How consumer bill was bent, broken

Sometimes it lesks as if a bill sides saily through the Shickipan Legislature. But behind final passage are a lot of amendments and messevers. So it was last month as the State House of Representatives gave 6th 28 approval to a consumer protection bill aimed at probability sufair and deceptive business practices. Of Observer & Boosstrie area representatives, only Jemes Debtesugh (R-Birminghem) was appased to final many contractives and the State Shirt Shirt

inghern) was especed to final age, and Roy Smith (R-Ypstlanti) absent. The other 10, Resublicans

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"I VOTED POR it become I believe it cartains important provisions to gard consumers against freehitest and milesofing advertising or well as shootly products and well-assessments," said Rep. Rebert Genin (R-North-rile)

seles for a product growly in excess of prices elsewhere for similar products.

"The bill would enable the strongy general to obtain a temporary or permanent court injunction to stop unlawful ects." Forbes said.
"It also permits cleas action law-naits for victims of lilegal business practices as well as individual court actions. The suits could sak for completion of a transaction according to customer's understanding, or a change in a business' practices."

BUT THE LOCAL lawmakers split when it came time to giving the bill immediate effect, which meant that it could have become law Jan. 1 instead of next April 1.

The vote for immediate effect was it to ill, or one sky of the regulard ill. Supporting immediate offert basins Purbos were John Bussett (D-Rud-jord), W.V. Bertherton (C-Parch-ingian), Tom Brewn (D-Watland), William Kalif (D-Garden Cy), Hel-Larms (R-Oxford), John Markes (D-Livonia) and Sal Rocca (D-Sterling Heights).

Opposing immediate effect were Defehaugh (R-Birmingham), Gaske and Ruth McNamee (R-Birmingham). Geake said opponents said it would take ustil April 1 to set up the regu-latory machinery.

ANOTHER PROVISION splitting local lawmakers was an attempt to terminate the act in five years unless it is extended by the Legislature.

Geake called that "a conservative amendment." Backing it were himself. Brotherton and Defebaugh, all Republicans.

All other area representatives joined forces to vote down the five-year amendment (except the absent Smith). The vote was 29 to 63.

Mrs. McNamee later offered an amendment—which failed, 60 to 65—to allow the act to expire July 1, 1900.

Backing it were Brotherton. Brown, Defebaugh, Geake, Keith, Larsen and Mrs. McNamee, a cross-section of parties and philosophies.

Job skills classes set

agement education evening courses for adults seeking career improve-ment or facing job change. Classes will be held at Bloomfield Country Day School, an affiliate of Northwood Institute, beginning the week of Jan. 12

New classes cover human relations for secretaries, accounting for the sec-retary, the computer in manaage-ment's view, making motivation effec-tive, practical marketing principles, personnel management and collective

Also writing in business, public speaking, invididual growth and devel-opment, reading speed and com-prehension improvement, engineering materials and practical applied math-

Medical card for welfare

the month.

Director Howard Romo said the new procedure does not include payment for hospitalization and has no effect on the federal-state Medicaid pro-

Opposing it were Besnett, Fortes, Marine and Rocca, all Democrats.

Blaffine and Recc., all Domocrats.

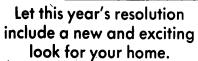
Geales said the purpose of limiting the life of the act was that "government bureaucracies tend to outras legislative instant, interfering with the public's freedom to buy and adding to the coats of goods through unnested regulation." Limiting the law's life would force a re-valuation—the same philosophy as "zero budgeting." be

CONSUMER ADVOCATES called a bill a major victory.

But the victory was short-lived. It takes both houses of the Legislature to pass a bill. Although the bill had passed the Senate carrier, it had to go back to the Senate for concurrence in the House's amandments.

currence in the House's amendments.
But the Senate didn't concur. A day
after House passage, the Senate rejucised the measure, 28 to 4.
Voting against 28 is were area senators Donald Bishop (R-Rochester).
Dealed Coper (D-oks Park) and Carl
Pursell (R-Plymouth). Absent were
Bill Huffman (D-Maddon Heights and
William Faunt (D-Westland).





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