

WEST CENTRAL TRIBUNE *Online*

Legislators will be in area during tour focusing on poverty

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ST. PAUL — A legislative commission that is studying ways to end poverty in Minnesota will tour the region on Wednesday.

Called the “Legislative Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota by 2020,” the 20-member committee is made up primarily of House and Senate members and was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 2006. It includes Sen. Steve Dille, R-Dassel.

The commission’s task is to develop the guidelines and to make recommendations to the full legislature on ways to end poverty in 12 years. To gain perspective on the effects of poverty, the commission will be touring Litchfield, Buffalo Lake, Hector, Olivia, Willmar, Eden Valley and Watkins.

The daylong tour begins at 9:45 a.m. at United Methodist Church in Litchfield, followed by a tour of the Buffalo Lake meatpacking plant and lunch at the Hector Senior Dining Center.

The group will be in Willmar from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. They will participate in a walking tour of ethnic-owned businesses and visit with individuals with mental health diagnosis who had been homeless and are now living in housing sponsored by the Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

In Eden Valley the tour will include a stop at a food shelf and a trailer park.

The legislators will be briefed on various issues, like education, housing, hunger and transportation while they are in transit to the different locations.