Seniors Are Not Just Numbers!
Week at a glance

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On the cover: Members of Group Health Seniors Plus protested a possible merger between Ramsey Health Care Inc. and HealthPartners Inc. (HF2296) March 10 before the Health and Human Services Committee.

—photo by Laura Phillips
Juvenile justice . . .

Crime bill employs both carrots and sticks

The ultimate solution to Minnesota's juvenile crime problem may lie in strong families and unified communities, but the Legislature knows it can't wait for that.

That's why, this year, lawmakers are pushing a tough new comprehensive juvenile crime bill that treats more teens as adults, creates more juvenile prison space, funds more judges to handle the increasing caseload, and creates mandatory minimum sentences for some crimes such as drive-by shootings.

After 25 hours of discussion over several days, the House Judiciary Committee approved the bill (HF2074) March 10. The omnibus juvenile crime bill now moves to the Ways and Means Committee for debate.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), carries an $18.5 million price tag. In addition, Minnesota counties would have to come up with several million dollars to pay for everything from more public defenders to new detention programs for juveniles.

Skoglund said his bill, which includes many of the recommendations of the Minnesota Supreme Court Advisory Task Force on the Juvenile Justice System, is "not really a very punitive bill . . . . More money is going for prevention than is going for law enforcement."

He pointed to $3.5 million for pre-school education programs and violence prevention grants and $2 million for after-school and summer work programs for at-risk youth. A $3 million appropriation for more probation officers also can be viewed as an element of crime prevention, Skoglund said.

HF2074 also creates new penalties for some juvenile offenses. A minor carrying an assault weapon in public would face a felony charge rather than a misdemeanor. Drive-by shootings would be added to the list of crimes that warrant a mandatory minimum sentence. The bill does not specify the sentence.

Not all attempts to toughen juvenile crime laws succeeded, however.

Skoglund's attempt to raise the legal age from 18 to 21 for possessing a pistol or semi-automatic assault rifle was defeated during a marathon nine-hour committee meeting March 4. Rep. Warren Limmer (IR-Maple Grove) succeeded with his amendment to maintain the current age.

In the same vein, the committee rejected an amendment which would have allowed counties and cities to prohibit people younger than 25 from possessing pistols or assault weapons. Sevem provisions of the bill would change juvenile court procedures:

- Juveniles over the age of 16 charged with first-degree murder or first-degree criminal sexual conduct would be automatically prosecuted as an adult.
- Most juvenile conviction records would be kept on file for three more years than current law mandates — only if the offender reaches the age of 26, or until 28 for sex offenders.
- A new category of "serious youthful offender" would be established and defined as a 14-to-17-year-old charged with a felony. Juvenile court judges could use their discretion to decide who is a "serious youthful offender." A 14-to-17-year-old who is considered such would be entitled to legal representation and a jury trial. If found guilty, the juvenile would receive both an adult criminal sentence and a juvenile sentence. The adult penalty would not be imposed if the minor successfully completes the juvenile penalty. However, should a serious youthful offender commit another crime — or violate the terms of the juvenile penalty — the adult criminal penalty would then be imposed. Court records for "serious youthful offenders" would be forwarded to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) and kept on file for 15 years after the disposition of a case.
- Juveniles, 14 and older, would be tried as adults only for felony offenses. Current law allows them to be tried as adults for any offense. There would be a presumption to try a 16- or 17-year-old as an adult if the juvenile court decides a prison sentence is likely. In other words, they would face an adult trial unless they prove they warrant a juvenile hearing.
- A juvenile court could subpoena a minor's parent or guardian at any hearing held during a delinquency proceeding. A parent or guardian not complying could be held in contempt of court.
- The juvenile justice bill also would provide the Department of Corrections with $1.5 million to create several small, secure regional prisons to house serious youthful offenders. The money should pay for up to 50 new beds throughout the state. Corrections officials would have an additional $1 million for adult and juvenile supervised community service programs.

Since HF2074 calls for more juveniles to be tried as adults, the district courts would have more cases. To help, the bill allocates $372,000 to create four new judgeships.

— Mordecai Specktor

AGRICULTURE

Flood relief

The House Agriculture Committee March 8 approved a $54 million relief package for the hardest hit victims of last spring's floods. Sponsoed by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), the bulk of HF2249 lies in two major state-funded relief programs.

The first would set aside $15 million to help eligible farmers pay this year's property taxes.

The second would spend $30 million to subsidize an interest buy-down program to make credit available for farmers and small businesses, groups that likely will need loans to help them rebuild and plant crops this spring.

Under the buy-down program, the state would pay up to $3,750 of interest on the first $100,000 of a loan to an eligible farmer or small business. The state's contribution is expected to leverage nearly $1 billion in loans.

The bill would spend additional $9.4 million from the state's general fund for various other assistance programs, including:

- $5 million to the Department of Jobs and Training for emergency job training and creation programs;
need for the state to pass disaster relief bills in
insurance company would sell crop insur-
Minnesota has received about $800 million in
federal crop insurance. The bill allocates
ance to farmers that would supplement fed-
according to Wenzel, would eliminate the
establish a permanent farm disaster insur-
the future. The bill calls on the state to
money for all is said and done.
wood River near Marshall in southwestern
Marshall. Minnesota is needed to hold back heavy rains
significant flooding on a regular basis.
Although Marshall has experienced severe
flooding during the past few years, a proposal
to spend $1.6 million for a flood-control
reservoir project wasn’t all that popular at a
meeting of the House Environment and Natu-
Ron Harnack, executive director of the
Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR),
told the committee March 7 that the “area has
significant flooding on a regular basis.”
He said the “RW-22” project on the Red-
wood River near Marshall in southwestern
Minnesota is needed to hold back heavy rains
and spring runoffs that wash out roads and
bridges, flood farms, and damage property in
The Redwood Reservoir project would
consist of a 30-foot high earthen dam extend-
ing for 1,000 feet between two hills. The dam
would create a reservoir of more than 1,000
acres at the height of a severe flood.
While the project received the endorsement
of Sen. Arlene Lesewski (IR-Marshall) and
John Feda, a former mayor of Marshall, some
area residents are not enthusiastic about it.
Kenneth Erickson, who owns land in
Murray County, said that the U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers dropped the reservoir
project in 1980 because it was “not environ-
mentally nor economically feasible.”
The corps determined the project would
cost $6.6 million, not $1.6 million, he said.
Erickson said he would lose 90 acres of his
farm land to the reservoir. He also said he
would lose access to his barns.
He said 23 land owners would be affected
and has presented lawmakers with a petition
signed by 100 people who oppose the reser-
voir.
The state says it will reimburse landowners
whose property is flooded. But some prop-
erty owners say money is not enough.
“My farm is not for sale,” said Erickson.
“My entire farm is going to be ruined by this
project.”
Committee members will consider the
BWSR’s request as they develop a bonding
proposal March 8. It will consider the request for
inclusion in its bonding bill recommenda-
tions which it expects to soon forward to the
Capital Investment Committee.
As part of a $25 million expansion, the
Blandin Foundation of Grand Rapids, which
specializes in rural Minnesota causes, has
agreed to donate $7.5 million to expand the
nature learning centers if the state matches
the money. The endeavor is called Project
EarthSense.
The balance of the money would come
from businesses, individuals, and other foun-
dations.
Gov. Arne Carlson has included $7.5 mil-
lion in his bonding proposal for the nature
learning centers. The sale of state bonds
would pay for the projects.
Minnesota’s five environmental learning
centers are: Wolf Ridge Environmental Learn-
ing Center, Finland; Deep Portage Conserva-
tion Reserve, Hackensack; Long Lake Con-
servation Center, Faisrade; Audubon Center
of the North Woods, Sandstone; and Forest
Resource Center, Lanesboro.
Last year the Wolf Ridge center served 15,000
students from 165 schools. Its director, Jack

Green education

Five Minnesota environmental learning
centers that teach students about natural
resources and house overnight guests have
asked the Legislature for $7.5 million to
expand their centers.
The House Environment and Natural Re-
sources Finance Committee heard the pro-
posal March 8. It will consider the request for
inclusion in its bonding bill recommenda-
tions which it expects to soon forward to the
Capital Investment Committee.

The Redwood Reservoir project would
Pichotta, said there is a waiting list of 140 schools that want to come to the center.

The Wolf Ridge center, like the four others, offers three- and five-day programs for school children. The centers offer some 30 different classes on topics ranging from beaver ecology to rock climbing.

**K-12 education bonding**

If a House education subcommittee has its way, $51 million dollars in state bonding proceeds would be granted to help Minnesota school districts pay for equipment and new construction projects in 1994.

The bonding request, approved March 9, is more than double the governor’s request of $17 million for K-12 education projects.

The following list includes some of the requests the K-12 Education Finance Division’s Facilities Subcommittee approved, which are also included in the governor’s bonding plan:
- $2.7 million for the state’s schools for deaf and blind students at Faribault. The money would be used to demolish one building and equip another with more classrooms, a library media center, and offices;
- $1.5 million for the Minnesota Center for Arts Education, a magnet high school in Golden Valley, to renovate one dormitory and create a physical education/recreation center in another;
- $9.8 million for the Big Lake School District to construct a new high school, remodel an elementary school, and convert the existing high school into a middle school; and
- $3 million for the Nett Lake School District to complete construction of an elementary school that began with a $5 million grant from the Legislature in 1993.

Both the Nett Lake and Big Lake amounts would be in the form of Maximum Effort Loans, which are available to some “property poor” school districts. The state forwards the money from the sale of bonds and the districts are required to pay them back. If the districts are unable to repay the state within 50 years, the loan would be forgiven.

Also included in the House K-12 bonding bill, but not in the governor’s proposal, are requests for:
- $20 million (two $10 million grants) for two or more metropolitan school districts to create a specialized magnet school to achieve racial desegregation;
- $6 million for the school districts of Atwater, Cosmos, and Grove City to build a combined high school;
- $3 million in grants to help schools make their buildings handicapped accessible, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- $5 million in grants to make public libraries handicapped accessible; and
- an additional $35,000 for the state schools for deaf and blind students at Faribault, to renovate and equip a science classroom.

The K-12 education bonding bill now goes to the full Education Committee.

**Higher education bonding**

The Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee March 4 approved a $233.8 million bonding bill that would fund construction and equipment projects at Minnesota’s public colleges and universities in fiscal year 1994.

Division members want to grant $53.4 million to the Minnesota State University System, $32 million to the Community College System, $114.1 to the University of Minnesota and $34 million to the Technical College System. (See March 4, 1994, Session Weekly, page 4)

The sale of state bonds would pay for the approved projects.

The bill, not yet formally introduced, now moves to the full committee.

Below is a list of some of the bonding requests:

**Technical College System**
- $22.5 million to construct and equip a new technical college campus on the Brainerd Community College Campus;
- $600,000 to complete construction of a driving course at the Dakota County Technical College;
- $600,000 for Bemidji Technical College to draw designs for remodeling and expanding the campus media center, child care center, a children’s playground, a new school entrance, additional classrooms, laboratories, and offices.

**Community College System**
- $11.2 million to improve Normandale Community College classrooms, the learning resource center, campus center, teaching labs, offices, and institutional services;
- $8 million for Cambridge Community College Center to build classrooms, a learning resource center, campus interactive television facilities, teaching labs, offices, and institutional services;
- $960,000 for Inver Hills Community College to relocate an entrance road, remodel part of the learning resource center and to draw designs for expanded classrooms, the learning resource center, teaching labs, offices, and a fitness center.

**State University System:**
- $20.9 million to construct a new Winona State University library and to install an air cooling system;
- $4 million to build a new air cooling system at St. Cloud State University and to draw construction plans for a new library;
- $300,000 for Bemidji State University to draw plans to remodel and expand its library.

**University of Minnesota**
- $25 million to construct a new Carlson School of Management building;
- $12.5 million to construct the first phase of a new archival research library to house university collections as well as overflow collections for the state university system, private colleges, city, county, and regional libraries;
- $13.7 million to renovate and reconstruct labs and classrooms in the electrical engineering building for the mechanical engineering program;
- $22.4 million to renovate and construct an addition to the architecture building;
- $4.1 million for the University of Minnesota-Duluth campus to construct an addition to its medical school.

Convention center expansion

The Minneapolis Convention Center is running out of room to accommodate all the trade shows and other groups that want to use its facilities, according to testimony at a March 10 finance committee meeting.

The committee approved a bill (HF2301) that would grant Minneapolis $14.8 million to nearly double the exhibition space in its convention center. The state would sell bonds to pay for the project.

"A major convention center is not only good for Minneapolis, but outstanding for the entire state of Minnesota," said Minneapolis City Council Member Alice Rainville (4th Ward).

The total cost of the expansion would be $115 million, according to Rainville, and more state money in later years likely would be needed to complete the project.

The expansion is absolutely necessary to keep the convention center competitive on a national and international level, Rainville told members of the House Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee.

The expansion would create about 4,800 new full-time jobs and bring in $299 million to the state each year, said Craig Skiem of Coopers and Lybrand, the accounting firm that studied the proposed expansion for the city of Minneapolis.

Rep. Don Frerichs (IR-Rochester) questioned whether it was appropriate to use state money to fund a project that would mostly benefit the Twin Cities area.

Rainville replied that the entire state would get a return on this investment because the newly created jobs would generate more income tax revenue. She added that many out-of-state convention goers also combine a Minnesota vacation with their trips to the Minneapolis Convention Center.

HF2301, sponsored by Rep. Richard Jef­ferson (DFL-Brooklyn Park), now goes to the House Capital Investment Committee. That committee considers all bonding bills and will decide which proposals will be incorporated into this session's omnibus bonding bill.

Drawing a bead on BB guns

Brandishing a BB gun in a threatening manner would become a felony offense if a bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee March 7 becomes law.

HF2351 would "close a loophole in the law," explained bill sponsor Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls). It would add BB guns to a current state law that outlaws the threatening use of replica firearms.

Skoglund, displaying a BB gun that looked like an actual 9mm pistol, explained that such a weapon "can take an eye out" or even kill a person.

"In low light conditions, in a dark alley, [the BB pistol] would appear, to a police officer on the street, to be a real weapon," said Don Peterson, a special agent with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, as he held up both the BB gun and his smaller 9mm pistol for comparison.

Peterson also displayed a BB gun resembling an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, the civilian version of the military M-16.

The bill defines a BB gun as a device firing a shot measuring .18 of an inch or less in diam­eter. Threatening someone with a BB gun would be punishable by "not more than one year and one day" in jail and/or a $3,000 fine.

Also, the bill expands the law against carrying a rifle or shotgun in a public place to include BB guns. Such action would be a gross misdemeanor offense.

The committee is expected to include HF2351 in this year's omnibus crime bill.

CRIME

More judges needed

Because legislators have created new categories of crimes and stiffened penalties for existing crimes, Minnesota judges say they need more staff to handle the courtroom overload, according to testimony before a House judiciary panel.

"We're trying to rearrange the deck chairs on the Titanic," said Kevin Burke, chief judge of Hennepin County District Court.

Burke was one of four district judges who testified March 8 before the Judiciary Finance Division of the Judiciary Committee, which is considering supplemental budget requests for courts and law enforcement agencies.

The workload of judges is so heavy, Burke said, that judges across the state decide a DWI case in an average of only 11 minutes. In Hennepin County, Burke said, judges average less than two minutes on a misdemeanor case.
The judges asked the division to create positions for 16 more judges, half of whom could be retired judges who could travel around the state and hear cases when a sitting judge is ill or on vacation.

The need for more judiciary funding is not limited to the metropolitan area, said Judge Gerald Seibel of Morris in the Eighth Judicial District in western Minnesota.

Seibel said he and other judges in rural districts often must travel to perform their duties; therefore, they need more court reporters and law clerks to help them handle their cases more efficiently.

Seibel said he shares a court reporter with a judge in another county and is often more than 100 miles away from the reporter when he needs a transcript of a court proceeding or deposition.

Because of the shortage of court reporters, Seibel said he sometimes must transcribe courtroom proceedings directly from tape recordings.

That’s not a very cost-effective way for an $83,000-a-year judge to spend his time, he told division members.

**Tattoo library**

Law enforcement and correctional agencies soon may be required to photograph the tattoos of convicts and people who are arrested, under a proposed Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) program.

A bill (HF2344) approved by the House Judiciary Committee March 10 would establish a computer database of tattoo identification information. Currently, information about tattoos and other identifying marks can only be found on fingerprint cards.

The bill’s author, Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), explained that a crime victim might not remember an assailant’s face, but can recall a distinctive tattoo. A police officer could then go to the BCA database for a list of possible suspects who have such tattoos.

Law enforcement and correctional agencies also would be required to describe where the tattoos appear on a convict’s, or arrested person’s, body.

The proposal also includes a $100,000 appropriation to institute the program.

The bill now moves to the committee’s Judiciary Finance Division.

**Graded school later**

Recognizing an important Jewish holiday, the House Education Committee unanimously approved a bill March 8 that could have some students in school a few days early this fall.

Sponsored by Rep. Jim Rhodes (IR-St. Louis Park), the measure would allow districts the option of starting the 1994-95 school year on the Thursday or Friday before Labor Day.

Minnesota law currently prohibits school districts from starting classes before Labor Day. This year, however, Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, begins the day after Labor Day, which is usually the first day of school.

Jewish children do not go to school on Rosh Hashanah, known as two of the most holy days in the Jewish religion. The days are traditionally set aside for confession and introspection.

The bill (HF1845) would enable Jewish students to attend the first day of classes, which is recognized as uniquely important to both teachers and students for setting the tone of the school year.

Educational rules are to start school early. Since the holiday comes early just once every 30 years, the bill is intended for 1994 only.

According to Rabbi Howard Siegel of the B’nai Emet Synagogue in St. Louis Park, Rosh Hashanah is “the most participated in religious activity of the year.”

Brian Rusche, director of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, said both Catholic and Protestant communities strongly support the bill.

A representative from Minnesota’s hotel and campground industries — the primary force behind the law prohibiting the first day of school before Labor Day — told the committee her group supports the bill because it would affect only 1994.

HF1845 now goes to the House floor. A similar bill has been approved by the Senate Education Committee.

**Learning disabilities**

A typical classroom is equipped to educate most students. A special education classroom helps many physically and emotionally disabled students, and others with special needs. There is one group, however, some say is forgotten — students with learning disabilities.

Under a bill discussed by the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee March 7, districts could train all their full-time teachers to work with students with learning disabilities in a mainstream classroom.

The bill (HF1902), proposed by Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), is meant to give students with learning disabilities a full — and adequate — education in a mainstream classroom. It would establish a three-year pilot program for districts to train their regular teachers. Also, the bill would help free up specialists to work with teachers on programs for students with learning disabilities.

According to Sonja Kerr, a lobbyist with Learning Disabilities of Minnesota, this program is crucial because many children who are not labeled “special ed” don’t fit the “regular ed” profile, either.

Currently, the only option for many students with learning disabilities is to go into special education, Kerr said. Special education classes, traditionally meant for students with physical or emotional barriers to learning, do not always cater to students with specific learning disabilities.

Kerr said there are 85,000 Minnesota students in special education programs; 35,000 of those have learning disabilities.

She added that some students with learn-
ing disabilities do not qualify for special education, and are stuck in a regular classroom where the teacher may or may not have the training to work with them.

"All of the children in my room have a right to their education," Cheryl Schneider, a second grade teacher in the Mounds View School District, told the division. "I need someone to help them, or [for myself] to get training so that I know what to do with them."

The bill would appropriate $800,000 in fiscal year 1995 from the state's general fund to establish the program. The Department of Education would grant the money to districts that set up pilot programs, which would be entitled "Options Plus."

Under HF1902, any disabled child who qualifies for services under the state's special education laws and any disabled child under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, or Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, would be eligible for assistance from these programs.

The committee did not vote on the bill.

FATHERHOOD RESPONSIBILITY

The Harlem Globetrotters dribbled into a House education division hearing March 7 to urge lawmakers to support a $1 million bill to help educate young fathers.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. David Tomas-soni (DFL-Chisholm), would provide money for programs that teach junior and senior high school males about the responsibilities of parenthood.

Supporters of the measure (HF2232) say it will have a long-term effect on social problems such as crime and poverty because it addresses the real root of those issues: the absence of fathers in children's lives.

"A black child has only one chance in five of growing up with two parents," said Marvin Walters, speaking for the Globetrotters.

He cited a recent study which found that 70 percent of kids in juvenile justice institutions have grown up without a father, and that Minnesota children are owed more than $430 million in back child support payments.

"We must teach males about what it means to raise a child," he said. "We have got to teach our young people—at an early age—parenting is no joke."

Walters finished by saying there is currently a lack of support available to young men. "There are always programs for teenage mothers, but what about the fathers?"

Neil Tift, a family mediator and the director of the Father's Resource Center, agreed that young men need support.

"Girl Scouts get a service bar for child care, Boy Scouts do not," he said.

Tift also said he hopes the programs will help prevent teen pregnancies by teaching young men how to act responsibly "before they become teen fathers."

The Globetrotters have teamed up with the United Way to promote childhood development programs in Minnesota and across the country. HF2232 calls on the state to spend $1 million from its 1995 fiscal year general fund for a minimum of 10 grants. The commissioner of the Department of Education would distribute the money to programs that qualify.

To be eligible, a youth or parenting program must work with school districts to provide education in such areas as parenting, child development, decision-making in relationships, and the legal implications of parenthood.

The K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee hosted the March 7 hearing.

AID FOR RURAL SCHOOLS

The state would double a portion of its current aid to the most "far out" school districts under a bill that went before the K-12 Education Finance Division March 8. HF2075, proposed by House Speaker Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), calls on the state to spend an additional $2.4 million each year in "sparsity revenue" to be divided among the 14 most geographically isolated school districts in Minnesota.

Among the districts to benefit from the bill are Cook County schools, which span more than 1,600 square miles, and Lake Superior schools, which encompass more than 2,600 square miles.

According to officials from those districts, their distance from other districts creates a unique need for state help.

"We must rely on our own internal resources to provide everything for these students," said Donald Langan, superintendent of Cook County schools.

Before he came to Cook County, Langan said, he taught in another rural area of the state, but was closer to other districts and could share some resources, such as specialized teachers and facilities.

"We were able to put together, through cooperation, a very rich curriculum for those youngsters," he said. "It's a reduction of alternatives when you're this far away."

Langan said Cook County High School is more than 50 miles from the next closest high school.

The bill would increase the "isolation index number" that helps determine how much sparsity aid the schools receive. That formula has not been changed since 1987, when the Legislature modified rules concerning which districts qualify for the aid, but did not increase the funding.

More than 60 districts currently receive a total of $5.8 million in sparsity aid each year; the bill would affect just the 14 most isolated school districts.

HF2075 will stay in the K-12 Education Finance Division for further consideration. Although most committee members expressed support for the measure, its passage depends largely on the amount of money the

Harlem Globetrotter Billy Ray Hobley tried to place a spinning basketball on Rep. Kathleen Vellenga's finger during a March 7 K-12 Education Finance Division hearing. The Globetrotters spoke in favor of a bill calling for educating males on the responsibilities of fatherhood.
division sees fit to propose spending this year.

**School bus drivers**

The second Monday in January would be designated to honor school bus drivers, under a bill given preliminary approval by the House March 10.

"School bus driving is one of the most difficult, thankless jobs there is," said Rep. Bob Anderson (DFL-Ottertail), the bill’s sponsor.

The bill (HF1811) calls on schools to use the day for special programs honoring and fostering appreciation for Minnesota school bus and Head Start drivers.

Anderson said a retired school bus driver in his district brought the proposal to him a few years ago.

Some members did express concern that declaring a special day for bus drivers would open up the flood gates for other groups to seek a designated day.

"We don't have a day for policemen or firemen or nurses [and others] who take care of our children on a daily basis," said Rep. Charlie Weaver (IR-Anoka). "Let's not get a little carried away here."

Weaver offered an amendment that would recognize the importance of bus drivers, but would not declare a specific day in their honor. The amendment failed 84 to 43.

**ENERGY**

**Nuclear waste storage OK’d**

A House energy committee approved a bill March 7 that would allow Northern States Power Company to store radioactive waste in above-ground casks beside its Prairie Island nuclear power plant.

The action took place after the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee heard more than six hours of public testimony from NSP and others who support the plan and from those who say the casks would pose unacceptable risks to humans and the environment.

The bill (HF2140) specifically authorizes NSP to transfer radioactive waste from its indoor, underwater temporary storage pool at the Prairie Island plant in Red Wing to 17 above-ground steel casks weighing 122 tons when filled with radioactive waste.

Without the Legislature's approval for the casks, the Prairie Island plant, running at full capacity, would run out of storage space for its spent fuel in May 1995, said Laura McCarten, NSP's manager of regulatory projects.

The waste storage issue is before the Legislature because last June the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled that NSP's request for above-ground storage needed legislative approval.

Although NSP received approval for its plan from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in August 1992, the issue landed in court three months later when the Prairie Island Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Council appealed the PUC decision.

Before approving the bill, the committee deleted a portion that would have given the Prairie Island Mdewakanton Dakota Tribe $2.2 million a year for eight years, the additional amount of time the plant would be able to operate with the 17 casks.

Tom Anzelc, a spokesperson for the tribe, had previously told the committee that the tribal council was insulted by that monetary provision.

The committee also amended the bill to ensure that after eight years, any decision to expand the storage site beyond 17 casks would need further legislative approval. The original version of the bill gave the PUC that authority.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), now goes to the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Many of the bill's opponents testified that approving the plan could mean that the Prairie Island site would become a de facto permanent waste storage site because the federal government would not be able to develop a permanent storage site.

"It is not at all unlikely that this approval is tantamount to making Minnesota a high-level waste storage site," said Todd Otis, a former state representative and now a DFL candidate for state auditor.

Highly radioactive waste from other nuclear power plants is a mounting problem, said Richard Duncan, a lawyer representing Minnesotans for Nuclear Responsibility. If Prairie Island constructs the above-ground storage casks, he said, the plant may be forced to accept waste from nuclear plants in other states.

"Once you let the genie out of the bottle and establish a waste site, the Legislature will probably lose control over that site," Duncan told the committee.

Duncan based his opinion on an interpretation of interstate commerce laws, which prohibit states from placing restrictions on trade that crosses state lines.

"This is not a referendum on nuclear power," said Don Storm, chair of the Public Utilities Commission, who spoke in favor of the bill. The dry-cask storage plan is economically sound and in the public’s best interest, he told the committee.

Storm also said that alternative forms of energy generation such as wind and solar power, which opponents say can replace much of Prairie Island's energy-generating capacity, are not developed enough to be a cost-effective replacement.

**Septic system standards**

By 1996, all Minnesota counties and cities would need to adopt strict anti-pollution rules for septic tanks, under a proposal approved March 10 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

More than 340,000 failed or malfunctioning septic tanks exist statewide, according to Patty Burke of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

"A failed system is going to threaten groundwater or surface water or both," she told committee members.

Septic tanks, which gather, decompose, and drain human wastes into the soil, are needed by households that are not connected to municipal sewer systems.

The MPCA has guidelines regulating septic tanks and some counties already have adopted them. They regulate such things as how deeply a septic tank should be buried, how and where it should drain, and how far away it should lie from surface water.

The bill (HF2158), sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester), also would require that an existing septic sewage system be inspected whenever someone wants to build an additional bedroom or bathroom onto a house.

Such home improvements, Bishop said, are a likely indication that septic tanks may soon be subject to greater use.

If the inspection shows that a septic system doesn't meet MPCA rules, a building permit would be denied until the tanks are improved or replaced.

Rep. Dave Bataglia (DFL-Two Harbors) was one of three committee members who said the bill should somehow provide financial help to property owners who may be forced to make expensive improvements to their septic tanks.

"There isn't anyone who doesn't want to clean up the problem," Bataglia said. "But there are many people who can't afford to do it."
**ETHICS**

**Lobbying disclosure**

The Minnesota House approved the most stringent lobbying disclosure bill ever March 3 on a 123-to-9 vote. But the bill could become even more stringent once the Senate gets through with it.

The House bill would place a $5 cap on what a lobbyist can spend on a legislator without reporting it. Current law allows lobbyists to spend up to $50 without filing a report.

Although the $5 limit was in the original draft of the bill, the House Ethics Committee had raised it to $20. (See Feb. 25, 1994, Session Weekly, page 10.) The $5 limit was reinstated on the House floor March 3 on a 129-to-2 vote.

The Senate, however, is considering an even tougher measure. The Senate Committee on Ethics and Campaign Reform approved an amendment to HF1863 March 8 that would prohibit lawmakers from accepting any gifts from lobbyists. A lobbyist could still pay for meals or entertainment, but would be required to report anything worth $5 or more.

If given final approval by the Senate, the House would then have to approve those changes or work out the differences in conference committee, where up to five members from both the House and Senate work to reach a compromise on the different versions of a bill.

In addition to lowering the lobbying reporting threshold, the House bill would require a business or special interest group to report the name, address, and employer of any lobbyist it hires to influence legislation. Under current law, the business or special interest group must report the total amount spent on lobbying activity, but need not identify individual lobbyists.

In addition, the House version would prohibit a legislator from becoming a lobbyist until one year after he or she leaves office.

**FAMILY**

**Postnuptial contract update**

A bill to allow spouses — who each hold more than $1.2 million in assets — to create a postnuptial contract defining property matters won preliminary approval from the House March 10.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (IR-Rochester), specifies that these agreements could not deal with child support, but would be specifically applicable to estate planning.

The postnuptial contract would be void if either spouse files for separation or divorce within two years of signing it. It can be used for changing or revoking a prenuptial contract.

The House approved an amendment, authored by Rep. Kathleen Vellenga (DFL-St. Paul), that would allow a couple to share legal counsel.

The impetus of the bill comes from a prospective University of Minnesota donor who wants to donate a large sum of money. He wants to make sure he and his wife’s assets are clearly defined so that in the case of a death, for example, his wife couldn’t contest his will. (See March 4, 1994, Session Weekly, page 8.)

HF1788 now awaits final passage in the House.

**GAMBLING**

**Video lottery, horse racing**

Minnesotans may soon get to decide for themselves whether they want off-track betting on horse races — provided live horse racing returns to the state.

But whether video gambling will be allowed in bars and certain restaurants remains an open question, following a failed attempt to exchange paper pulltabs for video lottery terminals.

An omnibus gambling bill approved by a House subcommittee March 4 asks that a proposed constitutional amendment to allow off-track betting be put to voters this fall.

But the bill, approved by the House Governmental Operations and Gambling Committee’s Gambling Subcommittee, made no mention of video gambling, one of the most heavily lobbied issues in the Legislature this year.

The measure (SF103) now moves to the full Governmental Operations and Gambling Committee, where several amendments are expected.

Although the 1991 Legislature approved up to four off-track teleracing sites around Minnesota, that law was later declared unconstitutional by the Minnesota Supreme Court. If a constitutional amendment were adopted, the Legislature could re-authorize off-track betting in 1995 or later.

“In order to keep horse racing as a live industry, we do need to have some form of off-track betting,” said Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), chair of the committee and chief architect of the gambling proposal. “If there’s no chance of live horse racing, there’s no point in putting the [constitutional amendment] question on the ballot.”

The question of video lottery was quashed after Kahn offered a proposal that would have eliminated paper pulltabs in bars and replaced them with up to four video lottery terminals per establishment.

Under her proposal, gamblers would have been allowed to play such games as blackjack, keno, video pulltabs, and others on the terminals. Video gambling profits would be divided between charitable gambling organi-
zations and the state. The terminals would be connected to, owned, and regulated by, the Minnesota State Lottery computer.

Kahn said her proposal is not an expansion of Minnesota gambling, but rather a replacement — paper pulltabs for video gambling terminals.

"I have agreed with the statement we shouldn't have an expansion of gambling. I don't think that means we shouldn't substitute a technologically superior form of gambling for an obsolete form," Kahn said.

But she voted against her own amendment after a successful vote led by Rep. Bob Haukoos (IR-Albert Lea) did away with the section eliminating paper pulltabs.

"Now the amendment only has a video lottery, which is not acceptable to me," Kahn said. She plans to offer her amendment, in its original form, when the bill reaches the full committee.

Haukoos said he has a company in his district which makes paper pulltabs. It employs 70 people and he says he's worried about lost jobs should Minnesota no longer allow the pulltabs.

Also during the March 4 subcommittee meeting, Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) proposed an amendment that would have asked voters if they wanted to do away with all forms of lawful gambling in Minnesota except for social bets. Her amendment was not adopted.

Correction


GOVERNMENT

Open meeting law

The winner in a lawsuit over an open meeting law violation could stand a better chance of having their attorney's fees paid by the loser if a bill approved March 8 by the House Governmental Operations and Gambling Committee becomes law.

Current law doesn't explicitly state whether the winner of such a suit can be awarded attorney's fees. Sometimes those awards are made, but more often they are not, said bill sponsor Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center).

"Under current law, an average citizen may say, 'It's really hard to get back attorney's fees, so I'm going to turn my back on this violation,' " Carruthers said.

Carruthers' bill (HF613) would explicitly state that attorney's fees up to $7,500 could be imposed on the loser of an open meeting law dispute in certain cases.

But the measure states that attorney's fees and fines could only be imposed if the court determined that a public body willfully violated the law.

Another provision in the bill calls for raising the fine to $300 from $100 for violating the open meeting law. It also specifies that the fine can't be paid with taxpayer money; individual board members would be held liable.

Minnesota's open meeting law ensures that local public entities inform the public of their intent to meet and post their agendas far enough in advance so that interested people can attend. Most meetings involving elected officials are open to the public.

Committee members, in a vote led by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), added a provision that Carruthers had earlier deleted from HF613. It says that a public body may close a meeting to review employment applications before the body has chosen finalists.

Quality candidates may not apply for a job if their application is public because their present employer may hear of it, Opatz said.

But Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), disagreed, saying, "I don't know, if people apply, why should there be something secret about it?"

The committee also added a provision that says an individual who is the subject of a closed meeting may request the meeting be opened to the public.

HF613 now moves to the House floor.

Audit exemptions

Townships and cities with annual budgets of less than $100,000, and those with combined town clerk and town treasurer offices, would not have to undergo annual financial audits, under a bill approved by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 8.

Currently, townships and cities — regardless of size — are required to undergo an audit by the state auditor or a public accountant.

Under the bill, these small cities and townships would contribute $100 annually to two different funds which would be used to randomly audit 5 percent of the cities and townships that are exempted from the annual financial audits.


A boy named Sue

Prince, listen up: Minnesota may soon create an easier way to change your name.

The law now requires a personal court appearance — with two witnesses vouching for your identity — to obtain a legal name change.

Under HF2099, sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), a person could avoid the court appearance and file a sworn petition, along with affidavits from two people vouching for his or her identity.

Pugh said that the new procedure came at the suggestion of Hennepin County Chief Judge Kevin Burke, who mentioned it as one way to help the courts lighten their caseloads.

The House Judiciary Committee March 7 approved HF2099. The measure now moves to the House floor.
**HEALTH**

**Smokers targeted**

It's more difficult to find a place to light up a cigarette these days, and lawmakers are trying to make it even tougher for apartment dwellers.

A bill (HF423) would prohibit smoking in common areas of apartment buildings such as laundry rooms, mail rooms, and hallways. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield), was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee March 8 and now moves to the House floor.

The measure would expand Minnesota's Clean Indoor Air Act, which restricts smoking in many public places.

A separate bill (HF1836), sponsored by Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), calls for more public education about the dangers of secondhand smoke. Her bill would require the state Department of Health to develop a long-term secondhand smoke advertising campaign.

If parents were educated about the danger secondhand smoke poses to their children, Luther said, parents would think twice about smoking in front of them.

Luther said her bill would not take away the freedom of choice. Adults would still have a choice, she said, but, with an advertising campaign, she hopes parents would make an educated choice to quit smoking.

Three hundred children from Birch Grove Elementary School in Brooklyn Park attended the committee hearing to demonstrate their desire for a healthy environment. Besides showing concern for their parents' health, they said they had a right to a smoke-free home.

HF1836 was referred to the committee's Human Services Finance Division to discuss how much money was needed for an advertising campaign.

**HIGHER EDUCATION**

Note: Higher education bonding bill. See story under "Bonding" on page 5.

**Improving public universities**

The state should develop a new way to fund Minnesota's public colleges and universities that rewards institutions for doing a good job.

That's the finding of the Minnesota Task Force on Post-Secondary Education. The Legislature created the task force in 1991 to find a fair funding formula that would make quality schools more affordable for students.

The task force reported to the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee March 7.

Legislators should use a "base-plus" funding formula instead of the average cost formula in place since 1983, task force member David Berg told division members.

Under the average cost formula, schools calculate the average cost of programs and divide that by the number of full-time students to come up with a total. The state then pays 67 percent of that total and expects tuition to make up the rest.

The "base-plus" formula would give schools a set dollar amount based on building costs, utilities, equipment expenses, and other costs. The formula would not be based on enrollment.

Under the recommended formula, schools would receive a fixed dollar amount for things like administrative expenses and building maintenance. That figure would be determined by looking at the school's history of such costs.

And schools also would receive a variable dollar amount for teacher salaries and classroom equipment, which would change with enrollment shifts. Also, schools could get an extra 1 percent bonus if they meet specific performance standards the Legislature outlines for them, Berg said.

Research and public service costs wouldn't be part of the fixed base, but would be tied to the school's performance, he added.

The task force also recommended the state allow its higher education systems to manage their own budgets. Furthermore, Minnesota law should continue to mandate that the state pick up at least 67 percent of higher education's instructional costs, the report stated. Although that is written into law, the state has fallen short in recent years, according to a recent report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor.

Rep. Connie Morrison (IR-Burnsville) asked Berg how the task force's recommendations would hold down escalating tuition costs.

Keeping tuition stable may be one performance area the Legislature could mandate before giving a school the 1 percent bonus, he replied.

Colleges and universities that don't meet certain performance criteria could be placed on probation. That would give schools incentive to improve, the task force suggested.

**HOUSING**

**Low-income housing**

The Twin Cities suburbs with the greatest job growth need to open up their communities to low- and moderate-income people, according to one House lawmaker.

Too many of these cities have zoning laws that exclude affordable housing for low- and moderate-income people, said Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls), chief sponsor of the bill (HF2171).

"America is not about making it and pulling up the ladder behind you," Orfield told the Housing Committee March 7. The committee approved the bill.

The measure calls for the Metropolitan Council to allocate affordable housing in the seven-county metropolitan area based on a formula that determines each city's current proportion of such housing.

Cities that do not change their zoning laws to accept their share of low- and moderate-income people would be penalized under provisions in the bill. One of the penalties would be to deny a city permission to increase its sewer service or access.

The bill would help break the cycle of poverty, said Yusef Mgeni of the Urban Coalition, who testified in favor of the bill. Poor people in the inner cities don't have cars that would allow them to get to the suburbs where the jobs are, he said.
If poor people could live in the places that are experiencing job growth, Mgeni said, they could help raise themselves out of poverty.

Orfield carried a similar bill last session that passed both legislative bodies. Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed the bill, however, saying that he did not believe the bill would achieve the ideals that inspired it.

HF2171 now goes to the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

**INSURANCE**

Braking insurance fraud

It would be easier for law enforcement agencies to detect insurance fraud under a bill approved by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee March 9.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-St. Paul), would require insurance companies to notify law enforcement officials even if they only suspect fraud.

The bill (HF1999) also would require insurance companies to disclose relevant information in suspected fraud cases upon the request of an investigator. An insurer would face a misdemeanor charge for ignoring the bill's reporting guidelines.

The bill would give insurers protection if they cooperate with police, a sheriff's department, attorney general, or other criminal investigation agency. The bill says the insurance company would not be liable for information given to authorities.

Because insurance companies often fear legal action if they release information to authorities or delay payment on a claim, Pugh said they are reluctant to report suspected fraud. Instead, insurance companies typically conduct internal investigations or just pay off the claim.

This lack of a "paper trail" makes it difficult for both insurance companies and authorities to investigate claims of fraud, said Pugh.

Under the bill, police and insurance companies would be required to keep better records to help apprehend pattern offenders.

HF1999 also requires insurance companies to develop a plan to combat fraud and to put an "anti-fraud" warning on all forms. The warning should tell a customer that falsifying a claim is a crime.

According to the FBI and the United States General Accounting Office, as much as 10 percent of all health care spending is lost to fraud. In Minnesota, that figure would amount to $1.5 billion a year. And that's not including the fraud that occurs with other forms of insurance such as life, auto, and disability.

HF1999 now moves to the House Judiciary Committee.

**TAXES**

Reimbursing school districts

A bill that would pay back $172 million of the $664 million Minnesota owes its school districts won approval March 8 from the House Taxes Committee.

The bill is identical to the version approved by the House Education Committee March 3. (See March 4, 1994, Session Weekly, page 7.)

Currently, the state is required to repay districts that "shift" their regular local property tax funds to replace late state aid payments. The law, however, does not authorize the state to repay districts that cover the late payments with local referendum levies - extra property tax money their local taxpayers voted to give the district.

HF1925, sponsored by Rep. Kathleen Vellenga (DFL-St. Paul), would ensure that districts with local referendum levies are repaid.

Without the law change, the state would have to withhold $51 million of the full $172 million that has been earmarked to be returned to school districts in 1994.

Vellenga said the bill would affect two-thirds of the school districts in the state whose taxpayers have voted to give their schools extra money.

The state began borrowing money from the school districts in the 1980s during a series of budget crises.

Legislation passed in 1984 and amended in 1993 mandates that any time the state's general budget reserve exceeds $500 million, the excess goes toward paying back the districts.

In January, the Department of Finance determined that $172 million was available in 1994 to reduce the debt. The recent March revenue forecast indicated an additional $311 million surplus in state revenue which could be available to school districts in 1995 - provided current law isn't changed.

HF1925 now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

**Fingerhut tax breaks OK'd**

Fingerhut Companies is one step closer to creating another 400 jobs in St. Cloud.

On an 86-46 vote, the House March 7 approved a measure that would give Fingerhut special tax breaks to build a $19.2 million expansion in St. Cloud. Specifically, it asks that Fingerhut and St. Cloud be exempt from some Minnesota laws regarding government tax breaks.


An amendment adopted would require the county board to approve the tax break plan and any future changes. The St. Cloud Housing and Redevelopment Authority, which helped negotiate the deal with Fingerhut, also would be required to report to the Legislature.

Fingerhut has told St. Cloud city officials it will take its new jobs, paying $8 to $12 an hour, to Kansas City, Mo., if the city and state do not meet its requests.

The national mail order retailer wants $1 million in grants from the state and tax breaks from the city of St. Cloud.

City officials are ready to give Fingerhut $4.8 million in tax breaks if both the House and Senate approve the deal. The tax breaks would be spread out over up to 25 years and could eventually cost the city $13 million in property taxes.

Under Minnesota law, cities can offer tax breaks to companies to help create jobs in their community. Normally the agreement, called a Tax Increment Financing District, involves a company expanding and creating new jobs in exchange for the city forgiving property taxes for a set number of years.

State law allows the job-creating districts to last 11 years. St. Cloud and Fingerhut have asked the Legislature to extend their limit to up to 25 years.

The bill also asks that the penalty normally assessed against cities that set up these districts be forgiven. Cities lose a portion of their state aid when they offer a business tax breaks.

In St. Cloud's case, the city could lose about $4.5 million.

Fingerhut, headquartered in Minnetonka, employs about 4,000 people year round in St. Cloud and several thousand others throughout Minnesota.
TOURISM

Welcoming foreigners

At least one Minnesota lawmaker wants to spend some extra money to make the state more appealing to international visitors.

A bill (HF1900), sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), would create a coordinator of international affairs.

The International Trade, Technology and Economic Development Division of the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee heard the bill March 9.

Jaros said the coordinator would be responsible for such things as monitoring programs that host international visitors to Minnesota and advising Minnesotans on how to treat official visitors from other nations.

Currently, the Minnesota Trade Office is authorized to handle these affairs but is too busy working on trade agreements with foreign countries, said George Crolick, executive director of the trade office.

"We need someone in our office to take care of some non-trade issues, to do a better job than what's being done," said Crolick. "This is a step forward."

The bill, which does not specify how much the new position would cost, was referred to the Commerce and Economic Development Committee.

Banning Canadian fish

The fish are biting near the Ontario boundary waters, and anglers from the United States are trying to get their share.

But a bill approved by the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee March 8 would effectively prohibit anglers from bringing fish into Minnesota that were caught in Ontario, Canada.

The proposal is the latest in a long-running border dispute between Minnesota and Ontario over fish. The measure, sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), is designed to bring Minnesota and Ontario officials to the bargaining table to work out a fishing agreement.

Last year, Ontario officials passed a law that prohibited anglers who lodge in Minnesota and fish the Canadian side of Lake of the Woods, from bringing back more than two fish to the United States.

The law also prohibits them from bringing back any fish from the Canadian side of Rainy Lake (Minnesota-based anglers are under a catch-and-release-only policy on Rainy Lake).

If Minnesotans stay in Canadian resorts, however, Ontario law allows them the same limit Canadians have — six walleye on Lake of the Woods and three on Rainy Lake.

The proposed Minnesota law says anglers staying on either side could only bring into Minnesota the lowest limit allowed by Ontario guidelines, which is currently zero because of the Rainy Lake policy.

The Minnesota bill also calls on the commissioners of the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Trade and Economic Development to regulate the natural resources and promote tourism on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border. (See March 4, 1994, Session Weekly, page 12)

Last year, Minnesota passed a law that required Minnesota anglers fishing in Canada to transport their catch across the border with their heads, tails, fins, skins, and tails intact. This law took effect March 1 of this year.

HF1835 now moves to the House floor for further consideration.

TRANSPORTATION

Scanning for tax dollars

In the near future, optical scanners installed in Minnesota gas stations may take information from a microchip connected to a vehicle's odometer and reveal how far that vehicle has been driven between fill ups.

The high-tech system is needed because newer, more fuel-efficient vehicles drive farther on a gallon of gas than do older ones, making the current per-gallon tax increasingly unfair, said the microchip bill's chief author, Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston).

Every driver pays the same amount of tax on a gallon of gas, Lieder said, but more fuel-efficient cars travel farther on that gallon.

"It's a fairness issue," Lieder recently told a meeting of the House Transportation and Transit Committee which approved the bill. Such a mileage-based tax structure would also encourage less driving, he said. "If you don't drive, you don't pay."

If the bill survives and the state adopts the system, the tax paid at fill-up time would be based on actual road use, which would be instantly calculated by scanners reading the mileage information contained on the microchips.

The bill (HF1816) instructs the Department of Transportation to begin studying these automatic mileage recorders as a way to replace fuel, registration, title, and excise taxes with a system based entirely on road use by Jan. 1, 2001.

Such a technology would allow the state to collect money from the many western Wisconsin residents who commute daily to jobs in the Twin Cities, said Rep. Pam Neary (DFL-Afton), who spoke in support of the bill. She said she is distressed whenever she sees such commuters getting a free ride on Minnesota's roads when they gas up just across the border in Wisconsin.

Although the bill cannot mandate that other states adopt these types of microchip mileage monitors, Lieder explained that if enough states become involved in such a project, automobile manufacturers will soon install such chips in all their vehicles.

Then, a vehicle's microchip could be "reset" by an optical device as the vehicle enters the state, Lieder said, making it possible to accurately measure how far it drives on Minnesota roads.

Although the bill doesn't name a specific dollar amount to pay for the study, Lieder estimates that it should cost about $200,000.

The bill stipulates that the transportation department give a preliminary report on its findings by January 1996.

The bill now goes to the House Economic Development, Infrastructure and Regulation Finance Committee for further consideration.

Bill and Joan Ziemer of Hastings, Minn., display a photograph of their son, Mickey, who was fatally run over by a school bus. The couple came to the State Capitol in St. Paul to participate in a March 10 rally for school bus safety.
IRs dominate in special elections

If special elections could decide the entire makeup of the Minnesota House of Representatives, Independent-Republicans likely would hold a majority.

During the past two decades, 20 seats in the Minnesota House have been filled through special elections. IRs won in all but four.

Since the close of the 1993 Session, there have been three special elections. They occurred in northwestern Minnesota's District 1B, formerly held by Rep. Wally Sparby (DFL-Thief River Falls); Bloomington's District 40B, formerly held by Rep. Kathleen Blatz (IR-Bloomington); and Kandiyohi County's District 15A, formerly held by Rep. Alan Welle (DFL-Willmar).

IRs won all three seats. Tim Finseth won in District 1B, Kevin Knight in District 40B and Tom Van Engen in District 15A.

Below is a history of House special elections over the past 20 years:

Date: Nov. 3, 1987
District: 30B - portions of Dodge, Freeborn, Mower, Steele, and Waseca counties.
Candidates: Dale Derozac (IR) .................................. 3,532 votes
Peter Fog (DFL) .................................. 3,055 votes

Date: Feb. 4, 1989
District: 52A - portions of Anoka and Ramsey counties.
Candidates: Linda Runbeck (IR) ................. 3,427 votes
Dawn Schnickels (DFL) ............. 2,437 votes

Date: Nov. 7, 1989
District: 63B - portions of Ramsey County.
Candidates: Alice Hausman (DFL) .............. 5,258 votes
Joy Strane Albrecht (IR) ............ 3,149 votes

Date: Feb. 5, 1991
District: 50B - portions of Anoka County.
Candidates: Phil Heir (IR) ...................... 1,828 votes
Jim Nelson (DFL) ...................... 1,586 votes

Date: Dec. 12, 1991
District: 32B - portions of Fillmore, Mower, and Olmsted counties.
Candidates: Gregory M. Davids (IR) .............. 3,369 votes
Harlin Taylor (DFL) .............. 1,929 votes

Date: Dec. 17, 1991
District: 47A - portions of Hennepin County.
Candidates: Rich Krambar (IR) .................. 2,043 votes
Darlene Luther (DFL) ............. 1,805 votes

Date: Jan. 12, 1993
District: 44B - portions of Hennepin County.
Candidates: Jim Rhodes (IR) .............. 2,414 votes
Gail Dorfman (DFL) .............. 2,235 votes

Date: July 13, 1993
District: 18 - portions of Marshall, Pennington, Polk, and Red Lake counties.
Candidates: Tom Finseth (IR) .............. 3,309 votes
Joel Swanson (DFL) .............. 2,790 votes

Date: Jan. 11, 1994
District: 40B - portions of Hennepin County.
Candidates: Kevin Knight (IR) ............... 2,720 votes
Tom Spies (DFL) .............. 2,204 votes

Date: Feb. 8, 1994
District: 15A - portions of Kandiyohi County.
Candidates: Tom Van Engen (IR) ............... 3,447 votes
Rolf Hage (DFL) .............. 3,355 votes

There is progress in state government—you just have to know where to look. The Department of Human Services earlier this session invited members of the House Health and Human Services Committee to come take a gander at its new state-of-the-art computer system. The network is responsible for processing more than $2 billion a year in medical assistance payments and MinnesotaCare medical bills. The department is testing the new computer system now and expects it to be fully operational by May 31. The new system replaces one installed in 1974, said Larry Woods, a department representative.

NOTE

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Freshman profile . . .

Knight hopes to help curb state spending

Rep. Kevin Knight (IR-Bloomington) had only one month to pull together a winning campaign. It didn’t help that the month was December, which included holidays, frigid temperatures, and plenty of snow.

“Basically, I campaigned 14 to 16 hours a day. It helps that my wife and my kids were very supportive,” Knight said.

Nor did the Bloomington political community hesitate to help out. His campaign manager, Bill Walsh, and hundreds of volunteers trudged from door to door through snow to help get out the vote, Knight said.

“Volunteers came forward knowing it was such a short race, it wasn’t this huge time commitment,” Knight said. His campaign put up more than 300 lawn signs and made thousands of phone calls during the short race.

His success mirrors those of past special elections. Since 1971, IR candidates for the House and Senate have won 27 of 35 special elections.

The District 40B seat opened in December when Kathleen Blatz, a 15-year House veteran, was named a Hennepin County District Court judge. Knight, 36, had been involved in local IR caucuses only three years, but hit the ground running. He not only won the IR party endorsement over other contenders, he bested both the DFL candidate and an independent candidate.

He grew up in Chicago, attended the University of Arizona, where he earned a degree in history, then moved to San Francisco. He relocated to Minnesota in 1984 to start a business with his brother. They sold safety products for a manufacturer. Now, he publishes a newsletter focusing on economic trends and forecasts.

Knight says he is by no means a political insider. Winning the nomination over the two other IR candidates proved to be the “high point of the race” for him.

“I had to meet all the delegates, but that wasn’t terribly difficult, it was just a matter of meeting them. I had a lot of fun at the convention. But I suppose it’s always fun when you win,” he said.

The freshman legislator arrived at the Capitol one month before session began and immediately dived into his work, much the way he threw himself into his campaign. He got his first taste of state government by attending an Environment and Natural Resources subcommittee meeting. In fact, he’s already learned his first lesson.

“Legislative speak is not regular English. You have to learn all the acronyms and the verbiage,” he said.

Knight hasn’t forgotten the predominant reason voters put him in office — his forceful pledge to curb state spending. It’s the issue he stressed most while door knocking. Knight already has a plan to do just that, but he is not talking about it yet.

“State spending is the number one problem we have relating to taxes going up because spending is going up,” he said.

— Jean M. Thilmany

Freshman profile . . .

Van Engen’s vow includes ‘telling it like it is’

Rep. Tom Van Engen (IR-Spicer) had to wait a little longer than he had hoped to take the oath of office as the state’s newest representative.

The Independent-Republican ran for the District 15A seat in 1992 but lost to incumbent Rep. Alan Welle, the former House DFL majority leader who resigned in January following the misuse of his long distance telephone line.

“I was always taught that this is a representative government, and I could be involved in it,” said Van Engen, who won a Feb. 8 special election.

Emerging from a district so closely touched by the political cloud of the House phone troubles, the new Representative believes he was elected because his constituents see him as straightforward and more like themselves than other politicians. “It seems to me that people are most interested in honest, hard working representation and people telling it like it is,” he said.

Van Engen, 40, works for Kandiyohi County Family Services as a licensed social worker specializing in chemical dependency. He said his career has given him a great deal of experience with ‘telling it like it is.’

“My business is sending people to alcohol treatment,” Van Engen said. “They’re usually not too happy with the news I give them, but they respect me because I’m honest.”

A self-titled active Christian, Van Engen has served in several positions within his church. For more than a decade, he has filled in for pastors who were not able to conduct services. As both a husband and a father of three, Van Engen feels his constituents appreciate his stand on “moral issues.”

Although he describes himself as a moderate conservative, Van Engen is quick to point out that, unlike the label suggests, he opposes abortion. He also calls himself fiscally conservative, saying he can “pinch pennies with the best of them.” In the spectrum of most issues such as energy policies, however, the new lawmaker says he is moderate.

Holding onto his belief that government invites citizen participation, Van Engen has worked his way up the political ladder through positions such as chair of the Kandiyohi County Independent-Republican Party and then Senate district chair. His first campaign was the unsuccessful attempt to unseat Welle in 1992.
Now that he has a second chance at serving his district, Van Engen said he’ll concentrate on helping business. This includes revamping workers’ compensation laws.

“We need to improve the job climate and reduce the obstacles, especially workers’ compensation, so that Minnesota businesses can prosper,” he said.

He also wants to find ways to reduce state spending and stabilize tax rates.

“We just cannot continue the pattern of raising taxes every time the Legislature meets,” Van Engen said. “We need to figure out what the revenue is, and spend within those limits.”

Whether the issues are taxes, spending, education, or government reform, Van Engen said he’ll build his legislative career by sticking to the ideals that have brought him this far: “Work your way up, do the best you can do, be honest, and make the best life for yourself and your family.”

— Amber Brennan

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Freshman profile . . .

Finseth hunting for workers’ compensation reform

Two coyote pelts hang on the walls of Rep. Tim Finseth’s (IR-Angus) office.

He shot the coyote himself on his farm near Oklee. Those pelts, along with another office fixture, an Arctic Cat snowmobile that could fit in your hand, represent what Finseth doesn’t intend to forget: He represents rural interests. Arctic Cats, big ones, are made in Thief River Falls.

“My district [1B] is heavy in agriculture and agriculture-related business. I’m trying to make this a better state for business and agriculture to operate together, like having lower workers’ compensation insurance rates, Finseth said. He told voters he wanted to lower those rates. In addition, he pledged to try to scale back state spending and hold the line on rural property taxes.

The special election came in the political off-season, but Finseth had no trouble recruiting campaign volunteers. They came looking for him.

Because he had run for office in 1992, Finseth was “geared up and ready to go” when Sparby announced he was leaving. “It didn’t take me long to get geared up again,” he said.

The campaign against Joel Swanson, a Thief River Falls DFLer, went smoothly and before Finseth knew it, then-House Speaker Dee Long was administering his oath of office.

He is on leave from his job as manager of the Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District. Before re-election time rolls around, he’ll decide whether to continue that leave of absence or to quit his job. He doesn’t want to take time away from either his constituents or the farmers in the conservation district and may have a difficult time balancing both, he said.

Finseth lives in St. Paul during the session, but makes the 325-mile drive back home to wife, Ruth, and five-month-old-son, Cameron, on weekends. Once there, he also can talk to constituents, hunt, fish, and, for a few more weeks, go snowmobiling.

Already, he has noticed a faster pace than he had expected around the State Office Building.

“I didn’t realize there are so many issues. I knew it would be fast, but not this fast,” said Finseth, who serves on the Judiciary, Housing, and Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs committees as well as on the Judiciary Finance Division. “But I’m looking forward to helping pass legislation. I’ve been waiting since July to get in the chamber.”

— Jean M. Thilmany

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District 1B

Population: 32,796
Distribution: 51 percent of residents live in urban areas, 49 percent live in rural areas
Counties: Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake
Largest city: Thief River Falls
Location: northwestern Minnesota

1992 presidential election results:
Clinton/Gore: 39.1 percent
Bush/Quayle: 36.6 percent
Perot/Stockdale: 22.2 percent
Other: 2.1 percent

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District 15A

Population: 32,614
Distribution: 35 percent of residents live in urban areas, 45 percent live in rural areas
County: Kandiyohi
Largest city: Willmar
Location: central Minnesota

1992 presidential election results:
Clinton/Gore: 41.2 percent
Bush/Quayle: 33.2 percent
Perot/Stockdale: 24.6
Other: 1 percent

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Visiting the Minnesota State Capitol complex can be a rewarding and educational experience for everyone. There are buildings to explore and tours to take almost any time you choose to visit. And when the Legislature is in session during the first part of every year, there are floor sessions to observe, committee meetings to attend, and legislators to meet. Remember that this is your state Capitol, and you are always welcome.

Here's some general information to help you plan your visit.

How to get here

Location

The Capitol complex is to the north of I-94 just minutes from downtown St. Paul. It is accessible from the east and west on I-94, and from the north and south on I-35E.

I-94 eastbound: Exit at Marion Street. Turn left. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right. Go one block, cross Rice Street, and enter Parking Lot D.

I-94 westbound: Exit at Marion Street. Turn right. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right. Go one block, cross Rice Street, and enter Parking Lot D.

I-35E northbound: Exit at Kellogg Boulevard. Turn left. Go to John Ireland Boulevard and turn right. Metered parking spaces line both sides of the boulevard.

I-35E southbound: Exit at University Avenue. Turn right. Go to Rice Street and turn left. Go one block and turn left to enter Parking Lot D.

Parking

Public metered parking is available in Lot Q, north of the Capitol at Cedar Street and Sherburne Avenue; Lot D, next to the State Office Building off Rice Street on Aurora Avenue; and on the orange level of the Centennial Office Building Ramp at Cedar Street and Constitution Avenue. All-day parking is available in Lot Q and in the Centennial Office Building Ramp. Capitol Security personnel will issue tickets for expired parking.

Outdoor handicapped parking is available in Lot N, which is directly behind the Capitol, and in Lot D, which is off Rice Street on Aurora Avenue. Indoor handicapped parking is available on the lower level of the State Office Building Ramp, on the blue level of the Centennial Office Building Ramp, and on the entry level of the Administration Building Ramp (two stalls).

Since parking is limited during legislative sessions, busing may be easier. Freeway express bus service is available. Call the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) at (612) 349-7000 for your specific route information.

What to do

Tours

Tours of the Capitol are offered through the Capitol Historic Site Program of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Tour guides lead the 45-minute tours Mondays through Fridays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (last tour leaves at 4 p.m.); Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.); and Sundays between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.). The tours are free of charge and begin at the Capitol's information desk at the end of the corridor to the right of the main entrance. Brochures in several languages, including Japanese, German, and Spanish, are also available there.

Tour participants may request customized tours that emphasize either the building's art and architecture or state government. Also, tours can be customized for senior citizens or grade school students.

The society offers "Voice of the People: Your Role in Minnesota Government," a half-day educational session for students in grades 7-12.

Historical society officials ask that groups of 10 or more call at least two weeks in advance to reserve a tour time.

For more information about the tours or to reserve a time, call the Capitol Historic Site Program, (612) 296-2881.
Legislative sessions
Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate debate bills when the Legisla-
ture is in session.

At the beginning of a legislative session, the pace of floor sessions is generally slow as new
bills are assigned to committees and non-controversial items are discussed. At about the
session's midpoint, however, the legislative pace quickens.

Generally, the House meets at 2:30 p.m.
Mondays and Thursdays, and the Senate meets
at 10 a.m. Mondays and at 8 a.m. Thursdays
during the first few weeks. House floor ses-
sions are scheduled for the afternoon because
committees meet in the morning and early
afternoon. As the session nears the end, how-
ever, both bodies may meet several times a
day, often into the night.

All House and Senate floor sessions are open
to the public. Visitors interested in observing
these sessions may call the House Chief Clerk's
Office, (612) 296-2314, or Senate Informa-
tion, (612) 296-0504, with any questions.
Spectators may sit in the galleries of either chamber.

Committee meetings
Committees still consider bills several weeks
after the session starts. Visitors who want to
attend a committee meeting may call the com-
mitee hotlines for prerecorded messages with
the meeting times and agendas for each day:
House, (612) 296-9283; Senate, (612) 296-
8088. Printed agendas for the week also ap-
pear in each issue of the Session Weekly and the
Senate Briefly.

Committee meetings are open to the public.
When a public hearing is scheduled the com-
mitee may listen to comments from the audi-
ence (when time permits) in addition to the
scheduled speakers. Committees have different
policies on hearing testimony depending upon
their size and workload. Some committees hear
general testimony at the subcommit-
tee level, while others allow general testimony
during meetings of the full committee.
Informational handouts that committee members
receive during meetings or hearings are con-
sidered public information and are available to
the audience on a first-come, first-served basis.

Major proposals on issues such as open
enrollment or groundwater legislation often
have several public hearings so committee
members may listen to all arguments for and
against a bill.

Each committee has a chair, vice chair, legisla-
tive assistant, and administrator. A list of commit-
tees and members is available in the House Public
Information Office in Room 175 of the State
Office Building or the Senate Information Office
in Room 231 of the State Capitol.

Groups and individuals wishing to testify
before a committee should call the appropriate
committee's legislative assistant well in ad-
vance of the meeting and ask to be placed on
the agenda. Committees prefer requests one
week in advance but will accept later notifica-
tion when unexpected issues appear on the
committee schedule.

Legislators
Lawmakers are busy but look forward to
meeting with their constituents. You should
contact your legislator's office to set up an
appointment.

Dining
All buildings in the Capitol complex have
their own cafeterias. The Capitol and State
Office Building cafeterias are in the basement.
The Transportation and Centennial Building
cafeterias are on the ground floor of each
building. The Veterans Service Building caf-
teria is on the fifth floor, and the Capitol
Square Building's dining area is on the lower
level. The Capitol also has a snack bar on the
second floor (where the House and Senate chambers are located) during the session. The
Café Minnesota, located on the first level of the
new Minnesota History Center, is available as
well. All cafeterias serve breakfast and lunch.

Group visits
Sometimes groups plan a "legislative day" at
the Capitol in order to express a particular
viewpoint to legislators.

Rooms for special conferences or speakers
are reserved by calling Betty Langenberger,
room scheduler for the State Office Building,
(612) 296-5974; or Marilyn Hall, room
scheduler for the State Capitol,
(612) 296-0868.

If group members would like to meet with
their individual legislators or testify before a
committee (see "Committee meetings"), ar-
rangements should be made at least a week in
advance.

Occasionally, such groups have members wear
a distinctive name tag or badge to indicate their
concern about a particular issue.

Groups planning a trip to the Capitol should
remember that seating is fairly limited in some
committee rooms — particularly when the
topic is controversial.

Where to find information
House Public Information Office
175 State Office Building
(612) 296-2146 or
1-800-657-3550

Committee schedule: The Session
Weekly includes the upcoming week's
schedule, and the office has a prerecorded
message (612) 296-9283, that
provides up-to-date information on meet-
ing agendas, times, and locations.

Legislator information: The office
has a complete listing of telephone and
room numbers for the representatives.

Informational brochures: Many
brochures for all ages are available at no
charge.

Chief Clerk's Office
211 State Capitol
(612) 296-2314

Copies of bills: This office provides
copies of bills at no charge, all agendas
for House sessions, and the Journal of the
House.

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

Bills: The House Index Department,
a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a
computerized index available for public
use. House Index lists bills by commit-
tee, topic, author, file number, and other
categories.

Bill status: House Index can also tell
you the current status of legislation.

Senate Information Office
31 State Capitol
(612) 296-0504

This office is responsible for all informa-
tion about the Senate, including the
committee schedule, bill status, legisla-
tor information, and the distribution of
bill copies.

Senate Media Services
B-44 State Capitol
(612) 296-0264

This bipartisan office produces televi-
sion programs, multi-media production,
scriptwriting, photography and graph-
ics. It offers live coverage of the Senate
floor sessions and some committee hear-
rings.

Public Access Computer Room
181 State Office Building
The room houses computers that the
public may use to obtain legislative infor-
mation on a variety of subjects.
In the Hopper . . . March 4-10, 1994

Bill Introductions

HF2363-HF2649

Monday, March 7

HF2363—Neary (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Washington County allowed a reverse referendum for making the auditor and treasurer and recorder offices appointive.

HF2364—Greenfield (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Jerry Haaf Memorial Drive designated in Minneapolis on Trunk Highway No. 55 between Lake Street and 46th Street.

HF2365—Morrison (IR)
Transportation & Transit
Bus requirements provided for transporting Head Start students, auxiliary low beam light removal, requirement removed, commercial motor vehicles provided seat belt requirements, and raw farm and forest product maximum weight increased.

HF2366—Jennings (DFL)
Judiciary
Children provided equal right to support.

HF2367—Long (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Mixed municipal solid waste landfills provided an alternative cleanup program, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2368—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education
General education formula increased, supplemental revenue reduction modified, and money appropriated.

HF2369—Waltman (IR)
Judiciary
Premarital and predissolution counseling provided and at least one year delay required between petition filing and final decree if children are involved.

HF2370—Brown, K. (DFL)
Judiciary
Child abuse investigation liability immunity to include child protection workers, attorney fee reimbursement provided, protocol provided governing abuse and neglect assessments, and maltreatment determination data access provided.

HF2371—Evans (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Self-employment assistance program established.

HF2372—Goodno (IR)
Taxes
Agricultural processing facilities allowed property tax exemption in border cities.

HF2373—Olson, E. (DFL)
Agriculture
Wheat and barley promotion orders and checkoff fee payments and refunds modified.

HF2374—Stensmo (DFL)
Agriculture
BST; recombinant bovine somatotropin (rBST) manufacturers and distributors provided registration requirements.

HF2375—Jefferson (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Minneapolis authorized to establish a jobs park to expand employment opportunities.

HF2376—Bergson (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
National Guard Youth Camp Foundation Fund appropriated money.

HF2377—Molnau (IR)
Rules & Legislative Administration
Term limits; ballot access denied after serving six consecutive years in the U.S. House of Representatives and 12 consecutive years in the U.S. Senate, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2378—Svingrum (IR)
Rules & Legislative Administration
Term limits; ballot access denied after serving 10 consecutive years in the legislature or eight consecutive years in an executive office, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2379—Bishop (IR)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
HIV antibody test results for emergency medical service personnel use prohibited in insurance underwriting decisions.

HF2380—Weisman (DFL)
Judiciary
Abused child program established and grants authorized.

HF2381—Leppik (IR)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Home rule charter cities allowed to apply statutory city law in instances where the charter is silent.

HF2382—Solberg (DFL)
Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance
National shooting sports center construction provided within a tax credit area, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2383—Seagren (IR)
Education
Misbehavior incidents in schools reported of students with an individualized learning plan (IEP), and money appropriated.

HF2384—McCallum (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Child passenger restraint and education program established to assist families in financial need to obtain child passenger restraint systems.

HF2385—Morrison (IR)
Taxes
Fiscal disparities; areawide net tax capacity municipal contribution limited to 15 percent of net tax capacity.

HF2386—Trimble (DFL)
Agriculture
BGH; recombinant bovine growth hormone certification and labeling program established to identify milk and milk products free of BGH.

HF2387—Leppik (IR)
Rules & Legislative Administration
Reapportionment; congressional and legislative bipartisan reapportionment commission established and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2388—Winter (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Paper; court papers required on recycled paper.

HF2389—Smith (IR)
Judiciary
Theft to include a tenant issuing a dishonored check to a landlord for rent.

HF2390—Gruenes (IR)
Health & Human Services
Ramsey County social service agency allowed to create an adoption services pilot project for children with special needs, and money appropriated.

HF2391—Olson, K. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Physician license data classified as private data and foreign medical school graduates provided modified license provisions.

HF2392—Mosel (DFL)
Taxes
Property tax refund appropriation uncapped for 1994 targeting, and money appropriated.

HF2393—Lourey (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Dentist participation required in state health care programs, and medical assistance coverage and reimbursement expanded for dental services.

HF2394—Lourey (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Dental health board established, dental insurance regulation transferred, dental services exempted from all-payer option reimbursement limits and growth limits, and direct billing allowed for upgrade dental services.

HF2395—Gruenes (IR)
Transportation & Transit
Electric motor vehicle transportation technology studied under the Saints road project in St. Cloud, and money appropriated.

HF2396—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Housing with services act adopted and money appropriated.

HF2397—Olson, K. (DFL)
Education
Mouthguard use option provided in certain interscholastic sport activities.

HF2398—Olson, K. (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 323, Lakefield; 328; Sioux Valley; 330, Heron Lake-Oakabena; 313, Brewster; and 516; Round Lake provided a cooperation planning grant, and money appropriated.

HF2399—Mosel (DFL)
Education
Accessibility grants provided to school districts, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2400—Mosel (DFL)
Agriculture
Rural Finance Authority authorized participation increased in restructuring program loans, and Detroit Lakes agricultural-industrial facility bond issuance authority repealed.
HF2401—Dempsey (IR)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Building permit surcharge excesses re­
funded to municipalities.

HF2402—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
American Indian tribal governments
included as municipalities for fire and
police state aid.

HF2403—Abrams (IR)
Education
Appropriations; earlier appropriations
supplemented, reduced, and trans­
ferred.

HF2404—Asch (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Quality assurance board established to
regulate health-related professions, and
money appropriated.

HF2405—Reding (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Administrative and minor substantive
changes provided to the state retire­
ment system, the Public Employees
Retirement Association, and the Teach­
ers Retirement Association.

HF2406—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary
Juvenile justice provisions modified
related to adult court presumptive cer­
tification, serious youthful offender
designations, juvenile court jurisdic­
tion, jury trials, and correctional pro­
gramming, and money appropriated.

HF2407—Carruthers (DFL)
Taxes
Levy per capita and overall limits im­
posed on counties and certain cities and
towns.

HF2408—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Telephone companies provided alter­
native regulation plans.

HF2409—Mahon (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Open Appointments Act applicability
provided to appointments made by the
governor and legislators, data collec­
tion provided, multi-member agency
registrations required, and secretary of
state reporting requirements provided.

HF2410—Rukovina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Tree planting stock and native tree seed
sales provided to nurseries, and timber
land lease terms and conditions modified.

HF2411—Solberg (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Itasca medical center facility employ­
ees provided public employee status
after lease conversion to a nonprofit
public corporation.

HF2412—Brown, C. (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Horse race telecasts authorized for class
D licensees.

HF2413—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary
Arrowhead Regional Corrections Con­
sortium provided bond issuance for
construction of a secure juvenile deten­
tion and treatment facility, and money
appropriated.

HF2414—Kinkel (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Paul Bunyan state trail development
provided from Baxter to Lake Bemidji
State Park, bonds issued, and money
appropriated.

HF2415—Rhodes (IR)
Commerce & Economic Development
International Business Partnership Pro­
gram eligibility clarified.

HF2416—Clark (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Lease assumption liability coverage pro­
vided through the Joint Underwriting
Association.

HF2417—Gutknecht (IR)
Health & Human Services
Olmsted County authorized a pilot
project for community-based alterna­
tive services for persons with mental
retardation and related conditions.

HF2418—Frenichs (IR)
Transportation & Transit
Drivers' license reinstatement test pro­
vided.

HF2419—Limmer (IR)
Judiciary
Stowable or motorboat operation while intoxicated penalties increased
for persons previously convicted of
driving while intoxicated (DWI).

HF2420—Rice (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Minneapolis Fire Department Relief
Association provided surviving spouse
benefit terms.

HF2421—Bertram (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Weight; single wheel weight limitation
increased for pneumatic-tired vehicle.

HF2422—Bertram (DFL)
Taxes
Dependent care income tax credit in­
come limitations increased.

HF2423—Bertram (DFL)
Judiciary
Prison and jail inmates not provided
elective or cosmetic surgery or treat­
ments.

HF2424—Bertram (DFL)
Taxes
Farm machinery allowed an investment
tax credit.

HF2425—Brown, K. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Juvenile crime prevention pilot project
established through the Three Rivers
Community Action Council and Part­
ers in Alliance for Learning, and money
appropriated.

HF2426—Kinkel (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Handicapped parking enforcement pro­
vided by citizen enforcement programs.

HF2427—Jaros (DFL)
Commerce & Economic Development
Non-profit corporations accepting pub­
lie money required to have open board
meetings.

HF2428—Clark (DFL)
Taxes
Housing Development Fund use ex­
panded and federal taxable income to
include residence interest income.

HF2429—Anderson, L. (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Potter County allowed to ap­
point and reorganize the office of re­
corder.

HF2430—Jaros (DFL)
Education
Higher Education Board to reimburse
school districts and intermediate dis­
tricts for transferred technical college
property.

HF2431—Orenstein (DFL)
Judiciary
Juveniles charged with nonfelony traf­
fic offenses after becoming 16 years of
age provided district court criminal
and civil jurisdiction, and incarcera­
tion prohibited in an adult jail or work­
house.

HF2432—Rest (DFL)
Taxes
Higher Education Board to reimburse
school districts and intermediate dis­
tricts for transferred technical college
property.

HF2433—Huntley (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Duluth authorized to issue bonds to
finance improvements to the entertain­
ment convention center.

HF2434—Wejman (DFL)
Judiciary
Female genital mutilation penalties
imposed and education, prevention,
and outreach activities provided in com­
unities that traditionally engage in
female genital mutilation practices.

HF2435—Osthoff (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs
& Elections
Abandoned animal procedures modi­
tied.

HF2436—Dawkins (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Youth and young adult corps members
provided group health and accidental
death insurance and education awards.

HF2437—Perl (DFL)
Judiciary
Firearm serial number removal or al­
teration prohibited, firearm serial num­
bers required, and penalties imposed.

HF2438—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Human services provisions modified
related to mental health grants, psy­
chopathic personalities, dependency
treatment, AFDC income standards,
inpatient hospital payments, child sup­
port incentives, family preservation, and
other provisions.

HF2439—Mosel (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Gaylord authorized to establish special
service districts.

HF2440—Beard (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Electric and thermal energy power
facilities containing cogeneration sys­
tems provided exemption from prop­
erty taxes.

HF2441—Swenson (IR)
Judiciary
Juveniles charged with nonfelony traf­
fic offenses after becoming 16 years of
age provided district court criminal
and civil jurisdiction, and incarcera­
tion prohibited in an adult jail or work­
house.

HF2442—Mariani (DFL)
Economic Development, Infrastructure
& Regulation Finance
Children's Museum site preparation and
construction grants provided, bonds is­sued, and money appropriated.

HF2443—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education
Range Technical College construction
and co-location provided at the Hibbing
Community College site, bonds issued,
and money appropriated.
HF2444—Krueger (DFL)  
Education  
Institutional days increased and off-campus learning opportunities provided for kindergarten students.

HF2445—Bertram (DFL)  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Flag desecration; Congress to propose a constitutional amendment prohibiting the physical desecration of the flag.

HF2446—Swenson (IR)  
Education  
Charter schools allowed to lease school facility constructed space from sectarian organizations.

HF2447—Winter (DFL)  
Education  
Worthington Community College covered walkway construction provided bond issuance and money appropriated.

HF2448—Solberg (DFL)  
Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance  
Mankato area model school for truants provided bond issuance and money appropriated.

HF2449—Luther (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Adult court prosecution provided for kindergarten students.

HF2450—Dorn (DFL)  
Education  
Coleraine laboratory facility, capital improvements provided bond issuance and money appropriated.

HF2451—Winter (DFL)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
National Resources Research Institute, Colearine laboratory facility, capital improvements provided bond issuance and money appropriated.

HF2452—Lourey (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
Mankato area model school for truants at the law enforcement center appropriated money.

HF2453—Weaver (IR)  
Judiciary  
Children aged 14 to 18 charged with felonies involving firearms.

HF2454—Jacobs (DFL)  
Labor-Management Relations  
Paramedics and emergency medical services personnel included in workers' compensation occupational disease presumption.

HF2455—McGuire (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Physicians attending a newborn informed of the hepatitis B infection status of the biological mother.

HF2456—Ferrichs (IR)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Municipalities prohibited from using a quick take condemnation proceeding when acquiring the property of another electric service provider through eminent domain.

HF2457—O'ashoff (DFL)  
Transportation & Transit  
County state-aid highway and municipal state-aid street funds to provide increased set asides to the disaster and research accounts, Disaster Account Board composition modified, and fund lapse provided.

HF2458—Skoglund (DFL)  
Judiciary  
DARE officers provided use of forfeited motor vehicles.

HF2459—Skoglund (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Felons; recapture provided for felons fleeing pending sentencing.

HF2460—Skoglund (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Pistol or semiautomatic military-style assault weapon possession prohibited for persons found incompetent to stand trial or not guilty by reason of mental illness.

HF2461—Skoglund (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Plea negotiation policy and practice written guidelines adopted by county attorneys.

HF2462—Skoglund (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Sex offender registration expanded to include sex crimes involving child victims, juvenile offenders, offenders from other states, and probationers from other states accepted under interstate compact.

HF2463—Skoglund (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Firearm theft ranked as a presumptive prison offense.

HF2464—Skoglund (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Fingerprint information requirement compliance by local law enforcement agencies report provided.

HF2465—Skoglund (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Prosecutors to collect statistics on the number of cases they dismiss or decline to prosecute.

HF2466—Skoglund (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Diversify program participant information reports provided to the Criminal Justice Information System.

HF2467—Skoglund (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Warrant information provided to the Criminal Justice Information System.

HF2468—Skoglund (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Crime information reward fund and board created and money appropriated.

HF2469—Reding (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Conservation easements and restrictions provided maximum payment rates.

HF2470—Rest (DFL)  
Education  
School board terms extended to four years and school district general elections required on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

HF2471—Anderson, R. (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Medicare health insurance counseling and assistance program established and money appropriated.

HF2472—Anderson, R. (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Child support obligor monthly withholding fee reduced for automatic income withholding.

HF2473—Klinzing (DFL)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Steams County Housing and Redevelopment Authority provided federal tax exempt revenue bond use.

HF2474—Jefferson (DFL)  
Taxes  
Housing interest reduction program tax increment period extended.

HF2475—Brown, C. (DFL)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Deed, condominium floor plan, abstract title, and other instrument fee collection eliminated by county recorders.

HF2476—Delmont (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Wetland compensation changed when a wetland replacement plan is not approved.

HF2477—Finseth (IR)  
Judiciary  
Drivers' license suspension provided for failure to pay a child passenger restraint law violation fine.

HF2478—Reding (DFL)  
Governmental Operations & Gambling  
Teacher salary defined and parental leaves provided for first class city teachers.

HF2479—McCollum (DFL)  
Education  
Technical college licensing rules reinstated.

HF2480—Simoneau (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Medicare health insurance counseling and assistance program established and money appropriated.

HF2481—Simoneau (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Department of Health housekeeping bill.

HF2482—Dorn (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Truants authorized transportation to school by peace and probation officers.

HF2483—Mahon (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Peace officer temporary exchanges provided between law enforcement agencies.

HF2484—Orenstein (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Peace officer license revocation, suspension, or nonrenewal provided upon criminal sexual conduct or assault conviction.

HF2485—Munger (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Legislative Water Commission duties provided, Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Committee provided, sustainable agriculture and integrated pest management plans required, groundwater policy and education provided, and well permits changed.

HF2486—Pugh (DFL)  
Governmental Operations & Gambling  
Video lottery machines authorized and regulated and paper pull tabs abolished.

HF2487—Davids (IR)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Olmsted County towns authorized to adopt and enforce the state building code.

HF2488—Moinau (IR)  
Transportation & Transit  
Emissions; motor vehicle temporary registrations provided for emissions inspections.
HF2489—Simoneau (DFL)  Financial Institutions & Insurance
No-fault automobile insurance repairable expense benefits through managed care plans and premium reductions provided.

HF2490—Knickerbocker (IR)  Education
School year allowed to begin before Labor Day when a religious holiday is observed the following week.

HF2491—Sekhon (DFL)  Labor-Management Relations
Personnel record review rights of employees provided enforcement.

HF2492—Reding (DFL)  Taxes
Guaranty association assessment allowed as offsets against the premium tax liability of insurance companies.

HF2493—Bauerly (DFL)  Agriculture
Agricultural operation nuisance liability provisions modified.

HF2494—Bertram (DFL)  Education
Farm and small business management programs at technical colleges in flood damaged counties appropriated money for tuition buy down, emergency staff, equipment upgrades, and teleconferences.

HF2495—Bertram (DFL)  Agriculture
Junior livestock loan guarantee program established.

HF2496—Bertram (DFL)  Taxes
Military retirement pay provided exemption from taxation.

HF2497—Seagren (IR)  Environment & Natural Resources
Licenses; unsold resident and nonresident 24-hour angling license not returned by a subagent prior to the end of the angling season.

HF2498—Beard (DFL)  Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance
Wakota bridge on Interstate Highway No. 494 in Dakota and Washington counties provided bond issuance for environmental impact statement, and money appropriated.

HF2499—Bertram (DFL)  Health & Human Services
Nursing home bed moratorium exceptions provisions modified.

HF2500—Macklin (IR)  Judiciary
Crime provisions modified related to sentence stays, teacher-student sexual contact, attorney fees, arson, increased arson sentences when victims suffer injuries, insurance fraud, and restitution.

HF2501—Asch (DFL)  Transportation & Transit
Ramsay County cities with 5,000 or more population provided municipal state-aid street funds for former county highways.

HF2502—Anderson, R. (DFL)  Health & Human Services
Regional treatment centers allowed to provide services to outpatients and day care patients.

HF2503—Winter (DFL)  Regulated Industries & Energy
Wind energy conversion facilities provided educational demonstration grants, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2504—Dehler (IR)  Transportation & Transit
Recreational vehicle combinations allowed consisting of a horse or snowmobile trailer.

HF2505—Bertram (DFL)  Taxes
Firefighting equipment purchased by local governments exempted from sales tax.

HF2506—Van Dellen (IR)  Governmental Operations
Job Skills Partnership Board membership increased.

HF2507—Kinkel (DFL)  Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance
Battle Point Historic Site architectural and engineering studies and construction provided bond issuance and money appropriated.

HF2508—Steensma (DFL)  Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle registration and taxation provisions modified for commuter vans, personalized license plates, special ready reserve and collegiate license plates, temporary registrations, transit license plates, and other technical changes.

HF2509—Bauerly (DFL)  Education
Education funding cap repealed for fiscal years 1996 and 1997.

HF2510—Dawkins (DFL)  General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Candidates for partisan office allowed to appear as a candidate of more than one political party or principle.

HF2511—Steensma (DFL)  Governmental Operations & Gambling
Minneapolis Police Relief Association provided level benefits and surviving spouse definition changed for benefit eligibility.

HF2512—Sarna (DFL)  Transportation & Transit
County state-aid highway powers clarified.

HF2514—Rest (DFL)  Taxes
County auditor’s tax certifications required on condominium and common interest community plats.

HF2515—Erhardt (IR)  Labor-Management Relations
Workers’ compensation provided a new general system of law and insurance provisions, plan approval provided, workers’ compensation court of appeals jurisdiction and personnel transferred, and rights, duties, and remedies provided.

HF2516—Van Dellen (IR)  Judiciary
Crime and crime prevention provisions provided and sentences imposed.

HF2517—Weaver (IR)  Environment & Natural Resources
Rough fish taking by harpoonage allowed by non-residents.

HF2518—Neary (DFL)  Taxes
Homestead tax capacity determination method modified.

HF2519—Mariani (DFL)  Judiciary
Prostitution; civil cause of action created for persons coerced into prostitution.

HF2520—Weaver (IR)  Environment & Natural Resources
Air emission facility construction and expansion provided permit cost reimbursement.

HF2521—Pauly (IR)  Regulated Industries & Energy
Eden Prairie authorized to issue 12 additional on-sale licenses.

HF2522—Molnau (IR)  Environment & Natural Resources
Art, photography, posters, or outdoor skill competitions authorized in conservation related activities.

HF2523—Brown, C. (DFL)  Commerce & Economic Development
Concrete and masonry workers provided licensure as residential contractors.

HF2524—Beard (DFL)  Housing
Rental agreement application fees refunded by landlords to prospective tenants if a rental agreement is not entered.

HF2525—Greenfield (DFL)  Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare; community integrated services networks established, reinsurance and risk adjustment association created, regulated all-payer option modified, essential community providers designated, and money appropriated.

HF2526—Beard (DFL)  Transportation & Transit
Municipal state aid eligibility provided for groups of cities with a combined population of at least 5,000 with a single public works street maintenance department unified under a joint powers agreement.

HF2527—Kinkel (DFL)  Education
Independent School District No. 118, Remer-Longville, authorized to transfer funds from the bus purchase fund to the capital fund for facility repair and technology-related equipment without a levy reduction.

HF2528—Haukoos (IR)  Transportation & Transit
Recreational vehicle combinations regulated.

HF2529—Haukoos (IR)  Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Freeborn County allowed to appoint the recorder and auditor/treasurer and authorized county office reorganization.

HF2530—Molnau (IR)  Financial Institutions & Insurance
Fibrocystic condition based health insurance coverage termination or reduction prohibited.
Public assistance programs provided for emergency on-site inspection.

HF2534—Bauerly (DFL)
Education
Referendum revenue reduction modified and money appropriated.

HF2537—Bauerly (DFL)
Taxes
Benton County correctional facility construction project purchases provided sales and use tax exemption.

HF2539—Losley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health and Human Services
Cambridge Regional Human Services Center provided campus and community services integrated network for services for persons with developmental disabilities, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2540—Peterson (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
 Implements of husbandry allowed to travel to the left of the highway center during daylight hours while displaying a flashing amber lamp in lieu of an escort vehicle.

HF2542—Limmer (IR)
Health & Human Services
Rehabilitation
Intensive community supervision program modified to increase participation.

HF2553—Redig (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Taxes
Public assistance programs provided for emergency on-site inspection.

HF2557—Olson, E. (DFL)
Legislature
Taxes
Indian employment credit subtraction and accelerated property depreciation provided.

HF2559—Bettermann (IR)
Legislature
Wage payment provisions modified.

HF2562—Bettermann (IR)
Legislature
Wage payment provisions modified.

HF2565—Nelson (DFL)
Legislature
Health & Human Services
Nursing home bed moratorium exception provided for a facility in Ramsey County.

HF2566—Onnen (IR)
Legislature
Health & Human Services
Children Helped in Long-Term Development (CHILD) program established for child abuse prevention and money appropriated.

HF2574—Orenstein (DFL)
Legislature
Ethics
Legislators and legislative employees provided gift acceptance restrictions.

HF2576—Dawkins (DFL)
Legislature
Taxes
Franchise taxable income deduction provided for certain mortgage loan credits.

HF2577—Rukavina (DFL)
Legislature
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Dislocated worker retraining and targeted training grant program established.
HF2578—Cooper (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Ambulance services provided criteria for reimbursement under the integrated service network system and the regulation all-payer option, growth limit and fee schedule exemptions provided, and volunteer ambulance service clarified.

HF2579—Jacobs (DFL)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
 Counties provided off-sale liquor license issuance to certain towns.

HF2580—Wejcman (DFL)  
Education  
Opportunities industrialization centers accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools provided post-secondary enrollment options program eligibility.

HF2581—Clark (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Prescription drug contracting authority provided, correction orders authorized, formulary and drug technology assessment committees established, and price disclosure and costs savings required.

HF2582—Cooper (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
First responders defined and regulated.

HF2583—Winter (DFL)  
Economic Development, Infrastructure & Regulation Finance  
Prairie Land Expo historical display facility development provided by the Southwest Regional Development Commission, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2584—Jacobs (DFL)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Public Utilities Commission rate regulation exemption provided to independent, cooperative, and municipal telephone companies.

HF2585—Wejcman (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Crime victims ombudsman autonomy and inspection powers expanded.

HF2586—Rice (DFL)  
Transportation & Transit  
Motor vehicle transfer fee increased and provided to state patrol vehicles and money appropriated.

HF2587—Seagren (IR)  
Governmental Operations & Gambling  
Management training programs implemented, facsimile machine use authorized, and career executive service abolished.

HF2588—Jacobs (DFL)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Liquefied petroleum gas sales modified, residential liquefied petroleum gas heating equipment energy efficiency improvement provided, and money appropriated.

HF2589—Jacobs (DFL)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Carbon monoxide control area redefined as a 10-county area and oxygenate blender registration and provisions provided.

HF2590—Jacobs (DFL)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Municipal energy conservation investment loan program provided data classification and application information requirements.

HF2591—Jacobs (DFL)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Energy demand forecasting information duplicate reporting eliminated for public utilities.

HF2592—Rukavina (DFL)  
Taxes  
Mineral interest and unmined talcrite and iron sulphides provided increased taxation.

HF2593—Leppik (IR)  
Governmental Operations & Gambling  
Rulemaking administrative procedures regulated.

HF2594—Long (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Landfill cleanup program established for closed permitted landfills, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2595—Van Engen (IR)  
Taxes  
Seasonal recreational property homestead treatment time requirement reduced when occupied by a relative.

HF2596—McGuire (DFL)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Dram Shop Act extended to include providing gifts of alcoholic beverages to persons under age 21.

HF2597—Pugh (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Bail pretrial evaluations required in felony, domestic abuse, assault, harassment, and stalking cases, and money appropriated.

HF2598—Evans (DFL)  
Governmental Operations & Gambling  
Innovation and cooperation government board waivers provided for non-profit organizations providing services to local governments, and money appropriated.

HF2599—Van Engen (IR)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Prairie Woods Residential Environmental Learning Center in Kandiyohi County construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2600—Rodosovitch (DFL)  
Education  
Bond issuance provided for acquisition and betterment of public land and buildings for technical colleges, community colleges, state universities, and the University of Minnesota, and money appropriated.

HF2601—Gruenes (IR)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Disabled hunters with a permanent permit allowed to take deer of either sex.

HF2602—Rodosovitch (DFL)  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Legislative district boundaries used for the 1992 election codified and recodified, with adjustments provided for Willernie, New Hope, and Ham Lake.

HF2603—Pugh (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Liability, personal injury liability provisions consolidated and recodified for good samaritans, volunteer and charitable activities, public benefit or function activities, and other miscellaneous activities.

HF2604—Clark (DFL)  
Financial Institutions & Insurance  
Sign and other language translations provided health insurance plan and workers' compensation coverage, and money appropriated.

HF2605—Dorn (DFL)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Airport electorate bond approval abolished, governing body bond approval provided, levies authorized, and joint agreement bond issuances authorized.

HF2606—Bettmann (IR)  
Labor-Management Relations  
School districts exempted from prevailing wage laws for debt service equalization revenue construction or maintenance projects.

HF2607—Winter (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Insurer definition clarified during marriage dissolution proceedings.

HF2608—Gruenes (IR)  
Health & Human Services  
Medical services assistance grant lump sum payment waiver provided.

HF2609—Pelowski (DFL)  
Education  
Higher Education Board provisions modified related to employee bargaining, unclassified employees, higher education system merger, bonding authority, institutional appropriations, vocational education funding, and student members.

HF2610—Pauly (IR)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Field citation pilot project made permanent and unauthorized waste disposal provided penalties.

HF2611—Vallenga (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Bond issuance provided for the Department of Jobs and Training, Housing Finance agency, and the Department of Trade and Economic Development and money appropriated.

HF2612—Anderson, R. (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Bond issuance provided for the Department of Jobs and Training, Housing Finance Agency, and the Department of Trade and Economic Development and money appropriated.

HF2613—Luther (DFL)  
Judiciary  
DWI breath test refusal penalty increased when a person under 16 years old is in the motor vehicle.

HF2614—Jefferson (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Urban Initiative Board information provided nonpublic data classification.

HF2615—Trimble (DFL)  
Commerce & Economic Development  
Currency exchanges regulations modified and to include wire transfer and money order businesses.

HF2616—Trimble (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Chemical substance administering to wild animals regulated.

HF2617—Jacobs (DFL)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Liquor provisions modified for retailer solicitations, beer consignment sales, retail licensees nonresident eligibility, hotel licenses, political committees, temporary license restrictions, wine tastings, and coupon use.

HF2618—Clark (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Health assurance board created, regional coordinating board membership modified, insurance policy selling restricted, statewide and regional health care budgets provided, health care commission abolished, and money appropriated.

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HF2619—Winter (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 518, Worthington, provided bond issuance for residential facility construction at Lakeview school, and money appropriated.

HF2620—Farrell (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle safety standards and inspection programs studied and money appropriated.

HF2621—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Koochiching County authorized a city-county rural development finance authority.

HF2622—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Itasca and St. Louis county state land sales authorized.

HF2623—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Itasca County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF2624—Reding (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Labor agreements ratified for AFSCME Council 6, Middle Management Association, engineers, community college faculty, nurses, special teachers, law enforcement, unrepresented employees, managers, and professional employees.

HF2625—Mahon (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Metropolitan Waste Control Commission chair salary range reduced and provided part-time status.

HF2626—Wenzel (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Teachers Retirement Association members authorized prior service credit purchase for service in the United States Merchant Marine.

HF2627—Hausman (DFL)
Education
Library services to children and their families grant program established and money appropriated.

HF2628—Battaglia (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Cook County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public waters to the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Indians.

HF2629—Lourey (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Moose Lake Regional Treatment Center community care pilot project established for certain committed patients, and emergency admission standards and notice requirements clarified.

HF2630—Carlson (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle accident reporting threshold level increased to $1,000.

HF2631—Garcia (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Gasoline excise tax exemption provided to transit providers receiving reimbursement for transporting persons needing medical assistance.

HF2632—Gustke (DFL)
Rules & Legislative Administration
Taxes; special vote required on new taxes, tax increases, and tax extensions, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2633—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Motorcycle off-road registration law and rule violation provided misdemeanor penalty.

HF2634—Lourey (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Town road damage award appeals provided understandable notice requirements.

HF2635—Wagenius (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Carbon dioxide emissions included in proposed project environmental reviews.

HF2636—Jefferson (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Gambling
Department of Jobs and Training omnibus housekeeping bill.

HF2637—Jefferson (DFL)
Judiciary
Violence prevention and nonviolent conflict resolution class requirement provided for students, trial by jury of their peers right provided to juveniles, and juvenile justice peer group jury system established.

HF2638—Sekhon (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Metropolitan Waste Control Commission authorized total watershed management agreements.

HF2639—Greiling (DFL)
Education
Food service employees provided staff development training and money appropriated.

HF2640—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Attorney unauthorized practice of law exemption provided.

HF2641—Greenfield (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Workers’ compensation health care utilization review provided state regulation.

HF2642—Pugh (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Juvenile mental health assessments required for juveniles alleged or found delinquent or in need of protection or services, youth intervention programs expanded to underserved communities and populations, and money appropriated.

HF2643—Murphy (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Civil Air Patrol volunteers provided workers’ compensation coverage.

HF2644—Dawkins (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Dog and cat low-cost spaying and neutering program established, dog and cat food wholesale sales tax imposed, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF2645—Greiling (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Appointments provided for certain county offices previously elective.

HF2646—Olson, E. (DFL)
Agriculture
Potato seed restricted growing area expanded.

HF2647—Murphy (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 94, Cloquet, allowed to establish a Time and Technology Enhanced Curriculum school three-year pilot project, and money appropriated.

HF2648—McCollum (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
School buses provided commercial motor vehicle inspection requirements.

HF2649—Hasskamp (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Crosby provided a deputy registrar of motor vehicles office.

Note: HF2650 - HF2692, which were also introduced March 10, were unavailable at press time. They will appear in next week’s issue of Session Weekly.
Coming Up Next Week . . . March 14-18, 1994

Committee Schedule

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

MONDAY, March 14

8 a.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich
Agenda: Presentation of Teaching Excellence Awards. State University System supplemental budget presentation, Terrence MacTaggart, chancellor, Minnesota State University System.

K-12 Education Finance Division/EDUCATION
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia
HF2186 (Anderson, L.) Deer River authorized a grant for White Oak Fur Post tourism and education facility improvements, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF1994 (Asch) Independent School District No. 621, Moundsview, provided a grant for capital investments at the Laurentian Environmental Learning Center, and money appropriated.
HF2193 (Anderson, B.) Fergus Falls appropriated money and bond issuance to establish the North American prairie wetlands learning center.
HF1842 (Molnau) Chaska provided flood hazard mitigation grant, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

Governor's proposed capital budget public testimony. To testify, contact Sandy Dicke at 296-5366, or Pat Morrison at 297-8134.

Human Services Finance Division/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Presentation of the governor's budget recommendations for human services programs (conclusion).

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Wenzel
Agenda: HF2493 (Bauerly) Nuisance liability.
HF2386 (Trimble) Milk labeling.

JUDICIARY
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Any bill not completed at 3/11 meeting.
HF300 (Delmont) Kidnapping.
HF2259 (Farrell) Kidnapping person under 16.
HF2458 (Skoglund) Forfeited vehicles for DARE officers.
HF2483 (Mahon) Permitting law enforcement agencies to exchange peace officers with those of other agencies on a temporary basis.
HF1952 (Bishop) Contributing to the delinquency of a minor.
HF2071 (Smith) Public housing drug free zones.

Other bills to be announced. For further information, call 296-5396.

Regulated Industries & Energy
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Joel Jacobs
Agenda: HF2206 (Kalis) Changing interest rate paid on utility customer deposits.
HF2440 (Beard) Providing a property tax exemption for power facilities containing cogeneration systems.
HF2451 (Winter) Memorizing the President and Congress to act expeditiously in procuring a site or sites for the storage of high-level radioactive waste.
HF2503 (Winter) Appropriating money for educational demonstration grants for wind energy conversion facilities; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.
SF1403 (Terwilliger); HF1558 (Erhardt) Public utilities commissioner duties expanded to include making portfolio assignments and time and travel allocation monitoring of members.
SF788 (Johnson, J.B.); HF834 (Frerichs) Abolishing certain duties of the commissioner of public service relating to energy.
HF2456 (Frerichs) Prohibiting a municipality from using a quick take condemnation proceeding when acquiring the property of another electric service provider through eminent domain.

State Government Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMBLING
300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger
Agenda: Capital investments (bonding).

12:30 p.m.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS
300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: HF2029 (Wenzel) Establishing a veterans' cemetery.
HF2222 (Ostrom) Elections.
HF2362 (Carlson) Changing the definition of a dangerous dog.
HF2089 (Olson, K.) Square dance.

HOUSING
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
Agenda: HF2174 (Orfield) Creating a metropolitan reinvestment account.
HF3XXX (Clark) Mortgage interest deduction bill.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Pat Beard
Agenda: HF1374 (Johnson, A.) Child labor standards. (Delete everything amendment)
HF2228 (Carruthers) Requiring public employers to afford time off to appointed representatives.
HF2562 (Bettermann) Boiler bill.
HF2292 (Sekhon) Protecting certain whistleblowers from retaliation.

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TUESDAY, March 15

8 a.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE
300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. James Rice
Agenda: HF2348 (Farrell) Appropriating money for the Science Museum of Minnesota.
HF2507 (Kinkel) Appropriating money for the Battle Point Historic Site.
Minnesota Historical Society testimony regarding the Northwest Company Fur Post.

EDUCATION
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: Discussion and action on Higher Education and K-12 Education Finance Division bonding proposals. Overview of Minnesota State High School League Rulemaking proposal. (The agenda will be continued at 6 p.m. in Room 200, if necessary.)

Health & Housing Finance Division/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson
Agenda: Public testimony regarding governor's supplemental budget.

TAXES
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann Rest
Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia
Agenda: Capital budget allocations.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
HF2043 (Trimble) Electric public utility with overhead power lines within Indian Mounds Park in St. Paul required to remove the support structures and remove, relocate, or bury the power lines.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMBLING
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: SF103 (Kahn) Omnibus gambling bill. Summary of testimony presented in Gambling Subcommittee.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wayne Simouene
Agenda: HF2169 (Clark) Group residential housing; moratorium exception for Hennepin County.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY
300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Capital investment recommendations.

Other delegation business.

4 p.m. or After Session

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Pat Beard
Agenda: HF2243 (Rukavina) Restoring the purchasing power of a minimum wage salary.
12 Noon

CAPITAL INVESTMENT
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: Citizens panel from Exercise in Democracy mock sessions at Mini-Sessions (New Ulm, Sartell, and St. Paul) present their report.

12:30 p.m.

COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Sarna
Agenda: HF2205 (Jefferson) Modifying requirements for the neighborhood revitalization program; establishing a resident advisory council.
HF1449 (Lasley) Requiring licensing of certain persons engaged in commercial practices related to new motor vehicles; providing for service of process for certain alleged violations; providing civil penalty.
HF1900 (Jaros) Establishing a coordinator of international affairs; establishing an advisory committee; providing for appointments; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 116J.
HF1961 (Kinkel) Removing the prohibition on use of state money for the Board of Invention.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown
Agenda: HF2086 (Girard) Judicial ditch #37 in Redwood and Lyon counties.
HF2104 (Commers) City of Eagan providing for the establishment of a special service district.
HF2330 (Simoneau) Tax forfeited land; authorizing sale by sealed bid.
HF2375 (Jefferson) Local economic development; authorizing the city of Minneapolis to establish a jobs park.

4:30 p.m.

Subcommittee on Data Privacy/ JUDICIARY
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire
Agenda: HF1941 (Carruthers) Listing provisions codified outside the Government Data Practices Act that limit access to data.
HF2028 (McGuire) Proposing classifications of data as private, nonpublic, and protected nonpublic.

6:30 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Children, Youth & Their Families
15 State Capitol
Chr. Sen. Jane Ranum
Agenda: 1994 commission priorities: information collection and sharing family impact statements.

WEDNESDAY, March 16

8 a.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE
300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. James Rice
Agenda: To be announced.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich
Agenda: U2000 presentation, Nils Hasselmo, president, University of Minnesota. University of Minnesota supplemental budget presentation, Nils Hasselmo, president, and Dick Pflutenreuter, associate vice president, Budget and Finance, University of Minnesota.

Human Services Finance Division/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Presentation of funding issues for Part H services for disabled children from the Minnesota Department of Education.

K-12 Education Finance Division/EDUCATION
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga
Agenda: HF2291 (Greiling, Seagren) Improving instruction and educational accountability. Board of Teaching Amendments.

HFXXXX (Lasley) Secondary vocational funding formula changes.

10 a.m.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Leo Reding
Agenda: To be announced.

State Government Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMBLING
300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger
Agenda: Capital investments (bonding).

10:30 p.m.

JUDICIARY
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: Any bill not completed at 3/14 meeting. Other bills to be announced. For further information, call 296-5396.

12:30 p.m.

International Trade, Technology & Economic Development Division/COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros
Agenda: HF2218 (Lourey) Establishing a micro business loan pilot program.
HF2084 (Cooper) Establishing a regional technology pilot project in southwest Minnesota through Minnesota Technology, Inc.
HF2415 (Rhodes) Clarifying applications and criteria for Minnesota companies to participate in the international business partnership program.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: To be announced.

2 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia
Agenda: Capital budget allocations

March 11, 1994 / SESSION WEEKLY 29
Subcommittee on Facilities/
K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: HFXXXX (Olson, K.) Relating to facilities grant to C and C Districts.
Article 5 recommendations.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Pat Beard
Agenda: Continuation of 3/14 agenda.
HFXXXX (Farrell) Independent contractors. Other bills to be added.

6 p.m.

State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMBLING
300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rick Krueger
Agenda: Capital investments (bonding).

THURSDAY, March 17

8 a.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATION FINANCE
300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. James Rice
Agenda: To be announced.

EDUCATION
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: Education Services Delivery Task Force report.
HFXXXX (Olson, K.) Task Force recommendations.
Department of Education report on Federal Part H special education services.

Health & Housing Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Anderson
Agenda: To be announced.

TAXES
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann Rest
Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. David Battaglia
Agenda: Capital budget allocations.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: Bills not heard on either March 15 or 16. Other bills may be added.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMBLING
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: SF103 (Kahn) Omnibus gambling bill.
Amendments and final action.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wayne Simnoneau
Agenda: HF2035 (Farrell) Child support administration and enforcement provisions modified.
HF2391 (Olson, K.) Clarifying data relating to a physician license; modifying provisions relating to foreign medical school graduates.
HF2480 (Simnoneau) Establishing a health insurance counseling and assistance program.
HF2329 (Neary) Authorizing the commissioner of the Department of Human Services to establish a program of staff retention and recruitment grants for child care facilities.

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY
300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis
Agenda: HF2600 (Rodosovich) Higher education bonding bill.

COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Sarna
Agenda: HF1785 (Farrell) Prohibiting price discrimination between motor fuel retailers and wholesalers supplied by the same refiner.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Chuck Brown

Agenda: HF2067 (Sekhon) Anoka County authorized to sell certain tax-forfeited lands bordering public water or natural wetlands.
HF1882 (Macklin) Creating the public boundary line fund associations phase-out or consolidation options, Technical Advisory Group report, Ron Hackett, chair. Other items as may be added by the chair.

7 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn


FRIDAY, March 18

8 a.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peter Rodosovich

Agenda: Higher Education Board working group presentation. Public testimony.

Human Services Finance Division/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield


K-12 Education Finance Division/EDUCATION
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kathleen Vellenga

Agenda: School bus safety: discussion of Task Force report.

TAXES
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann Rest

Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

JUDICIARY
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: To be announced. For further information, call 296-5396.

Subcommittee on Higher Education Policy/EDUCATION
200 State Office Building
Chrs. Reps. John Dorn, Gene Pelowski

Agenda: HF2479 (McCollum) Tech college licensing rules.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: To be announced.

1 p.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & GAMBLING
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Completion of agenda from 3/17, if necessary. Re-referrals under Rule 5.10. Additional bills may be added to the agenda.

Subcommittee on DWI Prevention/JUDICIARY
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Linda Wejczman

Agenda: To be announced. For further information, call 296-5396.

3 p.m.

Subcommittee on Civil Law/JUDICIARY
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Pugh

Agenda: HF262 (Pugh) Regulating S.L.A.P.P. lawsuits.
HF1757 (McGuire) Recreational trails.
HF628 (Stanius) Immunity from liability for volunteer athletic physicians and trainers. Other bills to be announced. For further information, call 296-5396.

March 11, 1994 / SESSION WEEKLY 31
Juvenile justice

Percent of those arrested for serious crimes in Minnesota who were juveniles, 1991: 43
Number of Minnesota juveniles arrested for crimes, 1991: 22,002
Number of those juveniles arrested for violent crimes: 1,383
Percent of surveyed Americans who believe the primary purpose of the juvenile court should be to "treat and rehabilitate juveniles," 1992: 78%
Percent who said the primary purpose should be "to punish" juveniles: 12%
Nationwide, percent increase in the number of juveniles arrested, 1981-1991: 29%
Percent increase in the number of juveniles arrested for murder, nationwide, 1982-1991: 93%
Number of juvenile delinquency petitions filed in Minnesota, 1992: 25,747
Number of those transferred to the adult criminal system for prosecution: 101
Number of requests to transfer juveniles to adult court that were denied: 59
Percent of surveyed Americans who don't believe juveniles should be sent to adult prison for serious violent crimes, 1992: 58%
Minimum age that a Minnesota juvenile may be certified as an adult: 14
Average prison sentence for juvenile offenders sentenced in adult court, 1991, in months: 53.4
Number of states which grant a jury trial to juveniles in delinquency proceedings (Minnesota not among them): 11
Maximum capacity of Department of Human Services licensed residential treatment and mental health facilities for juveniles: 1,191
Group foster homes licensed by the Department of Corrections: 55
Number of kids those homes can hold: 331
Residential treatment centers licensed by the Department of Corrections: 11
Number of juveniles they will hold: 707
Percent of those from the Twin Cities metro area: 90%