

SESSION WEEKLY

A NONPARTISAN PUBLICATION
MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES
VOLUME 28, NUMBER 2 • JANUARY 14, 2011

HF1 - HF92



Flashback to 2001



2001 - Millie Webb, national president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, shows House Crime Prevention Committee members a picture of her daughter, Lori, who was killed along with her 19-month-old nephew, Mitch Pewitt, by a drunk driver in 1971. Webb urged members to lower the blood alcohol level to .08 percent during her testimony Jan. 9.

— Session Weekly Jan. 12, 2001

The taxman giveth; then takes it away

2001 - During the summer of 2000, more than 33,000 Minnesotans inadvertently received sales tax rebate checks from the state totaling more than \$2.9 million due to a programming error, Department of Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith told the House Taxes Committee.

Among those receiving checks in error were 11,000 minors, including children whose parents had died or were disabled. In an effort to recoup the money, the department sent letters to those who had received rebates in error. Smith said that more than \$1 million was left to be collected.

Committee Chairman Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) said through no fault of their own, these young people may find when they get a job or apply for a future rebate or refund that they owe the state money.

—Session Weekly Jan. 12, 2001

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SESSION WEEKLY

Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Services. Produced during session, it covers the previous week's news from the House. No fee.

Session Weekly (ISSN 1049-8176) is published weekly during the legislative session by Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Services, 175 State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, Minn., and additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Session Weekly, House Public Information Services, 175 State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREW VONBANK

Experts predict that Minnesotans' demand for electricity will exceed the state's ability to produce it by the year 2030 and say legislators must decide policies using a mix of baseload and renewable energy sources, such as wind and nuclear power.

Preparing for future energy demand

Legislators debate merits of expanding nuclear power

BY SUE HEGARTY

Repealing a 17-year ban on constructing nuclear power plants blew through its first House committee faster than wind blows across a prairie dotted with turbines.

Largely along party lines, the House Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee approved lifting the moratorium Jan. 11 on a 10-6 roll call vote. Rep. David Dill (DFL-Crane Lake) was the lone DFLer to vote in favor of the repeal.

Sponsored by Rep. Joyce Peppin (R-Rogers) and Senate Majority Leader Amy Koch (R-Buffalo), HF9/SF4 would allow the Public Utilities Commission to issue a certificate of need for the construction or expansion of a nuclear power reactor if an applicant comes forward.

For many, that's a big "if."

"If we fail to plan and provide the infrastructure we need in the future, we risk not being able to provide the energy needs we've become accustomed to, like lights and warm homes," Peppin said. "Renewables alone will not get us where we need to be."

The debate is more than a philosophical difference between baseload power and renewable energy sources.

"This is not symbolic. This is trying to do what's right for Minnesota. We want to have that discussion," said Committee Chairman Denny McNamara (R-Hastings) during the 90 minutes of testimony.

No one claims to be waiting in the wings with an application in hand. Rather, advocates say lifting the moratorium would allow utilities to explore all their options to meet energy demands that are projected to outgrow production capabilities by the year 2030.

"The only way you really have those conversations is if a company is interested in building a reactor in Minnesota," said Marshall Cohen, senior director of state and local government affairs for the Nuclear Energy Institute. "No company will waste its

time or effort to discuss a new reactor when there is a law prohibiting construction."

The cost factor

That's OK with opponents, who say lifting the ban could lead to ratepayers being charged for the multi-billion dollar cost of planning and constructing a facility — if it's built at all.

"Lifting the moratorium on nuclear power in Minnesota would saddle ratepayers with unnecessary risk for one of the most expensive sources of energy," said Rep. Kate Knuth (DFL-New Brighton).

If the PUC were allowed to issue a certificate of need, the regulatory process could begin and would likely take years to complete. There would be a cost analysis and hearings; and if a case were contested it would be heard by an administrative law judge, according to Brad Eknes, a PUC state planner.

From there, a certificate of need could be approved, modified or denied. If approved or modified, the next step would be to acquire a site permit which would involve an environmental impact analysis.

Since there haven't been any nuclear plants built for decades in the United States,

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legislators are looking at the projected cost of two reactors under construction in Georgia. The federal government granted an \$8.3 billion loan guarantee to help build the twin reactors, and the overall cost is projected to be \$14 billion.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) said the cost of nuclear power produced by Constellation Energy Nuclear Group on the east coast was so expensive that no one would buy the electricity.

Nuclear waste

The price tag is not the only argument used by nuclear power opponents. Fear of a plant incident resulting in the release of radioactive materials and the on-site storage of nuclear waste concern those living closest to existing nuclear power plants in Monticello and at Prairie Island near Red Wing.



“Make no mistake, Minnesota’s nuclear moratorium is unquestionably about nuclear waste and the understandable fear (that) Minnesota’s host communities have toward nuclear waste storage in their backyards,” said Victoria Winfrey, Prairie Island Indian Community president.

If the Prairie Island facility receives re-licensure, Winfrey said nearly 100 dry storage casks may be stored 600 yards from residents’ homes.

When the plant was built in the 1970’s, storage of nuclear waste was meant to be temporary until a deep geological repository for spent nuclear fuel opened under Yucca Mountain in Nevada. “It has become painfully clear that Yucca Mountain will never open,” Winfrey said.

Red Wing City Councilman Dan Bender said the lack of a federal repository is precisely why nuclear power construction has stalled in the U.S. and he blames



“Lifting the moratorium on nuclear power in Minnesota would saddle ratepayers with unnecessary risk for one of the most expensive sources of energy.”

— Rep. Kate Knuth
DFL-New Brighton

the federal government for abandoning the Yucca Mountain site. Speaking on behalf of the city council, Bender said the Legislature should direct the state attorney general to sue the federal government to open the Nevada repository. He said the council supports the proposed legislation because the Prairie Island plant has provided high-paying jobs in Red Wing.

Job Creation

Contractors and trade unions are hopeful that lifting the moratorium will

result in more of those high-paying jobs.

More than 50,000 workers from the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council are out of work, said Harry Melander, council president. Although nuclear construction jobs may not materialize for 10 to 15 years, it’s “still a ray of hope for those individuals where there’s no hope at all,” Melander said.

Nuclear power provides 20 percent of the country’s electricity.

There are 104 power plants operating at 90 percent capacity, according to Cohen. “They are tremendous baseload electricity.”

Nuclear power is viewed as a constant source of electricity; whereas energy derived from wind is not. Still, those philosophical differences exist.

“We have, over the past several years now,



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Marshall Cohen from the Nuclear Energy Institute in Washington D.C., testifies before the House Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee Jan. 11 in support of a bill that would abolish the nuclear power plant certificate of need prohibition. The bill’s sponsor, Rep. Joyce Peppin, listens to the testimony.

worked very hard to develop a reputation in Minnesota as the place where renewable energy is promoted and embraced,” said Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson). Renewable energy also creates jobs, he said. He views nuclear energy as a detriment to attracting new businesses to the state.

The bill’s next step is in the House Commerce and Regulatory Reform Committee, which has not yet scheduled a hearing. Should it make it to the House and Senate floors, a Republican majority would be expected to pass the bill. The question then becomes whether the legislation would be signed by Gov. Mark Dayton, who, during the gubernatorial campaign, said he opposes lifting the moratorium.

McNamara said the bill is not meant to be a “shot across the bow.”

“We need to work together with the administration and move this thing forward and move jobs forward,” he said.

HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 10 - 13, 2011

Editor's note: The following Highlights are coverage of select information heard in House committees and other House activities held Jan. 6-13. Designations used in Highlight summaries: HF-House File; SF-Senate File; Ch-Chapter; and *- the bill version considered by the House or the bill language signed by the governor.

Civil Law

Child support loses some federal aid

Counties take on the lion's share of establishing and enforcing child support orders and collecting the \$1.6 billion in owed money. As of the end of September, they have been operating without \$24 million in federal funds.

In a Jan. 10 overview of child support programs to the House Civil Law Committee, Wayland Campbell, director

of the Department of Human Services Child Support Enforcement Division, said the programs receive 66 percent of their funding from the federal government. The \$24 million came from incentives funneled annually to help counties offset costs and was above the regular funding.

Administered by the state, it's the counties that deliver the services. "They're the ones that are suffering," Campbell said. "We haven't been able to make up that difference for the counties because we are suffering a severe budget issue ourselves."

Child support laws and regulations fall under the jurisdiction of the committee. Rep. Steve Drazkowski (R-Mazeppa) asked if there are efforts to mitigate that financial loss by redesigning the program, or if it's just another unfunded mandate for counties.

"We are working with a committee of interested parties to see if we can reach agreement on the state providing more governance of the program, but allow it

to operate under the current state-county relationship," Campbell said.

Drazkowski questioned the federal caveat making the publicly funded child support allocation and collection services available to all income brackets. "If indeed a state did institute some eligibility guidelines ... would this help us reduce the cost of the program?"

Campbell said he has a "strong disagreement" with members who think the state can institute guidelines. "I think this is directly prohibited by federal law."

No action was taken.

— L. SCHUTZ

Education

Alternative licensure path sought

The House Education Reform Committee picked up the conversation about alternative routes to teacher licensure

MOMENT OF SILENCE



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Gov. Mark Dayton, *second from right*, Lt. Gov. Yvonne Prettner Solon, *right*, and their staff take part in a national moment of silence at 10 a.m. Jan. 10 to honor the victims and survivors of a shooting two days earlier in Tucson, Ariz., that killed six people and wounded more than a dozen others, including U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

where lawmakers left off last year.

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) sponsors HF3, which would establish such an alternative by allowing qualified candidates, such as Teach for America members, in programs approved by the Board of Teaching, a two-year provisional license as a path to acquiring a standard teaching license. About 90 Teach for America members currently work in Minnesota schools under a renewable one-year licensure waiver.

No action was taken at the committee's Jan. 13 meeting. The bill has no Senate companion.

Candidates would be the teacher of record in a classroom, would have to meet other criteria: such as having a bachelor's degree and a 3.0 grade point average; passing a basic skills tests; and participating in at least 200 hours of instruction.

A school district or charter school would sponsor the program in agreement with its board and the local teachers' representative, or in the case of a charter, its licensed staff, under one of three conditions:

- the inability to recruit and hire a qualified candidate for a teaching position;
- a determination that teaching staff should more adequately reflect students' ethnic or cultural diversity; or
- a need to reduce the achievement gap.

Daniel Sellers, executive director of Teach for America Twin Cities, said that recent studies in North Carolina and Tennessee offer strong evidence that Teach for America members are more effective than other new teachers and even experienced teachers in closing the achievement gap in classrooms where they work.

Mariani said he sponsors the bill not as a criticism of teachers in general, but because it's a way to meet teacher shortage needs in some subjects and districts.

"And frankly our local school districts are in the best position to evaluate that. We either trust our local districts or we don't trust them," Mariani said.

— K. BERGGREN

Education revenue by the numbers

Working from the same numbers, it's possible to conclude that school funding has tripled since 1984, or that it's remained flat, the House Education Finance Committee learned Jan. 11 during a presentation on how Minnesota funds schools.

There are various ways — all accurate — to gauge the amount of change in per student revenue over time, said Tim Strom, an analyst

with the nonpartisan House Research Department. Depending if one looks at the numbers alone, or the numbers adjusted for inflation, the outcome looks different. Different methods to calculate inflation can also produce different results.

K-12 education comprises about 40 percent of the state's General Fund spending.

Nominally, explained Strom, per pupil revenue rose from slightly less than \$4,000 per student in 1984 to slightly more than \$12,000 in 2009. However, the chart he used as a visual aid also showed that if one deducts building debt and special education expenses, the change shifts from somewhat over \$3,000 to just under \$10,000. If the Consumer Price Index is applied as a measure of the effect of inflation, that number grows considerably less: from just below \$4,000 to about \$6,000. Doing both takes the revenue growth line from just over \$3,000 to a little more than \$4,000.

Factoring out building debt and special education costs is more accurate, said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), because those are fixed costs dictated by outside factors.

"Classroom funding or any other kind of funding for schools minus those two categories hasn't increased since 1984," Greiling said.

Committee Chairman Pat Garofalo (R-Farmington) said the purpose of the presentation was to affirm that members may legitimately interpret numbers from differing perspectives.

"The more complex the picture is the more you have the ability to provide differing description of what the data reports," he said.

Greiling favors using a different inflation factor, the GDP implicit price deflator, as recommended by some economists and experts, which would show even less change.

— K. BERGGREN

Teacher training to get upgrade

A redesign in the works of how Minnesota evaluates teacher preparation programs could shed light on the links between teacher preparation and student outcomes.

On Jan. 11, Board of Teaching Executive Director Karen Balmer took the House Education Reform Committee through a fast-paced, but thorough, overview of current standards, practices and new initiatives related to teacher licensure, certification and license renewal.

Committee Chairwoman Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) and members have said that

improving teacher effectiveness is a priority this session.

Eleven members appointed by the governor sit on the Board of Teaching — by statute, a majority are teachers. Balmer said the board's ongoing challenge is to meld high standards for teacher accountability with flexibility to meet districts' needs, particularly in shortage areas.

John Melick, director of educator licensing for the Department of Education, said teacher shortage areas include math; some sciences, such as physics and chemistry; bilingual elementary education; world languages; dance; theater; and several special education categories.

Balmer said the new initiative, Program Effectiveness Reports for Continuing Approval (PERCA), will soon be field-tested and should launch in about a year. It will use more data collection and performance measurement to assess the performance of first-year teachers who graduated from certain four-year education programs. Teachers' results would be compared with their teacher training program to measure the program's effectiveness.

"We are starting to see research that does show predictive value," Balmer said. "A teacher that does perform well on this performs well in the classroom."

One PERCA component is evaluation of teachers' work in multiple ways. An independent reviewer will assess a teacher's lesson planning, instruction and student work, and see a videotape of the teacher in the classroom.

Of the state's 56,000 licensed teachers, Melick said 99.74 percent are in compliance with licensing requirements, with 96.71 percent fully certified; 3.03 percent holding one of several types of limited or temporary license; and 0.24 percent with an expired license or no license or permission to teach.

— K. BERGGREN

Local Government

Granting zoning variances

Property owners feeling boxed in by strict zoning ordinances may get some relief from the Legislature.

As soon as next week, members of the House Government Operations and Elections Committee could vote on HF52. Sponsored by Committee Chairwoman Joyce Peppin (R-Rogers), the bill is intended to address

a Minnesota Supreme Court decision last year that made it nearly impossible for local authorities to grant variances, or exceptions, from zoning codes.

The committee took testimony on the bill Jan. 11. No action was taken.

In *Krummenacher v. City of Minnetonka*, the court ruled that the city could not grant a variance to a property owner because the property in question could be put to a reasonable use without one. Peppin said the decision stunned many local planning officials.

“The decision, really, in my mind and I think a lot of people’s minds, overturned a longstanding precedent,” Peppin said.

The court stated that the Legislature would need to clarify the language of the law if it wanted to provide local officials more latitude to grant variances. Tom Grundhoefer, general counsel for the League of Minnesota Cities, urged lawmakers to do just that.

Grundhoefer explained that the court did not say it disagreed with the policy of allowing local governments to grant variances; only that its interpretation of the statute did not allow for a flexible variance policy.

He read from the court’s decision, “Unless and until the Legislature takes action to provide a more flexible standard for municipalities, we are constrained by the language of the statute.’ So what we’re really trying to do is fix the statute.”

Peppin said there are concerns about the bill’s language however, and she wanted to wait to put it to a vote until they had been addressed.

Alyssa Schlander, director of government affairs for the Minnesota Automobile Dealers Association, said the members want time to examine the bill in detail.

“I happen to represent an industry with very unique land use needs,” Schlander said.

One concern is that the bill’s language might impose new environmental requirements on property owners, though she could not cite a specific example in the bill.

Sen. Gen Olson (R-Minnetrissa) sponsors the companion, SF13, which awaits action by the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee.

— N. BUSSE

Military & Vet. Affairs

Preparing for Guard members’ return

Helping returning Minnesota National Guard and Reserve members adjust to their lives back home will be at the forefront of the House Veterans Services Division this session.

The 13 division members, many of whom are veterans, oversee proposed funding and legislation that would affect the 13,665 soldiers who serve in either the Air National Guard or the Army National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Joe Kelly, assistant adjutant general of the Minnesota National Guard and deputy commissioner for the Department of Military Affairs, said Jan. 10 that personnel used to be called “weekend warriors,” but that distinction is no longer valid. More than 2,800 members are preparing to help with the proposed final withdrawal of armed forces in places such as Kuwait and Iraq, Kelly said. For some of these soldiers, it will be their fourth or fifth deployment.

When soldiers return, they need an “off ramp” such as the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program, which began as a Minnesota pilot program and expanded to the U.S. Department of Defense, Kelly said. But paying for increased services or continuing to exempt veterans from taxes and fees could prove difficult with the state facing a

projected \$6.2 billion budget deficit.

“It’s going to be tough,” said Division Chairman Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township), who retired from the Guard last March.

In addition to \$400 million in federal funds, the Guard receives \$20 million from the state, which is used to pay personnel; operate 63 training centers, two air bases, two army training sites and 11 family readiness centers; and to help in domestic crises, such as natural disasters and helping find lost people.

No action was taken.

— S. HEGARTY

State Government

Bipartisanship given priority

At its inaugural meeting Jan. 11, Chairman Morrie Lanning (R-Moorhead) set one main goal for the House State Government Finance Committee: to live up to its reputation for bipartisanship.

During the round of introductions, Rep. Ryan Winkler (DFL-Golden Valley) briefly spoke about the committee’s cooperative history to its nine freshmen members.

“It’s actually been one of the committees that I’ve served on that’s been the least partisan, and I think the most cooperative and able to find the most common ground,”



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Brig. Gen. Joe Kelly, assistant adjutant general of the Minnesota National Guard, left, tells the House Veterans Services Division that all soldiers take two oaths when sworn into the Minnesota National Guard: one to uphold the U.S. Constitution and the other to uphold the state constitution.

Winkler said. "I hope that that continues; I don't see that it won't."

"My goal is to maintain that tradition in this committee," Lanning replied.

Despite what its name might indicate, the committee does not fund all of state government. The agencies over which it has jurisdiction account for only about 2.4 percent of the state's total General Fund spending.

Major agencies under the committee's jurisdiction include the Revenue Department, Minnesota Management and Budget, the Veterans Affairs and Military Affairs departments, the Minnesota Historical Society and the Administration Department. It also funds the Legislature and the constitutional offices (i.e. governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state and attorney general).

The committee also has jurisdiction over the state's pension funds. Lanning indicated that pension issues and labor agreements will be among the committee's top priorities in the first weeks of session.

"What I want us to do in this first phase of our committee work ... is focus on some of the really big-picture issues that affect the financial health of the State of Minnesota," Lanning said.

Lanning said the Legislature enacted some positive pension reforms last year, increasing employer and employee contributions and limiting benefit increases; however, he said many more reforms would be needed to keep the pension funds healthy.

Other issues Lanning said might come up in the near future include changes to the state's accounting system and other technology-related issues.

— N. BUSSE

Budget system upgrade problems

Some major technology upgrades relating to the state's financial tracking systems aren't going quite as planned, members of a House committee learned Jan. 13.

Minnesota Management and Budget is in the process of replacing two aging systems: the state's Budget Information System (BIS) and its accounting and procurement system (known by its acronym, MAPS). But MMB officials told members of the House State Government Finance Committee that there have been some unanticipated problems.

A prototype program intended to replace the BIS is turning out to be costlier and less useful than originally envisioned, said State Budget Director Kristin Dybdal. Officials had originally hoped a new version of the

A HIGHER CALLING



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

The Rev. Grady St. Dennis is sworn in as the new House Chaplain after being elected to the position Jan. 11.

system could serve as a robust, real-time budget tool for all state agencies.

"Both MMB and our consulting partners probably underestimated the complexity and the scope of what we were trying to accomplish," she said.

Officials are unsure of what the cost might be to fix the problems and complete the project. Dybdal said roughly \$2.5 million has been spent on the project so far. Rep. Ryan Winkler (DFL-Golden Valley) questioned whether the overall vision for the project should be scaled back. He also said lawmakers should have a say in the decision.

The other project, a \$65 million replacement of the state's outdated accounting and procurement software, is going more according to plan, officials said. But asked whether the upgrade would yield any cost savings for the state, they said it would be difficult to measure.

Some members, including Committee Chairman Morrie Lanning (R-Moorhead), found that answer lacking.

"We've made a major commitment here in investment, and I think it's important that we track that return on investment as we go forward," Lanning said.

The committee took no action. Lanning said the issues would likely be revisited in future hearings.

— N. BUSSE

Taxes

Overview highlights first meeting

The 29 members of the House Taxes Committee, most being new to the committee, got what the chairman called a "20,000-foot overview on the subject of taxes," during their first meeting Jan. 11.

Analysts from the nonpartisan House Research Department explained the different sources of tax revenue collected by the state: nearly 42 percent comes from individual income taxes, 30.4 percent from sales taxes; and nearly 28 percent from other tax revenue, such as corporate and motor fuels.

Researchers noted that \$5.3 billion from sales taxes is projected to be collected in fiscal year 2011. Other than the 2008 voter-approved three-eighths of 1 percent increase to fund the arts and environment, Minnesota's sales tax rate has not increased since 1991.

Researcher Pat Dalton said there are only six states with a higher sales tax rate than Minnesota; however, many states have a higher local option sales tax rate.

Before the presentation, Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), the committee chairman, said his practice in the previous committees that he has chaired, is to have a DFL bill first be taken up by the committee. This year, he expects that to be one related to biosciences and taxes sponsored by Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul). "They are bills that we want to get heard and acted on and to the governor's desk," Davids said, adding it could come forward in the next week or so.

— L. SCHUTZ

Transportation

Refinancing saves much money

One recent action taken by the Department of Transportation is expected to save significant money in these tough economic times.

The House Transportation Policy and Finance Committee learned Jan. 10 that some of the state's transportation accounts are seeing monetary reductions but one saw a large gain.

Refinancing debt service at a lower interest rate early in fiscal year 2011 is expected to save about \$115 million through fiscal year 2013, based on a November forecast prepared by the department.

“This is one of the positive, bright spots,” said Warren Skallman, MnDOT budget director.

“The total authorization from the Legislature is approximately \$2.5 billion for all debt over all years,” Skallman said. “From these authorizations, currently in our budget document we have \$938 million as the amount that has been issued.” He said almost the entire larger amount has been assigned to projects, but for cash flow purposes the bonds have not been sold.

“Prudent move,” said Committee Chairman Mike Beard (R-Shakopee).

On the positive side of the ledger, gas tax revenue is forecast to bring in an additional \$13 million (0.8 percent) in fiscal years 2012 and 2013, based on projected higher consumption rates. The state’s gas tax is scheduled to increase by half a cent on July 1, 2011, and again one year later to 28.5 cents per gallon. The increases are for debt service related to the 2008 transportation law that allowed for \$1.8 billion in trunk highway bonds for fiscal years 2009 to 2018.

Skallman noted that motor vehicle sales taxes are down \$54.3 million (7.4 percent)

and vehicle registration taxes are down \$23.5 million (2 percent) from a February 2010 forecast.

Beard tried to paint an optimistic outlook about transportation funding, when compared to other areas of the state budget that could get chopped as lawmakers try to resolve a projected \$6.2 billion budget shortfall. Most of the transportation budget comes from constitutionally dedicated funds that are paid by users. Just 1 percent comes from the state’s General Fund.

— M. Cook

FINAL READING



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Rep. Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm) gives his farewell speech Jan. 13 on the House floor. First elected in 2000, Sertich resigned his House seat after being appointed commissioner of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board.

“I love, love, love this building, and I love representing the people who elected me,” he said. “This is closing a chapter of my life, which is so sad, but I am so excited for the future.”

The IRRRB, located in Eveleth, is an economic development agency with the mission to advance growth on the Iron Range by “stabilizing and enhancing the economy of northeastern Minnesota.”

At least three times during his speech, Sertich referenced himself as a product of where he grew up, and expressed his excitement at returning to the Iron Range. “I’m going home, but I’m still going to be around.”

A special election has been called for Feb. 15 to fill the seat. If a primary is needed, it will be held Feb. 1.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Rep. Dan Fabian, sponsor of HF1, answers a question at a Jan. 10 press conference to announce the introduction of the first two House files. Rep. King Banaian, sponsor of HF2, from left, House Majority Leader Matt Dean and House Speaker Kurt Zellers also spoke about the proposed legislation.

The bills have landed

First two House files focus on economy, budget

By NICK BUSSE

The first bill of the 2011 session, as is customary, has symbolic importance. It addresses the new majority party's top priority for the state. What it is not, according to House Speaker Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove), is "sexy."

"We're looking at the priorities we've talked about time and time again: making Minnesota more competitive, making it a better place to do business," Zellers said, before adding, "maybe not the sexiest issue in the world — permitting and the regulatory process."

House Republicans held a press conference Jan. 10 to announce HF1 and HF2. They

address Republicans' top priorities — jobs and the budget — in largely incremental steps. The first bill would streamline and speed up the state's environmental permitting process, while the second would institute a new approach to budgeting that would force state agencies to justify not only their funding levels but also their continued existence.

Zellers said the bills would make the state a

more attractive location for businesses — and ultimately grow jobs in the state.

"These are the things we promised to make Minnesota more competitive," he said.

In another symbolic gesture, the majority party chose two members of their freshman class — Rep. Dan Fabian (R-Roseau) and Rep. King Banaian (R-St. Cloud) — to sponsor the bills. Zellers said the two were chosen because of their unique academic and practical experience.

"These are two of our best members, and we've got a great freshman class," he said.

DFLers reacted coolly to the proposals, praising some of the reforms, but casting doubt on their overall impact on the economy and the budget.

"They may be fine proposals in the long term, but Minnesotans have real problems that they need solutions to right now," said House Minority Leader Paul Thissen (DFL-Mpls).

Seeking compromise?

The first bills seem to signal a willingness among House Republicans to seek bipartisan support. In contrast, Senate Republicans made their first bill, SF1, sponsored by



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

House Minority Leader Paul Thissen, center, reacts to the introduction of the first two House files. Rep. Tim Mahoney, left, and Rep. Tom Rukavina also spoke at a Jan. 10 press conference.

Sen. Geoff Michel (R-Edina), a package of mostly corporate tax cuts that DFLers have criticized in the past. It was the Senate bill that earned the strongest criticism from DFLers.

“Just to give across-the-board tax cuts to corporations that can afford to pay income tax ... is absolutely a ridiculous way to start to solve our problems,” said Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia).

Fabian said he thinks the environmental

permitting bill will find some support among DFLers, who enacted similar reforms in last year’s omnibus agriculture law. He was scheduled to travel with Gov. Mark Dayton to an event in Hallock on Jan. 11, and said he hoped to discuss the bill with him there.

“This is a bill that I think can be bipartisan,” Fabian said. “It’s a bill that’s filled with common sense, in my opinion.”

Likewise, Republicans hope DFLers will warm to the idea of using priority-based budgeting — a process where agencies must justify their funding requests against measurable objectives. This method, sometimes called “zero-based budgeting,” is the essence of HF2. DFLers actually explored the process shortly after they took over the House in 2007, but never adopted it.

Thissen said the concept “has some merit,” but argued the process would cost money and could end up being a waste of time. In particular, he criticized a part of the bill that requires a review every 10 years of all state agencies to determine whether their continued existence is needed. Giving the example of K-12 education, he said the state isn’t likely to cut off funding for some programs, so why spend time and money studying it?

“At the end of the day, I think the schools can rest assured they are actually going to be getting money coming from the state to pay for kids’ education,” he said. “That kind of gives the lie to zero-based budgeting.”

HF1 has been referred to the House Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee. HF2 awaits action by the House Government Operations and Elections Committee. Neither bill has a Senate companion.

First Bills of Session

HF1

Sponsor: Rep. Dan Fabian (R-Roseau)

Key points:

- would ask Natural Resources Department and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to respond to environmental permit requests within 150 days
- would eliminate district courts from the appeals process for environmental review decisions
- would allow project proposers to bypass local governments to contract directly with companies who draft their environmental impact statements

Senate companion: none

HF2

Sponsor: Rep. King Banaian (R-St. Cloud)

Key points:

- would enact a priority-based budgeting process for the state beginning in the next biennium
- would require a review every 10 years of all state agencies and other executive-branch entities to determine whether they should be continued, abolished or reformed

Senate companion: none

Minnesota State Agencies

Administration.....	651-201-2555	Housing Finance Agency.....	651-296-7608	Public Safety General Information.....	651-201-7000
Agriculture.....	651-201-6000		800-657-3769	State Patrol.....	651-201-7100
	800-967-2474	Human Rights.....	651-296-5663	Revenue	
Commerce.....	651-296-4026		800-657-3704	General Information.....	651-296-3403
Corrections.....	651-361-7200	Human Services.....	651-431-2000	Collections.....	651-556-3003
Education.....	651-582-8200	Iron Range Resources.....	218-735-3000		800-657-3909
Employment and			800-765-5043	Sales and Use Tax Line.....	651-296-6181
Economic Development.....	651-259-7114	Labor and Industry.....	651-284-5005		800-657-3777
	800-657-3858		800-342-5354	Taxpayer Helpline.....	651-296-3781
Enterprise Technology.....	651-296-8888	Management and Budget.....	651-201-8000		800-652-9094
Explore Minnesota Tourism.....	651-757-1845	Mediation Services.....	651-649-5421	Taxpayer self-service.....	651-296-4444
	800-657-3535	Metropolitan Council.....	651-602-1000		800-657-3676
Travel Info.....	888-868-7476	Military Affairs.....	651-268-8919	Withholding.....	651-282-9999
Health.....	651-201-5000	Natural Resources.....	651-296-6157		800-657-3594
	888-345-0823		888-646-6367	Transportation.....	651-296-3000
Higher Education Services.....	651-642-0567	Pollution Control Agency.....	651-296-6300		800-657-3774
	800-657-3866		800-657-3864	Veterans Affairs.....	651-296-2562

Putting his theories to the test

Crawford brings big ideas, practical experience to St. Paul

By Nick Busse

For Rep. Roger Crawford (R-Mora), making Minnesota a more business-friendly state is a very personal matter. His district



Rep. Roger Crawford

has an unemployment rate that is among the highest in the state, and he hopes a better business climate will lead to more jobs for his constituents.

“For our area, it’s going to be important that the state and the Legislature do what they can do to make the state as attractive as possible to businesses,” he said.

Crawford ran for state representative, in large part, to help make that goal a reality. It’s a tall order, but he said his philosophy has always been that an individual can make

a difference in the world. He cites a former president as an example.

“I’m not saying everyone needs to be Ronald Reagan or anything like that, but each individual can make a difference. And that’s kind of my philosophy,” he said.

Crawford showed an interest in politics from a young age. Though he said his first vote was for George McGovern in his 1972 presidential bid, Crawford’s political leanings changed following a stint in the U.S. Navy. He started reading conservative authors like William F. Buckley, Jr., and became fascinated by economics, particularly the theories of Milton Friedman and Austrian-school economists.

He built a career for himself as a real estate appraiser, but his passion has been public service. He spent five years as a city councilman in Mora, four years as the mayor, and two years on the Kanabec County Board

DISTRICT 8B
Population (2009 est.): 40,262 Largest City: Mora Counties: Pine, Isanti, Kanabec Top Concerns: Fixing the deficit, easing tax burdens on businesses

before coming to the Legislature.

Years of legislative inaction where changes needed to be made — changes like balancing the budget, lowering taxes, helping businesses succeed — also played a large part in his decision to run, he said.

“I watched the Legislature for many years and I thought they were not addressing some of the fundamental problems that the state has,” he said. “I think it’s imperative that we change that.”

Steeped in Tea Party values

Back for her seventh term, Erickson aims to improve schools

By Kris Berggren

If the fifth-floor office of Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) doesn’t quite look like that of a new House member, it’s because she’s not precisely “new.”



Rep. Sondra Erickson

Just a day after the Legislature convened, Erickson’s well-appointed office already featured a wall full of neatly arranged photos and artwork, and a guest book to be signed, in contrast

to many newcomers’ bare walls and spare desktop accessories.

Erickson served 11 years before losing in 2008 to DFL Rep. Gail Kulick Jackson by 89 votes. Erickson ran again in 2010 at the urging of Republicans in her district, including Tea Party activists.

“Their principles were my principles,” Erickson said. “Smaller government, lower taxes, individual responsibility.”

She beat Kulick-Jackson by 11 percent. The pair has met in each of the past four elections, with Erickson winning three times.

Erickson’s head start in office décor is matched by the experience she brings to her new role as chairwoman of the House Education Reform Committee. That includes decades of public school teaching experience in traditional and alternative settings, service on House education committees in previous sessions and nearly five years as a member of the Board of Teaching.

Key session priorities include reforming teacher preparation, evaluation and tenure.

“I do not, as a professional teacher, believe in perpetual tenure,” Erickson said. Instead, she believes teachers would benefit from periodic reviews, support for learning to

DISTRICT 16A
Population (2009 est.): 44,271 Largest City: Princeton Counties: Benton, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Sherburne Top Concerns: Schools, teacher preparation, tenure reform

become more effective and for moving out of the teaching profession if they fail to do so.

“If you improve teaching, you improve learning,” Erickson said.

She admires former Washington, D.C. schools chancellor Michelle Rhee, whose reforms, including a new teacher evaluation system and layoffs of teachers considered ineffective, ushered in rising student test scores and enrollment.

Erickson does not favor mandates such as No Child Left Behind that she says hamper local control of education decisions, but said that if there is a mandate, it should be fully funded.

Fabian hits the ground running

Track coach and high school teacher wants to keep jobs in Minnesota

By KRIS BERGGREN

Rep. Dan Fabian (R-Roseau), a high school physical education teacher and track and cross-country coach, has hit the ground running in St. Paul.



Rep. Dan Fabian

The election was his first run at elected office, Fabian said. He hadn't been active in politics except for attending some precinct caucuses.

"It started with Paul Kohls," Fabian said. He'd exchanged ideas with the former representative during the latter's brief gubernatorial run. Kohls and other Republican officials invited Fabian to consider a run for the House seat. Before he officially entered the race, Fabian drove the 3,887-square-mile district, setting up meetings with prospective voters to hear their concerns and hopes.

"They thought I should run," Fabian said, because he cared about the same issues. "The

600-pound gorilla is the budget," he said, plus government accountability, reducing mandates, creating equity in school funding and growing jobs.

Now, Fabian is sponsoring the first bill of the session, which traditionally reflects a top legislative priority. HF1 would lighten environmental review regulations, a measure lawmakers hope could promote business development and job growth.

Although northwestern Minnesota has less unemployment than the rest of the state, Fabian wants to make sure area employers such as Polaris, Arctic Cat, Marvin Windows, HEATMOR, Mattracks and Central Boiler not only keep jobs but can grow jobs locally.

"When it's time for those businesses to expand, do they expand where they are?" Fabian asked, or grow outside the state, as some have done. He'd like more cooperation from the Department of Natural Resources on issues such as land acquisition, flood mitigation and regulatory issues.

"I would like to see one of our governors

DISTRICT 1A

Population (2009 est.): 35,160

Largest City: Thief River Falls

Counties: Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Roseau

Top Concerns: Business and job growth; school financing; mandate reduction

on the cover of a magazine again," Fabian said, referring to a 1973 Time magazine cover featuring former Gov. Wendell Anderson. "We were the economic engine of the Upper Midwest and I'd like to see that come back."

Fabian picks up a photo of his 16-month-old granddaughter, Alexis. Her image illustrates his deepest motivation.

"What Grandpa Dan is doing in the next two years, will that put us on a path to greater sustained economic development?" he asks rhetorically. "So when she is of age and looking for a job, she will be able to find it in Minnesota."

Focused and determined

McElfatrick hopes to strengthen Iron Range economy

By SUE HEGARTY

Rep. Carolyn McElfatrick (R-Deer River) had a formidable job in front of her to get to St. Paul.



Rep. Carolyn McElfatrick

She upset 28-year House DFL veteran Rep. Loren Solberg, two years after first attempting to win the seat. To emerge victorious, McElfatrick said she "focused on the job at hand" and campaigned hard. "He is very well-liked up there by many, many people."

But it was her Republican views that resonated with the majority of voters, she said.

"I heard hundreds of times, 'I have to live

within my budget. If I don't have the money for something, I have to cut back. ... I have to take the wants out and focus on the needs.' I think that's what the people of the district were saying," she said.

As she unpacks in St. Paul, McElfatrick wants to focus on creating and maintaining jobs to strengthen the economy. She hopes there can be bipartisan support for streamlining the permitting process in state agencies, especially in the mining industry, which provides good-paying jobs in her district.

"We have the capability of protecting our environment and creating jobs. We can do both," she said.

McElfatrick grew up on a farm in Mower County near Austin, so she's eager to serve on the House Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance

DISTRICT 3B

Population (2009 est.): 36,641

Largest City: Grand Rapids

Counties: Aitkin, Itasca

Top Concerns: Economic vitality of mining, logging and tourism industries

Committee. "We need to protect (farmers) and make sure we provide a healthy climate for them to do what they do best," she said.

Health care is another passion of hers. A retired nurse who is married to a retired doctor, McElfatrick serves on both the House Health and Human Services Finance and Reform committees. She opposes the recent federal overhaul of health care signed into law. "I don't see how this will not result in rationing. I think the people who will feel the Obama health care the most will be the disabled and the elderly and I get very protective of people like that." In addition, "We can't afford it."

Going from homeless to the House

Moran used hard work to improve self, wants to help others

By PATTY OSTBERG

Ten years ago Rep. Rena Moran (DFL-St. Paul) arrived at Sharing and Caring Hands homeless shelter after moving from Chicago with six of her seven children. Now, she's a legislator.



Rep. Rena Moran

"Anything is possible if you work at it," she said.

Moran moved to Minnesota because she had heard it was a "family-friendly state" with the best school systems and was supportive of women, children and families. "I thought it would be a good place to raise my kids," she said. When she arrived at the shelter with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education she immediately wanted to find employment but had little resources to help.

Without a job and depending on public assistance, she found it was her "quest to be independent and self sufficient" that

connected her with support groups. The relationships she established over the next several months paved her way to success. "Everything is about relationships, building good relationships is critical," she said.

Once employed in her community, Moran soon found herself advocating for the paving of the street in front of her home she purchased in 2006. Before that she was in a community action partnership class discussing policies that affect families depending on public assistance.

"It's really important to me to get to know who my community is. ... I want to be a community of people where we're all concerned and connected with each other," she said.

The issues most important to her district include job creation.

"I have knocked on thousands of homes and regardless of color, circumstance, age, people wanted to work," she said. "We need jobs, not just minimum wage jobs, but livable wage jobs," she added.

DISTRICT 65A

Population (2009 est.): 36,674

Largest City: St. Paul

County: Ramsey

Top Concern: Jobs. "We must get our community back to work."

Creating jobs helps provide for a safe community and environment for children and families, and also leads to good education, she said.

When she looks at the \$6.2 billion projected deficit facing Minnesota, she doesn't see statistics. "I see people. I see children. I see an obligation to the state for us to realize that it is about getting people to a place where people can be self sufficient." Once people are up on their feet, she said, they can contribute to the economy so the burden is not on the Legislature to cut programs.

Welding the economy back together

Swedzinski brings rural development experience to the House

By SUE HEGARTY

When former House Minority Leader Marty Seifert announced he would not seek reelection, Chris Swedzinski recalls thinking, "I hope they find someone good" to fill his shoes at the Capitol.



Rep. Chris Swedzinski

With no heir apparent coming forward, Swedzinski (R-Ghent) awoke one morning and told his wife, Jessica, that he felt called to run for the seat.

Swedzinski (the "d" is silent) is no stranger to politics or government. After taking welding classes at Ridgewater College in Willmar, he earned degrees in history and political science from Minnesota State University, Mankato. During his senior year, he campaigned for former U.S. Rep. Mark Kennedy. He then worked as a

rural development specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where his focus included renewable energy. After the federal return to Democratic power, he moved back to the family farm and started his own company, Swede Steel Works.

He honed his interest in politics as he watched his father, Tom, design and build his own farm implements. The two would listen to talk radio in the welding shed and talk about issues during long trips to buy or sell livestock.

As part of the majority party, he wants to contribute to rebuilding the economy, but said that since the decline didn't happen overnight, people shouldn't expect immediate change.

"We've gotten so far out of a free-market system that it's just going to take some time to get people back to work, and get people hiring," he said.

States have come to rely too heavily on

DISTRICT 21A

Population (2009 est.): 35,665

Largest City: Marshall

Counties: Lyon, Redwood

Top Concern: Balancing the budget

federal dollars that are tied to mandates that may not be in Minnesota's best interest or may hinder innovative reform, he said. He'd like to see states set their own destinies and develop models that can be emulated on a national scale.

As a rural legislator from an agricultural district, he's eager to serve on the House Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance Committee. He also serves on the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee and the House Capital Investment Committee.

A reformer in the House

Vogel brings focus on agriculture; hopes to streamline state government

By Nick Busse

Rep. Bruce Vogel (R-Willmar) has high hopes for the 2011 session. He came to St. Paul on a mission to reform government, and he's eager to get to work.



Rep. Bruce Vogel

As a member of the House's new Republican majority, he said, "I'm looking forward to seeing what we can do. I'm hoping we'll be able to streamline the government, the spending, and get things back under control. We've lost control of some of that," he said.

A conservative through and through, Vogel says he draws inspiration from Ronald Reagan and from his Christian faith. The businessman and former youth pastor says

he had long considered running for office, and when the opportunity presented itself last year, he was ready.

Vogel and his wife of 28 years, Jeanne, have four adult children and six grandchildren. He grew up on a farm near Currie in southwestern Minnesota, where his parents still live. He says that lifestyle informed a lot of his present-day values.

"I grew up on a farm, so I have a farm background — common sense, hard work, a good work ethic," he said.

Beyond agriculture, Vogel has a business background. He has worked in construction and most recently in real estate. He served as president and board member of a local real estate association, and has also been active in the local Republican Party.

His early experience with agriculture also turned out to be a good primer for the issues in his district, which is heavily agricultural.

DISTRICT 13B

Population (2009 est.): 36,988
Largest City: Willmar
County: Kandiyohi
Top Concerns: Agricultural issues, reducing spending, streamlining regulations

As a lawmaker, he hopes to pass legislation that will streamline regulations for farmers and agricultural businesses. Beyond that, his priority is to make Minnesota more business-friendly and reduce state spending.

"If we can bring our spending back under control and not have our budget looking to grow by 20 or 28 percent every biennium, I think that we can consider it a success," he said.

Looking to give the state a fresh start

Wardlow seeks fiscal stability, better jobs climate in Minnesota

By Mike Cook

For the second time in three years, a person with the surname Wardlow represents a southern suburb.



Rep. Doug Wardlow

Rep. Doug Wardlow (R-Eagan) now occupies the seat that his father, Lynn, held from 2003-2008.

"The most important thing I learned from him is the importance of being humble and, in particular, with regards to the Legislature, remembering who you serve," said Wardlow, who was raised in the city.

Having the seat revert back to a familiar name is not the only difference the new representative would like to see.

"What got me interested in running was a sense that things really need to change for the better in our nation and in our state in

terms of restoring fiscal responsibility, in terms of unleashing the power of Americans and ingenuity in our state, returning to the firm belief and founding principle that free enterprise creates productivity and drives job growth and is at the heart of the promise of America and Minnesota. We've strayed from those principles."

Wardlow emphasized that entrepreneurship and free enterprise are the overriding things needed to foster and promote private sector job creation to help the state's economic rebound.

But can things be done when the state faces a projected \$6.2 billion budget deficit?

"We need to balance the budget without raising any taxes. We need to return fiscal responsibility to this state. That's one piece of it," he said. "We need to make it easier for people to move businesses to Minnesota, for businesses to expand in Minnesota, for job creators to grow here, to originate here. We need to encourage and remove hindrances

DISTRICT 38B

Population (2009 est.): 38,014
Largest City: Eagan
County: Dakota
Top Concern: Returning fiscal responsibility to the state

and burdens and obstacles for people with great ideas that can come up with new kinds of work."

A litigation attorney by trade, Wardlow serves on the House Civil Law Committee, House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee, House Taxes Committee and the House Property and Local Tax Division.

"I'm very pleased with that," he said. "They're good committees where I'll be able to do some good work for the people of Eagan District 38B and the state."

Committee Information

2011-2012 Minnesota House of Representatives

Member Assignments as of 1/12/11

Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance

559 State Office Building296-5373
Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 22

Chair: Hamilton-R

Vice Chair: Anderson, P.-R

DFL Lead: Eken-DFL

Anderson, B.-R	Morrow-DFL
Falk-DFL	Persell-DFL
Franson-R	Poppe-DFL
Fritz-DFL	Schomacker-R
Hansen-DFL	Shimanski-R
Hosch-DFL	Swedzinski-R
Kath-DFL	Torkelson-R
Kiel-R	Vogel-R
LeMieur-R	Ward-DFL
McElpatrick-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator
Joan Harmon.....296-3641
Committee Legislative Assistant
Linda Westrom296-7167

Capital Investment

491 State Office Building296-2451
Meets: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. in Room 10*

Members: 21

Chair: Howes-R

Vice Chair: Scott-R

DFL Lead: Hausman-DFL

Banaian-R	Kriesel-R
Bills-R	Lanning-R
Carlson-DFL	Myhra-R
Clark-DFL	Nornes-R
Drazkowski-R	Rukavina-DFL
Fabian-R	Scalze-DFL
Hackbarth-R	Sertich-DFL
Hansen-DFL	Swedzinski-R
Hayden-DFL	Ward-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator
Ryan Blodgett.....296-4110
Committee Legislative Assistant
Cyndee Fields.....296-5408

Civil Law

443 State Office Building296-4929
Meets: Mondays and Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. in Room 10*

Members: 17

Chair: Westrom-R

Vice Chair: Drazkowski-R

DFL Lead: Lesch-DFL

Gruenhagen-R	Mazorol-R
Hilstrom-DFL	Peppin-R
Hilty-DFL	Peterson, S.-DFL
Holberg-R	Runbeck-R
Hoppe-R	Scott-R
Hortman-DFL	Simon-DFL
Mahoney-DFL	Wardlow-R

Staff

Committee Administrator
John Reynolds.....296-5485
Committee Legislative Assistant
Sarah Novinskie.....296-8879

Commerce and Regulatory Reform

563 State Office Building296-5066
Meets: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 22

Chair: Hoppe-R

Vice Chair: Sanders-R

DFL Lead: Atkins-DFL

Anderson, D.-R	Dauids-R
Anderson, S.-R	Dittrich-DFL
Anzelc-DFL	Johnson-DFL
Crawford-R	Kieffer-R
Daudt-R	Lillie-DFL

Loon-R	O'Driscoll-R
Mazorol-R	Slocum-DFL
Mullery-DFL	Stensrud-R
Murdock-R	Tillberry-DFL
Nelson-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator
Dan Dwight.....296-5385
Committee Legislative Assistant
Bethany Aronhalt296-5322

Education Finance

537 State Office Building296-1069
Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in Room 5*

Members: 20

Chair: Garofalo-R

Vice Chair: Kelly-R

DFL Lead: Greiling-DFL

Anderson, P.-R	Loon-R
Anzelc-DFL	Mariani-DFL
Bills-R	Myhra-R
Brynaert-DFL	Petersen, B.-R
Davnie-DFL	Quam-R
Dittrich-DFL	Slocum-DFL
Downey-R	Ward-DFL
Erickson-R	Woodard-R
Fabian-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator
Aaron Solem.....296-5524
Committee Legislative Assistant
Rebecca Peichel.....296-5526

Education Reform

509 State Office Building296-6746
Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:15 a.m.
in the Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 21

Chair: Erickson-R

Vice Chair: Doepke-R

DFL Lead: Mariani-DFL

Barrett-R	McFarlane-R
Benson, J.-DFL	Moran-DFL
Carlson-DFL	Murdock-R
Crawford-R	Myhra-R
Davnie-DFL	Norton-DFL
Greiling-DFL	O'Driscoll-R
Kath-DFL	Petersen, B.-R
Kieffer-R	Peterson, S.-DFL
Kiel-R	Woodard-R

Staff

Committee Administrator
Carmen Carter296-7191
Committee Legislative Assistant
Melissa Hackenmueller296-9471

Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance

375 State Office Building296-3135
Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
at 8:15 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 17

Chair: McNamara-R

Vice Chair: Torkelson-R

DFL Lead Environment: Wagenius-DFL

DFL Lead Energy: Hilty-DFL

Anderson, P.-R	Hancock-R
Beard-R	Hansen-DFL
Dill-DFL	Knuth-DFL
Drazkowski-R	Persell-DFL
Fabian-R	Quam-R
Falk-DFL	Scott-R
Hackbarth-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator
Amy Rudolph296-1774
Committee Legislative Assistant
Mike Harris296-5813

Legacy Funding Division

571 State Office Building296-4344
Meets: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2:30
p.m. in Room 5*

Members: 12

Chair: Urdahl-R

Vice Chair: Kiel-R

DFL Lead: Dill-DFL

Cornish-R	Peppin-R
Greene-DFL	Torkelson-R
McFarlane-R	Wagenius-DFL
McNamara-R	Winkler-DFL
Murphy, M.-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator
Kirstin Beach296-5528
Committee Legislative Assistant
Mike Knutsen296-4483

Ethics

543 State Office Building296-9188
Meets: At the call of the chair in (No Room
Assigned)*

Members: 6

Chair: Smith-R

DFL Lead: Paymar-DFL

Atkins-DFL	Kelly-R (A)
Erickson-R	Loeffler-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator
Craig Stone296-5367

Government Operations and Elections

503 State Office Building296-7806
Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
at 10:15 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 15

Chair: Peppin-R

Vice Chair: Murray-R

DFL Lead: Nelson-DFL

Beard-R	Quam-R
Greene-DFL	Sanders-R
Hancock-R	Scalze-DFL
Hornstein-DFL	Simon-DFL
McFarlane-R	Urdahl-R
O'Driscoll-R	Winkler-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator
Rory Koch296-5394
Committee Legislative Assistant
Ryan Hamilton296-9115

Health and Human Services Finance

479 State Office Building296-1729
Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
at 12:30 p.m. in Room 200*

Members: 20

Chair: Abeler-R

Vice Chair: Kiffmeyer-R

DFL Lead: Huntley-DFL

DFL Lead Early Childhood: Slawik-DFL

Anderson, D.-R	Lanning-R
Franson-R	Liebling-DFL
Fritz-DFL	Lohmer-R
Gottwalt-R	Mack-R
Hamilton-R	McDonald-R
Hayden-DFL	McElpatrick-R
Hosch-DFL	Murphy, E.-DFL
Laine-DFL	Schomacker-R

Staff

Committee Administrator
Christine Kiel296-5413
Committee Legislative Assistant
Andy Leer296-5999

Health and Human Services Reform

485 State Office Building296-6316
Meets: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m.
in Room 200*

Members: 21

Chair: Gottwalt-R

Vice Chair: Mack-R

DFL Lead: Liebling-DFL

Abeler-R	Loeffler-DFL
Barrett-R	Lohmer-R
Benson, M.-R	McDonald-R
Franson-R	McElpatrick-R
Fritz-DFL	Moran-DFL
Gruenhagen-R	Murphy, E.-DFL
Hosch-DFL	Norton-DFL
Huntley-DFL	Peterson, S.-DFL
Kiffmeyer-R	Quam-R

Staff

Committee Administrator
Holly Iverson296-4305
Committee Legislative Assistant
Shirley Koderick296-4999

Higher Education Policy and Finance

471 State Office Building296-4946
Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 15

Chair: Nornes-R

Vice Chair: Dettmer-R

DFL Lead: Rukavina-DFL

Atkins-DFL	Mazorol-R
Banaian-R	Morrow-DFL
Benson, M.-R	Norton-DFL
Daudt-R	Pelowski-DFL
Doepke-R	Poppe-DFL
Hancock-R	Vogel-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Mike Valleau.....296-4091

Committee Legislative Assistant

Chelsea Thompson.....296-1544

Jobs and Economic Development Finance

591 State Office Building296-3240
Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in Room 10*

Members: 17

Chair: Gunther-R

Vice Chair: McFarlane-R

DFL Lead Jobs: Mahoney-DFL

DFL Lead Housing: Clark-DFL

Dill-DFL	Paymar-DFL
Howes-R	Sanders-R
Kieffer-R	Scalze-DFL
Leidiger-R	Sertich-DFL
LeMieur-R	Stensrud-R
Mullery-DFL	Swedzinski-R
Murray-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Dan Dwight.....296-5385

Committee Legislative Assistant

Rebecca Lowden.....296-8871

Judiciary Policy and Finance

543 State Office Building296-9188
Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:15 a.m. in Room 10*

Members: 17

Chair: Smith-R

Vice Chair: Shimanski-R

DFL Lead: Johnson-DFL

Anderson, D.-R	Lesch-DFL
Champion-DFL	Liebling-DFL
Cornish-R	Mazorol-R
Gruenhagen-R	Schomacker-R
Hilstrom-DFL	Tillberry-DFL
Kriesel-R	Vogel-R
Laine-DFL	Wardlow-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Jody Withers.....296-4141

Committee Legislative Assistant

Joyce Vogt.....297-8407

Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance

437 State Office Building296-4240
Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. in Room 10*

Members: 17

Chair: Cornish-R

Vice Chair: Woodard-R

DFL Lead: Mullery-DFL

Gauthier-DFL	Leidiger-R
Gruenhagen-R	Mariani-DFL
Hilty-DFL	McDonald-R
Johnson-DFL	Moran-DFL
Kelly-R	Nornes-R
Kieffer-R	Slocum-DFL
Kriesel-R	Smith-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

John Hultquist.....296-4283

Committee Legislative Assistant

Laura Larson296-9266

Redistricting

549 State Office Building296-5511
Meets: At the call of the chair in (No Room Assigned)*

Members: 12

Chair: Anderson, S.-R

Vice Chair: Fabian-R

DFL Lead: Murphy, M.-DFL

Clark-DFL	Loon-R
Daudt-R	Marquart-DFL
Garofalo-R	Poppe-DFL
Hoppe-R	Scott-R
Hortman-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Tom Freeman296-8826

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kate Hensing.....296-5399

Rules and Legislative Administration

459 State Office Building296-3018
Meets: At the call of the chair in (No Room Assigned)*

Members: 25

Chair: Dean-R

Vice Chair: Daudt-R

DFL Lead: Pelowski-DFL

Anderson, S.-R	Lillie-DFL
Banaian-R	Mack-R
Benson, J.-DFL	McNamara-R
Brynaert-DFL	Murphy, E.-DFL
Hamilton-R	Nornes-R
Hilstrom-DFL	Norton-DFL
Hoppe-R	Paymar-DFL
Howes-R	Peppin-R
Kelly-R	Scott-R
Knuth-DFL	Thissen-DFL
Laine-DFL	Westrom-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Anna Bellin296-5508

Committee Legislative Assistant

Diana Stepanek296-9194

State Government Finance

379 State Office Building296-5515
Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8:15 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 21

Chair: Lanning-R

Vice Chair: Benson, M.-R

DFL Lead: Kahn-DFL

Anderson, B.-R	Lohmer-R
Banaian-R	McElpatrick-R
Downey-R	Murphy, M.-DFL
Gauthier-DFL	Murray-R
Greene-DFL	Simon-DFL
Gunther-R	Slawik-DFL
Hayden-DFL	Stensrud-R
Leidiger-R	Urdahl-R
Lillie-DFL	Winkler-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator
 Joe Marble.....296-7185
 Committee Legislative Assistant
 Johnna O'Neill296-4230

Veterans Services Division

365 State Office Building296-5063
 Meets: Mondays at 12:30 p.m. in the Basement
 Hearing Room*

Members: 13**Chair:** Anderson, B.-R**Vice Chair:** Kriesel-R**DFL Lead:** Koenen-DFL

Anzelc-DFL	Kath-DFL
Davids-R	LeMieur-R
Dettmer-R	Lohmer-R
Falk-DFL	O'Driscoll-R
Kahn-DFL	Persell-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator
 Joe Marble.....296-7185
 Committee Legislative Assistant
 Brian Theis.....296-5494

Taxes

585 State Office Building296-9278
 Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
 at 10:15 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 29**Chair:** Davids-R**Vice Chair:** Loon-R**DFL Lead:** Lenczewski-DFL

Anderson, S.-R	Knuth-DFL
Bills-R	Koenen-DFL
Buesgens-R	Lesch-DFL
Crawford-R	Loeffler-DFL
Davnie-DFL	Mack-R
Doepke-R	Marquart-DFL
Downey-R	Myhra-R
Drazkowski-R	Paymar-DFL
Erickson-R	Rukavina-DFL
Garofalo-R	Runbeck-R
Gottwalt-R	Sertich-DFL
Hortman-DFL	Tillberry-DFL
Kiffmeyer-R	Wardlow-R

Property and Local Tax Division

583 State Office Building296-2907
 Meets: Wednesdays at 8:15 a.m. in Room 10*

Members: 16**Chair:** Runbeck-R**Vice Chair:** Crawford-R**DFL Lead:** Marquart-DFL

Barrett-R	Lenczewski-DFL
Benson, J.-DFL	Loeffler-DFL
Daudt-R	Mahoney-DFL
Dettmer-R	McDonald-R
Dittrich-DFL	Petersen, B.-R
Koenen-DFL	Wardlow-R
LeMieur-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator
 Bobby Patrick.....296-4119
 Committee Legislative Assistant
 Anna Fournier296-7881

Transportation Policy and Finance

417 State Office Building296-8872
 Meets: Mondays and Wednesdays at 12:30
 p.m. in Room 5*

Members: 17**Chair:** Beard-R**Vice Chair:** Murdock-R**DFL Lead:** Hornstein-DFL

Benson, M.-R	Leidiger-R
Buesgens-R	Morrow-DFL
Champion-DFL	Murray-R
Eken-DFL	Nelson-DFL
Gauthier-DFL	Sanders-R
Hausman-DFL	Shimanski-R
Kiel-R	Vogel-R

Staff

Committee Administrator
 Mark Nisley296-1540
 Committee Legislative Assistant
 Ana Bahr.....296-4375

Ways and Means

453 State Office Building296-6926
 Meets: Mondays at 10:15 a.m. or call of the
 chair in Room 200*

Members: 34**Chair:** Holberg-R**Vice Chair:** Downey-R**DFL Lead:** Carlson-DFL

Abeler-R	Howes-R
Anderson, B.-R	Huntley-DFL
Anderson, S.-R	Kahn-DFL
Beard-R	Kiffmeyer-R
Brynaert-DFL	Lanning-R
Buesgens-R	Lenczewski-DFL
Champion-DFL	McNamara-R
Cornish-R	Nornes-R
Davids-R	Pelowski-DFL
Eken-DFL	Rukavina-DFL
Garofalo-R	Sertich-DFL
Greiling-DFL	Slawik-DFL
Gunther-R	Smith-R
Hackbarth-R	Wagenius-DFL
Hamilton-R	Westrom-R
Hornstein-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator
 Harry Kennedy296-5065
 Committee Legislative Assistant
 Alex Smith296-3889

Minnesota House Committee Schedule 2011-2012

As of 12/29/10

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:15-10 a.m.		Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance (5) Education Reform (B) State Government Finance (200) Judiciary Policy and Finance (10)	Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance (5) State Government Finance (200) Property and Local Tax Division (10)	Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance (5) Education Reform (B) State Government Finance (200) Judiciary Policy and Finance (10)	
10:15-Noon	Ways and Means (200)	Taxes (200) Government Operations and Elections (5) Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance (10) Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance (B)	Taxes (200) Government Operations and Elections (5) Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance (10) Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance (B)	Taxes (200) Government Operations and Elections (5) Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance (10) Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance (B)	No regular meetings are scheduled on Fridays
12:30-2:15 p.m.	Civil Law (10) Transportation Policy and Finance (5) Veterans Services Division (B)	Jobs and Economic Development Finance (10) Health and Human Services Finance (200) Higher Education Policy and Finance (B) Education Finance (5)	Civil Law (10) Health and Human Services Finance (200) Transportation Policy and Finance (B) Education Finance (5)	Jobs and Economic Development Finance (10) Health and Human Services Finance (200) Higher Education Policy and Finance (B) Education Finance (5)	
2:30-4:15 p.m.	HOUSE IN SESSION 3 p.m.	Commerce and Regulatory Reform (B) Capital Investment (10) Health and Human Services Reform (200) Legacy Funding Division (5)	Commerce and Regulatory Reform (B) Capital Investment (10) Health and Human Services Reform (200) Legacy Funding Division (5)	HOUSE IN SESSION 3 p.m.	

Ways and Means, Rules, Ethics and Redistricting meet at the call of the Chair
All rooms are in the State Office Building

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

JANUARY 10 - 13, 2011

HOUSE FILES 1 - 92

Monday, January 10

HF1-Fabian (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Environmental permitting efficiency provided and environmental review requirements modified.

HF2-Banaian (R)

Government Operations & Elections

State budget priority-based process created, sunset process established for state agencies.

HF3-Mariani (DFL)

Education Reform

Alternative teacher preparation program and limited term teacher license established.

HF4-Downey (R)

Government Operations & Elections

State workforce reduction required and early retirement program created.

HF5-McNamara (R)

Government Operations & Elections

State employee salary and wage freeze instituted.

HF6-Cornish (R)

Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance

Criminal sexual conduct in the first degree penalty increased.

HF7-Drazkowski (R)

Government Operations & Elections

Local government mandates abolished.

HF8-Gottwalt (R)

Health & Human Services Reform

Healthy Minnesota contribution program established.

HF9-Peppin (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Nuclear power plant certificate of need prohibition abolished.

HF10-Loon (R)

Taxes

Taxable income subtraction allowed, corporate franchise tax rates reduced and sales tax exemption allowed for capital equipment at time of purchase.

HF11-Bills (R)

Taxes

Research tax credit increased for corporations.

HF12-LeMieur (R)

Agriculture & Rural Development Policy & Finance

Green acres and agricultural classifications restored to pre-2008 status.

HF13-Kriesel (R)

Redistricting

Legislative districts and congressional districts coordinated so that the number of senators is evenly divisible by the number of representatives.

HF14-Howes (R)

Higher Education Policy & Finance

University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities asset preservation funding provided.

HF15-Koenen (DFL)

Veterans Services Division

Military pension income tax subtraction created.

HF16-Hackbarth (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Two angling lines permitted.

HF17-Koenen (DFL)

State Government Finance

Montevideo; veterans home funding provided.

HF18-Koenen (DFL)

Taxes

Sales and use tax exemption provided for grain bins, fencing materials and cattle ear tags.

HF19-Urdahl (R)

Health & Human Services Finance

Nursing facility operating rates changed.

HF20-Urdahl (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Environmental impact statement process modified.

HF21-Davids (R)

Taxes

Individual income tax reciprocity agreement reinstated with Wisconsin and its termination permitted only by law.

HF22-Davids (R)

Taxes

Property tax 4c classification requirements modified.

HF23-Davids (R)

Taxes

Property tax 4c classification requirements modified.

HF24-Davids (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

State trail bicycling pass required.

HF25-Davids (R)

Veterans Services Division

Veterans receiving licenses without a fee disability level modified.

HF26-Davids (R)

State Government Finance

Preston; historic grain elevator restoration funding provided.

HF27-Davids (R)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Chatfield; Potter Center for the Arts funding provided.

HF28-Davids (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Preston; National Trout Learning Center funding provided.

HF29-Gottwalt (R)

Redistricting

Legislature member number reduced, and division of a Senate district prevented in the formation of a congressional district.

HF30-Dill (DFL)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Land exchange provisions modified, compensation provided and public and private sales of certain tax-forfeited land authorized.

HF31-Dill (DFL)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Deer killed by motor vehicle permitted to be kept by the driver.

HF32-Dill (DFL)

Civil Law

State and local government tort liability limits restored to pre-2008 levels, and state and local government contracts prohibited that require contractors to provide liability insurance or other security in excess of those limits.

HF33-Dill (DFL)

Higher Education Policy & Finance

Cook County; higher education funding provided.

HF34-Dill (DFL)

Education Finance

Sparsity revenue guarantee extended to all qualifying school districts.

HF35-Dill (DFL)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Tax-forfeited land private sales authorized.

HF36-Garofalo (R)

Taxes

Pet sales exempted from sales taxes.

HF37-Norton (DFL)

Education Reform

Mental health education model curriculum created.

HF38-Norton (DFL)

Commerce & Regulatory Reform

Fair Claims Practices Act amended as it applies to certain automobile insurance claims, and certain third-party claimant rights provided in insurance settlement of claims.

HF39-Norton (DFL)

Transportation Policy & Finance

Highway 14 designated as Black and Yellow Trail.

HF40-Norton (DFL)

Higher Education Policy & Finance

Lifelong learning account established, tax credits allowed to employers and employees for contributions to lifelong learning accounts.

HF41-Norton (DFL)

Education Finance

Safe schools levy maintenance of effort requirements amended.

HF42-Davids (R)

Taxes

Corporate franchise tax phased out.

HF43-Fritz (DFL)

Health & Human Services Reform

Home care tax credit established, long-term consultation team amended, and caregiver burden scale established.

HF44-Mariani (DFL)

Education Reform

High school assessments established to determine college and career readiness; reports required.

HF45-Mariani (DFL)

Government Operations & Elections

Legislative Commission for Policy Innovation and Research established.

HF46-Mariani (DFL)

Education Reform

Compulsory attendance age increased for the requirements of high school graduation.

HF47-Mariani (DFL)

Education Reform

Standard diploma for at-risk and off-track students alternative routes pursued.

HF48-Mariani (DFL)

Education Reform

Academic math standards revised to incorporate the common core state standards for mathematics.

HF49-Nornes (R)

Taxes

Fergus Falls; sales and use tax authorized.

HF50-Anderson, B. (R)

Veterans Services Division

Female-veteran designation authorized for special veteran's license plates or Gold Star license plates.

HF51-Hayden (DFL)

Health & Human Services Reform

All necessary health care guaranteed available and affordable for every Minnesotan; Minnesota Health Plan, Minnesota Health Board, Minnesota Health Fund, Office of Health Quality and Planning, ombudsman for patient advocacy and inspector general for the Minnesota Health Plan established; rulemaking authorized.

HF52-Peppin (R)

Government Operations & Elections

City, county, and town zoning control and ordinance variances provided.

HF53-Buesgens (R)

Government Operations & Elections

Outside contracting agency restrictions removed.

HF54-Davids (R)

Agriculture & Rural Development Policy & Finance

Green acres and agricultural classifications restored to pre-2008 status.

HF55-Hackbarth (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Stream easement acquisition provisions modified; state park, state forest and land exchange provisions modified; state parks and state forests added to and deleted from; and public and private sales, conveyances and exchanges of state land authorized.

HF56-Dill (DFL)

Veterans Services Division

Veteran waiver of immunity provided to sue the State of Minnesota as an employer in federal or other courts for violation of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

HF57-Kriesel (R)

Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance

Synthetic cannabinoid sale or possession crime established and penalty provided.

HF58-Fabian (R)

Education Finance

Independent School District No. 356, Lancaster, transition revenue adjusted.

HF59-Erickson (R)

Education Reform

School district January 15 deadline repealed by which school districts must reach a collective bargaining agreement or face a state aid penalty.

HF60-Ward (DFL)

Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance

Crow Wing County; alcohol and controlled substance pilot project established to monitor for certain persons with revoked driver's licenses.

HF61-Ward (DFL)

Health & Human Services Finance

Minnesota Faith in Action permanent funding allocated.

HF62-Ward (DFL)

Government Operations & Elections

Workers Memorial Garden on the State Capitol grounds updated to include a reference to the Milford Mine Disaster in Crosby that occurred on Feb. 5, 1924.

HF63-Garofalo (R)

Education Reform

Teacher licensure provisions amended, alternative teacher preparation program and limited-term teacher license established; report required.

HF64-Draskowski (R)

Transportation Policy & Finance

English designated as the official language of Minnesota.

HF65-Draskowski (R)

Commerce & Regulatory Reform

Freedom of employment constitutional amendment proposed.

HF66-Draskowski (R)

Taxes

Political contribution refund repealed.

HF67-Downey (R)

Taxes

General Fund expenditures limited in the 2012-13 biennium to forecasted revenues, and use specified for any forecasted increases in revenues above the level of revenues forecasted for the 2010-11 biennium.

HF68-Garofalo (R)

Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance

Careless driving resulting in death provided to be a gross misdemeanor.

HF69-Draskowski (R)

Civil Law

Physical custody rebuttable presumption established.

HF70-Kiffmeyer (R)

Education Finance

Independent School District No. 726, Becker, fund transfer authorized.

HF71-Simon (DFL)

Education Finance

School districts authorized to use its operating capital for certain costs associated with closing a school.

HF72-Beard (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Carbon dioxide emissions by utilities ban removed.

HF73-Anzelc (DFL)

Agriculture & Rural Development Policy & Finance

Lake of the Woods County; plasma-biomass plant grant funding provided.

HF74-Hansen (DFL)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Metropolitan area cities grant funding provided to address inflow and infiltration in the sewer system.

HF75-Hackbarth (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Public utility, energy conservation and renewable energy provisions modified.

HF76-Banaian (R)

Government Operations & Elections

Zero-based budgeting system required, and state agency sunsets and reviews provided.

HF77-Lanning (R)

Health & Human Services Finance

Healthy community and circle of support initiative grant program funding provided.

HF78-Peterson (DFL)

Commerce & Regulatory Reform

Homeowner's insurance surcharge disclosure required.

HF79-Davids (R)

Taxes

Dependent health care coverage to adult children through age 26 for tax year 2010 federal extension conformed.

HF80-Nornes (R)

Transportation Policy & Finance

Waterfront structure transportation on trunk highways authorized with annual special permits.

HF81-Rukavina (DFL)**Government Operations & Elections**

Public Employees Retirement Association; purchase of service and salary credit authorized for certain former employees of Babbit and Buhl for eligible unreported employment.

HF82-Dettmer (R)**Veterans Services Division**

Military retirement pay phased-in subtraction provided.

HF83-Paymar (DFL)**Agriculture & Rural Development Policy & Finance**

Ethanol producer payment program repealed.

HF84-Morrow (DFL)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

Highway 14 license plates authorized.

HF85-Morrow (DFL)**Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance**

Careless driving resulting in death penalty provided, and violator's driver's license revocation provided.

HF86-Mariani (DFL)**Education Reform**

Compulsory attendance age increased for high school graduation.

HF87-Mariani (DFL)**Education Reform**

Teacher candidate pre-service performance assessment established, and alternative teacher preparation program and limited-term teaching license established.

HF88-Doepke (R)**Education Finance**

Student health personnel set-aside removed.

HF89-Benson, M. (R)**Government Operations & Elections**

Voter picture identification required before receiving a ballot, voter identification card provided at no charge and provisional balloting procedure established.

HF90-Hausman (DFL)**Capital Investment**


Capital improvement funding provided, fiber optic infrastructure grant program established for schools, and prior bond authorizations reduced.

HF91-Howes (R)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

Choose Life license plates authorized, adoption support account established.

HF92-Downey (R)**Education Reform**

Teacher contract deadline aid penalty repealed.

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation		
Publication Title	Publication Number	Date of Filing
Session Weekly	1049-8176	8/17/2010
Issue Frequency	No. of Issues Published Annually	Annual Subscription/Price
Weekly during legislative session	22 odd yr. ; 12 even	No Charge
Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication		Contact person
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 175 St. Paul, Ramsey Co., MN, 55155-1298		Nick Busse
Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publisher		Telephone
Same as above		651-296-7592
Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor		
Publisher Barry LaGrave, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Rm. 175, St. Paul, MN, 55155-1298		
Editor Lee Ann Schatz, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Rm. 175, St. Paul, MN, 55155-1298		
Managing Editor Mike Cook, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Rm. 175, St. Paul, MN, 55155-1298		
<i>(Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)</i>		
Full Name		Complete mailing address
Minnesota House of Representatives		175 State Office Building
Public Information Services		100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
		St. Paul, MN 55155-1298
Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities. If none, check box. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None		
For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. The purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes. (Check one)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months		
<input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months <i>(If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)</i>		
Publication Title	Session Weekly	Issue Date for Circulation Data
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		
Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months		No. Copies of Single Issue Published nearest to Filing date
a. Total No. Copies (Net press run)		6,952
		7,800
b. Legitimate Paid and/or Requested Distribution (By mail and Outside the Mail)	1 Outside-County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541.	5,536
	2 In-County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541.	
	3 Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	
	4 Requested Copies Distributed by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First Class Mail)	
c. Total paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		5,536
		5,952
d. Non-requested Distribution (By mail and Outside the Mail)	1 Outside-County Paid/Nonrequested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541.	
	2 In-County Paid/Nonrequested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541.	
	3 Nonrequested Copies Mailed at First Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First Class Mail)	1,416
	4 Nonrequested Copies Distributed Outside the Mail.	
e. Total Nonrequested Distribution		1,416
		1,848
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		6,952
		7,800
g. Copies Not Distributed		0
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		6,952
		7,800
i. Percent paid and/or Requested Circulation.		80%
		76%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publication required. Will be printed in the January 14, 2011 issue of this publication		
Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner		Date
 Director		August 16, 2010
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MINNESOTA INDEX

State Employment

Minnesota's labor force in the second quarter of 2010.....	2,578,487
One year earlier	2,595,138
Two years earlier	2,704,567
Wages, in billions, earned by Minnesotans in the second quarter of 2010	\$29.1
One year earlier, in billions.....	\$28.4
Two years earlier, in billions.....	\$29.8
Minnesota unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) in November 2010, as percent	7.1
Percent in November 2009	7.6
Percent in November 2008	6.2
National unemployment rate in November 2010, as percent	9.8
Percents in November 2009, 2008.....	10, 6.7
Initial Minnesota claims for unemployment in December 2010.....	39,850
Percent decrease from one year earlier.....	26.5
Minnesotans, as approximate, who received state unemployment benefits in 2009.....	350,000
Billions in unemployment benefits (including extended benefits) paid to Minnesotans in 2009.....	\$2.8
Maximum weekly state unemployment benefit a recipient can receive	\$578
Millions of phone calls answered by state unemployment claim insurance representatives in 2009	1.25
Number of Workforce Centers in Minnesota.....	49
Number of job vacancies in state in second quarter of 2010.....	41,397
Percent increase from one year earlier	32
Job vacancy increase from second quarter 2009 to second quarter 2010, as percent, in Greater Minnesota	37.1
Percent in Twin Cities metropolitan area.....	25.6
Percent of the second quarter 2010 job vacancies that are part-time	42
Median hourly wage for all the second quarter 2010 job vacancies.....	\$10.19
Unemployed workers for each job vacancy statewide in second quarter of 2010	4.8
One year earlier	7.9

— M. COOK

Sources: Department of Employment and Economic Development, including Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Information Handbook and Job Vacancy Survey.