

ACTIONS OF THE 1951 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

WELFARE LEGISLATION

3.50  
3. Old-Age Assistance

1. Increased the OAA maximum from \$55 to \$60 a month.
2. Increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500 the amount of property which may be owned by an OAA applicant.
3. Raised the maximum funeral allowance for OAA recipients from \$100 to \$150.

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4. Child Welfare

4. Modernized Minnesota's adoption laws to provide more protection for natural parents, adoptive parents and adopted children.
5. Passed an enabling act to permit Minnesota to make reciprocal agreements with other states to collect support payments from "run-away" fathers for abandoned children.
6. Passed a law prohibiting the payment or acceptance of fees for adoption or free care and providing penalties for violation. This law discourages black market dealings in the placement of children.
7. Amended the ADC law making changes to conform to federal law, shortening waiting periods for grants, and simplifying medical payments.

Aid to Blind

8. Passed various laws emphasizing the rehabilitation of the blind.
9. Passed a law providing that first \$50 of the earned monthly income shall be disregarded in determining the need of an applicant or recipient for aid to blind.
10. Passed a law giving blind persons extra exemption in computing state income taxes. This is similar to a provision in the federal income tax law.
11. Allowed optometrists to examine for blindness.

Public Assistance

12. Authorized certain counties in the state to contract with Blue Cross and Blue Shield for medical care for public assistance recipients on an experimental basis.
13. Permitted direct payment to doctor or hospital for medical care of persons receiving public assistance.
14. County boards must secure such appliances as braces, crutches, trusses, wheel-chairs, and hearing aids for public assistance recipients at the lowest cost obtainable conducive to the well-being of the recipient.

General

15. Passed enabling legislation permitting counties to establish public nursing homes for chronically ill or convalescent patients.
16. Established three interim commissions composed of legislators, interested citizens, and professional people in the various fields to study the problems of the aging, alcoholism, and the modernization and streamlining of TB laws.
17. Extended the displaced persons' program in the state for two more years.
18. Provided for the establishment of a forestry camp for delinquent boys operated by the Youth Conservation Commission.

## CONSERVATION LEGISLATION

1. Provided increased funds for the expansion of forestry activities such as reforestation, fire fighting, and timber sales management.
2. Prohibited hunting within 500 feet of any inhabited buildings, corrals, etc., containing livestock, or burning areas.
3. Made it a misdemeanor instead of perjury to falsify an application for game license.
4. Increased bag limits on sunfish and crappies and removed sunfish, crappies, rock bass and white bass from the aggregate limits.
5. Permitted target shooting in deer areas under permit during 10 days before open deer season.
6. Lengthened bow and arrow deer season; set special license fee of \$3.50, and provided that any deer taken must be tagged by warden.
7. Permitted non-resident youth to fish without a license when they come to Minnesota camps.
8. Raised wild rice buyers' licenses to \$50 to \$100 for larger buyers and cut it to \$15 for small buyers.
9. Authorized the sale of bullheads and rough fish taken from waters open to promiscuous fishing.
10. Gave the Commissioner of Conservation authority to close waters to commercial minnow seining where necessary to prevent undue depletion.
11. Authorized the Commissioner of Conservation to improve consolidated conservation areas in Minnesota using \$275,000 from conservation areas fund.
12. Allowed the establishment of game refuges smaller than 640 acres.
13. Revised the form of lease for state-owned ore lands; included an escalator clause increasing the return to the state if the price of iron ore rises.
14. Provided that state funds for the payment of bounties on wolves, bobcat, and fox shall be 50% from General Revenue Fund and 50% from the Game and Fish dedicated fund rather than 2/3's from the dedicated Game and Fish Fund and 1/3 from the General Revenue Fund.
15. Authorized counties to increase bounty on rattlesnakes from 50¢ to \$1.
16. Authorized longer beaver seasons to prevent damage and took skunks off the protected list.
17. Prohibited the use of snares in taking wolves, bobcat, lynx, or fox, except under permit.
18. Authorized \$100,000 out of Game and Fish Funds for the Dingell-Johnson Revolving Fund to be used with federal funds for the study of game and wildlife similar to the studies in fish life authorized by the Pittman-Robertson Revolving Fund.
19. Authorized the Executive Council to expend and borrow \$550,000 to meet the disasters which resulted from flood waters in 1951.

## HIGHWAY LEGISLATION

1. Increased the number of state highway patrol members by 50.
2. Provided for heavier penalties for overloading on owners of trucks. Fines are graduated from \$25 to \$95 with no exemptions for the first offense. In addition drivers are required to pay additional license tax for heavier classification.
3. Provided for the submission of a constitutional amendment to the voters at the 1952 General Election which, if carried, would divide the receipts from auto licenses 65% to the state trunk highway fund, 10% to cities and villages and 25% to counties.

## EDUCATION LEGISLATION

### School Aids

1. Increased basic school aid from \$56 to \$70 per pupil unit in ADA.
2. Increased equalization aid in all brackets with the maximum aid per pupil unit increased from \$72 to \$80.
3. Tax replacement aid for loss of gross earnings taxes to school districts was increased to \$1,105,000 per biennium.
4. Various other aids to local school districts increased. The 1951 Legislature appropriated approximately \$26 million more in school aids for the 1951-53 biennium than the 1949-51 biennium.
5. Created an Equalization Aid Review Committee, consisting of the Commissioners of Education, Taxation, and Administration, to review the assessed valuation of all school districts requesting equalization aids to eliminate abuses in the distribution of equalization aids to the school districts.

### Elementary Education

6. State Board of Education was increased in membership from 5 to 7 members. Terms of office set at 7 years (staggered).
7. Reinstated the authority of the State Teachers College Board to provide in-service education on or off campus for county superintendents and teachers in rural, village and city schools.

### Higher Education

8. Established a scholarship program for nurses. The act provides an appropriation of \$150,000 for the biennium with \$70,000 to be used each year for scholarships for needy students entering accredited schools of nursing or practical nursing. Total scholarships limited to \$600 per student with \$300 available for the first year of schooling.
9. Continued the Commission on Vocational and Higher Education to survey the educational needs of the State in these two fields.

### Buildings

10. Appropriated \$450,000 for the completion and equipping of a classroom building at Mankato State Teachers College.
11. Appropriated \$275,000 for the completion and equipping of a library building and \$8,000 for installation of smoke control equipment at St. Cloud Teachers College.
12. Appropriated \$95,000 for the construction of a dormitory heating plant at the Winona State Teachers College.
13. Appropriated \$173,000 for the completion and equipping of a library building, \$125,000 for alterations of vacated space in the Home Economics Building and Administration Building, and \$90,000 for construction and equipping of a greenhouse at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus.
14. Appropriated \$342,000 for completion and equipping of a physical education building at the University of Minnesota, Duluth Campus. Of the \$342,000 appropriated, \$190,000 was reappropriated and \$152,000 is the new appropriation.
15. Appropriated \$433,000 for the completion and equipping of a college of education building, \$700,000 for construction and equipping of an addition to the heating plant and \$84,690 for repairs to plumbing system of University Hospitals at the University of Minnesota main campus.
16. Appropriated \$20,000 for replacement of roof on dairy barn and \$100,000 for rebuilding and underpinning foundations of damaged building at West Central Agricultural School of the University of Minnesota at Morris.
17. Appropriated \$28,000 for moving farm buildings and reconstruction thereof at the Rosemount University of Minnesota Center.

## MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION

1. Provided for the establishment of a new mental hospital at Sandstone.
2. Authorized an additional 227 new employees for the Division of Public Institutions of which 209 were for the Mental Health Program (10 hospitals).
3. Appropriated \$100,000 to purchase land and draw plans for a new institution for the mentally ill.
4. Appropriated \$500,000 for the purpose of remodeling and repairing the Minnesota Home School for Girls at Sauk Centre, State Reformatory for Women at Shakopee or at any other suitable state institution for the care and treatment of mentally deficient persons. (A total of 82 new employees have been added to the state's payroll under this program as of October, 1951. The 82 are not included in 227 total given in item 2 above).
5. Appropriated \$5,000 for the completion of construction of three staff residences, \$90,000 for the completion and equipping of a dormitory for nurses, and \$35,000 for the completion of an addition to the laundry at the Anoka State Hospital.
6. Appropriated \$3,000 for the completion of construction of two residences for hospital physicians and \$200,000 for completion of the remodeling and equipping of the bakery, kitchen, and food services at the Fergus Falls State Hospital.
7. Appropriated \$48,000 for completion of construction of a dormitory for nursing personnel and \$40,000 for construction, equipping and installation of refrigeration and storage facilities at the Moose Lake State Hospital.
8. Appropriated \$3,000 for the completion of construction of two residences for hospital physicians, \$7,500 for conversion of superintendent's residence into nurses' quarters and \$23,000 for construction of a new superintendent's residence at the Willmar State Hospital.
9. Appropriated \$70,000 for construction and equipping of a new water tower and \$350,000 for construction and equipping of an addition to the service building at the Hastings State Hospital.
10. Appropriated \$79,000 for the completion of construction of an addition to and remodeling of kitchen and equipping thereof and \$30,000 for the construction and equipping of a greenhouse at the Faribault State Hospital and Colony.
11. Appropriated \$33,000 for the completion of construction of nurses' dormitory, \$235,000 for construction and equipping of additions to kitchen and laundry, and \$23,000 for construction of a new staff residence at the Cambridge Colony for Epileptics.
12. Appropriated \$31,000 for the completion of construction and equipping of a new laundry building at the Gillette State Hospital.
13. Appropriated \$8,000 for the completion of construction and equipping two cottages and \$17,000 for drilling and equipping a new well and pump at Owatonna School.
14. Appropriated \$18,000 for construction of a truck gate, \$10,000 for completion of a barn and \$5,000 for erection of a wall at the St. Cloud Reformatory for Men.
15. Created an interim commission of legislators to study Minnesota's mental health and youth authority programs.

## AGRICULTURE LEGISLATION

1. Additional support voted for the soil conservation program. Appropriations increased to approximately \$95,000 each year.
2. Provided funds to the University of Minnesota for research in corn borer, wheat stem rust control, and honey bees.
3. Made it unlawful to sell any seed in Minnesota containing more than 1% of weed seeds by weight; also prohibited giving false or misleading statements or advertisements in connection with the sale of agricultural seed.
4. Tightened the present law dealing with noxious weeds.
5. Passed an act to promote prosperity and welfare of potato industry of Minnesota, providing for potato production areas and within such areas to provide for the collection of fees and the regulation of certain marketing practices subject to referendum election of growers in area.
6. Prohibited dealers from offering for sale farm machinery from which serial numbers have been removed. This was aimed against black markets in farm machinery sales.
7. Required creamery operators to furnish milk and cream samples for testing.
8. Prohibited the sale of cattle at public auction unless they have been tested for Bang's disease.
9. Provided for aid to Minnesota Sheep Growers.
10. Provided for the regulation of bee raising and honey production.
11. Created an interim committee of legislators to study laws of marketing of livestock and dairy products.

## LABOR LEGISLATION

1. Increased maximum weekly compensation for industrial accidents from \$30 to \$32.
2. Raised the allowance under the workmen's compensation law for permanent total disability from \$15,000 to \$18,000.
3. Increased the number of weeks a worker can be paid for time lost due to an employment-caused injury or disease from 300 to 310 weeks in the case of temporary disablements and from 50 to 104 weeks in the case of permanent partial disablements.
4. Specific indemnities for loss of limbs in industrial accidents upped about 10% across the board.
5. Increased the compensation revolving fund for state employees from \$250,000 to \$350,000 to meet the rising costs of medical and hospital care.
6. Prohibited strikes by persons in public employment, provided for loss of civil service rights by those who do strike, and banned pay increases for one year for strikers who are rehired.
7. Created an interim commission of legislators to study the state's workmen compensation laws.

GENERAL LEGISLATION

Aviation

1. Passed Flying Farmer bill appropriating \$200,000 for airport aids with \$150,000 available for state-owned low-cost landing strips.
2. Increased aviation gasoline tax from 4¢ to 5¢ per gallon but exempted volume users from the boost. Increase to be used to finance Flying Farmer proposals.
3. Reappropriated the unexpended portions of \$650,000 allotted for aviation purposes in 1949.
4. Permitted the use of sound devices in aircraft for such governmental purposes as civil defense and forest fire fighting.
5. Suspended the state law relating to wilderness area flights during the effectiveness of presidential order banning such flights.
6. Created an interim commission to study the aviation needs and facilities of the state.

Banking

7. Prohibited the establishment of branches of state and federal savings and loan associations within the state.
8. Reduced the number of published reports to three per year for state banks to conform with requirements for national banks.
9. Authorized banking commissioner to raise reserve requirements for state banks to conform with requirements for members of federal reserve system during economic stress; reserved right to set such reservations within certain limits.
10. Authorized the conversion, merger and consolidation of national and state banks and trust companies.
11. Hiked examiner fees to be paid by all financial institutions.

Health

2. Provided for the regulation of children's camps organized for educational, recreational, or vacation purposes by the State Board of Health.
3. Provided for the regulation of trailer coach parks by the State Board of Health.
4. Regulated the practices of physical therapy.
5. Established a Board of Examiners for Psychologists to examine and certify psychologists in the state.

General

6. Tightened licensing and regulation of firms or persons engaged in issuing identification cards.
7. Increased damages in wrongful death cases from \$10,000 to \$17,500.
8. Increased salaries for civil service employees, teaching staffs at University and state teachers colleges, appointed officials, district judges, elective officials, and legislators.
9. Established a Department of Civil Defense and provided for the setting up of civil defense units and protection in the state.
10. Made the Legislative Research Committee a permanent legislative study organization.
11. Eliminated the "first bite" by dogs and established liability of dogs which attack or injure persons.
12. Provided \$300,000 for the equipping of a Minnesota Home Guard and \$700,000 for expansion of Camp Ripley.
13. Provided for the submission to the voters of five constitutional amendments dealing with requirements for the investment of permanent trust funds, requiring a 3/5's vote of all electors voting on the constitutional question submitted by the constitutional convention, clarifying the constitution on who may vote, pertaining to the jurisdiction of the probate court and the distribution of the excise tax on motor vehicles.

## TAXATION AND FINANCIAL LEGISLATION

### Taxation

1. Provided for the highest budget in the state's history but accomplished this without any new or increased taxes.
2. Provided for a new property classification for oil refineries to encourage refineries for processing crude petroleum to locate in the state. Under the law real property is to be valued and assessed at 27% of full and true value and personal property at 17%.
3. Created an interim committee of legislators to study iron ore taxation in Minnesota and the effect of foreign ores in competition with Minnesota.

### Fiscal

4. Appropriated \$284,397,469.95 of which \$159,704,585.91, or 56.2%, was from the General Revenue Fund, \$123,642,884.04, or 43.5%, was appropriated from other state funds and only \$1,050,000, or .3%, was obtained by borrowing.
5. The five major appropriations bills were increased from the previous biennium by:

<u>Appropriation Bill</u>	<u>Total</u> 1949-51	<u>Total</u> 1951-53	<u>Increase</u>	
			<u>Numerical</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Education	\$115,435,032	\$148,261,800	\$32,826,768	28.4
Public Institutions	34,601,799	44,486,832	9,885,033	28.6
State Departments (includes transfers)	36,450,290	44,371,242	7,920,952	21.7
Welfare	34,315,741	41,023,375	6,707,634	19.5
Semi-State	1,989,660	2,360,411	370,751	18.6

6. The above figures do not include appropriations for capital improvements such as land acquisition, completion of authorized construction and new construction. Funds for these purposes are financed by bonds and moneys in the deferred building account built up during World War II.

Appropriations to State Hospitals, Estimate of Amount Cancelled (Unused June 30, 1952), and Percent Cancellation is of Appropriation

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Cancelled</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
Anoka .....	\$ 1,295,647	\$211,459.82	16.32
Hastings .....	772,088	27,128.00	3.51
Willmar .....	971,971	113,015.16	11.62
Fergus Falls .....	1,231,619	78,412.61	6.36
Rochester .....	1,100,396	120,007.22	10.90
St. Peter .....	1,510,776	69,645.13	4.60
Moose Lake .....	695,074	56,050.35	8.06
Sandstone .....	292,096	32,664.03	11.18
Faribault School and Colony .....	1,606,926	75,409.38	4.69
Cambridge .....	643,539	62,713.19	9.74
<b>TOTALS ..</b>	<b>\$10,120,132</b>	<b>\$846,504.89</b>	<b>8.36</b>

Source: Department of Administration.

In addition to above appropriations, a contingent fund of \$750,000 was created to meet increased costs beyond those anticipated for such items as food, clothing, drugs and fuel. The Division of Public Institutions has made no request for such funds and they remain unspent.

PERSONNEL

Comparison of Salaries Paid Nurses by the State with Those Paid at the Mayo Clinic

	<u>Rochester Mayo Clinic</u>			<u>State of Minnesota</u>
	<u>A. M. Shift</u>	<u>P. M. Shift</u>	<u>Relief Shift</u>	
General Duty Nurse	\$239	\$244	\$249	\$252-\$292
Head Nurse	\$269-\$289			\$282-\$322

Note: Nurses at Mayo Clinic are on a 44 hour week basis. Nurses on State payroll are on a 40 hour a week.

Source: Department of Civil Service.

Comparison of Salaries Paid Psychiatric Aides I in Minnesota  
with That Paid in Some Other States

<u>State</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
MINNESOTA	\$195	\$225
Indiana	125	200
Oregon	163	201
Ohio	168	200
Maryland	180	225
Kansas	173	220
Missouri	178	227
Illinois	160	252

Source: Department of Civil Service.

Comparison of Salaries Paid Nurses by the State  
with Those in Minneapolis and St. Paul

	<u>Minneapolis</u>	<u>St. Paul</u>	<u>State of Minnesota</u>
General Duty Nurse	\$225	\$220	\$252 - \$292
Head Nurse	255	250	282 - 322

Source: State Nurses Association.

Budgeted Positions Allowed, Filled and Vacancies  
at State Hospitals

	<u>Budgeted</u>		<u>Filled</u>		<u>Vacancies</u>	
	<u>Full</u>	<u>Part</u>	<u>Full</u>	<u>Part</u>	<u>Full</u>	<u>Part</u>
	<u>time</u>	<u>time</u>	<u>time</u>	<u>time</u>	<u>time</u>	<u>time</u>
Anoka	440	10	413	8	27	2
Rochester	412	6	382	6	30	0
Willmar	325	7	305	6	20	1
Hastings	257	2	246	2	11	0
Fergus Falls	434	2	422	2	12	0
St. Peter	525	4	507	4	18	0
Moose Lake	238	1	228	1	10	0
Sandstone	98	3	95	3	3	0
Faribault	629	0	607	0	22	0
Cambridge	223	0	211	0	12	0
TOTALS:	3581	35	3416	32	165	3

Source: Division of Public Institutions Report, July 1952.