



# 2005 REPORT on the MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

by the  
LEGISLATIVE EVALUATION ASSEMBLY  
of MINNESOTA, INC

for an  
INFORMED CITIZENRY



www.mnlea.org

established 1972

**CREDO** – *The Legislative Evaluation Assembly of Minnesota, Incorporated (LEA) is a non-profit, non-partisan corporation established to keep the citizens of Minnesota informed of both important legislation and the voting performance of each Senator and Representative in the Minnesota State Legislature. LEA bases its evaluation on the traditional American principles of constitutionalism, limited government, free enterprise, legal and moral order with justice and individual liberty and dignity for all. LEA encourages the use of the material in this Report, in whole or in part, by any group or individual.*

## 2005 HONOREES

S  
E  
N  
A  
T  
E



LeClair



Limmer

*Hon. Mention:  
Bachmann; Gerlach; Reiter*

H  
O  
U  
S  
E



Anderson, B



Buesgens



DeLaForest



Holberg



Krinkie  
100%



Olson, M



Peppin



Vandevveer

*Hon. Mention:  
Dean; Eastlund; Emmer; Erickson; Hoppe; Klinzing; Knoblach; Kohls; Paulsen; Wilkin*

## 2005 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

The 2005 Minnesota legislative session will be remembered for the gridlock that led to the state's first partial government shutdown in its history. It ran until late July – the last two months in special session. The feature of the session was the inability, or failure, of the Governor, the Republican controlled House, and the DFL controlled Senate to come to agreement on budgets.

Clearly our government has become softer and more bloated since the heyday of the nonpartisan legislature, when special sessions were comparatively rare occurrences. This was the 11<sup>th</sup> time in 13 years the state legislature was called back into special session. The governor has stated he might call for another special session this fall to address the never-ending stadium debate.

Education (K-12) appears to be the big winner this year receiving \$800 million in new money. The state's total spending on K-12 is nearly \$12.65 billion. This does not include local school districts' levies. A 4% per-pupil formula funding increase is called for each year of this biennium. After this passed, more people have started to question why the need for all this money especially when enrollment is decreasing.

As LEA seeks to evaluate legislators' votes in relation to "traditional American principles of constitutionalism, limited government, free

enterprise, legal and moral order with justice and individual liberty and dignity for all", it becomes more difficult to find votes by which we can identify the legislators. Many issues, some of which a legislator may favor and some of which he/she opposes, are incorporated into the same omnibus spending bill. How does the legislator vote on such a bill, and how does LEA make an evaluation? All told, it was not a very good year for votes according to LEA's principles. Most legislators saw their career average decrease.

Furthermore, many important measures never come up separately for a vote on the legislative floor. Representative Mark Olson's proposal to prevent a handful of leaders from controlling floor action by predetermining the outcome in secret-negotiated "global" agreements would have improved accountability. Bills are voted on and decided in committee by voice vote and LEA has no way to clearly convey a legislator's vote on a matter. Our report is an attempt to provide a general guide on the positions legislators have taken on issues this past session. LEA favors procedural reforms that would provide more transparency and accountability to voters as intended by our founders.

LEA has tried to find votes which stand alone, to collectively reflect a legislator's positions, and to give readers of this report a reasonably fair assessment of each legislator's service.

## 2005 VOTES

### 1. HF 3 Omnibus Bonding Bill

Sen. Langseth; Rep. Dorman. This year's \$945 million Omnibus Bonding Bill includes \$37.5 million for the Northstar Commuter Rail project and \$22 million for the Minnesota Zoo. Along with these above questionable items, LEA believes that the size of the bill was just too large; especially since tax increases were required this year to balance the budget. LEA favored a "No" vote. It passed in the Senate 61-3 and in the House 115-16.

### 2. HF 1976. Omnibus Jobs and Economic Development

Sen. Bakk; Rep. Gunther. LEA is scoring the House vote taken on April 26<sup>th</sup>, which proposed a bill that focused on economic development only. The Senate rolled into their bill agricultural subsidies, parks and the environment. LEA favored a "No" vote in the Senate. It passed in the Senate 49-15. LEA favored a "Yes" vote in the House and it passed there on a 68-66 vote. The governor is to be commended for using the line item veto on the final bill that passed during the special session.

# SENATE

Pty	dist	name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	'05%	C%
D	66	Anderson, E.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	--	--		--	--		--	+	--		6	9
R	52	Bachmann, M.	--	+	+	--	+	+	--		+	+	+	+		--	+		+	+	+		75	69
D	6	Bakk, T.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	N	--	+	+	--	N	--	--	N	--	+	--	N	19	23
R	40	Belanger, W.	--	--	+	--	--	+	+	O	--	--	+	--	O	--	+	O	+	+	+	O	50	62
D	61	Berglin, L.	--	--	--	--	+	--	--		--	--	--	--		--	A		--	--	--		5	12
D	51	Betzold, D.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	S	--	--	--	--	S	--	--	S	--	--	--	S	0	8
D	50	Chaudhary, S.	A	--	--	--	--	--	--	E	--	--	--	--	E	--	--	E	--	--	--	E	-2	13
D	64	Cohen, R.	--	--	--	--	A	--	--	N	--	--	--	--	N	--	--	N	--	--	--	N	-2	7
R	26	Day, D.	--	--	+	--	--	+	--	A	+	--	+	--	A	+	+	A	+	+	--	A	50	66
D	60	Dibble, D. S.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	T	--	--	--	--	T	+	--	T	--	--	--	T	6	5
R	18	Dille, S.	--	--	--	--	A	+	--	E	--	--	+	--	E	--	+	E	+	+	A	E	32	57
R	14	Fischbach, M.	--	--	+	--	--	+	--		--	--	+	--		--	+		+	+	+		44	71
D	47	Foley, L.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	V	--	--	--	--	V	--	--	V	--	--	--	V	0	18
R	21	Frederickson, D.	--	--	--	--	+	+	--	O	+	--	+	--	O	--	+	O	+	+	--	O	44	57
R	43	Gaither, D.	--	--	+	--	+	+	+	T	+	--	+	+	T	--	+	T	+	+	--	T	63	70
R	37	Gerlach, C.	--	+	+	--	+	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	E	+	+	--	E	81	84
R	42	Hann, D.	--	+	+	--	--	+	+		+	+	A	A		--	+		+	+	--		60	71
D	58	Higgins, L.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	--	--		--	--		--	+	--		6	9
D	23	Hottinger, J.	--	+	--	--	A	--	--	N	--	--	--	--	N	--	--	N	--	+	--	N	11	17
D	13	Johnson, Dean	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	O	A	--	+	--	O	--	--	O	A	+	--	O	10	48
R	49	Johnson, Debbie	--	+	+	--	+	+	--		+	--	A	--		--	+		+	A	+		53	63
R	48	Jungbauer, M.	--	--	--	--	+	+	--	S	--	+	+	--	S	--	+	S	+	+	--	S	44	64
D	44	Kelley, S.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	E	--	--	--	A	E	--	--	E	--	+	--	E	5	15
R	31	Kierlin, B.	--	--	+	--	--	+	--	N	--	--	+	--	N	--	--	N	+	+	--	N	31	46
IP	30	Kiscaden, S.	--	--	A	--	--	--	--	A	--	--	+	--	A	--	--	A	--	+	--	A	11	44
R	15	Kleis, D.	--	+	+	--	+	+	--	T	A	+	+	+	T	--	+	T	+	+	--	T	65	70
R	12	Koering, P.	--	--	--	--	A	+	--	E	--	--	+	--	E	--	+	E	+	+	--	E	31	61
D	20	Kubly, G.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	+	--		--	--		+	+	--		19	18
D	9	Langseth, K.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	V	--	--	+	--	V	--	--	V	--	+	A	V	11	32
R	10	Larson, C.	--	--	+	--	--	+	--	O	A	--	+	+	O	--	+	O	+	+	--	O	45	62
R	56	LeClair, B.	+	+	+	--	+	+	+	T	+	+	+	+	T	+	+	T	+	+	+	T	94	81
R	32	Limmer, W.	+	+	+	--	+	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	E	--	+	E	+	+	+	E	88	83
D	8	Lourey, B.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	+	--		--	--		--	A	--		5	14
D	57	Marko, S.	--	A	--	--	+	--	--		--	--	--	--		--	--		--	--	--		5	15
D	54	Marty, J.	--	--	--	--	A	--	--		--	--	--	--		--	--		--	--	--		-2	11
R	38	McGinn, M.	--	--	+	--	--	+	--		--	--	--	--		--	+		+	+	--		31	61
D	39	Metzen, J.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	N	--	+	+	A	N	--	--	N	--	+	--	N	18	25
R	41	Michel, G.	--	--	+	--	--	+	+	O	+	--	--	--	O	--	+	O	+	+	--	O	44	64
D	67	Moua, M.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	+	--	--		--	--		--	+	--		13	10
D	28	Murphy, S.	--	--	--	A	--	--	--	S	--	--	+	A	S	--	--	S	--	+	--	S	10	16
R	25	Neuville, T.	--	--	--	--	--	+	--	E	+	--	+	--	E	--	+	E	+	+	--	E	38	63
R	17	Nienow, S.	--	+	+	--	+	+	+	N	+	+	+	--	N	--	+	N	+	+	--	N	69	74
R	33	Olson, G.	--	+	+	--	--	+	--	A	+	+	+	--	A	--	+	A	+	+	--	A	56	75
R	34	Ortman, J.	--	+	--	--	+	+	--	T	+	--	+	A	T	--	A	T	+	+	--	T	46	65
R	19	Ourada, M.	A	+	--	--	--	+	--	E	A	--	+	+	E	A	+	E	A	+	A	E	45	65
D	65	Pappas, S.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	--	--		--	--		--	--	--		0	6
R	36	Pariseau, P.	--	+	+	--	+	+	A	V	+	+	+	--	V	--	--	V	+	+	--	V	65	71
D	59	Pogemiller, L.	--	A	--	--	--	--	--	O	--	+	--	--	O	--	--	O	--	+	--	O	11	6
D	63	Ranum, J.	--	--	--	--	+	--	+	T	--	--	--	--	T	--	--	T	--	A	--	T	11	11
R	53	Reiter, M.	+	+	+	--	+	+	+	E	A	+	+	--	E	--	+	E	+	+	+	E	78	78
D	45	Rest, A.	--	+	--	A	--	--	+		--	A	--	A		--	--		--	+	--		17	20
R	35	Robling, C.	--	--	--	--	A	+	--		+	--	+	--		--	+		+	+	--		38	66
R	24	Rosen, J.	--	--	--	--	--	+	--	N	--	--	+	A	N	--	+	N	+	+	--	N	31	60
R	4	Ruud, C.	--	--	+	--	+	+	+	O	+	--	+	--	O	--	+	O	+	+	+	O	63	74
D	11	Sams, D.	--	A	--	A	--	--	--		--	+	+	--		--	--		A	+	--		14	34
D	3	Saxhaug, T.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	S	--	--	+	--	S	--	--	S	--	+	--	S	13	20
D	46	Scheid, L.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	E	--	--	+	--	E	--	--	E	--	+	--	E	13	16
R	29	Senjem, D.	--	--	+	--	--	+	--	N	+	--	+	--	N	--	+	N	+	+	--	N	44	61
D	2	Skoe, R.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	A	--	+	+	--	A	--	--	A	--	+	--	A	19	20
D	62	Skoglund, W.	--	--	--	--	+	--	--	T	--	--	+	--	T	--	--	T	--	--	--	T	13	10
D	7	Solon, Y.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	E	--	--	--	--	E	--	--	E	--	--	--	E	0	12
D	27	Sparks, D.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	+	--		--	--		--	+	--		13	19
D	1	Stumpf, L.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	V	--	--	+	--	V	--	--	V	A	+	--	V	11	28
D	5	Tomassoni, D.	A	--	--	--	--	--	--	O	--	+	+	--	O	--	--	O	--	+	--	O	18	19
D	22	Vickerman, J.	--	--	--	--	+	--	--	T	--	+	+	--	T	--	+	T	--	+	--	T	31	40
R	16	Wergin, B.	--	--	+	--	--	+	--	E	A	--	+	--	E	--	+	E	+	+	--	E	38	64
D	55	Wiger, C.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	+	--		--	--		--	+	--		13	23

# HOUSE

Pty	dist	name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	'05%	C%
R	48B	Abeler, J.	--	+	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	+	--	+			+		+	--	+	38	53
R	43B	Abrams, R.	--	+	+	--	+	+	+	--		--	--	--	+			A		+	+	+	58	53
R	19A	Anderson, B.	+	+	+	+	+	A	+	+	N	+	+	--	+	N	N	+	N	+	+	+	91	93
D	03A	Anderson, I.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	O	+	+	--	--	O	O	--	O	+	--	--	19	34
D	39B	Atkins, J.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	+	--	--			--		+	--	--	13	16
R	35A	Beard, M.	A	+	+	--	--	+	--	--	H	--	+	--	+	H	H	--	H	+	--	+	51	67
D	51B	Bernady, C.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	O	+	--	--	--	O	O	+	O	+	--	--	13	30
R	12B	Blaine, G.	--	+	+	--	+	+	--	--	U	+	+	--	+	U	U	+	U	+	--	+	63	58
R	29B	Bradley, F.	--	+	+	--	--	+	--	--	S	--	+	--	+	S	S	+	S	+	--	+	50	66
R	25A	Brod, L.	--	+	+	--	--	+	--	--	E	--	+	--	+	E	E	+	E	+	--	+	50	64
R	35B	Buesgens, M.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+			+		+	--	+	94	89
D	45B	Carlson, L.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	V	--	--	--	--	V	V	--	V	+	--	--	6	19
R	56A	Charon, M.	--	+	+	--	--	+	+	+	O	A	+	--	+	O	O	+	O	+	--	+	65	65
D	61A	Clark, K.	+	--	--	--	--	--	A	--	T	--	--	--	--	T	T	--	T	--	--	--	5	14
R	24B	Cornish, Tony	--	+	+	--	--	+	--	--	E	--	+	--	+	E	E	+	E	+	--	+	50	67
R	25B	Cox, R.	--	+	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	--	+			--		+	--	+	25	37
R	37A	Cybart, L.	--	+	+	--	--	+	+	+		--	+	--	+			+		+	--	+	63	63
R	31B	Davids, G.	--	+	+	--	+	+	--	--		--	+	--	+			+		+	--	+	56	71
D	62A	Davnie, J.	--	--	--	--	--	--	+	--		--	--	--	--			--		--	--	A	5	17
R	52B	Dean, M.	--	+	+	--	+	+	--	+	N	+	+	--	+	N	N	+	N	+	+	+	75	75
R	49A	DeLaForest, C.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	O	+	+	--	+	O	O	+	O	+	--	+	88	82
R	29A	Demmer, R.	--	+	+	--	--	+	--	--		--	+	--	+			+		+	--	+	50	67
R	28A	Dempsey, J.	--	+	--	--	--	+	--	--	H	--	+	--	+	H	H	+	H	+	--	+	44	68
D	06A	Dill, David	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	O	+	+	--	--	O	O	+	O	+	--	--	25	38
D	47A	Dittrich, D.	--	--	--	--	+	--	+	--	U	+	+	--	+	U	U	+	U	+	--	--	44	44
R	27A	Dorman, D.	--	+	+	--	+	+	--	--	S	A	+	--	+	S	S	+	S	A	--	+	53	56
D	23B	Dorn, J.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	E	--	--	--	--	E	E	--	E	+	--	+	6	26
R	17A	Eastlund, R.	--	+	+	--	+	+	--	+		+	+	--	+			+		+	+	+	75	71
D	02A	Eken, K.	--	--	--	--	+	+	--	--	V	+	+	--	+	V	V	+	V	+	--	--	44	46
D	58B	Ellison, K.	--	--	--	--	--	--	A	--	O	--	--	--	--	O	O	--	O	A	--	--	-4	10
R	19B	Emmer, T.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	T	A	+	--	--	T	T	+	T	+	--	+	78	78
D	64A	Entenza, M.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	E	--	--	--	--	E	E	--	E	--	--	--	0	15
R	41A	Erhardt, R.	--	+	--	--	--	--	--	A		--	--	--	+			--		+	--	+	25	51
R	16A	Erickson, S.	+	+	+	--	+	+	--	+		+	+	--	+			+		+	--	+	75	78
R	21B	Finstad, B.	--	+	+	+	+	+	--	+		+	A	--	+			+		+	--	+	71	78
D	26B	Fritz, P.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	--	--			+		+	--	--	13	13
R	36B	Garafalo, P.	--	+	+	--	--	--	--	--	N	+	+	--	+	N	N	+	N	+	--	--	50	50
R	12A	Gazelka, P.	--	+	+	--	+	+	--	--	O	A	+	--	+	O	O	+	O	+	--	+	58	58
D	50A	Goodwin, B.	--	--	--	--	+	--	--	--		+	--	--	+			--		--	--	--	19	25
D	54A	Greiling, M.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	H	--	--	--	+	H	H	--	H	--	--	--	6	18
R	24A	Gunther, B.	--	+	+	--	--	+	--	--	O	--	+	--	+	O	O	+	O	+	--	+	50	65
R	48A	Hackbarth, T.	--	+	+	--	+	+	--	--	U	+	+	--	+	U	U	+	U	+	--	+	63	67
R	22B	Hamilton, R.	--	+	+	--	--	+	--	+	S	+	+	--	+	S	S	+	S	+	--	+	63	63
D	39A	Hansen, R.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	E	--	+	--	--	E	E	--	E	+	--	--	13	13
D	66B	Hausman, A.	--	--	--	--	--	--	+	--		--	--	--	--			--		--	--	--	6	6
R	13A	Heidgerken, Bud	+	+	+	--	+	+	--	+	V	A	+	--	+	V	V	+	V	+	--	--	65	69
D	46B	Hilstrom, D.	--	--	--	--	--	--	+	--	O	--	--	--	--	O	O	--	O	+	--	--	13	23
D	08B	Hilty, B.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	T	+	--	--	--	T	T	--	T	--	--	--	6	17
R	36A	Holberg, M.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	--	+	E	E	+	E	+	+	+	94	88
R	34B	Hoppe, J.	+	+	+	+	--	+	+	+		+	+	--	+			+		+	--	+	81	70
D	60B	Hornstein, F.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	--	--			--		--	--	--	0	7
D	47B	Hortman, M.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		+	--	--	+			--		+	--	--	19	19
D	14B	Hosch, L.	--	--	--	--	+	--	--	--		+	+	--	+			+		+	--	--	38	38
R	04B	Howes, L.	--	+	--	--	+	+	--	--	N	A	+	--	+	N	N	+	N	+	--	+	51	61
D	07A	Huntley, T.	A	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	O	--	--	--	--	O	O	--	O	+	--	--	5	17
D	07B	Jaros, M.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		+	--	--	--			--		+	--	--	13	7
R	43A	Johnson, J.	--	+	+	--	+	+	--	+	H	+	+	--	+	H	H	+	H	+	--	+	69	74
D	23A	Johnson, R.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	O	--	--	--	--	O	O	--	O	+	--	--	6	19
D	67B	Johnson, S.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	U	--	--	--	--	U	U	--	U	--	--	--	0	16
D	13B	Juhnke, A.	--	--	--	--	A	--	--	--	S	+	+	--	--	S	S	+	S	A	--	--	17	39
D	59B	Kahn, P.	--	--	--	--	--	--	+	--	E	A	--	--	--	E	E	--	E	--	--	--	5	9
D	60A	Kelliher, M.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	--	--			--		--	--	--	0	20
R	56B	Klinzing, K.	+	+	+	--	--	+	+	+	V	+	+	--	+	V	V	+	V	+	--	+	75	75
R	15A	Knoblach, J.	+	+	+	--	+	+	--	--	O	+	+	+	+	O	O	+	O	+	--	+	75	70
D	20B	Koenen, L.	--	--	--	--	+	--	--	--	T	+	+	--	+	T	T	+	T	+	--	--	38	49
R	34A	Kohls, P.	--	+	+	--	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	--	+	E	E	+	E	+	--	+	75	78
R	53A	Krinkie, P.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+			+		+	+	+	100	88

# HOUSE

Pty	dist	name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	'05%	C%
R	09A	Lanning, M.	--	+	+	--	--	+	--	--		--	--	--	+			+		+	--	--	38	55
D	63B	Larson, D.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	--	--			--		+	--	+	13	34
D	44B	Latz, Ron	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	N	--	--	--	--	N	N	--	N	+	--	--	6	12
D	40B	Lenczewski, A.	--	--	--	--	--	--	+	--	O	--	--	--	--	O	O	--	O	+	--	--	13	50
D	66A	Lesch, John	--	--	--	--	--	--	+	--		+	--	--	--			--		--	--	--	13	19
D	30A	Liebling, T.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	H	--	--	--	--	H	H	--	H	+	--	--	6	6
D	01B	Lieder, B.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	O	--	+	--	--	O	O	+	O	+	--	--	19	30
D	55A	Lillie, L.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	U	--	+	--	--	U	U	--	U	+	--	--	13	13
D	59A	Loeffler, D	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	S	--	--	--	--	S	S	--	S	--	--	--	0	0
R	22A	Magnus, D.	--	+	+	--	--	+	--	--	E	+	+	--	+	E	E	+	E	+	--	+	56	69
D	67A	Mahoney, T.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		+	+	--	--			--		+	--	--	19	24
D	65B	Mariani, C.	--	--	--	--	--	--	+	--	V	--	--	--	--	V	V	--	V	A	--	--	5	8
D	09B	Marquart, P.	--	--	--	--	+	+	--	+	O	+	+	--	+	O	O	+	O	+	--	--	50	56
R	57B	McNamara, D.	--	+	+	--	--	--	--	--	T	--	+	--	+	T	T	+	T	+	--	+	44	53
R	53B	Meslow, D.	--	+	--	--	--	--	--	--	E	--	+	--	--	E	E	--	E	+	--	+	25	46
D	04A	Moe, F	--	--	--	--	+	+	--	--		+	+	--	+			--		+	--	--	38	38
D	58A	Mullery, J.	--	--	--	--	+	--	--	--		--	--	--	--			--		+	--	--	13	23
D	06B	Murphy, M.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	+	--	--			--		+	--	--	13	24
D	46A	Nelson, M.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	--	--			--		+	--	--	6	17
R	17B	Nelson, P.	--	+	+	--	+	+	--	+	N	--	+	--	+	N	N	+	N	+	--	+	63	64
R	18A	Newman, S.	--	+	+	--	+	+	--	--	O	--	+	--	--	O	O	+	O	+	--	+	50	54
R	10A	Nornes, B.	--	+	--	--	+	+	--	--		--	+	--	+			+		+	--	+	50	63
R	16B	Olson, M.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	H	+	+	+	--	H	H	+	H	+	+	+	94	92
D	15B	Opatz, J.	--	--	--	--	+	--	--	--	O	--	+	--	+	O	O	--	O	+	--	--	25	39
D	11B	Otremba, M.	--	--	--	--	+	+	--	--	U	+	+	--	+	U	U	+	U	+	--	--	44	51
R	37B	Ozment, D.	--	+	--	--	--	--	--	--	S	--	+	--	+	S	S	+	S	+	--	+	38	63
R	42B	Paulsen, E.	--	+	+	--	+	+	+	+	E	--	+	--	+	E	E	+	E	+	+	+	75	83
D	64B	Paymar, M.	--	--	--	--	--	--	+	--		--	--	--	--			--		--	--	--	6	16
D	31A	Pelowski, G.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	V	--	--	--	--	V	V	+	V	+	--	+	19	37
R	01A	Penas, M.	--	+	--	--	--	+	--	--	O	--	+	--	+	O	O	+	O	+	--	+	44	55
R	32A	Peppin, J	+	+	+	--	--	+	+	+	T	+	+	+	+	T	T	+	T	+	+	+	88	88
D	20A	Peterson, A.	--	--	--	--	+	--	--	--	E	+	--	--	+	E	E	+	E	+	--	--	31	38
R	41B	Peterson, N.	--	+	+	--	--	--	--	--		--	+	--	+			+		+	--	+	44	44
D	45A	Peterson, S.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	--	--			--		+	--	--	6	6
D	27B	Poppe, J.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	+	--	--			--		+	--	--	13	13
R	40A	Powell, D.	--	+	+	--	--	+	+	--	N	+	+	--	+	N	N	+	N	+	--	--	63	73
D	05A	Rukavina, T.	--	--	--	--	+	--	--	--	O	+	+	--	--	O	O	+	O	+	--	+	25	16
R	26A	Ruth, C.	--	+	--	--	--	+	--	--		--	+	--	+			+		+	--	+	44	55
D	42A	Ruud, M.	--	--	--	--	+	--	+	--		--	--	--	--			--		+	--	--	19	19
D	02B	Sailer, B	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	H	+	+	--	--	H	H	--	H	+	--	--	19	19
R	50B	Samuelson, C.	--	+	--	--	--	--	--	--	O	--	+	--	--	O	O	+	O	+	--	--	25	49
D	54B	Scalze, B.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	U	--	--	--	+	U	U	+	U	+	--	--	19	19
R	21A	Seifert, M.	--	+	+	--	+	+	--	+	S	+	+	--	+	S	S	+	S	+	--	+	69	75
D	05B	Sertich, A.	--	--	--	--	+	--	--	--	E	+	+	A	--	E	E	--	E	+	--	--	25	31
R	14A	Severson, D.	--	+	+	--	--	+	--	--	V	+	+	--	--	V	V	+	V	+	A	+	51	68
D	57A	Sieben, K.	--	--	--	--	--	--	+	--	O	--	--	--	--	O	O	--	O	--	--	--	6	17
D	44A	Simon, S.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	--	--			--		+	--	--	6	6
R	10B	Simpson, D.	--	+	--	--	+	+	--	--	T	--	+	--	+	T	T	+	T	+	--	+	50	62
D	55B	Slawik, N.	--	--	--	--	+	--	--	--	E	--	--	--	--	E	E	--	E	+	--	--	13	24
R	33A	Smith, S.	--	+	--	--	+	+	+	+		+	+	--	--			+		+	--	+	63	79
R	08B	Soderstrom, J.	--	+	+	--	+	+	--	+		--	+	--	+			+		+	--	+	63	71
D	03B	Solberg, L.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		+	+	A	--			--		+	--	--	18	20
R	28B	Sviggum, S.	--	+	+	--	--	+	--	--		--	+	--	+			+		+	--	+	50	77
R	33B	Sykora, B.	--	+	--	--	--	+	--	--	N	--	+	--	+	N	N	+	N	+	--	+	44	61
D	65A	Thao, Cy	--	--	--	--	--	--	+	--	O	--	--	--	--	O	O	--	O	--	--	--	6	4
D	63A	Thissen, P.	A	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		--	--	--	--			--		+	--	+	11	20
R	49B	Tingelstad, K.	--	+	--	--	--	--	--	--	H	--	+	--	+	H	H	+	H	+	--	+	38	63
R	18B	Urdahl, D.	--	+	--	--	+	+	--	+	O	--	+	--	+	O	O	+	O	+	--	+	56	63
R	52A	Vandever, R.	+	+	+	--	+	+	+	+	U	+	+	+	+	U	U	+	U	+	+	+	94	78
D	62B	Wagenius, J.	--	--	--	--	--	--	+	--	S	--	--	--	--	S	S	--	S	--	--	--	6	13
D	61B	Walker, N.	+	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	E	--	--	--	--	E	E	--	E	A	--	--	5	14
R	38B	Wardlow, L.	--	+	+	--	--	+	--	+		--	+	--	+			+		+	--	+	56	69
D	30B	Welfi, A.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	V	--	+	--	+	V	V	--	V	+	--	--	19	19
R	51A	Westerberg, A.	--	+	--	--	--	+	--	--	O	--	+	--	+	O	O	+	O	+	--	+	44	64
R	11A	Westrom, T.	--	+	--	--	+	+	--	--	T	+	+	--	+	T	T	+	T	+	--	+	56	66
R	38A	Wilkin, T.	--	+	+	A	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	--	+	E	E	+	E	+	--	+	78	86
R	32B	Zellers, C.	--	+	+	--	+	+	--	+		+	+	--	+			+		+	--	+	69	78



### **3. SF 3. Minimum Wage Increase**

Sen. Anderson; Rep. Rukavina. This bill will raise the state's mandatory minimum wage for most employees nearly 20% from \$5.15 to \$6.15 an hour. Since most entry-level workers (unskilled and youth) in Minnesota were already being paid more than the legal minimum this bill is unnecessary. The few heads-of-households still making minimum wage already have access to generous charitable contributions and a host of welfare-state programs, including subsidized health care and housing. Good economic policy sets neither a "cap" nor a "floor" on market rates. This bill inflates the costs of paying many unionized and public-sector employees whose contracts link their wages to increases in the minimum wage. Also, it prevents the unskilled from obtaining vital work experience. Considering these factors this legislation has a substantial impact. LEA favored a "No" vote. It passed in the Senate 44-22 and in the House 84-50.

### **4. SF 1984; HF 1914. Employment – Penalties**

Sen. Anderson; Rep. Clark. This bill increases the penalty for failure to pay a discharged employee within 24 hours, modifies the penalty for failure to pay benefits or wage supplements, and increased the penalty for violation of migrant worker payment requirements. LEA supports the traditional American principles of limited government and free enterprise, not over regulating businesses. Therefore, LEA favored a "No" vote. It passed in the Senate 64-0 and House 124-9.

### **5. SF 953; HF 945. Increasing the Salary Cap**

Sen. Kelley; Rep. Erhardt. This bill increases the cap on salary and benefit limits for local government employees. A few years ago, legislators changed this law to exclude school districts' employees and now there are superintendents and other administrators whose salaries far exceed the governor's. At the same time, school districts and local governments complain that they don't have enough money to maintain their services and programs. In times of deficits, government needs to keep a cap on spending, not increase salaries. LEA favored a "No" vote. The bill passed in the Senate 42-19 and in the House 83-50.

### **6. HF 2461 Omnibus Transportation Bill with Gas Tax Increase**

Sen. Murphy; Rep. Holberg. This omnibus bill would have raised taxes on gasoline by 10 cents per gallon. LEA supports maintenance and expansion of our road system. However, the money raised through the higher tax would have been spent on items other than roads. LEA believes revenue generated from gas taxes should be dedicated for roads and bridges only. Also, legislators need to stay within their budgets and fund only appropriate governmental duties. Minnesota is ranked as one of the highest taxed states in the nation. LEA favored a "No" vote. It passed in the Senate 36-31 and in the House 72-61. LEA believes that Governor Pawlenty was wise to veto it.

### **7. SF 4; HF 223. Ethanol**

Sen. Sams; Rep. Davids. Doubling the amount of ethanol in gasoline is destructive to the economy and to many engines. It has not been substantially proven to decrease dependency on foreign oil. This bill was designed to appease agricultural and producer interests, with total disregard to the consumer and the taxpayers. Because bio-diesel and ethanol are so inefficient and expensive to produce, they cannot compete in a free market. LEA favored a "No" vote. It passed in the Senate 57-8 and in the House 100-32.

### **8. Olson Amendment to HF 3 – Remove Funding for the Northstar Commuter Rail**

This amendment would prevent the state from funding the Northstar commuter rail line unless it can be proved that the rail line would be more cost effective than a dedicated bus line. LEA believes if a more cost efficient option of transit was available it should have been funded instead of rail, which has a history of requiring large operating

subsidies. LEA favored a "Yes" vote. This amendment upon being offered in the House failed 31-102.

### **9. SF 1604; HF 1730. Amtrak Funding**

Sen. Murphy; Rep. Beard. This bill was a resolution encouraging the President and Congress to support Amtrak funding. It is not the role of any government to subsidize businesses. Therefore, LEA favored a "No" vote. The bill passed in the Senate 44-17 and it was indefinitely postponed in the House.

### **10. Bachmann and Krinkie Amendments to delete "Health Impact Fee" from SSHF 139**

Calling this an "Impact Fee" is dishonest. This is clearly a tax increase on cigarettes and cigars. While some may have felt it was politically necessary to include this tax in order to pass the bills needed to end the partial government shutdown and the special session, many valid reasons existed for supporting this amendment. First, the premise that smokers, as a group, are not paying enough taxes to cover their health costs is untrue. Second, the increased taxes will be assigned to a nebulous "health impact fund". Dedicated funds are generally wasteful and ineffective. Politicians who support a significant new tax should have let it stand or fall on its own merit. LEA favored a "Yes" vote on this amendment. It failed in the Senate 19-47 and in the House 51-76.

### **11. SF 2259; HF 2428. Minnesota Citizens Personal Protection Act (Conceal and Carry)**

Sen. Pariseau; Rep. Howes. This is a reenactment of the 2003 bill. Those who proposed and voted for this bill are to be commended for initiating action that righted a long standing grievance of Minnesota citizens. Those voting in the affirmative recognized the inherent right of citizens to protect themselves from bodily harm. This bill provides a method whereby responsible law abiding citizens can secure the means and training to protect themselves by obtaining permits to carry a pistol. LEA favored a "Yes" vote. The bill passed in the Senate 44-21 and in the House 68-47.

### **12. SF 877; HF 1275. Humanities Commission & Poet Laureate**

Sen. Stumpf; Rep. Sykora. To ensure "balance" in public education and in the cultural life of the state, this bill would have established a Humanities Commission. It would have also established the position of Poet Laureate and "appropriate" ceremonies. LEA favored a "No" vote. We commend the Governor for vetoing this bill and for pointing out its frivolity. It passed in the Senate 52-8 and in the House 126-6.

### **13. SF 631; HF 118. The Junk Food Bill**

Sen. Hann; Rep. Urdahl. This bill prohibits civil actions against businesses when customers gain weight as a result of consuming certain foods. LEA recognizes this as a patently ridiculous bill made necessary by foolish lawsuits that undermine individual responsibility. It is a sad commentary on our times. The legislature should not have to spend time, effort and tax dollars on such legislation. Unfortunately, in order to protect innocent businesses from an out of control tort bar fueled by individuals who choose to play the "lawsuit lottery", LEA believes this bill is needed and favored a "Yes" vote. This bill passed in the House 75-59, but was not brought up for a vote in the Senate.

### **14. SF 2265. Omnibus Higher Education – Illegal Aliens Tuition**

Sen. Cohen. The Senate's version of the Omnibus Higher Education Funding Bill included a provision to allow illegal aliens to qualify for resident tuition rate if they had attended a high school in the state for three or more years. This undermines immigration law and would have rewarded people who violate our laws. This provision is so egregious it warranted voting down the entire Omnibus Bill. Therefore, LEA favored a "No" vote. It passed in the Senate 63-3. The House did not vote on such a provision, and the final bill did not include it either.

**15. Wergin Amendment to SF 2267–Notice and Parental Options**

This amendment would have required school districts to obtain prior written informed consent from parents before students attend a comprehensive family life and sexuality education program. LEA believes that schools should inform parents on every aspect of the school day and that parents should retain the right to remove their child from any situation they deem unfit. LEA favored a “Yes” vote. The amendment failed 30-35.

**16. SF 1691; HF 6. Protecting Traditional Marriage**

Sen. Bachmann; Rep. Severson. Eighteen states have passed constitutional amendments to define marriage as between one man and one woman. The Senate leaders here in Minnesota do not want to give either the Minnesota voters or the full Senate the opportunity to vote on this issue. For two years, the Senate leadership has blocked every attempt for a vote on the Senate floor, so there was no vote in the Senate. The House passed this bill 77-56. LEA favored a “Yes” vote.

**17. Pariseau Amendment to SF 644 – Priority to Married Couples for Adoptions**

Consistent with the child’s best interests, this amendment would have given married couples priority in adoption cases. LEA believes children’s interests should be the top priority in adoption cases, not protecting adult chosen lifestyles. Many studies have shown children are better off with both a mom and a dad. Children have a much better chance to become productive citizens and less likely to become a problem for society. LEA favored a “Yes” vote. It failed 31-32.

**18. SF 917; HF 952. Positive Alternatives Act**

Sen. Sams; Rep. Finstad. The Positive Alternatives Act provides for \$2.5 million in grants to support programs providing non-abortion alternatives to pregnancy. The LEA, in keeping with its charter to

support a reduction in government spending, will rarely endorse a bill which provides increased appropriations from the general fund. Unfortunately, there is a great disparity in the monies currently provided to groups which support and encourage abortions and the monies to groups which support positive, life affirming alternatives. This bill begins to reduce this disparity by providing monies to life affirming organizations. LEA would far prefer that the monies provided to abortion groups be eliminated, but that was not an option. It is with hesitation that LEA favored a “Yes” vote. This bill passed in the Senate 53-11 and in the House 112-17.

**19. SF 370; HF 936. Media in Voting Places**

Sen. Marty; Rep. Johnson, J. This bill allows extended media time in each precinct during polling hours. The 60 minutes limit can be extended at the discretion of the head judge. A major concern is no prior written authorization is needed; only a photo ID and media credential. Also, press photos of voters are not expressly prohibited. Therefore, a voter list could be compiled. LEA believes that the essential business of polling places is to allow eligible citizens to vote, and to count the vote accurately without extraneous distractions. LEA favored a “No” vote. This bill passed in the Senate 56-8 and in the House 123-10.

**20. SF 90; HF 820. Initiative and Referendum**

Sen. Kleis; Rep. Paulsen. Recognizing that we have a government BY the people, the process of initiative and referendum is a clear responsibility of the citizenry. LEA believes this is a needed right when the legislature fails to act on issues of importance to voters. For those who vote against this bill, we can only conclude that a) they fear initiative and referendum might diminish their own power or b) they do not trust the citizens of Minnesota for whom they are elected to serve. This bill passed in the House 68-65. LEA favors a “Yes” vote. It was never brought up for consideration in the Senate.

<b>R</b> – Republican
<b>D</b> - Democratic-Farmer-Labor
<b>IP</b> – Independence
<b>+</b> Vote favored by LEA
<b>--</b> Vote not favored by LEA
<b>A</b> indicates legislator excused, absent, or not voting
<b>*05%</b> = % of legislator’s votes favored by LEA in 2005 session
<b>C%</b> = legislator’s career average LEA score
LEA calculates the voting percentages using votes actually cast by each legislator and then deducting two percentage points for each time that legislator did not cast a vote.
<b>Honorees</b> for 2005 scored <b>85% or higher</b> , those receiving honorable mentions scored at least 75%.

**KEY**

2005 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

www.mnlea.org

Legislative Evaluation Assembly  
20900 Dubarry Trail  
Farmington, MN 55024  
Ph. (651) 480-1830

CONTACT:  
This report may be copied or purchased.