3 chemical safety bills pass Senate

By Tim Richard stalf writer

The state Senate has passed and sent to Gov. Blanchard three "right-to-know" safety bills. But some sena-tors warn that one bill violates the Headlee amendment of the state con

The bills require information be given to workers, firefighters and the general public about dangerous chemicals. All Observe & Eccentric area senators voted yes on final pas-

"It's not a matter of safety for the firefighters. It's a matter of telling the local units of government what they must do," said Sen. Jack Welborn, R-Kalamazoo, objecting to one bil

WELBORN LOST. His amendment requiring the state to "reimburse local governments for the cost incurred in preparing, distributing and implementing" information plans was defeated, 12 yes and 23 no votes.

welborn argued that the 1978

Welborn argued that the 1978 Headlec amnodment requires the state to pay for any programs mandated to local government. Supporting the Welborn amendment were Republicans Dong Cruce of Troy, Robert Geake of Northville and Rudy Nichols of Waterford. Oposed were Democrats William Faust of Westland, Jack Faxon of Parmington Hills and Patrick McCollough of Dearborn.

Richard Fessler, R-West Bloom-field, was absent.

THE MICHIGAN Right to Know Task Force, chaired by Scott Tobey, hailed the bills as "a tremendous vic-

halled the bills as "a tremendous vic-ory."

It encouraged "people who are ex-posed to toxic chemicals in the work-place or in their communities to be-in demanding the information that this law will provide."

The bills would require:

Otennical suppliers to labed all harded achievals and to provide the provided of the provided of the propers who purchase the chemicals. Employers would be responsible for training workers on the hazards. Manufacturing employers must be in compiliance by May 25. Other em-ployers must comply by Feb. 25, 1867.

Local fire chiefs to develop

ployers must comply by Feb. 25.

* Local fire chiefs to develop plans for fighting chemical fires and make the plans available to fire-fighters.

* The Michigan Department of Public Health to make available to the public information on hazardous scenicals used by employers within a resident's county.

Toboy's group fabelled the last bill "a stop-gap measure" and called for better legislation.

He added, "We are hopeful that the requirements of this law will prevent the tragic chemical doaths which have occurred in Michigan, as well as the long-term Illnesses caused by exposures to asbestos and other harmful substances."

Check point delay only 2 minutes

By Tim Richard stall writer

Innocent motorists would never have to wait more than two minutes to get through a drunk driver check point, the State Police director promises.

And a driver approaching a check point could turn and go back the other way — although his motions would be watched with great interest by an offi-cer.

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Col. Gerald Hough, a strong advocate of check points. last week told a skepti-ral House Judiciary Committee how the check point system would work, based on experiences in Delaware and Maryland.
Houghi expects to begin them in Michigan in late April or early May. He will act under an executive order by Gov. Blanchard, although the Judiciary Committee is considering a bilt to strip State Police of that authority.

ONLY A COMMAND officer of high rank could set up a check point in an area identified statistically as a drunk driving accident-probability area, Hough said.

Most likely times would be 1-4 a.m. It will take about a dozen officers to operate a check point. Most points will be operated jointly by State Police and

State police commander Col. Gerald Hough told a skeptical House Judiciary Committee the check point system would work, based on experience in Delaware and Maryland.

county sheriff's officers or local police. Early sites would be in outstate metropolitan counties such as Ingham, Kalamanazoo or Saginaw — not the tri-county of the county metro Detroit area. Two-lane roads are most likely starting points. The teams would post four warning signs over a space of about 2,000 feet approaching the check point. Five "stations" would operate simultaneously. Officers would stop a car 30 seconds and talk to the driver, handing bitm a pamphet from the University of Michigan Traffic Research Center.

"THE DRIVER may refuse to talk or even to roll down his window," Hough said. "The officer will do his best to determine the level of sobriety and let them go through."

After talking to a driver, the officer would make a preliminary decision as to whether the driver has been drinking, Hough said. A preliminary breath test can be administered.

serve cars which turn around and head the other way. They will go after any which "exhibit unsafe driving charac-teristics." Hough Said. THE PUBLIC will be warned long in advance where check points will be set to.

advance where check points will be set up.
Hough said advance publicity would be a deterrent to drinking and driving in that area.
This bothered some lawmakers, who said there was confusion over whether the program was meant to result in arrests or scare off drunk drivers.
Frank lannl, a highway safety expert from Delaware, said in a State Capitol news conference that the arrest rate for check points was one per 7.93 work hours vs. one per 8.35 hours for police patrols — a 5 percent difference.



Blanchard signs into law bills of area legislators

Gov. James J. Blanchard has signed to law 3 bills by area legislators:

SB 364 deleting the condition that construction of M275 freeway must segin before the Department of Natural Resources can convey unused land to the Mult-Lakes Conservation Assocition of Walled Lake.

Spansor is Sen. Richard Fessler, R. Spensor is Sen. Richard Fessler, B. Governor of the Mult-Lake Sensor of the Sensor of Gov. James J. Blanchard has signed into law 3 bills by area legislators:

• SB 645 deleting the continuation of the second part of the second many construction to the continuation of the partment of Naturali Recourses can convey unused land to the Mult-Lakes Conservation Association of Walled Lake.

Sponsur is Sen. Richard Fessler, R. West. Bloomiteld. M-275, a controversial plan for a freeway across the lakes area of western Oakland County, has been dropped by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

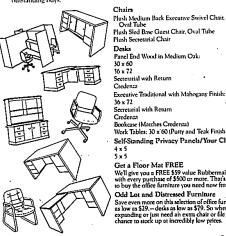
• HB 4750 creating the Building Officials and Inspectors Registration Act. Sponsored by Rep. W.V. Brotherton, R-Farmington, the law etablishes a nine-member advisory board in the state



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