

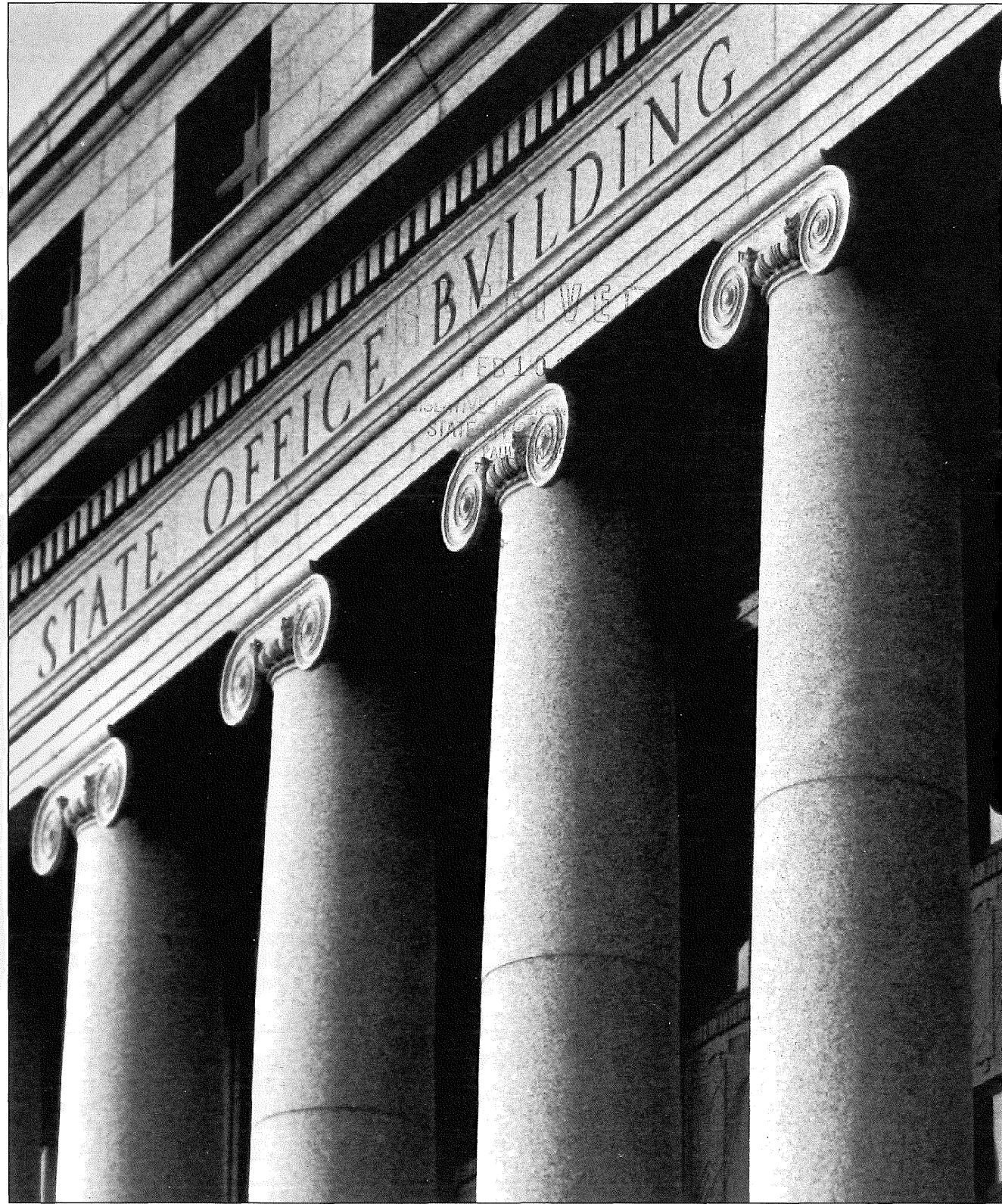
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SESSION WEEKLY

A Non-Partisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ February 10, 1995 ♦ Volume 12, Number 6



Session Weekly is a non-partisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1995-96 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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

Printed on recycled paper which is 100% recycled,
20% post-consumer content.

SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • February 10, 1995 • Volume 12, Number 6

Week at a glance

DWI odds — Minnesota's DWI laws are working, but the chances of getting caught while driving under the influence aren't very good. Experts suggest a dedicated alcohol tax that would fund efforts to enforce the state's DWI laws. **Page 4**

A captive audience — With many school districts facing transportation budget troubles, the state may let gym shoe companies, fast food chains, and others help pay for the ride. A bill to allow advertising inside school buses is moving through the House. **Page 5**

Open lockers — Students may not have privacy rights when it comes to their school lockers. A bill in the House would allow school authorities the right to search lockers at any time. **Page 5**

Prairie home companions — Northern States Power Co. (NSP) is looking for a good home in Goodhue County to store its nuclear waste. The 1994 Legislature allowed NSP to store spent nuclear fuel outside its power plant at Prairie Island. Under the same law, NSP will be allowed to store more if it can find a site away from Prairie Island but in Goodhue County. **Page 6**

Felony docs — A bill to automatically suspend the licenses of Minnesota doctors when they are convicted of a felony "reasonably related" to their practice is on its way to the House floor. **Page 9**

Hitch a ride with the Legislature — Minnesota is now one of several legislatures in recent years to hop on the information superhighway and make available a wide array of legislative information on the Internet. **Page 15**

No rookie — This is Rep. Mike Osskopp's first term as a legislator, but he's been here before. The radio talk show host has covered the halls of the Capitol and is ready to air his conservative message in the House. **Page 18**

He has a practical view — Involvement in neighborhood politics provided the springboard for Rep. Matt Entenza's legislative candidacy. "You see what people's daily lives are like and what people need and what they don't need," he said. "You get a more practical view." **Page 19**

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On the cover: Ionic columns adorn the State Office Building.

— Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Highlights

'The fat fifteen' . . .

Holding the line on local government salaries

A bill to cap the salaries of most local government officials at \$78,500 was approved by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 7.

But managers who currently earn more than that need not worry. The bill was successfully amended by committee Chair Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) to exclude them from the salary cap.

Bill sponsor Rep. Steve Wenzel illustrated the need for HF339 by drawing attention to what he called "The Fat Fifteen," a list of the 15 highest paid local public officials. The list includes annual salaries such as \$103,596 for the Hennepin County administrator, \$96,205 for the Ramsey County human services director, and \$94,068 for the Minneapolis city engineer.

"In 84 of the 87 [Minnesota] counties there is no problem," said Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls). But some cities and counties in the metropolitan area have not been fiscally responsible with salaries, he said.

The bill would limit the amount a city or county attorney could earn to 95 percent of the state attorney general's salary which amounts to \$84,981. An elected county sheriff would be limited to the salary of the state commissioner of public safety, currently

\$78,500. All other elected officials and employees would be limited to the salary of the state commissioner of finance, currently \$78,500.

The bill would apply to city, county, metropolitan, and regional units of government but would not apply to school districts. Under current law, school officials cannot earn more than 95 percent of the governor's salary, which would amount to \$108,780.

Many metro area local government officials and professional associations oppose the bill and label it "micro management" from the state.

Hennepin County Commissioner Mike Opat said local governments would have difficulty retaining top managers if salaries were capped. In particular, he said he's concerned government could be set up as a training ground for the private sector.

"Less than adequate talent puts taxpayers at risk," said former Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Spartz, now vice president of Capital Partnership Inc.

Spartz called it "penny-wise but pound foolish."

Joel Jamnick of the League of Minnesota Cities said he would be leery of advising cities to comply with the bill if it became law because of what he considers potential pay equity problems.

Proponents of the bill, however, dismissed that claim. Minnesota's pay equity law is designed to eliminate gender-based wage inequities.

Wenzel said his opponents will continue to argue that government needs to offer good wages to get good service. But, he said, too many forget that government jobs entail a desire for public service.

If some want higher paying jobs, they can go to the private sector where taxpayer dollars aren't involved.

"I don't care what [source] in the private sector pays their salaries," Wenzel said.

Another successful amendment to the bill limits the salaries of private consultants hired by a state agency or local government to 95 percent of the salary of the chief executive officer for that agency or local government. The amendment was offered by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud).

HF339 now goes to the House Governmental Operations Committee for further discussion.

— K. Darcy Hanzlik

'The fat fifteen: 15 highest-paid public officials'

1. Hennepin County Administrator	\$103,596
2. Ramsey County Administrator.....	\$102,762
3. Anoka County Administrator	\$98,528
4. Hennepin County Assoc. Admin. Corrections	\$97,392
5. Hennepin County Assoc. Admin. Public Works	\$97,392
6. Hennepin County Assoc. Admin. Enterprise	\$97,392
7. Hennepin County Assoc. Admin. Human Resources	\$97,392
8. Hennepin County Library Director	\$96,852
9. Minneapolis City Coordinator.....	\$96,257
10. Ramsey County Human Services Director	\$96,205
11. Hennepin County Dept. Director General Services	\$95,052
12. Rochester General Manager Utilities	\$94,197
13. Minneapolis City Engineer	\$94,068
14. Washington County Administrator.....	\$92,280
15. Dakota County Administrator	\$91,400

Source: Government personnel departments as of 1994.



AGRICULTURE

Looking for manure

So what's behind the recent dramatic increase in fertilizer prices?

It appears a lot of things acting together — ranging from problems in Russia to a massive explosion in Iowa — helped cause a 20- to 40-percent increase in fertilizer prices since last spring.

And although many farmers may want to point fingers at the large companies that produce anhydrous ammonia (a widely used fertilizer), there's probably only some truth to the charge.

The House Agriculture Committee began its inquiry Feb. 6 into the cause of the recent price increases.

Testimony from two Minnesota fertilizer distributors and a review of several articles on the subject listed the following major causes:

- Worldwide production of ammonia, from which most fertilizer is made, is down. Exports of ammonia from Russia have dropped significantly because of technical failures and contractual disagreements with countries that contain parts of the ammonia supply line.
- Worldwide demand for ammonia for non-agricultural purposes — primarily in the textile and carpet industries — is up. Ammonia is used in the production of both nylon and acrylic fibers.
- Worldwide demand for ammonia for agricultural purposes is up for two reasons. First, the worldwide supply of grain is at its lowest level in 20 years so farmers around the world want to make up the difference in the coming growing seasons. Second, U.S. farmers traditionally use much more fertilizer following record crops, which occurred in many parts of the U.S. last year.
- The United States is a net importer of ammonia. Because it is in such short supply, much of it is being sold closer to the ports at which it enters the U.S. Distributors can avoid additional shipping costs by selling ammonia closer to its port of entry. That hits the Midwest the hardest.
- The explosion of the Terra Industries plant south of Sioux City — Iowa's largest producer of nitrogen-based fertilizers — on Dec. 13, 1994. The plant was a major supplier of fertilizer to southern and southwestern Minnesota.
- Price gouging. In the past, the profit margin for producing ammonia has been very thin. Some sources say those producers are now using the short supply to make up

some economic ground. (See Oct. 3, 1994, issue of the *Chemical Marketing Reporter*.) So what can be done about the problem?

Greg Buzicky of the state Department of Agriculture suggested that farmers should concentrate on using fertilizer more efficiently.

And Rep. Gene Hugoson (IR-Granada) suggested the state should do more to encourage livestock production so more manure could be used as fertilizer.

While that may be a noble goal, Buzicky said it's not a complete solution to the problem.

"There just isn't enough manure to go around — at least in the agricultural sense."



CHILDREN

New department for kids

Draft legislation that would eliminate the present Department of Education and create a department of children and education services was heard before the K-12 Education Finance Division Feb. 3.

The new department would "organize state government so that it makes sense for children and families," said Linda Kohl, director of Minnesota Planning.

Kohl said that about 245 programs spread among 32 state agencies would be transferred to the new department. Most programs would come from the departments of education, human services, economic security, and health.



Daniel Martig, a second-grader at Lino Lakes Elementary School, told members of the House Judiciary Finance Committee Feb. 7 about his activities in the youth intervention "Be a Buddy Program." Barb Swanson, executive director of the Forest Lake Youth Bureau, also testified.

It would be a "four-to-six-year process" to have all duties transferred to the new department, Kohl explained. If approved, the governor would appoint a commissioner for the new department on July 1, 1995. Educational and social programs serving children and families would transfer to the proposed department by July 1, 1996. In the second year, more programs would be evaluated for inclusion.

The new department would require \$150,000 in start-up costs, mainly for the salaries and support of two commissioners during the transition year, said Kohl.

The proposal calls for the Department of Education and the State Board of Education to be abolished. More than \$2.7 billion of state spending for K-12 education programs would transfer to the new department after July 1, 1996.

John Petrabor, deputy commissioner for the Department of Human Services (DHS), told committee members that the new department would emphasize developmental programs to help children learn. More than \$45 million for child care subsidies would be transferred from DHS to the new department in 1997.

Committee chair Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) asked whether the education and employment transition boards called for under the new department constituted a new bureaucracy. The legislation would provide \$2.5 million in fiscal year 1996 to establish this series of regional boards, which would expand and manage youth apprenticeship and work-based learning programs. Johnson suggested that there might be "existing regional structures out there that can be built on."

The proposal, which has not yet been formally introduced, is expected to be discussed further later this session.



CRIME

Drunk, driving, and untouched

Minnesota's DWI laws are working, but the chances of getting caught while driving under the influence aren't very good, according to a University of Minnesota law professor.

"The public would really be frightened if they knew how few police officers are on the street" during peak drunk driving times, said Steve Simon, one of the state's foremost authorities on DWI law.

Simon gave members of the House Judi-

ciary Committee an overview of the state's DWI laws during a Feb. 8 hearing.

After midnight, on any given day of the week, 8.8 percent of drivers on the road are legally drunk, according to Karen Sprattler of the Department of Public Safety.

And the odds of being arrested are about 1 in 1,000, Simon said.

"The chance of getting caught is not as great as people think it is," Simon said.

Law enforcement efforts have become focused on more violent crimes like domestic violence.

To increase arrest rates, the system needs money. Simon advocates a dedicated alcohol tax that would fund efforts to enforce the state's DWI laws. He cited a recent University of Minnesota survey that indicated 87 percent of surveyed Minnesotans also support such a tax.

Simon praised the state's DWI laws as "extremely comprehensive and complete," and called the license plate impoundment and intensive probation programs "unique in the country."

The 1991 Legislature approved a law that strengthened the state's license plate impoundment law for repeat DWI offenders, which Simon called "cheap and effective."

Not only are the laws working, but they're also having a deterrent effect.

As proof, he cited the declining number of first-time DWI offenders. In 1986, nearly 61 percent of all DWI arrests were first-time offenders. In 1994, that percentage had dropped to less than 50 percent.

That means many Minnesotans are getting the message to not drink and drive.

But targeting the chronic DWI offender is the real challenge.

"Tough penalties have little effect unless there is a fear of getting apprehended," Simon said.

And when the odds of arrest stand at 1,000 to 1, it seems repeat offenders have little to fear.

EDUCATION

Searching school lockers

School authorities could search the lockers of Minnesota students at any time, under a bill heard Feb. 6 by the House Judiciary Committee.

The proposal (**HF107**), sponsored by Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul), states that a locker inspection could take place "for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant." No-

tice of the policy would have to be distributed to parents and students.

Farrell argues that students don't have a right to privacy when it comes to school lockers.

"The locker is public property, owned by the school and used by a student for [his or her] convenience," he said.

Bob Meeks of the Minnesota School Board Association said many local school districts have policies regarding locker searches, but are afraid to enforce them for fear of a costly court challenge. With no law to guide officials, they are frustrated, he said.

"We have a responsibility to provide a safe environment to students and staff. . . . There's no right to privacy," Meeks said.

An Oct. 7, 1994, incident at Harding High School in St. Paul led to the proposed legislation.

Two students were shot following a school assembly. A fellow student was later charged with the assaults. Lockers were not individually searched following the incident because school authorities had "constitutional questions," Farrell said. Instead, a trained dog was brought from Arizona to "sniff out" gunpowder from the more than 1,800 student lockers. The search yielded nothing, but eight or nine lockers were opened where the dog indicated a gunpowder scent.

Farrell said the bill has been carefully worded to match a Milwaukee school district policy that has been court-tested.

A challenge to that policy based on a violation of the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which protects against unlawful search and seizure, did not succeed. The Wisconsin Supreme Court upheld the search policy and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case, Farrell said.

Richard Neumeister, a citizen lobbyist involved in data privacy issues, spoke against the bill. He said it violates the Minnesota Constitution by allowing a search "without reasonable suspicion or cause."

He also argued that students do have a right to privacy, that they "just don't waive by walking through the [school] door."

A 1994 law mandated that schools track and report to the Department of Education any incidents involving dangerous weapons on school property and in school buses carrying students.

The department's first report shows that between July 1993 and July 1994 there were 872 weapons incidents. Sixty-five of those were exclusively gun incidents. Eighty-four of the state's 381 school districts did not report.

Continued testimony on **HF107** is expected next week.

School buses for sale

With many school districts facing transportation budget troubles, the state may let gym shoe companies, fast food chains, and others help pay for the ride.

A bill that would allow advertising inside school buses was approved by the House Education Committee Feb. 9.

The advertising would provide money for schools at no cost to the state and makes sense with "budget crunches all over the place," said Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm).

"If you have to go out and pay \$100 for a pair of Nikes, you might as well get a little bit back into your school district," said Tomassoni, sponsor of the bill (**HF326**).

Under the bill, school districts would be allowed to set their own standards for ads to be placed on buses and to reach their own deals with private bus companies.

The bill would require that all advertising proceeds to districts be deposited in their transportation accounts. When it comes to ad content, the bill only requires that districts devise policies and that ads comply with those policies.

Setting standards for what types of ads to accept could be fertile ground for debate.

Several committee members expressed concern that advertisers could push religious messages or stake out a position on teen pregnancy and abortion.

"I don't see how a school district, once it opened itself for advertising, could prohibit religious advertising," said Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins).

And advertising on an issue such as abortion could cause "a serious problem one way or the other" in a district, he added.

As originally written, the bill also would have allowed advertisements on the outside of buses — which could bring in still more money.

But the committee approved an amendment to allow ads only inside buses after hearing concerns about safety risks involved with disturbing the highly recognizable yellow and black bus exteriors.

Rep. Warren Limmer (IR-Maple Grove) questioned the appropriateness of allowing advertisers to target young school bus passengers.

"I don't like to see children as a captive audience in a money-raising endeavor," he said.

Last year the Legislature gave permission to the Department of Natural Resources to sell advertising space in its publications.

HF326 now goes before the full House for its consideration.



ENERGY

Prairie Island revisited

Northern States Power Co. (NSP) is looking for a good place in Goodhue County to store its nuclear waste.

Jim Alder, manager of regulatory projects for NSP, told members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 8 that NSP is working with the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to find a suitable storage site.

The 1994 Legislature allowed NSP to immediately put five casks next to the power plant at Prairie Island to store its spent nuclear fuel.

Under the same law, NSP will be allowed four additional casks if, by Dec. 31, 1996, it has a storage site away from Prairie Island ready for federal approval. (The utility also would have to contract for 100 megawatts of windpower by that date.)

In testimony Feb. 7 before the Electric Energy Task Force, Alder explained that the storage site must be away from the 100-year flood plain of the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The site, which by law must be in Goodhue County, also can't be built on limestone bedrock, which is susceptible to fracturing. Most of Goodhue County rests on limestone, which has significantly reduced the site possibilities.

Three to five acres would be needed to store the casks, along with a 20-acre "controlled buffer space" around the storage site. If no local landowners are willing to sell to NSP, Alder said the utility "might have to exercise eminent domain" to gain possession of a suitable site. (Eminent domain is the power to take private property for public use.)

Alder said that an application for a site certificate would be submitted to the EQB by mid-summer. The environmental assessment process would take between 12 and 18 months, and a final decision about the site would come in late 1996, he said.

Finally, NSP would be allowed to use eight more storage casks — for a total of 17 — unless the Legislature enacts a law by June 1, 1999, to revoke the authority to do so. Such legislative action could be taken if the utility has not begun construction of an alternate storage site or has not contracted for an additional 125 megawatts of windpower and 50 megawatts of biomass energy.

Glynis Hinschberger, manager for energy resource planning at NSP, told environment committee members that NSP has 25 mega-



Byron White, secretary of the Mdewakanton Tribal Council, gave an update on above-ground storage of high-level radioactive waste to the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 8.

watts of windpower in operation now, and bids were received in mid-January for another 100 megawatts of windpower. She said the utility will develop 425 megawatts of windpower by 2002.



ENVIRONMENT

Abolishing the LCMR

Should money raised through a portion of the state's cigarette tax and lottery earnings be used to finance part of the general environmental budgets of several state departments, agencies, and boards?

Or should it be used to fund specific environmental projects that are suggested by citizens through a series of "natural resources congresses" operated by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR)?

The issue — brought to the fore by Gov. Arne Carlson — was hotly debated at meetings of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Feb. 6 and 7.

The controversy surrounds the governor's proposal to divert about \$14 million of the LCMR's proposed \$34.6 million budget (40 percent) over the next two-year spending cycle to clean up rivers and preserve prairies and forests, proposals that weren't included in the LCMR's recommendations.

The money would go directly to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Department of Agriculture, Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Department of Natural Resources.

The governor argued in his proposed budget that the clean-up and preservation projects were a higher priority than some of the LCMR's recommended projects. And he has proposed

that the LCMR be abolished, although a bill to do that has not yet been introduced.

The LCMR, which is composed of eight House members and eight senators, has been criticized for circumventing the legislative process and for adding pork in LCMR members' districts.

But LCMR Director John Velin explained that the LCMR funding recommendations are always modified by the Legislature and that they must be approved by the Legislature in order to become law.

About 90 percent of the LCMR funding comes from a 2-cent per pack tax on cigarettes and state lottery earnings, with smaller amounts coming from two smaller funds.

Historically, LCMR funds have been used to finance a variety of environmental projects, ranging from the construction of bike trails to environmental education in the schools.

A total of 473 proposals for funding in the next biennium were submitted to the LCMR, which whittled the list to 86. Funding for those projects is proposed in HF132, which is sponsored by LCMR Chair Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls).

Dale Nelson of the Department of Finance told members that the state's general fund is under "tremendous pressure" and that there isn't enough money to fund additional environmental projects.

And Ron Nargang, DNR deputy commissioner, said he would prefer that construction of trails and parks be financed through the sale of state bonds rather than through the LCMR.

But Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) likened the governor to a "bully on the playground" who doesn't get his way. "Destroying the LCMR because it's not giving you what you want — I think that's terrible," said Trimble.

Learning about garbage

School children are taught that reducing garbage and recycling are good for the environment. In the future they may learn the hazards of openly burning garbage, especially the health danger from dioxin emissions, under a proposed amendment to the state's Waste Management Act.

Members of the Legislative Commission on Waste Management (LCWM) Feb. 6 heard public testimony on this and other proposed amendments to the act.

Educational materials about the hazards of open burning would be distributed by the Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA) which took over the solid and hazardous

waste management duties of the Metropolitan Council. A dioxin is a toxin that studies have shown can cause cancers, birth defects, and fetal deaths in domestic and wild animals. Scientists disagree on whether it can contribute to cancer in humans.

Other proposed amendments to the Waste Management Act would:

- Require metropolitan counties to submit a detailed request to the OEA director before they dispose of "unprocessed" mixed municipal waste in a landfill. Under current law, mixed waste generated in the metropolitan area must be sorted to weed out what can be recycled, what can be burned as fuel, and what can be composted, so that at least 65 percent of the total weight is removed. Currently, counties don't ask permission before they dispose of mixed garbage in a landfill. They only explain why they did it after the fact.
- Enable greater Minnesota counties to require towns, cities, and companies to weed out garbage that can be recycled, burned as fuel, and composted, as is done in the metropolitan counties.
- Reduce the administrative burden on the OEA by consolidating, into one biennial report, several annual and biennial reports that it must by law submit.
- Instruct governmental units — including towns, cities, state agencies, and school districts — not to expose themselves and taxpayers to potential liabilities by disposing of waste at an inferior facility. The intent is that governmental units should set a good example and not try to cut costs at the expense of the environment.

• Establish a statewide goal for reducing the total amount of solid waste from all sources. The OEA would develop a strategy to reduce mixed solid waste in Minnesota by a minimum of 10 percent by 2001.

- Add packaging made with post-consumer recycled materials to the hierarchy of preferred packaging materials that was established by the 1994 Legislature.
- Require that legal briefs and documents submitted to the courts be on paper containing at least 10 percent post-consumer recycled content, if such paper is available. Colorado has such a law.

The draft amendments to the Waste Management Act are expected to be introduced in bill form and considered by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

gress, deciding what duties the states should have will be critical."

Anderson said Minnesota taxpayers should not have to pay additional costs resulting from the shift of federal programs to the state.

If at least 26 states pass similar resolutions, the state would send six legislators and the governor (or another constitutional officer) to the conference, which probably would be held this fall.

The state delegations would then attempt to compile a document, dubbed the "States' Petition to Congress," to send a unified message to Congress on various issues and specifically calling for a stop to "unfunded mandates."

As of Feb. 9, the proposal has been introduced in 37 state legislatures. It has been approved by legislatures in eight states and by one chamber in eight others.

The resolution is now pending in the Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

GOVERNMENT

Reining in the feds

The House is backing a plan to join other states in an effort to rein in the federal government.

House members Feb. 6 voted 75-56 to approve a resolution (HF22) calling for a national "Conference of States" designed to send a message to the U.S. Congress.

"By passing this resolution, Minnesota will join in a national movement seeking to restore the balance between the state and federal governments," said House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls). "With the Balanced Budget Amendment advancing in Con-

The board that works

Described by some as a "dinky agency that works," a House panel heard pleas Feb. 7 to keep the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation alive.

The board was created by the 1993 Legislature and has a three-pronged mission to: grant waivers of state rules to local units of government; provide grants to cooperating units of government; and facilitate mergers of local governments.

Gov. Arne Carlson has targeted the board for elimination, which would bring a cost savings of \$3.4 million over the next biennium.

But several people described how the state board has helped to improve government efficiency.

"We need the board," said Cherry Merritt, program manager for Hennepin County's Department of Economic Assistance. Her agency successfully sought a board waiver to eliminate biannual income verification reports for fixed income Medical Assistance recipients.

Merritt told members of the Government Efficiency and Oversight Division of the House Ways and Means Committee that she sought help from the state Department of Human Services (DHS) to help identify clients who would be affected by the change. She said there was a "lack of enthusiasm" on the part of DHS to help.

Instead of an independent board waiving rules, Gov. Carlson would give that authority to state agencies — the very bodies who make



Rollie Beach, an employee of CEI, which manufactures high tech gaming equipment, showed the Gambling Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee a pull-tab dispensing machine Feb. 3.

the rules and are charged with enforcing them. Some members see that as a conflict.

Since state agencies make the rules, "I can understand the reluctance" in waiving them, Merritt said. "There's ownership there."

Myra Peterson, a Washington County commissioner, said just having the board to encourage grant applications is "enough of a carrot" to get governments to cooperate. Her grant application to fund a transportation needs assessment in south Washington County was denied, but the project is going ahead anyway.

The final needs assessment report is now being written, and the cities of Newport, Cottage Grove and St. Paul Park will be working with the Metropolitan Council Transit Operations to discuss its findings.

"It is a mighty program for so few dollars," she said.

Since its inception, the board has awarded 52 grants totaling \$3.24 million. It received 355 grant applications totaling \$20.1 million. It has received 33 requests for waivers from rules or procedures, 11 of which were approved.

Jim Gelbmann, executive director of the board, and his staff of two are currently working with five pairs of local governments looking to merge. Between 1973 and 1993, Gelbmann said, there were only three such mergers.

A decision on whether to continue funding for the board will be made later this session.



HEALTH

MinnesotaCare changes

Two bills heard by the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 9 would substantially change the way MinnesotaCare, the state's subsidized health coverage program, is administered.

Both bills (**HF254**, **HF255**) seek to repeal the regulated all-payer option portion of the current MinnesotaCare law. The all-payer option, set to be implemented by July 1, 1997, would require the state to set the prices and fees charged by health care insurers, including the government. It also would require insurers and providers to operate under uniform rules.

"Price controls won't work. A competitive market should regulate insurance costs," said Rep. Todd Van Dellen (IR-Plymouth), sponsor of **HF255**.

HF255 also would repeal the universal coverage mandate in current law, which re-

quires that all Minnesotans have health insurance as of July 1, 1997.

"I believe it's unrealistic to pursue that deadline, particularly without federal health care reform," Van Dellen said.

He said his bill pushes for universal coverage through "market reforms." It would call on the commissioner of human services to develop several low-cost health care options.

Another bill (**HF254**), sponsored by Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth), keeps the universal coverage mandate but calls for an additional 40 cent-per-pack cigarette tax.

This tax — over and above the current 48-cent per pack tax on cigarettes — would replace the existing 2 percent provider tax on the gross revenues of health care providers.

The additional cigarette tax would begin in July 1995 and increase an additional 40 cents in each of the next five years until it reached \$2 per pack in the year 2000. Huntley expects the tax to raise about \$120 million the first year and about \$100 million the following year. The funds would go to the health care access fund earmarked to pay for MinnesotaCare.

Huntley's bill would also require snowmobilers, all-terrain vehicle drivers, motorcyclists, and bicyclists to wear helmets or face a \$25 fine. His bill also would increase the fine for not wearing a seat belt from \$25 to \$100 and make violating the law a primary offense. Currently the fine can be levied only if an officer stops a driver for another offense.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) said the proposed helmet law meddles with people's personal lives.

"We may as well get into every behavior people have and start telling them how much they can eat," Hasskamp said.

Both bills also would allow employers to create medical savings accounts. Employees could contribute a portion of their income to the account, and employers also would contribute an unspecified amount. The funds could then be withdrawn to pay for medical expenses. Money not drawn from the interest-bearing accounts could be withdrawn at year's end (and taxed as income), or it could carry over to the next year, Huntley said.

Each bill will next be heard in the MinnesotaCare Finance Division.

Health care needs

Although MinnesotaCare has helped subsidize health care costs for 78,000 low-income Minnesotans, the state could do more to help disabled citizens and those with chronic health problems afford care, say some groups.

Specifically, Minnesotans for Affordable Health Care and the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities have asked the state to let single adults buy into Medical Assistance (MA), also known as Medicaid, without having to impoverish themselves to meet the income eligibility requirements.

Both groups hope such legislation will be introduced this session.

MA is a federal and state program that offers health care to those in desperate need. The program is attractive because, unlike



Jacob Sparrow, who at birth was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, showed his flexibility while being held by his father, Roger, during a hearing of the MinnesotaCare Finance Division Feb. 7. Jacob's mother, Cindy, explained how Minnesota allows her family to buy into the state's Medical Assistance health care coverage for Jacob's long-term care. The program helps families afford care their private insurance companies won't cover.

private health plans, it covers many long-term health care needs such as: in-home care; on-going physical, speech, and other therapy; on-going mental health services; and the necessary equipment for various disabilities.

But under current MA guidelines, most people have to impoverish themselves — quit their jobs to meet low-income requirements and sell their homes — before they can qualify for help, said Ann Henry of the Minnesota Disability Law Center.

Groups addressing the MinnesotaCare Division of the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 7 asked for the option to pay into the plan for their long-term coverage while still keeping their jobs and homes. No one is asking for a freebie, Henry said. In addition to buying into the MA plan, they would agree to buy or keep their private insurance for traditional health care.

Currently, under federal law, states can allow families with children the option of paying into MA to receive long-term care not offered by their private insurers. But no such option is offered to childless adults.

Such an option may have helped Iva Anderson of Minnetonka. She has multiple sclerosis, and in 1993, her doctor recommended a power wheelchair to help with shoulder trouble due to her manual wheelchair.

She told the committee her private insurance company said a power wheelchair wasn't necessary and refused to pay for it.

Anderson, who works for the Minneapolis Public Library, said she persisted with letters and pleas from her doctor but got nowhere. "I was told I had two arms I could make it go. I made it go all right. It made me go right into surgery," she said in a later interview.

In 1994, she was in an operating room to fix tears in the tendons in her rotor cuff.

A power wheelchair would have been preventive medicine, she told the committee. Instead of paying for the wheelchair, the insurance company ended up paying tens of thousands of dollars in surgery, hospital, and therapy bills.

Eventually, a private fund-raiser helped her buy an electric wheelchair.

Henry said the people she represents would like the state to step in and require a broader benefits package both in MinnesotaCare and in private health plans. Currently, MinnesotaCare doesn't offer long-term care and private health insurers drop customers, such as those with disabilities or chronic problems, when they become too costly to maintain.

But they're realistic, Henry said. They know they'd face a strong lobby against such an idea, so they're asking the state to let them buy into MA.

Sanctions for convicted docs

A bill to automatically suspend the licenses of Minnesota doctors when they are convicted of a felony "reasonably related" to their practice is on its way to the House floor.

The bill (**HF231**), sponsored by Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), also would apply to physician's assistants, physical therapists, or other health professionals licensed by the state Board of Medical Practice. It won approval Feb. 7 from the House Health and Human Services Committee.

Under the bill, the license suspension would be automatic following such a conviction and a doctor would have to request a hearing to get his or her license reinstated. Reinstatement would only occur if health professionals can demonstrate they have been rehabilitated by "clear and convincing evidence."

The bill does not define a felony that is "reasonably related" to a medical practice, but Kelley said some obvious examples would include a doctor convicted of sexually assaulting a patient or filing fraudulent Medicare or Medicaid claims.

The board currently has the authority to suspend a professional license, but it first holds a hearing, said bill proponent Leonard Boche, executive director of the Board of Medical Practice.

Dave Renner, director of legislation and public policy for the Minnesota Medical Association, opposed the bill. He said it shifts the responsibility of license regulation from the Board of Medical Practice to the courts. He said he didn't want to be viewed as "protecting slime-bag physicians" but believes the law is too broad and unclear.

Boche told the committee he is concerned about potential public safety problems because of the lag time between when a health professional is convicted or pleads guilty to a felony and when their license is actually suspended.

Renner said he believes Minnesota law already grants the board the authority to suspend a license immediately and later hold a hearing.

Current law does grant the board the authority to temporarily suspend a license without a hearing, but the board must find that the doctor "has violated a statute or rule which the board is empowered to enforce and continued practice by the doctor would create a serious risk of harm to the public." Current law also puts the burden on the board to seek a hearing to issue a final conclusion.

Kelley's bill would reverse the process: the suspension would be automatic and the bur-

den is upon the health professional to seek a hearing and to prove that his or her license suspension shouldn't be permanent.

Full disclosure

A bill to close a loophole and make sure the state Board of Medical Practice receives the names of all physicians who have malpractice settlements or awards against them is on its way to the House floor.

The bill (**HF226**), sponsored by Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), was approved Feb. 7 by the House Health and Human Services Committee.

Current law mandates that insurance companies provide reports to the board detailing malpractice settlements or awards involving physicians.

In practice, however, clinics, hospitals, and other entities were paying off malpractice settlements against physicians and not reporting it to the Board of Medical Practice. Since the paying organizations weren't insurance companies, they weren't technically required to report.

The bill specifically requires medical clinics, hospitals, political subdivisions, and other entities that provide malpractice coverage on behalf of a doctor, physician's assistant, physical therapist, or other health professional under the board's jurisdiction, to report all malpractice settlements and awards to the board. They must report the health professional's name, the date and dollar amounts of all settlements and awards, and the allegations in the claim or complaint leading to the settlement or award.

The board is pushing for the bill so it can use the information to conduct its own investigations into doctors and other professionals to see if disciplinary actions, such as the suspension or loss of a license, is necessary. The bill requires the reports be made within 30 days of any settlement or award.

Leonard Boche, executive director of the Board of Medical Practice, said the board currently hears about doctors who are self-insured or who work for small clinics with private insurance companies. However, they rarely hear about malpractice settlements or awards from health professionals practicing in "mega-clinics."



HIGHER EDUCATION

U2000

By following its U2000 plan, the University of Minnesota could join the ranks of world-class research institutions by the turn of the century, a House panel was told Feb. 6.

But Nils Hasselmo, university president, told members of the University of Minnesota Finance Division of the House Education Committee he needs the state's financial help to get the job done.

Some lawmakers questioned exactly what "world class" meant and asked Hasselmo how he would know when the university had reached that status.

"It's clear U2000 is a process, but a process leading to what is not as clear as it could be," division chair Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee) told Hasselmo. "I don't get a picture of what selective areas you will be a world-class institution in or what a world-class institution is. I think a good picture of the goals are missing."

The U2000 plan, originally unveiled in 1993, calls for strengthening undergraduate programs, raising faculty salaries to attract and keep quality faculty, and upgrading the university's research environment, Hasselmo said.

"You can't make a simple statement about the university because it's so many things," Hasselmo said. "But I'm concerned we haven't been able to lay out the footprint of the University of Minnesota as quickly and competently as we should."

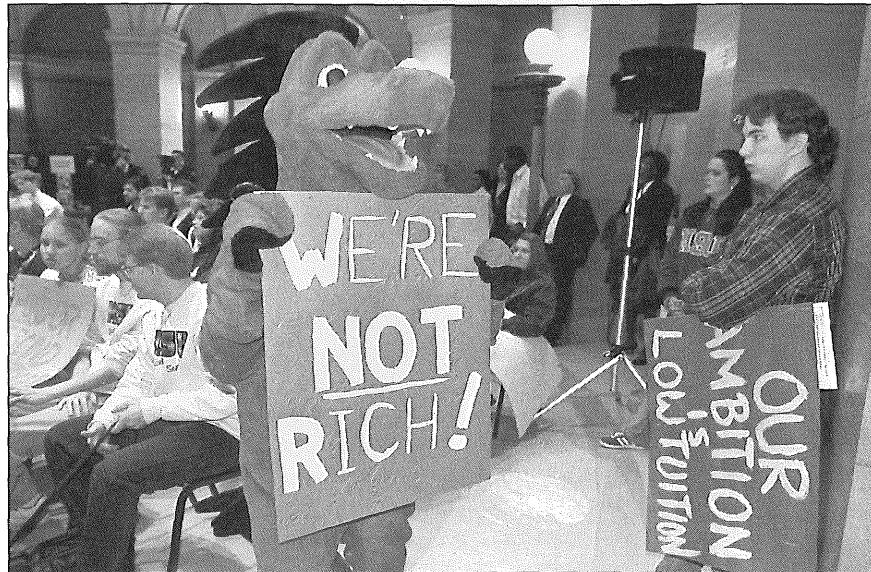
In 1994, Hasselmo said the university would need to spend about \$256 million over the next six years to accomplish the plan's goals. He expected 20 percent of that funding to come from the state.

But last year Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed the \$9.1 million the Legislature had intended for U2000. The money would have been used to improve the libraries and laboratory equipment and to better maintain classrooms.

Hasselmo said he plans to ask the Legislature this year to reapprove funding for the vetoed items. The university has not formally requested a specific state appropriation yet this session.

In his budget recommendations for the 1996-97 biennium, Gov. Arne Carlson proposed the University of Minnesota receive \$968.9 million in state money, \$53.8 million of which would make up a one-time only appropriation for U2000.

Hasselmo said the governor's recommendations trouble him because they represent



Moorhead State University mascot Scorch the Dragon, also known as first-year student Ryan Sylvester, held up a sign along with other state university students during a rally for affordable tuition in the Capitol rotunda Feb. 8. The rally was part of the Minnesota State University Student Association's annual lobby day.

only a one-time proposed appropriation for U2000.

"Even with technology you have to have sustained investment. You can't make a one-time investment and let it sit," Hasselmo said.

Pfutzenreuter said the university will need more than a one-time appropriation for U2000.

More money for the 'U'

The University of Minnesota is seeking \$995 million in state funds for the 1996-97 biennium — 9.6 percent over what it received in 1994-95 — so it can continue its University 2000 plan, give faculty a long-overdue raise, and maintain its buildings.

And to supplement those state funds, the university also plans to increase tuition 4.8 percent during each of the next two years, Richard Pfutzenreuter, the university's associate vice president of finance and operations, told members of the University of Minnesota Finance Division Feb. 8.

A 1993 law caps the amount of state funds appropriated to the University of Minnesota for the upcoming biennium at \$908 million. The university is requesting \$87.7 million above that cap.

Gov. Arne Carlson has recommended the university receive \$60.8 million above the cap, or \$968.9 million, for the biennium. That proposal includes a \$53.8 million one-time appropriation to help the university reach its University 2000 goals.

The U2000 plan is designed to bring the University of Minnesota into the ranks of world-class research institutions by the turn of the century. (See related story this page).

More dollars for higher ed

The soon-to-be merged Minnesota higher education system is seeking \$1 billion in state appropriations for the next biennium, system administrators told Higher Education Finance Division members Feb. 8.

A 1993 law caps the amount of money the system should receive in the 1996-97 biennium at \$895 million. The request exceeds that cap by \$118.5 million to account for inflation, enrollment increases, the cost of transferring technical college employees to state employment, and funding for new programs, said Ed McMahon, vice chancellor for administration and budget.

In his budget proposal for the 1996-97 biennium, Gov. Arne Carlson has recommended \$905 million for the merged state university, technical college and community college system.

That proposal would "put us 11 percent below where we are today," said Jay Noren, the system's chancellor. That's a \$94 million shortfall, of which \$68 million is necessary to maintain current services and \$26 million is estimated to be needed to bring technical college employees, who are presently local employees, into state employment under the merger.

The merger is slated for July 1. The Higher Education Board created to oversee the sys-

tem won't have the authority until then to deal with a shortfall.

"The governor's budget is unrealistic. It can't be accomplished without financially crippling us," Noren said.

Such a shortfall, if made up solely through tuition increases, would result in a 20 percent increase in 1995 and a 9 percent hike the following year, he said.

The system would most likely address a shortfall through a tuition increase, enrollment cut, and "draconian layoffs," he said.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) said he expects to see continued merger costs in the future. But Noren disagreed.

"If contracts are negotiated sensibly I don't anticipate additional costs. I'm comfortable in saying we will see a savings over time," Noren said.



HOUSING

Landlords' eviction costs

Landlords would pay just half of the court filing fee to evict a tenant provided the proceeding takes just one court appearance, under a bill approved by the Housing Committee Feb. 7.

HF136 is sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), who said that the \$122 state filing fee required to begin legal eviction proceedings is burdensome to property owners — particularly if they have to evict more than one tenant.

Such unlawful detainer eviction proceedings are typically handled with a single court appearance because tenants often fail to appear.

"No matter what happens, even if the case is dismissed, you pay," she said. "It's such a hardship on property owners. In my district, some landlords have almost had to empty buildings because of drug problems."

Property owners pay the filing fee for each eviction they seek.

Jack Horner, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association, told committee members that that fee is not in any way tied to actual court costs for such cases.

"Unlawful detainees use little of the court resources — three or four pieces of paper, such as a summons and a copy of the lease," said Horner. "The fee is the same as for all civil proceedings. So you could have a case that required 10 to 20 hours of court administrator filing time and it would cost the same as an unlawful detainee."

A large portion of the filing fee, goes to the state's Supreme Court budget, Clark said.

The county in which the case is heard receives an additional \$7 to \$10 in law library fees, depending on the county.

Horner estimated the Minnesota Supreme Court budget would have lost about \$1.4 million and the state's counties about \$104,000 if Clark's proposal would have been law in 1994. The \$1.4 million would have to be made up by reallocating from other funds, Horner said.

HF136 moves next to the House Judiciary Committee.



INDUSTRY

Keg ban tapped out

The party may be over for a proposal to ban retail sales of keg beer, but a House DFLer still plans to slow the flow of alcohol to minors.

A bill to ban the retail sale of kegs was tabled indefinitely Feb. 6 by the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee.

The bill (**HF102**), sponsored by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights), would ban the retail sale of any container holding more than five gallons of beer, including kegs and "party balls." Beer wholesalers would be allowed to sell kegs only to on-sale establishments and municipal liquor stores.

The elimination of keg sales would reduce underage drinking by putting an end to so-called keggers, McGuire said.

"It doesn't solve the entire problem," she said. "We wish it would."

Jerry Ruettimann, a crime prevention specialist for the Roseville Police Department, said he has confiscated scores of kegs from teens who have abandoned traditional kegger sites such as vacant fields in favor of elaborately planned parties in warehouses and homes.

At those parties, underage drinking increases because beer is cheap and plentiful, Ruettimann said.

"They drink faster and they drink more," he said. "It's cheaper. It's easier to transport."

But the bill was opposed by members of the beer-sales industry.

John Berglund, executive director of Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association, said the "prohibition or ban" on kegs would do little to reduce underage drinking but would cause a costly inconvenience for the "99-plus percent" of keg buyers who have legitimate intentions.

Although the keg ban proposal appears stalled, McGuire said she plans to offer an-

other bill that would require kegs to be registered. Similar proposals sponsored by McGuire have stalled at the Legislature in past years, but have been adopted by a handful of states, including North Dakota.

By registering kegs at the point of sale, police, for the first time, could trace confiscated kegs to buyers and stores, McGuire said.



INSURANCE

Selling off life insurance

Infected with the AIDS virus and seriously ill, Adam Tillis decided to sell off his life insurance assets to receive at least some of his investment before his death.

That was three years ago. Tillis is still alive, but the company that purchased the rights to his life insurance benefits, once he does die, will have made a killing.

After five "stressful and sometimes humiliating" months working out a viatical settlement (getting death benefits early), Tillis made a deal he lived to regret.

"When all was said and done, I was ill, I was needy, and I was ready to accept any crumb thrown my way," he said Feb. 8 in testimony before the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee. "The crumb upon which I settled was 22 percent of the face value of my policy."

Tillis urged the lawmakers to support a bill (**HF 217**) to regulate viatical settlements, a now growing business most often dealing with AIDS patients. The committee approved the bill, sponsored by committee Chair Rep. Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley).

Under the agreements, those who face certain death agree to sell off a portion of their life insurance policy to receive some cash on their investment before they die. Those who buy the insurance policy do so as an investment. They receive the remaining value of the policy after the person actually dies.

The bill would require companies and individuals who provide viatical settlements to be licensed by the state and subject to state oversight. The commissioner of commerce would set standards for evaluating settlement contracts.

Policy buyers would be required to receive a physician's statement showing the would-be seller is of sound mind. They'd also need to obtain a signed and witnessed statement from the seller stating that he or she understands the consequences of the contract and consents to it.

Disclosure requirements in the bill would allow ill people to know what they are getting into and what options are available to them, Simoneau said. The bill requires policy buyers to inform those selling their life insurance policies of alternatives to viatical settlements, including the fact that some insurance companies are willing to offer them early payments of their policy benefits.

The buyers must also make sure the seller knows they can cancel up to 30 days from the date the deal is signed, or 15 days from the date they receive the money.

Bob Tracy of the Minnesota AIDS Project said viatical settlements "emerged" as a result of the spread of AIDS. A victim of the disease may be interested in reaching such a settlement to get money for medical expenses, to take care of his or her estate, or simply to make a lifelong dream come true, Tracy said.

But the "young industry" already provides many "notorious examples" of unscrupulous dealings, he said.

Tillis used himself as an example of how easily a seriously ill person can be duped.

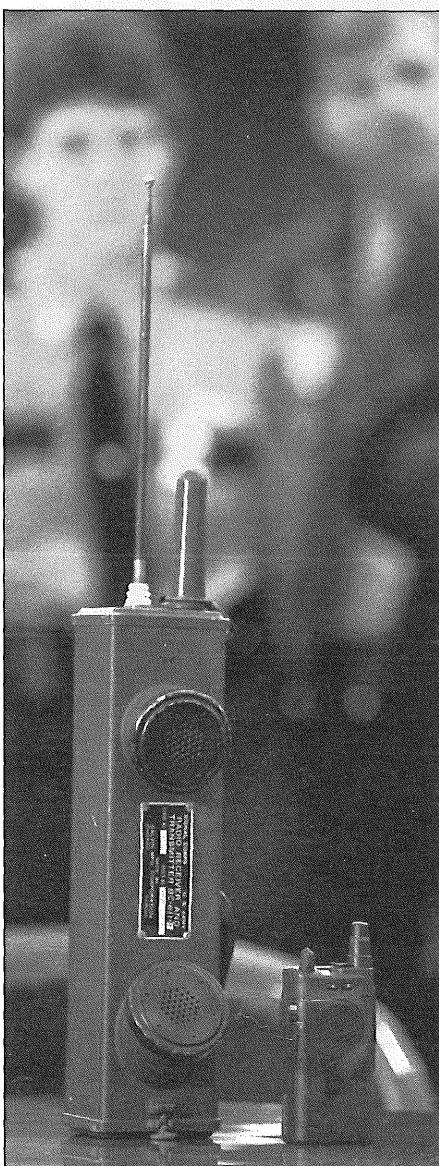
"After I had recovered from an acute illness, I realized I had been taken advantage of," he said. "I thought I should have known better. That alone is testament to the power terminal illness will have upon one's judgment."

Tillis, who had experience in the insurance field before he agreed to his settlement, has since helped form a company, Viaticare Ltd., that aims to provide fair deals for the terminally ill.

If enacted into law, the bill would take effect Jan. 1, 1996. HF 217 now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee.

area's parks, roads, sewage, and other regional systems.

In addition to state dollars, the council receives transportation funding from a combination of sources, including federal appropriations, property tax revenue, and ride fares. The total budget for the next biennium is \$347 million.



Legislation to authorize the construction of a region-wide public safety radio system for government agencies, including emergency responders, in the Twin Cities metropolitan area was introduced at the Capitol Feb. 6. Flanked by law officers and others, Rep. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) and Sen. Ted Mondale (DFL-St. Louis Park) explained that the proposal would allow local units of government to share channels on the 800 megahertz radio band in their two-way radio communications. This would allow different law enforcement agencies to better coordinate their joint efforts. Pictured are examples of the different radios that have been used by local governments.

Of the council's \$93.3 million request, \$52.8 million would fund the Metropolitan Council Transit Operations (formerly the Metropolitan Transit Commission), the agency running the metropolitan area's buses. The state appropriated \$32.8 million to the busing system in the 1994-95 biennium, but costs increased \$14.5 million during the spending period and they continue to climb, Solem said. The system cannot make up the difference with a rate hike, because ridership would decrease, he said. Instead, the council is in the process of cutting 800,000 miles of annual bus service to help cut costs.

The other main component of the funding request is \$31.7 million for Metro Mobility. The transit service provides rides to approximately 24,000 people with disabilities around the Metropolitan area.

For the last biennium, the state appropriated \$29.3 million to Metro Mobility. The transit service effectively collapsed in October 1993 when a new management company began to run the system for the Regional Transit Board. The governor then ordered National Guard members to serve as drivers for Metro Mobility's vans and buses until the system could be stabilized.

The Metropolitan Council, rather than an outside management company, now manages the Metro Mobility program.

Nacho Diaz, manager of the Office of Transportation and Transit Development, told division members ridership fell off after the crisis but then began climbing steadily. From July to December 1994, ridership increased by about 2,000, from 22,000 to 24,000 users, he said.

"That's a significant increase," Diaz said. "With our budget request, we're strictly trying to keep our head above water. Even if the request is met, it's questionable as to whether we'll be able to maintain service levels."

Funding levels for the transportation programs will be determined later in the session.



TRANSPORTATION

Transit funding

The Metropolitan Council needs \$93.3 million in state funds to run its transportation programs through the next biennium, Executive Director Jim Solem told members of the House Transportation Finance Division Feb. 7.

The governor has proposed \$89 million in spending for the agency to operate metropolitan area buses and the Metro Mobility program.

Last year, the council absorbed the Metropolitan Transit Commission and the Regional Transit Board under a new state law. The council is also charged with planning and coordinating the development of the Metro

Busing to the Capitol

If you come to the Capitol during the session, taking the bus might make better sense than trying to park a car. Freeway express bus service is available: Bus number 94B, for example, takes you directly to the Capitol and the State Office Building. Call Metropolitan Council Transit Operations at (612) 373-3333 for route, schedule, fare, and other information.

Truckin' and drinkin'

A bill that would suspend the commercial drivers' license of a trucker who is arrested for driving under the influence in the family car was given preliminary approval by the House Feb. 1. The vote was 93-29.

Bill sponsor Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka) said the punishment would "level the playing field" by giving a trucker the same punishment an ice cream truck driver or delivery person would face.

But Rep. Wayne Simoneau (DFL-Fridley), who called the bill "a knee-jerk reaction to a very small problem," said truckers should not lose their livelihood because of actions in their personal lives.

According to the Department of Public Safety, 500 commercial vehicle drivers had their personal licenses revoked last year, and 40 people were arrested for driving their commercial vehicles under the influence.

Weaver's bill would require both personal and commercial licenses be taken away for a DWI in a personal vehicle. The licenses would be revoked concurrently for the same duration as a personal license revocation.

First-time DWI offenders lose their licenses for 15 days, second-time offenders for 90 days, and third-time offenders for 180 days. (See Feb. 3, 1995, *Session Weekly*, page 11)

HF35 is expected to come before the House for a final vote Feb. 13.



NOTES

Perhaps county governments have heard Rep. Phyllis Kahn's (DFL-Mpls) repeated attempts to trim the number of Minnesota counties.

Jim Gelmann, executive director of the Board of Governmental Innovation and Cooperation, told members of the Government Efficiency and Oversight Division of the House Ways and Means Committee Feb. 7 that two pairs of Minnesota counties in different parts of the state are now looking to combine.

One of the board's tasks is to assist in the merging of governmental units.

Gelmann, who called the move "unprecedented," declined to name the counties for fear it would jeopardize the ongoing negotiations.

Legislative Commissions

Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC)	Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR)
85 State Office Building 297-3697	65 State Office Building 296-2406
LCC Central Accounting	Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement
198 State Office Building 296-8890	55 State Office Building 296-2750
Claims (Joint Subcommittee on Claims)	Legislative Commission on Planning & Fiscal Policy
198 State Office Building 296-0099	90 State Office Building 296-0134
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Oversight Office/Subcommittee	Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules (LCRAR)
70 State Office Building 296-0098	55 State Office Building 296-1143
Legislative Advisory Commission (LAC)	Legislative Commission on Waste Management (LCWM)
Fourth Floor, Centennial Office Building	85 State Office Building 297-3604
658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 297-7881	Legislative Water Commission
Audit Commission/Office of Legislative Auditor	300 Centennial Office Building, Third Floor, Southwest
First Floor, Centennial Office Building 658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 296-4708	658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 297-7905
Legislative Commission on Children, Youth & Their Families	Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRBB)
60 State Office Building 282-6289	P.O. Box 441, Highway 53 Eveleth 55734 218-749-7721
Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women	Mississippi River Parkway Commission
85 State Office Building 296-8590	Pioneer Building, Suite 1513 336 Robert St., St. Paul 55101 224-9903
Toll-free number 1-800-657-3949	Electric Energy Task Force
Legislative Commission on Employee Relations	85 State Office Building 297-3697
85 State Office Building 296-2963	Great Lakes Commission
Legislative Commission on Health Care Access	569 State Office Building 296-2228*
375 State Office Building 296-0173*	State Advisory Council on Metropolitan Airport Planning
G-9 Capitol 296-4261*	G-24 State Capitol 296-3205*
Legislative Commission on Long Term Health Care	517 State Office Building 296-5091*
375 State Office Building 296-0173*	
G-9 Capitol 296-4261*	

Frequently called numbers

Secretary of the Senate	Counsel and Research, Senate
231 Capitol 296-2344	G-17 Capitol 296-4791
Voice mail/order bills 296-2343	Research, House
Chief Clerk of the House	600 State Office Building 296-6753
211 Capitol 296-2314	Legislative Reference Library
Index, Senate	645 State Office Building 296-3398
110 Capitol 296-2887	Revisor of Statutes
Index, House	700 State Office Building 296-2868
211 Capitol 296-6646	Governor's Office
Information, Senate	130 Capitol 296-3391
231 Capitol 296-0504	Attorney General's Office
Information, House	102 Capitol 296-6196
175 State Office Building 296-2146	Secretary of State's Office
Committee Hotline, Senate 296-8088	180 State Office Building 296-3266
Committee Hotline, House 296-9283	Capitol Security
Sergeant at Arms, Senate	B-4 Capitol 296-6741
Senate Chamber 296-7159	Emergency 296-2100
Sergeant at Arms, House	TDD* Senate 296-0250
45 State Office Building 296-4860	TDD* House 296-9896 or 1-800-657-3550

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Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 727-7474

Brainerd City Hall
501 Laurel St.
Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 828-4400

13065 Orono Parkway
Elk River, MN 55330
(612) 241-0188

Chisholm City Hall
316 Lake St.
Chisholm, MN 55719
(218) 254-5761

2366 Rayburn House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6211

Information systems . . .

'If you can get to the Internet, you can get to us'

The 80 miles between Rochester, Minn., and the Minnesota Legislature in St. Paul used to create a major obstacle for Lauri Hassinger.

She'd wait days to receive copies of bills from the Capitol, then spend hours poring over them. She has a personal interest in family law and takes the time to write lawmakers with her opinions.

But beginning in 1994, Hassinger only had to wait minutes to track a child custody bill that she had a personal stake in. From her personal computer, Hassinger monitored legislation via the Internet, or information superhighway, as easily as if she were at the Capitol in St. Paul.

The idea was first pushed by former Rep. Marc Asch of North Oaks. Minnesota is one of several legislatures in recent years to hop on the information superhighway and make available a wide array of legislative information, including the full text of House and Senate bills, *Minnesota Statutes*, committee hearing agendas, House daily journals, and bill-tracking information.

"If you can get to the Internet, you can get to us," says Charlie Fastner, former information systems manager for the House DFL Caucus who now works for the Senate.

With the use of a computer and modem, the public will also soon be able to communicate with most lawmakers through e-mail and obtain brief biographies of each House and Senate member.

"There is no easy way to know what is going on up there [at the State Capitol]," says Hassinger, an employee at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester who uses the Internet about twice a week to look up bills on everything from family law to crime and health care. "It has always been such a maze. But this is a godsend."

And the service has improved for 1995. Only the House was on-line during the 1994 legislative session. But during the interim the Legislative Reference Library spearheaded the drive to organize a variety of legislative information, with the bulk coming from the House Public Information and Senate Publications offices.

Then, with the technical expertise of the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, the information was put on-line. On Oct. 11, 1994, Senate information — and much more data from the House — was added.

The Minnesota Legislature's Gopher is now recognized as one of the best in the country.

On March 16 of this year, the "Legislative Gopher Design Group" will be presented with the "John R. Finnegan Freedom of Information Award," which recognizes Minnesota institutions and individuals who recognize the power of information to effect change.

The goal of the Internet access is to provide as much information as possible in a user-friendly format to increase citizen participation in the legislative process, said Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr. (DFL-Winona), chair of the Select Committee on Technology, which oversees the House's computer operations and Internet access.

Rep. Virgil Johnson (IR-Caledonia), vice chair of the Select Committee on Technology, said the Internet access will also benefit the public by making it possible for the Legislature to make better decisions.

Since the Internet contains legislative information from a variety of state legislatures, including information on their bills, laws, and publications, lawmakers and staff can more easily determine what has been tried elsewhere and learn from other state's successes and failures.

"We are part of the United States," said Johnson. "It is kind of stupid to legislate in a vacuum."

Most of the information on the Minnesota Legislature found on the Internet has been available for years in a printed format, but the public had to either come to the Capitol in St. Paul to retrieve it or have it sent by mail, said Grant Moos, director of the House Public Information Office.

"Just about everything we've ever written is, or will be, on the Internet," said Moos, who added that the daily and weekly House schedules are among the most sought after documents.

Internet users can also find out which lawmakers serve on which committees, final vote counts on bills, answers to frequently asked questions about the Legislature, and even directions on how to get to the Capitol.

In addition, the 1994 House and Senate rules are on-line (the rules for the 1995-96 session have not yet been adopted), as well as easy to-read summaries of what was approved by the 1994 Legislature, what was vetoed, and what simply died.

"It's so unbelievably helpful to people," said Marilyn Cathcart, director of the Legislative Reference Library. She said people frequently call her and say thanks for making it available.

Although assembling the information for the Internet was a lot of work, nearly everyone involved with the project says it will pay off in the long run because so much information is now organized in a way that it will be easy to find.

"The best spirit of collaboration led to the Legislature joining the Internet," said Cathcart.

Fastner, who helped establish the electronic hookup, says the Internet finally gives the public equal footing with lobbyists when it comes to following legislation.

What's on the Gopher?

The following information will be available to the public on the Minnesota House and Senate Legislative Gopher:

- Daily bill and resolution introductions.
- Text of bills and resolutions.
- Bill tracking, so people can track the status of bills as they travel from committees to the House and Senate floors. (Only official House and Senate action is recorded.)
- House Research Department bill summaries. These are often handed out at committee hearings and serve to summarize what a particular bill is designed to do. The summaries often break down a bill by article and section, so people can more easily find out what the various parts of the bill hope to accomplish.
- Final votes on a bill by the House.
- Weekly and daily committee schedules for the House and Senate.
- Biographies of representatives and senators, their committee assignments, and office numbers.
- *Minnesota Statutes*.
- Directions to the Capitol and what services are available upon arrival.
- *People and the Process - A Legislative Study Guide*. This roughly 140-page document is full of lesson plans, information, and activities for junior and senior high school classroom teachers and students.
- *New Laws 1994*. This 141-page publication compiles easy-to-read articles on all the laws passed during a legislative session. It is organized by subject with House file, Senate file, and chapter indexes in the back. It is published every year after each session.
- *Session Weekly* and *Senate Briefly*. These two publications, one published by the House and one by the Senate, come out weekly and contain articles that describe and track the various bills as they travel through each body, respectively.

Internet access . . .

Like bringing electricity to farms in Greater Minnesota

Farm families have long turned to the Minnesota Extension Service for information, whether it be on "Dead Turkey Handling" or "Making Fresh-Pack Pickles."

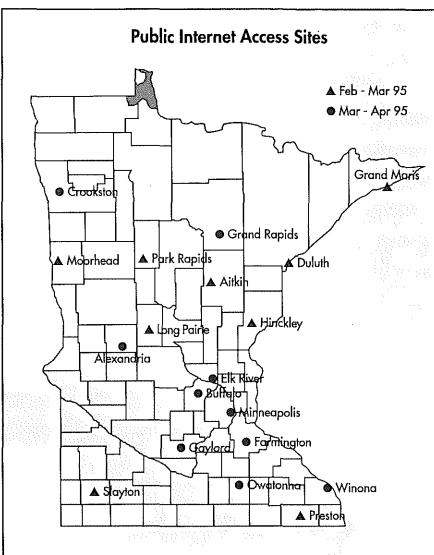
Now those Minnesota families — from Crookston in the northwest to Winona in the southeast — can turn to their local county extension office, school, or library to tap yet another vein of information: access to the Internet, or information superhighway.

Beginning this month, three sites in Greater Minnesota (Alexandria, Crookston, and Duluth) will make computers available so out-of-state folks will get an easier chance to see firsthand what the Internet is all about.

Every month thereafter, additional seven sites will be added until a total of 60 "community access centers" are established over the next nine months under the Access Minnesota program.

"I think the desire to have it is very big," said Rae Montgomery, an extension educator at the University of Minnesota who is helping coordinate the project. "For many people these sites will be a first introduction to the Internet."

The \$1.5 million project is funded in part by a \$425,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The rest of the support came primarily from the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Extension Service and the state Department of Administration's MNet.



It is hoped that the sites, which will be selected based on community interest, readiness, and technical considerations, will serve as a catalyst to help revitalize Greater Minnesota.

And although private individuals and businesses won't be able to hook up to these Internet sites, at least one private company is bringing the Internet to Greater Minnesota.

Nearly 300 Minnesota communities — from Ada to Zumbrota Falls — are now able to connect to the Internet through a local telephone call, which eliminated the costly long-

distance charges that were required in the past.

The local connection was made possible through a joint effort of numerous independent telephone companies that formed the Plymouth-based MEANS Inc. with the idea of bringing modern telecommunications service to rural Minnesota.

"Throughout the state people are absolutely thrilled that it's a local telephone call," said Julie Beaton, the marketing manager for Polaris Telcom, which is the marketing arm of MEANS Inc.

She explained that most of the 64 independent Minnesota telephone companies that are participating in the project charge about \$12.95 per month for up to 10 hours of Internet connect time.

Interested people would also need a software package to get connected such as the one offered by Fergus Falls-based Communicating for America, which is \$75 per year, said Beaton. But any software program, such as Gopher developed by the University of Minnesota (which is free for non-commercial purposes), will work.

The local connect charges for Internet access are roughly comparable to those offered by many private on-line services that are available in larger metropolitan areas.

And bringing that access to Greater Minnesota has led some to compare the Internet connection of the 1990s to the rural electrification projects of the 1930s and 1940s.

Greater Minnesota sites that now have direct connection to the Internet

Ada	Clarissa	Houston	Miltona	Pelican Rapids	Thief River Falls
Akeley/Nevis	Clearbrook	Huntley	Minerva	Perham	Twin Valley
Albany	Climax	Hutchinson	Minnesota Lake	Perley	Ulen
Alexandria	Crookston	Karlstad	Mission	Peterson	Underwood
Ashby	Crosby-Ironton	Garrison	Monticello	Pierz	Upsala
Avon	Crosslake	Gary	Moorhead	Pillager	Urban
Badger	Dakota	Gatzke	Morrison	Pine Island	Vergas
Bagley	Dalton	Glendora	Motley	Plummer	Verndale
Barnesville	Deer Creek	Gonvik	Newfolden	Preston	Viking
Battle Lake	Deer River	Goodridge	Lake Benton	Princeton	Wadena
Baudette	Delavan	Grand Rapids	Granger	Randall	Walcott
Becker	Dent	Garfield	Great Bend	Red Lake Falls	Walker
Beltrami	Detroit Lakes	Gary	Greenbush	Richmond	Wannaska
Bertha	Donaldson	Gatzke	Greenwald	Rochester	Warroad
Bertha/Hewitt	Eagle Bend	Garrison	Grey Eagle	Rock Dell	Watkins
Big Lake	Easton	Great Bend	Hallcock	New Munich	Waubun
Blackduck	Eden Valley	Greenbush	Halma	New Prague	Wells
Blue Earth	Etzen	Greenwald	Hastad	New York Mills	Whipholt
Brainerd	Elgin	Goodridge	Hancock	Nielsville	Williams
Brandon	Elmore	Grand Rapids	Hendrum	Nimrod	Winger
Breckenridge	Emily	Hartland	Hendrum	Nokay Lake	Winnebago
Bricelyn	Erhard	Hawley	Hickey	Northome	Wolf Lake
Brooks	Erskine	Hillman	Hinckley	Northwest Angle	Wolverton
Brownsville	Evansville	Holton	Holton	Ogema/White Earth	Zimmerman
Buffalo	Eyota	Holton	Holton	Oklee	Zumbrota Falls
Bygland	Fargo	Hanover	Holton	Orono	Source:
Byron	Faribault	Hanover	Holton	Osage	Polaris Telcom
Caledonia	Fergus Falls	Henningsen	Holton	Osage/Ponsford	
Campbell	Fertile	Hokah	Holton	Osakis	
Canton	Fisher	Holdingford	Holmes City	Ostrander	
Carlos	Flem	Hokah	Holmes City	Ottertail	
Chatfield	Fossion	Holdingford	Holt	Outing	
		Hokah	Holt	Parkers Prairie	
		Holdingford	Holmes City	Strathcona	
		Hokah	Holt		

These Greater Minnesota sites can now access the Internet with a local telephone call through Polaris Telcom. More outstate sites may have local telephone access through a different system. For more information, see the Q & A section on page 17.



Q: What is the Internet?

A: The Internet is an international network of computers first created by the federal government in the late 1960s as a way to connect the computers of researchers working with the military. Since then, this computer network has grown to include university, government, research, and commercial computers throughout the world.

Q: How do I connect to the Internet?

A: If you can get an account on a computer at an Internet site, you are all set to hook up to the Legislature's electronic information center.

Without this direct access, however, you must buy a connection to a commercial service that has a "gateway" onto the Internet and have a modem on your computer to connect to the telephone line. The University of Minnesota Alumni Association (612-624-2323) offers a low-cost access package, but many people subscribe to services such as America Online (1-800-827-6364) or E-World (1-800-775-4556). Some of these popular commercial services charge a flat monthly fee (as little as \$10 per month for basic services) or charge subscribers only for the time they spend connected to the service's computers.

Q: Do I have to pay for a long-distance call to get connected?

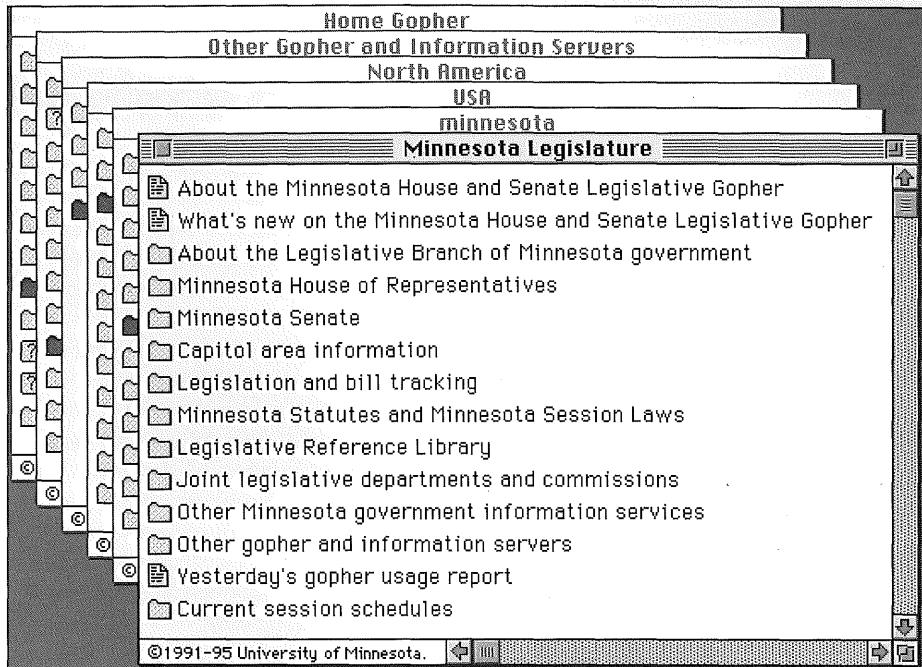
A: No, not if you live in the Twin Cities metropolitan area or several other areas of the state. (See related article on page 16). For more information about Internet access in Greater Minnesota, call Plymouth-based Polaris Telcom at (612) 230-4412 or 1-800-944-1492.

Q: Once I'm connected, how do I find Minnesota legislative information?

A: To find the Minnesota Legislature, you must be sure your Internet connection has access to Gopher, a system of connections to various databases. Not all commercial services have full Gopher capabilities, so investigate before you sign up with one. (The *Gopher* is so named because computer scientists at the University of Minnesota developed it and because its job is to *go fer* information.)

Once you connect to Gopher, a menu of options will appear on your computer screen. To navigate your way to the House information files, you must select the following menu items in this order: Other Gopher, North America, USA, Minnesota, Minnesota Legislature.

When you open up the Minnesota Legislature file, you will have access to all the information described in the accompanying ar-



Internet surfers with gopher client software should take the above route from the Home Gopher Server to get to the Minnesota Legislature.

ticles and more. You can now begin your electronic perusal of legislative activity.

Q: How do I connect to the Minnesota Legislature with gopher client software?

A: Point your gopher client to gopher.revisor.leg.state.mn.us (Port 70)

Q: If I don't have gopher client software, how can I telnet to connect?

A: Telnet to the University of Minnesota Gopher at consultant.micro.umn.edu, and login: gopher. Or, via dial access, 612-626-2400, access>consultant.micro.umn.edu, and login: gopher.

Q: How can I connect to the Minnesota Legislature though America OnLine?

A: Click on the "Go To" menu at the top of the screen, then scroll down to "keyword." Type as a keyword: Internet, then click on the gopher icon. Scroll through these successive menus: Government and Politics, Govt. Center at Twin Cities Free Net, and Minnesota Legislature.

Q: How do I track a bill on the Internet?

A: From the main menu of the House and Senate Legislative Gopher, select Legislation and bill tracking. Then select How to follow a bill using this gopher. This file explains the process in great detail.

Q: Where does all this information come from?

A: The information provided on the Minne-

sota Legislature's Gopher is a collaborative effort involving several legislative offices. Most of the information exists in printed form, but has never before been gathered in one place. A majority of the information has been compiled by the House Public Information Office and the Senate Publications Office. Others providing information include the Chief Clerk's Office, the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, the Legislative Reference Library, and the House Research Department.

Q: Why isn't this or that there?

A: Please remember, this gopher server is a work in progress. It represents an enormous amount of work by several staff people; no additional staff was hired to work on the project. Eventually full search capabilities will exist to make portions of Minnesota Statutes and bills easier to locate. Bills also will be sorted by author and topic, but these options are not yet available. Questions or comments on the content of the gopher can be E-mailed to: refdesk@library.leg.state.mn.us.

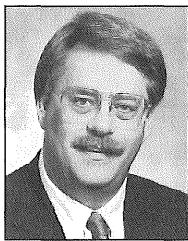
Q: Do House and Senate members have E-mail addresses?

A: Yes, all House members and some senators have E-mail addresses. A complete list of addresses will be published in a future issue of the *Session Weekly*. For a list of some E-mail addresses for House members, go to the House of Representatives folder on the main menu, then select Member Information. The E-mail addresses are listed there.

New members . . .

Lake City talk show host airs agenda in House

This is Rep. Mike Osskopp's (IR-Lake City) first term as a legislator, but he's been here before.



Rep. Mike Osskopp

"I'm not a complete rookie to the House because I've hung around here as a journalist," Osskopp said.

Since 1991, Osskopp, using his radio name, Mike Ryan, has been a mainstay on KDWA in Hastings, Minn. In that role, Osskopp trod the Capitol beat for his radio station and for the Minnesota News Network, which shares news for an affiliation of radio stations. For the past three years, he also has hosted a conservative radio talk show which, he boasts, received higher ratings than the Rush Limbaugh show for their relative radio listening markets.

Guests on his show included Rep. Jerry Dempsey (IR-Hastings), House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (IR-Kenyon) and Rep. Kevin Knight (IR-Bloomington). When then-Rep. Bob Waltman (IR-Elgin) announced his retirement, Osskopp's radio guests thought he had a shot at winning the open legislative seat.

"So I talked about it with my wife and here I am," Osskopp said. He announced his candidacy in December 1993 and couldn't work during his campaign. He's now on leave. His radio show may be resumed after session, depending on how busy he is with legislative duties.

"I've worked six weeks in the past year, the six weeks after I was elected," he said.

Osskopp faced a strange problem after his

decision to run: because KDWA's radio waves didn't permeate his home district, no one knew his name there. And, while his talk show brought him popularity in Dempsey's district, residents there recognized only his radio name, Mike Ryan.

But Osskopp has always been involved in local community affairs. Eight years ago he started a Lake City branch of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). The national organization, founded in the 1950s, uses professional athletes to talk to high school athletes about Christian values. The program also serves as a youth ministry program in a town that doesn't have youth pastors in any churches, Osskopp said.

The FCA is now thriving in Lake City. Many people who know him from his work with that organization acted as delegates to the IR nominating convention, said Osskopp, who faced five other contenders for the IR endorsement as well as a primary challenger.

Osskopp holds the FCA in such high esteem because he worked with the organization during his stint as a professional golfer. He turned pro between his junior and senior years of high school in Milwaukee. To earn Professional Golf Association status he apprenticed for three years at a Denver country club. That's where he met his wife, Monica, who is a Lake City native. He then toured from 1976 through 1980, but didn't make a lot of money.

"I starved," Osskopp said of the time.

He later landed a job at a Milwaukee banking firm and eventually transferred to a job in St. Paul and settled in Lake City. They have two children, Jeniffer, 14, and Tom, 11.

Osskopp's conservative political views were well known to his listeners. So it was no surprise that he emphasized government accountability and property tax reform during his campaign.

"It appears those things will be like moving mountains," Osskopp said. "But my district has one of the largest senior populations in the state. These people are really being hurt. Some are being forced from their homes due to rising property taxes."

He also thinks politicians need to become more accountable to the constituents they serve.

"I want to put the trust back into mainstream government. When I was in high school, politicians and pastors were the people you trusted the most. Now they're not. Neither is the media. I work as a journalist, too, so I get a triple whammy," he said.

Now, he said, he wants to do everything he can to earn his constituents' respect.

— Jean Thilmany

District 29B

Population: 32,761
Distribution: 21.94 percent urban; 78.06 percent rural

Counties: Goodhue, Wabasha
Largest city: Lake City
Location: southeastern Minnesota
Unemployment rate: 4.47 percent
Residents living below poverty level: 8.28 percent
1992 presidential election results:

Bush/Quayle	33.05 percent
Clinton/Gore	35.65 percent
Perot/Stockdale	28.80 percent
Other:	2.50 percent

Agriculture	297-2200
Commerce	296-4026
Corrections	642-0200
Education	296-6104
Employee Relations	297-1184
Job Information	296-2616
Finance	296-5900
Gaming	
Gambling Control Division ..	639-4000
MN State Lottery Division	635-8100
Toll Free	1-800-475-4000
MN Racing Commission	341-7555
Health	623-5000
Human Rights	296-5663
Toll Free	1-800-657-3704

Minnesota State Agencies

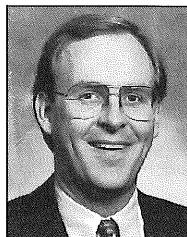
Human Services	296-6117
Economic Security	296-3711
Labor and Industry	296-6107
Military Affairs	282-4662
Natural Resources	296-6157
Public Safety	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services ..	296-6911
Fire Marshal	643-3080
Liquor Control	296-6159
State Patrol	297-3935
Pollution Control	296-6300
Public Service	296-7107

Revenue	
Taxpayer Assistance	296-3781
Toll Free	1-800-652-9094
Trade and Econ. Development	297-1291
Office of Tourism	296-5029
Transportation	296-3000
Veterans Affairs	296-2562
State Information	296-6013
House Information	296-2146
Senate Information	296-0504

New members . . .

Entenza focuses on 'education, education, education'

Involvement in neighborhood politics provided the springboard for Rep. Matt Entenza's (DFL-St. Paul) legislative candidacy.



Rep. Matt Entenza

England, he returned to his old St. Paul neighborhood.

His affection for the neighborhood and the birth of his three children strengthened his resolve to work on grassroots issues. He worked as a volunteer and served on the board of the Mississippi Market Co-op in St. Paul.

While serving on the Merriam Park Community Council, he became involved in many issues, including those of planning, city budget, zoning, environment, and economic development.

He says political experience at the local level — on a community council or school board — is good preparation for the Legislature.

"You see what people's daily lives are like and what people need and what they don't need," he said. "You get a more practical view."

And in addition to experience with local politics, Entenza is also no stranger to state politics — particularly when it comes to issues involving health care. He is married to Lois Quam, who has been a key player in the shaping of state health care policy for several years.

Entenza succeeds former Rep. Kathleen Vellenga, who most recently chaired the K-

12 Education Finance Division and was one of the most respected members of the Legislature.

Entenza considers himself lucky as a first-term legislator to be appointed to that committee. He vows to carry on Vellenga's legislative priorities: "education, education, and education."

"Education funding and fairer education financing were the key issues for me," Entenza said. "That wasn't the only issue but that's really the issue I talked about consistently through the whole campaign."

"I'd like to see that [the schools] are funded fairly, so that kids from poorer communities get the same education as children who live in wealthier communities."

He is also concerned about the soaring cost of St. Paul schools, which translates into burdensome property taxes for homeowners in his district.

His St. Paul constituents are well-educated and well-informed, said Entenza. Half of them are renters, many living in the apartments along Grand Avenue. The district includes three colleges: Macalester, Concordia, and the University of St. Thomas.

In addition to the many college students, the district also has many senior citizens, he said.

"It's a district that will support a candidate who's trying to look at the bigger picture," he said, adding that most support the effort to look after the "overall health of the metropolitan area."

Entenza backs the thrust of proposals offered by Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) that would allow the inner cities to share some of the wealth of the more affluent suburbs.

"In the scheme of things, my district is doing relatively well," Entenza said. "But if

the east side of St. Paul or Minneapolis is not doing well, that ultimately affects us."

Before his election to the House, Entenza worked in the Minnesota Attorney General's Office from 1990 to 1993 prosecuting fraudulent telemarketers who were "ripping off" vulnerable citizens. That experience provides a solid footing for his current position as chair of the Consumer Affairs Subcommittee of the House Commerce, Tourism, and Consumer Affairs Committee.

"It was a great white hat job. It was loads of fun because they were all people who couldn't believe they were being sued," Entenza recalls. The con artists he went after — many posing as fund raisers for charitable causes — "felt really invincible."

He recalled "a fake minister out of Texas" who set himself up as the trustee for families with children who needed organ transplants. "He stole almost a million bucks," Entenza said. The man was sued and several families got their money back. Unfortunately, about 50 other families around the country never saw their money again.

— Mordecai Spektor

District 64A

Population: 32,735

Distribution: 100 percent urban

County: Ramsey

Largest city: St. Paul

Location: urban Metro

Unemployment rate: 3.90 percent

Residents living below poverty level: 9.15 percent

1992 presidential election results:

Bush/Quayle 21.17 percent

Clinton/Gore 62.54 percent

Perot/Stockdale 14.56 percent

Other: 1.73 percent

It seemed like a good idea back in the 1970s to put breath-alcohol testing devices in bars. Patrons could drop in a coin, blow in the tube, and find out if they were too sloshed to drive themselves home.

But instead of deterring inebriates from getting behind the wheel of a car, the machines turned into a drinking game. According to University of Minnesota Law School professor Steve Simon, drinkers had contests



to see who could register the highest reading on the devices, which typically display a white, yellow, and orange light to reflect blood-alcohol concentration levels.

Simon, who chairs the Legislature's DWI

Task Force, told members of the House Judiciary Finance Committee recently that bar owners realized that they had better remove the devices or face a lawsuit.

The 1991 Legislature barred people from successfully suing a bar that has a breath-alcohol testing device for any liability resulting from such a test provided a variety of conditions are met.

Bill Introductions

HF401-HF530

Monday, February 6

HF401—Rukavina (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Minimum wage increased and adjustment provided based on the consumer price index.

HF402—Rukavina (DFL)

International Trade & Economic Development

Affirmative Enterprise Program expiration date repealed.

HF403—Otremba (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Todd County tax forfeited land sale authorized.

HF404—Peterson (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Employers required to grant paid leaves to employees donating blood.

HF405—Simoneau (DFL)

Education

School enrichment partnership program established, matching funds provided, revenue use specified, and money appropriated.

HF406—Luther (DFL)

Judiciary Finance

Undercover buy fund and witness and victim protection fund biennial reports required.

HF407—Osskopp (IR)

Health & Human Services

Day training and residential services for persons with developmental disabilities and serious mental illness funding system established, competitive bidding process implemented, and advisory committee established.

HF408—Cooper (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Motor carrier driver physical examination and certification by licensed physicians, osteopaths, and chiropractors authorized.

HF409—Tunheim (DFL)

Education

Interactive television revenue increased for certain combined or consolidated school districts.

HF410—Winter (DFL)

Agriculture

Crop disaster insurance program designed and established, and money appropriated.

HF411—Bertram (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Early retirement option provided temporarily for certain teacher retirement association members.

HF412—Bertram (DFL)

Education

Community colleges, state universities, and technical colleges required to use construction plans prepared through the Department of Administration.

HF413—Wenzel (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Trunk Highway No. 131, marked Trunk Highway No. 115, named and designated as Veterans Memorial Highway.

HF414—Peterson (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Businesses receiving state financial assistance required to pay a living wage.

HF415—Huntley (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Minimum wage increased and adjustment provided based on the consumer price index.

HF416—Skoglund (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

License plate issuance provided to certain persons subject to an impoundment order.

HF417—Luther (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Public assistance payments paid directly to battered women's shelters, battered woman definition modified, and appeals and payment requests directed to Department of Human Services commissioner.

HF418—Hackbarth (IR)

Judiciary

Child support order modification grounds established by existence of other children.

HF419—Pellow (IR)

Environment & Natural Resources

Pollution Control Agency required to meet with affected party prior to issuance of an administrative penalty order.

HF420—Jennings (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Municipal drainage authorities required to maintain town road bridges and culverts constructed on drainage systems.

HF421—Smith (IR)

Judiciary

Noncustodial parent child care authorized in certain cases.

HF422—Osskopp (IR)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Comprehensive Health Insurance Association lifetime benefit limit increased.

HF423—Van Engen (IR)

Judiciary

DWI, snowmobile, motorboat, and all-terrain vehicle forfeiture provided for violation of certain driving while intoxicated offenses, and vehicle forfeiture law expanded.

HF424—Hasskamp (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Firefighter state aid funding increase provided.

HF425—Hugoson (IR)

Agriculture

Farm corporation land use and ownership restrictions removed.

HF426—Simoneau (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Parking violation delinquent fine notification, recording, and collection system established; vehicle registration prohibited pending parking violation fine payment; parking violation warrant issuance prohibited; and fee imposed.

HF427—McCollum (DFL)

Education

Elementary and secondary education trust fund established in state treasury, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF428—Jacobs (DFL)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Domestic hydropower purchase credits by utilities allowed; biomass and wind power mandate provisions modified; and preferred generation source provisions modified.

HF429—Ness (IR)

Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

HF430—Vickerman (IR)

Labor-Management Relations

Workers' compensation benefits and procedures modified, and penalties provided.

HF431—Orfield (DFL) Taxes Metropolitan area property tax equalization provided.	HF443—Dempsey (IR) Capital Investment Bond issuance provided for acquisition and betterment of public land and buildings, and money appropriated.	Thursday, February 9
HF432—Sykora (IR) Health & Human Services Child abuse investigation liability provisions modified, attorney fees provided, abuse investigation protocols established, and data access provided.	HF444—Van Dellen (IR) Education Student disciplinary sanctions related to speech limited, and civil cause of action provided.	HF454—Wejcmans (DFL) Judiciary Finance Inmate wages used to pay room and board charges, and mandatory savings eliminated.
HF433—Winter (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Windom tax increment financing district exempted from certain restrictions.	HF445—Skoglund (DFL) Judiciary Finance Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Criminal Assessment Program enhancements provided, and money appropriated.	HF455—Wejcmans (DFL) Judiciary Finance Inmate wage deduction provisions modified.
HF434—Carlson (DFL) Education General education formula allowance increased, and money appropriated.	HF446—Leppik (IR) Health & Human Services Acupuncture practitioner licensure by Board of Medical Practice established, and rules and penalties provided.	HF456—Hasskamp (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Finance Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area appropriated money for operation and maintenance.
HF435—Jacobs (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy Gas utility performance-based gas purchasing regulation authorized.	HF447—Winter (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Wastewater Infrastructure Funding Program expanded to include municipal grants.	HF457—Perl (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Mortgage loan negotiator and mortgage broker regulatory provisions modified.
HF436—Ostrom (DFL) Education Independent School District No. 2397, Le Sueur-Henderson, provided a levy adjustment.	HF448—Kelley (DFL) Judiciary Tenant screening services authorized to report court record information related to unlawful detainer filings.	HF458—Wejcmans (DFL) Health & Human Services Children and education services department established, and money appropriated.
HF437—Johnson, V. (IR) Environment & Natural Resources Finance Environment and natural resources and agricultural appropriations provided for: natural disaster relief purposes, school land administration, and petroleum tank release assistance.	HF449—Mulder (IR) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Pipestone County bond issuance authorized for county courthouse repair.	HF459—Lourey (DFL) Education Independent School District No. 588, Askov, capital loan discharge provided, and school district maximum debt service levy provisions modified.
HF438—Sykora (IR) Education Higher education system merger implementation delayed.	HF450—Pelowski (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Soil and water conservation district supervisors authorized to hold certain city or town offices.	HF460—Entenza (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Department of Commerce service of orders regulated and enforcement powers modified, and notaries public regulated.
HF439—Onnen (IR) Transportation & Transit Alternative fuel vehicle permit fee partial refund allowed, and money appropriated.	HF451—Knoblauch (IR) Rules & Legislative Administration Tenth Amendment; federal government memorialized to conform to the limits expressed by the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.	HF461—Wagenius (DFL) Taxes Senior citizen's property tax deferral program established.
HF440—Winter (DFL) Agriculture Horse feed and bedding exempted from sales tax.	HF452—Kelley (DFL) Health & Human Services Physician assistants registered by the Board of Medical Practice, and rules and penalties provided.	HF462—Trimble (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Minors 16 years of age or older allowed to vote in school district elections, and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF441—Jennings (DFL) Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Business license electronic filing and retrieval provided, and money appropriated.	HF453—Weaver (IR) Judiciary Parenting and ethics education curricula established; disruptive students barred from open enrollment program; school buffer zones established; lengthened school year repeal removed; tort liability limit increased; and money appropriated.	HF463—Johnson, R. (DFL) Governmental Operations State trooper retirement contribution rates and annuity formulas modified.
HF442—Swenson, D. (IR) Judiciary Finance Public defense, criminal justice, corrections, and judicial appropriations provided.		HF464—Mahon (DFL) Transportation & Transit License plate impoundment limited to self-propelled motor vehicles.
		HF465—Pugh (DFL) Governmental Operations West St. Paul city attorney authorized to participate in a retirement incentive program.

HF466—Pugh (DFL) Health & Human Services Nursing home moratorium exception provided, and total replacement rates established.	HF478—Peterson (DFL) Governmental Operations Annuity increment provided to certain teachers based on the difference between certain teacher salaries and average metropolitan area school district teacher salaries.	HF490—Greenfield (DFL) Health & Human Services Nursing home moratorium exception provisions modified.
HF467—Wejcmán (DFL) Housing Housing inspection cause of action for damages limited.	HF479—Bakk (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources State park additions and state wayside deletions provided.	HF491—Greenfield (DFL) Health & Human Services Long-term care facility ancillary service provisions modified.
HF468—Anderson, I. (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Koochiching County tax forfeited land sale authorized.	HF480—Simoneau (DFL) Financial Institutions & Insurance Insurer bad faith remedy and cause of action provided.	HF492—Lourey (DFL) Health & Human Services Long-term care facility payment provisions modified.
HF469—Greiling (DFL) Judiciary Uniform Condominium Act; attorney fee award provided.	HF481—Marko (DFL) Health & Human Services Osteoporosis prevention and treatment program established, and money appropriated.	HF493—Jefferson (DFL) Governmental Operations Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund health insurance administrative provisions modified.
HF470—Orfield (DFL) Judiciary Uniform conflict of laws-limitations act adopted.	HF482—Wenzel (DFL) Transportation & Transit Recreational trailer three year registration option provided.	HF494—Bertram (DFL) Transportation & Transit Milk truck length limitations extended and weight restrictions eased.
HF471—Greenfield (DFL) Judiciary Seat belt violations; peace officers authorized to stop drivers and issue citations for seat belt violations without first observing a moving violation.	HF483—Pellow (IR) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs County commissioner salaries limited, and other compensation and conditions of service modified.	HF495—Workman (IR) Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance Department of Transportation and Department of Public Safety appropriated money.
HF472—Van Dellen (IR) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Term limits; legislative and executive service limited and constitutional amendment proposed.	HF484—Paulsen (IR) Health & Human Services Correctional guard HIV exposure notification provisions modified.	HF496—Kraus (IR) Education School district superintendent past buyout arrangement disclosure required.
HF473—Trimble (DFL) Governmental Operations Human development center established, and money appropriated for planning and development.	HF485—Winter (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Waste combustor operation permitted by Pollution Control Agency in certain cases.	HF497—Anderson, R. (DFL) Health & Human Services Medical Assistance noninstitutionalized patient monthly allowance deduction provisions modified.
HF474—Commers (IR) Environment & Natural Resources Dakota County authorized to sell certain tax-forfeited land to Eagan.	HF486—Peterson (DFL) Agriculture Value-Added Agricultural Product Loan Program eligibility expanded, and money appropriated.	HF498—Dauner (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy Clay County authorized to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license.
HF475—Rhodes (IR) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections School district general elections held annually.	HF487—Pelowski (DFL) Education State university and college library appropriations exempted from the one-third debt service requirement.	HF499—Wejcmán (DFL) Health & Human Services Prescription drug price negotiation authority granted to Department of Administration commissioner, statewide drug formulary established, and pharmacists required to post signs relating to generic drug substitution.
HF476—Knoblach (IR) Financial Institutions & Insurance Bank and trust company annual financial statement publishing requirements eliminated.	HF488—Cooper (DFL) Ways & Means Petroleum tank release cleanup fund site assessment payment provided prior to tank removal.	HF500—Abrams (IR) Governmental Operations Legislative regular session meetings in even-numbered years required to begin on the fourth Tuesday in March, and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF477—McCollum (DFL) Transportation & Transit Trunk Highway No. 36 in North St. Paul pedestrian-bicycle overpass construction required.	HF489—Cooper (DFL) Health & Human Services Uncertified boarding care home defined, and county payment rate changed.	

HF501—Dawkins (DFL) Financial Institutions & Insurance Comprehensive Health Association disabled enrollees covered by Medicare premiums regulated.	HF511—Lourey (DFL) Health & Human Services Senior Citizen Nutrition Program reporting required, funding increased for congregate dining and home-delivered meals, and money appropriated.	HF521—Sviggum (IR) Governmental Operations State department and legislative appropriations provided.
HF502—Winter (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Town road, bridge, or culvert projects exempt from Pollution Control Agency permit fees.	HF512—Koppendrayer (IR) Taxes Local government property tax aid provided for property exempted due to Bureau of Indian Affairs action, and money appropriated.	HF522—Swenson, D. (IR) Judiciary Finance Bomb Disposal Unit and Hazardous Material Response Team member reimbursement provided, tort claims and workers' compensation provisions clarified, and money appropriated.
HF503—Bishop (IR) Environment & Natural Resources Water supply systems and wastewater treatment facilities classified and operators certified by Department of Health and Pollution Control Agency, and money appropriated.	HF513—Cooper (DFL) Health & Human Services Nursing home moratorium exception provided.	HF523—Erhardt (IR) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Canada; Minnesota-Ontario fish importation restrictions removed.
HF504—McCollum (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Park, recreation area, and natural and scenic area grants provided to school districts and municipalities.	HF514—Rest (DFL) Governmental Operations Municipal Board composition provisions modified.	HF524—Larsen (IR) Judiciary McGruff Program safe houses renamed McGruff houses.
HF505—Olson, E. (DFL) Education Independent School District No. 36, Kelliher, capital loan approved, money appropriated, and bonds issued.	HF515—Rest (DFL) Governmental Operations Local government incorporation, detachment, and annexation authority transferred to the Office of Strategic and Long-Range planning and the Office of Administrative Hearings, and money appropriated.	HF525—Jennings (DFL) Health & Human Services Public assistance provider hearings permitted, state agency hearing conduct modified, medical assistance prior authorization requirements modified, and prior authorization advisory task force established.
HF506—Clark (DFL) Housing Lead abatement provisions modified and recodified, and money appropriated.	HF516—Lourey (DFL) Health & Human Services Managed care health plans required to provided certain enrollees with expanded geographic access to primary care physician services.	HF526—Trimble (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Waste management and treatment procedures modified in unincorporated areas.
HF507—Koppendrayer (IR) Education Education finance appropriations bill.	HF517—Rest (DFL) Health & Human Services Education Now and Babies Later (ENABL) teen pregnancy reduction program established, and money appropriated.	HF527—Mariani (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy Telecommunication Access for Communication Impaired Persons (TACIP) Board equipment recipient eligibility requirements modified.
HF508—Onnen (IR) Health & Human Services Health and human services public assistance provisions modified, program integrity provided, child support enforcement modified, health care finance and administration modified, and money appropriated.	HF518—Rest (DFL) Taxes Dependent care income tax provisions modified.	HF528—Mariani (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy Telecommunication Access for Communication Impaired Persons (TACIP) Board equipment eligibility restricted for persons in residential care facilities where suitable telephone service is provided.
HF509—Clark (DFL) Housing Affordable home investment account established, and money appropriated.	HF519—Greenfield (DFL) Health & Human Services Nursing facility subacute care definition provided, and rule waivers sought by Department of Human Services and Department of Health commissioners.	HF529—Pugh (DFL) Judiciary Eminent domain notice of pendency provisions modified.
HF510—Clark (DFL) Health & Human Services Pesticide poisoning treatment included as an emergency service for general assistance medical care eligibility purposes, pesticide poisoning reporting and education required, and money appropriated.	HF520—Milbert (DFL) Taxes Jenkins Act; Congress memorialized to amend the Jenkins Act to require tobacco tax information report filing and increase related penalties.	HF530—Kahn (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Baseball; Congress memorialized to repeal baseball's antitrust exemption and to create a publicly appointed board to govern baseball.

Coming Up Next Week . . . Feb. 13 - 17, 1995

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
For information updates, call House Calls at (612) 296-9283. All meetings are open to the public.

MONDAY, Feb. 13

8 a.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Briefings by Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, Mediation Services, Electricity Board.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: Public testimony on the Governor's recommendation for a Department of Children and Education Services. If necessary, finish Article 3 (Special Education).

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

Agenda: Minnesota Department of Agriculture budget presentation, Elton Redalen, commissioner; William Oemichen, deputy commissioner.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of the Governor's budget recommendations for Minnesota Department of Human Services. Community mental health and state operated services. Economic self-sufficiency.

9:45 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

Tour
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel

Agenda: Tour of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. (Group will depart from the east doors of the State Office Building at 9:45 a.m.)

Tour begins at 10 a.m. Please R.S.V.P. to committee staff at 296-4247.)

10 a.m.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: SF75 (Betzold); HF262 (Leighton)
Filing of mechanics' liens.

HF107 (Farrell) School locker statewide inspection policy established.

HF72 (Greiling) Residential rental building and manufactured home park managers and caretakers required to undergo criminal background checks, and landlord requirements and notice specifications provided.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs

Agenda: HF358 (Wolf) Public Utilities Commission rehearing application time limit provisions modified.

HF382 (Wolf) Small electric utility franchise rate regulation exemption provided.

HF389 (Wolf) Public Utilities Commission rate suspension period provisions clarified.

HF354 (Vickerman) Small gas utility franchise rate regulation exemption provided for incidental utility service.

HF374 (Dempsey) Large electric power generating plant certificate of need proceeding exemption provided in certain cases.

HF248 (Solberg) Pumped hydropower added to list of preferred alternative energy sources, and incentive payments provided for pumped hydropower facilities.

HF435 (Jacobs) Gas utility performance-based gas purchasing regulation authorized.
(There may be additions to the agenda.)

Reports, Mandates, Litigation and Free Speech Issues Working Group/Joint Higher Education Finance Division and University of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

Agenda: To be announced.

12:30 p.m.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: SF141 (Sams); HF103 (Osthoff) School board membership plans reviewed by secretary

of state, election expense allocation changed, election materials retained, terms and election frequency clarified, and certain election districts dissolved.

(After the bill is heard, the full committee will adjourn and the **Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs** will convene at approximately 1 p.m. Chr. Rep. Betty McCollum. Agenda: Sandra Curtis, AFSCME.)

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

After Session

St. Paul Delegation

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Presentation by St. Paul Port Authority concerning the civic center. Presentation by Ann Bitter, president, Children's Museum.

4 p.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: HF146 (Hasskamp) Brainerd Technical College appropriation use authorized for athletic facility relocation.

Stanley Edin, president, Brainerd and Staples Regional Technical College. Sally Ihne, president, Brainerd Community College.

4:30 p.m.

Joint Higher Education Finance Division and University of Minnesota Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

Agenda: Financial Aid Report, Kerry Fine, House Research.

6:30 p.m.

Joint Legislative Commission on Children, Youth and Their Families/ The Children's Cabinet

5 State Office Building

Chrs. Sen. Jane Ranum, Linda Kohl

Agenda: Discussion of the draft version of the Family Impact Checklist.

TUESDAY, Feb. 14

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HF294 (Cooper) Teachers provided continuous licensure.

Report of School Bus Safety Advisory Committee by Glenn Gramse, Department of Public Safety.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: 1993-94 initiatives and reports. 1994 Juvenile Justice Bill fiscal requirements on 96-97 budgets.

MinnesotaCare Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

Agenda: Primary care initiatives of the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Transportation Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Department of Public Safety budget presentation.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

Agenda: Office of Environmental Assistance budget presentation, Ed Garvey, director.

10 a.m.

Financial Aid and Tuition Policy Working Group/Joint Higher Education Finance Division and University of Minnesota Finance Division/EDUCATION

300S State Office Building
Chrs. Reps. Tony Kinkel, Becky Kelso

Agenda: To be announced.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: HF123 (Opatz) Public contract oversight provided for certain state and metropolitan government contracts.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

Agenda: HF5 (Anderson, R) Welfare reform provisions modified, and money appropriated. The committee will provide 35 minutes of testimony time opponents and proponents. To testify, contact Tim Adams at 297-1934.

Sales & Income Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

Agenda: Department bills, Minnesota Department of Revenue.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Department of Finance Report on matching money as mandated by the 1994 bonding bill.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

Agenda: To be announced.

12:45 p.m.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

Tour

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: Tour of Foley and Cold Spring school districts. (Tour group will leave at 12:45 p.m. Tour group will meet in Foley Elementary School Gym at 3:30 p.m. Tour group will meet in Racori High School auditorium at 7:30 p.m.)

2:30 p.m.

Government Efficiency & Oversight Division/WAYS & MEANS

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Howard Orenstein

Agenda: Oversight of Commission on Reform and Efficiency implementation.

6:30 p.m.

TAXES

Brooklyn Center City Council Chambers

6301 Shingle Creek Parkway

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: Public testimony on governor's budget proposal.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 15

8 a.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rice

Agenda: Briefings by Head Start of Minnesota and Spanish Speaking Affairs Council.

Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: MTCSA representatives. Continuation of discussion of governor's budget proposal and merger, Ed McMahon, vice chancellor, Administration and Budget, MnSCU; Judy Borgen, assistant vice chancellor, Finance, Minnesota State University System; Jay Noren, interim chancellor, Higher Education Board.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of budget overview of governor's recommendation for Department of Human Services.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ted Winter

Agenda: Minnesota's payment in lieu of tax policy.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

Agenda: Office of Environmental Assistance budget presentation, Ed Garvey, director.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF218 (Lourey) Minnesota rock, gem, and mineral interpretive center designed, and money appropriated.

HF351 (Dempsey) Red Wing provided combined sewer overflow grants, and money appropriated.

HF419 (Pellow) Pollution Control Agency required to meet with affected party prior to issuance of an administrative penalty order.

HFXXXX (McCollum) New language to repeal M.S. 1994, 85.019, Grants-In-Aid for recreational betterment.

HF121 (Johnson, V.) Blufflands trail system in Winona County extension authorized.

HF361 (Farrell) Contamination cleanup grant project costs to include site tests and studies.

HF260 (Munger) Western Lake Superior sanitary district bonding authority allocation provided.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wayne Simoneau

Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 8th agenda.

HF182 (Simoneau) Automobile insurance medical expense benefits regulated; benefits offered through managed care plans; Department of Commerce benefit certification provided; and premium reductions and rules required.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Report on juvenile programming for youthful offenders, Joel Alter, Office of the Legislative Auditor.

12:30 p.m.

BUSINESS REGULATION DIVISION/ COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HF441 (Jennings) Business license electronic filing and retrieval provided, and money appropriated.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HF280 (Sviggum) School bus driver employment requirements modified.

HF52 (Bertram) Drivers' license and state identification card holders allowed to wear headwear in drivers' license and identification card photographs in certain cases.

HF216 (Huntley) Motor vehicle registration fleet definition modified.

1 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

World Trade Center Building, 3rd Flr. Executive Board Room

30 E 7th St., St Paul, Minnesota

Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: Overview. Legislative priorities. Tour of the Minnesota Trade Office.

2:30 p.m.

WORKING GROUP TASK FORCE ON LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONS/WAYS & MEANS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont

Agenda: Continuation of testimony from legislative commissions on overviews, objectives and accomplishments.

4 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA FINANCE DIVISION/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Overview of Agriculture and Extension Service, Eugene Allen, vice president, Institute for Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics, and director, Agricultural Experiment Station; Gail Skinner-West, interim director, Minnesota Extension Service. County extension cluster legislative contacts. (Interactive hearing in room 5 State Office Building.)

7 p.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: HF123 (Opitz) Public contract oversight provided for certain state and metropolitan government contracts.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

Agenda: HF331 (Clark) Patients bill of rights privacy provisions modified.

HF446 (Leppik) Acupuncture practitioner licensure by Board of Medical Practice established, and rules and penalties provided.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: Department bills. Minnesota Department of Revenue.

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HF341 (Skoglund) Compulsory education requirements modified for children under the age of seven.

HF107 (Farrell) School locker statewide inspection policy established.

HF146 (Hasskamp) Brainerd Technical College appropriation use authorized for athletic facility relocation.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: 93-94 initiatives and reports. CHIPS demonstration project. Maximizing federal reimbursement. Out of home placement.

MINNESOTACARE FINANCE DIVISION/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Roger Cooper

Agenda: Presentation of the governor's 1996-97 biennial budget recommendations for MinnesotaCare, Minnesota Department of Human Services.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

Agenda: Pollution Control Agency budget presentation, Charles Williams, commissioner; Ann Glumac, deputy commissioner.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: HF123 (Opitz) Public contract oversight provided for certain state and metropolitan government contracts.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson

Agenda: HF331 (Clark) Patients bill of rights privacy provisions modified.

HF446 (Leppik) Acupuncture practitioner licensure by Board of Medical Practice established, and rules and penalties provided.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: Department bills. Minnesota Department of Revenue.

12:30 p.m.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Sarna

Agenda: To be announced.

ELECTIONS DIVISION/ GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: HF142 (Lieder) Precinct caucus, state, and presidential primary dates changed, absentee ballot deadline modified, voters guide distribution provided, presidential primary by mail allowed, filing fee increased, duties modified, and money appropriated.
(No vote will be taken.)

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

FRIDAY, Feb. 17

8 a.m.

Health & Human Services

Finance Division/

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of budget overview of the governor's recommendations for the Department of Human Services. Public testimony.

Higher Education Finance Division/

EDUCATION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Testimony from members of boards of directors of Interfaculty Organization (IFO), Minnesota Community College Faculty Association (MCCFA), and United Technical College Educators (UTCE).

K-12 Education Finance Division/

EDUCATION

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: Article 5, facilities and equipment.

Transportation Finance Division/

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,

INFRASTRUCTURE &

REGULATION FINANCE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: MnDOT budget presentation.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT &

NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: To be announced.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HF395 (Marko) Road powered electric vehicle (RPEV) demonstration project and study appropriated money.

Additional bills may be added.

Do you know?

Should African-Americans be given the right to vote? This was one of the tough questions facing those who crafted the original Minnesota Constitution in 1857.

Between 1820 and 1857, no state constitution adopted by a newly formed state had allowed African-Americans to vote and seven states that previously had made no distinction among races changed their laws to disenfranchise African-Americans.

And while Minnesota Republicans favored equal suffrage, they were concerned that if it were included in the constitution, voters would surely reject it. Democrats were open in their opposition to the idea. "White Supremacy Against Negro Equality!" screamed a headline in the *St. Paul Pioneer and Democrat*.

After each political party had forged its own constitution, representatives from both sides gathered to mold them into one document. On the equal suffrage issue, the Republicans wished to

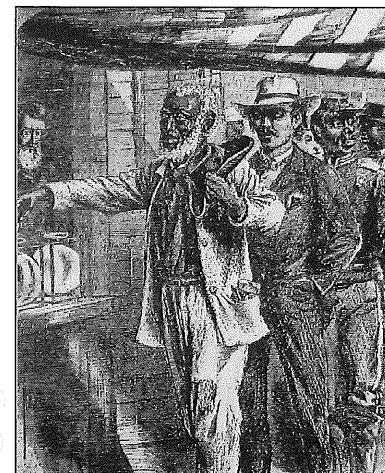
submit the question to a separate vote of the people. The Democrats disagreed.

At the last minute both sides agreed to settle the question by limiting the vote to whites while at the same time making the constitution easy to amend.

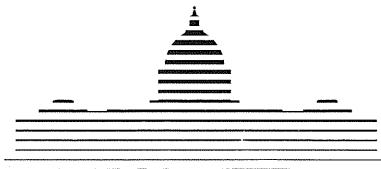
"In this way each party could argue that it had won — the Democrats that Black suffrage had been ruled out, and the Republicans that it could be easily permitted whenever the people were ready to vote for it," wrote the Minnesota Historical Society in *Minnesota: Political Maverick*.

After two failed attempts to amend the constitution in 1865 and 1867, African-American men, American Indian men, and mixed-blooded males over the age of 21 won the right to vote in 1868.

Minnesota voters approved the equal suffrage amendment by a 56.7 percent to 43.3 percent margin. The final vote was 39,493 in favor of the amendment and 30,121 against it.



"The First Vote" drawn by A.U. Waud appeared in Harper's Weekly magazine in 1867. In the south, African-Americans voted in large numbers after the Civil War. In Minnesota, African-American men were first granted the right to vote in 1868 after two prior attempts to grant suffrage to all men failed.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
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Speaker of the House: Irv Anderson
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MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota agriculture

Number of Minnesota farms, December 1994	85,000
in 1983	102,000
County with the most farms, (Stearns), 1992	3,275
County with the fewest, (Cook), 1992	15
Average farm size, in acres, 1993	341
Increase in the average size of a farm, 1983-1993, in acres	43
Average government payments per farm, 1992	\$4,795
Average annual gross income per Minnesota farm, 1992	\$90,631
Average net income	\$16,824
Total agricultural workers, April 1994	130,000
Number of those workers hired by farmers	16,000
National rank, sugar beet production, 1993	1
National rank for sweet corn, flax, sunflowers, and spring wheat production, 1993	3
Tons of fertilizer used between July 1, 1992, and June 30, 1993, in millions of tons	2.1
National rank	6
All cattle in Minnesota, 1994, in millions	2.75
Cattle slaughtered by commercial operations, 1993, in millions	1
Calves born in Minnesota, 1993	980,000
State record number of calves born, 1944, in millions	1.87
All hogs in Minnesota, 1994, in millions	4.6
Approximate ratio of hogs to humans, 1994	1:1
Percent of the day that a pig spends grazing	31
That a pig spends rooting	21
Chickens on Minnesota farms, December 1994, in millions	13.46
Eggs produced in 1993, in billions	2.69
County with the most beef cows, 1994, (Fillmore)	21,400
County with the fewest, (Ramsey)	200
County with the most milk cows, 1994, (Stearns)	67,700
County with the most hogs, 1993, (Renville)	143,700
Pounds of American cheese manufactured in Minnesota, 1993, in millions	571.8
Gallons of ice cream made, 1993, in millions	40.6

Sources: *Minnesota Agriculture Statistics, 1994*, Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service, Minnesota Department of Agriculture; *Bringing Home the Bacon*, The Humane Farming Association.



For more information . . .

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