Reflections

Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner August Wilson came to the Capitol on Feb. 9 to garner financial support for a new African-American theater and music complex. He is the accomplished creator of the nationally known plays “Fences,” “The Piano Lesson,” and other successful productions on Broadway and across the country.

Wilson’s first play was produced in 1981 at St. Paul’s Penumbra Theatre, which is now seeking funding to expand. He touted the theater as the most outstanding African-American theater in the country. He told legislators that Penumbra’s role could be expanded with the creation of an arts center that would help to interpret the African-American experience.

Legislators greeted hundreds of important individuals and groups who come as guests or to support an important issue. These visitors are received in the House chamber and its private retiring room. Wilson’s visit may have broken the record for the number of individuals who requested to meet the famous guest in the private area behind the chamber.

Surrounded by the room’s quiet grandeur, Wilson stood before the ornate fireplace and graciously greeted the many people who wanted to take a photograph with him.

So many members, staff, and guests lined up that the number equaled the receptions held for the 1990 U.S. presidential hopefuls who breezed through, and the 1991 formal visit by then-Czechoslovakia President Vaclav Havel.

Historical records do not indicate how many people greeted Teddy Roosevelt in 1909 when he came to honor the establishment of the Superior National Forest. But it is noted that others with national affiliation were also visitors. These included Vice President Hubert Humphrey; Vice President Walter Mondale; Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Warren Burger; presidential candidate Harold Stassen; presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy; and civil rights activist and former Georgia State Sen. Julian Bond.

Like Wilson and recent visitor Minnesota Orchestra’s Eiji Oue, other well-known members of the arts have come to the House members’ sanctum. Visiting artists in the past included opera contralto Marion Anderson, Minnesota author and Nobel Peace Prize winner Sinclair Lewis, and Hollywood producer Otto Preminger, Sister Kenny, Joe Louis, James J. Hill, and Will Rogers are just a few other well-known figures who have come to meet House members.

With all of its formal decor, the retiring room on a late session night can be totally different from the site where a prominent playwright like August Wilson was received. In the last days of a legislative session, it is not uncommon to see pizza sharing in progress, or a wide assortment of oriental food being passed around. One might also see a couple of members resting on the original leather benches as they wait to vote on some long and intricate bill.

Obviously, a visit to the House retiring room is a public, yet private “behind the scenes” adventure.

— LeClair Grier Lambert
Julie Jensen, her husband, and her six children live on a piece of land near Olivia in Renville County.

Sometimes, family members wake up with headaches, nausea, and upper respiratory problems. Jensen's daughter sometimes has trouble keeping her balance. When the wind changes, Jensen said it smells almost like a septic tank or rotten eggs.

Lisa Davies also lives in Renville County, and her residential problem is flies, which she said swarm around her home in great numbers. The children can't play on the swings, the family can't use the grill, they can't entertain guests, and they have to be very careful about opening the door, Davies said.

And what do Jensen and Davies have in common? They both live near feedlots — very large ones. Both Renville County residents testified on feedlot legislation in recent days before House committees.

Renville County is home to the cooperative pork producer ValAdco and the liquid egg producer Golden Oval Egg. And what those producers have in common is that both operate large feedlots.

A feedlot is a lot or building or combination of lots and buildings used to feed, breed, raise, and hold animals. Feedlots are designed as a confinement area. Manure can accumulate, so underneath the feedlots are manure basins, often made of clay or earth. There are an estimated 45,000 feedlots in Minnesota.

An increasing number of feedlots are found on agricultural operations that are not simply small family farms where the hogs and cattle graze and the soybean and cornfields stretch out forever.

Competition and consolidation has cut down the number of family farms and increased the number of so-called factory farms, which also increases the number and size of feedlots and the number of complaints from people who live near them.

But some in rural Minnesota believe that the larger farms are needed to keep agriculture alive, that the smaller farms can no longer compete, and that agriculture has to change with the times. They say they are fighting to keep their families in farming.

Responding to the complaints about feedlots, legislators have introduced bills trying to address the problems, and three significant feedlot proposals are advancing in the House.

The bills include a measure that would place a moratorium on feedlots while a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) is done, a bill that would provide for training and licensing of animal wastetechnicians, and a bill that would ban earthen or clay-lined manure storage facilities and establish a livestock industry and environmental steering committee.

Also, Gov. Arne Carlson's supplemental budget calls for a GEIS to be conducted on feedlots.

Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison), himself a farmer, has introduced two bills (HF3441 and HF3320) related to the issue. HF3441 is called the “Living with Livestock” feedlot bill. The bill would require that after March 1, 2000, those who manage and apply animal wastes hold valid animal waste technician licenses issued by the Department of Agriculture. Most family farmers would be exempted.

Peterson’s bill also would prohibit the issuance of a permit for clay, earthen, or plastic-lined animal waste lagoons. And no permit would be issued for a feedlot with a design capacity of 1,000 animal units or more, unless the applicant has a federal permit under the Clean Water Act. (An animal unit is a measurement of waste produced by a specific species. One animal unit is equal to one slaughter steer or heifer, 2.5 hogs over 55 pounds, or 100 chickens.)

Peterson’s bill also would establish a statewide contingency plan to contain and clean up animal waste spills, a county-by-county inventory of feedlots, and an option for counties to adopt and update new feedlot ordinances. It also calls for a GEIS.

HF3320 would place a moratorium on any new permits for construction of feedlots of 750 animal units or more or the expansion of...
open-air manure storage structures until July 1, 2000, or after the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) has given to the Legislature a timeline and cost for doing a GEIS.

A third bill (HF3421) comes from House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), also a farmer.

Winter’s bill would forbid permits to increase or establish feedlot capacities greater than 1,875 hogs, 15,000 calves, 533 dairy cows, or 750 feeder cattle, unless the applicant gets an environmental impact statement. That can cost between $50,000 and $100,000.

His bill would also ban open-air, below-ground earthen or clay-lined manure storage facilities after July 1, 1998. Existing structures would have to be replaced by June 30, 2001, under the bill.

Winter’s bill also creates a livestock industry environmental steering committee made up of legislators, farmers, and environmentalists to perform a GEIS, which would examine long-term effects of the livestock industry and its effects on the state, including the effects on environment, the family farm, and the role of local government.

Jeff Gresser, who is a construction supervisor from Martin County, said Winter’s bill would hurt.

He said he has been busy helping construct feedlots and his business has been successful. He testified against the bill Feb. 10 before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

“If that would shut off, people would be laid off and people wouldn’t have jobs. That would certainly be devastating if that happened,” he said.

Linda King, an Olmsted County farmer, agreed, testifying against Peterson’s moratorium bill, HF3320, which also was heard Feb. 10 by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. She said any farmer in business today has to expand and has to invest a lot of money.

“Minnesota’s agriculture economy does affect every citizen,” she said. “The Minnesota farmer will not go back to the back-breaking operation of the past. Minnesota farmers and their profits are Minnesota’s greatest treasure.”

Both HF3320 and Winter’s HF3421 bill were approved by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Both bills moved to the House Agriculture Committee.

Peterson was very passionate in his presentation of HF3441, the “Living with Livestock” bill, which was approved by the Agriculture Committee Feb. 9 and the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 11.

“I believe the middle ground is still being worked,” Peterson said. “I think I’ve worked hard on [the bill], and I’ve got some soul in this thing. If we lose the ability to keep working toward a middle ground by defeating this tonight, in my heart of hearts, I believe rural Minnesota will never be the same. You will be owned by the corporations.

“I want my kids to own agriculture. I don’t want them working for the country store. I don’t believe it does any good in rural Minnesota,” he said.

Rep. Ron Kraus (R-Albert Lea) said Peterson’s “Living With Livestock” bill would go too far.

“It’s a really important issue to my district too,” Kraus said. “With so many good people on each side of the issue, why couldn’t we have had more middle ground?”

HF3441 now moves the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.
A student-run bank

Accounting students at St. Peter High School in southern Minnesota may have a chance to see what things are like in a real bank. Legislation advancing in the House would allow their school district to sponsor a student-run bank.

A bill (HF2582) sponsored by Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter) would establish a school bank as part of an educational program. The bill was approved Feb. 11 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Besides the classroom instruction, students would operate a student bank, perhaps working with four St. Peter banks that have shown interest in lending a hand.

The students would handle savings accounts for other students at the high school and make small loans, according to the high school’s plans.

Students would have to do many things that folks at city banks must do: maintain accurate records, establish positive customer relations, and make tough decisions.

The aim is that upon completion of the course, students would have a better understanding of saving, establishing credit, and other personal finance responsibilities.

The bank would be run by students in grades 11 and 12.

Mark Haukoos, a student who will be taking the banking course, told committee members he is eager for the chance to be part of the student-run bank.

“It teaches [students] about how financial institutions work; it puts them in real positions. It gives them experience in making loan payments and taking out loans,” he said.

Lawmakers approved a similar measure in 1997 that allows students at Bemidji High School to operate a bank serving other students and employees of the school.

Johnson’s bill now moves to the House floor.

Bank service charges

A bill that would limit certain bank service charges has stalled in a House committee.

The bill (HF1278), sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), was rejected Feb. 10 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

The proposal would limit checking account service charges at state-chartered banks and would try to persuade federally chartered financial institutions to limit their checking account service charges.

The state can’t directly regulate federally chartered financial institutions, but the bill would use state and local deposits and loan programs as incentives to get them to comply with fee limits. In other words, the federally chartered banks could not be depositories for state money if they didn’t follow the limits on fees.

The committee rejected a heavily amended version of Clark’s bill. Earlier versions of the legislation would have placed a limit on the charges for money orders and penalties for checking account overdrafts. Clark’s initial proposal also would have encouraged banks to establish low-fee checking accounts and prevented banks from clearing the largest check first when a customer is overdrawn.

The latest version of the bill has only the limit on service charges.

Some committee members tried to breathe life back into the bill the day after the proposal was rejected by the committee. But that effort — led by Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport) — came up short. A quorum was not present to vote on Marko’s motion to reconsider the bill.

Women and credit history

A bill advancing in the House would address concerns of divorced women and widows who are denied loans or credit cards because they don’t have an individual credit history.

The problem often arises after a divorce or a death because, in many cases, loans and credit cards were in the husband’s name. Women may have been dutiful borrowers suddenly find themselves unable to get a credit card or take out a loan.

A bill (HF2309) sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) would attempt to rectify that by requiring that creditors consider a credit history in the name of the applicant’s spouse and that creditors report a credit history in the name of both spouses.

The bill was approved Feb. 11 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Don Banks, a staff attorney with Dayton Hudson, argued that the bill would duplicate much of what is already in federal law.

When a woman applies for credit and is turned down, the creditor must tell her why, and then the woman has a chanceto appeal, he said. If there’s something wrong on thereport, she can see about getting it changed.

Banks also said the bill would go too far in some areas.

“It would require creditors to give equal weight to a spouse’s credit history as much as their own,” Banks said. “The science of how to grant credit is very difficult. We pay actuaries to do that.”

How to grant credit is best left to the industry, Banks said.

Jim Farnham, a credit bureau lobbyist, said he does not think getting credit is a common problem for women.

“We don’t see this kind of issue coming up in consumer interviews,” he said.

Leppik said the need for her bill remains.

“We’ve heard them say the system should work, and in all probability, that is the way it does work. Then there are times when an applicant finds she has no credit history,” she said. “This [bill] would give that person recourse to state court and small claims court. The applicant still has to establish her own credit-worthiness.”

The bill now goes to the House floor.
Gang intervention, prevention

In many cases, there are only two ways out for gang members — death or incarceration. That’s according to Denise Sjoberg, manager of the Weed and Seed Initiative, a program that assists targeted neighborhoods in eradicating violent crime and illegal drug and gang activity.


HF3125 would provide funding to local organizations to reach children and young adults who are either at risk for criminal gang involvement or who have expressed interest in terminating their gang affiliation.

After-school activities, job skill training, and counseling are among the services that would be offered to the young people.

Sjoberg said the bill is necessary to ensure that “kids who want out will have options.”

Anthony Carter, coordinator for the Summit-University Weed and Seed program, told the panel that children as young as seven are recruited to act as lookouts during drug deals.

“Gangs recruit like colleges,” he said.

The kids who are most easily lured into gangs are lacking in family and peer relationships and spiritual balance, Carter said.

Rep. Arlon Lindner (R-Corcoran) questioned the need for another gang-focused program.

There are “hundreds” of programs already in place, he said. “We can’t hold somebody’s hand for 24 hours a day.”

Most programs are not saving the people who are already in gangs, Carter said, and there is also a need to heighten awareness about existing programs.

“It’s better to spend money on gang prevention and intervention, Carter said, before it has to be spent on the criminal justice system.

“We need to learn how to save lives instead of condemning lives,” he said.

The issue likely will be considered again later this session.

Endowment fund for children

The latest brain research shows that the road map for successful learning develops long before a child heads off to kindergarten.

A bill (HF3167) that would create a permanent endowment fund to improve the physical, intellectual, and emotional development of Minnesota’s youngest citizens was approved Feb. 10 by the Early Childhood Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Nora Slaun (DFL-Maplewood), the bill would submit the following constitutional amendment to voters in the 1998 general election: “Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to create a permanent endowment fund to enhance the development of young children through the age of four?”

Research indicates the portions of the brain that control language, emotions, and logical reasoning develop before the age of five, Slaun said.

Placing the endowment in the constitution, she said, would create a long-term funding source for early childhood education and heighten awareness of the importance of early brain development.

“The science is there; the proof is there,” Jim Koppel, of the Children’s Defense Fund, told the panel. “If there’s any chance of us saving money in the future on social programs, we have to make this investment.”

Possible sources for initial funds for the endowment include surplus dollars in state coffers, a portion of any proceeds from the state’s tobacco lawsuit, or a temporary tobacco tax increase.

Additional funding could come from tax-deductible contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Glenn Dorfman, of the Minnesota Association of Realtors, pledged his organization’s support in fundraising and recruiting other donors.

“Part of the reason we haven’t seen much in the way of returns [on social spending] is because we haven’t spent the money in the right place,” he said.

HF3167 was later approved by the full Education Committee and now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee.

Help for health care consumers

When consumers want resolutions to their health care complaints or questions, many don’t know where to turn. Under HF2649, an office of health care consumer assistance would be created, possibly providing a one-stop center for consumer needs.

“This is not regulatory; it’s advocacy,” bill sponsor Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) told the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 10. “It’s about navigating the system.”

The committee approved the bill, which now moves to the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

The bill emerged from the Patient Protection Act of 1997. In part, that act sought to prevent health plans from interfering with the doctor-patient association and to provide consumers with accurate information regarding relationships between health care providers and health plan companies.

Marilyn Bell, 9, and her brother Aaron, 4, play on the floor of the Capitol rotunda as their mother, Sharon, rests after a long day of promoting continued funding for Head Start programs before lawmakers. The family also attended a rally Feb. 11 as part of Minnesota Head Start/State Parent Organization Legislative Day on the Hill.
Wejcman said each health plan has its own internal process for consumer issues, and the process can be complicated. Among the bill’s supporters was Rep. Mary Ellen Otrema (DFL-Long Prairie), whose husband died of liver cancer in 1997. She agreed the system is “difficult to solve.”

The proposed office would help patients and enrollees understand and assert their legal rights, get appropriate health care referrals, access the services of other agencies, help enrollees resolve complaints, and make recommendations to health plan companies ways to streamline their consumer complaint process.

Rep. Eileen Tompkins (R-Apple Valley) said the office might be just a “Band-Aid” on a messy health care system, and asked who could possibly answer the broad range of questions the office would likely receive.

Wejcman said the governor would appoint a nonpartisan director with broad consumer advocacy knowledge, and who is qualified to address legal, administrative, and public policy issues. The director would have at least nine staff members, under the bill.

Rep. Arlon Lindner (R-Corcoran) said consumers are already confused over who to call with health care questions. Wejcman said with the attorney general’s office working in conjunction with health care companies of paying someone to do the job.

Wejcman said the new office would require an initial budget of about $700,000.

Telemarketing fraud

Telemarketing fraud is a $40 billion industry that preys on senior citizens, according to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

A bill (HF2794) that would establish an outreach and advocacy network to educate senior citizens about the dangers of telephone scams was approved Feb. 10 by the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee.

The network would be facilitated by the attorney general’s office working in conjunction with private organizations such as AARP and the Minnesota Senior Federation.

“Education is probably the most important thing we can do for our senior citizens,” Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), the bill’s sponsor, said.

Doug Davis, an AARP representative, said seniors are particularly vulnerable to phony lotteries and “can’t-miss” investment schemes. Many senior victims are well-educated, he said, and it’s a mistake to think that “unsophisticated, sweet old ladies and gentlemen” are the only ones being conned out of their savings.

Rep. Doug Reuter (R-Owatonna) questioned the need for the state to fund such a program. He said he tells his elderly father to “just hang up the phone.”

Cass Welsh, a consumer fraud investigator with the attorney general’s office, said victims do not know how to get off the phone.

“That generation is particularly courteous,” Rep. Kris Haslump (DFL-Crookston) said. “It goes against the way they were raised to just hang up.”

Ted Robb, president of the Minnesota Telemarketing Manager’s Association, said the industry does not support the bill.

As the geographically remote area in Minnesota, he said, “it would work to our disadvantage as the area.”

Proponents said that honest telemarketers have nothing to worry about.

“This bill will do nothing to hamper legitimate telephone solicitations, such as carpet cleaners or siding salesmen,” Davis said.

“What we are talking about,” Welsh said, “is the dark side of the marketplace.”

The bill now moves to the State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee.

Debt collectors using aliases

Collection agents may give a name when they call to demand payment from debtors, but it isn’t necessarily the agent’s real name.

Under a bill (HF2510) sponsored by Rep. Dan M. Elroy (R-Burnsville), collection agents would no longer be allowed to operate under assumed names.

The bill was approved by the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee Feb. 10.

“The state of Minnesota currently regulates, certifies, or licenses 100 professions,” M. Elroy said. “Debt collectors are the only professionals allowed to use an alias.”

Carol Trebelhorn, president of the Minnesota Association of Collectors, said the right to use an assumed name was negotiated with the Department of Commerce 10 years ago.

Currently, debt collectors must register their given and assumed names with the department.

Collectors are required to identify themselves when they telephone someone, she said, and if there is a complaint, the real name is easily traced through those records.

Aliases are a matter of safety, Trebelhorn said. Two-thirds of the collectors are women who make between 65 and 100 calls a day.

“Telephone collectors are frequently placed in hostile situations,” Trebelhorn said.

Although he is sympathetic to their potential vulnerability, McElroy said, other risky professions, such as social work or law enforcement, are not granted the same anonymity.

“Think it’s a matter of consistency,” M. Elroy said. “The essence of fairness is consistency.”

CRIME

Curbing repeated violence

A bill that would make “three strikes and you’re out” the law in Minnesota was debated Feb. 9 by the House Judiciary Committee.

The bill (HF24) would require life imprisonment for criminals convicted of three violent felony-level crimes.

The bill (HF2510) sponsored by Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka) said that these measures are needed to curb the rise in repeat violent offenders.

“It doesn’t take a brain surgeon to know that someone who is in prison cannot commit a crime,” Weaver said, whose bill is expected to come up again later this session.

A St. Paul business owner whose family has been affected by violent crime testified in support for the bill.

Theman testified that his daughter was kidnapped and raped by a man who had nine previous felony convictions. The father asked that his name be withheld to protect the identity of his daughter.

“A woman is no longer safe when repeat felons are allowed to return to the streets,” the man said.

Theman testified that his daughter was abducted outside her apartment complex in Edina and held captive for 10 hours until she finally escaped. During that time, she was beaten with a tire iron and repeatedly raped.

The man said that his daughter’s life has been completely changed since the abduction. She had to get rid of her apartment and car because of the painful memories associated with the crime, her father said.

“Let us take her precious possession and destroyed her,” he said. “If she must live with this her whole life, why shouldn’t he?” Rape,
Weaver attempted to address the concerns of the members of the committee. He said that his bill was not aimed at petty offenders. He said that it is an attempt to get violent repeat offenders off the streets.

"I want to emphasize to members that this bill does not count as a third strike shoplifting," Weaver said. "We are talking about someone who is willing to do and is convicted of three violent crimes."

Correction officials have not released cost projections for the increased sentences. But Weaver said that keeping violent offenders in prison would save money in the long run.

"When you figure the cost of this bill, you cannot think about it in a vacuum," Weaver said. "You need to consider it in the perspective of total costs saved by society."

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) is also sponsoring a separate bill that also would address repeat violent offenders. HF2286 would restructure current law that requires tougher penalties for "career criminals" and would reduce the number of violent crimes required to receive these harsher sentences.

Both bills were laid over for consideration at a later date.

Dealing with false allegations

In July of 1997, two Richfield police officers were accused of raping a woman during their patrol. The charge was found to be false, but, the officers said, the allegations alone were very damaging.

Both officers were cleared of any wrongdoing after a two-week investigation by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension concluded that the woman had made up the story.

The officers, who asked that their names not be used, testified before the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 6 in support of a bill (HF3035) that would provide new penalties for making such false accusations.

The officers told the committee that the ordeal was something that they never want to experience again.

"Some people made the comment that it's just part of my job. Obviously, it's not," one of the officers said. "After 24 years, I was questioning whether I should remain in the profession."

The bill would make it a criminal violation to harass police officers because of the performance of official duties. The bill also would add police officers to a list of judicial officials who are covered from retaliatory harassment under current law.

The committee approved the bill, which is sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls). Dennis Flaherty, executive director of the Minnesota Police Officers Association, said that police departments are forced to deal with such false allegations as part of the job.

"All law enforcement agencies at one time or another have individuals level charges at police officers," Flaherty said. "They do it for a wide number of reasons. They're vindictive. They're mad at the cop. They're possibly using it as a bargaining chip."

One of the Richfield police officers told the committee that he had only been on the force for 14 months when the incident took place. He said he was shocked when he arrived at work and his commanding officer escorted him out of the station.

"Here I am a brand new officer and I'm calling a defense attorney. It was really overwhelming," he said. "To this day, I don't think I'm as effective a police officer as I was before this incident."

Skoglund told the committee that such false allegations impede the criminal justice process and wreak havoc on the lives and the families of the officers involved.

"Sex charges seem to last forever," Skoglund said. "You can't seem to wash them off yourself."

One of the Richfield officers told the committee that he doubted that he would ever recover from the stigma associated with the allegations.

"Professionally, my reputation means more to me than anything, and that reputation is tarnished," he said. HF3035 is set to be included in this year's omnibus crime bill.

Increase in juvenile crime

The rise of juvenile crime was a major concern expressed to legislators during the October 1997 House Mini-Session in Willmar, Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) told members of the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 6.

Now Juhnke is pushing legislation that would change the way juvenile crimes are handled in the courts.

"We're seeing a dramatic increase in juvenile crime," Juhnke said. "The ones that concern us the most are the repeat offenders — the ones who are doing it over and over again."

Juhnke's bill (HF3059) would attempt to address such concerns by opening some juvenile court records and proceedings to the public.

For juveniles under 14 years of age, the bill would make court records available to the public if the juvenile is found guilty of a third felony or gross misdemeanor level offense.

For juveniles who are 14 years old or older, the bill would open all court hearings to the public, regardless of the offense. The records would be closed to the public when the juvenile turns 21.

The bill was approved by the committee and is set to be included in this year's omnibus crime bill.

Drive-by shooting penalty

A bill that would increase the penalty for committing a drive-by shooting was approved by the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 6.

Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington), sponsor of HF2505, told the committee that the idea was brought to him by a constituent whose husband was shot at while driving on Interstate 35W in August 1997.

The Roseville teenager who fired the shots was initially charged with a felony level drive-by shooting charge, but eventually pleaded down to a second-degree assault offense.

Delmont told the committee that the constituent felt that the severity level of the crime result was something that they never want to experience again.

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justified an increased penalty. Delmont’s bill would raise the maximum penalty for firing into an occupied vehicle from five-year prison term to a 20-year term. 

**HF2505 is scheduled to be included in the omnibus crime bill.**

**Convicted felons with guns**

Society needs to send the strong message that if you’re a convicted felon who is illegally in possession of a gun, you’re going away for a long time, according to Minnesota Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III.

Humphrey told the House Judiciary Committee on Feb. 6 that stronger measures are necessary to keep the streets safe from gun violence.


The bill would increase the mandatory minimum prison sentence from 18 months to five years for convicted felons illegally possessing a firearm.

“This measure will send a strong message that gun violence is unacceptable here,” Humphrey said.

The bill was approved by the committee and is set to be included in this year’s omnibus crime bill.

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**CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION**

**A new proposal to finance the Minneapolis Convention Center expansion was debated Feb. 12 by the Economic Development Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.**

The bill (**HF1529**) was laid over and could possibly be included in this year’s omnibus economic development bill.

Last year, a different expansion proposal passed the full Economic Development and International Trade Committee, but the measure stalled on the House floor.

Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton told the full committee last year that the proposal represented a completion of the project.

The original plans, which called for nearly 500,000 square feet of floor space, were scaled back to the existing 280,000 after then-Gov. Rudy Perpich vetoed the proposed project in the 1980s. After state funds were vetoed, the city paid for the convention center with $350 million in bonds, imposing a half-cent sales tax to service the debt.

Last year’s proposal called for the state to appropriate approximately $37 million to begin construction with the understanding that a future bonding plan would include the remaining portion of the estimated $147.5 million expansion.

The new proposal, which was included the governor’s 1998 bonding plan, would allow the city of Minneapolis to issue $175 million in bonds to cover the design and construction of the convention center expansion. The state would issue its own bonds in the amount of $87 million and use those funds to provide a grant to the city of Minneapolis to assist with the payment on the city bonds.

The effect of this arrangement is that there would be no increase in the city’s debt service costs, thereby protecting its AAA bond rating.

The city would be solely responsible for cost overruns or cost savings on the project.

The governor’s office projects that the $175 million expansion will produce 4,000 new jobs and will generate $4 million annually in new sales tax receipts.

Sayles Belton testified this year that the convention center is a statewide economic development tool because the facility showcases Minnesota businesses.

“It provides a competitive advantage for Minnesota businesses, not just in the metro area but all over the state,” she said.

Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of the bill, told the committee that action would have to be taken by the Legislature this year for the city to be able to issue bonds for the project.

The Economic Development Finance Division also heard testimony on convention center improvement projects in Duluth, Fergus Falls, Hutchinson, and Rochester. These projects also will be considered for inclusion in the omnibus economic development bill.

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**EDUCATION**

**All-day kindergarten**

Children who attend all-day kindergarten do better throughout their school career than those who don’t, according to supporters of a bill that would phase in a full day of school for all Minnesota kindergartners. **HF2763**, sponsored by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), was discussed by the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Feb. 6. The panel took no action on the bill.

The proposal would provide money to certain schools to implement all-day kindergarten programs. Schools would qualify based on the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, and the number of eligible schools would increase annually until 2004, when all schools would receive the funding.

The bill would stipulate that in 1999, schools in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Greater Minnesota would have to have more than 50 percent of their students eligible for the lunch program to receive the kindergarten funds. Suburban schools in the seven-county metro area would have to have more than 25 percent of students eligible for the lunch program to qualify.
In 2000, the eligibility cutoff for the two groups would go down to 40 percent and 20 percent, respectively. By 2004, all schools in Minnesota would qualify for the all-day kindergarten revenue.

Qualifying schools would have the option of implementing a full-day kindergarten, and the schools could offer families a choice between full- or half-day programs. Kindergarten attendance would remain optional.

Wagenius said the bill is aimed at increasing first-grade preparedness.

"Successful young kids become successful older kids, and they don’t end up in the criminal justice system,” she said.

Cheryl Furrer of the Minnesota Education Association said it’s appropriate to use some of the forecast budget surplus to develop all-day kindergarten, which several studies have shown to benefit children.

"It seems like the time is right to make an investment in kids,” she said. "Kids represent 25 percent of the population, and I ask you, are they worth 25 percent of the budget surplus?"

But some lawmakers criticized the plan’s differing levels of qualifications for the two groups of schools.

"My kids are not going to benefit from this,” Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings) said. "In our district, we have poor families and we haveminorities, but wedon’t haveenough. So we’re going to excludethem, and I don’t think that’s fair.”

Wagenius said she also would prefer to see every child in the state have the opportunity to go to full-day kindergarten right away, “but we have to recognize that that’s not fiscally possible.”

The division will consider the bill for inclusion in this year’s omnibus K-12 finance bill.

**Graduation rule funding**

Minnesota schools have just about eight months before the state’s new graduation requirements kick in, and lawmakers are working on plans to get them additional funding to help make the new standards effective.

House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) brought his proposal (HF3610) before the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Feb. 11.

Carruthers’ plan would give schools about $13 million in fiscal year 1999 and about $45 million in fiscal 2000 and in years thereafter. The money would go directly to schools for staff development and implementation of the new requirements. The division took no action on the bill.

"The purpose is to help all the people involved in our education system to implement the graduation standards,” he said.

Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), the division’s chair, said providing schools with money to implement the standards is her top priority this year.

"I believe this year is a critical year,” she said. "If we want this major effort to go ahead, I think we have to put somemoney out there.”

Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton), a co-sponsor of Carruthers’ bill, is also sponsoring a separate bill (HF3263) that would provide one-time funding of $50 million for standards implementation.

"I certainly think the ongoing funding is necessary,” she said. "I’m only disappointed I didn’t combine my bill with this earlier.”

Carruthers agreed that ongoing funding is an integral piece of his plan.

"The theory is that the grad rule is a major change that will continue to evolve,” he said. "Students and teachers will continue to work to improve the standards.”

The division will consider the bills for inclusion in the omnibus K-12 funding bill.

**Reducing class sizes**

Reducing class sizes in public schools is on the minds of many lawmakers this year. A House panel heard three separate proposals Feb. 11 to provide funds to keep classes smaller.

All three plans target second- and third-grade classrooms, and all would providemoney to schools that keep those classes to 20 students or fewer. Current law provides funding for schools to reduce the size of their kindergarten and first-grade classrooms to 17 students or fewer.

Ian Keith, who teaches sixth grade at St. Paul Longfellow Magnet School, testified about the burden of overcrowded classrooms before the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee.

He said that of the 28 children in his class, five are reading on a second-grade level. “Three of them are learning disabled, and there they are all day, struggling with me, while at the other end I have three or four kids reading at a high-school level,” he said. "It’s an incredible challenge, no one is getting the attention they need, and then to those academics you add the behavior piece.”

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), who is sponsoring one of the class-size reduction bills (HF3017), said that current class sizes are “making teaching an endurance race.”

Other lawmakers— including Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), a teacher who once had a classroom of 42 students— agreed that reducing class sizes is an important part of improving the quality of education.

But Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) cautioned that while “our ideal goal would be to have 15 students in each class, I think we have to set more realistic numbers. As much as we want to do that, we also have a limited amount of resources.”

In addition to Entenza’s bill, the division discussed HF3233, sponsored by Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-M entities), and HF3154, sponsored by Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley).

The division took no action on the bills, but will consider them later this session for inclusion in the omnibus K-12 finance bill.

**Schools, public transportation**

Although some parents say they don’t want their children riding public buses to and from school, a bill that would allow the St. Paul and Minneapolis school districts to seek agreements to use public transportation was approved by the House Education Committee Feb. 10.

In fact, several thousand students from those districts already ride Metro Transit buses, especially for after-school activities. But Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of HF2919, said current law sets some barriers to districts entering into certain kinds of agreements with transit companies.

"This bill is a way of allowing for continued dialogue,” he said. "Any issue would still have to be approved by the local school board and the Metropolitan Council.”

Judy Miller, a parent living in St. Paul, testified against the proposal, citing safety concerns that include longer ride times, bus stops located further from home, and the potential danger to children having to transfer buses downtown.

She also said the plan may hurt the city’s program of voluntary desegregation because many parents will not want their children to ride public buses to school across town. Three other St. Paul mothers also testified against the bill.

Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) agreed and urged lawmakers to take “a stand that the House is in favor of safety on school buses.”

But Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) said the bill would not necessarily put money in front of safety — and that school districts should be trusted to look out for children’s safety.

“When transportation continues to take a larger bite out of the education budget, then education suffers,” she said. "We have to be
looking at other models and discussing how we can do a better job for kids."

In the end, lawmakers determined by vote that it would be appropriate to let the districts deal with the issues individually.

“I think the testimony was appropriate, but this was the wrong venue,” Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka) said. “That testimony should be made in front of the school board who will make the ultimate decision.”

The bill now moves to the House floor.

**Driver education program**

Three high school students brought their proposal for a pilot driver education program to the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Feb. 9.

“We learned that there’s a public concern about teenage driving, and we wanted to connect the increased dropout rate and students not doing well in school with that,” said David Nieman, a senior at Minneapolis Southwest High School and a member of the citywide student council.

Nieman worked with seven other members of the council’s subcommittee on driving to develop a plan that they felt would provide affordable quality driver education while encouraging students to perform well in school.

The result is in HF2483, sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), which would provide $2.5 million to establish three two-year pilot programs across the state.

Students would be required to have passed 80 percent of classes taken the previous year to be eligible for the program. State funds would pay 80 percent of driver education costs (about $210 per student) and students would pay the remaining 20 percent.

“If it was state funded, that means it could also be state regulated,” Nieman said, suggesting the state could mandate extra training for nighttime driving or other areas where teens historically have problems.

The proposal also calls for suspending the licenses of teens who drop out of school after completing the program.

David Sodenberg, of the Association for Professional Driving Instructors, said the bill would make it difficult for private instructors to compete for students. He reminded the division that a 1997 law already provides tax credits to some families for driver education expenses.

And some lawmakers said they were concerned by what they see as the discriminatory nature of the bill.

“We have a lot of students who need jobs,” Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) said. “If we pass this law, we put them in a tough place: Do they go to school and use this program, or do they continue to work for supplemental income?”

Nieman said the student council had hoped the bill would encourage teens to do well in school. He suggested the bill could be rewritten to allow principals to exempt certain students from the qualifications.

The bill is similar to current laws in Illinois and North Carolina. The division will consider the proposal for inclusion in this year’s omnibus K-12 education finance bill.

**More funding for scholarships**

It’s been 10 years since the state has increased funding for scholarships for American Indians, but a bill discussed Feb. 9 in the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee would change that.

HF2611, sponsored by Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), proposes $1.5 million in increased funding over two years to three separate programs: American Indian Scholarships, American Indian Post-Secondary Preparation Grants, and American Indian Language and Culture Programs.

All three programs are aimed at increasing high school graduation rates and college attendance rates for members of Minnesota’s 11 federally recognized tribes.

Kelso said the bill was one of several recommended by an interim task force headed by Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) and concerned with finding solutions for minority and at-risk students.

“We’ve increased scholarships for students of color recently, but did not increase those for American Indians,” Kelso said.

Under the bill, each of the three programs would get funding increases of $250,000 per year in 1998 and 1999.

Of the three, American Indian Scholarships receives the most state money, with an appropriation of $1.85 million per year. The need-based scholarships fill the unfulfilled needs in students’ financial aid packages, which most likely include federal grants, loans, parent contributions, and student contributions.

Undergraduates are eligible for up to $3,000 per year from the state scholarship program, and their tribes are expected to match the amount received.

That program has been around since 1955, a year when not one American Indian graduated from high school in Minnesota. In its first year, scholarships helped five American Indian students attend college, and today the program helps about 900 a year, according to Joseph Day, executive director of the state’s Indian Affairs Council.

The division set aside the bill for possible inclusion in its omnibus K-12 funding bill later this session.

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**Student art**

Genevieve Hanson, a junior at Hinckley-Finlayson High School, takes a closer look at some student art work from around the state. The exhibit, in the north wing of the Capitol Feb. 9, was sponsored by the Minnesota Alliance for Arts in Education to promote awareness of arts education.

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**ENVIRONMENT**

**Bonding for the environment**

While debate swirls over the future of Minnesota’s rebounding timber wolf population, a House committee has approved a proposal to improve a popular destination designed to introduce humans to the species.
Nancy Gibson, co-founder of the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minn., presents a bonding request for improvements at the center during a hearing at the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee Feb. 9.

Under a $270 million bonding proposal approved by the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee Feb. 12, the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minn., would receive $336,000 in state bond proceeds for a variety of improvements.

“Our role and mission is public education about wolves,” said Nancy Gibson, co-founder of the center, during Feb. 10 testimony before the committee.

Hometo four wolves — Mackenzie, Lucas, Lakota, and Kiana — the nonprofit center is supported mainly by membership contributions, endowments, and merchandise sales from its mail order catalog.

Mary Ortiz, the center’s executive director, said the organization has more than 8,500 members from all 50 states and 38 nations.

The center estimates that over 250,000 visitors have passed through its doors since it opened in 1993. A similar number is estimated to have visited the U.S. Forest Service’s Boundary Waters permit station within the wolf center’s building.

Gibson said that with all of the traffic through the facility, improvements to the driveway and the heating and ventilation system are high priorities.

The center also intends to add exterior lighting for evening programs, build a garage, replace the lecture hall seating, repair the wolf enclosure, and create an interactive children’s exhibit.

Noticeably absent from the bonding bill is funding for the governor’s proposed $14 million Veterans Memorial State Park in Duluth, Minn.

Here’s a look at some of the provisions in the bonding proposal:

- The Department of Natural Resources would receive nearly $207 million for a myriad of projects, including $28.8 million for grants to local governments to prevent or control flood damages, $24.6 million to improve trails in the Metropolitan area park system and connect them with existing state and regional trails, $20.0 million to establish and maintain metropolitan-area greenways and natural areas, and $8.3 million for safe harbors on Lake Superior.

- The Board of Soil and Water Resources would receive $27.1 million. Of that figure, $16.8 million would target wetlands for protection under the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program. Under RIM, landowners are paid to retire certain lands from agricultural production or place wetlands into conservation.

- The city of St. Paul would receive $14.0 million to develop the Como Park Education Resource Center at the Como Zoo. The center would focus on fostering children’s appreciation of animals and the environment.

- The Minnesota Zoological Gardens would receive $3.2 million for roadway and parking lot improvements. The Apple Valley zoo also has requested $1.5 million in supplemental funding for 1998 to make up for a serious shortfall in gate receipts last summer.

The bonding proposal now moves to the House Capital Investment Committee.

### Living snow fences

Minnesota lawmakers spent $20 million last year to help cities and counties recoup some of their weather-related costs from record-breaking snowfalls during the previous winter.

Of that money, a total of $11 million was distributed to local governments for snow removal expenses.

A bill that aims to reduce the need for such spending in the future was approved Feb. 9 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

HF1561, sponsored by Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), would fund a voluntary program for landowners to plant and maintain trees, shrubs, and grass strips alongside roads in an effort to control drifting and blowing snow.

“I think last winter was a good testament as to why we need this bill,” Finseth said.

The bill would provide $500,000 for grants to soil and water conservation districts to enter into cost-sharing contracts with landowners. The contracts could provide for annual payments to the landowners to cover land and maintenance costs.

North Dakota has a similar new program, Finseth said, and the initial results are promising.

“Franklin Roosevelt promoted living snow fences during the Dust Bowl days,” Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) said. “They were very effective.”

The bill now moves to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

### State lottery advertising

The Minnesota State Lottery needs a bigger advertising budget and would benefit from promotions tied to holidays, according to George Anderson, director of the Minnesota State Lottery.

Anderson testified in support of HF3104 before the House Regulated Industries Committee, which approved the bill Feb. 10. The proposal now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee.

The bill, sponsored by Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington), would allow the state lottery to have holiday themes in its advertising and game strategies. State law currently prohibits lottery advertising from “exploiting” a religious holiday.

Legislators said they did not want to see religious symbols used by the state lottery, but amended the wording of the bill to allow depiction of figures such as Santa Claus or a Christmas tree. Anderson estimated the state loses $5 million to $10 million dollars per year under that prohibition.

That estimate is on his knowledge of holiday-themed promotions in the gambling industry, “which are very popular,” Anderson said.

The bill would also increase from 2.75 percent to 4 percent the maximum amount of annual gross revenues that the lottery can spend on advertising. Anderson said the change wouldn’t necessarily mean more advertising, but would help maintain an adequate level of advertising.

Anderson said advertising rates on Twin Cities television stations have risen 64 percent in the past five years, and Twin Cities’ radio advertising rates have risen 20 percent. In

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The bill now moves to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

HF1561, sponsored by Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), would fund a voluntary program for landowners to plant and maintain trees, shrubs, and grass strips alongside roads in an effort to control drifting and blowing snow.
Duluth, radio advertising rates are up more than 30 percent in the past five years, he said. “This would add about three or four million dollars to our advertising budget,” Anderson said.

He said retail signage, which involves wiring for lights in the signs, has also aged and needs to be replaced. In Minnesota, state lottery retailers receive signage free of charge, so some of the new advertising dollars would be used for new signs.

The bill also would allow the state lottery to pay a bonus of not more than 10 percent to lottery retailers if lottery sales rose over the previous year. The bonus would be distributed among retailers in proportion to their sales.

GAME & FISH

More time for ice fishing

Resort owners and anglers who have been disappointed by an unusually mild winter may get a lift from a bill heading for the governor’s desk.

The bill, which would extend the 1998 ice fishing season until March 1, passed the House Feb. 11 on a 125-0 vote.

The season is normally closed the third Sunday in February. The additional two-week window this year would give resorts an opportunity to capture some lost revenue and anglers a chance to make up for lost time.

The Department of Natural Resources supports the extension; however, the department would have the authority to close the season in the event of an early thaw.

Another provision in the bill would extend the deadline for ice fishing houses to be removed from lakes.

State law mandates that ice fishing houses be removed from lakes by the end of February. The bill stipulates that if the last day of February falls on a Saturday, the deadline should be extended by one day.

That’s the case this year, so the deadline to get ice fishing houses off lakes would be March 1.

The bill (HF2492/SF2111*) is sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int’l Falls). The Senate approved the proposal Feb. 12 on a 47-0 vote.

Moose odds increase

Ten-time losers in the Minnesota moose hunting license lottery might get lucky this year under a bill (HF3275) the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee approved Feb. 9.

Sponsored by Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm), the bill calls for 5 percent of the moose licenses issued each year to come from a pool of applicants who have applied at least 10 times to no avail.

Roger Holmes, director of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Natural Resources, said there were 198 permits issued out of 16,899 applications last year. Holmes said the moose harvest was 152, which means those fortunate few who win the license lottery have good odds for success.

The bill now moves to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

GOVERNMENT

Unicameral legislature bill

Supporters of the switch to a unicameral legislature in Minnesota had their chance Feb. 9 in the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee, but they were unsuccessful.

A bill (HF581) sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) that would have placed the constitutional question on the ballot in November was defeated on an 11-5 vote in the committee.

However, there are several other unicameral proposals that the committee did not act on, and those measures could be considered later this session.

Hausman’s bill would create a unicameral (one-house) legislature called the senate with 135 members, each of whom would serve four-year terms.

If voters were to approve the constitutional amendment, the new model of legislature would begin in January 2003.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) said she likes the idea. “With a bicameral legislature, too much power is concentrated in the hands of the conference. With a unicameral legislature, we wouldn’t have a conference committee, therefore, everything could always be amended,” she said.

When similar bills were approved in the House and Senate, conference committees convene to reconcile any differences. Once agreement is reached in the conference committee, a bill is sent back to each body for final approval, and that bill cannot be amended. Lawmakers must accept or reject the conference committee report as is.

During the meeting, Sen. Dave Kleis (R-St. Cloud) told committee members that he visited Nebraska, the only state that has a unicameral legislature, and liked what he saw. “They’ve never had a serious effort to go back to a bicameral legislature,” he said.

Nebraska’s constitution was amended in 1934, and the first unicameral legislature there convened in 1937. Nebraska’s Legislature is nonpartisan and has 49 senators. The move was made during the Depression to save money.

“Ninety-nine percent of city councils are unicameral,” Kleis said, and some cities are bigger than some states. Canada has a unicameral legislature, as do the governing boards of most businesses.

“They don’t have two boards of directors,” Kleis said.

But Kleis had a hard timeselling some members of the committee, including Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope).

“Comparing city councils with legislative bodies in my mind is a silly comparison and one you best not make,” she said.

Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona) said conference committees are not as undesirable as critics have said.

“The conference committees are open to the public, they resolve the difference in two bills, then it goes back to both chambers. I would think you would open yourself up to less public input [with a unicameral legislature],” he said.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) also had concerns about the one-house legislature.

“Speeding up the process at a time when people have less access to government because of events in their lives holds some concerns for me. This might work well in Nebraska, but I just have a great deal of difficulty (with it). It’s apples to oranges,” she said.

Kleis said the goal of the unicameral system is greater efficiency, not greater speed.

“When it works in Nebraska, it’s a very deliberative process. If you do it once, it’s a very deliberate process,” he said. “You have better responsiveness to the people that send you here in a unicameral legislature.”

Asked what might be different in a Minnesota unicameral legislature, Kleis responded, “Mybe there wouldn’t be as much cynicism in government.”

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), chair of the committee, said a “fatal flaw” in the bill is the proposed four-year terms, which he considers too long.

“If you want to get rid of accountability in government, I can’t think of a better way to do that,” he said.

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Funding request defended

With charts and graphs in hand, representatives of the Office of the Attorney General appeared before a House committee Feb. 9 to defend their 1999 funding request.

Gov. Arne Carlson used his line-item veto authority to strike the office’s entire 1999 budget of $24.4 million last year, citing “unnecessary, imprudent, and unacceptable” growth in the department.

“The governor’s veto was unprecedented,” Lee Sheehy, chief deputy attorney general, told the State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee.

Carlson reinstated $22.5 million for the office in his supplemental budget proposal this year, but Sheehy and Deputy Attorney General Margaret Chutich said they need about $3 million more to operate effectively in 1999.

Chutich, who heads the office’s law enforcement division, said the office has had to turn down counties’ requests for help on tasks including homicide prosecutions, drug investigations, and white-collar crime investigations.

“If the rate of referral in homicide cases and the rate of growth in criminal cases continues without more funding, there will be more declinations,” she said.

The pair also defended their office against Carlson’s charges of spendthrift practices.

“Our services are a bargain,” Sheehy said. “Our rates are substantially lower than in the private sector . . . [and] our attorneys are not even at 85 percent of the compensation levels of other public service attorneys.”

Sheehy also noted that through the office’s efforts, millions of dollars are reclaimed for the state, including, for fiscal years 1996 and 1997: $23 million to the state treasury, $27 million to Minnesota consumers, and more than $200 million in defeated claims against the state.

The office’s 1999 proposed budget is divided into three categories: $13.6 million for law enforcement, $2.2 million for agency representation, and $8.7 million for defense and prosecution of civil claims.

The division will consider the request for inclusion in its omnibus state government finance bill.

Youth empowerment

Saying he doesn’t often make such promises, Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) assured two young people Feb. 11 that his committee would approve their funding request or he would “personally hold everything else up.”

Becky Jarvis, 16, and Tangene Hayslett, 20, appeared before the State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee to support the Minnesota Alliance with Youth.

The youth-empowerment movement grew out of the President’s Summit for America, an April 1997 national gathering in Philadelphia to promote community volunteerism.

“We have youth and adults at the table together and a lot of our goals turn out to be similar,” Jarvis said. “Youth needs to be empowered to talk about problems and to take responsibility for them.”

Both Jarvis and Hayslett spoke about their own experiences dealing with disenfranchised youth.

“Just having someone who you know is interested, someone who says ‘good job’ makes the difference,” Hayslett said.

Donna Gillen, the alliance’s director, said the organization works throughout the state developing resources, such as relationships with mentors, aimed at helping “young people to fulfill their promise.”

She said the organization relies heavily on existing institutions — schools, churches, businesses — to build partnerships between youth and the rest of the community.

The alliance is asking the state for $1.5 million. The bulk of the group’s budget comes from private sector donors including Dayton Hudson, General Mills Inc., Lutheran Brotherhood, and Pillsbury.

The group has also received $49 million from various state agencies.

The division will consider the request for inclusion in its omnibus state government finance bill.

INDUSTRY

Telephone companies pay

The dynamics of telecommunications have brought numerous players into the industry, but when the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) allocates costs incurred during its investigations, telephone companies pay the charge.

That would change under a bill (HF3123), sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris). The bill would charge the costs incurred by the PUC to all parties involved in a proceeding that comes before the commission.

The House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee approved the bill Feb. 5.

The bill was prompted, in part, by a case that involved the reselling of a service provided by a utility.

Jerry Knickerbocker, of the Minnesota Telephone Association, told of a case in which a local phone company claimed that a service user was improperly reselling the service provided by the phone company. The phone company argued this before the PUC and was found to be correct.

“And lo and behold the telephone company gets the bill for the cost of this proceeding,” Knickerbocker said. “The company pays for being proven right. The commission has no ability at the present time to assess anyone other than telephone companies.”

Knickerbocker said the changing nature of the industry is likely to mean similar cases will multiply, not diminish. He said the effect of the current arrangement means telephone customers ultimately and unfairly foot the entire bill.

The committee made a change to the bill.
after hearing from citizens concerned that the proposal would deter individuals from bringing a case before the PUC.

Alvin Huff, who represented the American Association of Retired Persons, told the committee that telecommunication issues are too complex already, and “the end result of this bill will have a chilling effect on dialogue” between citizens and the PUC.

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int’l Falls) asked, “Why would an individual come before the PUC if the individual has to pay part of the cost?”

The bill was amended to exclude citizens and certain “end-users” of telephone services from footing a portion of the bill for PUC actions. The altered bill now moves to the House floor.

**Omnibus family law bill**

The omnibus family law bill (HF2784) was approved by the Civil and Family Law Division of the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 11.

The most ambitious portion of the bill is a somewhat altered version of the parenting plan proposal backed by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul).

The parenting plan proposal (originally introduced as HF1323) would restructure state law to focus on joint decision-making between the two divorced parents.

Under current law, the courts establish custody in situations where the placement of the child is an issue after marriage dissolution. Courts designate a custodial parent, and all decisions concerning the child are made by that parent.

Under the new language, parents involved in marriage dissolution proceedings would be provided the option to compose a plan that would ensure significant participation by both parents in all decision-making. The document would outline visitation and custody issues for the child. Courts would then approve the parenting plan.

Initially, the bill required that this option be instituted by the courts statewide. The latest version of the bill creates a pilot project and gives each judicial district the power to decide whether or not to participate in the pilot.

The omnibus family law bill, sponsored by Dawkins, now goes to the full Judiciary Committee.

**Creepy crawler**

Minnesota Zoo volunteer Maryce Carl shows off a giant African millipede to 3-year-old Jeffrey Wieters, of Big Lake, Minn., as his sister Joy, 5, looks on. Minnesota Zoo staff were at the Capitol rotunda Feb. 10 for a rally to highlight the zoo’s mission and goals.

**Metro Affairs**

**Met Council members elected?**

Under a proposal headed for the House floor, members of the Metropolitan Council would be elected and some would serve on both the council and the board of commissioners in their home county.

Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring a bill (HF2588) that would change the way members of the Metropolitan Council are selected.

“A significant government entity with this kind of taxing power should be elected,” Orfield said, during Feb. 11 testimony before the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Orfield has introduced several bills calling for an elected Metropolitan Council in recent years, including one last year that passed the Legislature but was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

The Metropolitan Council was created in 1967 and is responsible for regional planning in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. It’s one of the largest regional governments in the country and oversees the regional bus system, wastewater treatment facilities, and Metropolitan Mobility, a transit operation that serves disabled people.

Its annual budget is $360 million, partially paid by property taxes. It has approximately 3,500 employees. The council is governed by a board of directors appointed by the governor. There are 16 members, each representing a different portion of the region, and a chair.

Orfield’s latest bill drew much debate during committee hearings on the matter.

Under the proposal, the Legislature would redistrict the metropolitan area after the 2000 census into equal-sized council districts.

When a council district is wholly within a county, the district would be the same as the county commission district. Thus, the person elected in that district would serve on both panels.

For Metropolitan Council districts not within a single county, only candidates for a county board could file (separately) for election to the Metropolitan Council. If elected to both offices, they would serve in both offices.

So it would have the effect of making county commissioners in each county member of the Metropolitan Council.

“I think the main thing the bill addresses is the aspect of accountability,” said Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland), a co-sponsor of the bill.

Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt testified in support of the bill.

“We feel there is a disconnection between the constituency and the Metropolitan Council members,” she said.

But Rep. Ron Kraus (R-Albert Lea) had some concerns about the proposal.

“One of the pluses of having the governor appoint [the Metropolitan Council] is that there is some turnover from time to time,” he said. “What happens if they’re elected forever...
and ever? Do you worry that someone will get on and then be on it forever and a day?"

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) said she does not like the idea of county commissioners serving on the council.

"A lot of the decision-making is dependent on the council serving as a regional group. I think there would really, truly be a conflict," she said. "I have some real problems with those people maintaining their neutrality to the people that elected them."

The bill was approved Feb. 11 by the metropolitan affairs committee and Feb. 12 by the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

**NATO expansion resolution**

A bill calling for a resolution to ask President Clinton and Congress to support the admission of Poland, the Czech Republic, and the Republic of Hungary to NATO passed the House Feb. 9.

A NATO expansion to include those countries is anticipated in April 1999, pending U.S. Senate approval. That body is expected to vote on ratifying the necessary treaty within the next two months.


Jaros spent about two months translating for NATO troops in northeastern Bosnia last summer.

"My idea is that every country should join NATO, and then once everybody is joined in support of peace, we won't need any more armies," he said.

**New transportation fund?**

Mnnesota has averaged one proposed constitutional amendment a year since 1980, and a bill that would create a new state transportation fund would maintain that pace.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport), proposes that voters decide whether there should be a constitutional amendment to establish a new transportation fund for highways and public transit.

The fund would receive all revenues from state motor vehicle license taxes (about $485 million) and 20 percent of the revenue from the motor vehicle sales tax (about $80 million), and the money would be reserved for highway and transit purposes.

The bill (HF3265) was approved by the House Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 9 and sent to its finance division, which has yet to take action on the bill.

The bill also requires that funding for State Highway Patrol enforcement on state trunk highways, other than commercial vehicle enforcement, come from the general fund, rather than the trunk highway fund. The bill also would forbid the use of highway dollars to construct buildings.

The new transportation fund — which would bededub the intermodal surface transportation trust fund — would provide revenue for highway, bridge, and transit projects. The intent is to create a fund that can be used to match federal transportation funds, including dollars for options such as light rail transit.

"We don't have the dollars to match every one of these funds," M Marko said, and "we need some flexibility for optional transportation methods."

Specifically, she would like to see Minnesota in a better position to secure funds available under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).

In 1991, ISTEA was considered revolutionary federal transportation policy. Federal allocations were to be tied to state funds with an emphasis on preserving, or making more efficient use of, current transportation systems. ISTEA was also to encourage innovative transportation solutions.

ISTEA also allowed funding to be "flexed" from one program to another. Giving state and local decision-makers funding flexibility enabled inter-city rail to continue or expand operations, for instance.

Part of the intent of HF3265 is to provide the state with funding to solve its transit, traffic, and parking problems in the Twin Cities area. In that region, construction for new highway projects is estimated to exceed $55 million a mile. And while roughly 250 miles of new highway was laid in the Twin Cities area in the past 20 years, only 20 miles of additional highway is planned in the next decade.

Rural areas of Minnesota, where the cost of highway construction is considerably lower, also would be eligible for matching federal funds under HF3265.

Marko's bill calls for the proposed amendment to the state constitution to be placed on the November 1998 ballot.

Since 1980 there have been 18 proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot, of which 13 were adopted. Amendments to the constitution may be proposed by a majority vote of both the state House and Senate. A majority vote of the total number of persons voting in the next state general election is required to ratify proposed amendments.
have to be 16 years old and possess a learner’s permit for at least six months to be eligible for a provisional license. The applicant would have to be free of traffic violations or convictions in the six months before application. Applicants also would have to complete an approved driver education course.

The provisional license would allow unsupervised driving between 5 a.m. and midnight. Exceptions would be made for trips related to employment, education, or religion. Drivers under 18 applying for an adult license would need to hold the provisional driver’s license for at least a year and incur no driving convictions or violations.

During the 1997 session, bills for teen graduated licensing were introduced in both the House and Senate. The House bill stalled in the Transportation Committee. Its companion bill in the Senate reached the floor but never came up for a vote.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 35 percent of deaths in the 15 to 19 age group result from motor vehicle crashes. In 1996, 6,319 traffic deaths occurred in the 16 to 20 age group.

In a graduated licensing system, full driving privileges are phased in, with the teen gradually accumulating driving experience. The first such model was developed 20 years ago by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The bill also would create youth-oriented driver improvement clinics for young and novice drivers with a history of improper driving practices. The clinics would require up to nine hours of training at a cost of no more than $50.

Light rail transit

The prospect of a light rail transit (LRT) system in the Twin Cities moved closer to reality Feb. 9 when the House Transportation Committee approved a bonding proposal that would provide $106 million toward LRT development.

The LRT funds would provide $99 million to build a transportation line from downtown Minneapolis to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and Mall of America. The line is being called the Hiawatha Avenue Corridor.

The state’s $99 million would be matched with $200 million in federal transit capital funds.

The remaining $7 million for LRT in the bonding proposal would be used to study expansion of the LRT into St. Paul and other corridors and to study commuter rail development.

LRT typically serves urban-suburban markets with short distances between stations. Commuter rail primarily serves the urban market, and is characterized by station-to-station distances of about 2.5 miles. It uses existing rail lines.

The bill calls for $24 million to be available in fiscal year 1999 for the Hiawatha Corridor project and $25 million for the project in each of the subsequent three fiscal years.

An earlier Hiawatha Corridor plan called for $100 million for the project and $6 million in studies for future expansion. However, an additional $1 million was shifted to fund commuter rail studies for the Young America rail line from Carver County to Minneapolis and the Bethel rail line linking Cambridge with the Northstar Corridor of the LRT system in Anoka County.

The bonding proposal also calls for $34 million for local bridge replacement and rehabilitation.

The bill (HF2373), sponsored by Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston), now moves to the House Capital Investment Committee.

“...I’ve been voting ‘no’ on all of these amendments, and I don’t want any of them to be a part of the bill,” Kalis said. “I’m just practicing...”

Kalis chairs the House Capital Investment Committee, through which all requests for bonding dollars must pass before going to the House floor.

A bill that would license naturopathic physicians (HF396) was removed from the House Health and Human Services Committee agenda Feb. 12 after it became apparent it would not be heard in the Senate this session.

Sponsored by Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls), the bill is the fourth of its kind since 1986.

Before Wejcman pulled the bill from consideration, she said, “I don’t normally support a unicameral legislature, but I’d favor it this morning if it means we could get rid of the Senate.”
New member .

Ray Vandeveer to focus on taxes, education, crime

By Grant Martin

Recently elected Rep. Ray Vandeveer (R-Forest Lake) likes to put his money where his mouth is.

“I firmly believe we have a strong and good form of government,” he said. “But it’s also very delicate, and it depends on one thing and that’s citizens being involved at some level or another to make it work.”

And he has been involved.

Vandeveer served on the Mounds View Charter Commission. He is a member of the Forest Lake Planning Commission and a former member of the government affairs committee of the Suburban Area Chamber of Commerce. He also has served as a volunteer probation officer in Anoka County.

He said that his experience in local government will help him better serve the people of his legislative district, especially because he is familiar with the current local issues.

“It gives me an idea of what the local problems are in the district I represent,” Vandeveer said. “There are some issues with the proposed merger of Forest Lake and Forest Lake Township that really shine the light on local problems.”

Vandeveer lives in Forest Lake with his wife, Camille, and their four children, Paul, Phillip, Cara, and Alana. He owns a real estate appraisal firm that has been in business since 1981.

He made his first attempt at elected office in 1996 when he challenged incumbent state Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township) and lost. But Vandeveer said he was very proud of how the vote turned out, considering the fact that he was running against an incumbent.

“I was pretty convinced that the voters liked and approved of my message to do that well,” he said.

Vandeveer said his numbers were particularly good in the half of that Senate district that comprises his current House district.

So when Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake) resigned to take a new job as a judge in the 10th Judicial District Court, Vandeveer felt that he was the right person for the job.

“I did not expect that to happen when it did and it was clearly an opportunity coming out of the Senate race and doing well on our side of the district against an incumbent,” he said.

“I thought it was a good fit.”

Vandeveer said that he plans to focus on taxes, crime, and education as a member of the House. He said that taxes are too high in Minnesota, and he will focus on providing tax relief for families.

“My priorities will be lower taxes and reduced state spending. I want to work very hard to see that we reduce that level of taxation for hard-working families,” he said.

Vandeveer said the state also has to protect its population against violent crime.

“We want a clear signal that this is the wrong place, the wrong state to come and commit violent crime,” he said.

When it comes to violent crime, the state must be concerned with safety first — more than rehabilitation — but the state should also work on developing prevention programs to keep youth out of crime, Vandeveer said.

“I served as a volunteer probation officer a number of years ago in Anoka County, and I do think that those kinds of programs that work with youth are the probably the most likely to be successful,” he said. “Getting to kids, I think this is where we have the best chance of success.”

Vandeveer says that he wants to ensure the quality of education in his district.

“I think equitable funding for education is a big issue in a lot of suburban districts, and ours is no exception. That is important to me,” he said.

Vandeveer won the special election on Jan. 27 and was sworn in to office on Feb. 5. He said that after a week on the job, he has been impressed by the speed at which things move in the Legislature and with the commitment of the members.

“There are people I have met on both sides, from both parties who are passionate about their views and representing their constituents,” he said. “It really confirms my appreciation for our system of government.”

District 51B
1995 population: 40,179
Largest city: Lino Lakes
Counties: Anoka, Washington
Location: Northeastern suburban metro
Top concern: “Reducing the level of taxation. I think clearly in Minnesota we’re overtaxed. I want to work very hard to see that we reduce that level of taxation for hard-working families. That’s very important to me.”
—Rep. Ray Vandeveer

Frequently called numbers

| Secretary of the Senate | 231 Capitol ........................................ 296-0271 |
| Voice mail/order bills ........................................ 296-2343 |
| Chief Clerk of the House | 211 Capitol ........................................ 296-2314 |
| Index, Senate | 110 Capitol ........................................ 296-2887 |
| Index, House | 211 Capitol ........................................ 296-6646 |
| Information, Senate | 231 Capitol ........................................ 296-0504 |
| Information, House | 175 State Office Building ........................................ 296-2146 |
| Committee Hotline, Senate ........................................ 296-8088 |
| Committee Hotline, House ........................................ 296-9283 |
| Sergeant at Arms, Senate ........................................ 296-7159/6-1119 |
| Sergeant at Arms, House ........................................ 296-4860 |
| Counsel and Research, Senate ........................................ 296-4791 |
| Research, House ........................................ 600 State Office Building ........................................ 296-6753 |
| Legislative Reference Library ........................................ 296-3398 |
| Revisor of Statutes ........................................ 700 State Office Building ........................................ 296-2868 |
| Governor’s Office | 130 Capitol ........................................ 296-3391 |
| Attorney General’s Office | 102 Capitol ........................................ 296-6196 |
| Secretary of State’s Office | 180 State Office Building ........................................ 296-9208 |
| Capitol Security | B-4 Capitol ........................................ 296-6741 |
| Emergency ........................................ 296-2100 |
| TYY*, Senate ........................................ 296-0250 |
| Toll free ........................................ 1-800-657-3550 |
| TYY*, House ........................................ 296-9896 |
In the Hopper . . . Feb. 4, Feb. 6 - 12, 1998

Bill Introductions

HF3252-HF3338 were inadvertently left out of last week’s Session Weekly.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

HF3252—Clark, K. (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipalities assisted in implementing preferred economic development practices, businesses receiving public subsidies wage and job reporting requirements modified, inducing businesses to relocate penalized, and money appropriated.

HF3253—Clark, K. (DFL)
Judiciary
Nonprofit drug and alcohol-free rental housing agreement immediate termination permitted.

HF3254—Kahn (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
County recorder and registrar functions provided additional methods.

HF3255—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Threats; mandatory life sentences without parole imposed for persons convicted of a third violent felony offense, and mandatory life sentence imposed for second violent felony offense.

HF3256—Leppik (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Heritage Lakes initiative created to improve lake and ecosystem quality, and advisory council provided.

HF3257—Larsen (R)
Judiciary
Sauk Centre and Thistlewood correctional facilities considered special education residential care, and advisory council provided.

HF3258—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medicaid; Congress memorialized to remove Medicaid policy barriers to Medicaid; Congress memorialized to.

HF3259—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Food stamp benefits extended for noncitizens, public housing residents’ MFIP-S grant reductions delayed, alcohol and drug dependent persons’ benefits continued, TANF funds transferred to federal Title XX allocation, and money appropriated.

HF3260—Jefferson (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Suburban Hennepin Regional Park district employee authorized to change coverage from the Public Employees Retirement Association coordinated plan to the public employees defined contribution plan.

HF3261—Mariani (DFL)
Education
Basic sliding fee child care program funding for elimination of county waiting lists provided, and money appropriated.

HF3262—Mariani (DFL)
Education
Basic sliding fee child care program assistance eligibility income upper limit raised, and money appropriated.

HF3263—Schumacher (DFL)
Education
Graduation standards teacher training funding enhanced, and money appropriated.

HF3264—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Counterfeited trademark possession, manufacture, or distribution prohibited, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3265—Marko (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk highway fund expenditures required, road or highway defined, transportation spending goals established, transportation trust fund created, and tax revenue dedicated, state patrol funded, local bridge grants provided, and bonds issued.

HF3266—Kelso (DFL)
Education
Charter school contractual agreements for teaching and administrative services clarified, and exemption created for existing arrangements.

HF3267—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
CODEFOR; Computer Optimized Development-Focus On Results law enforcement strategy demonstration grant program established in Hennepin County, and money appropriated.

HF3268—Pugh (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties, affirmative action plan requirements for contractors modified.

HF3269—Milbert (DFL)
Education
Inver Hills Community College reimbursed for campus construction costs, and money appropriated.

HF3270—Milbert (DFL)
Education
Inver Hills Community College campus entrance constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3271—Pugh (DFL)
Education
Special School District No. 6, South St. Paul, lease levy for instructional space authorized.

HF3272—Tomassoni (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Township mutual fire insurance company riskig awarded.

HF3273—Seifert (R)
Taxes
New farm equipment and aquaculture production equipment sales tax exemption provided.

HF3274—Kubly (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Mcleod County; Stewart storm sewer project design funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3275—Tomassoni (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Percentage of moose licenses to be selected from previously unsuccessful applicants.

HF3276—Skare (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Beaver damage control grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF3277—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Deliberating grand jury provided interpreter assistance for jurors who are communication handicapped.

HF3278—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Firearm permit penalty enhancement clarified relating to prior convictions.

HF3279—Chaudhary (DFL)
Judiciary
Landlords prohibited from accepting earnest collateral as a condition to refuse reconsideration of other prospective tenants, and civil penalties provided.

HF3280—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medical assistance special transportation services reimbursement modified.

HF3281—Murphy (DFL)
Capital Investment
Corrections and Public Safety departments capital improvement finance bill.

HF3282—Murphy (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 700, Hermantown, sports/physical education complex provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3283—Tunheim (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Kittson County Board of Commissioners authorized to establish an economic development authority.

HF3284—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Minnesota free flow of information act; witness information disclosure conditions fixed.

HF3285—Rukavina (DFL)
Governmental Operations
St. Louis County Sheriff’s Department employee authorized a prior service credit purchase in the Public Employees Relief Association police and fire fund.
HF3286—Tomassoni (DFL)  
**Education**  
Hibbing Community and Technical College technical education facility constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3287—Seifert (R)  
**Health & Human Services**  
Mortuary science lifetime, limited license issued for volunteer or emergency practice applicants.

HF3288—Dawkins (DFL)  
**Judiciary**  
Weed and seed; crime, drug, and illegal activity eradication program grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF3289—Kielkucki (R)  
**Education**  
University of Minnesota Board of Regents prohibited from requiring 4-H chapters to comply with human rights provisions and refrain from sexual orientation discrimination.

HF3290—Daggett (R)  
**Economic Development & International Trade**  
Perham Area Technology Center renovation provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3291—Dorn (DFL)  
**Education**  
Mankato State University student athletic facilities remodeling and construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3292—Greenfield (DFL)  
**Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance**  
Winchell Trail in Minneapolis reconstructed and construction provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF3293—Kraus (R)  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Albert Lea authorized to issue additional on-sale liquor licenses.

HF3294—Ness (R)  
**Economic Development & International Trade**  
Hutchinson Community Center constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3295—Rifenberg (R)  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3296—Long (DFL)  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Advertisements, public art, and informational signs allowed on highways rights-of-way bicycle racks and storage facilities.

HF3297—Long (DFL)  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
MERLA; statute of limitations provided for filing of actions under the Minnesota Environmental Response and Liability Act.

HF3298—Dempsey (R)  
**Governmental Operations**  
Independent School District No. 200, Hastings, teacher retirement association extended, leave deadline extension.

HF3299—Ness (R)  
**Labor-Management Relations**  
Prevailing wage determinations to include certain government employees.

HF3300—Finseth (R)  
**Transportation & Transit**  
Implementsofhusbandrytrailer combinations size and weight exemption provided for dealers.

HF3301—Finseth (R)  
**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**  
Southwest Asia veterans bonus payments provided to merchant marines serving on active duty during the time of eligibility.

HF3302—Dorn (DFL)  
**Education**  
School district training and experience revenue restored, special education revenue base year adjustment modified, and school boards provided additional compensatory revenue allocation flexibility.

HF3303—Mulder (R)  
**Education**  
Child development provider registry established, and money appropriated.

HF3304—Garcia (DFL)  
**Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs**  
Telephone solicitations by use of predictive dialing devices prohibited.

HF3305—Tomassoni (DFL)  
**Education**  
School district declining pupil aid created.

HF3306—Stanek (R)  
**Judiciary**  
Short-barreled rifle possession or operation provided criminal penalties.

HF3307—Biemart (DFL)  
**Education**  
Minnesota learning resource center established to treat children with learning problems, and money appropriated.

HF3308—Weaver (R)  
**Judiciary**  
Public accommodation access discrimination based upon clothing insignia or mode of transportation prohibited, and civil and criminal penalties provided.

HF3309—Garcia (DFL)  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Richfield authorized to establish tax increment financing districts subject to special rules relating to the airport and noise mitigation.

HF3310—Long (DFL)  
**Health & Human Services**  
Licensed boarding care home capacity increased for Medical Assistance reimbursement.

HF3311—Mares (R)  
**Governmental Operations**  
State departments supplemental appropriations bill.

HF3312—Finseth (R)  
**Judiciary**  
Adult offender restitution grant program established.

HF3313—Skoglund (DFL)  
**Judiciary**  
Witnesses subpoenaed by the legislature provided limited liability, and legislative disclosure provided.

HF3314—Anderson, I. (DFL)  
**Ways & Means**  
Tobacco litigation proceeds deposited in the general fund and subject to appropriation.

HF3315—Orfield (DFL)  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Minneapolis City Council provided appointment authority for the Civilian Police Review Authority executive director.

HF3316—Tunheim (DFL)  
**Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance**  
Minnesota canola production center research and production techniques demonstration funded, and appropriated money.

HF3317—Tuma (R)  
**Governmental Operations**  
State classified position noncompetitive promotion of incumbents restricted if the position has been reallocated to a different bargaining unit.

HF3318—Peterson (DFL)  
**Agriculture**  
Southwest State University regional studies center established, and money appropriated.

HF3319—Peterson (DFL)  
**Agriculture**  
Animal wastetechnician training and licensing provided, feedlot expansion permits limited, animal waste spill liability account created and funded, generic environmental impact statements required, and money appropriated.

HF3320—Peterson (DFL)  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Animal feedlot construction moratorium established.

HF3321—Peterson (DFL)  
**Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance**  
Ethanol production goals and producer payments modified.

HF3322—Dempsey (R)  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Small gasoline retailer petroleum fund reimbursement modified.

HF3323—Anderson, B. (R)  
**Judiciary**  
Private property rights protection act adopted.

HF3324—Ozment (R)  
**Regulated Industries & Energy**  
Excavation notification system regulated, pipeline safety committee appointed, and civil penalties increased.

HF3325—Macklin (R)  
**Judiciary**  
Capital intensive public service proposals and negotiation documents provided nonpublic data classification until final offers are received.
HF3326—Greenfield (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Home Care Bill of Rights modified relating to the Office of the Ombudsman for Older Minnesotans.

HF3327—Anderson, I. (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Reimbursement rate exemption extended for a certain nursing facility.

HF3328—Entenza (DFL)  
Education  
Learn and earn graduation achievement program grant award reworded.

HF3329—Johnson, A. (DFL)  
Education  
Charter school No. 4011 New Vision’s program replicated, remote-site consulting services funded, and money appropriated.

HF3330—Wenzel (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Little Falls conference center and retreat site developed, and money appropriated.

HF3331—McGuire (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Mentally ill inmates required to be separated from other inmates.

HF3332—Skoglund (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Open adoption agreements modified.

HF3333—Paymar (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Tobacco manufacturers required to report hazardous substances to assist in local ordinance enforcement.

HF3334—Stanek (R)  
Judiciary  
Firearm possession by a nonresident alien provided felony criminal penalties.

HF3335—Biernat (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Guardian and conservator background checks and data access authorized, informational statements required, optional competency and training requirements established, volunteer review pilot project created, and money appropriated.

HF3336—Biernat (DFL)  
Education  
Alternative program and area learning center graduation standards grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF3337—Stang (R)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Stearns County tax-forfeited land bordering public water sale authorized.

HF3338—Mulder (R)  
Education  
At-Home Infant care Program eligibility provisions modified.

Monday, Feb. 9

HF3449—Wejcman (DFL)  
Agriculture  
Minnesota grown coupon program eligibility requirements expanded, expansion pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF3450—Anderson, I. (DFL)  
Governmental Operations  
Council of State Governments provided funding for meetings with the Manitoba and Ontario parliaments, and money appropriated.

HF3451—Davids (R)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Fillmore, Mower, Olmsted, and Dodge counties smallmouth bass regulations modified.

HF3452—Davids (R)  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance  
Eyetta to Chatfield Blufflands Trail funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3453—Paulsen (R)  
Taxes  
Income tax brackets and alternative minimum tax exemption amounts modified to reduce marriage penalties.

HF3454—Rukavina (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
St. Louis County authorized to sell school trust land bordering public waters.

HF3455—Delmont (DFL)  
Education  
School district equalization aid funded through Education Trust Fund revenue, and money appropriated.

HF3456—Davids (R)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Chatfield brass band music lending library funded, and money appropriated.

HF3457—Paymar (DFL)  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Outdoor tobacco advertising prohibited near schools, child care centers, and playgrounds, retail exception provided, and penalties imposed.

HF3458—Sykora (R)  
Education  
State Board of Education eliminated and duties transferred to the department of Children, Families and Learning, Faribault Academies Board created, and racial segregation prohibited.

HF3459—Greiling (DFL)  
Labor-Management Relations  
Employers required to accommodate nursing mothers, and unpaid break time provided.

HF3460—Westfall (R)  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance  
Hawley sewer lagoon repair and update funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3461—Holsten (R)  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance  
Washington County; Brown’s Creek restoration and Brown’s Creek watershed district flood control measures funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3462—Greiling (DFL)  
Taxes  
Property tax refund formula alternative-based on household income provided.

HF3463—Erhardt (R)  
Taxes  
Exempt capital equipment sales payment and refund requirements repealed.

HF3464—Hilty (DFL)  
Governmental Operations  
Construction codes advisory council established.

HF3465—Tomassoni (DFL)  
Labor-Management Relations  
St. Louis County; additional reemployment insurance benefits provided to HibbingTaconite Company claimants, and requirement exemption authorized.

HF3466—Milbert (DFL)  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Election conduit fund associations required to have a treasurer, register with the Board of Campaign Finance and public disclosure, and commingling of funds prohibited.

HF3467—Biernat (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Shared parenting in residence provided relating to child custody, and training program established.

HF3468—Entenza (DFL)  
Education  
Collaborative urban educator program funding increased, and money appropriated.

HF3469—Murphy (DFL)  
Education  
Independent School District No. 704, Proctor teacher contract late settlement penalty reimbursement provided, and money appropriated.

HF3470—Kubly (DFL)  
Agriculture  
Farmer-lender mediation director modified, and farmer-lender mediation act made permanent.

HF3471—Munger (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Northern Leopard Frog designated as the state amphibian and the Blanding’s Turtle designated as the state reptile.

HF3472—Jennings (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Chisago County authorized to sale tax-forfeited land bordering public waters.

HF3473—Milbert (DFL)  
Taxes  
Junior golf programs certified by the Amateur Sports Commission, and golf facilities provided partial sales tax refund for qualifying junior programs.

HF3474—Hausman (DFL)  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance  
Science Museum of Minnesota provided exhibition funding, and money appropriated.

HF3475—Smith (R)  
Health & Human Services  
Tobacco manufacturers required to report hazardous substances to assist in local ordinance enforcement.

HF3476—Schumacher (DFL)  
Transportation & Transit  
Metropolitan regular route and Greater Minnesota transit operating assistance funded, fixed local shares calculation formula modified, and money appropriated.
HF3477—Schumacher (DFL) 
Transportation & Transit 
Metropolitan and Greater Minnesota 
transit vehicle replacement funded, 
and money appropriated.

HF3478—Greenfield (DFL) 
Health & Human Services 
Medical Assistance covered homes 
expanded to include nurse as 
mental health services.

HF3479—Koskinen (DFL) 
Health & Human Services 
Nutritional supplement program 
reach study funded, and money 
 appropriated.

HF3480—Greenfield (DFL) 
Health & Human Services 
MinnesotaCare income limit 
increased for certain child care 
workers.

HF3481—Farrell (DFL) 
Economic Development 
& International Trade 
Stroh Brewery area redevelopment 
creation assistance provided, and money 
 appropriated.

HF3482—Knoblach (R) 
Regulated Industries & Energy 
State lottery advertising prohibited.

HF3483—Jaros (DFL) 
Economic Development 
& International Trade 
Welfare-to-work extended employ 
ment partnership program contin 
ued, and money appropriated.

HF3484—Jaros (DFL) 
Economic Development 
& International Trade 
Earl C. Buck operating center in 
Duluth restored, bonds issued, and 
money appropriated.

HF3485—Olson, E. (DFL) 
Environment & Natural Resources 
Red Lake County authorized to pri 
vately sell surplus land bordering public 
water.

HF3486—Anderson, B. (R) 
Local Government 
& Metropolitan Affairs 
Owatonna authorized to im 
pose additional excise and use 
taxes to fund the Owatonna economic 
development 2000 operating facilities.

HF3487—Pawlenty (R) 
Transportation & Transit 
Drivers over age 70 required to renew 
license every two years, and fees modi 
 fied.

HF3488—McGuire (DFL) 
Judiciary 
Pedestrian right-of-way provisions 
modified, peace officer arrest auth 
ority expanded, and motor vehicle 
owner or lessee penalty imposed.

HF3489—McGuire (DFL) 
Judiciary 
Parking space leasing data definition 
expanded to include location of the 
space.

HF3490—Erhardt (R) 
Financial Institutions & Insurance 
Banking institutions reverse split 
authorized, and retail motor vehicle 
installment contract complaint no 
tice provided.

HF3491—Erhardt (R) 
Taxes 
Homestead property exceeding 
$75,000 provided reduced property 
 class rate.

HF3492—Erhardt (R) 
Taxes 
Capital gains tax exclusion provided 
for the sale of property used as a prin 
cipal residence.

HF3493—Erhardt (R) 
Taxes 
Student loan interest and education 
savings account income tax deduc 
tion provided.

HF3494—Rukavina (DFL) 
Commerce, Tourism 
& Consumer Affairs 
Grocery item pricing regulated, and 
remedies provided.

HF3495—Pugh (DFL) 
Local Government 
& Metropolitan Affairs 
West St. Paul and Dakota County 
housing and redevelopment author 
ity provided exemption from tax in 
crement financing district 
requirements.

HF3496—Reuter (R) 
Local Government 
& Metropolitan Affairs 
Owatonna authorized to im 
pose additional excise and use taxes to fund the Owatonna economic development 2000 operating facilities.

HF3497—Rukavina (DFL) 
Governmental Operations 
Blind or visually impaired persons 
provided access to information tech 
nology, and nonvisual access stan 
dards established.

HF3498—Evans (DFL) 
Local Government 
& Metropolitan Affairs 
Seven-city coalition redevelopment 
tax increment financing district re 
strictions modified, and money 
 appropriated.

HF3499—Evans (DFL) 
Taxes 
Homestead rehabilitation expendi 
ture income tax credit provided for 
homeowners that present a health haz 
dard to occupants.

HF3500—Evans (DFL) 
Transportation & Transit 
Counties authorized to establish 
county state-aid highway minimum 
standards.

HF3501—Carlson (DFL) 
Capital Investment 
Omnibus education bonding bill pro 
viding public improvements of a capital 
nature, bond issuance authorized, and 
money appropriated.

HF3502—Dawkins (DFL) 
Judiciary 
State research grant recipients pro 
vided nonpublic data access.

HF3503—Greiling (DFL) 
Education 
Basic revenue pupil unit determina 
tion to include students graduating 
early.

HF3504—McCollum (DFL) 
Education 
Children’s endowment fund estab 
lished, money appropriated, and consti 
tutional amendment proposed.

HF3505—Johnson, R. (DFL) 
Agriculture 
Manure digester farm demonstration 
jects funded, bonds issued, and 
money appropriated.

HF3506—Wenzel (DFL) 
Judiciary 
Drive-by-shooting penalties in 
creased.

HF3507—McCollum (DFL) 
Education 
Manure digester farm demonstration 
jects funded, capital improvements 
provided, bonds issued, and money 
 appropriated.

HF3508—Carlson (DFL) 
Financial Institutions & Insurance 
Health plan companies required to 
notify enrollees of subrogation claims 
and recoveries.

HF3509—Evans (DFL) 
Economic Development 
& International Trade 
Small minority- and women-owned 
business state widespread database created, and money appropriated.

HF3510—Holsten (R) 
Environment, Natural Resources 
& Agriculture Finance 
Pollution control agency and depart 
ments of natural resources and agri 
culture lakes initiative funded, and 
appropriated money.

HF3511—Leppik (R) 
Commerce, Tourism 
& Consumer Affairs 
Cigarette displays accessible to 
the public limited to cartons of ten units 
or more.

HF3512—Bakk (DFL) 
Transportation & Transit 
Lake County Forest Highway 11 
project completed, bonds issued, and 
money appropriated.

HF3513—Haas (R) 
Health & Human Services 
Children ineligible for MinnesotaCare 
provided payments for employer-subsidized insur 
ance under the state children’s health insurance program, and funding plan 
required.

HF3514—Evans (DFL) 
Education 
Facility maintenance projects pro 
vided review and comment exemp 
tion, total operating capital revenue use, youth initiative grants, and debt service equalization expanded, main 
tenance levy and technology aid cre 
ated, and money appropriated.

HF3515—McGuire (DFL) 
Judiciary 
Ramsey County family court com 
bined jurisdiction pilot project sunset 
estended.

HF3516—Wenzel (DFL) 
Judiciary 
Drive-by-shooting penalties in 
creased.

HF3517—Reuter (R) 
Economic Development 
& International Trade 
Owatonna Heritage Halls Museum 
project funded, bonds issued, and 
money appropriated.
HF3518—Reuter (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Owatonna heritage halls museum project grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3519—Mullery (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health maintenance organizations required to designate a medical director, and health treatment decision and policy liability established.

HF3520—Mullery (DFL)
Education
Girls and women encouraged to enter nontraditional careers, organization grant eligibility provided, and money appropriated.

HF3521—Rukavina (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Employer contribution for employee housing tax credit provided.

HF3522—Hilty (DFL)
Education
School district special education assessments modified.

HF3523—Biernat (DFL)
Education
School district operating capital revenue use restriction on building acquisition or construction removed.

HF3524—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Qualified landfills authorized to accept materials from closed dumps.

HF3525—Skare (DFL)
Taxes
Agricultural homestead land subject to a reduced property class rate provided increased valuation.

HF3526—Kubly (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Stewart storm sewer project funded, and money appropriated.

HF3527—Hasskamp (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Combat wounded veterans honorary plaque placed in the court of honor on the Capitol grounds.

HF3528—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
State lottery retailer study task force established.

HF3529—Rukavina (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Equity take-out loan availability extended, low-income housing tax credit allocation procedures modified, federally assisted rental housing program provisions modified, tenant relocation assistance permitted, and money appropriated.

HF3530—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Snowmobile and personal watercraft titling and licensing required, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3531—McCollum (DFL)
Taxes
Farm machinery definition modified to include equipment used to produce flowering or ornamental plants including nursery stock relating to sales and use tax.

HF3532—Bettermann (R)
Labor-Management Relations
Workers’ compensation reporting requirements modified, certain reimbursement requirements eliminated, and Daedalus imaging project appropriation error corrected.

HF3533—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Non-gambling prize awards considered purchases for resale and exempt from sales tax.

HF3534—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Property tax abatements exempt from levy limits, and abatement bonds exempt from election requirements.

HF3535—Kinkel (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing homes owned by political subdivisions exempt from wage increases.

HF3536—McCollum (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
St. Paul flood mitigation in the Hoyt Avenue area funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3537—Gunther (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Department of Economic Security school to work transition assistance pilot project developed, report required, and money appropriated.

HF3538—Osthoff (DFL)
Education
Education income tax credit extended to include private driver’s education instruction.

HF3539—Bakk (DFL)
Taxes
Taconite tax law updated.

HF3540—Boudreau (R)
Education
Faribault residential academies improvements funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3541—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Tracheostomy suctioning reimbursed by medical assistance when performed by personal care assistants.

HF3542—Van Dellen (R)
Ways & Means
Tobacco litigation proceeds deposited in a special account in the general fund and used only for attorney fees and tax relief.

HF3543—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Parliamentary system of government provided, governor selected by a unicameral legislature, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3544—Rukavina (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
United States Hockey Hall of Fame in Eveleth grant provided for boys and girls amateur and high school hockey displays, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3545—Winter (DFL)
Agriculture
Southwestern Minnesota soybean oilseed processing and refining facility established, and money appropriated.

HF3546—Opatz (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, Waite Park, and St. Joseph authorized to impose additional sales tax to fund the central Minnesota events center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3547—Hausman (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Renewable development account created and renewable energy development assistance provided.

HF3548—McCollum (DFL)
Taxes
Massagesales tax abolished, and massage therapists subject to the MinnesotaCare provider tax.

HF3549—Pugh (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Ephedrine provided prescription status, sale, marketing, and possession restricted, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3550—Skoglund (DFL)
Education
Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, national inner city center provided additional funding, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

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HF3551—Westfall (R)
Health & Human Services
Living-at-home/block nurse program expanded, and money appropriated.

HF3552—Mullery (DFL)
Education
Women graduates in nontraditional occupations increase goals established, low-income student training provided, and money appropriated.

HF3553—Olson, M. (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund percentage based on lottery sales allocated to a county environmental account for county projects.

HF3554—Olson, M. (R)
Education
Graduation rule contents required to ensure requirement completion, task force established to study social promotion, and money appropriated.

HF3555—Olson, M. (R)
Education
School district declining pupil unit aid for fiscal year 1998 modified.

HF3556—Hausman (DFL)
Taxes
St. Paul RiverCentre Arena construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3557—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Victims of torture provided General Assistance Medical Care coverage.
HF3558—Ness (R)

Education

Ridgewater College, Hutchinson campus, employees provided retirement benefits protection.

HF3559—Otremba, M. (DFL)

Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance

Sauk River watershed district dam renovation funded, and money appropriated.

HF3560—Clark, K. (DFL)

Judiciary

Names of elected officials registering property complaints made public.

HF3561—Murphy (DFL)

Judiciary

Commissioner of corrections authorized to contract with counties for placement of juveniles in the serious/chronic program, PREPARE.

HF3562—Murphy (DFL)

Judiciary

State witness compensation and expenses to be paid from the budget of the prosecuting authority.

HF3563—Murphy (DFL)

Judiciary

District court administrator law updated relating to salary.

HF3564—Finseth (R)

Transportation & Transit

Trunk highway fund expenditures restricted, road or highway defined, transportation spending goals established, transportation trust fund created and revenue dedicated, state patrol funded, local bridge grants provided, and bonds issued.

HF3565—Trimble (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Housing finance agency equity take-out loans provided to assist owners of federally assisted rental property, affordable rental housing provided, and money appropriated.

HF3566—Trimble (DFL)

Governmental Operations

St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association closed to new members, and Teachers Retirement Association closed to new members, St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association closed to new members, and money appropriated.

HF3567—Kubly (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Renville wastewater treatment facility funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3568—Greenfield (DFL)

Health & Human Services

MinnesotaCare coverage of interpreter services provided.

HF3569—Van Dellen (R)

Education

School boards required to allow equal extracurricular activity participation of home school students, and equal fees charged.

HF3570—Mullery (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Job counselors for the blind trained, and money appropriated.

HF3571—Schumacher (DFL)

Education

School district reimbursement for mandated additional instruction days provided, and money appropriated.

HF3572—Bakk (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Timber permit extension provisions modified.

HF3573—Tunheim (DFL)

Education

Three additional days of student instruction mandate repealed.

HF3574—Tomassoni (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Giants Ridge and Ironworld discovery center on-sale liquor licenses authorized.

HF3575—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Taxes

Ready-mixed concrete trucks considered capital equipment, motor vehicle sales tax exemption provided, and sales price definition expanded.

HF3576—Hasskamp (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Combat wounded veterans honorary plaque placed in the court of honor on the Capitol grounds.

HF3577—Delmont (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Medical assistance rehabilitative and therapeutic services coverage clarified.

HF3578—Dawkins (DFL)

Taxes

Statedeworkingfamilyincometaxcredit provided.

HF3579—Long (DFL)

Taxes

Solid waste management services tax collection moratorium clarified relating to sales tax.

HF3580—Greenfield (DFL)

Education

Children's endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3581—Solberg (DFL)

Health & Human Services

People with disabilities coordinated service delivery system demonstration project established in Itasca County.

HF3582—Gunther (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Martin County auditor/treasurer appointment permitted.

HF3583—Bakk (DFL)

Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance

Minnesota forest resources council provided a grant to implement timber harvesting guidelines and recommendations, and money appropriated.

HF3584—Erickson (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Mille Lacs authorized tax increment financing district expenditures outside the district.

HF3585—Hasskamp (DFL)

Taxes

Senior citizens' property tax deferral program modified.

HF3586—Chaudhary (DFL)

Judiciary

Bodybuilding and weightlifting equipment prohibited in state correctional facilities.

HF3587—Trimble (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Advocating Change Together, Inc. provided a grant to train people with disabilities, and money appropriated.

HF3588—Schumacher (DFL)

Education

General education formula allowance increased, operating referenda offset provided, operating referenda equalization aid increased, and money appropriated.

HF3589—Huntley (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Deaf Blind Services Minnesota, Inc. grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3590—Dawkins (DFL)

Judiciary

Sentencing guideline commission report proposal approved.

HF3591—Tuma (R)

Environment & Natural Resources

Department of Natural Resources prohibited from acquiring property by prescriptive easement.

HF3592—Kraus (R)

Taxes

Sales and use tax and motor vehicle sales tax rate reduced.

HF3593—Larsen (R)

Economic Development & International Trade

Housing finance agency meetings by telephone or electronic means sunset removed.

HF3594—Long (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Gifts to local officials prohibition extended to include school district officials.

HF3595—Long (DFL)

Taxes

Rent constituting property taxes calculation modified.

HF3596—Long (DFL)

Education

Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, and money appropriated.

HF3597—Gunther (R)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Persons under age 28 required to show proof of age prior to purchasing tobacco, and retail compliance check criteria provided.

HF3598—Kinkel (DFL)

Taxes

Commercial seasonal residential recreational property class requirements eliminated relating to business conducted between Memorial Day and Labor Day and bookings.
HF3599—Erickson (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Onamia permitted an extension for commencement of tax increment financing district activities.

HF3600—Harder (R)
Education
Independent School District No. 2862, Jackson County Central, referendum authority modified.

HF3601—Solberg (DFL)
Ways & Means
State government operations and budget preparation provisions modified.

HF3602—Long (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Minneapolis phased redevelopment district for the Sears project established.

HF3603—Dempsey (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Red Wing levy limit adjustment for payments in lieu of taxes allowed.

HF3604—Schumacher (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Benton County required to apportion environmental responsibility reimbursement among local units of government.

HF3605—Anderson, B. (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Drainage system access easements transferred to storm sewer improvement districts.

HF3606—Evans (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Equity take-out loan availability extended, low-income housing tax credit allocation procedures modified, federally assisted rental housing program provisions modified, tenant relocation assistance permitted, and money appropriated.

HF3607—Seifert (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Southwest Minnesota regional performance center in Marshall funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3608—Biernat (DFL)
Taxes

HF3609—Long (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Community-based planning goals modified, notification provided, and money appropriated.

HF3610—Carruthers (DFL)
Education
Graduation standards and graduation rule implementation funded, and money appropriated.

HF3611—Lieder (DFL)
Taxes
Wild rice watershed district levy proceed use for flood mitigation projects authorized.

HF3612—McGuire (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Army school; President and Congress memorialized to support the closure of the United States Army School of the Americas.

HF3613—Mahon (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
NATO; Congress memorialized to support the admission of the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to the North Atlantic Treaty.

HF3614—Holsten (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
County official removal law expanded to include city officials.

HF3615—Ozment (R)
Taxes
Sales and use tax and motor vehicle sales tax rate reduced.

HF3616—Kubly (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Granite Falls multipurpose community recreation and education center funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3617—Leighton (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Mower County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public waters.

HF3618—Kinkel (DFL)
Judiciary
Hubbard County sheriff authorized additional part-time peace officers.

HF3619—Rest (DFL)
Taxes
Job training program franchise tax credit provisions modified.

HF3620—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Judicial office retention provided for judges reaching age 65 six months or less after their term is to expire.

HF3621—Wenzel (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Little Falls; Mississippi River east bank sediment cleanup state share funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF3622—Delmont (DFL)
Education
Children’s endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3623—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
Cities of the first class authorized to establish city courts, jurisdiction and judge qualifications prescribed, and appeals to district court provided.

HF3624—Biernat (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal interim licensing ordinances authorized.

HF3625—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Day training and habilitation programs’ capital improvement needs study required, and money appropriated.

HF3626—Koskinen (DFL)
Education
Anoka-Ramsey Community College ADA compliance and improvements funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3627—Harder (R)
Education
Southwest telecommunications cooperative; Jackson to Marshall telecommunications network established, and money appropriated.

HF3628—Carlson (DFL)
Education
Children’s endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3629—Wagenius (DFL)
Education
Children’s endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3630—Farrell (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Office of technology biometrics utilization study required.

HF3631—Ozment (R)
Taxes
Political subdivision sales tax exemption provided.

HF3632—Seagren (R)
Education
Intermediate school program student educational opportunities enhanced, and money appropriated.

HF3633—Wenzel (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Morrison, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, and Crow Wing counties provided funding for state forest land repair, and money appropriated.

HF3634—Chaudhary (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Local social services agencies and department of human services required to collect information on United States armed forces members or veterans receiving food stamps.

HF3635—Schumacher (DFL)
Agriculture
Manure storage requirements expanded and applicator training report required, feedlot environmental impact statements provided, voluntary rural dispute resolution procedure established, and money appropriated.

HF3636—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Home and community-based waiver for persons with mental retardation and related conditions amended for greater service delivery flexibility.

HF3637—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Sentence to work program modified.

HF3638—Larsen (R)
Judiciary
Sex offenders required to successfully complete treatment prior to release, and money appropriated.

HF3639—Anderson, B. (R)
Health & Human Services
Social worker licensure requirements modified.

HF3640—Bettermann (R)
Education
Minnesota state college and university employees authorized to donate accrued sick time.
HF3641—Trimble (DFL)  
Transportation & Transit  
Motor vehicles involved in accidents provided license plate impoundment for failure to maintain insurance, and penalties imposed.

HF3642—Entenza (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Indian family preservation act primary support fund, and money appropriated.

HF3643—Schumacher (DFL)  
Taxes  
Vegetative filter strips assessed land value reduced.

HF3644—Sviggum (R)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Combined school districts extended telephone area service voting requirements modified.

HF3645—Chaudhary (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Health professional reporting requirements expanded relating to injuries resulting from alcohol- or controlled substance-related accidents, and civil and criminal immunity expanded.

HF3646—Johnson, A. (DFL)  
Education  
School restructuring grant provided, and money appropriated.

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HF3647—Kraus (R)  
Labor-Management Relations  
High pressure/boiler plant rules modified.

HF3648—Otremba, M. (DFL)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Browerville tax increment financing district authorized expenditures outside the district.

HF3649—Long (DFL)  
Taxes  
Used motor oil and filter collector income tax credit provided.

HF3650—Wenzel (DFL)  
Agriculture  
Farmer-lender mediation director modified, and farmer-lender mediation act made permanent.

HF3651—Larsen (R)  
Health & Human Services  
Minnesota family investment program statewide payment method modified.

HF3652—Entenza (DFL)  
Education  
School districts required to provide community outreach coordinators and guidance counselors, textbooks provided for each student, lifework and staff development plans modified, and student assessment and preschool studies required.

HF3653—Entenza (DFL)  
Education  
Board of teaching membership requirements modified to include teachers currently teaching in a public school.

HF3654—Jennings (DFL)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Electric restructuring technical advisory committee established, public utilities commission and department of public services duties specified, and reports required.

HF3655—Skare (DFL)  
Education  
Graduation standards and graduation rule implementation funded, and money appropriated.

HF3656—Smith (R)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Delano authorized to elect local contributions for a tax increment financing district.

HF3657—Rest (DFL)  
Taxes  
Renter property tax refund increased.

HF3658—Vandeveer (R)  
Education  
School district basic formula allowance increased, and compensatory education revenue reallocated.

HF3659—Murphy (DFL)  
Taxes  
Homestead and agricultural aid payments increased to certain statutory cities.

HF3660—Anderson, B. (R)  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Incumbent designation removed from judicial ballots.

HF3661—Dawkins (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Council on Black Minnesotans Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance activities planning and coordination provided, and money appropriated.

HF3662—Dawkins (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Criminal gang investigative data system parental notification required.

HF3663—Dawkins (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Bias motivated assault provided felony penalties.

HF3664—Dawkins (DFL)  
Education  
In-school suspension program revenue increased, and money appropriated.

HF3665—Dawkins (DFL)  
Education  
School districts encouraged to accept academically at-risk students under open enrollment, and money appropriated.

HF3666—Pugh (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Board of Inventions appropriated money.

HF3667—Wenzel (DFL)  
Taxes  
Agricultural loans mortgage registry tax exemption provided.

HF3668—Finseth (R)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Soil and water conservation districts authorized to determine mileage rate for supervisor reimbursement.

HF3669—Milbert (DFL)  
Taxes  
Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3670—Clark, K. (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Hennepin County; substance abuse intervention neighborhood program grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3671—McElroy (R)  
Taxes  
Property class rates and the education homestead credit modified, general education levy reduced, and money appropriated.

HF3672—Kelso (DFL)  
Taxes  
Property class rates and the education homestead credit modified, general education levy reduced, and money appropriated.

HF3673—Trimble (DFL)  
Education  
Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, compensatory revenue report required.

HF3674—Trimble (DFL)  
Education  
School district reimbursement for mandated additional instruction days provided, and money appropriated.

HF3675—Kahn (DFL)  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance  
Mississippi River urban heritage act adopted, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3676—Winter (DFL)  
Taxes  
Property tax simplification and reform provided, rebate specified, and money appropriated.

HF3677—Leighton (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Hospitals required to report personnel assaults, hospital violence work group established, and increased criminal penalties provided.

HF3678—Long (DFL)  
Taxes  
Uniform property tax class rate provided for all residential property containing single dwelling unit.

HF3679—Davids (R)  
Education  
School districts authorized to levy for extracurricular activities.

HF3680—Davids (R)  
Education  
School district building construction down payment program modified.

HF3681—Ozment (R)  
Education  
Graduation rule teacher training program created, and money appropriated.

HF3682—Westfall (R)  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance  
Clay County flood hazard mitigation grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3683—Erhardt (R)  
Taxes  
One-time individual income tax rebate of additional revenue surplus provided.
Public safety commission brandished sweeping powers

There were constant rumors of unpatriotic activity circulating in Minnesota during World War I, and the state took seriously the talk about one resident of the southeastern Minnesota village of Wykoff.

The Minnesota commission in charge of "public safety" during that period dispensed one of its half-dozen Pinkerton agents to uncover an alleged campaign led by one man to block draft registration.

Soon the operative reported that the alleged dissident, a hotel proprietor, "was inclined to enlarge on matters a great deal, as he uses liquor to excess." The agent found no draft resistance, and questioned whether the trip was worth the expense.

That episode aside, wasting state money was not the major criticism of the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety. Of the $1 million the 1917 Legislature appropriated for the commission, most was spent on military men and their families.

The problem with the commission was it had carte blanche to harass and intimidate Minnesota citizens and elected officials. Its 20-month reign was eventually categorized as a "blatant Minnesota example of legalized discrimination."

The Legislature was in session when World War I was declared. Shortly before adjournment in 1917, lawmakers created the safety commission.

The seven-member commission had sweeping powers and fell under the dominating influence of Judge John F. McGee, a conservative, anti-labor member.

The commission, which first met April 2, 1917, was allowed to leasear seize property if "necessary or proper" for public safety or protection of life. The commission could call citizens to give testimony under oath. It controlled the sale of liquor. It questioned public officials. It removed public officials from office.

German-Americans were the state's largest ethnic group at the time, but anti-German sentiment still ran strong during the war, especially among commission members, who used their power to topple the mayor and city attorney of New Ulm, Minn., a town with strong German roots.

The commission's more egregious affronts include its battle against the national administration's labor policy, and its interference in the 1918 elections, which brought the election of commission-backed Gov. J.A.A. Burnquist.

The commission, which had its last formal meeting in December 1918, is credited with having some positive impact. It promoted food production and conservation, and eradicated the raspberry bush, the nemesis of wheat. It was responsible for farm labor and crop censuses and the recruitment of labor for farms and factories.

And the bulk of the money appropriated for the commission went for the welfare of military men and their families. Of the $767,000 spent by the commission, roughly $488,000 went to "soldiers' pay and sustenance." Much of the remainder financed the commission's less honorable pursuits.

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at: http://www.leg.state.mn.us

July John F. McGee

Photo from Men of Minnesota, R. L Polk & Co.
Committee Schedule

MONDAY, Feb. 16

8 a.m.
Economic Development
Finance Division
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trumble
Agenda: HF2580 (Carlson) Brooklyn Center Earl Brown Heritage Center debt assumption provided by the state, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF2571 (Kelso) Scott County workforce center construction in Valley Green industrial park provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF2637 (Haskamp) Crosby provided funding for the Habitat Community Center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF2385 (Lieder) Crookston; Valley Technology Park capital development funded, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.
HF2339 (Clark, K.) Circulator vehicle pilot project and grant developed to connect the Minneapolis Convention Center with other locations, and money appropriated.
HF2340 (Clark, K.) Circulator vehicle pilot project in Minneapolis provided funding, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Higher Education
Finance Division/EDUCATION
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: HF2652 (Opitz) Full year equivalent student funding increased for colleges and universities receiving above the average, and money appropriated.
HF3251 (Pelowski) University of Minnesota law clinics program provided funding for low-income legal assistance expansion, and money appropriated.
HF3294 (Trumble) St. Paul Technical College worker information resource center funded, and money appropriated.
HF3558 (Ness) Ridgewater College, Hutchinson campus, employees provided retirement benefits protection.
HF3691 (Carlson) Years of education provided by the state extended to 13, and income tax credit allowed.

9:30 a.m.
Pupil Aid
Finance Division
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: HF3181 (Olson, E.) Counties provided unorganized town road maintenance funding through natural resources land payments in lieu of taxes.
HF2322 (Swigum) Income tax reserve account established, income tax and general education tax rates reduced, property tax rebate provided for taxes assessed in 1997, and money appropriated.
HF2325 (Van Dellen) Income tax reserve account established, income tax and general education tax rates reduced, property tax rebate provided for taxes assessed in 1997, and money appropriated.

10 a.m.
AGRICULTURE
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: HF3449 (Wejcman) Minnesotagrown coupon program eligibility requirements expanded, expansion pilot project established, and money appropriated.
Overview by the Department of Agriculture of University of Minnesota animal ag-related capital budget requests. Additional bills may be added.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HF2724 (Neilbert) Commercial netting provisions, mimnow retailer provisions, and turtleneck provisions modified, critical aquatic habitat acquisition provision, and catfish removal in certain waters authorized.
HF1883 (Kahn) Natural resources trust fund distribution provisions modified, and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF3524 (Bakk) Qualified landfill authorization to accept materials from closed dumps.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: To be announced.

JUDICIARY
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: HF1626 (McGuire) Government data classification and access provided.
HF3332 (Skoglund) Open adoption agreements modified.
HF2901 (Murry) CHIPS; children in need of protective services definition expanded to include certain juvenile petty offenders.
HF2390 (Pugh) Real and personal property conveyances and transactions regulated, and technical changes provided to the uniform partnership act.
SF1006 (Junge); HF1283 (McGuire) Firefighter background investigations authorized, employment information disclosure required, employer immunity provided, and civil and criminal penalties prescribed.
HF2654 (Mahon) Personalized license plates authorized for vehicles resembling pickup trucks, juvenile age provisions clarified relating to DWI-related driver’s license revocation, and license reinstatement provisions modified.
Additional bills may be added.

State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Department of Employee Relations, supplemental budget request.
HF3075 (Anderson, T.) Public employee insurance trust fund appropriated money.
HF2444 (Larsen) State hiring practices studied for taxes assessed in 1997, and money appropriated.
HF2814 (Tomassoni) Durable medical equipment minimum definition established, and health plan companies required to disclose covered medical equipment and supplies.
Additional bills may be added.

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Coming Up Next Week . . . Feb. 16 - 20, 1998
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: Review infant development grant program.
HF2726 (Slawik) Family and community services assistant grant program authorized, and money appropriated.
HF2748 (Tomasoni) Minnesota family asset initiative established for education, housing, and economic development purposes, and money appropriated.
HF2962 (Clark, K.) Lead abatement program appropriated.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson
Agenda: HF3459 (Greiling) Employers required to accommodate nursing mothers, and unpaid break time provided.
Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION
300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: HF2780 (Evans) Basic sliding fee child care self-employment exception eligibility modified.
HF2803 (Kinkel) Child care program transition year families definition clarified, employment and training assistance eligibility expanded, human services order review provisions modified, program costs funded, and money appropriated.
HF2867 (McGuire) Transition year families child care assistance requirements modified, and extensions provided.
HF3396 (McGuire) Child care assistance and child care programs modified, provider rate bonuses for reading programs and school-age child care program grants established, and money appropriated.
HF3442 (Sykora) Direct child care assistance payments modified.

WAYS & MEANS
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg
Agenda: HF3601 (Solberg) State government operations and budget preparation provisions modified.
Additional bills may be added.

1/2 Hour After Session

Economic Development Finance Division/EDUCATION/RE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimbble
Agenda: HF2633 (Jennings) Historical Society North West Company Fur Post Interpretive Center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF2948 (Jennings) Seaway Port Authority of Duluth warehouse construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF2974 (Huntley) Glensheen Mansion in Duluth improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF3274 (Kubly) McLeod County Stewart storm sewer project design funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF3364 (Rukavina) Three direct reduction iron processing facilities constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF3424 (Molnau) Independent School District No. 112, Chaska, eastern Carver collaborative project funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF2440 (Trimble) Redevolvement account created in the general fund for local development application and grant making costs, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF3446 (Trimble) St. Paul provided a grant to acquire right-of-way in the Phalen corridor, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/EDUCATION/RE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE
400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimbble
Agenda: HF2710 (Kalis) FarmAmerica visitor’s center at the Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center provided funding, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF3247 (Jennings) St. Croix Valley heritage center designed, prior bond proceeds canceled, and money appropriated.
HF2731 (Herdier) Windom area multi-purpose center bond issuance provided, and money appropriated.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: HF2307 (Macklin) Limited partnership withdrawals regulated, favorable federal estate tax valuation treatment changes provided.
HF2599 (Turnheim) Fund raising event period extended for sales tax exemption purposes.
HF2689 (Huntley) Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.
HF2858 (Munger) Wastewater treatment facilities biosolid processing equipment and sales tax exemption provided.
HF2911 (Selfert) School buses exempted from motor vehicle sales tax.
HF3024 (Milbert) Pull-tab and tipboard tax rates reduced.
HF3107 (Daggett) Pull-tab and tipboard tax rates reduced.

10 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn
Agenda: To be announced.
HF2750 (Kahns) Border city development zones established, and enterprise zone incentive recapture modified.

State Government Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Additional bills from Feb. 17 agenda.

HF3450 (Anderson, I.) Council of State Governments, provided funding for meetings with the Manitoba and Ontario parliaments, and money appropriated.

Department of Administration, remaining budget requests, Year 2000, and governor's portrait.

HF2988 (Otterson, M.) Ottertail County, public television grant provided for construction of a noncommercial television translator tower, and money appropriated.

HF2908 (Kahn) Grants provided for noncommercial television stations, and money appropriated.

HF2705 (Kahns) Electronic state agency guidebooks and Internet availability of the State Register required, and money appropriated.

HF2643 (Farrell) Settlement division established in the office of administrative hearings, transfer of judges, small claims court, duties, and funds provided.

HF3497 (Rukavina) Blind or visually impaired persons provided access to information technology and nonvisual access standards established.

Additional bills may be added.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE**
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE**
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

**Agenda:** To be announced.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

**Agenda:** To be announced.


**THURSDAY, Feb. 19**

- **8 a.m.**
  - **Economic Development**
  - **Finance Division/EDUCATION**
  - **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
  - 500S State Office Building
  - Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
  - Agenda: To be announced.

- **8:30 a.m.**
  - **ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE**
  - **Basement Hearing Room**
  - State Office Building
  - Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
  - Agenda: HF1690 (H asskamp) Personal watercraft operation requirements modified. Additional bills may be added.
  - **HF2908 (Carlson) Minneapolis city council**
  - **Article I, Pelowski**
  - **higher education bonding recommendations. (This meeting will continue after session in the same room.)**

- **10 a.m.**
  - **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**
  - **10 State Office Building**
  - Chr. Rep. John Dorn
  - Agenda: To be announced.

- **10:30 a.m.**
  - **Housing & Housing Finance Division/EDUCATION & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
  - **500S State Office Building**
  - Chr. Rep. Karen Clark
  - Agenda: Omnibus funding bill.

- **12:30 p.m.**
  - **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**
  - **Basement Hearing Room**
  - State Office Building
  - Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
  - Agenda: HF2790 (Jennings) Chisago County recorder appointment permitted.
  - HF2824 (Pugh) Dakota County; housing and redevelopment authority employees not deemed county employees without county board consent.
  - HF2894 (Jennings) Wyoming and Chisago City orderly annexed property reimbursement duration limit exemption provided.
  - HF2927 (McCollum) Ramsey County authorized to purchase from or through health care cooperatives on behalf of Ramsey Nursing Home.
  - HF3080 (Wejczman) Minneapolis allowed to exceed bonding limit for water supply capital improvement projects.
  - HF3119 (Olson, E.) Officer of a local unit of government authorized to contract with the unit to provide construction services and materials under certain circumstances.
  - HF3268 (Dawkins) Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties government affirmative action plan requirements for contractors modified.
  - HF3315 (Orfield) Minneapolis city council provided appointment authority for the civilian police review authority executive director.

**FRIDAY, Feb. 20**

- **8 a.m.**
  - **Higher Education**
  - **Finance Division/EDUCATION**
  - **500N State Office Building**
  - Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
  - Agenda: Supplemental appropriations bill, final action.

- **9 a.m.**
  - **K-12 Education Finance Division/EDUCATION**
  - **5 State Office Building**
  - Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
  - Agenda: Mark-up omnibus bill.

- **9:30 a.m.**
  - **Transportation & Transit**
  - **Finance Division/TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**
  - **500S State Office Building**
  - Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
  - Agenda: Continuation of agenda from Feb. 17.

- **10 a.m.**
  - **Health & Human Services**
  - **Finance Division/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**
  - **10 State Office Building**
  - Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
  - Agenda: To be announced.
Minnesota livestock and feedlots

Estimated amount of manure generated annually by pigs in Minnesota, in tons ................................................................. 11,000,000
Daily manure production per boar, in pounds ........................................................... 11.5
Estimated number of animal feedlots in Minnesota ............................................. 45,000
Feedlots operated under permits from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) .................................................. 16,000
Feedlot permits issued by the MPCA in 1990 .................................................. 248
in 1996 (eight-year high) ........................................................................ 841
in 1997 .......................................................................................................... 694
MPCA civil and criminal enforcement cases for feedlot violations
in 1997 ........................................................................................................ 36
in 1992 ....................................................................................................... 2
MPCA permits issued for beef cattle feedlots, 1990-1997 ................................ 1,959
for dairy feedlots ......................................................................................... 1,484
for swine feedlots ....................................................................................... 2,434
Number of slaughter steer or heifers in one “animal unit” .................................. 1
swine over 55 pounds ..................................................................................... 2.5
chickens ........................................................................................................... 100
Percent of livestock in feedlots with fewer than 500 animal units
in 1997 ....................................................................................................... 40
in 1989 ....................................................................................................... 85
MPCA permits issued for feedlots with 500 to 999 animal units
in 1997 ....................................................................................................... 42
in 1990 ....................................................................................................... 1
MPCA permits issued for feedlots with 1,000 to 1,999 animal units
in 1997 ....................................................................................................... 13
in 1990 ....................................................................................................... 0
Minnesota’s rank among states for total hog population, 1995 ...................... 3
North Carolina’s rank ................................................................................. 2
Iowa’s rank .................................................................................................. 1
Minnesota’s rank for turkeys raised, 1995 ...................................................... 2
North Carolina’s rank ................................................................................. 1
People necessary to produce an amount of human waste equal to the animal waste produced by Minnesota’s livestock and poultry ............. 40,000,000
Population of Minnesota, 1997 ................................................................. 4,685,549

Sources: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; Minnesota Agricultural Statistics 1996, Minnesota Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Agriculture; Manure Management: Practices for the Minnesota Pork Industry, 1994, University of Minnesota Extension Service; Minnesota Planning.