Session Weekly replaces the monthly publication you received during the 1983 session. Each week you will get this overview of committee and House action with the Advance Committee Schedule and Bill Introductions.

Inside:
- Weekly overview of House Committee and floor action
- Advance committee meeting schedule
- Bill introductions

24-hour information service:
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Session Weekly covers daily House action up to 2 pm from Thursday to Thursday. Action after 2 pm each Thursday will appear in the following week's publication.

THU

March 15 (meetings after 2 p.m.)
- "Thirty-five thousand people die every year in cars," Rep. Carolyn Rodriguez (DFL-Apple Valley) told House members. "But, seat belts could have saved about half."

Rodriguez is author of mandatory seat-belt legislation that was up for debate in the House March 15. When the legislators first took up the bill, it allowed for penalties for people with conditional or limited licenses who don't wear belts. The version the House later agreed to makes seat belts mandatory, but carries no penalties.

The legislation got preliminary approval in the House on a 61 to 60 vote and needs seven more votes for final passage.

- The debate on the income tax surcharge continued March 15 as House Minority Leader David Jennings tried unsuccessfully again to change the regular procedures of House business to get a preliminary vote on the surcharge bill.

DFLers say they prefer holding off on a vote until April revenue forecasts are in. To avoid tabling his vote request, Jennings called for a point of order and a parliamentary ruling Speaker of the House Harry Seiben will make when the House next convenes.

On Majority Leader Willis Eken's motion, the House recessed until Wednesday, March 21 so members could go home for precinct caucuses March 20.

FRI

March 16
- Suspected drunken drivers will no longer have the right to refuse a blood alcohol concentration test under a bill the Criminal Justice Division recommended to pass March 16.

"Being stopped by the police and being suspected of driving under the influence is the only crime that allows withholding of evidence," testified Tinka Bloedow on behalf of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers and Parents of Murdered Children in support of HF1400.

"It's like saying if someone is suspected of stabbing another, and they've got a knife in their pocket, that they can refuse to allow you to look into their pocket."

According to the bill's author, Rep. Kathleen Vellenga (DFL-St. Paul), refusal rates are up and this bill would attempt to crack down on that problem by giving drivers, who refuse the test, the choice of taking the test, or losing their licenses for one year.

The bill goes next to the full Judiciary Committee.

- Receipts from the cross-country ski licensing program could be between $150,000 and $175,000 this winter, according to the Department of Natural Resources. The DNR released their estimates at a March 16 meeting of the State Departments Division of the House Appropriations Committee. Most division members expressed surprise at the figures, which they thought would be lower, because of lack of enforcement during the program's first year.

DNR officials said they're pleased with public reception. They said an informal DNR survey showed
compliance with the licensing program exceeded 80 per cent. and judging from mail the Department received, only 10 percent were in favor of repealing the legislation. Ninety percent of the skiers in the survey said they didn’t like wearing the licenses and 75 percent didn’t think they should need them on public trails that don’t get state funds. Current law says skiers need a license on any public pathway “designated and promoted” for cross-country skiing. With a good snow season next year, the DNR anticipates collecting revenues of between $200,000 and $225,000.

- The gravel tax would not apply in seven central Minnesota counties under HF1761 (Brinkman, DFL-Richmond) which the Taxes Committee recommended to pass, as amended, March 16th. Under the bill Stearns, Benton, Wright, Traverse, Stevens, Pope, and Anoka counties would no longer have the option to charge a tax on mining such materials as sand, gravel, limestone and granite. However, an amendment to the bill kept the tax in Becker County. The committee also recommended to pass HF1459 (Schafer, IR-Gibbon), which would allow Sibley County to have the option of charging the tax.

The gravel tax has undergone several changes since its inception in 1978, when two gravel-producing counties asked for a local tax. Several years later the Legislature passed a statewide bill, which it repealed in 1982. Last year, 26 of Minnesota’s 87 counties had an option to levy the 10-cents-per-cubic-yard tax.

Author of the bill, Rep. Bernard Brinkman, said the gravel tax was like deerflies, “Irritating . . . . because they’re (deerflies) constantly flying around, and that’s about the same thing with this gravel tax.”

County and township officials constantly complained, he said, and “little gravel haulers and people in the gravel business are constantly irritating and nagging to get out.” The tax brings revenue onites get 60 percent, and townships 30 percent, with the remaining 10 percent toward restoration of mines.

- The Minnesota Zoo’s surplus Siberian tiger will find a new home in China. Word came from the Zoo last week after hundreds of people phoned the governor and legislators objected to the Zoo’s plan to destroy the animal.

Steve Iserman, the Zoo’s general director, explained the situation to the State Departments Division of the House Appropriations Committee on March 16.

“Where you run into a problems is with the animals. For instance, like the Siberian tiger. It’s endangered in the wild, but there’s a glut of them in captivity because they breed so well. There’s no market for them.” said Iserman.

According to Iserman, a reason for the recent strong public reaction is lack of public education. The Zoo didn’t get information out, and the public had questions.

“How can you kill an endangered species? That seems to be contradictory. So we’ve got a big education program to go ahead on to explain the realities of the zoo. Its thought of as the fuzzy protectorate of every animal in the world. and while it is a protector of animals. its primary purpose is the preservation of species of animals and that some times doesn’t bode well for individuals,” Iserman said.

**WED**

March 21
- The “Report on the Administration of Minnesota’s Medical Assistance” by the legislative auditor was before the Health, Welfare and Corrections Division of Appropriations March 21.

Elliot Long, project manager from the Legislative Auditor’s Office, reported good administration of the Medicaid program in Minnesota. The state, he said, has one of the lowest error rates in the nation. But he cited some problems that need correction. Recommendations included update of the computer software system the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) uses in prepayment of claims, reevaluating the cost effectiveness of the Provider Surveillance and Support Services Sections, and an expansion of the Recipient Surveillance Unit.

Assistant Commissioner Charles Poe, from the Income Maintenance Bureau of DPW, responded to the auditor’s report, saying his department agreed with many of the recommendations and is already attempting to take care of these problems. However, he said the Department doesn’t have the resources to use many of the recommendations. Poe said DPW is administering Medicaid benefits quite efficiently, but as with any program of its size, room for improvement is bound to exist.

- Insurance companies would have to give a 60-day notice stating their reasons not to renew insurance for a home or a rented property under a bill the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee recommended to pass, as amended, March 21.

HF1859 (Riveness, DFL-Bloomington) was one of four bills to get a favorable recommendation. The proposal is to protect the homeowner against refusals to renew policies for improper reasons, according to the bill’s author.

HF1859 would give the commerce commissioner authority to adopt renewal rules and to overturn an insurance company’s decision not to renew. The committee adopted
an amendment to the bill that would apply to commercial dwellings, including apartments and rented houses.

Also recommended to pass were:
- HF1700 (Coleman, DFL-Spring Lake Park): would raise, from $105 to $200, the amount per week a homemaker could receive in replacement service loss benefits under no-fault auto insurance. The benefits would be to cover the cost of hiring someone to do the work a homemaker usually would do but can’t because of injuries;
- HF1652 (Jensen, DFL-Farmington): would require no-fault insurance to pay in an accident instead of Medicare, if both payments are available;

A bill that would make changes to laws relating to sexual misconduct and crimes against children, and make it easier to prosecute people who sexually abuse children, got preliminary House approval March 21.

The bill, HF1279 (Levi, IR-Dellwood) would:
- clarify that contributing to a child's status as a habitual truant, runaway, or petty offender is a misdemeanor offense;
- extend current law to allow any out-of-court statement children under 10 years old make about any sexual contact someone performs on or with them admissible evidence in court if: the court finds the statement reliable; the child testifies at the proceedings, or is legally unavailable as a witness and other evidence of abuse is available; and if the other party gets advance notice of the statement and its contents. Testimony from the child, or other evidence to support the statement, would not be a requirement in juvenile court cases of dependency, neglect, or termination of parental rights.

- make it a crime for adults to engage in sexual penetration or contact with 16 to 18-year-old youths, with or without their consent. Current law pertains to those under 16.
- clarify some definitions and penalties, and extend certain provisions in current law relating to sexual abuse of children.

The legislation goes up for final approval in the House the week of March 26.

If the police have a warrant out for the arrest of someone because of a misdemeanor offense, they could arrest the person anytime during the night in a public place or on a public street or highway under a bill the Minnesota House Criminal Justice Division looked at March 21. Current law provides that police cannot, in most cases, during the hours of 9 p.m. and 9 a.m., arrest people who are under warrant for misdemeanors.

"It's a money issue," said Ovide LaBerge, speaking on behalf of various law enforcement organizations at the March 21 meeting.

"In the month of December alone, in Hennepin County," said LaBerge, "peace officers made contact with 818 persons who had 1,482 warrants on them that could not be executed even though they had the person right in front of them. Every month we lose about 1,000 warrants that drop off the three-year statute of limitations. That represents about $35,000 a month."

Some division members opposed the bill, because it would allow police to pick people up in the middle of the night for not paying a parking fine. However, the bill, HF1556 (Olsen, IR-St. Louis Park), got a recommendation to pass, and goes next to the full Judiciary Committee.

A bill that, according to its author, would offer a new approach to help for battered children had a hearing March 21 before the House Criminal Justice Division.

Rep. Janet Clark, chief author, testified for her proposal, HF1386, which would allow the juvenile court to get involved in domestic abuse and order the abusing party out of the home under certain circumstances. Clark says the bill would work to protect the child and preserve the family.

"Under the bill," she said, "the court could issue a temporary order restraining further acts of abuse or order the abuser out of the home. However, before it may order an abuser out of the home the court must find that the order is in the best interest of the child or children; that remaining household or family members are able to care adequately for the child in the absence of the excluded party; and that the local welfare agency has developed a plan to provide appropriate social services to the remaining family or household members."

Though the bill isn't an answer to child abuse, and many times would not apply, Clark said, it would be a useful tool in some abuse cases. HF1386 got the division's approval and goes next to the full Judiciary Committee.

HF1587 (Simoneau, DFL-Fridley) a bill that includes setting salary increases for governor-appointed commissioners got preliminary approval on the House floor March 21.

House members voted to amend the bill to restrict certain commissioner pay increases that the Legislative Commission on Employee Relations approved last spring. The amendment would slow down the pay increases for inexperienced commissioners, allow moderate increases for those with experience, and guarantee that all commissioners will get at least a four-percent increase. State employees agreed to a four-percent increase last bargaining session.
Next the House will vote on final passage of the bill.

- The bill to ban use of decompression chambers to kill animals, HF1654 (Kelly, DFL-St. Paul) advanced in the House when members voted, March 21, to give it preliminary approval.

The bill would affect at least three humane societies in the state, including Hennepin and Ramsey counties and St. Cloud, all of which use the chamber as one way to destroy animals.

Rep. Randy Kelly said the chamber, in 60 seconds, creates an environment similar to being about 55,000 feet in the air. A vacuum extracts air from the chamber, and the animal dies.

Rep. Doug Carlson (IR-Sandstone), a veterinarian, said veterinarians disagree on the humanity of the chamber, but even those who use it won't put young animals, or those with respiratory problems, inside.

The bill waits now for a final vote by the House.

- A bill that proposed vending machines in rest areas, would make changes to state highway signing programs, and would install drain tile along or across highways was the topic of discussion in the Transportation Committee March 21.

The committee recommended to pass HF1824 (Neuenschwander, DFL-Int'l Falls), as amended, after removing the provision that would have permitted vending machines in rest areas.

The bill, as amended, would expand the state's directional signing to allow organizations, groups, or entities that fall under federal guidelines to have directional signs. It would permit, on highway right-of-ways, logo signs that would inform motorists about gas, food, camping, and lodging.

The bill would also include restaurants under "specific-services" sign programs. And would increase, from 10 to 15 miles, the maximum distance specific-service signs can be from the activity they advertise.

Also, the committee recommended to pass HF1345 (O'Connor, DFL-St. Paul), a bill that would require a surcharge on lease, or rental lease, motor vehicles and HF1509 (Kalis, DFL-Walters), a bill prohibiting fees for the return of number plates.

- Speaker of the House Harry Sieben, Jr. announced his ruling, during the House session, March 21, on a pending parliamentary question as to whether the House would take up the surtax bill, HF1593 (Graba, DFL-Scbeka). The speaker said, under parliamentary rules, the House could act on the bill as Minority Leader David Jennings had requested. However, Rep. Jerry Graba, the bill's chief author had recalled HF1593, eliminating the possibility of further action by the House on HF1593, at this time.

THU

March 22 (meetings before noon)
- Because of changes in committee and House schedules during the past week, this issue of Session Weekly covers action up until noon on Thursday, March 22. Reports on committee and House action afternoon Thursday will appear in next week's Session Weekly.

- A break for Minnesota taxpayers who shop in foreign countries may be on its way under HF2025 (Mckasy, IR-Mendota Heights), a bill the Economic Development Division of the Taxes Committee approved March 22.

Currently, Minnesotans can deduct taxes they pay the federal government and other states on their Minnesota tax returns. HF2025 would add a deduction for taxes state residents pay on goods they buy in foreign countries.

The bill's author, Rep. Bert Mckasy, says people who live in Minnesota but shop and work in Canada will be able to use the deduction. Businesspeople and armed forces personnel could also take advantage of the tax break. Cost to the state would be $370,000 a year.

- Public television requested $2.1 million dollars at the State Departments Division of the Appropriations Committee meeting March 22. The money would go to replace old and failing electronic equipment at KTCA-TV in St. Paul and Minneapolis, and KAUT-TV in Austin.

Bill Strusinski, representing public television, said, "In several instances, we are now operating our systems with a rapidly aging and deteriorating physical plant at a time when the federal equipment support has dramatically been reduced."

"In fact, in 1980 there was $200 million available from the federal government for public broadcasting in general. Today that appropriation is less than $130 million," said Strusinski.

Since 1977, the Legislature has taken an active role in appropriating money for public television stations around the state. In 1981, for example, it appropriated $1.4 million to KWCM-TV in Appleton and $1.6 million to WDSE-TV in Duluth. However, last year the only funding of public radio by the Legislature was $120,000—an emergency request to keep the Austin television station on the air.

Public television bases its current request of $2.1 million on a 50 cents per capita figure using a state population base of 4.2 million.

- Minnesota's state universities would get nearly $17 million for capital improvements under an initial allocation plan that came out of the Education Division of the Appropriations Committee March 22. The $17 million is less than half of the governor's recommendation.
Committee Schedule for the Week of March 26 - 30, 1984

Monday, Mar 26

8:00 a.m. AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION & SEMI-STATE DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis. Agenda: Finalize capital budget allocations.

EDUCATION DIVISION/Appropriations, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson. Agenda: Review draft bonding bill; Dept. of Finance report on Average Cost Funding Task Force, proposed language changes.


10:00 a.m. JUDICIARY, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Bob Vanasek. Agenda: Bills remaining from Friday, March 23 agenda. HF1896 (Vanasek) Regulating insurance claims settlement; defining terms; prescribing penalties. HF1898 (Vanasek) Regulating insurance claims settlement; allowing any interested person to seek enforcement of certain provisions of the law. HF1330 (Denton) Reducing the bond required for appeal of bond adjustment in a drainage assessment proceeding. HF229 (K. Clark) Relating to health; allowing any interested person to seek enforcement of certain provisions of the law.

SPECIAL PROJECTS SUBCOMMITTEE/Regulated Industries, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Rich O'Connor. Agenda: HF1499 (Otis) Permitting the public utilities commission to order reimbursement payments to intervenors in telephone rate proceedings. HF1811 (Otis) Telephone companies; requiring public utility commission review and approval of transactions involving transfer of assets between a regulated utility and a corporation or person having an affiliated interest in the utility.

BEVERAGE SUBCOMMITTEE/Regulated Industries, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs. Agenda: HF1883 (Jacobs) Abolishing prohibition on furnishing liquor to certain persons and exclusion of certain persons from liquor establishments after notice. HF1626 (Rose) Authorizing additional on-sale intoxicating liquor licenses (Roseville). HF2000 (Gustafson) Authorizing the Duluth city council to permit the on-sale of liquor at the St. Louis City Heritage and Arts Center by on-sale licensees in the city of Duluth. HF1434 (Oshofski) St. Paul; territorial restrictions on locations for the sale of alcoholic beverages. HF1750 (Kahn) Allow licensed premises to remain open after the hour sales of alcoholic beverages must cease.


COMMERCIAL & PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE/Transportation, Rm. 14. Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim. Agenda: HF1943 (Welle) Requiring the rear car of trains to be occupied by caboose cars; requiring cabooses to be equipped with a shortwave radio; imposing a penalty.

2:00 p.m. The House will meet in Session.


STATE-LOCAL FISCAL AFFAIRS DIVISION/Local & Urban Affairs, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. John Clawson. Agenda: HF1704 (Riveness) Local government aids; amending the distribution formula. HF1982 (Clawson) Permitting towns to make charitable contributions. HF2038 (Clawson) Local government; providing for procedures for making certain contracts. SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.


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Tuesday, Mar 27


6:00 p.m. **LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON PENSIONS & RETIREMENT**, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. John Sarna. Agenda: HF1682 (Sarna)/SF1672 (C. Peterson) Increasing TRA employer contribution rate. Additional agenda items to be announced.

12:00 noon

Tuesday, Mar 27

**8:00 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS**, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. James Rice. Agenda: Governor’s capital budget.


9:00 a.m. **COMMERCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**, Rm. 91. Chr. Rep. John Sarna. Agenda: HF1726 (F. Rodriguez) Regulating pipetippers and pipetfitting. HF841 (Scheid) Regulating Going Out of Business sales. HF1743 (Sparby) Removing auctioneer’s exemption from real estate licensing. HF1446 (Seaberg) Requiring repair, refund, or replacement of new motorcycles. HF2059 (Birch) Vehicle manufacturers to reimburse vehicle owners for rental car expenses. HF1422 (Simoneau) Corporate Take Over.

10:00 a.m. **COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. John Sarna. Agenda: HF1726 (F. Rodriguez) Regulating pipetippers and pipetfitting. HF841 (Scheid) Regulating Going Out of Business sales. HF1743 (Sparby) Removing auctioneer’s exemption from real estate licensing. HF1446 (Seaberg) Requiring repair, refund, or replacement of new motorcycles. HF2059 (Birch) Vehicle manufacturers to reimburse vehicle owners for rental car expenses. HF1422 (Simoneau) Corporate Take Over.

**10:15 a.m. TRANSPORTATION & SEMI-STATE DIVISION**, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Dominic Elioff. Agenda: HF1951 (G. Anderson) Relation to town roads; providing conditions for their construction or maintenance by counties. HF793 (Dimler) Changing display period for license plates on certain motor vehicles; changing period of time when registration tax is payable for certain motor vehicles; abolishing the penalty for late or delayed registration or payment of the registration tax. HF1583 (Piepho) Designing a bridge as the “Veterans Memorial Bridge.”

11:00 a.m. **EDUCATION DIVISION**, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson. Agenda: Continue agenda from Monday, 12:00 noon meeting.

**12:00 noon**

**LOCAL & URBAN AFFAIRS**, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. Glen Anderson. Agenda: HF2063 (G. Anderson) Metropolitan airports; defining relationship to legislature and Metropolitan Council. HF1418 (Bergstrom) Blue Hill: allowing the town to exercise certain powers. HF2012 (Ellingson) Financing of county and county regional jails. HF1525 (Zaffke) County law libraries; permitting appointment of non-lawyer to library board. HF1952 (Cohen) St. Paul; permitting city to adopt certain regulations for smoke detection devices. HF1913 (Elioff) St. Louis County; establishing positions in unclassified civil service. HF1404 (Ommen) Drainage; correction of certain errors in county or judicial district.

**2:00 p.m. HIGHWAY & MOTOR VEHICLES SUBCOMMITTEE/Transportation**, Rm. 14. Chr. Rep. Bob Jensen. Agenda: HF1951 (G. Anderson) Relation to town roads; providing conditions for their construction or maintenance by counties. HF793 (Dimler) Changing display period for license plates on certain motor vehicles; changing period of time when registration tax is payable for certain motor vehicles; abolishing the penalty for late or delayed registration or payment of the registration tax. HF1583 (Piepho) Designing a bridge as the “Veterans Memorial Bridge.”

**3:00 p.m. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS & MARKETING SUBCOMMITTEE/Agriculture**, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger. Agenda: HF1929 (Shea) Livestock weighing.

**4:00 p.m. EDUCATION DIVISION/Appropriations**, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson. Agenda: Complete Average Cost Study Task Force language changes; U of MN supplemental budget requests; International School of Business; Super Computer Institute, Faculty Retirement. Environmental Pathology Lab.

**6:00 p.m. LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON PENSIONS & RETIREMENT**, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. John Sarna. Agenda: To be announced.

**7:00 p.m. EDUCATION DIVISION/Education**, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Ken Nelson. Agenda: Continue agenda from Monday, 12:00 noon meeting (if needed).

Wednesday, Mar 28

**8:00 a.m. AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION & SEMI-STATE DIVISION/Appropriations**, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis. Agenda: Allocate operating budget requests.

**8:00 a.m. EDUCATION DIVISION/Appropriations**, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson. Agenda: Complete Average Cost Funding Task Force language changes; U of MN supplemental budget requests; International School of Business; Super Computer Institute, Faculty Retirement. Environmental Pathology Lab.

**11:00 a.m. HEALTH & WELFARE**, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. James Swan. Agenda: Bills that have passed subcommittee.


**11:00 a.m. DEPARTMENTAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE/Health & Welfare**, Rm. 51. Chr. Rep. Dominic Elioff. HF1894 (Clawson) Empowering Board of Pharmacy to access legal costs. HF1872 (Clawson) Permitting Board of Pharmacy to examine foreign graduates.

**12:00 noon**


**12:00 noon**


10:00 a.m.


GENERAL LEGISLATION & VETERANS AFFAIRS, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Richard Kostohryz. Agenda: HF1618 (Minne) Handicapped voters election bill; HF1912 (Kostohryz) State Agricultural Society. HF1917 (Omann) Limiting membership on County Canvassing Board. HF1918 (Omann) Restricting eligibility for appointment as election judge. HF1338 (Osthoff) Voting machine provisions; recodifications and reorganization. HF427 (Svigum) Township elections polling hours. HF1871 (Welle) Secretary of State's housekeeping bill. HF1856 (Jensen) Election judges compensation by private employer. HF1606 (Shea) Prohibits certain inquiries of voters near the polls. HF29 (Gustafson) Forfeiture of property exchanged for controlled substances. HF1473 (Kelly) Specifying the crime of telecommunications service. HF1735 (Dempsey) Requiring the court to impose a stay of execution of sentence with a 90-day period of incarceration as a condition of probation for certain offenders convicted of a first offense of burglary of a dwelling.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION/Judiciary, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Janet Clark. Agenda: HF1809 (Wyna) Authorizing aggregation of thefts in medicare fraud cases. HF753 (Marsh) Prohibiting interfering with emergency communications over a citizen's band radio channel. HF— (Bishop) Forfeiture of property exchanged for controlled substances. HF1473 (Kelly) Specifying the crime of telecommunications service. HF1735 (Dempsey) Requiring the court to impose a stay of execution of sentence with a 90-day period of incarceration as a condition of probation for certain offenders convicted of a first offense of burglary of a dwelling.

LAW REFORM SUBCOMMITTEE/Judiciary, Rm. 22. Chr. Rep. Bob Ellington. Agenda: HF1900 (Ellington) Classifying government data as public, private, and non-public; clarifying issues relating to classifications of data, access to data, the effect of death of individuals on classifications, and the temporary classification of data. HF1230 (Cohen) Relating to marriage dissolution; allowing separate summary judgment on the issue of dissolution. HF1440 (C. Rodriguez) Requiring contractors and subcontractors to provide owners with lien notices prior to beginning work.


12:00 noon


TRANSPORTATION, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. George Mann. Agenda: HF1975 (Mann) Allowing entire portions of former trunk highways to revert to counties under certain circumstances. HF1449 (Sparby) Authorizing operation of farm truck with Class C drivers’ license by employee operating truck during harvest. HF1423 (Solberg) Providing licensing and bonding requirements for horse trailer dealers. HF1381 (Kalais) Increasing special permit fees for vehicles exceeding weight limitations. HF1845 (Kalais) Omnibus Dept. of Public Safety bill. HF1315 (Kahn) Allowing bicycle registrants to donate in excess of the registration fee to pay for costs of administering and publicizing the bicycle registration program and for developing bicycle education programs and recreational facilities and trails, etc. HF1888 (O'Connor) Requiring certain notice on uniform traffic ticket; providing penalty for failure to respond to summons and complaint on uniform traffic ticket. HF1774 (Tunheim) Providing for distribution of town road funds. HF1647 (Hoffman) Prohibiting operation of certain vehicles permitted on school buses, etc. HR— (Elloff) A resolution to implement a program for the refectorization of railroad rolling stock.

2:00 p.m.

COMMERCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. John Sarna. Agenda: Continue hearing bills from agenda of Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. meeting.


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION/Taxes, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Randy Kelly. Agenda: HF1646 (Kelly) Providing for a tax amnesty. Amendments: Withholding licenses of delinquent taxpayers; enterprise zone funding; Duluth and 1984 enterprise zones; and 100 percent exclusion of foreign dividends.

Thursday, Mar 29

8:00 a.m.


8:15 a.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION/Taxes, Rm. to be announced. Chr. Rep. Randy Kelly. Agenda: Unfinished business from Wednesday, March 28 hearing. HF1376 (Bergstrom) Agricultural Resource Energy Loan Guaranty Program. HF2002 (Kelly) Clarifying mortgage registry tax provisions on mortgages securing lines of credit. HF— (Kelly) Reducing the sales tax rate on capital equipment used in manufacturing process.

10:00 a.m.

COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. John Sarna. Agenda: Continue hearing bills from agenda of Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. meeting.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES, Rm. 83. Chr. Rep. William McEachern. Agenda: Continue agenda from Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. meeting.

11:00 a.m.


(J. Clark) Public assistance residency requirements. HF2091 (St. Onge) Special revenue account. HF1852 (Segal) Long term care ombudsman study to include community based care.


12:00 noon GENERAL LEGISLATION & VETERANS AFFAIRS, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Richard Kostohryz. Agenda: Continued agenda from Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. meeting, and other bills reported out of the Gaming Division and subcommittees.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Joseph Begich. Agenda: HF1401 (Clawson) Coverage for ambulance drivers and attendants. HF1679 (Boo)Coverage for certain employees of the University of Minnesota. HF1767 (Simoneau) Clarifying law concerning ridesharing; providing for miscellaneous changes in the workers’ compensation process.


2:00 p.m. The House will meet in Session.

After Session


6:30 p.m. AGRICULTURE, Rm. 81. Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel. Agenda: Unfinished business from Wednesday’s meeting. HF— (Wenzel) Resolution on 1985 U.S. Farm bill.


LOCAL & URBAN AFFAIRS, Rm. 57. Chr. Rep. Glen Anderson. Agenda: To be announced.

7:30 p.m. REGULATED INDUSTRIES, Rm. 51. Chr. Rep. Joel Jacob. Agenda: HF501 (Jacobs) Changing conditions that regulate the telecast of games at metropolitan sports facilities. HF2070 (Jacobs) Deregulating radio common carriers. Bills reported out of subcommittee. Additional bills may be added.

Bill introductions

Wednesday, Mar 21
HF2007—Dimler (IR)—Taxes
Taxation; sales; providing a reduced rate for farm machinery and business equipment; amending statutes.
HF2008—Seaberg (IR)—Local/Urban Affairs
Local government; authorizing county employees to make certain contracts; amending statutes.
HF2009—Kelly (DFL)—Taxes
Taxation; modifying and clarifying the small business investment credits; amending statutes.
HF2010—Coleman (DFL)—Education
Education; requiring that public schools instruct senior high school pupils in parenting and family life; proposing new law.
HF2011—Carlson, D. (IR)—Agriculture
Agriculture; providing for the control of pseudorabies in swine; appropriating money; amending statutes.
HF2012—Ellingson (DFL)—Local/Urban Affairs
Local government; providing for financing of county and county regional jails; amending statutes.
HF2013—Bergstrom (DFL)—Education
Education; establishing three summer institutes for math and science; specifying application and selection procedures; appropriating money; proposing new law.
HF2014—Clawson (DFL)—Education
Education; expanding the subject area in-service training program; requiring the commissioner to determine student needs; authorizing planning grants; appropriating money; amending statutes.
HF2015—Coleman (DFL)—Education
Education; establishing a school management task force; appropriating money.
HF2016—Tomlinson (DFL)—Taxes
Taxation; repealing the income tax surtax; appropriating money to the budget reserve account; amending statutes.
HF2017—Clawson (DFL)—Health/Welfare
Commitment; defining provisional discharge; prohibiting the provisional release of a mentally ill and dangerous patient from secure confinement; amending statutes.
HF2018—Tomlinson (DFL)—Environment/Natural Resources
Ramsey-Washington metro watershed district; providing for the establishment of a district water maintenance and repair fund; authorizing a tax levy for water maintenance and repair purposes.
HF2019—Neuenschwander (DFL)—Environment/Natural Resources
Game and fish; regulating enforcement of the laws relating to wild animals; providing for reciprocity with other governments; amending statutes.
HF2020—Swanson (DFL)—Health/Welfare
Health; changing certain hospital cost reporting requirements; adding reporting requirements for outpatient surgical centers; deleting hospital rate review requirements; adding provisions for fines; deleting obsolete language; amending statutes; repealing statutes.
HF2021—Wynia (DFL)—Transportation
Motor fuels; prohibiting lead compounds and EDB additives in gasoline; amending statutes.
HF2022—Greenfield (DFL)—Governmental Operations
Economic security; clarifying the emergency employment development jobs program; regulating the payment of cash allowances; amending statutes.
HF2023—Ellingson (DFL)—Commerce/Economic Development
Office of the secretary of state; providing for the simplification of various filings with that office; eliminating or transferring certain filings; providing for uniform standards for the filing of names of limited partnerships, corporations, cooperatives, and assumed names and marks; eliminating the requirement of publication after incorporation; shifting the time of publication of certificate of assumed name; providing for the filing and enforcement of security interests; providing for the determination of eligibility for the intangible tax; prohibiting the modification of bylaws of a certain provision relating to the voting power of shares; providing a time limit on claims to shareholders; delaying the effective date of the corporate registration requirement; amending statutes; repealing statutes.
HF2024—McKasy (IR)—Taxes
Taxation; income; adopting federal income tax limitations on charitable contributions; amending statutes.
HF2025—McKasy (IR)—Taxes
Taxation; income; allowing an itemized deduction for certain foreign taxes; amending statutes.
HF2026—McKasy (IR)—Taxes
Taxation; income; conforming to federal law for treatment of contributions to individual retirement plans and other pension plans; amending statutes.
HF2027—Olsen (IR)—General Legislation/Veterans Affairs
Elections; requiring timely mailing of absentee ballots to certain voters; amending statutes.
HF2028—Burger (IR)—Education
Teachers; extending the deadline to gain the middle school experience necessary for a license to July 1, 1984.
HF2029—Battaglia (DFL)—Environment/Natural Resources
Waters; restricting permits for charter houseboats on Lake Vermillion.
HF2030—McDonald (IR)—Environment/Natural Resources
Hazardous waste management; requiring a report to the legislature on compensation for damage resulting from the site selection process for commercial disposal facilities; amending statutes.
HF2031—McDonald (IR)—Environment/Natural Resources
Metropolitan government; removing certain watersheds from the metropolitan surface water management program; amending statutes.
HF2032—McDonald (IR)—Taxes
Taxation; income; eliminating the income tax surtax; repealing statutes.
HF2033—Price (DFL)—Local/Urban Affairs
City of Oakdale; providing a permanent increase in the levy limit base.
HF2034—Jonsen (DFL)—Financial Institutions/Insurance
Snowmobiles; requiring liability insurance coverage; proposing new law.
HF2035—Kalas (DFL)—Health/Welfare
Medical assistance; removing the age 65 limitation for medical assistance recovery from a decedent’s estate; amending statutes.
HF2036—Minne (DFL)—Judiciary
Real property; providing that the mortgage and contract for deed moratorium become permanent law; applying moratorium to holders of any mortgage or contract for deed to homestead property; abolishing exclusionary provision; allowing the mortgagor to petition for postponement of foreclosure sale for up to 12 months; allowing catastrophic medical expenses to be considered by a court when determining delay of foreclosure sale; providing that the equity in the property may be considered by a court; abolishing the sunset provision; amending statutes.
HF2037—Staten (DFL)—Governmental Operations
Commerce; requiring state agencies to make prompt payment for the purchase or lease of goods and services; requiring agencies to pay interest penalties on late payments; requiring an annual report to the legislature on agency payment records; proposing new law.
HF2038—Clawson (DFL)—Local/Urban Affairs
Local government; providing procedures for making certain contracts; amending statutes.
HF2039—Ellingson (DFL)—Judiciary
Commerce; providing for the computation of interest on mechanics’ lien claim; proposing new law.
HF2040—Ludeman (IR)—Environment/Natural Resources
State lands; requiring the commissioner of natural resources to offer certain lands for homesteading; requiring improvements by homesteaders within a certain time period; proposing new law.
HF2041—Vellenga (DFL)—Transportation
Eminent domain; providing for relocation benefits for persons displaced by acquisitions when federal funding is not provided; amending statutes.
HF2042—Ogren (DFL)—Governmental Operations
State departments and agencies; moving the state archaeologists from the historical society to the University of Minnesota; amending statutes; repealing statutes.
HF2043—Norton (DFL)—Financial Institutions/Insurance
Banks and banking; authorizing interstate acquisition and formation of banks between this state and certain states on a reciprocal basis; proposing new law.
HF2044—Sparyb (DFL)—Appropriations
Education; allowing the higher education coordinating board to prorate the obligation to repay loans for doctors who serve part time in an area of need; amending statutes.
HF2045—Himsle (IR)—Environment/Natural Resources
Outdoor recreation; repealing licensing requirements for cross-country skiers; repealing statutes.
HF2088—Nelson, D. (DFL)—Judiciary
Real property; changing the manner of serving notice to register title to real estate; amending statutes.

HF2089—Osthoff (DFL)—Taxes
Taxation; authorizing certain additional levies in counties; amending statutes.

HF2090—O’Connor (DFL)—Judiciary
Traffic regulations; providing penalties for certain traffic violations; amending statutes.

HF2091—St. Onge (DFL)—Health/Welfare
Public welfare; authorizing the commissioner of public welfare to establish a special revenue account; expanding the commissioner’s duties; appropriating money; amending statutes.

HF2092—Murphy (DFL)—Labor/Management Relations
Labor; providing for an exemption from wage requirements for certain domestic service employees; amending statutes.

HF2093—Scheid (DFL)—Governmental Operations
Tax court judges; permitting retired tax judges to serve on the tax court; amending statutes.

F2094—Carlson, D. (IR)—Environment/Natural Resources
Natural resources; authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to sell lands and interests in land acquired are located in certain cities.

HF2095—Haukoos (IR)—Taxes
Taxation; income; eliminating the income tax surtax; repealing statutes.

HF2096—Anderson, G. (DFL)—Governmental Operations
State government; establishing the world trade center board and fixing its duties; transferring functions from the department of agriculture; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

HF2097—Clark, J. (DFL)—Judiciary
Persons handicapped in communication; requiring the arresting officer to immediately obtain a qualified interpreter for a person handicapped in communication who has been arrested; amending statutes.

HF2098—Clawson (DFL)—Health/Welfare
Public welfare; revising procedures for determining operating cost payment rates for nursing homes; amending statutes; proposing new law.

HF2099—Wynia (DFL)—Judiciary
Insurance; no-fault auto; providing uninsured and underinsured motorist coverages; defining terms; amending statutes.

HF2100—O’Connor (DFL)—Taxes
Taxation; income; adopting federal income tax treatment of certain retirement plans; amending statutes.

House Advisories

Wednesday, Mar 21
HA53—Voss (DFL)—Judiciary
A proposal to include Vietnam Veterans under The Civil Rights Act.

HA54—Wigley (IR)—Transportation
A proposal to study the use of farm tractors and trailers on trunk highways.

First Reading of Senate Bills

Wednesday, Mar 21
SF311—Berglin (DFL)—Health/Welfare
Public welfare; requiring licensure for adult day care facilities; amending statutes.

SF1418—Berglin (DFL)—Health/Welfare
Public welfare; authorizing the alcohol and drug abuse section of the department of public welfare to collect certain information; establishing an American Indian advisory council relating to chemical dependency policies; clarifying the evaluation functions of the commissioner of public welfare with respect to chemical dependency policies; amending statutes; proposing new law.

SF1454—Diesen (DFL)—Judiciary
Public welfare; authorizing the commissioner to enter into interstate adoption compacts; establishing procedures for interstate assistance payments; amending statutes; proposing new law.

SF1455—Jude (DFL)—Health/Welfare
Health; exempting schools from license fee requirements of the department of health; exempting certain places of lodging from licensing requirements of the department; amending statutes.

SF868—Laidig (IR)—Environment/Natural Resources
Natural resources; designating the morel as the official state mushroom; proposing new law.

SF1235—Ulland (IR)—Labor-Management Relations
Labor; providing for an exemption from wage requirements for certain domestic service employees; amending statutes.

SF1349—Spear (DFL)—Regulated Industries
Liquor; abolishing prohibition on furnishing liquor to certain persons and exclusion of certain persons from liquor establishments after notice; amending statutes; repealing statutes.

SF1396—Bertram (DFL)—Local/Urban Affairs
Local government; requiring the county board of adjustment to take the town board’s recommendation into consideration when making certain decisions; amending statutes.

SF1453—Diesen (DFL)—Health/Welfare
Public welfare; making county of residence financially responsible for detoxification services provided to chemical dependency facility clients; amending statutes.

SF1475—Reichgott (DFL)—Regulated Industries
Communications; permitting a municipality to be represented by its designee on a joint cable communication commission; amending statutes.

SF1476—Reichgott (DFL)—Referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison
Elections; making the requirements for school election absentee ballots the same as those for the general election; amending statutes.

SF1563—Chmielewski (DFL)—Labor/Management Relations
Labor; extending the statutes of limitation on certain actions to recover wages or overtime; clarifying child labor penalties; amending statutes.
Where to get information

Chief Clerk’s Office
Rm 211, State Capitol
(612) 296-2314

House Index Department
Rm 211, State Capitol
(612) 296-6646

House Information Office
Rm 9, State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155
(612) 296-2146

Legislators
Who represents you at the State Capitol?
The House Information Office can tell you what legislative district you live in, and who represents that district.

Legislators’ districts, addresses, phone numbers, biographical information, and photos
The House and Senate publish the Members Directory. You can get copies of these in the House Information Office. Information Office publications are also available in the Chief Clerk’s Office.

What legislation did your representative introduce?
The House Index* lists all the bills each member sponsored in the current session.

*The computerized House Index tracks all bills through the legislative process. You can get the information you want about bills on the CRT’s (Cathode Ray Tube) television-like screen in the Index Department. Staff there will help you use the CRT (easy to use) which calls up the information from the computerized index files.

To contact your legislator, address him/her as follows:
The Honorable (name)
Minnesota
House of Representatives
(or Minnesota Senate)
State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155
Dear Representative
(or Senator) name

Bills
Need a copy of a bill?
The Chief Clerk’s Office can give you copies of bills and resolutions.

Need to know the status, authors, or committee assignments of bills?
Call the House Index Department.* The index includes page numbers in the Journal of the House, the official daily record of legislative action where you can read about action the House takes. (see General Information on this page)

Bills on a specific topic, or in a specific committee
The House Index Department has lists of bills in each committee and on specific topics, e.g. environment, taxes, education, (175 topics) on the CRT.

Would you like a tour of the Capitol?
The Office of Educational Services, Rm 25, State Capitol, (612) 296-8081, will arrange visits which highlight the work of the Legislature and its members, for school groups, citizens’ groups, and out-of-state visitors.

The Minnesota Historical Society provides tours. Groups of 10 or more should schedule tours (612) 296-2881.

In the Senate
The Secretary of the Senate’s Office (612) 296-2343 and Senate Index (612) 296-2887, Rm 231, State Capitol, provide services similar to the Chief Clerk’s Office and House Index.

The Senate Information Office, Rm B-29, State Capitol, (612) 296-0504, provides services similar to those House Information offers.

Which bills became law?
Bills that became law are on the CRT in House Index,* and the House Information Office publishes brief summaries of new laws each session. Contact the Information office to get on the mailing list for the summaries.

Committees
For committee meeting schedules
Call (612) 296-9283, a 24-hour hot line recording of daily House meeting schedules (time, place, and agendas). Senate hot line: (612) 296-8088. The Information Office and the Chief Clerk’s Office have copies of daily schedules.

Committee action during interim
The House Information Office summarizes what happened in committees during the interim in the Interim magazine. (Same mailing list as for new law summaries.)

Standing committees and committee assignments
The Members Directory and the Official Directory list committees and committee assignments. Available in Information Office and Chief Clerk’s Office.

General Information
Proceedings in the House
The Chief Clerk’s Office can answer your questions. The office publishes the Journal of the House, the official daily record of legislative action.

The Legislature — how it works
The House Information Office and the Chief Clerk’s Offices can give you general information. The Information Office has brochures on Minnesota and its government, including: How a Bill Becomes a Law; Citizen’s Participation Course, test yourself quiz on the Legislature; and the Government is for Everyone information packet, with single sheets on how to contact your legislator, where to get information, Minnesota facts, and how legislators make voting decisions.

Especially for younger people, the Information Office provides The Road to Minnesota Law, a cartoon version of how a bill becomes a law; and Joey’s Visit, a coloring book for the very young.

Agendas of House action
The Chief Clerk’s Office has copies of the Calendar, General Orders, etc., schedules of House floor action.

Where members sit in the House Chamber
The Information Office publishes a Seating Arrangement of the Minnesota Legislature.

Other areas of state government
The Information Office publishes the Three Branches of Government, a wall chart showing the structure of state government. Information Office staff can help you find various state departments and agencies and furnish phone numbers.
Of the $17 million, $6 million would go to Winona State University for renovation of Somson Hall, an administration and classroom building. At $6 million, the Winona grant was the largest allocation for a single project. The division, however, specified that the state university system must seek private funds for landscaping and site work before beginning construction at Winona.

Winona had requested, with the governor’s approval, $6,750,000 for the project.

Other funding the division approved was $4.5 million for classrooms at the Mankato campus; $1.2 million to upgrade the electrical system and to air-condition the computer center, and $1.4 million to renovate Stewart Hall, both at St. Cloud; $225,000 to enclose an area in the Center for the Arts at Moorhead, an amount that requires matching private funds; and $1.9 million for roof repair and planning money systemwide.

The division moved a request to build a center at Rochester to the Community Colleges’ budget requests and approved more than $2.8 of the $3 million the state university system had asked for to build the center. Winona State University and Rochester Community College would share the structure. Excluding items that transferred to other budgets, the governor recommended more than $35.8 million out of nearly $38 million the system requested.

- The governor’s supplemental budget requests were on the Thursday morning, March 22 agenda for the Health, Welfare and Corrections Division of Appropriations.

The governor is recommending $137,700 for the Department of Corrections to continue providing probation services to Le Sueur, McLeod, and Sibley counties for which the state would bill the counties. To continue the service, the counties are asking the Department to employ five agents the Legislative Advisory Commission authorized in January.

For a Department of Health study, the governor recommends $93,000. The study would determine the feasibility of a long-term epidemiologic study evaluating the health problems of contaminated drinking water in St. Louis Park and New Brighton. From the pilot study, the Department would determine whether the state could, or should, undertake the more expensive, lengthy, and complicated major study.

A recommendation of $128,600 for the Department of Economic Security (DES) would cover cost of additional staff to handle injured workers’ liability disputes the Department of Labor and Industry refers to DES under provisions in the new 1983 federal Workers’ Compensation Law (176.252, Section 85, Subdivision 1 and 2), and a transfer of staff from the Basic Rehabilitation Services to take care of cases under the old federal law. DES also requested an amendment to Chapter 312 of Minnesota Laws, 1983. Chapter 312 provides funding for the Displaced Homemaker Program for employment, training, and support services to displaced homemakers. The amendment would allow DES to combine old and new program funds for the rest of the biennium.

- A bill that would abolish the Buy Minnesota portion of the state’s domestic preference law got the approval of Commerce and Economic Development Committee March 22 with a recommendation to pass, as amended.

The proposal, HF1939 (Beard, DFL-Cottage Grove), would remove the preference for Minnesota products and the 10 percent advantage that some public contracts get from state law.

The bill would also more clearly define public agencies and more clearly state when those public agencies should, according to the domestic preference law, give preference to Minnesota residents bidding on purchasing or construction contracts.

The law in its original form requires state agencies to favor homestate products, businesses, and workers when awarding construction and public works contracts.

INFO

How a bill becomes a law

- A bill is an idea for a new law, or an idea to abolish or change an existing law. Several thousand bills enter the legislative process in Minnesota each time the Legislature meets.

- Minnesota has a bicameral Legislature, or two groups of elected citizens—senators in the Senate—representatives in the House of Representatives—who study, discuss, and vote on bills, acting for the people of Minnesota. Bills begin their legislative journey in either the House or Senate, or both. To become a law, all bills must pass both the House and Senate and go to the governor for his approval and signature.

- The Idea

Anyone can propose an idea for a bill—an individual, a consumer group, corporation, professional association, a governmental unit, the governor. Most ideas come from members of the Legislature. The revisor of statutes puts the ideas into proper legal form as a bill for introduction. Only legislators can introduce bills into the process.

- Chief Author

The legislator who sponsors and introduces the bill in the Legislature is the chief author. The chief author’s name appears on the bill with the bill’s file number to identify it as it moves through the legislative process. The chief author may select other authors, whose names also appear on the bill—no more than five authors on a bill.
Introduction in the legislature
When the author introduces a bill in the House, it gets a House File (HF) number (HF264, for example), indicating the chronological order of the bill’s introduction. In the Senate the bill gets a Senate File (SF) (SF224, for example). Each HF usually has a companion SF in the Senate. All revenue-raising bills must begin in the House.

Committee consideration
At introduction, the bill has its first reading (the Minnesota Constitution requires three readings for all bills—on three separate days). The presiding officer of the House or Senate refers it to an appropriate standing committee for committee action. All committee meetings are open to the public.

A committee may: recommend passage of a bill in its original form; recommend passage after amendment by the committee; or make no recommendation, in which case a bill may die when the session ends. After acting on a bill, the committee sends a report to the House or Senate, stating its actions and recommendations.

General orders
After adoption of the committee report in the House and Senate, the bill has its second reading and goes onto General Orders of the Day. In the Committee of the Whole, legislators discuss bills on General Orders. They may debate the issues, adopt amendments, and present arguments. They may vote to recommend that a bill “do pass,” recommend postponement, or recommend further committee action.

Calendar
The calendar is a list of bills the Committee of the Whole recommends to pass. At this point a bill has its third reading. Amendments to the bill must have the unanimous consent of the entire body. Legislators vote on it for the final time.

By committee recommendation, non-controversial bills can by-pass General Orders and go directly onto a Consent Calendar, usually passing without debate. Every bill requires a majority vote of the full membership of the House and Senate to pass.

Conference committee
If the House and Senate do not agree on a bill, a conference committee of three to five senators, and an equal number of representatives, meets to reach an agreement. If both bodies then pass the bill in compromise form, it goes to the governor.

Governor
When a bill arrives at the governor’s office, he may: sign it, and the bill becomes law; veto it (return it, with a “veto message,” stating his objections); pocket veto the bill (after final adjournment of the Legislature); exercise his right to line veto portions of appropriations bills.

If he does not sign or veto a bill within three days after receiving it, while the Legislature is in session, the bill becomes law.

Common terms
- bicameral: legislature consisting of two groups of elected legislators
- House of Representatives — 134 members, two year-terms
- Senate — 67 senators, four-year terms.
- bill: proposal to change/abolish existing law or create a new law
- Calendar: list of bills awaiting final legislative action
- chief author: legislator who introduces and sponsors a bill
- Committee of the Whole: entire membership of House/Senate acting as one committee; presiding officer (Speaker of the House or President of the Senate) as chair.
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Government Is For Everyone... Be a part of it

For information on:
- who your representative is
- legislators' districts, addresses, phone numbers
- bills
- committee meeting schedules
- committee action
- and other questions about state government

Contact the
HOUSE INFORMATION OFFICE
(612) 296-2146
Committee Hotline: 296-9283
24 hour Bill Status Information: 297-1264

Minnesota House of Representatives Information Office
Room 9 • State Capitol • St. Paul, MN 55155
(612) 296-2146

Speaker of the House: Harry Sieben, Jr.
Majority Leader: Willis Eken
Minority Leader: David Jennings

Advance committee schedule & bill introductions
plus THE SESSION WEEKLY