

# COUNCIL for the ECONOMIC

# STATUS of WOMEN

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NEWSLETTER #15

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## public hearing

A public hearing on women and housing will be held Thursday, April 27 at 1:00 PM in Room 57 of the State Office Building, St. Paul.

The hearing will focus particularly on the needs of low-income women, welfare recipients, and single-parent families.

All hearings are open to the public as observers or participants. For more information, or if you wish to testify, please call Nina Rothchild at 296-8590.

\* WOMEN'S INFORMATION LINE - CALL TOLL-FREE 1-800-652-9744

WORK SCHEDULES  
SURVEY REPORT

A high degree of interest in more flexible work arrangements was demonstrated by a recent survey of state employees. The Minnesota Department of Personnel sent out a questionnaire in January to assess interest in either part-time employment or more flexible work hours.

The survey was sent to approximately 3,000 state employees, of whom 1,500 responded. Respondents who indicated an interest in working either 20 hours a week or 30 hours a week were:

	<u>20 Hours</u>	<u>30 Hours</u>
Male	5.6%	6.5%
Female	7.4%	12.5%
TOTAL	13.0%	19.0%

If the sample is representative, and assuming those not responding do not want part-time employment, then there are currently almost 3,000 full-time employees who would be interested in working 30 hours per week or less.

Other data from the questionnaire showed:

- Very few employees were interested in part-time employment without state-contributed fringe benefits, but
- The majority were willing to work part-time with pro-rated benefits.
- Those desiring part-time work tended to be younger (under age 30) although there was no relationship between interest in part-time work and length of service with the state.
- There seemed to be little interest in part-time work during the pre-retirement period (age 51-65).
- About half the respondents were willing to change jobs or location in order to have a part-time job.
- A healthy majority of the respondents (58%) were interested in flexible work hours in full-time employment.
- Those interested in flexible work schedules were evenly divided between males and females.

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CONFERENCE  
DATE SET

Dates for the Governor's Conference on Families, co-sponsored by the Council on the Economic Status of Women and the State Planning Agency, have been set for May 22 and 23. The conference is scheduled for the Sheraton Inn Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

Registration begins April 20 and is open to the public. Inquiries may be sent to Vickie DeSanto, Continuing Education in Social Work, 338 Nolte Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

# Legislation '78

## STATUS OF COUNCIL-ENDORSED LEGISLATION AT THE END OF THE SESSION:

Inheritance Tax: HF 588/SF 983 (Vanasek/Sieloff) Died in Tax Committee in both houses. Provided for the exclusion from estate tax of one half the value of property held in joint tenancy by a decedent and the decedent's spouse.

\* Open Appointments: HF 85/SF 37 (Wenstrom/Luther) Passed. Provides for an open appointment process for state agencies, including boards, commissions, etc. Requires collection, publication and reporting of data on a number of bases, including sex.

\* Marriage and Divorce Reform: HF 2027/SF 1826 (Berglin/Davies) Patterned after the Uniform Marriage and Divorce Act, this bill makes irretrievable breakdown the only grounds for a marriage dissolution and removes fault from the economic provisions of a dissolution. It provides standards for property division and for granting maintenance (alimony) and child support. Guidelines for maintenance include the applicant's financial resources, time required for necessary education, the parties' marital living standard, the length of the marriage, the applicant's age and physical and emotional condition, and the other party's ability to support himself and the applicant. Guidelines for property division include recognition of the spouse's contribution as homemaker. Guidelines for child support are based primarily on the best interest of the child. (Present law does not provide any guidelines for economic provisions.) The bill also makes some changes in residency requirements for divorce, separates child support obligations from visitation rights, allows a couple to get a marriage license in any county, and strengthens child support collection procedures. Passed.

Insurance: HR 2194/SF 2254 (Wynia/Spear) Passed out of committee in the House and died in Commerce Committee in the Senate. Prohibited unfair discriminatory practices in the sale, underwriting, and rating of insurance policies. Prohibited certain discrimination on the basis of sex, marital status, or occupation as a homemaker.

\* Family Planning: HF 2098/SF 2143 (Berglin/Staples) Passed. Provides for special grants to provide family planning services. Appropriates \$ 1.3 million.

\* Battered Women: HF 1904/SF 1689 (Kahn/Lewis) Passed. Amends the 77 law to provide for more than 4 pilot programs for battered women. Appropriates an additional \$ 100,000.

Sliding Fee for Child Care: HF 1951/SF 1880 (Hanson/Spear) Passed the House and referred to the Finance Committee in the Senate. Provides for a sliding fee payment plan for child care. Appropriated \$ 750,000 to the Department of Public Welfare.

\* Passed

