



1999 REPORT on the MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

by the
LEGISLATIVE EVALUATION ASSEMBLY
of MINNESOTA, INC.

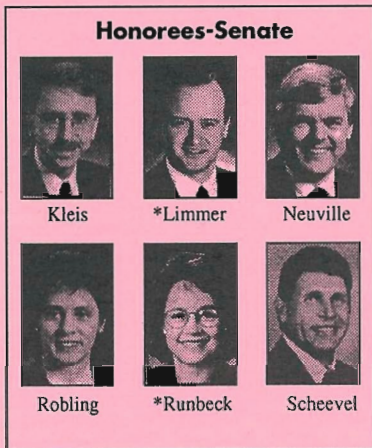
for an
INFORMED CITIZENRY



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1999 HONOREES

Honorees-House



Honorable Mention-House

Boudreau, Bradley, Cassell, Daggett, Dehler, Dempsey, Erhardt, Erickson, Finseth, Fuller, Goodno, Gunther, Hackbarth, Holsten, Howes, Knobloch, Kuisle, Mares, Ness, Nornes, Ozment, Rostberg, Seifert, J., Stanek, Storm, Sviggum, Swenson, Tingelstad, Tuma, VanDellen, Westrom, Wolf

* 100%

1999 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

A tripod could be a symbol of the 1999 Minnesota legislative session. The Senate was controlled by the DFL party, the House by the Republicans, and the Governor was of a third party, the Reform. It was a new situation.

A new Governor brought a new emphasis on some issues such as light rail. A new majority group in the House brought a shakeup in handling tax surpluses; a portion was returned to the taxpayers. LEA has again tried to pick representative votes in the most recent legislative session so as to give the public a fair picture of the legislators' actions and attitudes, a summary based on LEA's commitment to American principles of constitutionalism, limited government, free enterprise, legal and moral order with justice and individual liberty and dignity. Continuing a tradition of over twenty-five years it presents its evaluation of all legislators, and with special recognition for those most nearly meeting LEA's standards.

1. HF 2205 SF 1058. Bonding and Light Rail.

Rep. Knobloch; Sen. Langseth. This bill provided for \$570 million in bonding authority, including \$60 million for light rail transit in the Twin Cities. This \$60 million is, in fact, seed money for an even more objectionable allocation of \$250 million in Federal funds that will also have to be spent to fund the light rail project. Recent reports indicate

that even these massive figures will not be sufficient to pay the actual expenses of the project (now closing in on \$1 Billion), which may have been hidden through the use of low-ball estimates during legislative consideration of the bill. LEA, which favored a "NO" vote on this overly expensive package which provided the wrong answer to transportation challenges within the metro area, is using the vote on final passage of the bill in the 1999 report. The bill passed the House 81-32; the Senate, 48-18.

2. HF 2387. Light Rail Vs Highways.

Rep. Chaudary Amendment. This amendment would have taken away \$20 million from the transportation revolving loan fund (chiefly used for motor vehicle highway construction) and instead deposited that money into the light rail transit account. LEA favored a "NO" vote on this proposed shift away from private transportation methods in the direction of unproven and expensive mass transit options. The amendment was defeated in the House 55-75.

3. HF 878 SF 1464. Omnibus State Department Appropriations.

Rep. Bishop; Sen. Cohen. After the House passed a \$640 million bill to fund state government operations, a conference committee was charged with negotiating a compromise with the Senate, which had passed its own version calling for \$730 million in spending. In a

SENATE

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	1999%	Career	
d	66	Anderson, E. (St. Paul)	Y		Y			N		Y					*N		N	N	N	13	8	
r	41	Belanger, T. (Bloomington)	*N		Y			N		*N					*N		*Y	*Y	*Y	75	65	
i	13	Berg, C. (Chokio)	Y		Y			*Y		*N					Y		*Y	*Y	N	50	60	
d	61	Berglin, L. (Minneapolis)	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	*N	N	N	N	N	13	11	
d	48	Betzold, D. (Fridley)	Y	O	Y	O	O	O	N	O	Y	O	O	O	*N	O	N	*Y	N	25	6	
d	64	Cohen, R. (St. Paul)	Y		Y			N		Y					Y		N	N	N	0	4	
r	28	Day, D. (Owatonna)	*N	S	Y	S	S	S	*Y	S	*N	S	S	S	Y	S	*Y	*Y	*Y	75	72	
r	20	Dille, S. (Dassel)	Y	E	Y	E	E	E	*Y	E	*N	E	E	E	E	*N	E	*Y	*Y	*Y	75	58
r	14	Fischbach, M. (Paynesville)	*N	N	Y	N	N	N	*Y	N	*N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	*Y	*Y	*Y	75	86
d	62	Flynn, C. (Minneapolis)	Y	A	Y	A	A	A	N	A	Y	A	A	A	A	Y	A	*Y	*Y	N	25	8
d	49	Foley, L. (Coon Rapids)	Y	T	Y	T	T	T	N	T	Y	T	T	T	T	*N	T	*Y	*Y	N	38	16
r	23	Fredrickson, D. (New Ulm)	Y	E	Y	E	E	E	*Y	E	*N	E	E	E	E	*N	E	*Y	N	*Y	63	58
d	50	Hanson, P. (Ham Lake)	Y		Y				*Y	*N					Y		*Y	*Y	N	50	35	
d	58	Higgins, L. (Minneapolis)	Y	V	Y	V	V	V	N	V	Y	V	V	V	V	Y	V	N	-	N	-2	3
d	24	Hottinger, J. (Mankato)	Y	O	Y	O	O	O	N	O	Y	O	O	O	O	Y	O	N	*Y	N	13	16
d	5	Janezich, J. (Chisholm)	Y	T	Y	T	T	T	N	T	Y	T	T	T	Y		-	*Y	N	12	9	
d	40	Johnson, D. (Bloomington)	*N	E	Y	E	E	E	N	E	Y	E	E	E	E	Y	E	*Y	*Y	N	38	19
r	15	Johnson, D. (Willmar)	Y		Y			N		*N					*N		*Y	*Y	*Y	63	56	
d	6	Johnson, D. (Tower)	Y		Y			N		*N					Y		*Y	-	N	27	17	
d	18	Johnson, J. (North Branch)	Y		Y			N		Y					Y		*Y	N	N	13	17	
d	46	Junge, E. (New Hope)	Y		Y			N		Y					Y		N	*Y	N	13	16	
d	44	Kelley, S. (Hopkins)	Y		Y			N		Y					*N		N	*Y	N	25	13	
d	67	Kelly, R. (St. Paul)	Y		Y			N		*N					Y		N	-	N	12	14	
r	32	Kierlin, B. (Winona)	Y		Y			*Y		-					Y		-	*Y	*Y	46	46	
r	30	Kiscaden, S. (Rochester)	Y		Y			N		Y					-		*Y	*Y	*Y	41	57	
r	16	Kleis, D. (St. Cloud)	*N		*N			*Y		*N					Y		*Y	*Y	*Y	88	86	
r	36	Knutson, D. (Burnsville)	*N		Y			N		*N					Y		*Y	*Y	*Y	63	79	
d	51	Krentz, J. (Stillwater, rural)	Y		Y			N		Y					*N		N	*Y	N	22	23	
r	56	Laidig, G. (Stillwater)	*N		Y			N		*N					*N		*Y	N	-	55	63	
d	9	Langseth, K. (Glyndon)	Y		Y			*Y		*N					Y		*Y	*Y	N	50	34	
r	10	Larson, C. (Fergus Falls)	Y		Y			*Y		*N					Y		*Y	*Y	*Y	63	64	
r	21	Lesewski, A. (Marshall)	Y		Y			*Y		*N					*N		*Y	*Y	*Y	63	70	
d	3	Lessard, B. (Int'l Falls)	Y		Y			*Y		*N					Y		*Y	*Y	N	50	38	
r	33	Limmer, W. (Maple Grove)	*N		*N			*Y		*N					*N		*Y	*Y	*Y	100	88	
d	8	Lourey, B. (Kerrick)	Y		Y			N		Y					*N		N	*Y	N	38	19	
d	54	Marty, J. (Roseville)	*N		Y			N		Y					*N		N	*Y	N	38	13	
d	39	Metzen, J. (South St. Paul)	Y		Y			N		Y					Y		*Y	*Y	N	25	25	
d	2	Moe, R. (Erskine)	Y		Y			N		Y					Y		N	*Y	N	13	15	
d	29	Murphy, S. (Red Wing)	Y		Y			*Y		Y					-		*Y	-	-	19	14	
r	25	Neuville, T. (Northfield)	*N		Y			*Y		*N					*N		*Y	*Y	*Y	88	70	
d	52	Novak, S. (New Brighton)	Y		Y			N		Y					Y		*Y	*Y	N	25	12	
r	43	Oliver, E. (Deephaven)	*N		Y			*Y		Y					Y		*Y	*Y	*Y	63	61	
r	34	Olson, G. (Minnetrista)	Y		Y			*Y		*N					Y		*Y	*Y	*Y	63	80	
r	19	Ourada, M. (Buffalo)	*N		Y			*Y		*N					Y		*Y	*Y	-	69	68	
d	65	Pappas, S. (St. Paul)	Y		Y			N		Y					-		N	*Y	N	11	4	
r	37	Pariseau, P. (Farmington)	Y		*N			*Y		*N					Y		*Y	*Y	*Y	75	73	
d	27	Piper, P. (Austin)	Y		Y			N		Y					-		N	*Y	N	11	11	
d	59	Pogemiller, L. (Minneapolis)	Y		-			N		Y					Y		N	N	N	-2	4	
d	57	Price, L. (Woodbury)	Y		Y			N		Y					Y		N	*Y	N	13	14	
d	63	Ranum, J. (Minneapolis)	Y		Y			N		Y					*N		N	N	N	13	8	
r	45	Robertson, M. (Minnetonka)	Y		Y			N		Y					Y		*Y	*Y	*Y	38	54	
r	35	Robling, C. (Prior Lake)	*N		Y			*Y		*N					*N		*Y	*Y	*Y	88	83	
r	53	Runbeck, L. (Circle Pines)	*N		*N			*Y		*N					*N		*Y	*Y	*Y	100	78	
d	11	Sams, D. (Staples)	Y		Y			*Y		*N					Y		*Y	*Y	N	50	35	
d	12	Samuelson, D. (Brainerd)	*N		Y			*Y		*N					-		*Y	*Y	N	69	38	
r	31	Scheevel, K. (Preston)	*N		Y			*Y		*N					*N		*Y	*Y	*Y	88	88	
d	47	Scheid, L. (Brooklyn Park)	Y		Y			N		Y					Y		*Y	*Y	N	25	14	
d	7	Solon, S. (Duluth)	-		Y			N		Y					Y		*Y	*Y	-	29	17	
d	60	Spear, A. (Minneapolis)	Y		Y			N		Y					Y		*Y	N	N	13	13	
r	17	Stevens, D. (Mora)	*N		Y			-		*N					Y		N	-	*Y	46	72	
d	1	Stumpf, L. (Thief Rvr. Falls)	Y		Y			N		*N					Y		*Y	*Y	N	38	29	
d	4	Ten Eyck, D. (E. Gull Lk.)	Y		Y			*Y		Y					Y		*Y	*Y	N	38	19	
r	42	Terwilliger, R. (Edina)	Y		Y			-		*N					Y		-	*Y	*Y	46	63	
d	22	Vickerman, J. (Tracy)	Y		Y			*Y		*N					Y		*Y	*Y	N	50	43	
d	38	Wiener, D. (Eagan)	Y		Y			N		Y					Y		*Y	*Y	N	25	16	
d	55	Wiger, C. (North St. Paul)	Y		Y			N		Y					Y		*Y	*Y	N	25	25	
r	26	Ziegler, D. (Blue Earth)	*N		Y			*Y		*N					Y		*Y	*Y	*Y	75	75	

HOUSE

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	1999%	Career
r	49A	Abelar, J. (Anoka)	Y	*N	*N	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y		88	1
r	45A	Abrams, R. (Minnetonka)	Y	*N	*N	*N	*Y	*Y	N	N	N	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		69	11
r	19B	Anderson, B. (Buffalo)	*N	*N	*N	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y		100	5
d	3A	Anderson, I. (Intl' Falls)	*N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	*Y	*Y	N	N	N	Y	N	*Y	*Y	N	31	27
d	6A	Bakk, T. (Cook)	*N	Y	Y	Y	N	*Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	*N	N	*Y	*Y	O	31	5
d	59A	Biernat, L. (Minneapolis)	*N	Y	Y	Y	*Y	N	N	N	*Y	*Y	N	N	Y	N	N	*Y		31	3
r	30B	Bishop, D. (Rochester)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	H	N	N	*Y	*Y	N	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	H	63	17
r	25B	Boudreau, L. (Faribault)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	H	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	H	81	5
r	30A	Bradley, F. (Rochester)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	H	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	H	81	5
r	53B	Broecker, S. (Vandais Heights)	Y	*N	*N	*N	*Y	*Y	H	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	H	88	5
r	35B	Buesgens, M. (Jordan)	Y	*N	*N	*N	*Y	*Y	E	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	E	88	1
d	46B	Carlson, L. (Crystal)	*N	Y	Y	Y	*Y	N	*Y	*Y	N	N	N	N	*N	N	*Y	*Y		44	27
d	47B	Carruthers, P. (Brooklyn Center)	Y	Y	Y	Y	*Y	N	V	N	N	N	*Y	*Y	N	*N	N	N	V	31	13
r	10B	Cassell, G. (Alexandria)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	V	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	V	81	1
d	52A	Chaudhary, S. (Fridley)	*N	Y	Y	Y	*Y	N	O	N	N	N	N	*Y	N	*N	N	N	O	31	3
r	23A	Clark, J. (Springfield)	Y	*N	*N	*N	*Y	*Y	E	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	E	88	2
d	61A	Clark, K. (Minneapolis)	-	Y	-	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	*N	N	N	-		2	19
r	11A	Daggett, R. (Frazee)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	N	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		81	5
r	31B	Davids, G. (Preston)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	-	-	Y	-	*Y	*Y		71	9
d	65A	Dawkins, A. (St. Paul)	*N	Y	Y	Y	N	*Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	*Y		19	13
r	14A	Dehler, S. (St. Joseph)	Y	*N	-	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		85	7
r	29A	Dempsey, J. (Hastings)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		81	7
r	27A	Dorman, D. (Albert Lea)	Y	*N	*N	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		88	1
d	24A	Dorn, J. (Mankato)	*N	Y	Y	Y	N	*Y	N	N	N	*Y	N	N	*N	N	*Y	*Y		38	13
d	64A	Entenza, M. (St. Paul)	*N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	*N	N	N	*Y		19	5
r	42A	Erhardt, R. (Edina)	Y	*N	*N	*N	*Y	*Y	N	N	N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y		81	9
r	17A	Erickson, S. (Princeton)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		81	2
r	1B	Finseth, T. (Angus)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		81	7
d	44A	Folliard, B. (Hopkins)	*N	Y	Y	Y	*Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	*N	N	N	N		19	3
r	4A	Fuller, D. (Bemidji)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		81	1
r	36A	Gerlach, C. (Apple Valley)	Y	*N	*N	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		88	1
d	63B	Gleason, M. (Richfield)	*N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	*Y	*Y		19	1
r	9A	Goodno, K. (Moorhead)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y		81	9
d	58B	Gray, G. (Minneapolis)	*N	-	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	*N	N	N	*Y		17	1
d	62A	Greenfield, L. (Minneapolis)	*N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	*Y	*Y	N	N	N	N	*N	N	N	N		25	21
d	54B	Greiling, M. (Roseville)	*N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	*Y	N	N	*N	N	N	*Y		25	7
r	26A	Gunther, B. (Fairmont)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		81	5
r	52B	Haake, B. (Mounds View)	Y	*N	*N	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		88	1
r	58A	Haas, B. (Champlin)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y		88	5
r	50A	Hackbarth, T. (Cedar)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		81	3
r	22B	Harder, E. (Jackson)	Y	*N	Y	*N	-	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*N	*Y	*Y		78	5
d	12A	Hasskamp, K. (Crosby)	*N	Y	Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	N	-	*Y	Y	N	*Y	*Y		58	11
d	66B	Hausman, A. (St. Paul)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	-	N	N	N	N	N	-	*N	N	N	N		2	11
d	8B	Hilty, B. (Finlayson)	*N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	*N	N	N	N		13	3
r	37B	Holberg, M. (Lakeville)	Y	*N	*N	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y		94	1
r	56A	Holsten, M. (Stillwater)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		81	7
r	4B	Howes, L. (Hakensack)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		81	1
d	6B	Huntley, T. (Duluth)	Y	Y	*N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	*N	N	*Y	*Y		25	7
d	7B	Jaros, M. (Duluth)	*N	Y	Y	Y	N	*Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N		13	23
d	18B	Jennings, L. (Rush City)	*N	Y	*N	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	N	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		75	15
d	48B	Johnson, A. (Spring Lake Park)	*N	Y	Y	Y	*Y	N	*Y	*Y	N	N	N	N	*N	N	N	*Y		38	13
d	15A	Juhnke, A. (Willmar)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	*Y	*Y	*Y	-	*Y	N	N	Y	N	*Y	N		31	3
d	59B	Kahn, P. (Minneapolis)	*N	Y	Y	Y	N	-	N	N	N	N	N	N	*N	N	N	*Y		18	27
d	26B	Kalis, H. (Walter)	*N	*N	Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	N	*Y	N	N	*N	N	*Y	*Y		63	25
d	60A	Kelliher, M. (Minneapolis)	Y	Y	Y	Y	*Y	N	N	N	N	*Y	N	N	*N	N	N	*Y		25	1
r	20B	Kielkucki, T. (Lester Prairie)	Y	*N	*N	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		88	3
r	16B	Knoblach, J. (St. Cloud)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y		81	5
d	49B	Koskinen, L. (Coon Rapids)	*N	Y	Y	Y	*Y	N	N	N	-	N	*Y	N	*N	N	N	*Y		31	3
r	53A	Krinkie, P. (Shoreview)	*N	*N	*N	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		94	9
d	15B	Kubly, G. (Granite Falls)	*N	Y	*N	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	N	*Y	N	N	*N	N	*Y	*Y		63	3
r	31A	Kuisle, W. (Rochester)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		81	3
r	56B	Larsen, P. (Lakeland)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	*N	*Y	*Y	*Y		88	5
d	40A	Larson, D. (Bloomington)	*N	*N	*N	Y	*Y	N	N	N	*Y	N	*Y	*Y	Y	N	*Y	*Y		56	1
d	27B	Leighton, R. (Austin)	*N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	*Y	*Y		19	5
d	40B	Lenczewski, A. (Bloomington)	*N	Y	*N	Y	*Y	N	*Y	*Y	*Y	N	*Y	*Y	*N	N	*Y	*Y		69	1
r	15B	Leppik, P. (Golden Valley)	Y	*N	Y	*N	*Y	*Y	N	N	*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y	Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		69	9
d	2A	Lieder, B. (Crookston)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	*Y	*Y	*Y	N	N	N	N	*N	N	*Y	*Y		38	15

high-level budget deal with the Governor, the Legislative leadership decided to adopt all of the spending found in the Senate version, thereby eliminating the hard fought for spending restraints found in the House bill. Among the new spending found only in the Senate bill (and thus in the final conference report) was over \$300,000 to fund a new program at the Department of Employee Relations to offer Long-Term Care Insurance to public employees, at a time when the private-sector is already performing this important task without government interference. LEA, which favored a "NO" vote on this huge expansion of state government, is using the vote on final passage of the conference committee "compromise" in this 1999 report. It passed the House 96-35; the Senate 62-4.

4. SF 2225. Expansion of Minnesota Care.

Rep. Greenfield Amendment. The Greenfield sponsored amendment provided for the expansion of the Minnesota Care health insurance program for low-income residents. Current qualification standards allow for participation in the program if annual income is at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines. This amendment would allow for participation if annual income is below 275% of poverty guidelines. Put another way, Minnesotans could then qualify for this heavily subsidized program - largely paid for by the "sick tax" we all must pay when we see the doctor - even if they were earning nearly three times the federal poverty level. LEA favors elimination of the "sick tax" and therefore supports a "NO" vote on this amendment. The House defeated the proposal 60-72.

5. HF 2420. Tax Bill

Rep. Abrams. This bill, in the House, provided for \$2.9 billion in tax relief. The largest component of this was \$1.4 billion in permanent income-tax cuts covering all three income tax brackets (one half of a percentage point was taken off the middle bracket). Also included in the bill were approximately \$1.3 billion in sales tax rebates; elimination of the marriage penalty; and property tax relief. This tax cut did not give the entire budget surplus back to the taxpayers who created it and could therefore have been much larger. LEA still favored a "YES" vote and is using the vote on the initial, pre-conference report passage of this bill. It passed the House 95-35. (For Senate action refer to Item 18.)

6. HF 15. Profile of Learning (House).

Rep. Kielkucki. The profile of learning program has been highly controversial in Minnesota education and legislative circles. It is currently a part of the state's new graduation rule. Several independent groups are critical of it as not establishing a common core of knowledge and skills. HF 15 as passed by the House 92-35 would have eliminated the Profile from the state's education program and required local school districts to adopt rigorous education standards. LEA favored a "YES" vote.

7. HF15. Profile of Learning (Senate)

Sen. Ziegler Amendment. Elimination of the Profile of Learning was removed from HF 15 in Senate committee. On the Senate floor Senator Ziegler offered an amendment to restore the profile elimination provision. His amendment was defeated 27-38. LEA favored a "YES" vote.

8. HF 2412. Abortion (House).

Rep. Goodno. The abortion issue continues to permeate our nation's cultural and political life. Believing in our constitutional system of legal and moral order with justice and individual liberty for all, LEA has consistently taken the position that abortion is not in keeping with that credo. The issue is a proper concern of the legislature. The legislators' positions on the issue were most accurately reflected in the House on original passage of the omnibus Health and Human Services bill which had incorporated into it such items as the banning of partial birth

Y = Yes D = Democratic-Farmer--Labor
N = No R = Republican I = Independent

- indicates legislator excused, absent, or not voting.

* denotes vote favored by LEA.

1999% means percentage of legislator's votes favored by LEA in the 1999 session.

Career means legislator's career average LEA score

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

LEA honors those scoring 88 & above. Honorable Mention 80-88

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abortion, a woman's right to know, and requirement for parental notification. LEA favored a "YES" vote for the bill at this stage. It passed the House 92-40.

9. Parliamentary Ruling. Abortion (Senate).

Fischbach Amendment. When the House-passed Health and Human Services bill was taken up in the Senate, all of the abortion-related provisions were deleted from the bill in committee. None of these provisions were reinserted by the conference committee. The Governor and a majority in the Senate opposed them.

In the Senate the most indicative vote came relative to a parliamentary procedure. Senator Fischbach moved to amend the Senate version of the bill by inserting Right to Know language. Senator Spear, presiding, ruled her motion out of order. There was a vote on whether or not the ruling of the chair should stand. By a vote of 34-32 the Senate said the ruling should stand. LEA favored a "NO" vote.

10. HF 90; SF 282. Environmental Liability.

Rep. Bishop; Sen. Hottinger. Current environmental law provides that partially responsible tortfeasure can be required to pay compensation in excess of one's culpable vulnerability. Trial lawyers often name an entity with deep pockets in a lawsuit regardless of actual liability. These deep pocket entities can then be held responsible for all the plaintiff's damages. This has caused cities, businesses and individuals to settle out of court rather than risk being held liable for damages for which they have little or no responsibility. This bill would provide more balance and fairness in determining tort liability. This, in turn, would result in fewer lawsuits thereby lowering the cost of doing business in Minnesota. The bill passed the House 71-59. LEA favored a "YES" vote. There was no action in the Senate.

11. HF 310; SF 499. Employer Protection.

Rep. Knobloch; Sen. Hottinger. This bill would provide legal protection for employers who provide job reference information about a current or former employee to a prospective employer. Under the bill, employers could not be held liable for the information provided unless they knew it was false and they acted with malicious intent. This legislation would promote the free exchange of accurate information within the private sector, leading in turn to a better qualified and more productive work force with which Minnesota could be more competitive in the new global marketplace. LEA favored a "YES" vote on this civil justice reform. The House passed the bill 85-47. The Senate did not act on this bill.

12. HF 5; SF 729. Super Majority Vote on Tax Increases.

Rep. Wilkin; Sen. Olson. this bill would submit to the voters in November, 2000 the question of placing in the Constitution a provision that any increase in any state tax would require a 3/5 majority vote in the legislature. LEA favored a "YES" vote as it passed the House 81-49. There was no action in the Senate. (See also item 13.)

13. HF 484; SF 678 Initiative and Referendum.

Rep. Paulsen, Sen. Terwilliger. This was a constitutional amendment proposal intending to provide the people the opportunity to directly participate in initiating and repealing legislation. The bill passed the House 77-51. There was no action taken in the Senate. If in the 2000 session the Senate acts on these bills favorably the questions of amending the State Constitution would be on the ballot in November, 2000. LEA favors putting these questions to the people. (See also Item 12).

14. HF 1825; SF 1619. Gambling.

Rep. Osskopp; Sen. Vickerman. The legislature continues to insist that there has been no expansion of gambling in Minnesota. However, in each session another round-about way to support horse racing seems to arise. The 1999 session created a Class B card club license to be issued only to a Class A license holder. In actual practice this is exclusively for Canterbury Downs. The only limitations imposed are the number of tables and the size of the bets. It appears the Racing Commission can authorize year-round gambling if it so chooses. One caveat is included: a club must prominatly post the toll free number of the Compulsive Gambling Program. It remains to be seen how effective that will be. LEA likes the "NO" votes. The bill passed the Senate 42-20 and the House 73-60.

15. HF 1026; SF 1203. Housing Discrimination.

Rep. Lindner; Sen. Dave Johnson. This bill emphasizes that the

Subsidized Housing Program is voluntary. Landlords do not have to participate in the Section 8 program. They can not be sued for non-participation. Tactics which have been used to force participation are to be considered abuse by the courts. LEA wonders why the bill did not include restrictions on the Metropolitan Council to curb continuing efforts by it to coerce suburban areas to include Section 8 housing in their planning and development. LEA favors a "YES" on this bill which passed the House 70-58. There was no action in the Senate.

16. SF 854; HF 896. Compensation for Property.

Sen Langseth, Rep. P. Larsen. Both our Federal and State Constitutions say that agencies of government shall not take over any property without just compensation to the owner. A practice of "amortization" has developed. By this a property is assessed by its depreciated, not actual, value. Property, usually considered undesirable by a community, has been seized without compensation to the owner when its tax depreciation has expired. SF 854 which prohibits this practice became law. LEA considers this new law as fair, just and in full accord with our fundamental constitutional rights. It favors the "YES" vote - in the Senate 45-19, in the House 100-32.

17. HF 7; SF 142. Emissions Testing.

Rep. Haake; Sen. Metzen. This bill repeals and eliminates the costly-to-car-owners and of-doubtful-efficiency of the emissions testing of older cars. LEA favors the "YES" votes as it passed the House 114-10 and the Senate 53-9.

18. HF 2420 in Senate. Tax Bill.

Sen. Runbeck Amendment. The Senate Tax Committee substituted its own tax bill for one which had passed the House (Item #5). On the floor Senator Runbeck moved to amend so that the Senate bill would be what the House had passed. Her motion lost 24-39. LEA favored a "YES" vote on the Runbeck amendment.

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