

# Republicans ask for 2nd chance

Tim Richard  
staff writer

Senate Republicans attempted Wednesday to pull back the reapportionment bill from the House of Representatives by requesting that it return to the Senate. The party-line vote was 18 Republicans in favor, 16 against and two Democrats absent. The Senate passed the reapportionment measure the night of Nov. 30, only hours after Macomb County voters had voted to recall state Sen. David Serotkin, D-Mt. Clemens.

Sen. Richard Fessler, R-Union Lake, as author of "the respectful message" to the House, which has yet to act upon the bill. Ordinarily when one party requests return of a bill from the other, the request is honored. But it is unlikely that the Democrat-controlled House will do so in this case.

Fessler argued that Serotkin was "Citizen David Serotkin" as soon as the election results were known. Fessler said the "state election commission had purely ministerial function in certifying the election results" six days later.

Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, ridiculed "the idea that the election is over at 8 o'clock. The idea that me ducks can't vote is anathema to the American system. Certification becomes essential."

Sen. Jackie Vaughn III, D-Detroit, predicted, "The House will never act on SEN. ALAN Cropsey, R-DeWitt,

noted that two Democratic members of the state Election Commission failed to show up for their first meeting to certify the Serotkin recall. Cropsey asked rhetorically, "How long could Sen. Serotkin have served if members of his own party had failed to show up for a certification board meeting? If you follow that logic, he (Serotkin) could've continued to serve for three days, three months, three years — even to Dec. 31, 1985."

Sen. Norman Shinkle, R-Lambertville, said Faxon erred in "trying to relate a recalled senator to a lame duck senator. Normally one serves out the term to the end of the year, but a recall says voters want him out now."

All area senators voted with their parties. Republicans Doug Cruce of Troy, Fessler and R. Robert Geake of Northville voted to ask for return of the bill. Democrats William Faust of Westland, Faxon and Patrick McCullough of Dearborn voted against.

Republicans estimate that the reapportionment bill would cost them two seats in the Senate and at least seven in the House. Democrats contend that reapportionment is necessary because the disparities between the largest and smallest districts are too large.

The reapportionment bill must go through two committees before being considered by the House as a whole. It has passed the appropriations committee and is expected to be considered by the elections committee this week.

Democrats control the House by a 63-47 majority.

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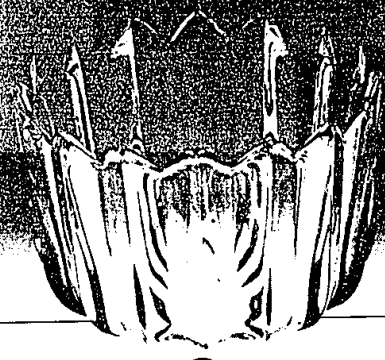
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