

12 new laws go into effect March 31

Michigan will have a batch of new laws on March 31.

On that date, 90 days after the final adjournment of the last session of the legislature, bills not given immediate effect when passed become automatically effective.

The new laws include some major ones and touch on areas such as consumer protection, openness in government, environmental protection, civil rights, solar energy and smoking.

The list includes Michigan's new Consumer Protection Act. That law spells out 29 unfair, deceptive and unscrupulous business tactics that are illegal; gives the attorney general authority to halt such practices; makes it easier for victimized consumers to obtain redress in the courts; and allows state regulatory agencies to investigate suspected unfair trade practices.

Another new law will require grocery stores to mark the recommended

last date of sale on repackaged meats, fish, poultry, bakery products and other perishable foods. An earlier law made the same requirement for dairy products. The food can still be sold after the recommended last date of sale but that fact must be made clear and the food must still be in wholesome condition.

A THIRD NEW LAW makes it illegal for a chain of stores to lower prices at some outlets in the state and not at others with the intent of destroying local competition.

Two important open government laws go into effect March 31. One requires that most meetings of state and local governmental bodies, both elected and appointed, be fully open to the public. It also requires advance notice of public meetings.

The other, the Freedom of Information Act, guarantees the right of the public to see and inspect state and local government records and docu-

ments. There are certain exceptions, such as some types of police and court records and information which would be an invasion of a person's right to privacy.

ALSO GOING into effect will be a major environmental protection bill, one which will virtually phase out use of the industrial chemical polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) in Michigan. PCB is a fire-resistant compound which does not break down naturally when washed into rivers and lakes.

PCB has caused death and reproductive failure in many Great Lakes fish and fish-eating birds and animals and is recognized as a health hazard to humans.

Two other new laws are designed to encourage the development and use of solar energy as an alternative to dwindling resources of fossil fuels. The laws exempt from sales and property taxes materials used in the con-

version of homes or commercial buildings from conventional heating and cooling systems to systems powered by solar energy.

A series of non-smokers' rights bills goes into effect March 31. They will ban smoking in the food sections of grocery stores, require restaurants that seat more than 50 to have a section for non-smokers, and require hospitals, nursing homes and homes for the aged to adopt smoking policies to protect patients and residents who are allergic to tobacco or find it offensive.

MICHIGAN'S NEW Civil Rights Act will be going into effect. It brings together various civil rights statutes to make administration and enforcement more effective and, importantly, fully prohibits discrimination based on age or marital status.

Two other new laws will prohibit discrimination against handicapped persons and discrimination based solely on height or weight.

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OCC offers scholarships

An expanded scholarship program at Oakland Community College will provide money for outstanding students who will be graduating from high school this June. According to Don Nichols, chairman of the college-wide scholarship committee, there will be twelve awards covering tuition, approximately \$350, for the 1977-78 academic year. The scholarships can be used at any of the college's five locations: Auburn Hills Campus, located near Pontiac; Highland Lakes Campus in Union Lake; Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills; and the Southland Campus locations in Oak Park and Royal Oak.

The primary emphasis of the scholarships, says Nichols, "is academic performance. Financial need is not a factor. The college presently offers several hundred thousand dollars in financial assistance to students based solely on need. Our intent is to reward classroom excellence on the part of Oakland County high school students."

Four James A. Lewis Awards, named in honor of a former vice president of the University of Michigan who assisted the college in its early development, will be granted to cover a year's tuition at OCC.

Eight scholarship committee awards, funded by donations from faculty administrators and staff at OCC, will be made in the amount of \$300 to cover tuition for 1977-78 at the college.

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Bill Blass does the double-breasted denim suit in a decidedly British manner. The British are no-nonsense when it comes to clothes. They like things to look dapper, but they also like things that are built the way a man's built, with a margin of comfort here and there. This suit is cut in a marvelous cotton denim that has a velvet touch. Blass styles it with a fuller chest, straight shoulders, a slightly longer coat with narrowed lapels and tapered sleeves, and an interestingly tapered button stance. The trousers are slightly flared, and the price is \$130.

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