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Proposed jobs bill to create over 22,950 Minnesota jobs

Area expenditures include \$3.5 million Mille Lac Lake fisheries management station, \$3.5 million Brainerd Readiness Center update and \$3.5 million for new Camp Ripley Rail and Pipeline Safety Training Center

Governor Mark Dayton and Lt. Governor Tina Smith introduced a jobs bill January 4 that would spend \$1.5 billion in community infrastructure projects statewide, creating an estimated 22,950 Minnesota jobs. This estimated number of jobs is based on a 2015 economic model from the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the U.S. Department of Commerce that estimates that for every \$1 million in construction project spending in Minnesota approximately 15.3 jobs are generated.

The State of Minnesota has a triple-A bond rating and over \$3 billion in available bonding capacity for 2017-2018. The Dayton-Smith Administration's 2017 Jobs Bill proposal would remain well within these limits – protecting the state's financial standing, while making these proposed expenditures.

"My proposals would put thousands of Minnesotans to work throughout our state, increasing economic opportunity and strengthening local economies," said Governor Dayton. "This bill will help

deliver clean, reliable water to Minnesota communities, ensure our higher education institutions have the facilities they need to train our workforce, and build community projects across our state. I urge the Legislature to pass this Jobs Bill quickly, to support our local economies and create good jobs across the state."

The Jobs Bill proposed by Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith would help address many of the state's critical infrastructure needs, including essential water infrastructure, farming operations, college and university facilities, and community buildings that are the drivers of economic opportunity across Minnesota.

"Our top priority is to expand opportunity through an economy that works for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota," said Lt. Governor Tina Smith. "This bill will spend in classrooms for our students, affordable housing for more Minnesotans, and expanded, improved operations for Minnesota farmers. These community construc-

tion projects will strengthen our local economies and improve opportunities for all Minnesotans."

The Dayton-Smith Jobs Bill includes infrastructure projects distributed across Minnesota, with 35 percent of projects in Greater Minnesota, 30 percent in the Twin Cities Area, and 35 percent having impacts statewide. The proposed job bill will tap more than \$600 million in private, local, and federal expenditure in Minnesota's infrastructure.

Area Projects in the Bill

Expenditures in the area include \$3.5 million to develop a fisheries management station on Mille Lac Lake to address the declining walleye population and another \$3.5 million on basic maintenance and repairs for the Brainerd Readiness Center. The bill also proposes \$3.5 million for in an oil train derailment and pipeline safety training center at Camp Ripley

If the bill is approved, here are details of some of the larger projects that Minnesota taxpayers will be obligated to pay for.

Spending in Main Street Minnesota

Lewis & Clark Regional Water System – Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith's Jobs Bill would include a proposed \$11.5 million expenditure in the water system to deliver clean, reliable water to the City of Worthington to more than 20,000 residents.

Duluth Energy Efficiency Upgrades – The City of Duluth's current downtown steam heating system is more than 80 years old, runs on coal, and needs significant upgrades to remain functional. The City will install a modern, efficient, closed-loop hot water system to reduce water, energy, and chemical consumption and allow for future integration of renewable energy. The proposed bill includes a \$21 million expenditure to help with construction of the new energy efficient system.

Red Wing River Town Renaissance – Jobs bill proposes \$4.5 million in expenditure to help complete the River Town Renaissance projects. This funding would help re-

place a deteriorating harbor retaining wall, renovate the T.B. Sheldon Theater, install new docks at Levee Park, and make other improvements to the park promenade.

Madelia Public Infrastructure – In February 2016, a devastating fire ripped through downtown Madelia in southeast Minnesota severely damaging businesses and much of the public infrastructure. The bill has proposed a \$98,000 expenditure to help the city rebuild essential infrastructure. Also there is assistance to help the community recover.

Melrose Public Infrastructure – In September 2016, the city of Melrose in central Minnesota suffered its second major fire in six months with a blaze that damaged eight apartments and six businesses along Main Street. The bill has \$3.85 million proposed a expenditure for public infrastructure to help the city rebuild as well as funding to help the city expand their municipal electric substation loop. The expanded electrical substation loop will improve

Continued on Page 5

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<p>2013 RAM CREWCAB 4X4</p>  <p>\$21,967 #260434</p> <p>HEMI V8, BUCKET SEATS AND RAM BOX</p>	<p>2016 TOYOTA TACOMA DBL CAB 4X4</p>  <p>\$32,987 #260484</p> <p>TRD OFF ROAD, LOADED WITH ONLY 4,038 MILES WOW!</p>	<p>2008 NISSAN TITAN CREW 4X4</p>  <p>\$12,987 #1265083</p> <p>LE PACKAGE WITH V8 AUTO AND LEATHER BUCKETS</p>	<p>2010 GMC K1500 CREW 4X4</p>  <p>\$21,984 #1630182</p> <p>5.3L, V8, LEATHER, BUCKETS, VERY CLEAN TRUCK</p>	<p>2011 DODGE DAKOTA CREW 4X4</p>  <p>\$20,878 #165110</p> <p>LARAMIE PACKAGE V8 AUTO LEATHER</p>

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ongoing Events:

AA-Aitkin - Meeting closed Wednesday 3 pm Aitkin Alano Club

AA - Aitkin - 322 1st Ave. NE 218-927-6240 Sun. Women's Meeting 5:30 pm, Tue. Open Meeting 8 pm, Wed. Women's Meeting 6 pm, Thu. Sober Sailors Open 9 am, Friday Night Grape Vine 6:30 pm.

AA Garrison: Monday Night AA (open) 7:30 PM and Wednesday 7:30 PM at Community Alliance Church, 9475 Jefferson St.

ALANON - 322 1st Ave NE, Aitkin 6:30 pm Thursday evenings.

ALANON Garrison: Wednesday 7:30 PM at Community Alliance Church, 9475 Jefferson St.

Aitkin Friends of the Library meet 4th Tue. each month, 1 pm, Aitkin Public Library.

Aitkin Women of Today meet 2nd Mon. of month, 6:30 pm, Mille Lacs Energy Coop, info call 218-927-4558. Evening care is available and free. All are welcome!

American Legion Aitkin Lee #86 & Unit 86, meets the 2nd Thurs. of each month at 7 p.m.

Art Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays at the Jaques Art Center in Aitkin, 1-3 pm "Ask an Attorney," Aitkin Co. Sheriff's conference room, 2nd Tue. of month at noon.

Blow-Hards, a lung disease support group, meets the 4th Thu. of each month, Kanabec Hospital in Mora. Contact Carol, 320-225-3646.

Care N Share Community Cafe Community Meal, Wednesdays Located in the fellowship hall in the Wesleyan Church on Highway #6 in Emily. Please call Sharon - 612 669-3295

Caregiver/Memory Loss Support Group. Meets the first Wed., 1-2 p.m. at Birchstreet Center, downtown Aitkin. 218-9271383.

Circles of Support meets every Tue., 6-8 pm If you are living paycheck to paycheck and are ready for a change, Circles may be right for you, call Brandi, 800-997-5723.

Clear Lake Grange meets second Tue. each month, 6 pm potluck, 7 pm meeting. Meet in member's homes. Info call Vern 320-684-2244 or Roxy 218-927-4558.

Clothes Closet offers free clothing to men and women in need. We are open the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 8 a.m. - noon. NARROWS COMMUNITY CHURCH, 6297 Woods Bay Drive NE, Outing (follow the yellow signs). Call 320.857.0182 for more information.

Cooks Night Out - 3rd Wed of month, McGregor Comm. Ctr., 5:30 p.m., no restrictions, donations welcome.

Cuyuna Rock Gem & Mineral Club, meet 2nd Sat. each month, 2:30 at Cuyuna Range Community Center, lower level.

Dance every second Tuesday at Moose in Grand Rapids.

Dance at VFW in McGregor every 1st Monday of the month, except holidays which will be on the following Monday

Dance at Waukenabo the second and last Wednesday of the month.

Deerwood Lakes Lions meet the 2nd Monday of every month, 5:30pm social, 6:00 pm dinner/meeting, at the Heartwood Senior Living. Call 218-831-5683, if you need more information or would like to join our club. Lions affordable hearings aids available to those who qualify.

For more information, call Diann Bates 218-546-5237 or 218-838-4768 cell.

Evergreen P.A.C. ATV Club meetings 1st Thu. each month, 7 pm, Jackson Hole, Lawler, open to public.

FASD Caregiver Support Group - For caregivers of individuals with a diagnosed or suspected Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Meet with other caregivers (adults only please) for support, understanding, and networking. Meetings are 9 am the second Saturday of each month at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 418 8th Ave. NE, Brainerd. For more information, please contact Sheila York at 218-820-5903 or syork@mofas.org

Friends of Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge meet 3rd Wed. each month, at 1 pm. at the Visitor Center at 36289 State Hwy. 65, McGregor 218-768-2402

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous Meeting Tuesday evenings, 6:30 pm small conference room at Aitkin Library. No dues, fees or weigh ins. For more information call: 217-248-6434. www.foodaddicts.org

Food Shelf (Aitkin) Open every Wednesday, 10:30 am - 3 pm. 102 4th St. NW, Aitkin

Food Shelf (Aitkin) at First Lutheran Church open on 2nd and 4th Thurs, 9:30 am-5 pm, at 107 2nd St SE, Aitkin. Must register by 4:45 pm to be served.

Food Shelf (Aitkin) Emergency Food Shelf at St. James Catholic Church, Aitkin. Hours are Tuesday from 12 to 3 pm. To enter the food shelf go to the South side of the building, go to the 4th door and look for signs.

Food Shelf (Garrison) Open Tue. & Thu. 1-5 pm, at 9541 Madison Street; Garrison. For emergency Food Shelf, call 320-692-5399 and leave a message.

Food Shelf (Hill City) Trinity Lutheran Church 3rd Saturday 8 am - Noon or by Appt.

Food Shelf (Jacobson) Carmel Lutheran Church 60346 240th Ave, 1st and 3rd Thursday, 4 - 6 pm

Food Shelf (McGregor) 45898 Hwy 65 2nd and 4th Wednesday of Month 9 am - Noon

Garrison Fire Auxiliary meets 2nd Thu. 7:30 pm, Garrison Fire Hall.

Garrison Thrift Store, Thurs.-Fri. 10-4, Sat. 11-4.

Heart to Heart Support Group, 4th Tue. of month, 2 pm, Kanabec Hospital, int. of Hwy. 65 & 23, Mora.

Jacobson Seniors meets every Thu., 10-2 pm at Jacobson Comm. Ctr. Potluck at noon. Beverage provided. All are welcome. For more info., 752-1515.

Lymphedema Support Group, 3rd Mon. of month, 6:30 pm, Kanabec Hospital, int. of Hwy. 65 & 23, Mora.

Marsh and Meadows Hunting Retriever Club, Mon. 5:30 pm in Pequot Lakes, for more info call Brett 651-270-5648 or facebook/Marsh and Meadows Hunting Retriever Club

McGrath City Council, first Thu. of the month, 6:30 pm at fire station hall.

McGrath Senior Center meets every Mon. 1-4 pm, cards & games, all are welcome.

McGregor Community Meal served at the Community Center on Highway 65 on the Third Wednesday of each month serving from 5:30 - 6:00 pm.

McGregor TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly)

meets Thu., 4 pm weigh in, 4:30 meeting, Minnewawa Sportsman's Club, Goshawk St. (Co. Rd. 6). 218-768-2340 for more info.

MS Support Group, meets the 1st Thu. of the month at 7 pm, 606 NW 5th St, Brainerd, 218-824-5228.

Mystic Masonic Lodge meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7 pm except June, July & August meet only 1st Tuesday at 7 pm over the Eye Care Center in Aitkin.

National Alliance on Mental Illness meet Fri., 2:30, Community Presbyterian Church, 703 Pokegama Ave., room 105, Grand Rapids, Call Terrence at 218-327-1347.

North Central MN Farm & Antique Assn. meet 1st Wed. of month, Blackberry Town Hall. Info: Bruce 218-752-6592.

Order of Eastern Star, Woodland Chapter 122 in Aitkin meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays September through May and 2nd Tuesday in June and 4th Tuesday in August at 7:30 PM above the Eye Care Center in Aitkin; dark July, January & February.

Operation Minnesota Nice meets 3rd Monday each month at 6 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hill City. For info call Tina Harcey at 218-697-8144. www.operationminnesotanice.com.

Praise & Worship Services, 101 S. Maddy St., McGregor, Intercessory prayer Wed 6-7 pm; Praise & Worship Services Sat. 2 pm, Sun 10 am.

Recovery Worship Service, Cascade United Methodist Church, Crosby/Deerwood, 1st Sat., 5 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Rosary is ongoing the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 pm at the Big Fish, Garrison, contact Jean at 218-764-2665 for more info.

RSVP Bone Builders (Osteoporosis exercise program) Tue & Thu: 10-11 First Lutheran Church, Aitkin; 11:30-12:30 Blackrock Terrace, Aitkin; 12:45-1:45 Journey North Church, Aitkin; Wed: 10-11 Malmo Evangelical Free Church, Malmo & Fri: 10-11 Bethesda Lutheran Church, Malmo. Free of charge. Info call 218-927-1383.

Second Tuesday Card Party, Deerwood American Legion. Open to public, 1 pm social, card playing 1:30-3:30 pm. Cost \$3 per person. Refreshments.

Senior Dance at Deerwood Legion, 1-4 pm, 1st and 3rd Fri. each month.

TOPS Aitkin (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Every Tues at East Entrance, First Lutheran Church, 101 2nd St SE, Aitkin Weigh in at 4:30pm and meeting at 5pm

TOPS Deerwood (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Mondays 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Deerwood Legion, 23659 Forest Rd, Deerwood. For more information, please contact Lucy Bartz 218-839-2218 or Gwenn Smith 218-246-2180.

TOPS Ironton (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meet Monday, 4 pm weigh-in, 4:30 pm meeting at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Crosby. Call Mabel Semler 218-546-6523 for meeting location information.

Weight Watchers meets every Tuesday at 5:45 pm at the Sno-Serpents building in Deerwood at 24197 Mohs St (next to the Deer Stand

restaurant). Weigh in begins at 5:15 pm. For more information, call 218-820-9725.

White Pine Riders ATV Club meet 2nd Sat. each month (Feb. - Oct.) at McGrath Fire Hall, 10 am, open to public.

January

9th - Red Cross Blood Drive, sponsored by the Lakers Lions of Emily, Outing and Fifty Lakes, 12:30- 6:30 pm at the Emily City Hall. To schedule an appointment or to volunteer to help at the blood drive, please call Nancy Moritz at 218-763-3097 or Kathy Harvet at 218-792-5314.

14th - Vespertine tribal-style modern dance troupe from the Brainerd lakes area and Sestri Slavic choir from Little Falls performing CLC. More details at 218-568-9200.

14th - Sons of Norway Tusenvann Lodge #1-659 meeting at I.R.E.C. in Isle, MN. Program will be Jerry Jacobson regarding the Drarken Viking Ship that sailed here from Norway this past summer. We will have installation of our new officers and coffee with light lunch. If you have questions call Bill @ 1-320-679-2380 or Candice at 1-320-983-2886.

19th - 21st - Annual Antique Snowmobile Rendezvous, Pequot Lakes includes trailride, show, races, swap meet. Hosted by the Pequot Brush Pilots Snowmobile Club.

21st - Benefit for Theresa Dehning, Tae Kwon Do Master, with cancer. Spaghetti dinner for \$7 with entertainment and silent auction, 6 p.m. at Harbor Inn in Garrison.

27th - Dueling Pianos Fishing Extravaganza Kick-off Party 5:30 9:pm Grand View

28th - Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza on Gull Lake. The contest is from Noon - 3 pm. Place in the top 150 and take home a prize. The contest raises money for Confidence Learning Center and other local charities.

29th - Annual Lumberjack Jaunt Northland Arboretum, 14250 Conservation Drive, Brainerd

February

2nd- 4th - Crosslake 14th Annual WinterFest

25th - Comic juggler Alex Clark More details at 218-568-9200.

Palisade man in critical condition

On January 4, at approx. 4:12 a.m., the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office received a call of an adult male that was found lying in the middle of the road in the 27000 block of CR #32, north of Cedar Lake.

The man was later identified as Brian Andrew Kokesh, 47, of Palisade.

Kokesh was reported to be wearing snowmobile type clothing and was unresponsive.

Upon arrival of Crosby Ambulance, Kokesh was brought to Cuyuna Regional Medical where he was immediately flown to Hennepin County Medical Center.

As of press time, Kokesh was listed in critical condition.

Deputies at the scene determined that Kokesh was operating a snowmobile in the ditch of CR #32 north of Hwy. 210, when he crashed into a ditch filled with wa-

ter. Evidence at the scene indicates that Kokesh walked out of the ditch and continued walking northbound on CR #32 for approx. one mile where it appears he collapsed on the road. He was later found by a passerby who called 911.

It was later determined that Brian Kokesh's wife had reported him missing to Aitkin County authorities earlier in the evening as he was overdue from a snowmobile ride.

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Governor's Proposed Jobs Bill| Continued from Pages 1 & 5

Hibbing Community College—Hibbing Community College trains students on the Iron Range for a wide-variety of careers, including in law enforcement, diesel mechanics, heating and cooling system maintenance, health care, information technology, and business. The Governor and Lt. Governor have proposed \$7.5 million in their Jobs Bill to remove unused buildings and renovate other facilities to reduce long-term maintenance costs and provide students access to modern classrooms and technology.

Rail and Pipeline Safety

Moorhead Rail Grade Separation—An average of 85 trains pass through the City of Moorhead each day, many of them carrying crude oil from North Dakota. However, the current layout of the streets and train tracks makes it impossible to install railroad gates at the current intersection.

The Jobs Bill would provide \$42.3 million to separate motor vehicle and rail traffic, which will improve public safety and alleviate frequent traffic delays caused by passing trains.

Prairie Island Rail Grade Separation — Approximately 40 trains per day traveling at up to 79 miles per hour pass through the area. A derailment or crash blocking Sturgeon Lake Road could have serious consequences because the road is Prairie Island's only public roadway and evacuation route. The need is heightened by the presence of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant and Lock and Dam Number 3. The Jobs Bill would spend \$14.8 million to separate Sturgeon Lake Road and the Canadian Pacific rail track, which will improve access to the island in the event of an emergency.

Coon Rapids Rail Grade Separation—The Hanson Boulevard rail crossing in Coon Rapids is regularly blocked by trains awaiting clearance to enter the nearby Northtown Rail Yard. The blockage can cut the city in half—making it difficult for emergency vehicles to travel across town without detours. The bill would spend \$12.6 million to improve public safety and help commuters who travel through the intersection daily.

Rail and Pipeline Safety Training — Currently, Minnesota has 4,444 rail route miles used by 20 different railroads, which annually move more than one trillion tons of freight through the state. By 2030, rail traffic in Minnesota is projected to grow 25 percent to 40 percent. To better ensure first responders are prepared for emergencies, the Jobs Bill would spend \$3.5 million in an oil train derailment and pipeline safety training center at Camp Ripley.

New State Emergency Operations Center — The Jobs Bill would spend \$33.3 million in a new State Emergency Operations Center, to help coordinate during disasters and emergencies and serve as a training center for emergency operations.

National Guard and Veterans

Brainerd Readiness Center Renovation — Decreased federal funding has left the Brainerd Readiness Center behind on basic maintenance and repairs. To help ensure the facility is ready to meet the needs of the National Guard and Minnesotans during emergencies, the Governor and Lt. Governor's Jobs Bill would spend \$3.5 million.

St. Cloud National Guard Readiness Center — More than 230 Minnesota National Guard soldiers are assigned to the St. Cloud Readiness Center. An additional 156 are expected to be assigned there as the facility transitions to become a battalion headquarters. However, the aging facility is inadequate for the National Guard's needs, having received a "poor" facility ranking in 2014. In response, bill would spend

\$4.5 million to renovate and expand the St. Cloud Readiness Center. These resources also would fund basic maintenance, including updates to the heating and cooling system, interior painting, and sewer connection improvements.

Minneapolis Veterans Home Truss Bridge Project—The bridge that carries Soldiers' Home Road over Minnehaha Creek was built in 1908 to connect the Minneapolis Veterans Home to Minnehaha Park. However, the bridge now lacks the strength to safely support vehicle traffic, which limits access to the Veterans Home to a single entrance. The Governor and Lt. Governor have included a \$7.9 million expenditure in their Jobs Bill to repair the historic bridge and improve access to the home.

Protecting Our Water and Natural Resources

Water Infrastructure — Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith's Jobs Bill would spend \$167 million to fund water infrastructure to help communities rehabilitate wastewater and drinking water infrastructure systems, expand capacity, and meet water quality requirements.

Buffer Reimbursements — The Jobs Bill would spend \$30 million in the Respond in Minnesota Reserve program, which compensates private landowners for granting permanent conservation easements and establishing wetlands or riparian areas on their lands. The funds will help Minnesotans implement the new buffer strip law passed last session.

Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program—Spring flooding can have significant consequences for affected communities by deterring further economic development in the flood plain and putting existing structures at-risk. The bill has a \$6.5 million expenditure to complete flood risk reduction projects in Halstad, Montevideo, the Cedar River, and the Redpath Impoundment.

Lake Mille Lacs Walleye Population — To address the declining walleye population of Lake Mille Lacs, the Governor and Lt. Governor's Jobs Bill would spend \$3.5 million to develop a fisheries management station on the lake, including a Department of Natural Resources' office, laboratory, and hatchery

Supporting Minnesota's Pheasant Population — As recommended at the Pheasant Summit convened by Governor Dayton in 2014, the Jobs Bill would provide \$9.5 million to acquire, develop, and improve lands for wildlife and aquatic management areas.

Statewide Fish Population Support— The Jobs Bill would provide \$1 million to improve fish hatcheries statewide to control invasive species, enhance production capacities, and upgrade water systems.

Spending in Health and Safety

Minnesota Security Hospital Improvements—The Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter is facing staffing shortages and increasingly challenging patients. The Governor and Lt. Governor have included a \$70.3 million expenditure in their Jobs Bill to renovate and expand the facility, so that it is better able to serve patients with the most serious conditions. The renovated facility also would improve safety by eliminating blind spots and challenging sightlines that make it difficult for staff to account for all patients. The renovation would further improve safety by separating vulnerable adults from predatory populations.

Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center—Few security features were incorporated into the design of the Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center when it was built two decades ago. This limitation has been compounded by a changing patient population, with increasingly complex psychiatric conditions

and histories of violent behavior. Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith have proposed a \$2.3 million expenditure to install additional security cameras, upgrade the facility's alarm safety and electronic key card system, and improve safety at nursing stations.

St. Cloud Correctional Facility — To help protect public and employee safety, the Jobs Bill would invest \$19 million to complete a new intake and loading dock at the St. Cloud Correctional Facility. Their proposal also includes \$4.4 million to repair the aging perimeter wall that poses a security concern and make other essential improvements at the prison.


Supporting Minnesotans in Need

Second Harvest Heartland — Second Harvest Heartland plays a critical role in alleviating hunger in Minnesota. In 2015, they delivered more than 77 million meals to nearly 1,000 food shelves, pantries, and other partner programs across Minnesota. This assistance benefited over 530,000 people who suffered a job loss, unexpected medical bills, or simply couldn't afford to feed themselves and their families. A proposed \$18 million expenditure is to help Second Harvest build a new distribution center, allowing them to better serve people across Minnesota.

Dyslexia Institute of Minnesota — Dyslexia affects approximately one in five people, however, few people with the condition receive the care needed to help them achieve their full potential. To help ensure that more Minnesotans with Dyslexia receive needed assistance, the Governor and Lt. Governor have proposed a \$1.5 million expenditure to help construct a treatment facility in Olmstead County. The facility would include a space for Reading Readiness classes for children aged four to six, four practicum spaces for small group training, and two smaller classrooms for school-aged classes.

North Country Food Bank — The North Country Food Bank in Crookston provides the equivalent of 5.8 million meals to people in northwest and west central Minnesota. However, the current facility has inadequate food storage space, especially for foods that require freezing or refrigeration. The food bank also struggles with logistical problems and parking due to limited space. If approved, the bill would spend \$3 million to help expand the facility.

Willmar Mental Health Hospital—The Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services program provides psychiatric healthcare to Minnesota youth who need crisis care and intensive treatment. Many patients at the facility are physically aggressive and have needs that exceed the capacity of other providers. The current facility at the former Willmar Regional Treatment Center makes it difficult to protect patient and staff safety. To improve safety and care, the bill includes a \$7.5 million expenditure to build a new 16-bed psychiatric hospital facility in Willmar to better treat these Minnesota children.




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