

## Doug Ross is target

# State mandate provision draws heat from local officials

By JACKIE KLEIN

State Sen. Doug Ross has come under attack by Southfield officials for introducing legislation which allegedly violates the Headlee amendment by eliminating many state-mandated costs for local services.

The senate bill, co-sponsored by Ross, an Oak Park Democrat whose district includes Southfield, Lathrup Village, Farmington and Farmington Hills and Flint Democrat Gary Corbin, passed the senate. The measure is being debated by the House of Representatives and is expected to be passed before the legislature's July 14 recess.

Ross introduced Wednesday an amendment to the bill currently on the house floor, requiring the state to pay for increased levels of service in the areas of police, fire, and ambulance units.

Southfield, Ross said, was instrumen-

tal in proposing the amendment, and he is confident that it will be approved when the legislation goes back to the senate conference committee.

The amendment may help Ross get out of hot water with Southfield officials, who Monday proposed a resolution critical of Ross' original proposed bill. But city council and Mayor Donald Praccasi declined to make the resolution official before final legislative action on Senate Bill 460, the Headlee state-mandated costs measure.

"Sen. Ross, before being elected to the senate, espoused the cause of the Michigan consumer," the proposed resolution reads. "It can be safely assumed his advocacy of consumer rights was a contributing factor to his election."

"HIS ELECTION to the senate was considered a boon to the consumer. It's reasonable to expect that his former concern for the consumer would insure a watchdog approach for state costs to be eventually paid by the taxing public."

Ross, the resolution adds, co-sponsored and continues to advocate enactment of Senate Bill 460 to implement the Headlee amendment, a constitutional change approved by voters last November.

The purpose of the amendment, according to the resolution, is to insure a limit on the amount of state and local taxes which can be collected in one year unless approved by voters.

The amendment, the resolution con-

times, also prohibits the state from mandating services or an increase in services or activities without covering the costs.

"Senate Bill 460 will, if it becomes law, exempt vital library, street and maintenance, parks and recreation and police and fire services as optional, not required by state law," the resolution reads. "These services would be ineligible for reimbursement if the state decreases a change which would entail added costs to local governments."

"The mayor and council of Southfield by this resolution makes known its dis-

pleasure and loss of confidence in Sen. Ross for his promotion of legislation that will have dire economic results for local government."

Copies of the resolution, according to Southfield officials, should be provided to the media so voters in the 15th Senate District may be aware of "how shallow is Ross's concern for the consumer and his willingness to abort the mandate given by the electorate."

Ross argues that the legislature must implement Proposition E, the Headlee amendment, exactly as it was intended even though it may not be best for cit-

ies or the state.

"We only exempted services not required by state law in order to comply with Headlee," Ross said. "If there's a disagreement between state legislators and cities, a remedy may be sought in court."

"THE BILL will stand up to court tests because it meets the letter and spirit of the Headlee amendment. The Michigan Municipal League (MML) says the proposed legislation has more than 16 loopholes in it. The league claimed the Headlee amendment had too many loopholes to begin with."

## Ross fights rent burden

(Continued from page 1A)

cent of its income with a monthly rent of only \$200. To reduce rent to 25 percent of income, rent must drop to \$125 a month. This means moving to sub-standard dwellings. Public housing is inadequate. Only 3,500 households in Michigan are receiving federal rent subsidies in private dwelling units."

Long waiting lists already characterize federally financed Michigan State Housing and Development projects, he said. And the shortage of public housing is sure to continue with projected cutbacks in federal housing programs.

"The psychological costs of moving are considerable," he said. "The trauma of being forced to move because of financial difficulties combined with being uprooted from one's home and community shouldn't be minimized."

The 75 percent state return for the general public would be a cost-sharing device to insure a continued incentive to hold down rents and discourage moving to more expensive housing, Ross said.

The 100 percent return is proposed for the elderly because of the already existing barriers to further mobility, Ross said. Seniors are looking for resources to remain in their dwelling units rather than move, he said.

"THE PROPOSAL will benefit many seniors who are worried about the future," Ross said. "By placing an absolute ceiling on how high a burden they must bear, the measure would reduce the anxiety of seniors who are

afraid they'll have to move if their rents continue to rise."

Cost of the proposed program is \$18.6 million, Ross said. The average credit to the nearly 20,000 eligible senior citizen households is \$300 and \$250 for the more than 50,000 eligible general households.

Ross also has introduced a bill requiring landlords to pay tenants the market rate of interest on security deposits. Interest on security deposits is fair because landlords are using tenants' money, Ross said.

"Landlords are organized but renters have no spokesmen in Lansing," Ross said. "They can't represent themselves and the problems facing renters were never priorities. I made a commitment to be one legislator who considers renters a special concern."

"The bills don't freeze rents because that kind of rent control discourages construction of apartments which are needed by retirees. The legislature spends \$350 million a year in property tax relief. It can afford to pay \$20 million a year for rent relief."

Because renters lack political self-confidence, they're not organized, Ross said. He proposes a landlord-tenant council, a state-wide renters lobby and a letter-writing campaign to the governor and legislature to urge passage of the proposed act.

## EMU students earn degrees

Michael T. McDonough of Farmington and Jean L. Heilbrunn of Farmington Hills received master of arts and master of fine arts degrees respectively from Eastern Michigan University at spring commencement.



## Tantrific Sun

12 Mile & Evergreen  
in the Evergreen Plaza  
CALL: 559-5454 now!

Tantrific Sun is a brand new way to get an even, golden tan in just minutes a day.

It's all done indoors, so no matter what the weather's like, the sun will still be shining at Tantrific.

And there's no messy lotion, no burning, just the most perfect tan this side of Hawaii.

So take the work out of working on a tan and come by Tantrific Sun.

You'll look better leaving than you did coming in.

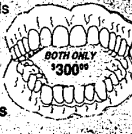
## House of Dentures

28350 Grand River  
Farmington Hills

Free Consultation  
and Exam

• Quick  
Repairs  
• 1 Day Relines  
• Partials

Insurance Accepted For Appointment  
Call 478-1495



## Brakes Exclusively

Our Only Business

\$99<sup>95</sup>

LATE MODELS  
PARTS &  
LABOR

30,000 MILE  
LINING WARRANTY

2 HOUR SERVICE • FREE LOANER CARS

LIVONIA BRAKE CENTER 31390 Plymouth Road at corner of Meridian Phone: 261-2220



REDFORD BRAKE CENTER 14154 Telegraph 1 block North of Schoolcraft Phone: 538-3223

## PLUMBING "Super Specials"



KITCHEN FAUCET  
With Blade Handles  
Model 2100 or 2102 With  
Crystal Handles  
Reg. \$21.95

\$17<sup>95</sup>



BATHROOM FAUCET  
#502  
CHROME 522  
Reg. \$36.95

\$29<sup>95</sup>

WITH POP-UP  
ASSEMBLY  
#502  
With Pop-Up  
Assembly  
Reg. \$29.95

\$21<sup>95</sup>



KITCHEN FAUCET  
Faucet with Spray  
Model 400  
Reg. \$36.95

\$28<sup>95</sup>



BATHROOM FAUCET  
With Crystal Handles  
Reg. \$17.95

\$14<sup>95</sup>



BATHROOM FAUCET  
With Complete Pop-up  
Assembly Model 520  
Reg. \$34.95

\$27<sup>95</sup>



SINGLE LEVER  
KITCHEN FAUCET  
#100-8 Reg. \$29.95

SALE \$21<sup>95</sup>

## LIVONIA True Value HARDWARE

5 Mile at Farmington  
GA2-1155-937-1611

OPEN DAILY 9 a.m.-9 p.m. SUNDAY 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**New Ownership Special**  
**\$500 OFF**  
**All Permanents**  
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
by Appointment  
Shampoo and Wave at 1/2 price  
within 15 days of your permanent.  
We also specialize in men's styling  
and hair fashions.  
**Patrice's Hair Fashions**  
14106 Telegraph  
Located in the Tele-Craft Shopping Center 535-1445

ARE YOU CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE WHEN IT COMES TO AUTO INSURANCE?



Dangerous drivers drive up insurance costs. If you're a careful driver who's tired of paying for the other guy's mistakes, see us about SAFECO. The people they don't insure make SAFECO a good deal for those they do insure.

**SAVE WITH SAFECO**  
SAFECO Insurance Company of America  
Home Office - Seattle, Washington

**Robert L. Sovel Agency**

31547 13 Mile Road  
Farmington Hills  
(313) 553-2628

Pre-Festival  
**CARNIVAL**  
Wednesday - thru  
Saturday  
July 18-21  
**DUNCKEL JR. HIGH**  
**PARKING LOT**  
12 Mile Rd.,  
East of Farmington Rd.  
**HALF PRICE RIDES** NOON TO 5 P.M.  
Wednesday thru Saturday  
SPONSORED BY  
**NORTH FARMINGTON KIWANIS**

