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GOP tables drug paraphernalia law

Republicans on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners turned down a Democratic proposal to ban the sale of drug paraphernalia by ordinance.

"We should table this until the state Legislature has a chance to act on a similar bill," said Commissioner John Olsen, R-Huntington Woods, whose general government committee reported out the ordinance over his objections.

"If it (the state) acts, then we can

bring the ordinance back," Olsen said as he proposed tabling the measure indefinitely.

Seventeen Republicans voted for tabling, and seven Democrats were opposed. Tabling effectively kills a proposal, although later reconsideration is possible.

"A STATEWIDE law is preferable," admitted Commissioner James Doyon, D-Madison Heights, a co-sponsor of the ordinance. But he said

after the vote there was no assurance the legislature would pass such a law, and county ordinance would put pressure on Lansing to act in order to avoid a patchwork quilt of local ordinances.

"Olsen playing partisan political games," Byen added, noting that the Republican was defeated in the Nov. 4 election. Next year the Oakland board will have an 18-9 GOP majority compared to the current 19-8 lineup.

The ordinance, if passed, would have banned and punished the sale of cocaine spoons, "hash" pipes, empty gelatin capsules and hypodermic syringes.

William Lucas, unsuccessful Republican candidate for governor, had advocated a national law, cautioning against state and local regulations. Gov. James J. Blanchard, a Democrat, favored legislation at all three levels.

IN OTHER business last week, the Oakland County board:

• Approved hiring of four public safety officers by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

• Received a protest from the South Oakland County Mayors' Association about the county's continuing to fund the 52nd District Court in the northern and western sections of the county while local communities continue to fund other district courts.

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- Shown: Left, Harvé Benard's double breasted wool melton in brown or black with luxurious beaver collar. Sizes 2 to 16. Originally \$535, now \$399.
- Right, Fairbrooke's riding coat in black wool for sizes 4 to 14; originally \$395, now \$299.
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* There may have been intermediate price reductions on some items prior to this sale.

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