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# SESSION Weekly

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**INSIDE: HORSING AROUND, A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH, WHERE THE ACTION IS, MORE**

This Week's Bill Introductions HF3337-HF3657

# SESSION Weekly

*Session Weekly* is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Services office. During the 2005-2006 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions, and provides other information. No fee.

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On the cover: Bob Lockman portrays a member of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry as he makes his way up the snow-covered front steps of the Capitol March 13 to participate in History Matters Day.

—Photo by: Tom Olmscheid

# By a cough and a sneeze

## State cattle ranchers see their livelihood threatened

By IRENE VOTH

Last July, shortly after several of Roger Skime's cows tested positive for bovine TB, his entire herd — 1,070 head of angus and Tarentaise-cross beef cattle — was loaded onto trucks and taken to a slaughter plant. Since then, the Roseau County rancher has learned a lot about bovine TB and the steps necessary to eradicate it. And he's not alone.

Four other Minnesota ranchers whose herds tested positive for the disease have also lost their herds.

"Bovine TB has been absolutely devastating" to those ranchers and continues to threaten the livelihood of cattle producers across the state, Don Schiefelbein told the [House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee](#) March 8. Schiefelbein is Feeder Council chairman of the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association.

The presence of bovine TB in Minnesota has resulted in the [United States Department of Agriculture's](#) decision to downgrade the state's TB-status to "modified accredited advanced." The new status requires the state's cattle producers to comply with state and federal TB-testing requirements if shipping cattle interstate.

Kevin Varner, incident commander for the Minnesota TB response organization, said the new status has negatively affected the state's beef producers, especially when seeking to market breeding stock.

"It's even hard for these producers to sell hay," Varner said, explaining that people in the cattle industry avoid anything associated with bovine TB.

### Closing in on the disease

Caused by the bacteria *mycobacterium bovis*, bovine TB is a respiratory disease of cattle to which deer are also susceptible. It is spread among animals through coughing, sneezing and possibly sharing contaminated feed, water or mineral blocks. It can spread to humans through the consumption of unpasteurized milk from an infected dairy cow or the consumption of undercooked beef or venison

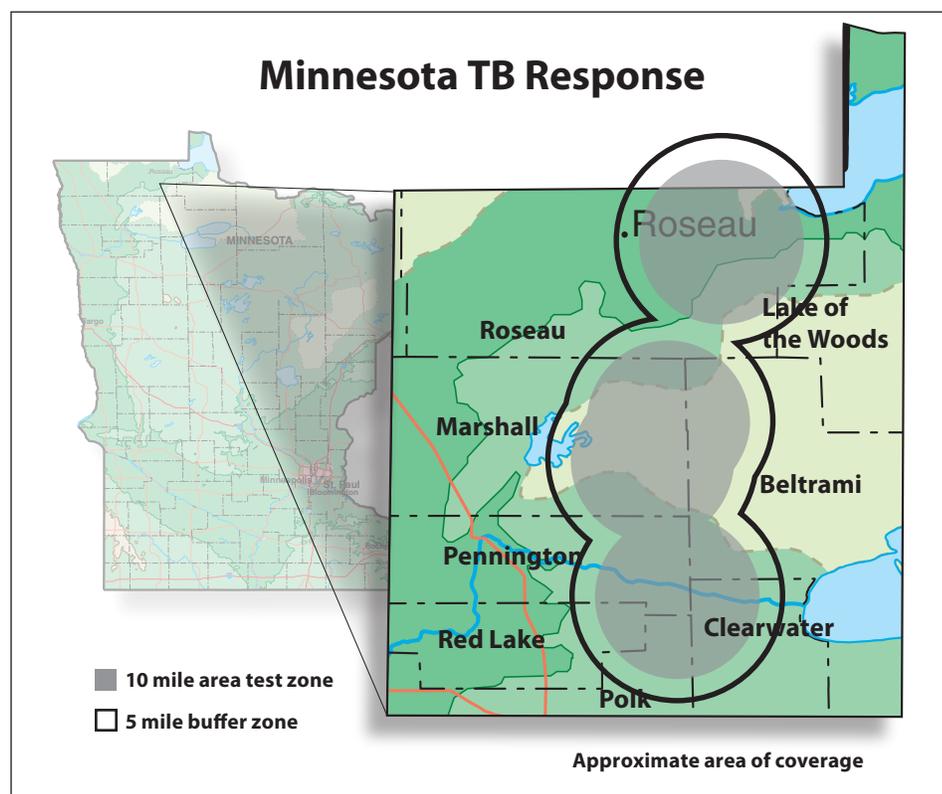
from infected animals, although the bacteria is not present in the muscle tissue but in the organs, including the lymph nodes. It is also possible that hunters could come into contact with the bacteria and become infected while dressing out an infected deer.

"The [Board of Animal Health](#) and the

conducting hunter-harvest surveillance of deer in the affected areas. But Schiefelbein said more must be done.

The cattlemen's association is calling for mandatory testing of cattle as well as the issuance of shooting permits so cattle producers can eliminate any deer that might come close enough to transfer bovine TB to their herds. The association insists that these measures be put in place within a 10-mile radius of the five depopulated herds.

Currently, ranchers on infected sites and on adjacent properties are permitted to shoot any deer present, and ranchers within a 15-mile



Measures recommended by the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association would legally mandate that cattle producers within the 10-mile area test zone of the five infected herds have their herds tested for bovine TB. They would also allow cattle producers to eliminate deer that might come close enough to transfer the disease to their herds.

[Department of Natural Resources](#) have been absolutely wonderful to work with," Schiefelbein said. These departments and the USDA's Incident Command System have been successful at "closing the web" of disease transfer among herds by tracking the buying and selling of animals from infected ranches, testing all herds implicated and depopulating those that returned positive test results, and

radius of the infected site are encouraged have their entire herds tested for bovine TB. Testing within a 10-mile radius is required by the USDA for reinstatement of the TB-free status, but ranchers are not required by law to have their animals tested.

First Reading continued on page 4



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Mike Doncarlos, right, Department of Natural Resources wildlife program manager, spoke on a report on the state of bovine tuberculosis in the state during a March 8 hearing of the House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. Others testifying were, from left, Dr. Bill Hartmann, executive director of the Board of Animal Health, Heidi Kassenborg, assistant director of the Board of Animal Health, and Don Schiefelbein, feeder council chairman with the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association.

### Tracking its spread

In his report to the committee, Dr. Bill Hartmann, executive director of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, detailed how the disease was tracked and also how the infected herds were dealt with, beginning in January 2005 with the slaughter plant in Green Bay, Wis., where suspicious lesions were discovered on the carcass of a cow. That cow was traced back to the Skime ranch, and the TB-response organization immediately acted to find out where the disease may have come from and where it may have already been transferred to.

The five ranchers whose herds included cattle that reacted positively to the TB test received a negotiated price for each animal. The infected animals were tested further at a veterinary diagnostic lab in the Twin Cities, after which their carcasses were destroyed. The rest of the herds were slaughtered and inspected for evidence of the disease so that no questionable meat entered the food market. Altogether, nearly 4,000 cattle were terminated, and the five ranchers asked to disinfect corrals, feeders and other farm structures and equipment with which infected animals could have had contact.

Mike Doncarlos, DNR wildlife program manager, said that because the DNR has a role in re-establishing the state's TB-Free status, it also acted immediately upon being notified of the bovine TB in Roseau County.

"We decided to immediately set up to do hunter-harvest surveillance in the fall with a pretty high statistical threshold. We wanted to sample enough deer to have a pretty high degree of confidence that we would detect TB in deer if it was out there," he said.

Organ samples were taken at deer registration stations within a 15-mile radius of the four sites known to be infected prior to opening weekend of the 2005 firearms season. Of 475 deer tested, only one showed signs of the disease, and that deer had been harvested in the immediate area of the first depopulated herd. Subsequent harvesting and testing continue in that area, and in the 60 additional deer taken thus far, only one more infected animal has been discovered. Doncarlos added that hunter-harvest surveillance will again take place this fall within a 15-mile radius of all five sites and will be repeated each fall until the state's TB-Free status is reinstated.

Varner said it is unlikely that the ongoing deer sampling results will at any time point to a "self-sustaining" disease among Minnesota's deer population — a situation that would result in a five-year wait before the TB-Free status could be reinstated.

"This is more a case of one or two deer being in the wrong place at the wrong time," he said, adding that because Minnesota's deer do not congregate in large numbers and individual deer generally spend their entire lives within an area of only several miles' radius, they are not likely to either spread the disease among themselves or transfer it from one cattle herd to another.

According to the Board of Animal Health, Minnesota has been working to eradicate bovine TB since 1917. Prior to July 2005, there had been no incidence of the disease among Minnesota's cattle since 1971.

### Costly fight for Michigan

Unlike Minnesota, where the deer population has not been found to have self-sustaining bovine TB, Michigan has spent more than \$100 million battling the disease since 1996.

"Michigan has a unique strain — it's a very virulent strain that has evolved over time," said Bridget Patrick, Bovine TB Eradication Project Coordinator for the Michigan Department of Community Health. Minnesota's strain, she said, is known to be prevalent in Mexico.

Last fall the U.S. Department of Agriculture reinstated Michigan's TB-Free status in the Upper Peninsula because there has been no evidence of the disease in that area for five years.

While the 2005 Michigan hunter-harvest survey shows the disease prevalence in the Northern Lower Peninsula to be 1.2 percent — 0.5 percent lower than in 2004, four additional cattle herds became infected in that area during the last year.

Patrick said that along with the cost of fighting bovine TB, the losses to Michigan's livestock industry have been estimated at \$156 million over the past 10 years. In addition, travel and tourism in the state suffers an estimated annual loss of \$25 million.

"It's an expensive disease," Patrick said.

Mike Doncarlos, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources wildlife program manager, said factors that likely contributed to Michigan's situation include a much larger deer population, as well as widespread deer feeding and deer "baiting" — the practice of luring deer with feed in order to more easily harvest them.

Doncarlos said deer baiting is illegal in Minnesota, and deer feeding is being discouraged.

(I. Voth)

### HISTORY LESSON



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

John Guthmann plays the fife and Jim Moffet the drum, as members of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry play outside the Capitol March 13 as part of History Matters Day at the Capitol.

**Editor's note: The following Highlights are coverage of selected bills heard in House committees and House floor action March 9 - 16.**

## ★ AGRICULTURE

### Dairy tax credit

With nearly 100 dairy farmers present and a cooler full of Grip'n Go milk available to all, a bill to grant a one-time income tax credit to dairy farmers of up to \$50,000 for expenses incurred while expanding or improving their dairy operations was passed March 15 by the [House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee](#).

[HF2879](#) now moves to the [House Taxes Committee](#).

"It is estimated that 2,200 farms, or about 40 percent of dairy farmers, will take advantage of this opportunity the first year," said [Rep. Dean Urdahl](#) (R-Grove City), sponsor of the credit plan.

The result of three years of bipartisan efforts initiated by [Gov. Tim Pawlenty](#), Urdahl said the credit is necessary to stimulate Minnesota's dairy industry and will encourage the state's dairy farmers to compete with those of other states. He also said the credit will benefit all dairy farmers, regardless of the size of their operations.

Among those testifying in support of the bill were representatives of the Land Stewardship Project, the Minnesota Milk Producers Association, the Farmers Union, the Minnesota Association of Cooperatives and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. No one spoke in opposition.

Its companion bill, [SF2862](#), sponsored by [Sen. Dallas Sams](#) (DFL-Staples), awaits action by the [Senate Taxes Committee](#).

## ★ CONSUMERS

### Health impact fee on alcohol

State alcohol taxes could rise about 10 cents per drink to help offset billions of dollars in alcohol-related costs to society.

The [House Public Safety Policy and Finance Committee](#) tabled HF1014 March 9, which is sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls). The companion bill (SF606) is sponsored by Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville).

According to the nonpartisan House Research Department, "The collected fees are credited to a fund that defrays the costs of legislative initiatives aimed at reducing impaired driving offenses and preventing crime, injury, and loss of life through chemical dependency prevention, screening, and treatment, through increased law enforcement, prosecution, and incarceration

## Committees:

### Where the action is — for now

As of Thursday, 3657 bills have been introduced this biennium in the House. By the time session ends, only a small percentage will have received a hearing in committee.

But if a bill has any hope of becoming law, it has to first be heard in a committee.

At the beginning of session, deadlines are set for most of the committees to complete their work on bills. The deadlines do not apply to the House committees on Capital Investment, Ways and Means, Taxes or Rules and Legislative Administration; or the Senate committees on Capital Investment, Finance, Taxes and Rules and Administration.

By the first deadline (this year it is March 28), House committees must finish acting on House bills and Senate committees must finish action on Senate bills. There are a few exceptions, mostly relating to pensions and major appropriation bills.

A second deadline follows. This year, it is April 4. By then, committees must act on bills that met the first deadline in the other body. Committees must act favorably on omnibus finance bills by the third deadline, April 11 this year.

But there are ways to get around the deadlines.

A committee can bring a bill forward after the deadlines, but it must be referred to the respective rules committee to determine its fate. Another route would be for a bill to be recalled from committee by a floor motion, or it could be attached as an amendment to a bill on a related subject.

This year's shorter session has committees meeting outside normally scheduled times to try and push through as many bills as possible.

The best way to keep up with the ever-changing legislative agendas is to follow the committee schedule on the House Web site.

The main House page ([www.house.mn](http://www.house.mn)) offers a drop down box titled "Schedules" that directs users to House, Senate and television schedules and the order of business for any House floor session.

View the entire House schedule by clicking on the "Upcoming Meetings" link or select an individual date from the calendar on the House main page.

Each committee maintains a schedule page as well. These links can be found at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/commemlist.asp>.

— L. SCHUTZ

*\* Some Information taken from "Making Laws" published by the Research Department of the Minnesota House of Representatives.*



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

**Ken Goblirsch, a dairy farmer who milks 37 cows near Sleepy Eye, testifies before the House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee in support of a bill that would provide an income and corporate franchise tax credit for qualifying investment in dairy operations.**

efforts, through new prostitution assessment and treatment plans, and through increased penalties on repeat misdemeanor crimes.”

Howard Epstein, a planner for Dakota County Public Health, said that alcohol-related accidents, including vehicular accidents and drowning, cause suffering for many Minnesota families.

“What we often don’t read a lot about is the tremendous economic impact of these incidents,” he said. “Families suffer economic loss, insurance companies pay for alcohol-related problems and all of us pay more in local and state taxes to cover the growing cost of alcohol-related problems.”

Epstein said the bill would generate \$224 million additional revenue annually, allowing Minnesota to recoup some of the \$4.5 billion Minnesotans lose annually to alcohol-related incidents. He said current alcohol taxes raise only \$260 million annually.

Clark said many advocacy groups support her bill, including the League of Minnesota Cities, the Minnesota County Attorneys Association and the Minnesota Medical Association.

[Rep. Mary Murphy](#) (DFL-Hermantown) asked Clark how the tax revenues would be distributed to the governmental bodies collecting them. Clark said she had not devised a formula for that distribution, but believed that every community would receive some of the revenues collected.

Additionally, the money would help fund a two-year pilot project to create the Phillips Neighborhood Safe Zone in south Minneapolis.

## ★ CRIME

### Sex offender whereabouts

Sex offenders would be required to wear electronic ankle bracelets as a means of monitoring their location, under a bill tabled March 15 by the [House Public Safety Policy and Finance Committee](#).

Under [HF2600](#), sponsored by [Rep. Jeff Johnson](#) (R-Plymouth), Level III sex offenders, those deemed most likely to reoffend, or Level II, moderately likely to reoffend, would be required to wear a tracking and monitoring device while on supervised or conditional release from incarceration.

If an offender entered an exclusion zone, such as near a school, the [Department of Corrections](#) would be required to notify local law enforcement and a probation supervisor.

Corrections officials would have discretion to have Level II offenders wear a passive

monitor, which would provide a summary of the offender’s travels at the end of the day.

The bill, which has no Senate companion, also contains a penalty for attempting to tamper with or remove the device.

Johnson expects the program to cost several million dollars per year, but the price tag should not deter committee members.

“I don’t think there is any greater obligation of government than to protect the citizens — especially little kids,” he said. “If there is going to be a place to spend money, this is it.”

Still, Johnson said the bill could easily be converted to a pilot program, if the state’s limited finances demand it.

Committee Chair [Rep. Steve Smith](#) (R-Mound) asked Johnson to prepare, by the end of the month, language for the bill referring to a pilot program.

### Publicizing criminal data

A bill that would relax criminal law to give offenders an easier time re-entering society was tabled March 14 by the [House Public Safety Policy and Finance Committee](#).

Sponsored by [Rep. Doug Meslow](#) (R-White Bear Lake), [HF3345](#) includes provisions that would increase the dollar threshold for being charged with first- or third-degree criminal damage to property; require courts to defer prosecution for certain first-time drug offenders; and allow some people with revoked driver’s licenses to get them back earlier by paying fines.

Tom Johnson, president of the Council on Crime and Justice, supports the bill, especially a provision that would make all arrest data not leading to a conviction private after 180 days.

During the past 20 years, Johnson said, employers and landlords have increasingly relied on background checks, and this can make renting or securing a job tough for an offender, even if their case was dismissed. Landlords have also discriminated against people for innocent contact with the legal system, he said.

However, Mark Anfinson, representing the Minnesota Newspaper Association, argued that such arrest data should remain public so the press can report on how responsibly the police are using their powers of arrest.

He said such a law would not help offenders because landlords and employers will easily find the data before the 180-day deadline.

Pete Cahill, a board member of the Minnesota County Attorneys Association, said his group sees the bill as containing some good provisions, but others that are more worrisome.

For example, Cahill said if the arrest data is made private, it could mean real headaches for police hoping to build a case with help from other jurisdictions where a suspect may have committed a crime.

“It’s not clear to me, if it’s private data, that law enforcement agencies can even share it,” he said.

A companion bill, [SF3078](#), sponsored by [Sen. Thomas Neuville](#) (R-Northfield), awaits action in the [Senate Crime Prevention and Public Safety Committee](#).

## ★ EDUCATION

### Bonding recommendations

The [House Education Finance Committee](#) March 15 endorsed a list of \$63 million in capital investment priorities for Minnesota schools.

The list now goes to the [House Capital Investment Committee](#).

The top two priorities are a combined \$8 million for the Minnesota state residential academies for the deaf and blind in Faribault. The largest chunk, \$5.6 million, would be used to renovate a male dormitory, with the remainder going toward building maintenance.

- Other priorities, in descending order, are:
- \$1 million for building maintenance at the Perpich Center for Arts Education in Golden Valley;
  - \$4 million for library handicap accessibility;
  - \$5 million for the MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis;
  - \$7 million for building construction at the Nett Lake Indian reservation;
  - \$26 million for renovation of the middle school and high school in Red Lake; and
  - \$12 million to expand the state [Cooperative Secondary Facilities Grant Program](#), which funds capital projects for secondary schools in consolidation.

The committee’s decision was partly an attempt to help rural school districts that have not qualified for as much state aid in recent years because of shrinking school populations, while farm property values have risen sharply.

In addition to boosting funding for the program, the committee recommends that the state broaden its focus to include all K-12 schools, rather than just secondary schools; and to include school districts with 300 students or more, rather than 1,200.

[Rep. Doug Meslow](#) (R-White Bear Lake) said he was disappointed the committee could not have provided three times the \$12 million in added funds.

"I'm concerned we are making a gesture rather than a real attempt to address the situation," he said.

The Red Lake School District was not able to complete critical renovations to its high school and middle school with the \$18 million received from last year's bonding law. Officials say they need about \$26 million to finish the projects.

### Alternative teaching licensure

Mid-career professionals in key fields could become licensed teachers under a new fast-track training program approved March 9 by the [House Education Policy and Reform Committee](#).

[HF2680](#), sponsored by [Rep. Sondra Erickson](#) (R-Princeton), now goes to the House floor. A companion bill ([SF2764](#)), sponsored by [Sen. David Hann](#) (R-Eden Prairie), awaits action by the [Senate Education Committee](#).

The bill would allow people to enter a training program at a college or university to get licensure in one of five fields with a teacher shortage: science, mathematics, world languages, English as a second language and special education.

To be eligible, the applicant must, among other things, have a college degree in the proposed teaching area, pass a proficiency exam in that subject and have work experience in the teaching area.

The applicant would be hired by a district on a provisional basis, and then enter a program requiring 200 hours of instruction on teaching, and on-the-job mentoring.

The applicant would receive a teaching license upon completing the program.

Allen Hoffman, director of the Minnesota Board of Teaching, which sets standards for teacher licensure, said he supports the bill.

"We feel confident that the components of this program would allow for the training of a quality teacher," he said.

However, Garnet Franklin, who monitors licensing issues for Education Minnesota, the state's teacher's union, said her organization was "four-square against" the bill.

She worried that teacher quality could fall if the state allows local districts to get involved in deciding whether a teacher is fit to teach.

"We are puzzled by the need for a bill that would create a specific route," she said.

### Special education placement

A bill that would allow districts to re-evaluate student appropriateness for special education, if they take "reasonable measures" to obtain consent but the parent fails to respond, was tabled March 14.

[HF3179](#), sponsored by [Rep. Mark Buesgens](#) (R-Jordan), was heard by the [House Education Policy and Reform Committee](#).

The change would comply with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act and serve students better, according to Amy Roberts, an administrator in the [Department of Education](#) who helps districts comply with federal laws.

"If the district cannot override the parent's consent, that basically ties the district's hands with respect to new testing or re-evaluation of that student," she said. "Students are often in a placement that is not appropriate for that student."

Dr. Karen Effrem disagreed.

A board member for EdWatch, a group seeking to protect individual rights, she said the new federal law does not require the change in state law. She added that many national groups oppose such an overriding of parental consent, including African-American organizations concerned about schools' over-identification of blacks needing special education.

A companion bill, [SF2994](#), sponsored by [Sen. Steve Kelley](#) (DFL-Hopkins), awaits action by the [Senate Education Committee](#).

### Contract negotiations

A House committee narrowly defeated a bill March 9 that would have barred the negotiation of teacher contracts during the school year.

The [House Education Policy and Reform Committee](#) voted 14-13 against [HF1273](#), sponsored by [Rep. Randy Demmer](#) (R-Hayfield).

Currently, school boards and teacher representatives, which negotiate two-year contracts, must sign a collective bargaining agreement by Jan. 15 of an even-numbered year or face a reduction in state aid payments.

Under the bill, state officials would withhold a school district's general revenue aid increase if negotiations continue into the even-numbered school year. The district would be eligible for the money only after reaching an agreement.

Tom Deans, legal counsel for the Minnesota School Boards Association, agreed that teacher contract negotiations can be a distraction to the educational process if they drag into the school year. But, he said the bill would not work in the real world, because an unsettled contract often creates strife during the school year, even if formal negotiations are not going on.

He suggested that the districts and teachers should be forced into binding arbitration if the contract is not settled by Sept. 1.

Jan Alswager, a lobbyist for the teacher's

union Education Minnesota, said school districts are negotiating contracts in a timely fashion under current law. She noted that only 2.9 percent of the state's 341 districts went beyond the Jan. 15 deadline in the last negotiation period.

A companion bill ([SF1290](#)), sponsored by [Sen. David Hann](#) (R-Eden Prairie), awaits action by the [Senate Education Committee](#).

## ELECTIONS



### Proof of citizenship to vote

If a bill sponsored by [Rep. Tom Emmer](#) (R-Delano) makes it into law, you'll need more than your utility bill and ID in hand when you go to register to vote in a new precinct.

[HF1443](#) would not only require potential voters to prove that they live in a certain precinct; they would also need to have documentation showing they are citizens and that they are actually who they say they are. Passed 6-5 on a party-line vote by the [House Civil Law and Elections Committee](#) March 15, the measure now moves to the House floor.

The bill would require that voter applications be accompanied by proof of citizenship in the form of a passport, birth certificate or

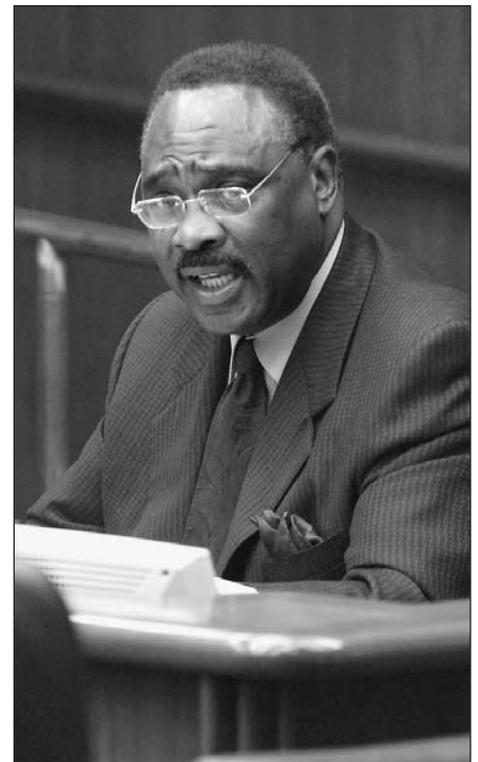


PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

**The Rev. Randolph Staten, president of the Coalition of Black Churches, testifies March 15 before the House Civil Law and Elections Committee against a bill that would require voter registration proof of citizenship and voter picture identification.**

naturalization document as well as a picture ID.

Emmer called the new requirements a way to keep the integrity of the voting booth and prevent voter fraud.

“The issue of voters rights is not a Republican issue. . . . It is an issue for all citizens of the state of Minnesota and the United States.”

Others said this will only make it harder for some people, including students and those in nursing homes, to vote.

[Current state law](#) requires registrants to produce verification of residency with documentation such as a Minnesota driver’s license, tribal ID, U.S. passport with utility bill, or a student photo ID with utility bill.

The Rev. Randolph Staten, president of the Coalition of Black Churches, said the bill turns the clock back on the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and labeled it “unconstitutional and immoral.”

A companion bill, [SF923](#), sponsored by [Sen. Michele Bachmann](#) (R-Stillwater), awaits action by the [Senate Elections Committee](#).

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### Funding clean water

[Rep. Jim Knoblach](#) (R-St. Cloud) presented [HF2896](#) as a way to fund the [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#)’s efforts to begin meeting the state’s federal clean water requirements.

It would require the agency to develop and approve total maximum daily load for the state’s impaired waters, and look at nutrient impairments on a case by case basis. According to the bill, the load is “a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that may be introduced into a surface water and still ensure that applicable water quality standards for that water are achieved and maintained.”

However, Lisa Thorvig, assistant commissioner of water policy for the agency, said the bill would “increase pollution of our lakes, rivers and streams.”

The two debated the potential effects of the bill March 14 before the [House Environment and Natural Resources Committee](#) and an audience of nearly 50 people wearing matching blue T-shirts that read, “Protect our waters.”

Their exchanges elicited this question from [Rep. Torrey Westrom](#) (R-Elbow Lake): “Miss Thorvig, I’m a little puzzled. Spending more money will make the water worse; so if that’s the case, we should probably cut some more spending to make it better? Is that the governor’s official position?”

“If you want to protect water quality, the state would be better off without this bill,” Thorvig said, explaining that the agency’s objections relate not to the funding, but to the policies contained in the bill. She said they would “roll back” existing environmental regulations and requirements that restrict, for example, the amount of phosphorus wastewater treatment plants can discharge into lakes and streams.

Dan Ness, mayor of Alexandria, was among those testifying in favor of the bill. He said the process by which the agency currently develops total maximum daily load has “caused a moratorium on economic development.” He said the bill would end that moratorium by allowing the agency to grant permits for new or expanded wastewater treatment plants prior to the development of a total maximum daily load for the watershed that would be receiving the wastewater discharge.

Bob Zimmerman, city engineer for Moorhead, said he also supported the bill because it would identify bodies of water as impaired not by a “strict numeric nutrient standard” and on case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the designated uses of the water.

The bill was referred without recommendation to the [House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee](#).

Its companion, [SF2448](#), sponsored by [Sen. Thomas Bakk](#) (DFL-Cook), awaits action by the [Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee](#).

### Dedicated funding

Would outdoorsy folks vote for a tax increase to pay for wildlife habitat, as well as arts and humanities?

Would artsy types vote for a tax increase to pay for arts and humanities, as well as wildlife habitat?

These questions were central to the March 14 discussion of [HF3269](#) by the [House Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee](#).

The bill seeks a constitutional amendment to raise Minnesota’s sales and use tax by 0.25 percent so voters themselves can determine if they really want the bill’s list of items enough to pay additional taxes for them, said its sponsor, [Rep. Dennis Ozment](#) (R-Rosemount).

Amended and approved by the committee, the bill now goes to the [House Taxes Committee](#).

If approved by voters this November, the bill is projected to raise \$191 million per year over 25 years.

While the list of items that would benefit from the tax revenue originally included funding arts, humanities, museums and public broadcasting as well as wildlife habitat preservation, parks, trails and clean water efforts, Ozment suggested that the amounts designated for arts, humanities, museums and public broadcasting go instead toward implementing the Clean Water Legacy Act.

[Rep. Jean Wagenius](#) (DFL-Mpls) advised caution about removing the arts and humanities items, “mainly because I would want this to pass as a constitutional amendment, and that guarantees that it passes.”

[Rep. Joe Hoppe](#) (R-Chaska) said he, too, wanted the bill to pass, and that not removing the arts and humanities items “guarantees this bill to fail.”

Despite a request by [Rep. Al Juhnke](#) (DFL-Willmar) that they pursue some way, such as a poll, to find out which option might give the bill its best chance for approval by Minnesota’s voters, Ozment moved to remove the cultural items. The committee narrowly approved the motion.

A companion bill, [SF2734](#), sponsored by [Sen. Dallas Sams](#) (DFL-Staples), awaits action by the [Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee](#).

## ★ GAMBLING

### Playing the ponies online

Minnesotans may be able to bet on horses from their houses.

First denied by the [Gaming Division](#) of the [House Regulated Industries Committee](#) March 10 on a tie vote, [HF3099](#) was later reconsidered and referred to the full committee. It would permit entities conducting pari-mutuel wagering at a licensed racetrack to accept wagers electronically to the extent permitted by federal law. The bill has no Senate companion.

Of the reimbursement received from the out-of-state vendor accepting the bets, a fixed percent would be set aside for purses at the licensee’s facility provided that 10 percent of the amount is to be paid into a breeder’s fund.

“Gambling is occurring on the Internet and expanding at a rapid rate,” said [Rep. Andy Westerberg](#) (R-Blaine), the bill’s sponsor.

“People are gambling, playing blackjack, poker, numerous games, and betting on horses on the Internet currently in our state illegally. This looks to make pari-mutuel betting legal off-track here in Minnesota.” He said it is estimated that simulcast revenue



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

**Cort Holten, representing the Minnesota Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, testifies March 10 before the Gaming Division of the House Regulated Industries Committee in support of a bill that would permit entities conducting pari-mutuel wagering at a licensed racetrack to accept wagers electronically to the extent permitted by federal law.**

at Canterbury Park is losing an estimated \$6 million annually to illegal off-track betting.

Representing the Minnesota Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, Cort Holten said the proposal is a way for the horse racing industry to enhance its revenue stream by subsidizing itself.

Of the 37 states that permit live racing, only six, including Minnesota, do not permit off-track betting, a racino or both to help their racing industry. In four of those six states, the horse racing industry is "in the tank," he said.

The bill would also eliminate statutory restrictions that limit the number of tables at a card club to 50.

Westerberg said people must sometimes wait for hours to play at the Canterbury Card Club, and that more seats would mean more revenue for the state.

John McCarthy, executive director of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association, opposed the measure, in part, because it would expand gaming in the state.

[Rep. Sondra Erickson](#) (R-Princeton) asked if tribal gaming facilities are expanding to meet demand.

McCarthy said no new facilities have

opened, but the number of gaming machines is not restricted by the compact that authorizes gambling at tribal facilities.

### Video lottery in bars

Minnesota bars may be permitted to operate up to five video lottery terminals on their premises.

Sponsored by [Rep. Sondra Erickson](#) (R-Princeton), [HF3215](#) was approved March 14 by the [Gaming Division](#) of the [House Regulated Industries Committee](#). The bill next goes to the full committee. A companion bill, [SF3195](#), sponsored by [Sen. David Tomassoni](#) (DFL-Chisholm), awaits action by the [Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee](#).

Last year, the 3,200 bars with pull tab sales generated more than \$1 billion in combined revenues, but Erickson said bars need a financial boost to weather the effects of recent no-smoking laws and tougher sanctions for drunken drivers.

Critics said the bill could devastate existing casinos and make gambling too accessible for many people to resist.

Games available on the terminals would be limited to keno, poker and pull tabs. Erickson estimates it would raise \$94 million next year for bar owners; \$38 million for charitable organizations; and \$218 million for state coffers, with the largest chunks directed to roads and property tax relief.

Angela Heikes, vice president of gaming planning and analysis for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, warned that the terminals would be much more accessible for consumers than Indian gaming, and that convenience would put at risk the 3,000 jobs her tribe provides, most of them at Grand Casino Hinckley and Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

Another critic, [Rep. Joe Atkins](#) (DFL-Inver Grove Heights), said he could see little difference between video lottery terminals and video slot machines. The video slot machines are so ever-present, and so addictive, he said, some governments, including the city of Las Vegas, are reconsidering their decision to allow them.

"If the mayor of Las Vegas is considering getting rid of these things, that tells me there are some issues there," Atkins said.

Atkins asked if [Gov. Tim Pawlenty](#) supported her bill. Erickson said he hadn't taken a position on any bill, but supports a move from paper pull tabs to a more "hi-tech" version.

"We'll see," Atkins said.

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### Capitol renovations top the list

A \$6.1 million interior renovation project for the State Capitol topped a House committee's March 15 list of bonding recommendations.

The [House State Government Finance Committee](#) ranked capital bonding requests proposed to the committee from one to 19, with "one" being the committee members' highest priority.

The Capitol renovation was first on the list. Other projects include:

- \$10 million for repairs and renovations to the Ford Building;
- \$8.63 million for military affairs projects;
- \$150,000 for repairs to the Minnesota Peace Officers Memorial; and
- \$150,000 for a facility for Starbase Minnesota, a youth science education project sponsored by the [Minnesota National Guard](#) and U.S. Department of Defense.

Projects that received a "neutral" recommendation from the committee included various statewide Capital Asset Preservation and Replacement Account projects; a memorial for Hmong veterans; phase II expansion of the National Volleyball Center in Rochester; track resurfacing at the National Sports Center in Blaine; and funding for exterior renovation of the Department of Transportation Building, which was cut from more than \$10 million to \$2.5 million.

Design work for a new state office building, a long-range commuting plan and a tunnel connecting the Capitol complex to the Stassen building were among projects that received a negative recommendation.

The recommendations will be submitted to the [House Capital Investment Committee](#).

## ★ HEALTH

### Abortion regulations

Always a contentious issue, an abortion bill is trying to make its way to the House floor this session.

If passed, [HF3258](#), sponsored by [Rep. Laura Brod](#) (R-New Prague), would prohibit state-funded abortions except in cases of rape or incest. Furthermore, it requires data collection and reporting on the already existing requirement for minors seeking to have abortions. Physicians, without privilege, could also be charged with a misdemeanor if they perform or induce an abortion at a hospital that offers obstetrical or gynecological care.

The [House Health Policy and Finance Committee](#) passed the bill 11-2 March 14

and referred it to the [House Civil Law and Elections Committee](#). A companion bill (SF2877), sponsored by [Sen. Thomas Neuville](#) (R-Northfield), awaits action in the [Senate Health and Family Security Committee](#).

Andrea Rau, a Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life lobbyist, said more than 29 percent of abortions performed in Minnesota are taxpayer-funded. Rau added that bypasses to parental or guardian notification are almost never denied in the state. A \$500 fine would be issued if such reports weren't completed, according to the bill, which also records the female's age and race.

In a written statement, David Schultz, a Hamline University graduate school professor, said the bill should be opposed because of its unconstitutionality. "It is unethical or inappropriate for legislators to adopt laws which they intend to be challenged and which will then commit potentially hundreds of thousands of public tax dollars to defend and litigate," Schultz wrote.

[Rep. Thomas Huntley](#) (DFL-Duluth) added that State Attorney General Mike Hatch wrote in a letter to [Sen. Linda Berglin](#) (DFL-Mpls) that the bill violates the right to privacy according to the Minnesota Supreme Court's decision in *Women of the State of Minnesota v. Gomez*.

Meanwhile, [Rep. Tim Wilkin](#) (R-Eagan), who supports the bill, said opposition to the bill has become a political game.

### Foreign graduate verification system

If passed into law, a minor but important change would make it easier for foreign medical school graduates to work in Minnesota.

[HF3132](#), sponsored by [Rep. Fran Bradley](#) (R-Rochester), and passed 126-0 by the House March 14, makes it optional for foreign medical school graduates to use the State Medical Boards' Federation Credentials Verification Service. Since 2004, students wishing to practice in Minnesota who studied outside the United States have used the service to determine their eligibility.

The Mayo Clinic and University of Minnesota are the primary users of the service.

Frank Iossi, director of state government affairs at the Mayo Clinic, previously told the [House Health Policy and Finance Committee](#), "It was a good idea but after a year, it was a disaster." Iossi, who favors the change, cited the current system as being inconsistent, expensive and slow.

Bradley added that Minnesota needs qualified graduates and that it would be wise to make an ineffective system optional with ongoing staff shortages in the medical field.

## SENSITIVE SHREDDING



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Dick Andree of AARP Minnesota District 8 in Duluth, empties a paper shredder during a March 15 rally in the Rotunda to bring awareness to senior citizens of the importance of shredding sensitive documents to prevent identity theft.**

The bill now goes to the Senate, where [Sen. Sheila Kiscaden](#) (DFL-Rochester) is the sponsor.

## HIGHER EDUCATION



### Biomedical research facilities

A \$330 million University of Minnesota bonding request to fund new biomedical research facilities was approved by a House committee March 14.

[HF3268](#), sponsored by [Rep. Ron Abrams](#) (R-Minnetonka), would fund 90 percent of the cost of constructing and furnishing new university biomedical research facilities. The [House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee](#) approved the bill and referred it to the [House Higher Education Finance Committee](#).

Abrams called the bill "one of the most important initiatives of the 2006 legislative session," and said biomedical research requires a long-term investment by the state.

"You have to be somewhat forward-thinking in being able to get into this business," he said.

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks said the new facilities would help recruit top-notch faculty who would then bring in millions of dollars worth of grants annually. He cited recent capital investments by states like Iowa, Wisconsin, Virginia and Indiana as evidence that Minnesota was in danger of falling behind.

The bill also establishes a Minnesota Biomedical Sciences Research Authority to evaluate university grant applications and disperse funds.

Furthermore, it establishes a biomedical science research bond fund consisting of annual transfers of money from the state's general fund to pay the debt service of state bonds issued for biomedical facilities and operating costs of the authority.

Some committee members questioned the level of accountability in the project, and contended there was insufficient legislative oversight.

"I'm concerned about the makeup of the authority," said [Rep. Diane Loeffler](#) (DFL-Mpls). "We're putting \$330 million of bonding decisions outside of 201 legislators' decisions into nine people, where it would take five to authorize the sale of these bonds. That seems to me like a pretty small group of people."

Abrams promised the committee a chance to review the bill again before it went to the House floor.

A companion bill, [SF3044](#), sponsored by [Sen. Richard Cohen](#) (DFL-St. Paul), awaits action in the [Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee](#).

### Collegiate bonding requests

The [House Higher Education Finance Committee](#) heard nearly \$500 million in bonding requests from the [University of Minnesota](#) and [Minnesota State Colleges and](#)

[Universities](#) system March 13.

Priorities topping the University of Minnesota's list include:

- \$80 million for asset preservation including maintaining health and safety in buildings, hazardous material abatement, access improvements and air quality improvement;
- \$26.6 million for a Carlson School of Management expansion on the Minneapolis campus; and
- \$15.3 million for construction of a business and economics building on the Duluth campus.

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks said the proposal "advances research in leading areas of responsibility particularly in medicine, biotechnology, renewable energy and the environment."

He added while the requests total \$206.1 million, the governor's recommendations are \$127.6 million. The university received nearly \$108.4 million in the 2005 bonding law.

After receiving \$213.6 million last year, MnSCU's request totals \$280.4 million.

"Every state college and university in the system will benefit from these projects, which will improve learning spaces and services to students," MnSCU Chancellor James McCormick, told the [House Capital Investment Committee](#) March 14.

Its top three requests are: \$110 million for asset preservation; \$32.9 million for a science center addition and renovation at Minnesota State University, Mankato; and \$14 million for St. Cloud State University's Wick Science Building addition and renovation.

The governor's MnSCU recommendations total \$142.5 million, including \$20 million for asset preservation.

"While we believe his recommendation was a good start ... it falls considerably short of our needs," said McCormick. "We believe funding asset preservation at a low level would be a huge mistake that would adversely affect our students and our system for years to come."

[Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr.](#) (DFL-Winona) said that the difference in asset preservation dollars means that "at least four or five roofs in each campus that are leaking now would not be repaired. You'd have 40-year-old ventilating and heating systems that would not be repaired."

### University bonding projects

Among the bonding proposals heard March 15 by the [House Higher Education Finance Committee](#) were two energy projects from the University of Minnesota.

One is for a pilot facility to generate electricity using plasma arc technology,

and another would turn wind energy into anhydrous ammonia and hydrogen. Both requests are being considered by the committee for its bonding recommendations.

[HF2793](#), sponsored by [Rep. Paul Thissen](#) (DFL-Mpls), would appropriate \$5 million to a pilot biomass energy facility that would be developed in collaboration with state industries, and would be contingent on \$2.5 million in non-state sources. A companion, SF2554, sponsored by [Sen. Jane Ranum](#) (DFL-Mpls), awaits action in the [Senate Finance Committee](#).

Thissen said the technological process, "basically disintegrates (hazardous waste) into usable and benign components." It also creates synthetic gas for energy through a heating process.

[HF2686](#), sponsored by [Rep. Torrey Westrom](#) (R-Elbow Lake), would appropriate \$2.5 million to construct a facility at the West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris that would, in part, use wind energy to develop fertilizer for Minnesota farms. A companion, SF2920, sponsored by [Sen. Dallas Sams](#) (DFL-Staples), awaits action in the [Senate Finance Committee](#).

"This is another innovative request that is timely for rural Minnesota, timely for the university and the research they are doing ... and timely for farmers who are faced with importing their fertilizer," Westrom said.

According to a university report, the project benefits could include:

- a new market for an estimated 2 gigawatts of nameplate wind capacity within the state, stimulating wind energy development in Minnesota;
- diminished need for additional transmission capacity to accommodate wind energy;
- enable utility companies to manage the variable nature of wind energy and electrical demand; and
- provide substantial economic development opportunities for farmers and rural communities.

## ★ IMMIGRATION

### Immigration information cooperation

A bill that would prohibit local governments from adopting ordinances to prevent their employees from cooperating with immigration officials got stronger before being approved by the [House Civil Law and Elections Committee](#). It now goes to the House floor.

[Rep. Jim Knoblach](#) (R-St. Cloud), the sponsor of [HF2576](#), offered an amendment March 13 that effectively deleted most of the bill's one-sentence language, which had been



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Luis Bartolomei, interim executive director of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, testifies before the House Civil Law and Elections Committee March 13 about a bill that would prohibit local governments from adopting ordinances which would prevent employees from cooperating with federal immigration authorities.**

approved by the [House Local Government Committee](#) March 1.

The new language goes beyond previous language that would prohibit a city from adopting so-called "sanctuary ordinances." It states that local governments cannot restrict, in any way, an employee from sending information to, requesting or receiving information from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency; or exchanging immigration information with any federal, state or local governmental unit.

The bill is directed at Minneapolis and St. Paul. Both cities have ordinances that prevent their employees from collecting and sharing information with the federal government on residents' immigration status.

"The amendment says that you can't adopt by policy the ordinance that we are about to repeal, if this bill becomes law," Knoblach said.

John J. Choi, city attorney for the city of St. Paul, responded to [Rep. Tom Emmer's](#) (R-Delano) comment that the ordinance was "cute lawyering" to get around federal law.

"We feel it is within our right to establish a certain guideline that does not frustrate and go against what is federal law. ... I believe it is a matter of local control and the ability for a local unit of government to have policies to help guide employees on how to handle immigration matters."

At the earlier committee hearing, both the St. Paul and Minneapolis police chiefs spoke against the bill, saying that it would erode trust and have a “chilling effect” on immigrant communities by discouraging them from reporting a crime.

The companion, [SF2771](#), sponsored by [Sen. Betsy Wergin](#) (R-Princeton), has been referred to the Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee.

## ★ INSURANCE

### Not expanding MinnesotaCare

Legislators almost unanimously agree that parts of Minnesota’s health care system are broken. The only question is which parts need fixing and how to repair them.

[Rep. Katie Sieben](#) (DFL-Newport) is sponsoring [HF2691](#), which would expand health insurance coverage through MinnesotaCare to individuals and small employers. But the [House Health Policy and Finance Committee](#) voted it down 9-5 March 10. A companion bill [SF3046](#), sponsored by [Sen. Sharon Marko](#) (DFL-Cottage Grove), awaits action by the [Senate Health and Family Security Committee](#).

[MinnesotaCare](#), the state’s subsidized health insurance program administered by the [Department of Human Services](#), would provide an affordable option for those without health insurance, Sieben said. She added that small businesses and individuals will often go without health insurance because of high costs.

“This may not be *the* solution to the health care problem, but it may do something to provide some alleviation of the burden of providing health insurance to employees,” Sieben said.

Steve Fox, part owner of Emily’s Bakery and Deli in Hastings, said he feels it’s his obligation to provide health insurance to his employees. However, Fox said he has seen health insurance costs go up 8 percent to 13 percent each of the past five years.

Erin Sexton, health care and transportation policy director for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, agrees there should be more access to health care, but said the solution would best come from private businesses.

Other problems include funding and administration of the plan, said Liz Houlding, manager of the State Employee Group Insurance Program in the [Department of Employee Relations](#). Houlding said her department would be willing to work with the bill sponsors.

But [Rep. Thomas Huntley](#) (DFL-Duluth)

said people without insurance already seek health care and the government absorbs that cost anyhow.

Although [Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba](#) (DFL-Long Prairie) didn’t talk about the bill specifically, she supported it. “This is a huge problem,” said Otremba. “It’s not just a game of words. These are real people.”

## ★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Annexation bill fails in committee

A bill that would have required incorporation and prohibited annexation of urban townships under certain conditions failed to receive committee approval March 13.

[HF2867](#) was defeated 9-8 by the [House Local Government Committee](#). Its companion, [SF2681](#), sponsored by [Sen. Debbie J. Johnson](#) (R-Ham Lake), awaits action in the [Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee](#).

According to its sponsor, [Rep. Ray Vandever](#) (R-Forest Lake), the bill was intended to apply exclusively to Columbus Township, a portion of which the neighboring city of Forest Lake wants to annex. The Columbus Town Board is currently fighting annexation and wants to be incorporated instead.

“We’re looking at spending at least \$150,000 fighting this hostile annexation,” Columbus Town Board Chairman Mel Mettler said. He hopes the issue could be taken care of “legislatively” rather than in court.

Opponents said the bill could have unintended consequences.

Craig Johnson, intergovernmental relations representative for the League of Minnesota Cities, said the bill could potentially affect as many as 47 townships in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area.

“I understand that the intent was to focus this in on the Columbus Township situation, but this bill is drafted much more broadly than that,” Johnson said.

Some committee members expressed reservations about altering state law to meet the needs of a single township, regardless of whether other municipalities would be affected.

“Right now, we are weighing in as if we are administrative law judges in determining whether or not annexation should take place in this community,” said [Rep. Debra Hilstrom](#) (DFL-Brooklyn Center).

Hilstrom also noted that the subject of township annexation is slated to come before the committee again later in the session, and said the committee should not preempt an individual annexation before holding a larger

discussion on annexations in general.

[Committee Chair Rep. Mark Olson](#) (R-Big Lake) said the situation between Columbus Township and Forest Lake underscores the need for some kind of annexation reform.

## ★ RECREATION

### Charging state park fees

A House committee removed a provision from a bill that would have allowed the [Department of Natural Resources](#) to establish fees for special events on state forestland.

[HF3056](#), sponsored by [Rep. Greg Blaine](#) (R-Little Falls), modifies a number of DNR policies and procedures. Before approving the bill March 9, the [House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee](#) amended the bill by removing a section that would have granted the DNR commissioner the authority to charge fees for motor vehicle races, group campouts outside campground areas and certain other events.

The motion to strike the section was made by [Rep. Phyllis Kahn](#) (DFL-Mpls), who objected to language in the bill that she said decreased legislative oversight of DNR fees. She said she would prefer the DNR present the Legislature with individual fees it wants to levy and let legislators decide whether they are appropriate.

[Rep. Marty Seifert](#) (R-Marshall) agreed, saying that legislators will be the ones held responsible for fees going up, not the DNR.

“When we give blanket approval for agencies to raise fees without legislative approval, we are the ones who are going to get blamed,” Seifert said, adding that removing the relevant language from the bill would force a discussion about oversight when the bill is reviewed by other House committees.

The bill next goes to the [House Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee](#).

A companion bill, [SF2852](#), sponsored by [Sen. Tom Saxhaug](#) (DFL-Grand Rapids) awaits action by the [Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee](#).

## ★ TECHNOLOGY

### Bioscience initiative

The Twin Cities and Rochester lead the state in the growing biotechnology industry, but Greater Minnesota communities hope to join their ranks.

Two bills — [HF3256](#), sponsored by [Rep. Greg Davids](#) (R-Preston), and [HF3547](#), sponsored by [Rep. Dan Severson](#) (R-Sauk

Rapids) — would help bring the biosciences to Greater Minnesota. Discussed March 15 by the [House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance Committee](#), each was held over for possible inclusion in the committee's bonding priorities.

Davids' bill requests \$5 million in bond proceeds to support bioscience development outside of the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area and Olmsted County. A companion bill ([SF2891](#)), sponsored by [Sen. Jim Vickerman](#) (DFL-Tracy), awaits action by the [Senate Finance Committee](#).

Severson's bill, which has no Senate companion, would direct \$2 million to the Central Minnesota Bioscience Initiative, which aims to attract new companies and jobs to the area.

Teresa Bohnen, St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce president, said the initiative would fund such projects as: a business park expansion along Interstate 94 near St. Cloud, acquiring equipment to implement methane digester technology for dairy farmers and buying specialized refrigeration units used in transportation of pharmaceuticals.

Currently there are tax incentives in Gov. Pawlenty's "bioscience zones" in the Twin Cities and Rochester, where the state has helped fund research for diseases like Alzheimer's and obesity.

Davids said investing in the biosciences would benefit Minnesota's future and that it didn't need to be centered only in Pawlenty's bioscience zones.

Although Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) agrees that biotechnology is important, she had some reservations about the bills. Clark said biotechnology supporters always tout the benefits but she wanted to know what to expect from the investment. Clark added that costs of such things as pharmaceuticals continue to increase today.

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### Go go speed racer

Those who enjoy vehicular street racing may have to contend with some new laws.

The [House Transportation Committee](#) approved a bill March 15 that would expand the definition of reckless driving and also add a new violation for exhibition drivers.

[HF3521](#), sponsored by [Rep. Lloyd Cybart](#) (R-Apple Valley), would define exhibition driving "as a person who operates any vehicle in such a manner as to start or accelerate with an unnecessary exhibition of speed ... unreasonable squealing or screeching sounds emitted by the vehicle's tires or the throwing of

sand or gravel by the vehicle's tires, or both."

Furthermore, "Any person who willfully compares or contests relative speeds by operating one or more vehicles is guilty of racing, which constitutes reckless driving, whether or not the speed contested or compared is in the excess of the maximum speed prescribed by law."

Currently the provision only includes a manner that is either a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.

"What we're trying to do with this bill is be proactive and to work with the cities who have already enacted ordinances similar to this," said Maj. Al Smith of the [Minnesota State Patrol](#). Exhibition driving is also now moving from back roads onto highways and roadways in metropolitan and rural areas, he added.

The bill now moves to the [House Public Safety Policy and Finance Committee](#). A Senate companion, [SF2982](#), sponsored by [Sen. Steve Murphy](#) (DFL-Red Wing), awaits action by the [Senate Transportation Committee](#).

### Vehicle reporting and titles

The [House Transportation Committee](#) approved a bill March 15 that would require a dealer to notify the motor vehicle registrar electronically of a vehicle purchase of a late-model or high-value vehicle that is to be dismantled or destroyed, and would also make technical changes to motorized foot scooter laws.

[HF3201](#), sponsored by [Rep. Michael Beard](#) (R-Shakopee), initially removed a requirement for a licensed auto dealer who purchases a vehicle with an out-of-state title defined as "salvage," to sell the vehicle without first applying for a Minnesota salvage title.

"The reason we have a salvage title process is to be able to track these vehicles and prevent fraud," said [Rep. Melissa Hortman](#) (DFL-Brooklyn Park), who successfully moved to delete the provision from the bill. "We use vehicle identification numbers to track vehicles and identities of people purchasing them and reselling them. By requiring computer registration of these transactions fraud is diminished," she added.

A report by [Driver and Vehicle Services](#) in the [Department of Public Safety](#) says the change would have "streamlined the title application process without changing the salvage title provisions." The change was also an attempt to expedite the process, said Larry Ollila, Driver and Vehicle Services director.

The bill also changes technical words to make the definition of a motorized foot scooter both "two ten-inch or smaller wheels"

and "an engine capable of a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour or less." Current law only required one of the two.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

A Senate companion, [SF2983](#), sponsored by [Sen. Steve Murphy](#) (DFL-Red Wing), awaits action in the [Senate Transportation Committee](#).

### To be towed, or not to be

Don't abandon your stalled vehicle on the side of a freeway in the metropolitan area, emphasized [Rep. Michael Beard](#) (R-Shakopee), who sponsors a bill approved by the [House Transportation Committee](#) March 14.

[HF3214](#) would allow the Department of Transportation's [Freeway Incident Response Safety Team](#), previously called Highway Helpers, to tow and impound a vehicle that does not have a person with it, Beard said. If you abandon your car to phone for a tow, and the State Patrol arrives and calls a tow truck, the bill allows for whichever tow truck that arrives first to tow the vehicle.

The team responds to incidents in the department's Metropolitan District, comprised of the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area and Chisago County.

According to the department, members assisted at 16,737 incidents in 2002, including pushing disabled vehicles out of traffic lanes, providing small quantities of gasoline, helping change a tire and removing debris.

Currently, if a person is with their stalled vehicle, they can call for a tow. But if the vehicle is abandoned the State Patrol is contacted to call a tow truck, which can result in impounding the vehicle.

"This is just trying to get at those vehicles that have been abandoned on our freeway network that are impeding safety or capacity of the freeway itself," said Nick Thompson, department senior transportation program supervisor.

Instead of having to wait for a patrol to come, and possibly causing more danger for other drivers, a safety team member on the scene can call a State Patrol dispatcher and request a tow, Thompson added.

The bill now goes to the House floor. A Senate companion, [SF3097](#), sponsored by [Sen. Mike McGinn](#) (R-Eagan), awaits action in the [Senate Transportation Committee](#).

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## VETERANS



### Statue for Hmong veterans

A statue commemorating the service of Hmong soldiers who fought for the United States during the Vietnam War could become a permanent fixture in the Capitol area.

Rep. Cy Thao (DFL-St. Paul) made his case to the [House State Government Finance Committee](#) on March 15 for [HF3508](#), which would appropriate \$150,000 in state funds to help construct the statue. It has no Senate companion.

Thao said the money would fund half the cost of the design and construction of the memorial to Hmong veterans in Laos who were trained by the CIA and organized into “Special Guerilla Units.”

He said 35,000 Hmong soldiers were killed during the course of the conflict, and that civilian casualties were even higher. He noted that similar statues have already been constructed in California and Wisconsin.

Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) expressed concern that the bill did not recognize other minority groups who fought on the U.S. side during the war — groups that he said might feel excluded or slighted by a memorial devoted specifically to Hmong soldiers.

“To call it a ‘Hmong memorial’ is going to further create alienation within our communities here, and I’m concerned about that,” Mullery said.

Thao countered that the memorial was designed to represent all Laotians who fought in the conflict.

“We have not decided to exclude anyone else,” he said.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) suggested altering the language of the bill to be more inclusive.

The committee gave the project a “neutral” endorsement on its list of bonding recommendations later in the day. Committee members agreed that if the project receives funding, the memorial design will be reviewed to address any political concerns.

## LATE ACTION



### Visitor’s driver’s license

Billed as a way to help the state do its part in moving the country to greater security in a post-Sept. 11 era, HF3014, sponsored by Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound), was approved by the House 100-28 on March 16. It would change into law current state practices regarding driver’s licenses. The bill has no Senate companion.

Provisions in the bill have been part of the [Department of Public Safety’s](#) rules since 2002



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Hmong veterans, from left, Chou Chue Tchang, William Nao Chue Vang, Youa Chao Lee and George Gao Moua listen to testimony in the House State Government Finance Committee March 15 on a proposal to appropriate \$150,000 for a Hmong veterans statue on the Capitol complex.**

when legislation was first proposed, but never enacted. Smith wants it written into law.

Smith said that the driver’s license has become a “gateway document” for many of society’s rights and privileges. He said this would also help authenticate a person’s identity because it strengthens the requirement for documents necessary to receive a state driver’s license. First time applicants must present a primary and secondary form of identification to verify both identity and residency. The primary forms of identification could include a U.S. birth certificate and U.S. passport.

Since 2002, a status check has been placed at the bottom of visiting non-citizens’ licenses indicating the date for which they are legal to stay in the United States.

Two amendments were attached to the bill on the House floor.

Rep. Cy Thao’s (DFL-St. Paul) amendment would ensure that the status check date is not placed on a driver’s license or Minnesota identification card of an applicant entitled to permanent United States residency. If that happens, a duplicate license or card would be issued free of charge.

Rep. Keith Ellison’s (DFL-Mpls) amendment would ensure that an applicants who object to a full-face image on their license, permit or

ID card, due to a religious reasons, may apply for a variance from this regulation.



### Horsing around

During a March 10 discussion of a bill that would permit electronic wagering for pari-mutuel betting and potentially more tables at the Canterbury Card Club, Rep. Joe Atkins (DFL-Inver Grove Heights) asked if the governor supports the proposal.

“If the goal is to try to get something done, it’d be nice to know where the governor’s office is, because if they’re back to opposing it again we’re all wasting our time as we sit here today,” Atkins said.

A few more comments by Atkins encouraging participation from the governor’s office, including wanting to know “if we’re running around this track for no reason,” prompted Rep. Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove) to say while chuckling a bit, “I think he’s reached his horse analogy limit. I can’t take it anymore. One would say he’s beat that horse...”

“All I know is the governor’s as unpredictable as a roulette table,” Atkins said with a laugh.

## Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

Information Services, House Public	TTY, House .....	296-9896
175 State Office Building .....	Toll free.....	1-800-657-3550
Chief Clerk of the House	Information, Senate	
211 Capitol.....	231 Capitol.....	296-0504
Index, House	TTY, Senate .....	296-0250
211 Capitol.....	Toll free.....	1-888-234-1112

# New benefits for veterans

## Veterans bill looks to draw military retirees to state

By Nick Busse

This week, Gov. Tim Pawlenty and three top state legislators traveled to Camp Shelby, Miss., to bid 2,600 Iraq-bound Minnesota soldiers farewell.

When those troops return home, they might find a more veteran-friendly state.

[HF2921](#), sponsored by [Rep. Dan Severson](#) (R-Sauk Rapids), provides a slew of new protections and benefits for Minnesota's military veterans.

Referred to as the "Governor's Veterans Bill of 2006," it seeks to address a number of veterans' concerns, including:

- requiring employers to grant unpaid leaves of absence to employees whose family members are killed or wounded in the line of duty;
- exempting military retirement pay from state taxation;
- directing state colleges and universities to award veterans education credits for completed military training courses, when appropriate;
- directing state colleges and universities to treat veterans as residents for undergraduate tuition purposes;
- forbidding state colleges and universities from assessing late fees to student-veterans who are awaiting federal education assistance payments; and
- funding several new veterans' programs

The [House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee](#) approved the bill March 15 and referred it to the [House Higher Education Finance Committee](#). A companion bill, [SF2654](#), sponsored by [Sen. Jim Vickerman](#) (DFL-Tracy), awaits action in the [Senate Jobs, Energy and Community Development Committee](#).

Among other things, the bill is intended to encourage military retirees to take up residence in Minnesota.

Severson said the state currently has only half the retirees it should have, mainly because

it is one of only nine states that taxes military pensions.

"There are states that are actively, aggressively, going after military retirees," Severson said. "They see that the benefit of bringing those individuals into the state with a federal retirement, with federal health care, and with the quality and the cut of the individuals who have made it through 20 to 30 years of active service is a real asset to the state and the community."

Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Tom Nesbitt of Hastings testified that when a military retiree chooses to reside in Minnesota, the state benefits in the form of taxes that person pays on their property, income from a second vocation, Social Security and sales taxes, as well as from the skills and training that person has received while serving their country.

"You're not losing," Nesbitt said. "It's not costing you anything to gain a very important addition to your personnel pool that's available for the economic growth and vitality of the state of Minnesota."

***"There are states that are actively, aggressively, going after military retirees."***

— Rep. Dan Severson

[Rep. Lynn Wardlow](#) (R-Eagan) agrees. He said his son, an active-duty marine, changed

his official state of residence to Florida because taxes in Minnesota are too high.

"When he does finally retire, he wants to come back here," Wardlow said. "But he's a fiscal conservative, and he may not."

Committee members praised the bill's various benefits.

[Rep. Marty Seifert](#) (R-Marshall) lauded a provision in the bill that required colleges to give credit to veterans for military training courses.

Seifert, a university admissions counselor, related a story of a student who received rigorous physical training while serving overseas in the military but was forced to take a one-credit physical education class called "Walking for Wellness" to fulfill his college degree requirements.

"Some of this stuff is just silly, and I think this bill is going to solve this," Seifert said.

### Funding new programs

In addition to the above benefits, the bill appropriates \$8.8 million for a number of new veterans programs and initiatives, including:

- \$3 million for the State Soldiers Assistance Fund, to be used for financial assistance, family therapy and other needs of veterans who are in the process of seeking assistance from the federal government;
- \$3 million to supplement county veterans assistance programs;
- \$2.6 million to create higher education veterans assistance offices in colleges and universities across the state; and
- \$200,000 to develop a new state veterans Web site within the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

Severson said the \$3 million allocated for counties provides an incentive for county veterans services officers to get out and "beat the trees" to find veterans who are not receiving services or are receiving inadequate services.

[Rep. Phyllis Kahn](#) (DFL-Mpls) questioned whether the \$2.6 million was really necessary to create veterans assistance offices, and also whether it was worthwhile to have one in every college in the state.

Seifert replied that his college, Southwest Minnesota State University, has already set up one such office and that it provides an excellent resource for the institution's student-veterans.

### Where to find information

#### House Public Information Services

175 State Office Building  
(651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

House Public Information Services is a nonpartisan office that provides committee meeting schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* newsmagazine, educational brochures, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the House's World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: <http://www.house.mn>

# A matter of life and death

Bill sets standards for keeping the incapacitated alive

By **BAO ONG**

For several legislators on the [House Health Policy and Finance Committee](#), the issues of life and death are deep and personal. A bill spurred by the Terri Schiavo case establishing the Minnesota Starvation and Dehydration of Persons with Disabilities Prevention Act brings those issues even closer.

[HF3255](#), sponsored by [Rep. Tim Wilkin](#) (R-Eagan), establishes a presumption that nutrition and hydration are needed to sustain life for a “person legally incapable of making health care decisions.” The committee



**Rep. Barb Goodwin gives personal testimony to the sponsor of the proposed Minnesota Starvation and Dehydration of Persons with Disabilities Prevention Act during the March 14 meeting of the House Health Policy and Finance Committee.**

PHOTOS BY ANDREW VONBANK

approved the proposal 11-4 and referred it to the [House Civil Law and Elections Committee](#).

Although the bill requires food and water be given to the incapacitated, three circumstances in the bill allow such denial of nutrition and hydration: if it would not sustain the person’s life or comfort; a will was written beforehand that authorizes denial of the prevention; and if the person, when legally capable of making a health care decision, expresses consent.

But for [Rep. Barb Goodwin](#) (DFL-Columbia Heights) such exceptions are not enough.

Goodwin’s brother-in-law has been in a hospital for five months. The hospital inserted a feeding tube without his wife’s permission, which caused infections “many, many times.” Goodwin added that he is going to die soon or live in a nursing home for the rest of his life even though more than \$2 million has already been spent to keep him alive. Her brother-in-law is 50 years old and over 6 feet tall, weighs 111 pounds.

Doctors say his brain is fine, said Goodwin, but he is too weak to sign any papers. “He’s experienced technological torture

through the hospital wanting to keep him alive. His body tried to give up five times but the hospital used ‘extraordinary means’ to keep him alive. He’s dying slowly and more painfully than his natural body would have allowed.”

The Minnesota Medical Association does not support the language of the bill, said David Renner, the association’s director of state and federal legislation.

Dr. Lawrence Kerzner, a physician at Hennepin County

Medical Center, added that those closest to the patient should be able to make a decision instead of a mandated law and that the bill could deny use of newer technologies utilizing food and water.

Barbara Blumer, a Hospice Minnesota board member, agrees. She said the bill was a “radical step” because it uses a law to predetermine “what Minnesotans . . . have in their hearts and minds about that most personal and intimate and solitary of activities — that of dying,” Blumer said.

Still, Wilkin, whose father-in-law died last



**Barbara Blumer, a Hospice Minnesota board member, testifies before the House Health Policy and Finance Committee March 14 in opposition to the proposed Minnesota Starvation and Dehydration of Persons with Disabilities Prevention Act. Rep. Tim Wilkin, left, is the bill sponsor.**

year after battling a long illness, said the bill would actually bring clarity to such issues. He reminded the committee that, “this bill isn’t pulling a plug on a respirator. This is about food and water.”

Wilkin added that dying from malnutrition or dehydration is not a slow, painless death. He read a definition from the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide that included the following symptoms: the mouth dries out and becomes caked or coated with thick material, lips would become parched and cracked, body temperature becomes high, lining of the nose might dry out and cause bleeding and the respiratory track would dry out, causing thick secretions that would clog the lungs and cause death. Kerzner said the descriptions were “flamboyant” compared to what actually occurs.

Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life and the Minnesota Catholic Conference support the bill. “This is reasonable legislation that encourages patient autonomy,” said Laura Gese, a legislative associate for Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life.

[Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba](#) (DFL-Long Prairie), who didn’t speak up on either side of the issue, has dealt with death before. Her husband, Ken Otremba, died of liver cancer in 1997 while in office as a state representative. Otremba said “that will to live and survive moves to another dimension” when a person is faced with death. She voted in favor of the bill.

The companion bill ([SF2861](#)), sponsored by [Sen. Michelle Fischbach](#) (R-Paynesville) awaits action by the [Senate Health and Family Security Committee](#). 

## Monday, March 13

### HF3337-Sviggum (R)

#### Taxes

Dover, Eyota, St. Charles Area Sanitary District sales tax exemption provided.

### HF3338-Eastlund (R)

#### Public Safety Policy & Finance

Inmate tuberculosis testing required annually.

### HF3339-Abeler (R)

#### Education Finance

Voluntary, full-day kindergarten funding phased in, fees authorized and money appropriated.

### HF3340-Bradley (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Hospital construction proposal evaluation process evaluated.

### HF3341-Powell (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Health savings account option provision for legislators and staff required.

### HF3342-Tingelstad (R)

#### Transportation Finance

Northstar commuter rail and light rail transit bonds issued and money appropriated.

### HF3343-Howes (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Forest resource management incentive program administration provided.

### HF3344-Hilstrom (DFL)

#### Public Safety Policy & Finance

Public defender representation rights modified.

### HF3345-Meslow (R)

#### Public Safety Policy & Finance

Drug offender deferred prosecution required, driver's license suspension and reinstatement procedures, non-violent offender conditional release provisions and various related crime provisions modified.

### HF3346-Lanning (R)

#### Higher Education Finance

State grant program student share modified and money appropriated.

### HF3347-Simpson (R)

#### Education Finance

Verndale; regional family resource and early childhood center bonds issued and money appropriated.

### HF3348-Lanning (R)

#### Taxes

Buffalo-Red River Watershed District increased levy authorized.

### HF3349-Abeler (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

MinnesotaCare covered health services modified and certain limited benefits repealed.

### HF3350-Abeler (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Hennepin County essential community provider designation extended to a mental health provider.

### HF3351-Abeler (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Dependent health care coverage extension to unmarried dependents until age of 25 required.

### HF3352-Severson (R)

#### Transportation Finance

Sauk Rapids bridge trunk highway bonds issued and money appropriated.

### HF3353-Hackbarth (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

All-terrain vehicle usage on privately owned land during deer season rule-making required.

### HF3354-McNamara (R)

#### Higher Education Finance

Inver Hills Community College Fine Arts Building bonds issued and money appropriated.

### HF3355-Hackbarth (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Big game tagging requirements modified.

### HF3356-Magnus (R)

#### Transportation Finance

Town road signs money appropriated.

### HF3357-Meslow (R)

#### Public Safety Policy & Finance

Destruction of arrestee biological specimen upon acquittal of a felony request required.

### HF3358-Sykora (R)

#### Education Finance

Equity revenue for districts above the 95th percentile increased.

### HF3359-Cornish (R)

#### Public Safety Policy & Finance

Criminal and Justice Information Policy Group member added.

### HF3360-Bradley (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association governance structure modified, health insurance exemption provided, assessment repealed and money appropriated.

### HF3361-Westrom (R)

#### Education Finance

Independent School District No. 771, Chokio-Alberta, operating referendum revenue cap exemption provided.

### HF3362-Hoppe (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Farm-raised cervidae taking restrictions clarified.

### HF3363-Huntley (DFL)

#### Agriculture & Rural Development

Maritime commerce vessels exemption from biodiesel fuel requirement provided.

### HF3364-Huntley (DFL)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Community-based health care coverage program demonstration project established.

### HF3365-Welti (DFL)

#### Agriculture & Rural Development

Dairy heifer and cow acquisition loans provided.

### HF3366-Welti (DFL)

#### Agriculture & Rural Development

Milk volume production loan program private and public funding study and report provided.

### HF3367-Sykora (R)

#### Education Finance

School district consolidated financial statement created, Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards data conversion to new format required, publication of new format required and task force established.

### HF3368-Finstad (R)

#### Jobs & Economic

#### Opportunity Policy & Finance

Child passenger restraint system usage requirement modified.

### HF3369-Emmer (R)

#### Civil Law & Elections

Polling place location consistency provided.

### HF3370-Westrom (R)

#### Civil Law & Elections

Minnesota Voter's Bill of Rights modified.

### HF3371-Nelson, P. (R)

#### Agriculture, Environment &

#### Natural Resources Finance

Ojiketa Regional Park bonds issued and money appropriated.

### HF3372-Sykora (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Aquatic plant permit provisions modified.

### HF3373-Nornes (R)

#### Jobs & Economic

#### Opportunity Policy & Finance

Child care assistance maximum rates and absent days modified.

### HF3374-Bradley (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Disability provision council modified.

### HF3375-Magnus (R)

#### Agriculture & Rural Development

Bushel threshold related to grain buyer financial statements modified.

### HF3376-Magnus (R)

#### Agriculture & Rural Development

Grain buyer financial statement requirements modified.

### HF3377-Heidgerken (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Snowmobile state trail sticker exemptions provided.

### HF3378-Holberg (R)

#### Civil Law & Elections

Drinking water testing data classified as private and nonpublic.

### HF3379-Powell (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Medical Assistance special transportation service coverage criteria specified, special transportation reimbursement rates increased and broker usage prohibition extended.

### HF3380-Buesgens (R)

#### Governmental Operations &

#### Veterans Affairs

Post-employment benefit account establishment by political subdivisions for officers and employees authorized.

### HF3381-Sykora (R)

#### Education Finance

Equity revenue state aid portion increased.

### HF3382-Brod (R)

#### Agriculture, Environment &

#### Natural Resources Finance

State wildlife management bonds issued and money appropriated.

### HF3383-Solberg (DFL)

#### Local Government

Grand Rapids capital improvement bonds issued.

### HF3384-Westrom (R)

#### Civil Law & Elections

Secretary of State Web site linkage to candidates and advocacy groups authorized.

**HF3385-Emmer (R)**  
**Civil Law & Elections**  
Help America Vote Act rule adoption made permanent.

**HF3386-Huntley (DFL)**  
**Commerce & Financial Institutions**  
Transfer and hospital care by health plans of mothers whose newborns are transferred to another facility required.

**HF3387-Holberg (R)**  
**Civil Law & Elections**  
Genetic testing parental consent acquisition procedures modified, destruction of test results parental direction provided and test revision authorized.

**HF3388-Cybart (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
Teachers Retirement Association refund repayment authorized in certain cases.

**HF3389-Cornish (R)**  
**Civil Law & Elections**  
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension name and event index service classified.

**HF3390-Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
State employees ordered to active military services salary differential program eligibility criteria modified.

**HF3391-Beard (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
Building and environmental permit timeline agency action established.

**HF3392-Loeffler (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
State-owned historic building rental rate provisions established.

**HF3393-Powell (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Home inspections regulated, rule-making authorized and penalties imposed.

**HF3394-Howes (R)**  
**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources study money appropriated.

**HF3395-Simpson (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Restrictions on hunting animals using lights modified.

**HF3396-Gunther (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Commission Serving Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing People grant awarded and money appropriated.

**HF3397-Cornish (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
State parks and recreation areas land area modified, and public and private sales of certain state lands provided.

**HF3398-Magnus (R)**  
**Transportation**  
Town bridge account financial assistance provision modified.

**HF3399-Cornish (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Illegal immigration enforcement team established, collection and retention of citizenship and immigration status data required and statistics on crimes committed by individuals with illegal alien status report required.

**HF3400-Lanning (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Immigrants seeking citizenship tax credits provided.

**HF3401-Paymar (DFL)**  
**Transportation**  
Organ and tissue donation information inclusion as part of driver's education curriculum required.

**HF3402-Wilkin (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Loss ratios and small employer insurance coverages regulated, health savings plan state match established and money appropriated.

**HF3403-Davids (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Hokah; city hall and library building bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3404-Holberg (R)**  
**Civil Law & Elections**  
Eminent domain legal nonconforming use removal compensation provided.

**HF3405-Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
Salary for legislators and the governor forfeited or delayed upon failure to enact certain budget provisions in a timely manner.

**HF3406-Tingelstad (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Human trafficking task force established and penalties increased.

**HF3407-Poppe (DFL)**  
**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Mower County; septic system upgrade homeowner loans money appropriated.

**HF3408-Poppe (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Nicolville; wastewater system bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3409-Poppe (DFL)**  
**Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 495, Grand Meadow, dome canopy grant provided and bonds issued.

**HF3410-Poppe (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Austin sales and use tax imposition authorized.

**HF3411-Demmer (R)**  
**Education Policy & Reform**  
Professional teaching standards grant program established and money appropriated.

**HF3412-Murphy (DFL)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Uniform Fire Code variance provision modified.

**HF3413-Newman (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
State fire marshal decision to suspend, revoke or refusal to issue fireworks operator permit appeal process provided.

**HF3414-Soderstrom (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Juvenile history data retention for purposes of predatory offender registration authorized.

**HF3415-Meslow (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Criminal sexual conduct victim notification when prosecutor declines prosecution or dismisses charges required.

**HF3416-Lanning (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
State board and advisor group member per diem provisions modified.

**HF3417-McNamara (R)**  
**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Forestland acquisition bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3418-Hansen (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
Board of Water and Soil Resources; drainage authorities reports required and work group created.

**HF3419-Gunther (R)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
Pre-purchase delivered fuel program created.

**HF3420-Erhardt (R)**  
**Transportation**  
Combat wounded veterans special motorcycle license plates issued.

**HF3421-Cornish (R)**  
**Education Finance**  
Cooperative secondary facilities program eligibility expanded, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3422-Cornish (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Recalled implantable medical device manufacturer financial responsibility for removal and replacement required.

**HF3423-Abrams (R)**  
**Capital Investment**  
University of Minnesota football stadium state support process provided, Rochester campus biotechnology and medical genomics research funding provided, study abroad program established and money appropriated.

**HF3424-Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Rules & Legislative Administration**  
President and Congress memorialized by resolution to enact legislation to allow members of the armed forces to transfer unused educational assistance to their dependents.

**HF3425-Urdahl (R)**  
**Education Policy & Reform**  
Character development education revenue provided and money appropriated.

**HF3426-Huntley (DFL)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Jury service deferral for nursing mothers provided.

**HF3427-Hackbarth (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Oliver H. Kelley Farm Historic Site bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3428-Soderstrom (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Spring Lake Trail extension bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3429-Loeffler (DFL)**  
**Commerce & Financial Institutions**  
Preventive care coverage with no deductible by high deductible health plans used with a health savings account required.

**HF3430-Clark (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Child care provider rates and parent fees changes provided, certain health care co-pays eliminated, MFIP transitional standard increased, non-citizen health care benefits reinstated, MFIP and SSI penalties repealed and money appropriated.

**HF3431-Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Stanley Eddy Regional Park expansion bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3432-Johnson, J. (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Department of Health methamphetamine lab cleanup oversight required.

**HF3433-Johnson, J. (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Governor's appointees and residence positions background checks authorized.

**HF3434-Huntley (DFL)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Hearing instrument dispensing definition clarified and contract authority regarding diversion and monitoring services granted.

**HF3435-Peterson, A. (DFL)**  
**Education Policy & Reform**  
Independent School District No. 409, Tyler, fund transfer authorized.

**HF3436-Hackbarth (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Dishonored check payment penalty specified as suspension of certain registrations and licenses, watercraft certificate title delivery provided, and penalties established.

**HF3437-Garofalo (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Reimbursement reduction for cities scheduled for 2006 eliminated.

**HF3438-Ruth (R)**  
**Transportation**  
Driver's license suspension for attempting to pay vehicle taxes or fees with insufficient funds authorized.

**HF3439-Powell (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Lead abatement program authority transfer provided.

**HF3440-Tingelstad (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Toll-free human trafficking victim hotline established and money appropriated.

**HF3441-Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development**  
Fertilizer, soil amendment and plant amendment checkoff provided, Minnesota Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council and program established, and on-farm storage exemption from fertilizer facility safeguarding provided.

**HF3442-Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development**  
Beekeeping regulation repealed.

**HF3443-Pelowski (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Winona State University; Memorial Hall renovation bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3444-Knoblach (R)**  
**Local Government**  
Sanctuary law enactment by local governments prohibited.

**HF3445-Olson (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Anoka County; forensic crime laboratory bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3446-Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Local Government**  
Pennock; real estate acquisition, building improvement and conveyance authorized.

**HF3447-Peppin (R)**  
**Commerce & Financial Institutions**  
Motor vehicle event data recorders regulated, disclosures required and data restricted.

**HF3448-Hoppe (R)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
Card club provisions modified, banked card games provided and electronic pari-mutuel wagers authorized.

**HF3449-Clark (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Manufactured home park conversions regulated.

**HF3450-Mahoney (DFL)**  
**Commerce & Financial Institutions**  
Building code-related councils created and duties provided.

**HF3451-Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Local Government**  
Land dedication standards provided.

**HF3452-Hilstrom (DFL)**  
**Local Government**  
Aitkin County regulation of certain public land interests repealed.

**HF3453-Goodwin (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
State budget prescribed and continuing appropriations for operation of state government provided.

**HF3454-Ruth (R)**  
**Local Government**  
County recorder document standards, registration fees and provisions modified.

**HF3455-Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Armed Forces member property purchase homestead classification provided.

**HF3456-Hilty (DFL)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Social worker license issuance in certain cases required.

**HF3457-Peterson, A. (DFL)**  
**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Working land productive conservation money appropriated.

**HF3458-Heidgerken (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Mass flu vaccination clinic delay in event of vaccine shortage required and penalties imposed.

**HF3459-Hausman (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
Minneapolis Firefighters Relief Association spouse benefit eligibility requirements exception provided in certain cases.

**HF3460-Clark (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Quarterly unemployment insurance wage detail report late filing mandatory minimum penalty eliminated.

**HF3461-Clark (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Business subsidy reporting requirements extended to all recipients of business development public infrastructure grants and redevelopment grants.

**HF3462-Greiling (DFL)**  
**Education Finance**  
Extended time revenue link to general education basic formula allowance provided.

**HF3463-Johnson, R. (DFL)**  
**Education Finance**  
St. Peter; early learning center bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3464-Walker (DFL)**  
**Commerce & Financial Institutions**  
Barber and cosmetologist licensing provision modified.

**HF3465-Thissen (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Low-income heating assistance funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF3466-Sailer (DFL)**  
**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Heartland Trail extension to Detroit Lakes pre-design bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3467-Sailer (DFL)**  
**Education Finance**  
Referendum equalization levy factor increased.

**HF3468-Sailer (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Native American housing program funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF3469-Greiling (DFL)**  
**Civil Law & Elections**  
Residential lease termination upon tenant's admission to nursing home provided.

**HF3470-Sieben (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Washington County; bridge demolition bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3471-Ellison (DFL)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Hate crime and bias motivated crime penalties enhanced.

**HF3472-Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Transportation**  
Recreational vehicle combination definition modified to include golf carts.

**HF3473-Dill (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Fish spearing open season modified.

**HF3474-Slawik (DFL)**  
**Civil Law & Elections**  
School district election provisions modified, mail elections approval requirement eliminated, and certain primary elections authorized.

**HF3475-Ellison (DFL)**  
**Civil Law & Elections**  
Deceptive election practices regarding time, place or manner of conducting an election prohibited.

**HF3476-Sertich (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Advocating Change Together grant money appropriated.

**HF3477-Hosch (DFL)**  
**Local Government**  
Credit letter release municipal action timelines established.

**HF3478-Hosch (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Watershed district provisions modified.

**HF3479-Hansen (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Income tax return processing provided, electronic filing of withholding returns required, studies of audit positions and sales and use compliance assistance initiated and civil penalty imposed.

**HF3480-Clark (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
MFIP penalty statute repealed.

## Tuesday, March 14

**HF3481-Samuelson (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Continuing care, elderly and disabled services provisions modified.

**HF3482-Hackbarth (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
All-terrain vehicle gasoline fuel tax attributable amount modified.

**HF3483-Samuelson (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Nursing facility planned closure rate adjustments limit removed.

**HF3484-Westerberg (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
Boxing commission established and money appropriated.

**HF3485-Johnson, J. (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Predatory offender information publication on Internet by corrections commissioner required.

**HF3486-Howes (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Cass County; nursing home moratorium exception provided.

**HF3487-Holberg (R)**  
**Civil Law & Elections**  
Data classified, civil remedies and penalties provided.

**HF3488-Nelson, P. (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
Revisor's bill providing erroneous, ambiguous and omitted text and obsolete references.

**HF3489-Lenczewski (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Foreign source income provisions modified.

**HF3490-Powell (R)**  
**Education Policy & Reform**  
Burden of proof placement on the party seeking relief at a due process hearing provided.

**HF3491-Cornish (R)**  
**Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 2134, United South Central, school construction costs and improvements grant bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3492-Hackbarth (R)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
Elk River designated as Minnesota's energy city.

**HF3493-Haws (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Stearns County; public and private sale of certain tax-forfeited land bordering public water authorized.

**HF3494-Wilkin (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Unemployment and dislocated worker benefit eligibility regulated.

**HF3495-Hackbarth (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
All-terrain vehicle enforcement availability and public education grants to local law enforcement agencies limited.

**HF3496-Hackbarth (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Noise standards exemptions modified.

**HF3497-Slawik (DFL)**  
**Education Finance**  
Basic formula allowance increased and proceeds dedicated to school district energy expenditures.

**HF3498-Fritz (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Faribault; Paradise Center for the Arts bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3499-Dorman (R)**  
**Education Finance**  
Cooperative secondary facilities program eligibility expanded, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3500-Sailer (DFL)**  
**Commerce & Financial Institutions**  
Consumer "freezing" of credit reports for security reasons permitted.

**HF3501-Sykora (R)**  
**Education Finance**  
State determined tuition rates for special education services delayed.

**HF3502-Brod (R)**  
**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Natural resources and environment project bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3503-Erhardt (R)**  
**Transportation**  
Bicycle operators and passengers under the age of 18 required to wear helmets, and standard for helmets updated.

**HF3504-Buesgens (R)**  
**Education Policy & Reform**  
General education access grants for students authorized.

**HF3505-Hamilton (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Greater Minnesota small employer health insurance premium reductions permitted.

**HF3506-Zellers (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Career offender sentencing law modified, counterfeiting federal currency crime established, federal law enforcement officer definition updated and criminal penalties imposed.

**HF3507-Wilkin (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
Legislative Audit Commission regulated.

**HF3508-Thao (DFL)**  
**State Government Finance**  
Hmong veterans; commemorative statue bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3509-Marquart (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Residential and agricultural market value homestead credit maximums increased, and certain market value credit losses to cities restored.

**HF3510-Marquart (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Residential and agricultural market value homestead credit maximums increased and market value credit losses to cities restored.

**HF3511-Marquart (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
State general tax reduced and foreign operating corporation deemed dividend deduction modified.

**HF3512-Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Education Policy & Reform**  
Online Learning Option Act modified.

**HF3513-Nelson, M. (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Homeless Management Information System and capacity building grant money appropriated.

**HF3514-Murphy (DFL)**  
**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Mineral management money repayment provided.

**HF3515-Peppin (R)**  
**Local Government**  
Preventive health services program operation by cities authorized.

## Wednesday, March 15

**HF3516-Hornstein (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
Flexible-fuel vehicles promoted; plug-in hybrid electric vehicle infrastructure recovery by utilities, St. Paul Ford plant re-use incentive package development and study required; money appropriated.

**HF3517-Nornes (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Elizabeth; drinking water grant bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3518-Hornstein (DFL)**  
**Education Finance**  
General Education Development (GED) text fee waiver authorized and money appropriated.

**HF3519-Simpson (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Tax and tax-related provisions technical and clarifying changes provided, sales tax provision conformity established, taconite production tax modified and fee administration provided.

**HF3520-Magnus (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Agricultural homestead land subject to reduced class rate value increased.

**HF3521-Cybart (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Unauthorized racing classified as reckless driving and exhibition driving prohibited.

**HF3522-Knoblach (R)**  
**Ways & Means**  
Pre-kindergarten through grade 12, early childhood, family, adult education, and human services programs forecast adjustments provided, human services savings implemented and money appropriated.

**HF3523-Erhardt (R)**  
**Transportation**  
Transit pass credit conversion to refund provided and refund extended to employers.

**HF3524-Welti (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Small city definition modified.

**HF3525-Simpson (R)**  
**Commerce & Financial Institutions**  
Construction codes and licensing provisions recodified, State Building Code modified and enforcement penalties provided.

**HF3526-Vandever (R)**

**Commerce & Financial Institutions**  
Financing statement judicial review expedited process provided and civil and criminal liability for fraudulent or improper financing statements established.

**HF3527-Cornish (R)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Board of Water and Soil Resources modified.

**HF3528-Demmer (R)**

**Education Finance**  
School year length increased by five weeks and Labor Day school start date repealed.

**HF3529-Nelson, M. (DFL)**

**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Statewide public safety radio system terms modified and obsolete provisions repealed.

**HF3530-Simpson (R)**

**Taxes**  
Resort expenditure sales tax refund provided.

**HF3531-Seifert (R)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Casey Jones State Trail extended.

**HF3532-Nelson, M. (DFL)**

**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Combined local access surcharge requirement modified; 911 system service contracts, wireless provider reporting requirements, cost accounting requirements and system costs modified.

**HF3533-Otremba (DFL)**

**Health Policy & Finance**  
Brainerd Regional Treatment Center laundry service maintenance or expansion required and service contract bids authorized.

**HF3534-Klinzing (R)**

**Education Policy & Reform**  
Accelerated K-12 science and mathematics programs option recommendation task force established.

**HF3535-Lanning (R)**

**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Wild Rice Watershed District flood hazard prevention study money appropriated.

**HF3536-Ruth (R)**

**Commerce & Financial Institutions**  
Hair braiding registration required.

**HF3537-Zellers (R)**

**Taxes**  
Tobacco product health impact fee and excise tax equalized and fee application on other tobacco products clarified.

**HF3538-Otremba (DFL)**

**Health Policy & Finance**  
Crib safety requirements modified.

**HF3539-Demmer (R)**

**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Outdoor fireworks displays by individuals regulated.

**HF3540-Meslow (R)**

**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Career offender sentencing law modified, patterned offender sentencing law recodified and Blakely hearing provision sunset provision removed.

**HF3541-Westrom (R)**

**Regulated Industries**  
Public Utilities Commission reports regarding heating customers required.

**HF3542-Westrom (R)**

**Regulated Industries**  
Gas utility service reconnection plan preparation and implementation required.

**HF3543-Eastlund (R)**

**Education Finance**  
Special education fiscal agent inclusion in the list of cooperative special education service providers eligible for a waiver provided.

**HF3544-Penas (R)**

**Transportation Finance**  
Roseau County; radio tower trunk highway bond sale authorized and money appropriated.

**HF3545-Westrom (R)**

**Education Finance**  
Alexandria Technical College bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3546-Penas (R)**

**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Beef cattle diagnostic team pilot project established and money appropriated.

**HF3547-Severson (R)**

**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Central Minnesota science initiative project bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3548-Clark (DFL)**

**Education Policy & Reform**  
Minnesota American Indian tribe and community contribution instruction integration into student learning, teacher preparation and licensing requirements required.

**HF3549-Ellison (DFL)**

**Regulated Industries**  
Minneapolis liquor license issuance to Minnesota Book and Literary Arts Building, Inc. authorized.

**HF3550-Garofalo (R)**

**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Farmington; sewer and water infrastructure bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3551-Howes (R)**

**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Overtime regulated for certain nurses.

**HF3552-Kohls (R)**

**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Biotechnology and medical genomics research money appropriated.

**HF3553-Davnie (DFL)**

**Taxes**  
Tax-forfeited land assessment cancellations regulated.

**HF3554-Vandever (R)**

**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Centerville; undeveloped land acquisition from St. Paul Board of Water Commissioners authorized for lake access preservation.

**HF3555-Huntley (DFL)**

**Health Policy & Finance**  
Governmental unit definition modified relating to nonprofit community health clinics providing family planning services.

**HF3556-Powell (R)**

**Transportation Finance**  
I-35W Bus Rapid Transit bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3557-Bradley (R)**

**Health Policy & Finance**  
Personal care assistant documentation and reporting requirement implementation delayed.

**HF3558-Goodwin (DFL)**

**Commerce & Financial Institutions**  
Statutory housing warranties regulated and legislative intent clarified.

**HF3559-Goodwin (DFL)**

**Commerce & Financial Institutions**  
Statutory housing warranties regulated and modified.

**HF3560-Goodwin (DFL)**

**Health Policy & Finance**  
Pharmacist refusal to dispense legend drugs prohibited and disciplinary action provided.

**HF3561-Severson (R)**

**Commerce & Financial Institutions**  
Biotechnology and health sciences industry zone designation authorized.

**HF3562-Nelson, P. (R)**

**Transportation Finance**  
Income tax credit provided for conversion of vehicle to operate using alternative fuels.

**HF3563-Nelson, P. (R)**

**Transportation Finance**  
Alternative fuel vehicle usage subtraction from federal taxable income authorized.

**HF3564-Emmer (R)**

**Health Policy & Finance**  
Medical Assistance special transportation services criteria specified, reimbursement rates increased and broker or coordinator usage prohibited.

**HF3565-Eastlund (R)**

**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Inmate health care decision making by Department of Corrections medical director authorized in certain cases.

**HF3566-Clark (DFL)**

**Transportation**  
Tribal identification card usage governance provided.

**HF3567-Olson (R)**

**Transportation**  
Transit mode analysis required prior to approval of Central Corridor transitway.

**HF3568-Jaros (DFL)**

**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
State living wage established, tax penalty imposed on certain employers and tax proceeds appropriated.

**HF3569-Simon (DFL)**

**Civil Law & Elections**  
Judicial candidate contribution limits provided.

**HF3570-Welti (DFL)**

**Education Policy & Reform**  
Integration revenue school district process modified, integration activities emphasized and plans and assistance required

**HF3571-Koenen (DFL)**

**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Heritage trails bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3572-Entenza (DFL)**

**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Bomb squad reimbursement for out-of-area calls for assistance increased and money appropriated.

**HF3573-Davnie (DFL)**

**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Blighted housing rehabilitation program created and possession or ownership transfer of nuisance properties to nonprofit housing organizations provided.

**HF3574-Sailer (DFL)****Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 38, Red Lake, school construction costs and related improvements bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3575-Lesch (DFL)****Taxes**

Foreign service members income tax subtraction authorized.

**HF3576-Hosch (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Legislative procedure and meeting time modifications provided, per diem payments during special sessions called due to failure of Legislature to pass major budget bills prohibited.

**HF3577-Kelliher (DFL)****Education Finance**

Program growth factor for regular special education added and aid increased.

**HF3578-Clark (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Physician pilot project to encourage Minnesota licensure for foreign-trained physicians established and money appropriated.

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**Thursday, March 16**

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**HF3579-Cybart (R)****Transportation Finance**

Cedar Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Corridor bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3580-Sykora (R)****Education Policy & Reform**

Pre-kindergarten through grade 12 education financing provided, alternative teacher training provided, early childhood Part C services expanded, intensive English instruction provided for refugees and money appropriated.

**HF3581-Smith (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Public Employees Retirement Association post-sentencing officers and emergency dispatchers retirement plan created and money appropriated.

**HF3582-Klinzing (R)****Education Finance**

Student assessment and achievement evaluation money appropriated.

**HF3583-Dempsey (R)****Regulated Industries**

Bed and breakfast facility on-sale wine license terms modified and consumption provisions authorized.

**HF3584-Nelson, P. (R)****Transportation**

Combat wounded veterans special license plate cost exemption provided.

**HF3585-Smith (R)****Civil Law & Elections**

Child support and maintenance provisions modified.

**HF3586-Smith (R)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Domestic abuse foreign protective order enforcement provided.

**HF3587-Tingelstad (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

President, Congress and United States Postal Service memorialized by resolution to maintain current levels of service.

**HF3588-Gunther (R)****Regulated Industries**

Faribault County; wind turbine facility reclassified to avoid violation of exclusive service territory law.

**HF3589-Hansen (DFL)****Regulated Industries**

Public utility residential heating customer protections provided.

**HF3590-Powell (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Pharmacy payment reform advisory committee established, study provided and report required.

**HF3591-Finstad (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Human services commissioner contract with Medicare-approved special needs plans authorized to provide services to persons with disabilities.

**HF3592-Olson (R)****Taxes**

Electric and transmission pipeline utility valuation rules effective dates prescribed.

**HF3593-Gunther (R)****Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Prevailing wage determination method modified and occupational employment statistics benefits survey required

**HF3594-Dempsey (R)****Transportation**

Great River Road property transportation bonds authorized and money appropriated..

**HF3595-Seifert (R)****Transportation**

Historic site directional sign placement on highways required in certain cases.

**HF3596-Lillie (DFL)****Taxes**

Property tax statement mailing date advanced.

**HF3597-Soderstrom (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Time frames under which an unharmed newborn may be left at a hospital specified and search for relatives prohibited.

**HF3598-Cox (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

State department construction contracts regulated.

**HF3599-Meslow (R)****Education Policy & Reform**

Socio-emotional early childhood screening provided.

**HF3600-Loeffler (DFL)****State Government Finance**

State Capitol and Ford Building bonds issued and restoration money appropriated.

**HF3601-Clark (DFL)****Civil Law & Elections**

Landlords prohibited from preventing tenants from posting campaign material in residence windows.

**HF3602-Loeffler (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

National Guard and other veteran's assistance relating to health screening and uranium exposure health services provided.

**HF3603-Krinkie (R)****Taxes**

Internal Revenue Code and marriage penalty provision conformity provided, dairy operation and citizenship expenditure tax credits provided, sales-only apportionment phase-in accelerated and other taxation provisions clarified.

**HF3604-Koenen (DFL)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Conciliation court with jurisdiction to determine certain fraudulent bank transactions provided.

**HF3605-Tingelstad (R)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources money appropriated.

**HF3606-Koenen (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Granite Falls; Burlington Northern Depot renovation and relocation bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3607-Bradley (R)****Higher Education Finance**

Rochester; University of Minnesota branch campus established and money appropriated.

**HF3608-Pelowski (DFL)****Education Finance**

Winona State University bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3609-Abeler (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Background study provisions modified.

**HF3610-McNamara (R)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Boiler inspection accredited agency submission of reports required and inspection exemptions by Division of Boiler Inspection provided.

**HF3611-Samuelson (R)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

New Brighton; methane treatment facility bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF3612-McNamara (R)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Wind energy and other prior natural resource appropriations modified.

**HF3613-McNamara (R)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Hastings; hydroelectric plant federal matching grant acquisition money appropriated.

**HF3614-Penas (R)****Environment & Natural Resources**

All-terrain vehicle regulation modified and classifications created.

**HF3615-Peppin (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Group residential pilot project established.

**HF3616-Atkins (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Eveleth police service and fire plan service credit purchase authorized.

**HF3617-Ruth (R)****Taxes**

Income tax subtraction for certain military pensions authorized.

**HF3618-Finstad (R)****Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Human services departmental, commissioner and related entities technical changes provided.

**HF3619-Bradley (R)****Ways & Means**

State government appropriations modified, studies and reports required and penalties provided.

**HF3620-Dean (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Secured treatment facilities policies modified, contraband possession criminal penalties provided, service contract entrance authorized, custody escape provisions modified and sentencing provisions established.

**HF3621-Hackbarth (R)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Minnesota Shooting Sports Education Center funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF3622-Ellison (DFL)****Health Policy & Finance**

Lead risk assessment Medical Assistance coverage provided.

**HF3623-Meslow (R)****Education Policy & Reform**

Early childhood and family education funding provided, Head Start funds allocated, kindergarten readiness pilot program provided, grants provided and money appropriated.

**HF3624-Nornes (R)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Boxing board reestablished and money appropriated.

**HF3625-Peppin (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Public employee insurance provisions modified and money appropriated.

**HF3626-Finstad (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Certified psychiatric nurse practitioner services Medical Assistance coverage provided.

**HF3627-Blaine (R)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Motor vehicle lemon law expanded to protect small businesses.

**HF3628-Sailer (DFL)****Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 138, Red Lake, emergency aid appropriation increased.

**HF3629-Davids (R)****Civil Law & Elections**

Eminent domain public use definition provided, loss of going concern provided for and attorney fees regulated.

**HF3630-Emmer (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Children's mental health grants provided; mental health service delivery and finance reform provided; and mental health case management, rates and general assistance medical care coverages modified.

**HF3631-Hornstein (DFL)****Civil Law & Elections**

Condominium conversions regulated.

**HF3632-Ellison (DFL)****Civil Law & Elections**

Voting and registration; residency documentation clarified, absentee balloting provisions modified, translation of voting materials required, notice of civil rights restoration required and voting assistance for inmates provided.

**HF3633-Fritz (DFL)****Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Faribault; Paradise Center for the Arts funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF3634-Gazelka (R)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Brainerd Regional Treatment Center surplus state land conveyance authorized.

**HF3635-Brod (R)****Civil Law & Elections**

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board regulated, membership requirements and staffing authority modified and money appropriated.

**HF3636-Hilstrom (DFL)****Civil Law & Elections**

Coroner and medical examiner provisions modified and updated, and criminal penalties imposed.

**HF3637-Holberg (R)****Transportation**

Metropolitan special transportation service requirements regulation provided.

**HF3638-Sertich (DFL)****Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Greater Minnesota Business Development Investments program provided and money appropriated.

**HF3639-Lanning (R)****Civil Law & Elections**

Voter residency documentation clarified.

**HF3640-Olson (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Legislature; subgroups prohibited from controlling legislative decision-making process, distribution of powers required, full house participation in final decisions required and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF3641-Cox (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Construction code inspectors competency criteria requirements provided.

**HF3642-Peterson, S. (DFL)****Taxes**

Senior and disabled claimants property tax refund exemption amount increased.

**HF3643-Hortman (DFL)**

**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Olympics bid task force created.

**HF3644-Peterson, S. (DFL)****Taxes**

Federal marriage penalty relief conformity provided.

**HF3645-Hilstrom (DFL)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Missing persons; Bureau of Criminal Apprehension required to reduce records backlog for missing persons and unidentified bodies cases, responsibilities clarified, model policy relating to missing adults required and money appropriated.

**HF3646-Erhardt (R)****Transportation**

Disabled veterans special license plates authorized.

**HF3647-Meslow (R)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Driving while impaired provisions expanded to include any drug or its metabolite and clarifying language provided.

**HF3648-Meslow (R)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Death scene investigations and identification reporting procedures provided.

**HF3649-Meslow (R)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Privacy requirements prohibited that prevent law enforcement agencies from sharing crime scene photographs.

**HF3650-Meslow (R)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Expungement of photographs of adjudicated delinquents prohibited.

**HF3651-Hortman (DFL)****Taxes**

Dentistry material purchases tax credit provided.

**HF3652-Hilstrom (DFL)****Education Policy & Reform**

International baccalaureate pilot program provided across all grades of a school district and money appropriated.

**HF3653-Newman (R)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Board on Judicial Standards funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF3654-Knoblach (R)****Education Policy & Reform**

Online learning providers required to include notice of state academic and testing requirements on course information memorandum, and online learning aid for nonresident students calculated as actual cost and administrative fees.

**HF3655-Slawik (DFL)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Boxing commission established and money appropriated.

**HF3656-Tingelstad (R)****Transportation**

Railroad right-of-way contracting for use as commuter rail authorized.

**HF3657-Holberg (R)****Transportation Finance**

Highway funding provided, trunk highway motor vehicle sales tax collection account established, proceeds allocated, bonds issued and money appropriated.

## Where to find information

### Senate Information Office

231 State Capitol (651) 296-0504  
or 1-800-234-1112

The Senate Information Office is responsible for all information about the Senate, including the committee schedule, bill status, legislator information and the distribution of bill copies.

### Senate Media Services

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# MINNESOTA INDEX

## Minnesota National Guard

Year the Territorial Militia ushered in the advent of the <a href="#">Minnesota National Guard</a> .....	1850
Approximate number of Minnesota National Guard members.....	13,000
Members activated in 2005 to support Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle .....	5,670
In 2004 .....	1,600
Soldiers and airmen, as approximate, welcomed home last year from deployments.....	1,700
In 2004 .....	3,100
Towns where the Guard is located in Minnesota.....	63
Hours, as approximate, volunteered by Minnesota soldiers and airmen to local communities in 2005.....	42,450
In 2004 .....	34,567
Approximate number of Minnesota soldiers in the 34th Infantry Division, also known as the "Red Bulls".....	9,300
Number of those mobilized in 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.....	2,600
Number returning from previous deployments.....	1,000
Members of the 84th Troop, comprised of vital and unique specialty elements, deployed in 2005.....	20
Approximate number returning from previous deployments.....	100
Airmen from the 148th Fighter Wing, based in Duluth, deployed in 2005, as approximate.....	700
Airmen from the 133rd Airlift Wing, located at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.....	500
Number of countries Minnesota National Guard members have served in since Sept. 11, 2001 .....	33
Approximate number of soldiers and airmen mobilized since that date.....	11,000
Deployed soldiers, as approximate, able to connect with their families via video conference in 2005 .....	600
State and federal man-days provided by Guard members to help support hurricane relief efforts last year .....	2,653
Man-days committed for state active duty missions at the direction of the governor in 2005 .....	1,016
In 2004 .....	1,195
<a href="#">Current and retired Minnesota Guard members that died in 2005</a> .....	14
Members killed on active duty in Baghdad, Iraq.....	3
Training man-days conducted at Camp Ripley last year .....	230,390
Number at first camp in 1991.....	104
Fiscal Year 2005 budget for Minnesota National Guard, in millions.....	\$321.3
Percent that was federally funded.....	95.5

Sources: Minnesota National Guard [2004](#) and [2005](#) annual reports, [Minnesota National Guard Web site](#)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For general information, call:  
House Public Information Services office  
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