



2014 REPORT on the MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

by the
LEGISLATIVE EVALUATION ASSEMBLY
of MINNESOTA, INC

for an
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2014 LEA HOUSE HONOREES



Benson, Mike - 91% Dettmer, Bob - 86% Drazkowski, Steve - 95% Erickson, Sondra - 88% Hackbarth, Tom - 86% Hertaus, Jerry - 91% Leidiger, Ernie - 95% Newberger, Jim - 86% Peppin, Joyce - 91% Pugh, Cindy - 91% Quam, Duane - 85%

Honorable Mention Senate: Bruce Anderson
(No Senate Honorees)

Honorable Mention House: Kurt Daudt, Matt Dean, Jeff Howe, Jenifer Loon, Pam Myhra

2014 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Legislation in a One-Party State

Under single-party rule, the Minnesota Legislature got a rare chance these last two years to show us the full flower of governance without the needed checks and balances designed to impede the passage of bad legislation. Normally, competing visions and the political tussle over proposed laws at the capitol yield less than anyone wanted. Fortunately, this contentious process has included periodic appeals to the constitution if only to impede progress of “the other side,” when one of the houses or the governor represents a different political platform. With single-party rule, constitutional process and political principle were largely swept under the rug regardless of the harm done. In one case, the last line of defense was a Federal Court, when it put an injunction against implementation of the campaign contribution bill, SF2782.

A representative democracy requires political power to be widely distributed among its citizens, but gradually this distribution of power has eroded and narrowed under the control of two political factions, the Republican and Democratic parties. The rhetoric between these two parties has become more uncivil as they line up with economic winners and losers. It has become the “frightful despotism” that George Washington warned us about in his Farewell Address. James Madison had hoped to eliminate such factions, which are similar in social divisiveness to racism and tribalism, and produce laws that exploit political opponents.

Bureaucratic creep has turned into a sprint as Minnesotans were flooded with new legislation to establish boards, agencies, and offices that will become taxpayer-funded petty fiefdoms for party loyalists and lobbyists. Laws authorizing unelected appointments

showed disdain for voter intelligence. Yet on-line election reforms invite wide-spread corruption, give more discretion to partisan officers, and flaunt election integrity. New laws repeatedly gave agencies greater autonomy, while they decreased the autonomy of citizens and businesses. This role reversal is a result of unchecked power in the public sphere that leads to an unsustainable government expansion and exploitation of the economic sphere.

Attempts to engage in social issues like bullying and crime led to more laws, when solutions required greater interpersonal interaction and flexibility, not laws. While long-awaited property reforms rightly protected defendants not convicted, the bill for expungement of criminal records wrongly encourages criminals to hide their past behavior rather than overcome it. The anti-bully legislation stifles the development of children to learn to constructively interact.

Further, this bureaucratic expansion is fostering a much too autonomous government that is unaccountable to the public through elections. The Met Council is a completely appointed government that, in many areas, has more authority than the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. From 1960-2000 Minnesota population increased by 44%, while the number of public employees increased 194%. Now these employees have unions that effectively make their members a ruling elite. Meanwhile, between 1960 and 1992, the number of elected officials in Minnesota declined by 49% as the number of appointed bureaucrats dramatically increased. The current session under one-party control amplified these negative trends.

The economic winners in this session were government bureaucracies, labor unions, businesses colluding with government, and trial lawyers. The losers were almost everyone else.

1. The Safe and Supportive Schools Act

HF826. Rep. Davnie. [SF783. Sen. Dibble.]

HF 826 implements Governor Dayton's 15-member anti-bullying task force recommendations to create safe and supportive schools (K-Ph.D., home schools excluded), making it illegal for students to bully other students for reasons spelled out in the bill. The bill requires school districts to follow documenting procedures and a social-emotional curriculum to prevent discrimination and other conduct identified as improper. Private schools are encouraged to report their policies to the education commissioner for purposes of accreditation. The commissioner will produce rules of compliance and a complaint process. The bill also mandates a School Safety Technical Assistance Center to be established by a 23-member School Safety Technical Assistance Council. The Center is to determine how to best use available resources, and offer districts and counties best-practices assistance on preventive and remedial measures.

This bill implements the task force's philosophy of "the nature of human sexuality." It facilitates the state indoctrination of young children about sexually diverse behaviors and lifestyles it considers normal. The Welcoming Schools program piloted in Minneapolis is an example of this curriculum. Students are continually observed, assessed, and evaluated on the changes in their attitudes and beliefs regarding family structure and human sexuality with a form that states: "I used to think...but now I know." In these programs young children are introduced to sexual diversity stories that confuse them and set up conflict in their minds over gender roles, parental authority, and the role of the family in raising the next generation.

Through this bill, Minnesota communities and schools lose control of their own teaching policies but are forced to pay for the cost of this new ideologically-based and unfunded program. The Act fails to protect all students from bullying with a definition that protects only stated classes of students. Incident reports are kept in school data bases and can be accessed at the state level.

While LEA would like to see bullying reduced, it does not support this bill. It originated, not from the legislature, but from a task force stacked with government bureaucrats and advocacy groups. It creates a new "multi-agency leadership council" unaccountable to parents, teachers, or citizens. LEA does not believe this legislation will prevent bullying, but instead will create school climates of intolerance of differing viewpoints and allow people who are disliked to be arbitrarily labeled as bullies. LEA favored a NO vote. The bill passed the House 69-63 and the Senate 36-31. The governor signed the bill.

2. Baby DNA—Newborn Screening Program Modified

SF2047. Sen. Marty. [HF2526. Rep. Norton.]

This bill eliminates opt-in consent provisions of the newborn screening program, which required parental consent for storage, use and dissemination of the genetic code of an infant. The state no

longer has to ask for permission. It is now presumed that the state may proceed with the collection of DNA for future research. The burden is placed on parents to specifically dissent from the storage of the genetic data of their child. The Department of Health will now permitted to store the samples and test results indefinitely.

This legislation effectively repeals the state's genetic privacy act without actually repealing the statute. Even the ACLU considers the bill a radical and dangerous departure from the original purpose of the newborn screening program. This bill does not protect rights of parents and children. Instead, it provides researchers with unlimited testing potential on unique genetic material without consideration to future ramifications. Our children should not be research subjects for bureaucratic overreach at the expense of individual rights. Only with informed written consent can we protect our rights and the control and authority over newborn DNA and genetic codes.

LEA favored a NO vote. The bill passed in the Senate 36-20 and in the House 69-58. The governor signed the bill.

3. Women's Economic Security Act (WESA) and State Retirement Plan Study

HF2536. Rep. Melin. [SF2050. Sen. Pappas.]

This bill seeks to create greater pay equity between men and women. It does this by establishing and appropriating funds for a grant program to increase the number of women in high-wage, high-demand nontraditional occupations. Funds are also appropriated for development of women entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses. Further, WESA mandates equal pay compliance certificates for businesses that exceed \$500,000 in business with the state. These businesses must allow the state to conduct extensive audits to assess data on their employees and wages. The bill funds a study to create a state administered retirement savings plan. This Minnesota Secure Choice plan would allow people to invest in a portable retirement account overseen by a board of political appointees to manage a separate account in the state treasury. In addition, the legislation provides regulation to address other factors in the workplace which are believed to contribute to pay inequity: pregnancy and parenting leave, familial status, care of relatives, domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking.

The Women's Economic Security Act spawns a dramatic expansion of government based on the unfounded assumption that discrimination is the reason women are paid less than men. Costly government interference to determine a "fair" pay structure has unintended consequences. It distorts the labor market and can be burdensome on employers, driving up costs and thereby reducing the number of jobs available, harming women it is designed to help. The best way government can help working women be economically secure is to foster a more competitive socio-economic environment, bringing more job opportunities to the state.

An aspect of the bill, completely unrelated to pay equity, is that it sets in motion the mechanism to offer individuals a state-run retirement savings plan. This will compete with the with many existing employer-based and private sector retirement plans. A government-run retirement plan puts tax dollars at risk and

without addressing the fundamental problem of people who lack the will or the resources to save for retirement. This legislation, like so many government attempts to address perceived social problems, is guided by ideals contrary to sound economic principles.

LEA favored a NO vote. The bill passed in the House 104-24 and in the Senate 43-24. The governor signed the bill.

4. State Minimum Wage Increased and Indexed to Inflation

HF2091. Rep. Winkler. [SF1775. Sen. Hayden.]

This bill raises the hourly minimum wage in successive steps, to \$9.50 for large employers and \$7.75 for small employers by August 2016. More employers will be classified as large employers, because the sales threshold to qualify under small employers was cut from \$625,000 to \$500,000. The bill increases the \$4.90 youth training wage to the small employer level. After 2016, the Commissioner of Labor and Industry will be required to annually adjust the minimum wage upward based on inflationary indexes. The minimum wage is prohibited from ever decreasing, but the Commissioner can delay an increase in an economic downturn.

Government can pay higher wages by raising taxes, but private businesses have limited funds and options. Mandating a minimum wage increase will force private employers to cut positions in order to spread existing payroll among fewer employees, or replace some employees with automation, or relocate to more competitive states. While the minimum wage is indexed for inflation, the small employer threshold was cut, further reducing businesses who qualify as a small businesses.

Minnesota's minimum wage is moving from below average to one of the highest, and it is also the only state in the region that doesn't apply tips toward the minimum wage. Indexing wage increases to inflation creates a dangerous economic spiral. Such arbitrary wage increases without corresponding production creates inflation, which will prompt the next minimum-wage increase. Government intervention to impose minimum wages is an improper use of force, and delegating the decision to unaccountable bureaucracies is even more improper. What this is really about is the politics of envy, wealth redistribution, and payback to unions whose contract increases are often linked to increases in the minimum wage. LEA favored a NO vote. The bill passed the Senate 35-31, the House 71-60, and the governor signed the bill.

5. Liberalizing Expungement of Criminal Records

HF2576. Rep. Melin. [SF2214. Sen. Champion.]

This bill makes it easier for specific juvenile and adult criminal records to be "expunged," sealing them from unauthorized inspection or exchange by governmental agencies, or from any inspection by businesses or the general public. Courts will be allowed to expunge an offender's record without any filing of a petition, as long as the prosecution agrees and a "good faith effort" has been made to notify an offender's victims that the court is considering expungement.

This legislation also broadens statutory eligibility for expungement petitions. This includes people with felonies such as tax

evasion, wildfire arson, criminal damage to property, contempt or failure to appear in court, transporting/receiving stolen property, certain illegal sales of controlled substances, check forgery or public-fund embezzlement of \$2500 or less, theft of \$5000 or less, mail theft, credit card fraud, insurance fraud, mortgage fraud, etc. Access by law-enforcement agencies to most expunged records would occur only after obtaining a specific court order. In cases involving expungements agreed to by a prosecutor, the presumption is against those contesting expungement if a judge determines that expungement yields a benefit to the offender that outweighs the government's burden or risk to the public.

Under current law, all expungements require petitions, and they are only permitted for certain controlled-substance violations, cases involving juveniles tried as adults, or cases where criminal proceedings were resolved in favor of the petitioner. The sweeping changes in this bill expect criminal courts to implement flawed ideology that, except for violent or big-money crimes, having a criminal record at all constitutes a cruel punishment. The stigma of having a record is a natural consequence of having committed a crime. It would be better for offenders to disclose their mistakes and explain to potential employers how they had reformed. Government agencies still have the right to access most expunged records but businesses and private citizens would not have the same right to reduce their exposure to criminal threats. Businesses that specialize in background-check screening will now have a duty to delete from their databases any records known to have been expunged. Lawyers will get additional opportunities to serve clients by filing motions to expunge criminal records and to sue businesses or government agencies for wrongfully allowing access to expunged records.

LEA favored a NO vote on this bill, on the grounds that it gives government more power to control others' access to public information, while endangering individual accountability and moral order. It passed the Senate 58-4, the House 84-48, and was signed into law.

6. Eliminate Part-Time Peace Officers

HF2654. Rep. Cornish. [SF2559. Sen. Latz.]

This bill eliminates licensure for new part-time peace officers and requires currently employed part-time peace officers to surrender their license when they leave their current position.

The use of part-time peace officers has given law enforcement agencies flexibility and cost-control mechanisms necessary for efficient protection. The elimination of part-time positions will require some replacements with full-time positions that provide full benefits, and will especially be a burden on small and rural law enforcement agencies that cannot function effectively without part-time officers. This is a union-oriented bill designed to ban part-time police officers through attrition. LEA believes that the bill erodes democracy by not allowing communities to police themselves and is another step toward a state police force, contrary to principles of limited government.

LEA favored a NO vote. It passed in the Senate 54-11, and in the House 100-22, and was signed into law.

7. Restricting Civil Forfeiture of Property to Cases Resulting in Conviction

SF874. Sen. Thompson. [HF1082. Rep. Allen.]

This legislation primarily restricts civil forfeiture to cases where the owner of the property is actually convicted and makes a judicial process for recovering evidence-seized property easier and quicker for those not convicted.

Civil forfeiture is a legal law enforcement and investigative procedure to seize property from suspected criminals and those believed to be associated with them. This legislation was a bi-partisan policy step toward protecting and preserving the individual's property rights.

LEA favored a YES vote. The bill passed the House 120-0 and the Senate 55-5, and was signed by the governor.

8. Omnibus Bonding

HF2490. Rep. Hausman. [SF2605. Sen. Stumpf.]

This bill appropriates money from the state bond fund and other funds a total of \$893,054,000, including \$280 million going to higher education, \$126.3 million to capitol renovation, \$85 million to the environment, \$92 million for economic development, \$57 million for transportation, \$46 million to the Met Council, \$20 million to public housing, \$12 million to the Historical Society, \$11 million to corrections.

While LEA believes the state capitol restoration is necessary, many of the building projects for state agencies and state expenditures on economic development are wasteful pork. The subsidies for state higher education create unfair competition against private colleges and universities. Moreover, the advocates for environmental projects should be confined to using the legally-dedicated sales tax and lottery funds created for environmental purposes, and not resort to special-interest double-dipping. As an omnibus bill, this bill suffers from a combination of necessary, unnecessary, and socially counterproductive funding, going to both well-managed and poorly-managed projects, and violates the single-subject rule, enabling pork to get lobbied into the bill.

On balance, LEA favored a NO vote. The bill passed in the Senate 47-17 and in the House 92-40. It was signed by the governor.

9. Omnibus Supplemental Budget Bill

HF3172. Rep. Carlson. [SF2785. Sen. Cohen.]

This 573-page bill had 31 separate articles. It added over \$1.1 billion of general fund spending. There were appropriations to existing programs and services in the budget for Fiscal Years (FY) 2014-15 and 2016-17, and the bill also authorized new programs, offices, and services. Over half of the money in this bill went to Health and Human Services (HHS), while Education, Higher Education, Employment/Economic Development (DEED), and Public Safety categories also received significant increases. The funding was available because the state's general fund had changed to a surplus position since the time the original FY 2014-15 budget was approved.

Except for a few sections that could have been addressed with individual bills, such as providing money to Public Safety to implement the new changes in expungement laws, this bill represents a "wish list" from a variety of interests that somehow didn't get funded or authorized in the very bloated budget bill that was passed last year. Supplemental funds should be reserved for emergencies or genuinely unanticipated contingencies. Otherwise, lawmakers need to exhibit fiscal restraint and not fund more requests until the next budgetary process. Because this bill lacked that restraint and also combined finance and policies in ways that undermine state government accountability and the state's constitutional requirement that "no law shall embrace more than one subject," LEA favored a NO vote. It passed the Senate 37-22, the House 75-55, and was signed into law.

10. General Fund Capital Investment Bill

HF1068. Rep. Hausman. [SF882. Sen. Stumpf.]

This bill allocates over \$278 million from the state's general fund toward various capital improvement projects. Projects associated with the Department of Employment and Economic Development received the largest share, over \$83 million. The second largest share goes to the MN Housing Finance Agency, \$80 million worth of housing infrastructure bonds not backed by the full faith and credit of the state. There is language in the bill stipulating that "to the extent practicable," public entities whose projects are funded by this bill "must ensure [their projects] are built with American-made steel."

The bill came about because of a \$22 million contribution to the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System project to convey more potable water from watersheds to communities in Southwest Minnesota. This project could not be funded by state bonds, because it involves participation from neighboring states and the approval of the U.S. Department of the Interior. There was broad agreement on the merits of that project, so there was a reason to do a bill for a capital improvement project without bonds. However, most funding in this bill went to pet projects and other projects that did not have the supermajority support in this year's omnibus bonding bill, required as a fiscal safeguard.

In theory, it can be a sound practice to use some general-fund dollars for capital-improvement projects of state and regional significance rather than take on more bonding debt when the state has the funds to do so. Unfortunately, the reality of this bill is that fiscal safeguards were averted, making it easier for local projects, such as the Aitkin County Fairgrounds Food Services building, or projects that go beyond the proper role of government, such as event centers or snowmaking systems for government-run luxury recreational resorts, to be classified as state capital-improvement projects. LEA favored a NO vote on the bill that passed the Senate 44-19, the House 82-50, and was signed into law.

11. Pension and Retirement Bill and Bailout

HF1951. Rep. Murphy. [SF1803. Sen. Pappas.]

Included in this 161-page bill is a merger of the Duluth teacher pension fund, which was only 54% funded, into the statewide

Teachers Retirement Association. State taxpayers will provide a total of \$15 million per year for 24 years. Also funded is \$7 million per year to stabilize the St. Paul teachers' pension fund. Tenured state university faculty will be able to opt for a defined contribution retirement plan, but will not be required to do so.

Policymakers publicly recognize the need for pension reform, but this bill does not stop the bleeding caused by defined benefit plans. Instead, it bails out certain dysfunctional plans at taxpayer expense.

Real constructive reform requires defined contribution plans similar to those offered in the private sector. Instead the legislators continue to pump money into a system that cannot survive. Continuing the defined benefit style pensions puts future taxpayers on the hook for enormous costs for generous retiree benefits. LEA believes this to be immoral.

The bill passed in the House 79-52 and in the Senate 38-24. It was signed into law by the governor.

12. Creating a Public Employment Relations Board for Hearing Unfair-Labor-Practices Charges

HF3014. Rep. Carlson. [SF2506. Sen. Pappas.]

This bill changes the process for hearing unfair-labor-practices charges in the public-employment sector by creating an appointed Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) to investigate, hear, and make rulings on charges, instead of a district court. PERB will be empowered to issue cease-and-desist orders, reinstatement with back pay at seven percent annual interest, or "any other remedies that [can] make a charging party whole," if the parties involved do not agree to mediation prior to the close of a hearing. Ignoring a PERB order will be regarded as an unfair labor practice. The bill also brings employees of "charitable hospitals" under the purview of the PERB. The governor will appoint two of the board members—one to represent public employers, and one to represent public employees. The third board member, to be chosen by the other two, is to represent the public-at-large. Besides hearing most unfair-labor-practice charges, the PERB will hear appeals of exclusive-representative disputes decided by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Mediation Services. Petitions to appeal any PERB rulings can be granted review at the discretion of the MN Court of Appeals.

Supporters claimed this bill will result in faster resolution of charges and lower dispute costs. That much may be true, but balanced impartiality under this process may be an elusive mirage whenever the governor, with the power to directly and indirectly appoint the PERB, is backed by the public-employee unions. MN had a PERB before 1992. Then the system was changed to allow real disputes and remedies to go through the judicial process unless both parties agree to settle. This bill removes the rights of parties to make their cases in court, and requires that any mediator be appointed by the executive branch. Courts tend to have more respect for precedent than political appointees.

This bill invites biased resolution of disputes, places more power in the hands of appointees, and could tilt the scales even further toward the interests of public employee unions. LEA

avored a NO vote. It passed the Senate 35-26, the House 74-59, and was signed into law.

13. Water or Waste Water Treatment Privatization Abolished

HF2622. Rep. Hansen. [SF2764. Sen. Metzen.]

HF2622 repealed laws that allowed municipalities to privatize the construction and operation wastewater treatment facilities, and places all facilities under government control.

The effect of this bill is centralized control of water under regional, state, and federal governments. It hamstring local governments with state regulation, and reduces the opportunities for improvement of water resources fostered by public and private competition at local levels. The state has a duty to regulate pollution, but not replace community initiative and vibrancy with a remote, less efficient, union-oriented bureaucracy.

Municipal water needs are best met at local levels by people who are naturally more concerned about their own welfare. LEA favored a NO vote. It passed the House 101-19 and the Senate 38-24. The Governor signed the bill into law.

14. Granting the Met Council Additional Investment Authority

SF2255. Sen. Kent. [HF2319. Rep. Nelson.]

This bill allows the Metropolitan Council to exercise additional investment authority if the Council first develops written investment policies and procedures and establishes an oversight process. If the requirements are met, the Council may enter into: a repurchase agreement; a reverse repurchase agreement; or futures contracts, options on futures contracts, and option agreements to buy and sell securities authorized under law.

The unelected Met Council was established in 1967 as a reaction to growing issues of septic tank wastewater contamination. Additional acts of the legislature passed expanded the role and powers of the Met Council, merging it with transit and waste control commissions to become a unified regional authority. In 2010 the Met Council was given more independence when deciding how to award new contracts. In 2013 it was granted the authority to selectively tax for emergency appropriations. These accumulated powers can supersede decisions and actions of local governments. The Council's role in the Twin Cities metro area now includes public transportation, wastewater treatment, regional planning, urban planning for municipalities, forecasting population growth, ensuring adequate affordable housing, and maintaining a park and trails system. It also provides a framework for regional systems including aviation, transportation, parks and open space, water quality, and water management.

The history of the Met Council's ever-expanding growth provides a model of the dynamics of bureaucratic mission creep. The combination of unfettered authority with declining accountability violates the most fundamental principles of good government. An agency unaccountable to the voters has been granted the ability to collect revenue – authority to levy taxes, the discretion to make investments, and now, with the current legislation, greater

SENATE

Pty	Dist	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	14%	C%	
R	29	Anderson, B.	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	82	91	
D	3	Bakk, T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-2	17	
R	31	Benson, Michelle	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	73	78	
D	44	Bonoff, T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	5	14	
R	15	Brown, D.	+	+	+	+	+	-	A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	79	74	
D	51	Carlson, J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	7	
R	38	Chamberlain, R.	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	A	-	+	A	+	+	-	+	-	70	81
D	59	Champion, B.	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	+	-	-	A	-2	1	
D	57	Clausen, G.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7	9
D	64	Cohen, R.	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	A	0	8
D	20	Dahle, K.	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	12	6
R	16	Dahms, G.	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	A	A	-	+	-	+	+	-	60	69	
D	61	Dibble, D.S.	-	A	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	A	5	9
D	60	Dziedzic, K.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	A	7	7
D	40	Eaton, C.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	+	+	-	-	12	9
D	4	Eken, K.	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	14	28
R	13	Fischbach, M.	+	+	+	+	-	A	+	A	+	A	A	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	A	A	-	-	55	63	
D	49	Franzen, M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	13
R	9	Gazelka, P.	+	+	+	+	A	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	A	-	75	74	
D	41	Goodwin, B.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	A	-	A	-	-	+	-	-	10	20	
R	56	Hall, D.	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	77	82	
R	48	Hann, D.	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	A	+	+	-	74	76	
D	67	Hawj, F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	9	6	
D	62	Hayden, J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	A	-	-	A	-	+	-	-	-	-4	6
D	36	Hoffman, J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	3
R	39	Housley, K.	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	A	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	A	+	A	+	-	56	62	
R	8	Ingebrigtsen, B.	+	+	+	+	A	-	-	-	A	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	55	67	
D	24	Jensen, V.	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	A	17	13
D	37	Johnson, A.	-	-	-	-	-	A	+	A	-	A	A	A	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-9	13
D	53	Kent, S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	10
R	30	Kiffmeyer, M.	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	A	A	A	A	+	+	A	-	A	-	+	A	A	+	-	53	71	
D	17	Koenen, L.	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	18	30
D	46	Latz, R.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	17	8
R	34	Limmer, W.	+	A	+	+	-	-	+	+	A	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	A	+	A	69	81
D	11	Lourey, T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	+	-	-	-	5	6
D	66	Marty, J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	9
D	52	Metzen, J.	-	A	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7	22
R	28	Miller, J.	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	A	-	A	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	A	A	-	-	24	56	
R	26	Nelson, C.	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	A	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	41	61	
R	18	Newman, S.	+	A	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	69	71	
R	32	Nienow, S.	+	+	+	+	-	-	A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	A	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	70	73
R	47	Ortman, J.	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	77	71	

KEY

R – Republican
D – Democratic-Farmer-Labor
+ Vote favored by LEA
- Vote not favored by LEA
A indicates legislator excused, absent, or not voting
X – not a member at time of vote

Governor's Action
S - Sign
V- Veto
N - Not Applicable

34.71% = % of legislators' votes favored by LEA in 2014 session

14% = legislator's 2014 score

C% = legislator's career average LEA score

LEA calculates the voting percentages using votes actually cast by each legislator and then deducting half a vote for each time that legislator did not cast a vote.

Honorees for 2014 scored **85% or higher**, those receiving honorable mentions scored **at least 80%**.

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Corrections made to website if errors are discovered.

SENATE

Pty	Dist	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	14%	C%	
R	33	Osmeck, D.	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	73	75	
D	65	Pappas, S.	-	A	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	A	-2	6	
R	14	Pederson, J.	+	A	+	+	A	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	A	A	63	65	
R	35	Petersen, B.	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	A	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	74	78	
R	55	Pratt, E.	+	A	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	69	72	
D	7	Reinert, R.	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	A	-	12	8
D	45	Rest, A.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	+	-	-	-	12	21	
R	23	Rosen, J.	+	A	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	55	49	
R	10	Ruud, C.	+	+	+	+	A	-	+	+	A	+	+	+	A	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	A	-	69	67	
D	5	Saxhaug, T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	5	14	
D	42	Scalze, B.	-	A	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	7	12	
D	21	Schmit, M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	A	-	A	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	15	11	
R	25	Senjem, D.	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	45	57	
D	19	Sheran, K.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	+	-	-	-	7	9	
D	54	Sieben, K.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	9	10	
D	2	Skoe, R.	-	-	-	-	A	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	+	-	-	-	5	22	
D	27	Sparks, D.	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	15	21	
D	1	Stumpf, L.	+	A	-	A	-	+	A	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	A	-	A	-	A	-	-	-	-3	25	
R	58	Thompson, D.	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	A	74	84	
D	6	Tomassoni, D.	-	A	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	14	
D	63	Torres Ray, P.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	A	-	-	A	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	4	5	
R	22	Weber, B.	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	64	63	
R	12	Westrom, T.	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	A	A	A	A	A	A	+	+	+	+	59	66	
D	43	Wiger, C.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	+	-	-	-	7	15	
D	50	Wiklund, M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	9	8	

HOUSE

Pty	Dist	Name	1	2	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	14%	C%
R	35A	Abeler, J.	+	+	-	+	-	A	A	-	A	+	+	-	A	+	A	-	-	-	A	A	-	A	25	45
R	55B	Albright, T.	+	+	+	+	+	-	A	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	75	79
D	62B	Allen, S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	+	-	-	-	7	9
R	9A	Anderson, M.	+	+	+	+	+	A	A	A	+	A	A	+	A	A	+	+	A	-	+	+	+	A	72	76
R	12B	Anderson, P.	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	73	65
R	44A	Anderson, S.	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	77	70
D	5B	Anzelc, T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	9	12
D	52B	Atkins, J.	A	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	7	9
R	32B	Barrett, B.	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	68	72
R	55A	Beard, M.	+	+	+	+	-	A	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	A	-	+	-	+	-	60	66
D	44B	Benson, J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	9	5
R	26B	Benson, Mike	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	91	82
D	41A	Bernardy, C.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	9	25
D	20B	Bly, D.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	9	4
D	19B	Brynaert, K.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	A	7	5
D	45A	Carlson, L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	9	18
D	62A	Clark, K.	-	-	-	-	-	A	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	7	13
R	23B	Cornish, T.	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	36	56
R	31A	Daudt, K.	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	82	82
R	28B	Dauids, G.	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	59	68
D	63A	Davnie, J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	9	10
R	38B	Dean, M.	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	82	78
D	59B	Dehn, R.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	9	7
R	39A	Dettmer, B.	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	86	79
D	3A	Dill, D.	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	18	22

HOUSE

Pty	Dist	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	14%	C%	
D	14B	Dorholt, Z.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	7	
R	21B	Draskowski, S.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	95	91	
D	49A	Erhardt, R.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	43	
D	2A	Erickson, R.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	7	
R	15A	Erickson, S.	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	A	88	78	
R	1A	Fabian, D.	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	73	74	
D	17A	Falk, A.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	A	7	12	
D	11B	Faust, T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	8	
D	43A	Fischer, P.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	7	
R	30B	FitzSimmons, D.	+	A	A	A	A	A	A	+	+	+	+	+	A	A	+	A	A	-	+	-	A	A	53	66	
R	8B	Franson, M.	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	A	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	A	+	A	62	76	
D	45B	Freiberg, M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	0	0	
D	24B	Fritz, P.	-	-	-	-	-	A	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7	14	
R	58B	Garofalo, P.	+	A	+	+	+	-	A	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	A	74	64	
R	2B	Green, S.	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	77	78	
R	18B	Gruenhagen, G.	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	77	81	
R	23A	Gunther, B.	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	50	61	
R	31B	Hackbarth, T.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	86	76	
D	51B	Halverson, L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	0	7	
R	22B	Hamilton, R.	+	+	A	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	55	59	
D	52A	Hansen, R.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	8	
D	66A	Hausman, A.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	7	
R	33A	Hertaus, J.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	91	87	
D	40B	Hilstrom, D.	-	-	A	-	-	A	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	5	12	
R	58A	Holberg, M.	+	+	A	+	A	A	+	+	A	+	+	+	-	+	-	A	-	-	+	A	+	A	57	85	
R	47B	Hoppe, J.	+	+	+	+	+	A	A	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	A	74	76	
D	61A	Hornstein, F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	A	-	7	6	
D	36B	Hortman, M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	10	
R	13A	Howe, J.	+	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	80	74	
D	7A	Huntley, T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	16	
D	42B	Isaacson, J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	7	
R	32A	Johnson, B.	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	73	74	
D	19A	Johnson, C.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	8	
D	67B	Johnson, S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	9	
D	60B	Kahn, P.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	9	
R	21A	Kelly, T.	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	64	65	
R	53B	Kieffer, A.	+	A	+	A	-	-	+	A	+	A	A	+	-	A	A	+	A	-	A	-	+	-	33	66	
R	1B	Kiel, D.	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	68	68	
R	9B	Kresha, R.	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	64	72	
D	41B	Laine, C.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	2	
R	47A	Leidiger, E.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	95	84	
D	50B	Lenczewski, A.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	32	
D	66B	Lesch, J.	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	14	11	
D	26A	Liebling, T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	10	
D	4A	Lien, B.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	7	
D	43B	Lillie, L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	9	
D	60A	Loeffler, D.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	5	
R	39B	Lohmer, K.	+	+	A	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	79	83	
R	48B	Loon, J.	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	82	69	
R	57A	Mack, T.	+	+	-	+	+	A	A	+	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	A	63	69
D	67A	Mahoney, T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	15	
D	65B	Mariani, C.	-	-	-	A	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7	6	
D	04B	Marquart, P.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	14	32	
D	51A	Masin, S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	7	
R	29A	McDonald, J.	+	+	A	+	+	-	A	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	-	A	+	-	+	+	+	A	71	74	
D	12A	McNamar, J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	13	

HOUSE

Pty	Dist	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	14%	C%
R	54B	McNamara, D.	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	50	51
D	6A	Melin, C.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	15
D	6B	Metsa, J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	7
D	65A	Moran, R.	-	A	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-2	8
D	56B	Morgan, W.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	4
D	59A	Mullery, J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	15
D	64A	Murphy, E.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	5
D	3B	Murphy, M.	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	18	21
R	56A	Myhra, P.	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	82	77
D	40A	Nelson, M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	10
R	15B	Newberger, J.	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	86	83
D	37A	Newton, J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	2
R	8A	Nornes, B.	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	55	61
D	25B	Norton, K.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	10
R	13B	O'Driscoll, T.	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	68	68
R	29B	O'Neill, M.	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	A	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	79	73
D	64B	Paymar, M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	A	-	-	-	0	10
D	28A	Pelowski, G.	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	A	-	-	A	+	-	-	-	20	32
R	34A	Peppin, J.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	91	85
D	5A	Persell, J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	9
R	24A	Petersburg, J.	+	A	-	+	+	-	A	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	62	60
D	27B	Poppe, J.	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	14	13
R	33B	Pugh, C.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	91	85
R	25A	Quam, D.	+	A	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	A	85	84
D	10B	Radinovich, J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	10
D	49B	Rosenthal, P.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	8
R	38A	Runbeck, L.	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	A	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	A	+	-	65	80
R	37B	Sanders, T.	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	68	71
D	27A	Savick, S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	6
D	17B	Sawatzky, M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	10
D	54A	Schoen, D.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	7
R	22A	Schomacker, J.	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	59	70
R	35B	Scott, P.	+	A	+	+	+	-	A	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	+	A	-	-	+	+	+	-	69	76
D	48A	Selcer, Y.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	2	9
D	46B	Simon, S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	7
D	7B	Simonson, E.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	7
D	50A	Slocum, L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	5
D	11A	Sundin, M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	7
R	16A	Swedzinski, C.	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	59	76
R	14A	Theis, T.	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	55	63
D	61B	Thissen, P.	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	0	8
R	16B	Torkelson, P.	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	73	68
R	36A	Uglen, M.	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	50	60
R	18A	Urdahl, D.	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	A	+	+	-	45	54
D	63B	Wagenius, J.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	11
D	53A	Ward, JoAnn	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	7
D	10A	Ward, John	-	-	-	-	-	A	+	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	5	13
R	57B	Wills, A.	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	A	+	+	74	74
D	46A	Winkler, R.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	6
R	20A	Woodard, K.	A	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	A	+	+	+	-	75	77
D	42A	Yarusso, B.	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	9	7
R	34B	Zellers, K.	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	A	A	+	A	-	+	+	+	A	69	77
R	30A	Zerwas, N.	+	-	-	+	+	A	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	69	72

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Dayton, Mark	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	V	S	S	S

autonomy in placing those investments. The bill does provide for investment oversight, but the overseen entity, the Met Council, is to define the parameters of its own oversight. That's akin to seeking the fox's advice as to how to best secure the chicken coop.

LEA favored a NO vote. The bill passed in the Senate 34-24 and in the House 73-57. The governor signed the bill.

15. Truth in Advertising of Plants Lethal to Bees

HF2798. Rep. Hansen. [SF2695. Sen. Dziedzic.]

This bill prohibits plants treated with "detectable levels" of "pollinator lethal insecticide" from being labeled as beneficial to "pollinators" (bees).

Plants dangerous to bees are currently being sold in garden stores. These plants are treated with insecticides or genetically altered and unlabeled or mislabeled. Changing labels will not stop the majority of consumers from purchasing these environmentally harmful products, nor will the bees be able to read the labels. The labels on products will not reverse the harm done to bees and the environment. The correct approach would be to understand which plants are harmful and have a real protective response. LEA believes that this bill will do little other than provide a rationale that the legislators did something.

LEA favored a NO vote. It passed in the Senate 60-0 and in the House 111-17. It was signed by the governor into law.

16. Greater Recycling Requirements for Businesses, and Modifying Agencies' Recycling Laws

SF663. Sen. A. Johnson. [HF855. Rep. C. Johnson.]

This bill modifies statutes pertaining to recycling, transferring oversight from the Commissioner of Administration to the MN Pollution Control Agency. Agencies that fall short of goals (including recycling at least 60% by weight of all solid waste) have to inform all employees regarding recycling expectations and notify the MPCA of compliance actions. The Commissioner of Administration no longer has to maintain a central facility for managing recyclable materials, but is tasked with establishing a collection and transportation system and could contract the systems operations out to private entities if it is determined that it would be cost-effective to do so.

The bill also mandates that by 2016 the buildings for many businesses in metropolitan counties collect at least three types of recyclable materials and transfer all collected recyclables to a recycler. The agricultural, manufacturing, mining, and construction industrial sectors would be exempted for the time being, along with businesses that contract for less than four cubic yards per week of waste collection.

Missing from the bill is any acknowledgement that these recycling mandates are arbitrary and may be very costly to achieve. A large sanitation company pushed publicly for this bill, saying that it was long overdue and the right thing to do. That particular company could win a contract to operate recycling systems for many government-owned buildings, and also could charge smaller garbage haulers for storing excess recyclables they are unable to sell or store on their own. Expanding recycling mandates can leave

those living under them at a competitive disadvantage compared to those who have fewer mandates.

There are also issues related to how many resources have to be devoted to internal and external monitoring of recyclables ratios, as well as how these mandates are enforced—typically by citation, permit or license revocation, or fines through civil actions stemming from the MPCA. Fines may only be waived if corrective action can be demonstrated within 30 days. Are "public nuisance" pollution penalties justified merely for having the wrong ratio of ordinary garbage in garbage cans? Finally, this bill abuses the single-subject rule and the committee process. While the sections dealing with government operations were heard in committee and encountered little opposition, the business mandates for recycling were added as floor amendments rather than going through the process as separate bills with distinct subjects. The final version of this bill violated the single-subject rule, benefited large sanitation companies at the expense of the general public interest, and imposed unnecessary costs on our state's economy. LEA favored a NO vote. It passed the Senate 37-25, the House 76-53, and was signed into law.

17. Bans on Triclosan Soaps, Lead Wheel Weights, and Mercury

SF2192. Sen. Marty. [HF2542. Rep. Hortman.]

This bill bans lead wheel weights, products containing mercury, and the use of triclosan in cleaning products. Any businesses with lead wheel weights must recycle them in a way that keeps them out of the solid-waste stream. Prior to implementation, the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is to do education and outreach to affected businesses. The bill also bans mercury-based scales, and expands existing prohibitions on mercury-based thermometers unless the user submits a certified exclusion to the MPCA that no alternative is available. Thermostat manufacturers must also design recycling programs and file annual reports with the MPCA. The 2013 law that banned formaldehyde in children's products was modified to specify permissible concentration level limits that were absent in the law when it was passed.

After 2016 the retail sale of cleaning products containing triclosan, an antibacterial agent, is prohibited except where specifically approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for consumer use.

One good thing in the bill is adding measurable formaldehyde limits that were missing from the 2013 law, making liability exposure for businesses a little less open-ended. Unfortunately, new bans on a variety of other products were piled into the bill. The proposed ban on triclosan wasn't even part of the Senate or House bills heard in committee. Becoming the first state in the nation to ban such a commonly-used product should be more than an afterthought. The final bill also puts MN in the small minority of states with laws banning lead wheel weights. When our state bans more commonly-used products than others, it increases costs and puts our consumer and commercial interests at an economic disadvantage to other states, except for whatever special interests will sell alternatives to the banned products. One other overlooked

cost will come from increased litigation, because almost all of the bill's provisions lack enforcement except through civil litigation and denial of permits. The purported health risks do not rise to a public-emergency level or justify passing more costly and hard-to-enforce bans on a variety of unrelated products.

LEA favored a NO vote on the bill that passed the Senate 58-0, the House 110-19, and was signed into law.

18. Noncampaign Disbursements and Online Voter Registration

HF2096. Rep. Simon. SF2298. [Sen. Sieben]

The first section of this bill expands the definition of noncampaign disbursements to include holiday or seasonal cards published after Election Day, but prior to the end of the year. Additional provisions of this bill expand early voter registration to include online voter registration through a website secured and run by the Secretary of State. This new law requires an email address for all online voter registration applicants and, if available, at least one of the following: a verifiable Minnesota driver's license number, Minnesota state identification card number, or the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number. Individuals are not permitted to electronically submit an application for other individuals. An online application may only be transmitted to the local unit of government for processing if the Secretary of State has verified the voter information matches a government database source. All unverifiable voter registration applications must be forwarded to an appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation. The Secretary of State shall maintain a log of each Internet Protocol address used to submit a voter registration application to monitor for suspicious activity. Some of these provisions also apply to online absentee ballot applications.

This bill fails to correct recent problems of several jurisdictions having more votes than voters while providing the tools for greater proliferation of such election fraud. It should first be noted the office of Secretary of State is a partisan office and not an impartial referee. Under current law local authorities are required to investigate and enforce the law. This legislation gives the Secretary of State greater discretion in determining suspicious registrations and what an appropriate law enforcement agency is. It requires an email address for online registration, but fails to require sufficient certification of US citizenship and legal voting age to prevent such illegal applicants from becoming registered voters. This bill sacrifices election integrity on the altar of popular convenience. LEA favored a NO vote. It passed in the Senate 41-24, in the House 129-2, and was signed by the governor.

19. Prohibiting Online and Pay-at-Pump State Lottery Sales

SF2642. Sen Pappas. [HF2829. Rep. Atkins.]

This bill is an omnibus gambling bill that regulates raffles, gambling equipment, bingo organizations, promotional materials, lottery tickets, pull tabs, accounting, and linked prizes. It specifically prohibits gas pump gambling devices, on-line lottery ticket sales, and some coin-operated lottery devices.

Gambling is both a form of recreation, and a source of false hopes that can generate personal harm and stimulate theft, as such the state has a duty to regulate gambling to protect citizens. However, LEA never believed that the state should be in the business of gambling itself as it is a conflict of interest to be both operator and regulator. The state currently reveals its moral ineptitude with TV lottery ads that cater to get-rich-quick hopes, thus undermining the protection of its own citizens. In a free market society, gambling should be conducted by private businesses, regulated by the state.

This particular bill served the cause of regulation, particularly by suspending the sale of lottery tickets through devices easily accessed by minors, whom the state has a duty to protect. For this reason, LEA favored a YES vote. It passed in the Senate 56-5 and in the House 126-2. The governor vetoed the bill.

20. Medical Marijuana

SF2470. Sen. Dibble. [HF2846 Rep. Melin.]

This bill authorizes a medical cannabis (marijuana) registry program regulating the use, manufacture, and distribution of marijuana for trials on patients recommended by licensed doctors and supervised by approved caregivers, if necessary. The bill creates a 23 member task force to assess the impact of medical cannabis therapeutic research. Funding comes from fees assessed to the two approved producers and patients. About \$3 million comes from the general fund.

Marijuana has been an outlawed drug, but its effects on addiction and harmfulness compared to other regulated substances like alcohol, cigarettes, and narcotics are widely debated. Some consider it to be a gateway drug to the use of heroin and other highly addictive substances. This bill enables its use and study in

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a controlled manner, and does not allow use in a smokeable form.

The bill encountered strong opposition from Minnesota law enforcement agencies, resulting in a more restrictive enterprise than originally proposed. LEA supports medical science, free enterprise, and clinical trials of medical marijuana. LEA believes that all restricted drugs should be sold through licensed pharmacies. However, this bill failed to meet the requirements for a clinical study. Rather, like the lottery, this bill sets up a new captive state industry in which the government profits at the expense of citizen weakness or misfortune. It fails the test of government moral responsibility. LEA supported a NO vote. The bill passed in the Senate 46-16, and in the House 89-40, and was signed by the governor.

21. Cell Phone Documentation and Kill Switch Mandates

SF1740 Sen. Sieben. [HF1952. Rep. Atkins.]

Under this bill, any smart phone sold in Minnesota must be designed with a “kill switch” to render the phone inoperable in the event of theft or loss. For resale of cell phones any dealer must keep record of the transaction for the purchase of any used cell phone, including phone details, purchase details, identification of

the seller, and a written statement by the seller that the phone was not stolen.

This very unnecessary mandate adds a regulatory burden to every manufacturer, seller, and consumer of cell phones, even though such kill switches were under development. LEA favored a NO vote. The bill passed the house 73-58, and the senate 44-19. The governor signed the bill.

22. Increased Limousine Insurance Requirements

HF2858. Rep. Hornstein. [SF2462. Sen. Franzen.]

This bill raises the minimum liability insurance requirement for limousines from \$300,000 to \$1.5 million, and personal injury coverage from \$100,000 to \$1.5 million. It also increases the maximum number of people allowed in a limo to 15. Under current law, to qualify as a limousine service, the limo must only be used for prearranged pickup and charge more than a taxicab fare for a comparable trip.

This bill applies a federal airport limousine insurance standard to all limousine services, large and small, greatly hindering small business development and survival. LEA favored a NO vote. It passed the Senate 57-0, the House 100-21, and was signed into law.

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