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# SESSION Weekly

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**In this issue:**

**2001 REDISTRICTING PLANS**

**ADDRESSING DAIRY CRISIS, LONG-TERM CARE**

HF125-HF251

# SESSION Weekly

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**On the cover:** Administrator Alan C. Saatkamp (pointing) escorts members of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee around a renovated pavilion during a Jan. 17 tour of the Minneapolis Veterans Home.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

# Balancing act

House members discuss methods to keep redistricting out of the courts, but history shows that will likely not be easy

BY DAVID MAEDA

**R**educed to its simplest essence, redistricting is a matter of drawing lines on a map dividing the state into equal districts by population to ensure all citizens have a voice in the lawmaking process.

Even though it comes along just once every 10 years, the process is one of the most emotionally charged issues the Legislature has to deal with. Politics is an inherent part of redistricting with elected officials trying to agree to a plan to determine which households they will represent.

This year the House is attempting an

Paulsen, the committee chair, pledged to work together with all members to create a fair and open process “even though it seems inevitable that the courts eventually get involved.”

Joe Mansky, Gov. Jesse Ventura’s redistricting project manager, said that the governor sees his role as bringing all sides together to make sure a fair plan is developed. He said the competitiveness of districts is a key issue.

Ventura’s office is finalizing membership of an advisory redistricting panel that will be composed of members from all the state’s four

One only needs to look back 10 years when the courts played a prominent role in Minnesota’s redistricting process. And with the current unique arrangement of a Republican controlled House, a DFL-led Senate, and an Independence Party governor, agreement on how to map out districts might be more difficult than ever.

Yet Charles Umbanhower, a political science professor who teaches constitutional law at St. Olaf College, told the committee Jan. 16 the courts generally have been reluctant to get involved in the process.

“As any of you recall what happened last fall,” he said referring to the Florida election difficulties, “anytime a court gets close to partisan politics, its image gets tarnished.”

The first time the courts became active in the redistricting process was in 1962 when the U.S. Supreme Court heard a redistricting case because the justices were concerned state legislatures were not performing their duty in creating equally proportioned election districts.

Umbanhower said the case involved a redistricting plan in Tennessee where there was a legislative district with a population of 42,000 people while another district contained only 2,000 people. He said such discrepancies were common throughout the country.

The court was concerned that such large population districts were unconstitutional under the equal protection clause of the United States Constitution because voters’ voices in those districts were “diluted.” The court ultimately ruled congressional and state legislative districts had to be roughly the same size in population. By the mid-1970s, most states had achieved that equality.

Umbanhower said the court deliberately tried to stay away from more politically charged redistricting issues involving race and “gerrymandering,” the process of drawing districts for political advantage.

Speaking at the Jan. 16 hearing, Joseph Kunkel, a political science professor at Minnesota State University, Mankato, told committee members that even though he believes lawmakers have the interests of their constituents at heart, the process itself involves conflicting values.

“Redistricting is classic nuts and bolts American politics. It is quintessentially a political action,” he said.

He said the way Minnesota ended up



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Members and staff gathered around newly drawn redistricting maps in the retiring room off the House Chamber in May 1991.

approach that’s never been tried before — creating a bipartisan committee to develop a plan.

“I was told that this is the first time members of opposite parties have sat at the redistricting table at the same time,” Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie) said Jan. 9.

major political parties, members of Common Cause Minnesota and the League of Women Voters, as well as four citizen panelists.

History shows Paulsen’s prediction of the matter ending up in the courts indeed may be inescapable.

having its legislative and congressional maps drawn up a decade ago points to the increasing complexity and unpredictability of the process.

In May 1991 the DFL-controlled House and Senate passed a redistricting plan for the state's legislative districts that was vetoed by Republican Gov. Arne Carlson. Due to an administrative error that involved not complying with a three-day deadline for vetoes, 14 bills that Carlson thought he vetoed — including the redistricting bill — became law.

But because the bill contained errors, such as misspelled street names and inaccurate address ranges, a three-judge state panel began modifying the approved legislative plan to correct the technical errors. In December 1991 a federal district court stopped the state court from proceeding. The federal court's decision was then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Meanwhile the 1992 Legislature passed a bill defining the state's eight congressional districts. Again Carlson vetoed the bill, but this time all deadlines were met and the veto stuck.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled the state court could proceed with the state legislative redistricting plan. However, a panel of federal judges ruled the legislative plan violated the interests of minority voters. That panel began drawing up its own redistricting plans.

Once again the cases ended up before the nation's high court. This time the court ruled federal courts should in most instances try to defer to the state in drawing up its own political boundaries.

So for the past eight years the state's legislative map has in large part been based on what the 1991 Legislature approved while the congressional plan was mostly drawn up in federal court.

Kunkel said the changing political landscape may make this year's redistricting process even more difficult nationwide.

In 1990 Republicans controlled both houses of state legislatures and the governor's office in only two states. Now, that party has full control in 12 states. California is the only state where Democrats control all three.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

**St. Olaf College political science professor Charles Umbanhower, right, gives a historical overview of the redistricting process Jan. 16. Also participating in the presentation is political science professor Joe Kunkel from Minnesota State University, Mankato.**

IT'S A FACT



## A sticky state regulation

**Butter substitute taxed and monitored over time**

Health officials have flip-flopped over the benefits and drawbacks of butter vs. margarine for decades.

But there was a time when Minnesota and other states favored butter for economic reasons, rather than the health issues.

In fact, the state has a whole chapter in the statutes devoted to controlling the sale and use of butter substitutes. And the existence of this chapter of laws has a storied history.

The first successful butter substitute, oleomargarine, was developed in the 1860's by French chemist Hippolyte Mege-Mouries in a contest commissioned by Napoleon III to find an inexpensive alternative to the dairy-based product. Mege-Mouries' substitute mixed milk with processed beef fat, known as oleo oil — hence the name of the new product.

Like many other farming states in the early 1900s, Minnesota closely watched the introduction of oleomargarine into the marketplace. There was concern that the new product, now made mostly from nut and vegetable fats, would hurt the state's dairy industry. Many legislators at the time were farmers, and they pushed for legislation regulating its use.

In 1886 the U.S. Congress imposed a national tax of 0.25 percent on oleomargarine not artificially colored any shade of yellow to make it look like butter, and 10 cents per pound if the product was colored to resemble butter.

During World War I, butter prices soared and the state began using butter substitutes in some of its prisons, insane asylums, and other state institutions.

This prompted the 1919 Minnesota legislature to pass a bill prohibiting that practice by requiring that only butter be used in all state facilities.

Gov. J.A.A. Burnquist vetoed the bill fearing that it would limit the powers of the state's Board of Control, which had regulatory power over the use of butter substitutes in the state.

The bill's author, Rep. A.C. Welch from Glencoe, had introduced a bill two years earlier that would have put fees on all

manufacturers that made or sold butter substitutes. That bill did not pass as opponents said the issue was a matter of people having the right to select their own food.

In 1921 the legislature again considered and this time passed Welch's bill, along with a law restricting the use of the words "butter" and "buttered" unless the food item was made of at least 51 percent dairy-based butter.

Exceptions were made for plum, vegetable, and peanut butter.

The 1931 Legislature went a step further by prohibiting the sale of colored oleomargarine and making it unlawful for public establishments serving food to use the substitute unless it was "plainly printed in English upon every bill of fare, if one be used, and in letters not smaller than 8-point bold-faced Gothic capitals, the words 'oleomargarine used in place of butter.'" Further, the law required whoever was in charge of the establishment to post a sign on each side of the room stating the oleomargarine was used in the place of butter.

In 1933 the state established its own tax on the sale of oleomargarine — an addition to the already existing federal tax.

With the country's entry into World War II, dairy products again became scarce and rations more expensive. There were several attempts on both the state and federal level to eliminate the tax on oleomargarine making it more affordable for the general public.

In 1950 President Harry Truman signed a bill that eliminated the federal tax on oleomargarine.

Margarine sales outpaced butter sales nationwide for the first time in 1960. By 1970 margarine outsold butter by a two-to-one margin.

In 1961 Minnesota began lifting its restrictions on the sale of margarine by allowing the sale of colored oleomargarine within the state and lifting the state tax on all non-artificially colored margarine. In 1978 the tax on all oleomargarine was lifted.

(D. MAEDA)

Continued on page 27

★ **BUDGET**

**State financial outlook dims**

The February budget forecast will likely paint a less hearty picture of the state's economy than the November 2000 forecast did, State Economist Tom Stinson told the House Ways and Means Committee Jan. 12.

Two months ago the Department of Finance released a revenue forecast that projected a \$924 million budget surplus left over from the 2000-2001 biennium. The forecast further projected the state is likely to accumulate a \$2.1 billion surplus in the 2002-2003 biennium.

Stinson said those numbers may now be overly optimistic. Data Resources Inc., the consultant that prepares the state's budget forecasts, has revised its numbers and is projecting a lower economic growth rate than previously expected.

In the numbers used for the November forecast, the consultant expected the state's economy to grow at a rate of 3.6 percent. Now the growth rate is estimated to be 2.5 percent.

According to the department's figures, the November forecast estimated that the state's revenues would be \$43.1 million more than it turned out to be. That forecast estimated that the state would collect \$19.8 million more in sales taxes and \$31.2 million in corporate income taxes than it actually did. That amount does not include the December portion of the holiday shopping season, which will be included in determining the February forecast.

Stinson said most economists believe a recession is unlikely but the chances for one occurring have increased since the last budget forecast. He said many outside factors will play a role in how the state's economy performs over the next year.

"The growth will depend largely short term on what happens in the national economy," he said.

But Stinson said the state is better protected than most states against a downturn in the national economy because of its tight job market. He says even if a recession were to occur the result would most likely be fewer job opportunities rather than workers actually losing existing jobs.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) said the healthy job market does not apply to all of Minnesota, particularly the Iron Range where industries such as taconite and timber



**State Economist Tom Stinson reviews the December Economic Summary Report and Data Resources, Inc. forecast numbers during a Jan. 12 hearing of the House Ways and Means Committee.**

production continue to struggle. Solberg also said rising natural gas prices also may have an impact on the health of the economy.

Stinson agreed with Solberg and said many economists work under the assumption that if the price of crude oil decreases, as it has over the past month, the price of natural gas and automobile fuel will necessarily follow suit and go down. He said often that is not the case.

★ **CHILDREN**

**ECFE programs evaluated**

The jury is still out on whether early childhood education programs in Minnesota accomplish their goals, according to a report presented to the Legislative Audit Commission Jan. 12.

The report, requested in April 2000 by the commission, focuses on Head Start, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), and School Readiness programs. It includes reviews of data on services, participation, and finances.

The three programs together account for about \$50 million in state funding for Fiscal Year 2001.

Minnesota is generous in its funding of Head Start programs, but the report questions whether those who need the services are getting them. In contrast, state funding for the School Readiness program, which subsidizes programs for children not covered by Head Start, is quite modest by national standards.

The report found that early childhood education programs in Minnesota "often differ considerably in the intensity and scope of services they provide," according to Roger Brooks, deputy legislative auditor.

Evaluation processes also vary considerably, making it difficult to know how programs compare in effectiveness.

In addition, there is no definitive evidence as to how well early childhood education participants do in grades K-12.

"It's disconcerting that after all the years we've had these programs, we haven't learned much about how well they work," said Sen. Tom Neuville (R-Northfield).

Especially bothersome to the auditing team and the commission was the finding that many school districts have accumulated large ECFE fund balances while receiving limited monitoring from the Department of Children, Families and Learning.



**Project Manager Joel Alter speaks about the program evaluation report on Early Childhood Education at the Jan. 12 Legislative Audit Commission meeting.**

Department guidelines suggest that districts maintain 8 percent to 17 percent of annual ECFE revenue in reserve funds. In 1999 two-thirds of the districts had more than 17 percent in reserve, putting the total amount in reserve at more than \$12 million.

"Twelve million dollars is a lot," said Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls), to murmurs of assent from other lawmakers.

The audit report recommends that the Legislature review these and other funding practices. It also urges lawmakers to base more Head Start allocations on unmet needs.

Among the report's recommendations to the department are:

- track the subsequent school performance of children who participate in state-funded early childhood education programs;
- hire additional staff to oversee ECFE and School Readiness programs; and
- monitor ECFE and School Readiness expenditures and fund balances.

## ★ CRIME

### State seeks uniform sentences

Felony convictions continue to rise in Minnesota, despite an overall decline in violent crime over the past 20 years, according to testimony delivered to the House Crime Prevention Committee Jan. 16.

According to Sentencing Guidelines Commission Executive Director Deb Dailey, "We are becoming more efficient at prosecuting and sentencing felons."

Sheryl Ramstad Hvass, commissioner of the state Department of Corrections, explained the work of the 20-year-old Sentencing Guidelines Commission, which she chairs. "Our first goal is public safety," she said.

To accomplish that, she said her committee seeks to make sentences uniform across state jurisdictions. Prior to the commission's existence, she said, "We would have different sentences under different judges" for the same crimes.

A uniform sentencing policy allows the state to coordinate policy with correctional resources. For example, the commission tracks the reasoning behind placing juvenile offenders in a Minnesota facility or one located outside the state. It can then make recommendations to the Legislature as to appropriate amendments in criminal law.

For example, Dailey pointed out that Minnesota has adopted a "three strikes" law, obligating judges to sentence people convicted of three felonies to prison terms.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) asked about differing sentences for drug dealers and for drug users. Hvass assured him statewide

guidelines efficiently differentiate between dealers and users, and thereby make possible treatment options to the latter. The commission's 2001 data shows that Minnesota felons are 50 percent more likely to have been convicted of drug offenses than in 1980.

Before the meeting concluded, Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), committee chair, asked the nonpartisan House Research staff to discuss the current condition of DWI laws in Minnesota. According to House Research, Minnesota is unique because the state pursues both administrative and criminal measures against drunken driving convictees.

For example, administrative sanctions may include drivers' license revocation, license impoundment, and vehicle forfeiture. These measures are independent of criminal prosecution, which carries penalties such as fines, jail sentences, treatment, probation, and electronic alcohol monitoring, where convicts regularly submit to sobriety tests using electronic devices in their homes.

## ★ EDUCATION

### ABE continues to grow

Enrollment in Minnesota's Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs has increased by 50 percent since 1998, according to Barry Schaffer, state director of adult education.

"Every time money has gone into this program, we have had a huge increase in participation," Schaffer told the Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee at its Jan. 10 and Jan. 17 meetings.

In a two-part overview of adult education, Schaffer referred to ABE as an umbrella term that covers an increasingly broad array of programs, including:

- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- General Educational Development Certificate (GED)
- Adult Diploma
- Basic Skills Enhancement
- Family Literacy
- Workplace Education
- Citizenship Education

More than 73,000 people participated in these programs in fiscal year 2000, Schaffer said. To qualify, participants must be at least age 16, not enrolled in secondary school, and functioning below the 12<sup>th</sup> grade level in skills such as math, reading, writing, and speaking English.

Many of these are short-term students brushing up on basic skills. Others are new to this country and need to learn English quickly so they can overcome language barriers, get jobs, and become self-sufficient.

The Family Literacy program is unique in

that it includes educational and developmental services for children, as well as literacy and parenting classes for parents. Public schools have reported they are seeing more parents whose lack of basic skills impede their children's learning progress. This program tries to meet that need.

Minnesota has been ranked second in the nation in the quality of its ESL program, according to Schaffer. With continued growth in the state's immigrant and refugee populations, an estimated 200,000 people need tutoring in English.

In addition to professional teachers, more than 3,000 literacy tutors volunteer annually to assist in ABE programs. Teachers in public school programs must be licensed to teach K-12.

The state currently funds 60 adult basic education consortia at more than 500 sites throughout the state. People meet to learn in public schools, libraries, workforce and learning centers, tribal centers, community colleges, and even prisons and jails.

### First law of session allows soon-to-be teachers to graduate under old rules

Teacher candidates who enrolled in course work by Jan. 1, 2000 will be able to graduate under old teacher certification rules, as provided in a new law signed Jan. 16 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

It is the first new law of the 2001 Legislative session.

The new law, sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), will allow students who are close to completing their degrees to save time and money in additional courses. According to the law, qualifying students must be enrolled in an accredited teacher preparation program.

Seifert said the Legislature had directed the Minnesota Board of Teaching to revise teacher licensure requirements in Minnesota, but the new requirements did not include permission for certain students to be grandfathered in under old rules.

Students who now qualify to graduate with the old requirements have attended school part-time or have taken time off, Seifert said. The law allows students to apply for licensure under the old rules by Sept. 1, 2003.

The law became effective Jan. 17.

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF34/SF28\*/CH1

## ★ EMPLOYMENT

### Benefits for LTV miners

More than 200 laid-off miners from the LTV iron plant in Hoyt Lakes were at the Jan. 18 House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Committee meeting to support a bill (HF157) that would increase unemployment benefits for its former workers.

“We need to keep these skilled workers in the region,” said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), chief sponsor of the bill. He said he wants to keep the plant’s assets together, including workers.

The bill would allow former workers of the plant to collect up to two years of unemployment, giving them either resources to live until the facility could be re-opened or time to receive job training for other opportunities in the area. The plant employed nearly 1,400 workers in the region.

Marlene Pospeck, mayor of the northeastern-Minnesota town, said the situation is critical.

“All 2,300 people in my town have a connection to the plant,” she told committee members. “Our people had little time to prepare for such devastation.”

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), who represents the area where the mine is located, said he’s worried for the people and the economic future of the area.

“We have always had a boom-and-bust industry, but I am afraid of what is going to happen,” he said.

Bakk said he would like to see the bill move quickly, because some of the miners’ benefits, those who were laid off first, will run out in February.

Several of the former LTV workers met with

Gov. Jesse Ventura the same day. Members of the governor’s administration reported they are evaluating the proposal, and there are some concerns over the length, but they have taken no position yet.

The committee forwarded the bill, without recommendation, to the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee.

## ★ ENERGY

### Energy concerns discussed

Awaiting the introduction of several bills to aid Minnesota’s energy crisis, members of the Regulated Industries Committee received an energy overview from the Energy Division of the Department of Commerce Jan. 17.

Committee Chair Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville) said he anticipates three major bills on energy this session. One is the governor’s plan, which Wolf said he will sponsor. He also expects one from the Chamber of Commerce, who will vie for wholesale competition, and another from environmental groups.

Of the three energy expenditures, in 1998 Minnesotans spent the most on petroleum products (\$4.6 billion), followed by electricity (\$3.2 billion) and natural gas (\$1.3 billion).

The prosperous economy, said Linda Taylor, deputy commissioner of energy, has much to do with increased consumption. She said electrical use has more than tripled since 1970.

Electric demand is rising at least 2 percent annually, and consumer prices will rise, Taylor said. “For many years we enjoyed flat prices. Now we don’t,” she said, adding capital investment will be necessary.

Natural gas prices have recently skyrocketed. In January 2000 the price per cubic foot average was \$3.64, compared to \$11.11 this month.

“Recent natural gas wholesale price increases may turn out to be the energy shock of the century in Minnesota,” Taylor said. Tight national supplies do not seem to explain the entire size of the price increase, she added. Because the natural gas supply is deregulated the government has no control over prices.

Taylor pointed out that new buildings use substantially less gas to heat than those constructed a few decades ago.

Committee members raised questions regarding other states setting an example for how to deal with the spreading energy crisis. Taylor said soon there will be a state-by-state review of energy situations. So far there have been only “fairly inconclusive reports,” and plans that have not yet been implemented. “We don’t have a good model,” she said.

“There is more opportunity for energy conservation,” Taylor said. However, she admitted she is concerned about conflicting messages to consumers, as some promote conservation and some promote consumption.

“We need to identify what works and what doesn’t — push what does and forget what doesn’t,” she said.

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### Habitat corridor planned

A recommendation to fund 56 natural resource and environmental projects at a cost of \$49 million was presented by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee at its Jan. 17 meeting.

Notable among the commission’s recommendations is the funding of nearly \$11.75 million for a project to “restore and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants.”

This is the largest amount ever recommended on one project in the commission’s history.

These funds would be augmented by \$8.34 million from a collaborative of 14 public and nonprofit organizations, including such diverse groups as the Minnesota Waterfowl Association, The Nature Conservancy, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Forest Service.

“This is a watershed in terms of fish and wildlife acquisition,” said John Velin, staff director of the commission. The project will



Scott Collins, a former millwright technician at the LTV Iron Mine in Hoyt Lakes, listens as the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Committee hears a bill Jan. 18 that would extend unemployment benefits to LTV employees and employees of vendors that serviced the mine.

directly affect more than two-thirds of the state when it's completed, he said.

Most of the funding — \$34.62 million — for this and other commission recommendations comes from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The Minnesota Future Resources Fund provides another \$14.64 million. Funding priorities are revised every two years.

Proposals for projects came from state, federal, private, and nonprofit agencies, as well as from the University of Minnesota.

The commission receives recommendations on trust fund expenditures from the Citizen Advisory Committee, whose 11 members are appointed by the governor.

"It's important to understand how unique (the trust fund) truly is," Committee Chair Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) said. "It could not be done under the regular budget process."

Other recommendations include funding for recreation, water resources, agriculture, energy, environmental education, and other fish and wildlife habitat projects.

"The commission tried to act in a non-partisan manner, to set aside parochial interests and think about the state as a whole," said Sen. Len Price (DFL-Woodbury), LCMR chair, in his testimony. "I think it's a very balanced proposal."

### More protection planned

Minnesota is in the "second wave of environmental protection," state Pollution Control Agency (PCA) Commissioner Karen Studders told the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee Jan. 16.

According to Studders, the first wave focused on regulation of industrial polluters. Today the agency is building on that by looking at non-point sources of contamination, which requires new tools such as "communication, alliance building, and public education," she said.

The commissioner focused her comments on Minnesota's role in national environmental issues.

"Strategies of response must be developed at the state level" to deal not only with local issues but also with global issues such as hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico, water quality in the Great Lakes, and global climate, Studders said. These and other issues are covered in the agency's recent report, *Minnesota Environment 2000*.

The federal Clean Air Act has not been amended since 1990 and needs comprehensive, integrative changes to reflect today's problems, according to the commissioner.

Evidence shows major strides have been made in the reduction of particulate matter

in the air. "The air looks cleaner. Now we are concerned with toxins that are not visible," Studders said, adding that there has been a dramatic increase in the incidence of asthma among children.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) agreed that Minnesota must take a leadership role. "If protection is going to be done, we have to do it ourselves," she said.

The state is also involved in a national task force to develop a plan to halt hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. Hypoxia, a condition of low oxygen levels deadly to aquatic life, is caused by excess nutrients from activities such as agriculture. The sources of nutrients affecting the gulf are in the Mississippi River basin. It is estimated that Minnesota contributes approximately 7 percent of these pollutants, Studders said.

Global climate change is also expected to have a large impact on Minnesota's forestry, agriculture, and tourism industries. The state needs to develop a "well-thought out plan of response" to this "politically significant" problem, Studders said.

## ★ GAME & FISH

### ★ Overlimit bill advances

A bill to establish penalties for gross overlimit violations of Minnesota's fish and game laws was presented to the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee Jan. 18.

The intent of HF94, according to its sponsor, Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), is to provide a strong deterrent to those who intentionally defy current fish and game laws.

"Ninety-five percent of the people behave responsibly," Haas said. "It's the other 5 percent who screw it up for everybody."

The bill would set restitution values for fish, wildlife, and plants taken in violation of state law. It would allow enforcement officers to arrest offenders and to seize licenses and property used in committing the violation, including boats, motors, and trailers. In addition, it would put teeth into the law by providing three degrees of criminal penalties for those who commit violations.

Major Chuck Schwartz of the Department of Natural Resources said the impetus for the bill came out of a January 2000 "fishing roundtable" meeting in St. Cloud where Minnesota Conservation Officer Tom Chapin described some of the "egregious" violations of fish and game laws he has witnessed.

According to Schwartz, comments from other states confirmed that "revocation and suspension of license privileges was by far the

most effective penalty" in deterring violation of fish and wildlife laws.

Committee members had a number of concerns about the criminal penalties described in the bill. There was agreement that they did not want to penalize people who may have a few extra fish in the freezer.

"I'd like to see the (House) Crime Prevention Committee give it a going over," said Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), environment committee chair. "I think we need to see if current laws, on which this is based, need to be reworked."

The committee voted to refer the bill to that committee for advisement with the request that it be returned to the environment committee.

Ozment asked members whether they wanted to examine current laws on possession limits or whether they wanted to let "sleeping fish lie." The consensus was to look at current law.

## ★ HEALTH

### ★ Eliminating the 'Sick Tax'

Wearing a button that read "Sick Tax" with a slash through it, Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) presented a bill to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee Jan. 18 that would repeal MinnesotaCare premium and provider taxes.

"This is the most regressive tax in the state of Minnesota. Whether you're a millionaire or living in poverty you pay the same amount," said Bradley, committee chair. "It's evil."

In addition to eliminating the so-called "sick tax," the bill (HF14) would require health plan companies to reduce premiums to reflect the savings that result. Bradley said it would provide about \$250 million in relief to taxpayers annually.

To cover the resulting shortfall in the Health Care Access Fund, the bill would require both one-time tobacco and ongoing tobacco settlements to be credited to the fund.

Established in 1992 to provide low-cost health care, the fund pays for MinnesotaCare and other health care access initiatives.

People representing a wide constituency spoke in support of the bill. The consensus among speakers was they supported MinnesotaCare but opposed the way it is currently funded.

Not only are health care taxes regressive, they are also invisible, Dan Salomone, executive director of the Minnesota Taxpayers Association, told the committee. "When you look at who actually pays (provider and premium) taxes, it all flows downstream to consumers," he said.





Mary Klimp from International Falls Hospital tells the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee Jan. 18 of the difficulty maintaining hospitals in Greater Minnesota unless the health care provider tax is eliminated. She is joined at by Bruce Rueben, president of the Minnesota Hospital and Healthcare Partnership. Representatives of other medical associations are seated behind them.

Dr. Blanton Bessinger, president of the Minnesota Medical Association, agreed. “The current health care tax system is so complicated most citizens don’t realize they’re paying it.”

Bessinger said there is a perception among physicians that Minnesota is a hostile place to practice medicine.

Dr. Scott Lingle, speaking on behalf of the Minnesota Dental Association, agreed. “My concern is whether we’ll have too few health care providers in this state,” he said. “We’re making it harder to recruit new doctors to Minnesota.”

The shortage already exists in rural areas.

Mary Klimp, administrator of the International Falls Hospital, said they have lost one-third of their staff in the past year and closed three departments in the past three years. She said provider taxes put them “in grave jeopardy of closing; they make the difference between a bottom line that is red or black.”

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) presented a similar bill (HF4) to the committee. His bill would also repeal the provider and premium taxes, require health plan companies to pass savings on to consumers, and require that the annual tobacco settlement payments be deposited into the Health Care Access Fund.

The question was raised as to the difference between the two bills. Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), acting chair of the committee, summed it up by saying that Bradley’s bill was a “kinder, gentler” version of Abrams’ bill.

Both bills were referred to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee and are expected to be taken up at the Jan. 22 meeting.

## ★ HIGHER EDUCATION

### Funding financial aid

Its budget request may be a couple of weeks away, but representatives from the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office laid some groundwork Jan. 17.

Speaking before the House Higher Education Finance Committee, Director Robert Poch gave an overview of what his office does.

He said the goal of the office is to provide high quality statewide higher education service to Minnesota citizens. The organization has five goals it works toward, including: achieving student financial access to post-secondary education; producing independent, statewide information on post-secondary education; and facilitating interaction among, and collaborate with, organizations that share responsibility for education in Minnesota.

Poch said the office continues to invest in future achievement by building on successful programs of the past 30 years including the state grant program, state work-study program, and interstate tuition reciprocity programs.

Regarding the forthcoming budget proposal, scheduled to be heard Feb. 5 and 7, Poch said, “We won’t be bringing forward a slate of new programs. Rather we want to build on current successful ones.” As an example, he mentioned leveraging state funds and better utilizing partnerships and collaborations.

Of greater concern to many parents and post-secondary students is financial aid.

Gerald Setter, of the office’s research and program services, gave a brief overview of the program.

He said that “undergraduate students

attending Minnesota post-secondary institutions received \$1.1 billion in financial assistance in fiscal year 1999.” Of that total, \$525 million was in student and parent loans, \$470 million was in grants, and \$87 million was in earnings through campus jobs and work-study.

Setter spent much of his presentation speaking about state grants, the purpose of which is, “To enable Minnesotans of all backgrounds to attend Minnesota post-secondary institutions of their choice by maintaining an appropriate and reasonable distribution of the price of post-secondary education among students, families, and taxpayers.”

Following questioning from committee members about formulas used, Setter said the goal of the state grant program is to pick up the difference between what the student and their family are able to pay and what the student receives in a federal grant.

## ★ HOUSING

### Housing needs grow

One year ago, Kelly, a 19-year-old from Grand Rapids, lost her job and was evicted from her apartment because she couldn’t pay rent.

Through the LIFE (Living Independent For Experience) program she earned her high school diploma, received job skills training, found another apartment, and is now employed and paying rent on her own.

“I’m a lot more stable and I have confidence to stay on my own,” she told legislators at a Jan. 17 House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee meeting.

Kelly (whose last name was withheld) testified as a success story from a state-funded program, joining representatives from several housing agencies who presented overviews at two different economic development committees.

Leaders of the organizations repeatedly told legislators that they are turning away people from shelters and transitional housing facilities. They revealed there are thousands of homeless people in Minnesota.

“There is literally not enough housing,” said Kit Hadley, head of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. She said rental costs have gone up 34 percent in the last three years.

Tonja Orr, director of government relations at the agency, said she wants legislators to build on a concept from two years ago, when private sector companies contributed to low-income housing projects, and pursue that more aggressively. Hadley added that without

private support, a proposal wouldn't receive as high of a priority.

Leaders of the housing organizations emphasized the importance of looking to the future. Hadley said her agency must be accountable for "achieving housing developments that will be sustainable over time."

Michael Dahl, executive director of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, agreed, calling for increased resources from the state, and public and private sectors.

"We need to fund options that will benefit in long run," he said.

About 35 percent of homeless people are in Greater Minnesota, Dahl said. "The waiting lists aren't as long, but quality (of housing) is low."

Dahl said the cost is about \$5 million per biennium to stop turning away people from shelters and about \$6 million to stop turning away people from transitional housing. He estimated that 80,000 people are competing for 40,000 low-income rental places.

Tom Fulton, president of the Family Housing Fund, called for interest from all sectors of society.

"We need a balance between the public and private sector, and we need the state to continue to play a leadership role to resolve these problems," he said.

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### Repealing obsolete laws

Imagine embarking on a leisurely drive through one of Minnesota's hilly river valleys and having your afternoon reverie rudely interrupted by people who won't stop honking their horns.

Sound crazy? To not honk would be breaking the law.

But that would change under a bill approved by the House Transportation Finance Committee Jan. 16.

The bill (HF37), sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), would repeal three archaic laws. Among them is a 1937 statute "requiring drivers to honk their horns within 200 feet of a curve when the driving is in 'defiles (narrow valleys) or canyons or on mountain highways.'"

Another law from 1913 prohibited "hiring a person addicted to the excessive use of intoxicating liquors to drive a motor coach." According to McElroy, the rule is obsolete in part because there is no legal definition of such a person.

The third would be abolishing statutes that define a "trackless trolley" as a vehicle that draws power from overhead wires but does not run on rails.

The committee approved the bill and sent it to the House floor. Initially, Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) proposed moving the bill to the consent calendar, which is typically the place where routine, non-controversial bills are sent.

However, Republican members of the committee objected and the committee voted to place the bill on the General Register, a place where bills await consideration for the main Calendar for the Day.

Placing a bill on the Consent Calendar allows for a faster progression through the process, typically saving one day. Consent Calendar bills can still be debated and amended. Typically a bill must have its second and third readings on different days.

House rules also allow for 10 members to object to placing a bill on the Consent Calendar if they deem it to be controversial.

### Ports to seek more funding

Port authority officials emphasized the importance of a modern waterway transportation system at the House Transportation Finance Committee meeting Jan. 16.

The officials did not have a specific request at the meeting, but were asked to provide an overview of their programs and needs. However, when the Legislature receives the budget requests for the port authorities, they will likely include more funds for emergencies and infrastructure.

Lorrie Louder, director of industrial development for the St. Paul Port Authority underscored the importance of previous state funding. She gave the example of how state monies funded emergency repairs to one of the roofs at the port, necessary to protect goods as they are being brought in.

She stressed the need to keep port infrastructure from falling into disrepair.

Her testimony was supported by Steve King, manager for ports and waterways at the state Department of Transportation, who emphasized the importance of Minnesota's ports to the state and national economies.

"A full 5 percent of the nation's grain moves through the Port of Savage," he said, referring to the Twin Cities suburb on the Minnesota River.

According to the National Corn Growers Association, the upper Midwest benefits from more than \$12 billion added to the region's economy as a result of river transportation.

The state's waterways are primarily used to ship agricultural products currently, officials said, but that is changing. For example, all of the state's road salt, used to reduce the build up of ice and snow in the winter months, is moved on the rivers.

### Transportation gadget showcase

It was a little chilly at the Jan. 17 House Transportation Finance Committee meeting as members experienced firsthand the next generation of transportation technology.

In 15-degree weather outside the State Office Building, state agencies and businesses assembled a collection of technologically advanced transportation aids.

John Scharffbillig, from the state Department of Transportation, invited representatives to join him in the cab of a snowplow outfitted with the latest navigation, communication, and safety technology designed at the University of Minnesota. With the help of a global positioning system, a transparent "heads-up" display screen depicted road markings in front of the windshield, allowing drivers to plow roads even in white-out conditions.

Scharffbillig admitted the plow received mixed reviews from Minnesota snowplow drivers, some of whom were put off by the high-tech presence.

"All our drivers say there is some use for it," he said. In tests, drivers were able to safely navigate the huge plow in zero-visibility conditions.

Despite the mild misgivings of some drivers, Minnesota's transportation technology is



John Scharffbillig, field project manager for the state Department of Transportation, demonstrates to Rep. Connie Ruth the capabilities of a system being tested that allows snowplow drivers to see obstacles, even during white-out conditions.

the envy of transportation experts the world over, according to Lisa Drumke, vice-president of business development at Addco. Her St. Paul business produces cutting-edge transportation tools in use around the world.

She demonstrated a Smart Zone portable traffic management system, which includes a digital camera for monitoring traffic and an display screen for communicating with drivers, all mounted on a movable platform.

“Not even California has this,” she said, adding that Minnesota’s technological advancements in transportation are well-respected worldwide.

Another show-and-tell device was a souped-up traffic camera system, which can automatically count cars and measure their speeds.

During the meeting, Col. Anne Beers, chief of the Minnesota State Patrol, testified that her officers enjoy both economic and safety benefits of increased technological investment. As an example, she discussed the benefits of computer-aided dispatching, which can make dispatching in the Twin Cities metropolitan area more efficient, as well as maximize the effectiveness of existing emergency-response resources in Greater Minnesota.

Rep. Dan Larson (DFL-Bloomington) asked about systems that might automatically alert emergency responders to an accident. Beers answered that such systems are becoming increasingly common in passenger vehicles.



Image Sensing Systems Inc. demonstrates a program to Rep. Henry Kalis that allows a camera to track the speed at which cars are traveling. The system also can be used to catch those who run red lights.

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



## Restricting ‘spam’

### 18 states regulate junk e-mail

Anyone who has a commercial e-mail account knows the nuisance of receiving numerous unsolicited messages, commonly referred to as “spam.”

As a result, many states are moving quickly to regulate unwanted cyber junk mail. In 2000 Colorado, Idaho, Missouri and Pennsylvania joined the growing list of states that have passed laws restricting the sending of unsolicited bulk commercial e-mails. Currently 18 states have some type of law dealing with spam.

Proponents of the laws say that the onslaught of unwanted e-mail costs recipients time in deleting the e-mails and takes up computer memory.

Part of the problem lies in the technology that allows an e-mail sender to disguise their own account’s address thus making it difficult to track down, and sometimes communicate with, the person or company responsible for the mailing.

Of the four states that passed such laws in 2000, Colorado’s is the most far reaching. That state’s legislature passed a law prohibiting the sending of e-mail that uses a third party’s Internet address or contains false or missing routing information. Furthermore, the law requires those e-mails to contain an advertising label in the subject line and must include the sender’s e-mail address and opt-out instructions.

However, the move toward restricting spam may have run into a roadblock with a judicial ruling in Washington state last March. The case revolved around an Oregon man who was accused of violating Washington’s anti-spam law. The state’s superior court judge dismissed the case saying the law violated the interstate commerce clause of the United States Constitution.

The state’s attorney general filed a request with the state supreme court to review the ruling, saying that the First Amendment does not protect misleading commercial speech. No action has been taken on that request.

(D. Maeda)

## What’s on the Web

Session Daily is the online companion to *Session Weekly* magazine, which is published by the nonpartisan House Public Information Office.

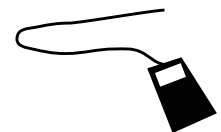
As the name suggests, the Web page offers news from the House on a daily basis, so you can stay on top of the major events at the Capitol. Brief but informative updates about daily committee and floor action are posted before 8 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Now in its second year, Session Daily has been redesigned to be organized and archived by topic. That way, if you are following a particular issue or topic, you can go right to that link and view all the stories dealing with that topic from the entire session.

Session Daily offers links to useful resources, such as bill introductions and reports or documents from state government. Each day’s version is also archived by date.

Be sure to bookmark Session Daily and check back regularly. To find the page, just go to the main Minnesota House of Representatives site ([www.house.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us)), then click on the link labeled “Session Daily.”

Also, you can be notified via email when the page has been posted for the day. Go to <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/listserv.htm> to sign up.



# Industry in crisis

Need for infrastructure and a more fair competitive market contributes to crisis among Minnesota dairy producers

BY JONAS M. WALKER

**M**innesota dairy producers are losing their share of an increasingly competitive market and they're asking for help from the Legislature.

Statewide, producers' earnings per cow are growing slower than the cost of production.

Traditionally it has been important for milk producers to be close to their consumers, but various technological and shipping advances have changed that.

In fact, many states in other regions of the country can produce and ship milk more cheaply, and some of that product is even being consumed in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

According to Jim Haun of Land O' Lakes, "The cost of producing milk in Minnesota exceeds the cost of western production and transportation."

Haun testified before the House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee, which heard two days of testimony on what is described as a "crisis" in the dairy industry.

He said higher costs are due in part to the state property tax system and environmental regulations, which generally disfavor agricultural growth, such as larger herd sizes, which would otherwise lead to increased efficiency.

Another cause is that Minnesota milk producers increasingly rely on cheese manufacturers, who pay less for milk than processors who prepare milk as a beverage. According to both small farmers and industry representatives, investors have shied away from investing in more efficient beverage-style production in Minnesota because they fear that the state's milk supply itself is in jeopardy.

Because Minnesota farmers have met with opposition to increasing the size of their farms, those farms have become inefficient in comparison to relatively unregulated peers. Large-scale processors see the comparatively high cost of Minnesota milk as a liability, and tend to favor larger producers prospering in other states.

As a result, many Minnesota dairy farmers have not been able to take advantage of increased milk consumption nationally, better

transportation methods, and less expensive production costs.

The committee heard that Minnesota dairy farms suffer from outdated, inefficient equipment. According to Land O' Lakes' Haun, milk producers have avoided Minnesota's "unfriendly business environment. There is an animosity towards animal agriculture."

On average two Minnesota dairy farmers quit the business each day, officials say. But at the same time, the industry, which employs more than 22,000 people statewide, still makes a significant impact on the state's economy.

In fact, the dairy industry employs more people than 3M, Target, and Northwest Airlines combined, according to a Department of Agriculture report. Thus the existing "crisis" in the dairy industry is cause for some alarm.

Committee members asked witnesses what Minnesota could do to help maintain the viability



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

**Morris farmer Brad Fahr, who milks 1,500 cows on the family dairy farm, tells the Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee his concerns as a milk producer during a Jan. 11 hearing.**

ity of the state's dairy farms, now in decline.

Dennis Barnes, a dairy farmer from Harmony, said government subsidies for grain growers and federal free-trade initiatives hurt his 400-cow farm. In his view, the dairy industry should enjoy protection from what he deemed "unfair trade" on the part of foreign dairy and grain producers.

Subsidizing one sector of the farm economy has the unanticipated effect of hurting other sectors, according to Barnes. For example, because he grows his own feed, Barnes does not benefit from low grain prices other farmers enjoy.

Like Barnes, Rushford dairy farmer Eugene Hansen was doubtful that the Minnesota Legislature would be capable of acting alone. He blamed federal policies, which he said concentrate wealth in the hands of multi-national corporations at the expense of small farmers.

Wyman Spano, a lobbyist for Dairy Federation of Minnesota, opposes additional farm subsidies. "I recall visiting a chopstick factory," he said, referring to a state-funded factory startup. "They didn't sit around trying to make chopsticks popular. They didn't try to increase the cost of chopsticks. They focused on making and selling the best chopsticks they could."

Grove City dairy farmer Greg Jans also expressed confidence in letting markets operate unchecked. He said rural cooperatives could be efficient if held to competitive standards. "We all grumble, but none of us (really) want to get out of dairying."

The assembled farmers and dairy industry lobbyists agreed that reinvestment in Minnesota dairy infrastructure, such as vast milking parlors and the latest processing facilities, would make the difference between a vibrant, globally competitive industry and a struggling, increasingly outdated one.

But there are other perceived barriers. According to the department report, Minnesota has become a hostile environment for the dairy industry. "In comparison to neighboring states, Minnesota has some of the most restrictive requirements for animal agriculture and has a perception of being a challenging place to dairy," the report said.

But the social and political discord between urban and rural dwellers also contributes to the crisis.

"We aren't from Minneapolis, St. Paul, or the suburbs. We live with our rural folks," Committee Chair Rep. Robert Ness (R-Dassel) said. 🗿

# Connecting Minnesota

Funding and litigation may derail plan to bring high-speed Internet access to Greater Minnesota

BY THERESA STAHL

**T**he future of a \$100 million to \$150 million project to bring high-speed Internet access to Greater Minnesota rests in the hope of securing private sector financing by Feb. 1.

Department of Administration Commissioner David Fisher appeared before the House State Government Finance Committee Jan. 11 to explain the latest developments of a project that has been subject to controversy since it began in 1996.

Among those developments was the revelation that both the state and the department are named in a lawsuit pending against the company awarded the contract for the project.

“Connecting Minnesota,” now years behind its original schedule, would route 2,200 miles of fiber-optics cable along state highway right-of-way, providing every business and residence in the state access to the network.

A private contractor would have access to sell 80 percent of the line to carriers for use or resale.

State and local governments would receive 20 percent use of the network in exchange for allowing the wire to be installed on public land. Therefore, because the agreement required no finances from the state, the contract was never brought before the Legislature for approval.

Minnesota and other states building this type of network are considered “in the forefront” of the technology, Fisher said, adding that other states are also considering a shared-use aspect between public-private entities.

The network, which he called “state-of-the-art,” would benefit “citizens of the state as a whole.” Fisher said it fits Minnesota’s needs.

“The state wanted a backbone for other lines to feed into and use,” he said. In addition to servicing Greater Minnesota, the state would be able to use its share of the line to serve establishments such as schools, libraries, and police departments.

The bid for the public-private collaboration, which began in 1997 under former Gov. Arne

Carlson, was awarded to a Denver-based company called ICS/UCN, or UCN. The private contractor was responsible for obtaining capital, as well as building and operating the network.

Weeks after the Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the Department of Administration signed the contract with UCN, the Federal Communications Commission was notified, requesting approval. Two years later they responded, criticizing the agreement for its capability to monopolize telecommunications servicers and asking for more information. Last fall the contract was amended to address those and other providers’ concerns.

The fiber-optic telecommunication lines would run through a conduit alongside Minnesota’s freeways. As the amended contract states, UCN must notify telephone companies in the state of the option to lay their own wire alongside UCN, and that they could do so when the trench is open for the Connecting Minnesota project. The trench could also be re-opened at later times.

“MnDOT intends to do a safety study as to how shared use works in a freeway row,” said Fisher, adding that the fiber optics have not yet been completely built.

Several issues came to light at the meeting. Most notably, Fisher told legislators not all terms of the contract were being followed.

“A condition of the contract was that financing must be in place before construction was to start,” Fisher said. Yet financing was

never finalized and work on two sections of the line have already begun.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), the committee chair, asked Fisher what happened.

“We wanted to try to see our way through this rather than pull a plug,” Fisher said.

Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton) asked what will happen if the project cannot be financed.

“If financing is not done by Feb. 1, there will be no more contract,” Fisher replied. And if the state opts to cancel the project, which it legally can if permanent financing is not secured by the deadline, the conduit in the ground would become property of the state, he said.

Fisher stated the departments will work with the private sector to finance the project.

When questioned by Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) if he was feeling any anxiety from the pressure of the project, Fisher responded that “any good deal sometimes turns sour.”

“It will not destroy us,” he added.


But upon hearing news that there may be litigation involving the prime contractor, Krinkie asked a series of questions to test the veracity of that statement.

A sub-contractor for the project has sued UCN for non-payment. Fisher said he wasn’t sure if the state was named in the contract and that he didn’t see any cause for concern.

Five days later at the Jan. 16 committee meeting, Krinkie said he was “rather shocked” upon discovering the state and the Department of Administration were named in the lawsuit. Fisher said at the previous meeting the litigation against the state had ended and that “does not jeopardize the contract.”

In an interview, Krinkie said many legislators had concerns about the project from the start.

“I hope (Fisher) and the commissioner of MnDOT will see that the project was ill-conceived and not well managed,” he said.

Krinkie said he will ask Fisher to come back before the committee after a decision is made following the Feb. 1 deadline to explain whether MnDOT and the Department of Administration decide to proceed or not proceed with the project. 

# Changing with the times

Policy makers watch significant shifts in long-term care needs as they prepare the state for an aging population

By **MARY KAY WATSON**

**M**innesota is on the cusp of a “senior boom,” according to Department of Human Services’ statistics. By 2030, one out of four Minnesotans will be over 65, compared to one out of eight today.

A demographic shift of this magnitude has enormous implications for long-term care and the policies that shape it.

Last year the Legislature formed the Minnesota Long-Term Care Task Force to learn about needs and issues of long-term care, to reach agreement on strategies for addressing them, and to recommend proposals for the 2001 session.

“Long-term care has both policy and personal aspects,” said LaRhae Knatterud, Department of Human Services planning director for the Aging Initiative. “It touches each of us, personally and through our families.”

The department defines long-term care as “assistance given over a sustained period of time to people who are experiencing long-term disabilities or difficulties in functioning because of a disability.”

People who need long-term care include those with major chronic diseases, cognitive problems, and significant functional impairments. Sixty percent of this population is elderly, though there are people of all ages needing such care.

Long-term care does not necessarily mean nursing home care. Most of the assistance needed by the “frail elderly” is currently provided by families in the person’s home, Knatterud said.

But demographic changes are putting severe stresses on the current system. As the state’s population ages and with the dramatic family changes in size, work patterns, and mobility that are already occurring, officials say public policy will have to change, too.

The task force presented its findings and recommendations to a joint meeting of the Senate Health and Family Security Committee and the House Health and Human Services committees Jan. 16.

“The system Minnesota has now — heavily invested in nursing homes — is not what most Minnesotans want,” Department of Human Services Commissioner Michael O’Keefe said.

The task force, comprised of six senators, six representatives, O’Keefe, and the commissioners of the Housing Finance Agency and the Department of Health, took questions about the needs and issues in long-term care to Minnesota’s citizens. They received “a wealth of input from both consumers and providers,” according to Knatterud.

They heard people talk about their needs, which included better information, help for family caregivers, a greater variety of options, and easier access to services. Some other issues included isolation of the elderly, cost of



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

**LaRhae Knatterud, from the Department of Human Services, presents a report by the Legislative Long-Term Care Task Force during a Jan. 16 joint hearing of the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee and the Senate Health and Family Security Committee.**

services, and availability of qualified health care workers.

That testimony clearly shows people’s needs and preferences regarding long-term care are changing, and the state’s current health-care system no longer meets those needs, officials said.

Minnesota’s long-term care system relies on nursing homes more than most states; however, the actual use of nursing homes has declined rapidly since 1993. At the same time, the use of home health care has grown.

A “severe” shortage in long-term care workers will continue to worsen just as the need for these workers “skyrockets,” according to the report. This shortage is due to a combination of factors, including low unemployment, an aging workforce, low wages, and a perception of the work as being unattractive.

Knatterud pointed out that people who may have once chosen “high-touch” jobs are opting for high-tech jobs.

The task force concluded that:

- Minnesota’s reliance on institutions should be reduced in favor of more community-based options — both in home care and housing.
- Communities, families, and individuals need help meeting their long-term care needs, and the state can be an empowering institution in this area.
- The state must devise new approaches to regulation and reimbursement to support this new system.

“We should move with caution,” said Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), voicing his concern about reducing a reliance on nursing homes just as the population is aging at a higher rate.

Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Minneapolis) observed that much of the current infrastructure is old and approaching obsolescence.

“Our ability to take care of people in their homes has changed dramatically with technology,” Knatterud said. “As our tools change, how we provide care will continue to change.”

The task force report concluded by recommending six “policy directions” for “reshaping” long-term care in Minnesota:

- Maximize people’s ability to meet their own long-term care needs.
- Expand the capacity of community options.
- Reduce reliance on an institutional model.
- Achieve quality and good outcomes.

Continued on page 26

# Capitol youth

47<sup>th</sup> annual YMCA Youth In Government mock session teaches high school students about running the Legislature

BY NATALIE ELSE

It wasn't a Minnesota Wild hockey game or an Eminem concert that drew more than 1,400 students to St. Paul Jan. 11-14. Instead, the students, from across the state, were busy inside the State Capitol creating agendas of their own at the YMCA's 47<sup>th</sup> annual Youth In Government mock session.

Directed by Orville Lindquist, the program gave students an opportunity to experience things in the governmental process that they might not have the chance to do otherwise. During the four-day session, students in grades 8 to 12 had the opportunity to participate in committee hearings and become members of the media, House, Senate, and Supreme Court.

"I want them to see how the processes of government fit together," Lindquist said. "I want them to see that government isn't just one institution. Rather, it is many interlocking groups that work together. We have the opportunity to be a civics lesson disguised."

Youth Speaker of the House Trevre Andrews stated the program not only provides students with a better understanding of the political system, but it also gives them insights on what goes on during the Legislative session.

Andrews, a senior from White Bear Lake, believes the program allows students to see what happens in the political system by taking an active role. It also educated him on the impact one person can have.

"It has taught me what a difference anyone can make in government if they go out and pursue it a little bit," he said.

Not only has the program created a better understanding of government for Andrews, it also has created an interest in a future career as he is considering a run for a political office. "I've thought about running for president," he said. "If not president, Congress. Any way that I can get involved, I'll do it."

Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer addressed the members of the mock House of Representatives on opening day, encouraging them to use this opportunity as a steppingstone to their futures and their roles as citizens.

"We hope you'll all be involved citizens in the process," she said. "If you're not involved, it just doesn't work."

Kiffmeyer further encouraged students to be aware of the possibilities, as well as the people, around them during the weekend. "You will find in the political realm, getting to know each other is an important part," she said. "What you do today may take you to very interesting places."

The model assembly session's youth governor, Joan M. Bennett, reverberated Kiffmeyer's beliefs about the significance of the mock session. Bennett said that the mock session illustrates how important the process is, even though it might not carry the same weight that the actual Legislature does.

"It does not mean that what we do here is a game," she said. "Soon it will be our turn. The weight of the world will soon be on our shoulders. We will have an impact on society."

Bennett, the ninth female governor in the history of the program, set the tone for the issues of concern at this year's mock session by addressing drug rehabilitation, homosexual rights, affordable housing, and child care, among other things in her State of the State address.

A senior from Woodbury, Bennett further proposed a challenge for her fellow legislators: "When our economy is as strong as it is, it is sick that people still suffer. It is time to stop placing blame and start looking for solutions."

Seeking answers is exactly what they did, as mock legislators proposed a wide variety of

issues during the session ranging from proposals creating restrictions on times of the day that a telemarketer can call households to proposals calling for the legalization of same-sex marriages.

According to Lindquist, serious issues such as these are nothing new. "Social issues are very big," he said. "The students are interested in things bigger than themselves. They're seeing government and service as vehicles for achieving that."

Not only does the program provide students with the chance to learn about the governmental process firsthand, it also allows them to experience it in the place where it actually happens. "There's an immediacy to being in the Capitol," Lindquist said. "It's important and appreciated on our end that we have such great support. It's invaluable to the experience the students get."

Students now have the chance to further



PHOTO BY SARA KIRK

**Speaker of the House Trevre Andrews conducts the Youth in Government Session in the House Chamber Jan. 12.**

their governmental knowledge by participating in the YMCA's Model United Nations program where they may learn about the culture and government of a country they adopt. The program takes place March 8-10 in Bloomington. 🐼

**Editor's Note:** Natalie Else is an intern in the House Public Information Office during the month of January. She is a senior at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, majoring in English, with a minor in political science.

# Crime fighter

## Hilstrom focuses on crime prevention and supports tools for local law enforcement to track criminals

BY THERESA STAHL

Rep. Debra Hilstrom (DFL-Brooklyn Center) says her foremost goal as a legislator is providing good communication for her district. And being close to her home community is something she's used to — she has lived within the same three-block area since she was a child.



Rep. Debra Hilstrom

She's also focused on making her community stronger over the long term.

"The message will be developing sustainable communities," she said.

Before her election to the House, Hilstrom spent six years on the Brooklyn Center City Council and served on the planning commission for the city.

Although new to state government, Hilstrom says she feels comfortable coming into the House because the committees on which she's serving — Crime Prevention and Judiciary Finance — are areas she was involved in as a city council member.

During her time with the city, Hilstrom worked with Brooklyn Center's police department. She says as a state representative she wants to work on crime prevention.

Brooklyn Center City Manager Mike McCauley recently recalled Hilstrom's extensive involvement with a bond referendum to build a police station and fire station. In addition, he said she had a strong emphasis on code enforcement.

Hilstrom says her involvement and good working relationship with the police department has prepared her to ask good questions and make educated decisions about law enforcement. She said she fully supports the developing CriMNet information system that would reduce crime.

"Working with the local police department in my community, I understand the need for a database that tracks predatory criminals," she said. "We need to give our officers the tools to keep

dangerous and repeat criminals off the street."

Beyond crime prevention, Hilstrom cites education and health care as her top concerns of the legislative session. McCauley said Hilstrom is active in public issues and has great interest in statewide issues.

"She's been very involved with the city and has done a great deal of work in the community," said McCauley, who has worked with Hilstrom the past five years. "She meets with people in the community and responds to questions and concerns" from her constituents.

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*"Working with the local police department in my community, I understand the need for a database that tracks predatory criminals. We need to give our officers the tools to keep dangerous and repeat criminals off the street."*

—Rep. Debra Hilstrom

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Hilstrom, who has a sociology degree with a minor in speech communications from the University of Minnesota, also is a member of the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee. She has long lists of major issues she plans to support this session.

"The DFL metro caucus will be fighting to have transportation funding, including roads, equity in transit investment, and commuter rail," she said. DFLers will be working for "affordable housing, which would include funding for maintenance and improvement to current housing, and the environment, (such as) brownfield cleanup, water quality and regional park funding."

Hilstrom ran for the Legislature when former Rep. Phil Carruthers decided not to seek re-election and people in the community urged her to run for the seat. (Carruthers who served as speaker of the House during the 1997-98 sessions — the last time DFLers held the majority in the House — accepted a position with the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.)

The campaign process for the Legislature

became a family affair for the Hilstroms. Her husband, Joel, was campaign chair, her mother was treasurer, and her father-in-law helped put up lawn signs.

Hilstrom's children, Stephanie and Jeremy, are excited for their mom to be in office. One of them appears to have already gotten the hang of running a campaign; having a lost pet, Stephanie put up signs and knocked on doors in the neighborhood.

For her children and others in her district, Hilstrom said she will concentrate on education issues: enduring equitable funding, funding special education, acquiring additional revenue on the formula, and aiding schools that suffer from teacher shortages. In her community, Hilstrom has been a part of a modern idea to improve education. She has fully supported a "virtual school district," where

school districts can come together in low-income/high need areas for the betterment of students.

Hilstrom said she will also work hard to help health care situations — prescription drugs as well as nursing homes for seniors.

McCauley, who supported much of Hilstrom's work on the city council, praised her service to her community, as well as her commitment to standing by her word.

"Debra is interested in putting citizen's concerns and welfare to the forefront and she's working very hard to address those issues," he said.

### DISTRICT 47B

**1998 population (estimate):** 33,639

**Largest city:** Brooklyn Center

**County:** Hennepin

**Location:** north of Minneapolis

**Top concern:** "Crime prevention and education funding, as well as taking care of funding for senior's prescription expenses."

—Rep. Debra Hilstrom



# Experience pays off

Former session-only House staffer returns to Capitol in a new role as citizen legislator

By MIKE COOK

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) has spent a large part of the last five years at the State Capitol complex.



Rep. Eric Lipman

He began in 1996 as a session-only floating legislative assistant, before working with former U.S. Sen. Rod Grams. In June 1997, he returned to spend 18 months as a member of the House Republican research staff, and after a six-

month leave to help Department of Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver in his unsuccessful bid for attorney general, Lipman was named deputy secretary of state in January 1999. He remained there until June 2000.

From those humbler beginnings, Lipman has ascended to a seat in the House chambers.

He says he wants legislative employees to know that if they're in the job for the experience, it'll be worth it in the long run.

"There is an open path to folks who are willing to train and work hard, stay late, volunteer and help," he said while sitting at his desk on the House floor waiting for a recent floor session to begin. One of Lipman's committee assignments is the House Capital Investment Committee. "That's a neat homecoming, as I was previously a staff person (for that committee)," he said of his activities during the 1998 session.

Among the communities served by District 56B are Lake Elmo, Woodbury, Afton, Oakdale, and Denmark Township. Lipman describes his district as a mix of bedroom communities and places where farmers still work and live off the land. "That is something we want to preserve."

Sixty percent of all people in the district have a college degree or better, Lipman said. But he is troubled that Washington County has one of the largest percentages of two-income families of any county in the nation.

"From my own perspective that is because we take too much out of the family budget that both spouses are in the workplace to make ends meet," he said.

One of Lipman's primary goals in the 2001 session is reducing taxation on citizens. His goal is to make what he calls the traditional, single-income family an option for more couples.

Speaking from personal experience, Lipman and his wife, Kimberly, would like to be able to have one of them stay at home to care for their 18-month-old daughter Jenna.

"If we had the choice we would rather have

power over local comprehensive plans," Lipman said. He introduced a bill earlier this month that would limit that power. While not a full abolition of the Met Council, it would permit more joint powers agreements and allow local governments a greater role in regional planning decisions.

As for schooling, he would like to see all districts treated the same for purposes of the state formula, unlike the 2000 session when he said some legislators were willing to "monkey" with the student aid formula to benefit their district.

"The effect of favoring some districts over others will short growing districts like mine. We should treat every child the same," he said. "Maintaining a different local formula will allow variations as needs may be."

An attorney by profession, Lipman believes his experience will be an asset in the lawmaking process.

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*"The effect of favoring some districts over others will short growing districts like mine. We should treat every child the same. Maintaining a different local formula will allow variations as needs may be."*

—Rep. Eric Lipman

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a simpler lifestyle and be able to spend more time with Jenna," he said. "Frankly too many of my neighbors and people I represent don't feel that is a legitimate option for them.

"My wife is an enormously capable person, who has a great career with many possibilities, but we're trying to work it where she can stay home because that's where her priorities are. It's not about a sexist view of who should stay home, it's giving people the choices of what to do."

In addition to tax cuts and lowering spending, Lipman's other priorities are strengthening schools by making sure they have a stable funding formula to meet their needs, and letting local communities have more control in planning decisions.

Regarding the latter, Lipman, who served on the Lake Elmo Planning Commission for 19 months, says the Metropolitan Council has "too great a role in planning decisions for communities like ours.

"They have a dramatic review and veto

"I hope it makes me interested in how detailed draftsmanship is important — that words really do matter," he said referring to bills and the question of legislative intent. "Attorneys fight, squabble, argue and negotiate over the meaning of words. If we spend more time and care in our writing up front, perhaps we'd have less arduous work later."

## DISTRICT 56B

**1998 population (estimate):** 45,002

**Largest city:** Woodbury

**County:** Washington

**Location:** south and east of St. Paul

**Top concern:** "I'd be interested in reducing income tax."

—Rep. Eric Lipman

# Inside scoop

## Thompson brings a combination of government knowledge and teaching experience to the Legislature

BY THERESA STAHL

Rep. Mark Thompson (DFL-New Hope) says public education is his top priority, and that his teaching experience will help him



Rep. Mark Thompson

make important decisions in that area because he knows the ins and outs of the education system in Minnesota.

"As a teacher I'm well aware of the good and the bad things going on in public education," said Thompson, who

teaches eighth grade government at Minnetonka Middle School West.

Fellow teacher Kerry Hoeschen cites another reason Thompson's experience as an educator may be valuable to being a State legislator: "He lets students' voices be heard."

Instead of lecturing, Hoeschen says Thompson, who is in his ninth year of teaching, holds more class discussions and makes his best effort to be impartial toward the issues.

"He's very good at looking at both sides of an issue," said Hoeschen, a colleague and friend of Thompson's for four years. "He considers the pros and cons."

"I try to keep my political biases separate from my teaching," Thompson said.

Thompson won't be teaching the second half of the school year when the Legislature is in session, but said he plans to teach in the fall because he would miss it too much. "I won't give it up," he said.

Thompson grew up in south Minneapolis and St. Louis Park and has lived in Minnesota all of his life, except the time he served in the Army, and when he spent a year studying in Nigeria.

The 2000 election was Thompson's first run for legislative office, and he won District 46A, which was an open seat, by only 65 votes

(after a recount). In 1998 he won a seat on the New Hope City Council, where he served for two years. He said that campaigning for the Legislature was a lot of work, but at the same time it was fascinating.

By his side during his run for office was Thompson's wife Patty.

"She's a good political advisor and a very good friend," he said. "She loves campaigning. Actually, after the campaign was over she said, 'I kind of miss door-knocking.'"

Having always had strong political interests, Thompson said he's wanted to be in politics for the past 20 years. "I've always been

interested in public service, helping people and solving problems."

Reading many newspapers from different countries on the Internet and being a longtime "news junkie," Thompson said he has learned much about government systems around the world. He has brought his knowledge of political processes into teaching and all of that information also transfers into what he's doing now as a legislator. Thompson realizes that the Minnesota Legislature has some distinctive features that he will learn as he goes, "but overall I understand the process."

Hoeschen said Thompson has a thorough political background. "He's so knowledgeable," he said. "He knows so much about government and international issues."

Besides education, Thompson is concerned about the rising cost of health care and prescription drugs. Transportation gridlock is also an important issue for him. "Getting stuck in traffic is not a pleasant experience," he said.

Thompson said Gov. Jesse Ventura has interesting ideas on taxes, one in particular that

he has supported previously — when a city makes a purchase they should not have to pay a sales tax.

"That seems to be inefficient when government taxes itself," he said. "I support anything that would not require cities to pay sales taxes on their own purchases."

Thompson's tax interests fall right in line with his predecessor, Sen. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) who left the House in 2000 to pursue the Senate seat. Rest was formerly the chair of the House Taxes Committee and served as the DFL lead on that committee during 1999 and 2000.

In education, Thompson's main concerns lie in funding. "There has been a funding shortfall and class sizes are high," he said.

As a teacher, he knows the importance of keeping class sizes small.

"The difference between 27 kids and 32 kids in a classroom is huge. The amount of time

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*"As a teacher I'm well aware of the good and the bad things going on in public education,"*

*—Rep. Mark Thompson*

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spent just getting them quiet is almost doubled." He added that teachers could give more attention to each student if there are fewer students in the class.

Thompson said K-12 education funding has not kept up with the rate of inflation in the past 10 years. And knowing teachers throughout the state, he said he understands the financial crunches they all face, while still accomplishing a great deal.

"I think that in general, schools are doing a very good job with the limited resources they have," he said. "I'm proud to be a teacher."

### DISTRICT 46A

**1998 population (estimate):** 32,325

**Largest city:** Crystal

**County:** Hennepin

**Location:** northwest of Minneapolis

**Top concern:** "Public education — We have to improve K-12 schools."

**— Rep. Mark Thompson**

# Minnesota House of Representatives 2001 Standing Committee Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:15 to 10 a.m.	Jobs & Economic Developmental Finance 200 Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy B Health & Human Services Finance 10 Transportation Finance 5	Education Policy Health & Human Services Policy 200 Judiciary Finance B Transportation Policy 5	Jobs & Economic Developmental Finance 200 Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy B Health & Human Services Finance 10 Transportation Finance 5	Education Policy Health & Human Services Policy 200 Judiciary Finance B Transportation Policy 5	Jobs & Economic Developmental Finance 200 Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy/ State Government Finance B Health & Human Services Finance 10
10:15 a.m. to 12 noon	Civil Law Environment & Natural Resources Finance 10 Higher Education Finance 300S K-12 Education Finance 5 Taxes 200	Crime Prevention Environment & Natural Resources Policy 10 State Government Finance 300N Taxes 200	Civil Law Environment & Natural Resources Finance 10 Higher Education Finance 300S K-12 Education Finance 5 Taxes 200	Crime Prevention Environment & Natural Resources Policy 10 State Government Finance 300N Taxes 200	Environment & Natural Resources Finance 10 Higher Education Finance 300S K-12 Education Finance 5 Taxes 200
12:30 to 2:15 p.m.	Family & Early Childhood Education Finance 5 Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs 200 Regulated Industries 10	Agriculture & Rural Development Finance 10 Capital Investment Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development 200	Agriculture Policy Family & Early Childhood Education Finance 5 Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development B	Agriculture & Rural Development Finance 10 Capital Investment Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development 200	
3:00 to 4:15 p.m.	HOUSE IN SESSION			HOUSE IN SESSION	

Ways & Means, Rules & Legislative Administration, Redistricting and Ethics meet at the call of the chair.

1/12/01

B - Basement Hearing Room  
All rooms in State Office Building

# Name Pronunciation Guide

## 2001 Minnesota House of Representatives

Abeler, Jim ..... ABE-ler	Holberg, Mary Liz	Osthoff, Tom ..... AHST-hoff
Abrams, Ron	Holsten, Mark William	Otremba, Mary Ellen ..... oh-TREM-ba
Anderson, Bruce	Howes, Larry	Ozment, Dennis ..... AHZ-ment
Anderson, Irv	Huntley, Thomas	Paulsen, Erik
Bakk, Thomas (Tom) ..... BOCK	Jacobson, Carl	Pawlenty, Tim ..... paw-LENTY
Bernardy, Connie	Jaros, Mike ..... YAHR-ohs	Paymar, Michael
Biernat, Len ..... BE-AIR-nat	Jennings, Loren Geo	Pelowski Jr., Gene
Bishop, Dave	Johnson, Jeff	Penas, Maxine ..... PEN-nas
Boudreau, Lynda ..... boo-DROH	Johnson, Ruth	Peterson, Doug
Bradley, Fran	Johnson, Sheldon	Pugh, Thomas W. .... PEW
Buesgens, Mark ..... BISK-ens	Juhnke, Al ..... JUNK-ee	Rhodes, Jim
Carlson, Lyndon R.	Kahn, Phyllis	Rifenberg, Michelle ..... RIFF-en-berg
Cassell, George ..... CASTLE	Kalis, Henry J. .... KAH-liss	Rukavina, Tom ..... roo-ka-VEEN-a
Clark, James T.	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson ..... KELL-a-her	Ruth, Connie
Clark, Karen	Kielkucki, Tony ..... keel-COO-ski	Schumacher, Leslie J. .... SHOE-mocker
Daggett, Roxann ..... DAG-et	Knoblach, Jim ..... NOB-lock	Seagren, Alice
Davids, Gregory M.	Koskinen, Luanne	Seifert, Marty ..... SY-fert
Davnie, Jim ..... DAV-nee	Krinkie, Philip	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" ..... SIR-tich
Dawkins, Andy	Kubly, Gary W. .... KOO-blee	Skoe, Rod ..... SKOY
Dehler, Steve ..... DAY-ler	Kuisle, William ..... KWEEZ-lee	Skoglund, Wes ..... SKOHG-lund
Dempsey, Jerry	Larson, Dan	Slawik, Nora ..... SLAH-wick
Dibble, Scott	Leighton, Rob ..... LAY-ton	Smith, Steve
Dorman, Dan	Lenczewski, Ann ..... len-CHESS-key	Solberg, Loren A.
Dorn, John	Leppik, Peggy	Stanek, Rich
Eastlund, Rob	Lieder, Bernie L. .... LEED-er	Stang, Doug
Entenza, Matt	Lindner, Arlon	Sviggum, Steve ..... SWIG-um
Erhardt, Ron ..... AIR-hart	Lipman, Eric	Swapinski, Dale
Erickson, Sondra	Luther, Darlene	Swenson, Howard
Evans, Geri	Mahoney, Tim	Sykora, Barb ..... sick-OR-ah
Finseth, Tim	Mares, Harry ..... MAIRS	Thompson, Mark
Folliard, Betty ..... FOLLY-ard	Mariani, Carlos ..... ma-ree-AH-nee	Tingelstad, Kathy
Fuller, Doug	Marko, Sharon	Tuma, John ..... TOO-ma
Gerlach, Chris ..... GER-lock	Marquart, Paul ..... MAR-qwort	Vandever, Ray
Gleason, Mark S.	McElroy, Dan ..... MACK-el-roy	Wagenius, Jean ..... wa-GHEEN-yus
Goodno, Kevin	McGuire, Mary Jo	Walker, Neva
Goodwin, Barbara	Milbert, Bob	Walz, Dale ..... WALLZ
Gray, Gregory	Molnau, Carol L. .... MOLE-now	Wasiluk, Scott ..... WAH-zlick
Greiling, Mindy ..... GRY-ling	Mulder, Richard	Wenzel, Stephen G. .... WEN-zel
Gunther, Bob	Mullery, Joe	Westerberg, Andrew
Haas, Bill ..... HAHZ	Murphy, Mary	Westrom, Torrey
Hackbarth, Tom	Ness, Robert "Bob"	Wilkin, Tim
Harder, Elaine	Nornes, Bud ..... NOR-ness	Winter, Ted
Hausman, Alice	Olson, Mark	Wolf, Ken
Hilstrom, Debra ..... HILL-strum	Opatz, Joe ..... OH-patz	Workman, Tom
Hilty, Bill	Osskopp, Mike ..... AHZ-cop	

**Tuesday, Jan. 16**

**HF125—Nornes (R)**

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Dentist licensure requirements modified for applicant's trained in a foreign country.

**HF126—Wenzel (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Morrison County nursing home rate increase provided, and money appropriated.

**HF127—Mulder (R)**

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Nursing assistants with prior records expunged exempted from disqualification.

**HF128—Nornes (R)**

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Nursing facility technology room grant program established, and money appropriated.

**HF129—Nornes (R)**

**Taxes**  
Fergus Falls lodging tax authorized.

**HF130—Dawkins (DFL)**

**Civil Law**  
Dangerous dog definitions and regulations modified, animal control officers duties expanded, evidence preservation provided, and criminal penalties imposed.

**HF131—Erhardt (R)**

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
MinnesotaCare provider tax repealed, tobacco settlement funds credited to health care access fund, pass-through of savings required, and financial management of MinnesotaCare provided.

**HF132—Haas (R)**

**Transportation Policy**  
Traffic-impacted metropolitan city street account created in county state-aid highway fund, and allocation provided.

**HF133—Haas (R)**

**Taxes**  
City aid base and maximum aid increased for specified cities.

**HF134—Tingelstad (R)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Service credit purchase authorized for prior state highway department employee.

**HF135—Wagenius (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Drinking water standards risk evaluation required and report required.

**HF136—Fuller (R)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Fire protection industry licensing fees deposited in state fire marshal account, and money appropriated.

**HF137—Erhardt (R)**

**Transportation Policy**  
Commuter rail corridor plans physical design component local approval required.

**HF138—Abeler (R)**

**Higher Education Finance**  
Anoka-Hennepin Technical College capital improvements clarified.

**HF139—Seagren (R)**

**K-12 Education Finance**  
Intermediate School District Nos. 287, 916, and 917, best practices grant authorized to train teachers of special needs students.

**HF140—Molnau (R)**

**Transportation Policy**  
Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF141—Mulder (R)**

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) aid appropriation provided.

**HF142—Boudreau (R)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Prior service credit purchase authorized for specified corrections employee.

**HF143—Carlson (DFL)**

**Education Policy**  
Voluntary full-day kindergarten funding established, and money appropriated.

**HF144—Koskinen (DFL)**

**Crime Prevention**  
Background checks required periodically on managers of rental property.

**HF145—Abrams (R)**

**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Lake Minnetonka multi-use water access site preparation and construction appropriation provided.

**HF146—Abrams (R)**

**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Lake Minnetonka multi-use water access site preparation and construction bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF147—Carlson (DFL)**

**K-12 Education Finance**  
General education basic formula allowance increased.

**HF148—Paulsen (R)**

**Taxes**  
Income tax subtraction provided for social security income.

**HF149—Pawlenty (R)**

**Agriculture Policy**  
Halaal food product serving, selling, and labeling regulated.

**HF150—Kahn (DFL)**

**Agriculture Policy**  
Agriculture; genetically modified organisms use regulated.

**HF151—Juhnke (DFL)**

**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Counties allowed to authorize payment up to statewide maximum rate for alternative care and specified home and community-based waived service programs.

**HF152—Lieder (DFL)**

**Transportation Policy**  
Local bridges grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF153—Anderson, B. (R)**

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Elk River additional on-sale liquor licenses authorized.

**HF154—Ness (R)**

**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Meeker County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

**HF155—Anderson, I. (DFL)**

**Education Policy**  
Elementary and secondary school system school district operating funds provided through state aids.

**HF156—Seifert (R)**

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Barber shop registration fee exception provided for sole operators of multiple shops.

**HF157—Bakk (DFL)**

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
LTV mining specified employees and suppliers extra unemployment compensation benefits provided.

**HF158—Gleason (DFL)**

**Taxes**  
Property tax refund; percentage of rent constituting property taxes increased.

**HF159—Anderson, I. (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
State employee health coverage required to permit unrestricted choice of health care provider.

**HF160—Anderson, I. (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Constitutional amendment proposing veto override sessions of the legislature after *sine die*.

**HF161—Anderson, I. (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Legislature; organization of House of Representatives provided in case of tie vote for a house officer.

**HF162—Anderson, I. (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Counties authorized to conduct advisory elections.

**HF163—Seagren (R)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Minneapolis Teacher Retirement Association member service credit provided.

**HF164—Wasiluk (DFL)**

**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Employee invention agreements regulated.

**HF165—Wasiluk (DFL)**

**Crime Prevention**  
Killing or harming animals trained to assist persons with disabilities criminal penalties imposed and restitution required.

**HF166—Wasiluk (DFL)**

**Taxes**  
Sales to political subdivisions tax exemption provided.

**HF167—Luther (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Class size reduction funding increased for upper elementary and secondary grades, and maximum class size ratios adjusted.

**HF168—Folliard (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Education finance; growth factor included in referendum revenue cap, and original cap percentage restored.

**HF169—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
Independent School District No. 2534, Bird Island-Olivia-Lake Lillian, grant authorized for contract deadline penalty, and money appropriated.

**HF170—Leighton (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Stay of adjudication permitted for specified driving after suspension, revocation and cancellation cases on condition that driver obtain reinstatement of privileges.

**HF171—Mulder (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Disabled access levy extended.

**HF172—Mares (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Mahtomedi authorized to provide housing assistance to get local daytime paramedic service.

**HF173—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Compensation provisions revised governing boards and advisory groups.

**HF174—Nornes (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Partition fences cost responsibility clarified.

**HF175—Ozment (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Cigarette fire retardant standards required.

## Thursday, Jan. 18

**HF176—Pawlenty (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Vitamins and mineral supplements sales tax exemption provided.

**HF177—Molnau (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Recreational motor vehicle tort immunity provided for use on a highway right-of-way.

**HF178—Howes (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Firearms; right to bear arms for specified purposes shall not be abridged, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF179—Abrams (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Foreign insurance company corporation franchise tax exemption extended to all insurance companies.

**HF180—Ruth (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Medford economic development district fund uses authorized.

**HF181—Wenzel (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Adult foster care license capacity age requirements and variances lowered.

**HF182—Paymar (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Neighborhood Development Center, Inc., entrepreneur training and staffing grant provided, and money appropriated.

**HF183—Abrams (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Capital equipment sales and use tax collection and refund repealed.

**HF184—Abrams (R)**  
**Taxes**  
June accelerated payments of sales taxes eliminated.

**HF185—Marko (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Newport; Wakota Bridge right-of-way acquisition and construction costs appropriation.

**HF186—Hackbarth (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Social security individual income tax subtraction provided.

**HF187—Abrams (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Specified tax increment financing districts modifications prohibited and expenditures limited.

**HF188—Stanek (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales to political subdivisions tax exemption provided.

**HF189—Luther (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Organ donation; anatomical gift education account income tax checkoff provided.

**HF190—Pelowski (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Post-secondary student access and choice programs, technology, intervention, and other post-secondary programs funding provided; and money appropriated.

**HF191—Erickson (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 473, Isle, fund transfer authorized.

**HF192—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Emergency medical services special taxing districts and property tax levies authorized.

**HF193—Paulsen (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Property taxes; areawide tax base contributions limited.

**HF194—Mulder (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Ambulance services excluded from MinnesotaCare provider tax.

**HF195—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
University of Minnesota academic initiatives and investments funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF196—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities academic initiatives and investments funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF197—Bishop (R)**  
**State Government Finance**  
Noncommercial television grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF198—McElroy (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Legislature required to adopt specified procedural rules relating to joint standing committees and conference committees.

**HF199—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
St. Louis County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

**HF200—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Cellular telephone operation prohibited when driving a motor vehicle.

**HF201—McElroy (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Legislature size reduced incrementally.

**HF202—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Hunting; taking of white deer prohibited.

**HF203—Howes (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Minnesota high school league classifications exceptions provided.

**HF204—Molnau (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Bridges; payment of engineering costs authorized from town bridge account.

**HF205—Nornes (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Driver's license minimum suspension imposed for theft of gasoline.

**HF206—Opatz (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
St. Cloud area low-income youth after-school educational enhancement pilot program grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF207—Rifenberg (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Volunteer firefighter maximum supplemental retirement benefit increased.

**HF208—Workman (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Resolution urging authorization of funding for modernization of waterways.

**HF209—Hackbarth (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Shooting ranges preserved, net losses limited, and relocation costs provided.

**HF210—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Drainage system cleaning permit requirements clarified.

**HF211—Ozment (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Fire departments reimbursed for extinguishing specified motor vehicle fires, municipalities authorized to collect unpaid emergency services bills from nonresidents, and money appropriated.

**HF212—Gleason (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Minneapolis-St. Paul international airport territory attached to special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, and St. Paul intermediate airport property tax exemption repealed.

**HF213—Mulder (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Physician assistants infectious disease education requirement repealed.

**HF214—Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
National guard member allowable tuition reimbursement increased, and money appropriated.

**HF215—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
State driver examination stations retained, and money appropriated.

**HF216—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Gifted and talented program permanent funding established.

**HF217—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
LQP-25/Lazarus Creek floodwater retention project construction grant provided, and money appropriated.

**HF218—Krinkie (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
State government omnibus finance bill.

**HF219—Sertich (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Resolution requesting a ban on the importation of certain steel products.

**HF220—Peterson (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Motor fuel retailer grants and tax incentives provided for installing E85 pumps and equipment, state required to purchase and operate E85 vehicles when available, and money appropriated.

**HF221—Koskinen (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Eyeglasses and hearing aids insurance coverage required under specific conditions.

**HF222—Koskinen (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Prescription drug program income limit increased, timeline for enrollment of disabled individuals shortened, and higher burial exclusion provided.

**HF223—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Major political party name exclusive use limitation modified.

**HF224—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Koochiching County; big bear country education center construction appropriation provided.

**HF225—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent school district swimming pool levies authorized.

**HF226—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Staff development transportation revenue provided.

**HF227—Ness (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Education transportation; categorical transportation funding reinstated, nonpublic transportation aid modified, bus purchase and excess fuel cost adjustment aid authorized, sparsity formula modified, and money appropriated.

**HF228—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Remedial instruction revenue provided for students not passing Minnesota basic skills tests.

**HF229—Gray (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Teen pregnancy prevention program appropriation.

**HF230—Bernardy (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Armed forces income tax exemption provided for specified service.

**HF231—Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Midtown greenway bridge over Hiawatha Avenue corridor feasibility study provided, and money appropriated.

**HF232—Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Restorative justice program crime prevention grants provided, and money appropriated.

**HF233—Fuller (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Ambulance services exempted from motor fuel taxation, and technical corrections provided.

**HF234—Goodwin (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Legislative day definition modified.

**HF235—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**  
Minnesota investment fund targeted funding provided for specified areas, and money appropriated.

**HF236—Mulder (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Lewis and Clark rural water project bond proceeds funding canceled, and general fund money appropriated.

**HF237—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
DNA analysis law scope expanded.

**HF238—Skoglund (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Criminal sexual conduct in the second degree presumptive penalty increased.

**HF239—Lipman (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Real property ownership and application clarifications provided, Minnesota common interest ownership act modified, and torrens proceedings representation provided.

**HF240—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Mesabi station on Mesabi Trail construction completion provided, and money appropriated.

**HF241—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Portable fish houses exempted from licensing requirements.

**HF242—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Fishing; use of two angling lines permitted.

**HF243—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Trusts; uniform principal and income act modified, and antilapse law clarified.

**HF244—Solberg (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
MinnesotaCare provider taxes repealed, pass-through consumers savings required, tobacco settlement proceeds allocated, contingent repeal of health care access fund, and civil penalties imposed.

**HF245—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Licensed peace officers authorized to determine necessity of patient restraints.

**HF246—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Precinct caucuses eliminated.

**HF247—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
All-day kindergarten funding provided.

**HF248—Marko (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Newport provided grant for right-of-way and construction costs of Wakota bridge reconstruction.

**HF249—Marko (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Municipal state-aid street fund loan repayment provided relating to Newport Wakota bridge project, and money appropriated.

**HF250—Marko (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Newport; previous transportation revolving loan fund modified to include grant for use in Wakota bridge project.

**HF251—Mulder (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Luverne border development zone tax incentives authorized, state tax reductions provided, and money appropriated.

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## MONDAY, January 22

8:15 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes  
**Agenda:** Minnesota lottery, George Anderson.  
Power Point presentation.  
Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer, overview.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno  
**Agenda:** HF4 (Abrams) MinnesotaCare premium and provider taxes repealed, pass-through consumer savings required, tobacco settlement proceeds allocated, and contingent penalties provided.  
HF14 (Bradley) Tobacco settlement revenues credited to health care access fund, MinnesotaCare provider taxes eliminated on contingent basis, and pass-through of savings required.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy  
**Agenda:** Continuation of Department of Commerce presentation from the Friday, Jan. 12, committee hearing.  
Department of Economic Security presentation.

### TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau  
**Agenda:** Overview by John Williams, House Research, and John Walz, fiscal analyst.

10:15 a.m.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten  
**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources: trail funding overview and trail development.

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** MnSCU allocation model overview, Laura King, vice chancellor and chief financial officer, MnSCU;  
Judy Borgen, associate vice chancellor for budget and negotiations, MnSCU.

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** Department of Children, Families and Learning review of federal programs: secondary vocational programs, special education.

### Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt  
**Agenda:** Presentation of assessment practices: Tom May, Hennepin County assessor; Steve Kuha, Cass County assessor; Wayne Haerer, Department of Revenue.  
HF45 (Erickson) Relating to Kanabec County; providing for the imposition of the production tax on aggregate materials.  
David Ulstrom, Kanabec County commissioner, and Alan Peterson, county coordinator for Kanabec County.  
HF52 (Rifenberg) Exempting agricultural loans from the mortgage registry tax.  
Neil Fruechte, Roundbank in Waseca, and Jim Ziegler, Bremer Bank in Redwood Falls.

12:30 p.m.

### FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora  
**Agenda:** Legislative Auditor's report on Early Childhood Education Programs, Joel Alter, Legislative Auditor's Office.  
Response to Auditor's report, Karen Carlson and Cherie Kotilinek, Department of Children, Families and Learning.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey  
**Agenda:** Overview presentations: Association of Minnesota Counties; Metropolitan Inter-County Association; Minnesota Association of Townships; Minnesota School Boards Association; and others pending.  
Other business.

### REGULATED INDUSTRIES

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf  
**Agenda:** Presentations by the Departments of Commerce and Economic Security on wholesale gas costs and fuel assistance programs.

3 p.m.

The House meets in session.

## TUESDAY, January 23

8:15 a.m.

### Joint EDUCATION POLICY/ HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

\*\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\*\*  
5 State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Harry Mares, Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** "Minnesota and TIMMS" Report Overview, Witness: Bill Lender-Scholer, Director, Sci-Math Minnesota.  
College Expectations of Incoming Students' Math Skills, Witnesses: Linda Baer, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, MnSCU; Robert Bruininks, Executive Vice President and Provost, University of Minnesota.  
High School Expectations of Graduating Students' Math Skills, Witnesses: Christine Jax, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning; Mary Morreira, High School Math Teacher, Robbinsdale School District.  
Achieve Report on Math.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley  
**Agenda:** Overview of program integrity in state programs: licensing programs, ombudsman's offices, public assistance programs, and program evaluation techniques.

### JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek  
**Agenda:** Committee introductions. Committee rules.  
Overview from House Research on agency reports due to the committee.  
Overview with House fiscal analyst on accounts the committee works with.

### TRANSPORTATION POLICY

\*\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\*\*  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

10:15 a.m.

### Joint House ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY/ Senate ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

\*\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\*\*  
123 State Capitol  
Chrs. Rep. Dennis Ozment, Sen. Jane Krentz  
**Agenda:** Office of Environmental Assistance - 2001 Biennial Report. Department of Administration - procurement and recycling issues. Minnesota Soft Drink Association & Recycling Association of Minnesota - statewide recycling campaign.

### STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie  
**Agenda:** Budget presentation, State Auditor's Office.  
HFXXXX (Krinkie) State Government Finance bill.



## TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF4 (Abrams) MinnesotaCare premium and provider taxes repealed, pass-through consumer savings required, tobacco settlement proceeds allocated, and contingent penalties provided.

HF14 (Bradley) Tobacco settlement revenues credited to health care access fund, MinnesotaCare provider taxes eliminated on contingent basis, and pass-through of savings required.

12:30 p.m.

## AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** Dairy producers' perspective of environmental feedlot rules.

Testimony from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

## CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knobloch

**Agenda:** Presentation of the governor's 2001 capital budget, Lee Mehrkens, capital budget coordinator, Department of Finance.

## COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** Department of Labor and Industry agency overview. Minnesota Technologies, Inc. agency overview.

2:30 p.m.

## REDISTRICTING

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Erik Paulsen

**Agenda:** Historical and legal overview of redistricting.

Presentations by Peter Wattson, Senate Counsel, and Tom Pender, House Research.

## WEDNESDAY, January 24

8:15 a.m.

## GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** Overview of the Department of Veterans Affairs (one hour), Jeff Olson, commissioner.

Presentation of Hastings Veterans Home, Charles Cox, administrator.

## JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** Overview presentations from: Board of Accountancy; Board of Architecture, Design, et al; Board of Barber Examiners.

Presentation by the Department of Health's proposals on the regulation of boxing.

10:15 a.m.

## CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF58 (McGuire) Standards prescribed for identification of beer kegs, retailers required to maintain records of keg sales, and penalties provided.

HF56 (Lipman) Covenant marriages option provided.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Department of Natural Resources: lottery in lieu of monies and license fee increases; 2001 budget allocations.

## K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** Governor's K-12 Education Finance budget presented by the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

## TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF2 (Walz) Modifying the automatic rebate mechanism; providing for payment of a sales tax rebate; appropriating money.

HF48 (Abrams) Providing for payment of a sales tax rebate.

HF12 (Lipman) Proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution by adding a section to article IV; requiring a three-fifths vote to enact a law imposing or increasing taxes, fees, or surcharges.

## WAYS & MEANS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dave Bishop

**Agenda:** Presentation of Gov. Ventura's biennial budget, Commissioner Pamela Wheelock, Department of Finance; Assistant Commissioner Peggy Ingison, Department of Finance; and Commissioner Matt Smith, Department of Revenue.

12:30 p.m.

## AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

**Agenda:** Wind energy: how it is now working in rural Minnesota and the further potential it has to help ease the looming energy crisis.

Greg Jaunich, president and CEO, Navitas and Northern Alternative Energy, commercial wind energy developer.

## Economic Development and Tourism Division/COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

**Agenda:** Report from the Governor's Working Group on Minority Business Development. Presentation from the Minnesota Rural Academy for Enterprise. Report on technology trends in Greater Minnesota.

Report on the diversification of Minnesota's economy by the Department of Trade and Economic Development.

## FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD

### EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** Report on integration of early childhood programs, Karen Carlson, Department of Children, Families and Learning.

Outcome data for early childhood programs, Bob Wedl, Minneapolis Public Schools.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

**Agenda:** HF46 (Lipman) Comprehensive local planning local control reestablished, metropolitan land use planning and Metropolitan Council review of local comprehensive plans repealed, and conforming changes provided.

HF172 (Mares) Mahtomedi authorized to provide housing assistance to get local daytime paramedic service.

HF174 (Nornes) Partition fences cost responsibility clarified.

HF16 (Pelowski) Local governments authorized to transfer personal property to nonprofit corporations.

HF85 (Jennings) Wyoming and Chisago City orderly annexed property reimbursement duration limitation exemption provided.

Other business.

2:15 p.m.

### House Freshman Legislator Training

House Chamber

Chr. Rep. Kathy Tingelstad

**Agenda:** Floor procedure and state finance issues.

2:30 p.m.

### \*\*NOTE TIME & ROOM\*\*

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** Overview of governor's budget, Peggy Ingison, state budget director, Department of Finance; Stewart McMullan, executive budget officer, Department of Finance.

**THURSDAY, January 25**

**8:15 a.m.**

**Joint EDUCATION POLICY/  
HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

**\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\***

5 State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Harry Mares,  
Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** Math pedagogical techniques in higher education institutions, Witnesses: Joane McKay, dean, College of Education, St. Cloud State University  
Steve Yussen, dean, The College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota.  
Curriculum comparisons: The United States and Japan, Witnesses: Tom Post, professor of math education, University of Minnesota; Sharon Stenglein, mathematics specialist, Department of Children, Families and Learning

**Joint HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chrs. Rep. Fran Bradley,  
Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** Orientation to developmental disability issues and programs.  
Discussion on developmental disability waivers.

**Regent Candidate Advisory Council**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Nedra Wicks  
**Agenda:** Business meeting 8:15 a.m. to 9 a.m. Interviews for positions

on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (lunch break 12 noon to 1:15 p.m.).

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

**\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\***

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**10:15 a.m.**

**CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Tuma  
**Agenda:** HF94 (Haas) Fish and game law gross overlimit violations criminal penalties established, and restitution values determined (pending rereferral).  
Methamphetamines: Bureau of Criminal Apprehension presentation regarding the statewide problem with illegal methamphetamine labs.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment  
**Agenda:** Overview by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and report on air toxics, MPCA.

**Sales and Income Tax Division/  
TAXES**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Krinkie) State Government Finance bill.

**12:30 p.m.**

**AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach  
**Agenda:** Statewide facilities management group presentation of maintenance issues, Bill Olson, Division of State Building Construction.

**COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Greg Davids  
**Agenda:** Department of Trade and Economic Development agency overview.

**3 p.m.**

The House meets in session.

**FRIDAY, January 26**

**8:15 a.m.**

**JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy  
**Agenda:** Minnesota Historical Society overview presentation.

**9:30 a.m.**

**Regent Candidate Advisory Council**

500S State Office Building  
Chr. Nedra Wicks  
**Agenda:** Business meeting 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Interviews for positions on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (lunch break 12 noon to 1:15 p.m.).

**10:15 a.m.**

**HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** University of Minnesota budget request, President Mark Yudof, University of Minnesota.

**K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** Governor's K-12 Education Finance budget presented by the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

**1 p.m.**

**Legislative Audit Commission**

316 State Capitol  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy  
**Agenda:** Release and review of program evaluation report on district courts.

continued from page 14

- Support informal networks of family, friends, and neighbors.
  - Recruit and retain a stable work force.
- “We want to make this a legislative priority this year,” said Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden (R-Rochester).  
Rep. Kevin Goodno, (R-Moorhead), chair

of the House Human Services Finance Committee, expressed concern over the high cost of the recommendations and requested dollar estimates for the strategies from the Department of Human Services.  
“We can no longer use a Band-Aid approach — the patient is hemorrhaging,” said Sen. Dan Stevens (R-Mora). “We have an opportunity

not just to pour money into this but to demand reform,” he said, “and we have to do it this session.  
“It boils down to this: we either fund this and take care of people the way they should be taken care of, or we accept a lower standard of care.” 🐼

Continued from page 4

Greater party balance is only one issue that will now make redistricting more complex. The issue of how to handle issues of race has already drawn much attention. Kunkel said while the courts have ruled consideration should be given to ensure minorities have a greater voice in the process, districts should not be drawn up solely on the basis of race.

Vast improvements in the computer redistricting software will also play a role. Unwieldy maps were used in the past and the available software often was too expensive for most groups to buy. Now improved software is readily available, meaning more groups will be able to map out their own proposals and more carefully scrutinize what is actually being done.

Kunkel said the issue of sampling is also sure to be discussed.

Sampling is a method used in census counting where projected estimates of populations are used rather than an actual head count. The courts have ruled sampling cannot be used in the process of determining the number of seats in the 435-member U.S. House of Representatives but they have not ruled whether it can be used for redistricting purposes.

Agreement on base values will determine whether the Legislature and governor will be able to agree on a redistricting plan for the state and thereby avoiding a court determined plan, Kunkel said. Those values include making sure districts are equal in population while paying attention to drawing district boundaries in a manner that will ensure communities with locally identifiable common interests are put together.

He said districts that are fair to all parties and ethnic groups are desirable. Also, courts have historically watched for compact districts that are not oddly shaped, bringing into question how they were drawn the way they were.

Finally, drawing competitive districts in an attempt to ensure there are fewer safe seats and limiting advantages to incumbents is often stated as a goal of redistricting, Kunkel said. But he said those who attempt to draw maps to their own advantage may or may not be successful.

“The new maps are based on past behavior of voters who can and do change,” he said. 🐼

# Reflections

Late at night in the State Capitol building, when all the lights are dimmed and no people are roaming the halls, architect Cass Gilbert’s masterpiece takes on a special feeling.

Except for Capitol Security, Historical Society tour guides and some visitors on weekends, the Capitol is left to its own solitude once the sounds of debate heard through the chamber doors go quiet. The few times in the evening when many people are around are April and May, during the closing weeks of session when lawmakers must use late hours to complete their duties.

But the general public does not often get the opportunity to “feel” the building’s personality under dimly lit hallways and imposing portraits of former governors after the cleaning staff retires for the evening.

Then, amidst the majestic columns, classic works by well-known artists of their day, and monuments to Civil War heroes, a distinct feeling looms over the polished marble floors, stone walls, and granite stairways.

It’s a feeling of connecting with the past and the present, embodied with the awe of a sense of place for all the people of Minnesota to enjoy — though many have yet to enter its portals.

Conversely, a typical day at the Capitol is one of staggering activity, as halls abound with hundreds of lobbyists, and members of the general public. Others include legislative assistants on some unknown mission, and large groups having their “Day at the Capitol.” Normally on such days, the Capitol’s personality is felt through all the hubbub as more of an “official” or formal nature.

For a building that may accommodate well over 1,000 people — all talking,

debating, and trekking across the marble floors on any given day — a calm, quiet, peaceful feeling is more the norm late at night.

There is the notion that the building enlivens itself for a new onslaught each day. Before visitors, lawmakers, and staff arrive, Gilbert’s act of genius takes on a showy brightness that enhances the marble facade, high ceilings, 142-foot-high dome and chandelier, and the Rotunda — the heart of the Capitol. Many are drawn to it.

Recently, in a 15-minute time span, a foreign couple was seen in the Rotunda posing with their two children for their own self-timed photograph, while an artist was studying perspectives by painting the complex angles of the upper levels from the second floor. Headed up the east stairway was a group of war veterans on a guided tour.

Throughout the building could be heard the lilting sound of a harp echoing from the third floor. Here, the Youth in Government student governor and her cabinet were holding a reception for family, friends, and special guests. The very essence of the building was expressed during that period of time. And the words of Cass Gilbert’s designer, Elmer Garnsey, rang true: “...lessons in both patriotism and art” would eventually be furnished by the Capitol.

That was Saturday, Jan. 13, when the building demonstrated all of its qualities. It was stately, somber, peaceful, lively, aesthetic, and official. There was a feeling of accomplishment and contentment in the air, all due to the perceptions of Cass Gilbert, Elmer Garnsey and others who insisted that the people of Minnesota have a sense of place in a space they could call their own.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

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# MINNESOTA INDEX

## Early childhood programs

Combined annual estimate of state and federal funds for Minnesota early childhood education programs, in millions .....	\$300
Minnesota funding for Head Start, Early Childhood Family Education and School Readiness, FY2001, in millions .....	\$50
Number of Minnesota children under age five, 1999 .....	322,000
Percent of state's total population .....	6.7
Child care centers subject to state standards .....	1,600
Number of public and private preschools .....	500
Family day care facilities subject to state rules .....	14,000
Number of Minnesota children served by Head Start programs, 1998-99 .....	15,000
Percent of state's children ages 3 to 5 in poverty served by Minnesota Head Start funding .....	45
Hours of preschool and other services in Head Start programs, per week .....	14
Length of programs services, per year, in months .....	9 to 12
Children who received medical screenings and immunizations in	
Head Start, 1999, as percent .....	91
Number of received dental screenings, as percent .....	72
Percent of Head Start costs for transportation, FY2000 .....	19
Percent of Minnesota children under age 5 that participated in ongoing ECFE classes, 1998-99 .....	24
Number of states that supplement federal Head Start dollars with state funds .....	17
Percent of Minnesota's Head Start revenues that come from state funds .....	25
Children participating in ECFE classes or home visits, 1998-99 .....	78,500
Parent participants .....	87,000
Average hours per week for ECFE classes .....	2
Weeks a class typically lasts .....	16
Average cost per child for ECFE and School Readiness .....	\$500
Cost for Head Start, per child .....	\$5,000
Average annual salary for center-based Head Start teachers, FY1999 .....	\$14,470
For ECFE/School Readiness parent educators .....	\$29,733
For ECFE/School Readiness child educators .....	\$34,787

Source: *Early Childhood Education Programs, Program Evaluation Report, Office of the Legislative Auditor, January 2001.*

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