

Area reps split on teen alcohol bill

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Michigan is moving toward two standards for drunk driving — a 0.02 percent blood alcohol for the under 21 crowd and the continued 0.10 percent for legal drinkers.

The House recently passed the tougher standard for young drivers, 66 to 32, and sent it to the Senate where it is in the Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sen. William Van Regenmorter, R-Jenison.

"People under 21 shouldn't be drinking at all," said sponsor Frank Fitzgerald, R-Grand Ledge, a former assistant prosecutor.

"It bothers me," said Rep. William Bryant, R-Grosse Pointe. "It's perfectly legal for them to drink (at 19) in Ontario, but when they come back to Michigan they are guilty of drunk driving."

"To the extent we discriminate

against younger drivers, we build disrespect for the law," said Rep. Lyn Jondahl, D-Okemos.

Jondahl offered an amendment to make the blood alcohol test zero for all drivers, but it failed on a 26 to 69 vote.

Fitzgerald agreed that Jondahl's zero tolerance proposal might be Michigan's ultimate goal, "but it's not good policy to take the final step yet. There are intermediate steps."

Critics also objected that the bill was another example of Michigan's passing "tough new laws" without providing money for more enforcement.

Here is how area lawmakers voted on final passage:

Yes — Republicans Penny Crisman of Rochester, Barbara Dobb of Union Lake, Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills, John Jamian

of Bloomfield Township.

No — Democrat Maxine Bertram of Southfield, Republicans Shirley Johnson of Royal Oak and Greg Kazza of Rochester Hills.

If the new standard becomes law, an under-21 person who drinks one beer or a shot of hard liquor could be convicted. An offender could be fined \$250 and lose his or her driver's license for 90 days. The law would apply on parking lots as well as streets.

Fitzgerald's bill reflects growing alarm in towns around Lansing where post party car crashes have claimed several teens each year.

Other bills will be aimed at restricting the number of passengers in a car driven by a teen and prohibiting teens from carrying even unopened containers of alcohol.

Bryant of Grosse Pointe said

the bill is flawed because a totally sober person using a breath spray with alcohol could test as drunk on a police Breathalyzer.

Opponent Ted Wallace, D-Detroit, said the bill "intentionally discriminates" against young people. "It's older people like you and me that make wars, but it's young people who die in them."

Supporter Dan Gustafson, R-Haslett, said teens learn disrespect for the law if they blow 0.06 percent on the Breathalyzer after illegally drinking and are released.

Gustafson said a separate standard is needed for young drivers because "inexperience and alcohol are deadly."

Refer to House Bill 4839 when writing to the Senate Judiciary Committee, State Capitol, Lansing 48913.

Workshop could benefit trustees

An Oakland University Continuum Center workshop called "How To Be An Effective Board Member" will occur 7-10 p.m. Wednesday at the Bloomfield Township Library.

Corporate vice president James Hopkin will present an outline of the ingredients for success in board work. Topics include unwritten and unspoken expectations, liability and the differences between profit and non-profit boards.

B'ham hosts mega "garage" sale

Over 200 merchants and food vendors will participate in the debut of "Birmingham's Best Garage Sale," scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday in the Chester Street Parking Struc-

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Arts subsidy near last year's level

The state's regulatory budget — with \$29 million for the arts — will become law despite many attempts to amend it in the House of Representatives.

The bill was passed 83 to 18 and went to Gov. John Engler without major change from the Senate version. It is approximately the same amount as was appropriated last year.

It funds the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Historical Museum, Detroit Zoo, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Edison Institute at Green-

field Village and the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

"This complex bill was just presented Wednesday (one day earlier) at 4 p.m. I have not been able to study it," objected Rep. Penny Crisman, R-Rochester, who voted no.

Rep. Greg Kazza, R-Rochester, raised the philosophical question of "whether it is a legitimate function of Lansing to provide taxpayer subsidies for the arts."

Kazza quoted author Ernest Hemingway, sculptor Wheeler Williams painter Larry Rivers and novelist John Updike as op-

posing governmental interference in and support of the arts.

From the west side of the state, Rep. Harold Voorhees, R-Wyoming, opposed a state subsidy to regional facilities as lacking

equity. "Regional facilities should be supported on a regional basis," said Voorhees, who lost an amendment to reduce Detroit area facilities and raise it for the Grand Rapids museum.

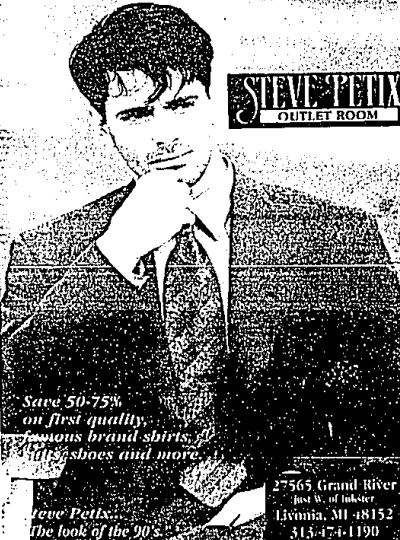
College holds used piano sale

Madonna University in Livonia is selling pianos Friday-Sunday.

Used by music students and faculty for the 1992-93 school year, 50 pianos will be sold to the public at savings of up to 40 per-

cent. Among the brand names are Kawai, Young Chang and Yamaha. Baldwin will supply Madonna with pianos for the next academic year. For additional data, call 1-800-894-6484.

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