 30

HF3036-Petersen, B. (R)
Transportation Policy & Finance
State-aid road system apportionment sum to counties amended.

HF3037-Hausman (DFL)
Capital Investment
Jobs created through rehabilitation and construction of affordable housing, green energy investments in public buildings and capital improvements at institutions of higher education, nonprofit housing bonds authorized, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF3038-Clark (DFL)
Taxes
Liquor gross receipt taxes amended, housing infrastructure bonds authorized and money appropriated.

HF3039-Clark (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Public housing preservation rehabilitation funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF3040-Loon (R)
Taxes
Inflation growth eliminated from the areawide pool, contribution percentage phased down, 1971 base value subtraction eliminated, distributions limited from the pool for certain municipalities, fiscal capacity definition modified and areawide pool portion provided to be used for economic development by funding costs related to light rail transit.

HF3041-Westrom (R)
Taxes
Property's value amount limited which can increase from the previous year and small business targeted property tax refund provided.

HF3042-Daudt (R)
Commerce & Regulatory Reform
Metering required for motor vehicle fuel delivered to underground storage tanks.

HF3043-Hortman (DFL)
Health & Human Services Reform
Family Economic Security Act created, minimum wage rates increased, child care assistance modified, new child care tax credit provided, working family tax credit expanded and money appropriated.

HF3044-Lohmer (R)
Taxes
Local project costs of trunk highway system bridge borrowing authorized and supplemental fiscal disparities distribution provided for.

Thursday, May 3

HF3045-Hoppe (R)
Commerce & Regulatory Reform
Department of Commerce charge back authority for investigations clarified.

HF3046-Westrom (R)
Taxes
Property tax mandate relief credit established, homestead market value exclusion repealed and local government state mandate opt-out procedure provided.

HF3047-Westrom (R)
Civil Law
State agency civil penalty imposition regulated and fees and expenses awarded to prevailing parties in actions involving state agencies.

Tuesday, May 8

HF3048-Hornstein (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Live theater production partnership credit established and money appropriated.

Wednesday, May 9

HF3049-Anderson, S. (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Small business technology transfer corporate tax exemption created.

HF3050-Fritz (DFL)
Health & Human Services Reform
Child care sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) licensure requirement modified.

HF3051-Clark (DFL)
Agriculture & Rural Development Policy & Finance
Genetically engineered food regulated.

HF3052-Erickson (R)
Education Reform
Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery considered for eligibility admissions to state colleges and universities, and career readiness assessment included in student planning for postsecondary education and employment.

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at 651-296-2881 to schedule a tour.

2011-2012 Minnesota House of Representatives Members

District	Member/Party	Room*	Phone 651-296-	District	Member/Party	Room*	Phone 651-296-
48B	Abeler, Jim (R)	479	1729	50A	Laine, Carolyn (DFL)	287	4331
61B	Allen, Susan (DFL)	389	7152	9A	Lanning, Morrie (R)	379	5515
19A	Anderson, Bruce (R)	365	5063	34A	Leidiger, Ernie (R)	415	4282
38A	Anderson, Diane (R)	525	3533	12B	LeMieur, Mike (R)	567	4247
13A	Anderson, Paul (R)	445	4317	40B	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	317	4218
43A	Anderson, Sarah (R)	549	5511	66A	Lesch, John (DFL)	315	4224
3A	Anzelc, Tom (DFL)	307	4936	30A	Liebling, Tina (DFL)	357	0573
39B	Atkins, Joe (DFL)	209	4192	55A	Lillie, Leon (DFL)	281	1188
15B	Banaian, King (R)	411	6612	59A	Loeffler, Diane (DFL)	335	4219
17B	Barrett, Bob (R)	413	5377	56A	Lohmer, Kathy (R)	521	4244
35A	Beard, Michael (R)	417	8872	42B	Loon, Jenifer (R)	403	7449
43B	Benson, John (DFL)	289	9934	37A	Mack, Tara (R)	557	5506
30B	Benson, Mike (R)	515	4378	67A	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	237	4277
37B	Bills, Kurt (R)	533	4306	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	203	9714
23B	Brynaert, Kathy (DFL)	327	3248	9B	Marquart, Paul (DFL)	313	6829
35B	Buesgens, Mark (R)	381	5185	41B	Mazorol, Pat (R)	581	7803
45B	Carlson Sr, Lyndon (DFL)	283	4255	19B	McDonald, Joe (R)	523	4336
58B	Champion, Bobby Joe (DFL)	329	8659	3B	McElfrick, Carolyn (R)	545	2365
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	277	0294	53B	McFarlane, Carol (R)	597	5363
24B	Cornish, Tony (R)	437	4240	57B	McNamara, Denny (R)	375	3135
8B	Crawford, Roger (R)	421	0518	5B	Melin, Carly (DFL)	309	0172
17A	Daudt, Kurt (R)	487	5364	65A	Moran, Rena (DFL)	227	5158
31B	Davids, Greg (R)	585	9278	23A	Morrow, Terry (DFL)	211	8634
62A	Davnie, Jim (DFL)	215	0173	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	387	4262
52B	Dean, Matt (R)	459	3018	10B	Murdock, Mark (R)	593	4293
52A	Dettmer, Bob (R)	473	4124	64A	Murphy, Erin (DFL)	345	8799
6A	Dill, David (DFL)	273	2190	6B	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	343	2676
47A	Dittrich, Denise (DFL)	311	5513	27A	Murray, Rich (R)	439	8216
33B	Doepke, Connie (R)	579	4315	40A	Myhra, Pam (R)	517	4212
41A	Downey, Keith (R)	407	4363	46A	Nelson, Michael V. (DFL)	229	3751
28B	Drazkowski, Steve (R)	401	2273	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946
2A	Eken, Kent (DFL)	243	9918	29B	Norton, Kim (DFL)	233	9249
16A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	509	6746	14A	O'Driscoll, Tim (R)	369	7808
1A	Fabian, Dan (R)	431	9635	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	301	4199
20A	Falk, Andrew (DFL)	239	4228	31A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	295	8637
11B	Franson, Mary (R)	429	3201	32A	Peppin, Joyce (R)	503	7806
26B	Fritz, Patti (DFL)	253	8237	4A	Persell, John (DFL)	223	5516
36B	Garofalo, Pat (R)	537	1069	49B	Petersen, Branden (R)	577	5369
7B	Gauthier, Kerry (DFL)	225	4246	45A	Peterson, Sandra (DFL)	337	4176
15A	Gottwalt, Steve (R)	485	6316	27B	Poppe, Jeanne (DFL)	291	4193
60A	Greene, Marion (DFL)	331	0171	29A	Quam, Duane (R)	569	9236
54A	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	393	5387	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	303	0170
25A	Gruenhagen, Glenn (R)	575	4229	53A	Runbeck, Linda (R)	583	2907
24A	Gunther, Bob (R)	591	3240	51A	Sanders, Tim (R)	449	4226
48A	Hackbarth, Tom (R)	409	2439	54B	Scalze, Bev (DFL)	259	7153
22B	Hamilton, Rod (R)	559	5373	22A	Schomacker, Joe (R)	433	5505
2B	Hancock, David (R)	529	4265	49A	Scott, Peggy (R)	477	4231
39A	Hansen, Rick (DFL)	247	6828	18A	Shimanski, Ron (R)	367	1534
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	255	3824	44A	Simon, Steve (DFL)	279	9889
46B	Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	261	3709	55B	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	245	7807
8A	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	207	4308	63B	Slocum, Linda (DFL)	359	7158
36A	Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	453	6926	33A	Smith, Steve (R)	543	9188
34B	Hoppe, Joe (R)	563	5066	42A	Stensrud, Kirk (R)	553	3964
60B	Hornstein, Frank (DFL)	213	9281	21A	Swedzinski, Chris (R)	527	5374
47B	Hortman, Melissa (DFL)	377	4280	63A	Thissen, Paul (DFL)	267	5375
14B	Hosch, Larry (DFL)	349	4373	51B	Tillberry, Tom (DFL)	231	5510
4B	Howes, Larry (R)	491	2451	21B	Torkelson, Paul (R)	371	9303
7A	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	351	2228	18B	Urdahl, Dean (R)	571	4344
67B	Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	217	4201	13B	Vogel, Bruce (R)	507	6206
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	353	4257	62B	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	251	4200
26A	Kath, Kory (DFL)	201	5368	12A	Ward, John (DFL)	221	4333
28A	Kelly, Tim (R)	565	8635	38B	Wardlow, Doug (R)	551	4128
56B	Kieffer, Andrea (R)	531	1147	11A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	443	4929
1B	Kiel, Debra (R)	423	5091	44B	Winkler, Ryan (DFL)	321	7026
16B	Kiffmeyer, Mary (R)	501	4237	25B	Woodard, Kelby (R)	539	7065
50B	Knuth, Kate (DFL)	323	0141	32B	Zellers, Kurt (R)	463	5502
57A	Kriesel, John (R)	451	4342	20B	open seat		4346

List as of April 18, 2012

Saying Goodbye

House members who won't be seeking re-election to the House

Following this year's redistricting, all House and the Senate members are up for election. Here is an unofficial listing of members, as of May 23, who won't be returning to the House.

Stepping down

Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Savage)
Rep. Denise Dittrich (DFL-Champlin)
Rep. Marion Greene (DFL-Mpls)
Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville)
Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson)
Rep. Larry Hosch (DFL-St. Joseph)
Rep. Kory Kath (DFL-Owatonna)
Rep. Kate Knuth (DFL-New Brighton)
Rep. John Kriesel (R-Cottage Grove)
Rep. Mike LeMieur (R-Little Falls)
Rep. Pat Mazorol (R-Bloomington)
Rep. Carol McFarlane (R-White Bear Lake)
Rep. Mark Murdock (R-Ottertail)
Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia)
Rep. Ron Shimanski (R-Silver Lake)
Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood)

Seeking Senate Seats

Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township)
Rep. Bobby Joe Champion (DFL-Mpls)
Rep. Connie Doepke (R-Orono)
Rep. Keith Downey (R-Edina)
Rep. Kent Eken (DFL-Twin Valley)
Rep. Mary Kiffmeyer (R-Big Lake)
Rep. Branden Petersen (R-Andover)
Rep. Bev Scalze (DFL-Little Canada)
Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake)

U.S. Senate Hopeful

Rep. Kurt Bills (R-Rosemount)

The 2013 legislative session is, by statute, scheduled to convene noon, Jan. 8, 2013.

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MINNESOTA INDEX

2012 session

House files introduced during the 2012 regular session.....	1,291
In the 2011-12 biennium.....	3,052
In the 2009-10 biennium.....	3,864
In the 2007-08 biennium.....	4,256
Senate files introduced during the 2012 regular session.....	1,148
In the 2011-12 biennium.....	2,625
In the 2009-10 biennium.....	3,430
In the 2007-08 biennium.....	3,895
Bills sent to the governor in 2012.....	182
In 2011	117
In 2010	219
In 2009	179
In 2008	220
Bills signed into law in 2012 as of May 23.....	151
Number of gubernatorial vetoes in 2012 as of May 23	31
Bills vetoed by Gov. Mark Dayton in his first two years	54
Total number of bills vetoed by Gov. Tim Pawlenty during his eight years as governor.....	123
Number vetoed in his first two years.....	8
Bills vetoed in the four years Jesse Ventura was governor	54
When Arne Carlson was governor from 1991-98.....	179
When Rudy Perpich was governor from 1983-90.....	20
Gubernatorial vetoes since 1939.....	588
Maximum number of legislative days that lawmakers can meet in regular session during the biennium	120
Number used in 2011-12.....	118
In 2009-10	107
In 2007-08	119
Number of House members who announced they will not be back in 2013 (as of May 23)	26
Those not returning that are DFL, Republican (as of May 23).....	12, 14
Total, as a percent of all House seats.....	19.4
Average number of years served by those who are not returning.....	8.15
Years Rep. Tom Rukavina, Rep. Mindy Greiling served in the House.....	26, 20
Number of members leaving after one term	6
Of those, number running for another office.....	2
Days between the May 10 House adjournment and the Nov. 6 general election.....	182
Days between adjournment until legislators reconvene at noon on Jan. 8, 2013.....	243

— M. Cook

Sources: House Public Information Services Department; Legislative Reference Library; Governor's Log 2011-12; Journal of the House.

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1. Where do you live? (Please circle.)

(a) Mpls./St. Paul (b) Suburbs (c) St. Cloud (d) Duluth (e) Rochester (f) Greater Minn. (g) Out of state

2. Your age (Please circle.) 18 and under 19-24 25-39 40-59 60 +

3. Which sections of the magazine do you read? (Please circle.)

Highlights:	Always	Sometimes	Never
News Features:	Always	Sometimes	Never
Bill Introductions:	Always	Sometimes	Never
Minnesota Index:	Always	Sometimes	Never

4. What day of the week do you typically receive Session Weekly in the mail? _____

5. How often do you use the following sources for legislative information and news? (Please circle.)

Session Weekly:	always	sometimes	never
Session Daily:	always	sometimes	never
Printed newspapers:	always	sometimes	never
Online newspapers:	always	sometimes	never
Social Media:	always	sometimes	never
Your legislator:	always	sometimes	never
Commercial television:	always	sometimes	never
Public television:	always	sometimes	never
Commercial radio:	always	sometimes	never
Public radio:	always	sometimes	never

6. Have you viewed Session Weekly online? (a) frequently (b) sometimes (c) once or twice (d) never

7. Have you personally contacted your state representative or state senator within the last year? Yes / No

8. Would you read Session Weekly or Session Daily online if Session Weekly were no longer printed and mailed?

Yes / No Comment _____

9. How can we improve Session Weekly?
