

Dems target seniors' health

AP — House Democrats have unveiled an ambitious 35-bill "senior action plan" to protect Michigan's growing elderly population from insurance fraud, discrimination and other abuses.

The proposal, which includes a House-passed bill to help low-income senior citizens pay for prescription drugs, was highlighted by House Speaker Gary Owen as a top legislative priority for 1988.

"It is from our perspective one of the most important issues facing the state," Owen, D-Ypsilanti, told reporters.

THE PACKAGE is designed to regulate the expanding industry providing insurance, medical treatment and housing to Michigan's 1.3 million

senior citizens, he said. There was no exact cost estimate for most of the proposals.

"We think it's the single most significant effort that's been made in a long time," Owen said.

Among highlights are bills to:

- Set standards for the sale and marketing of long-term care and supplemental health insurance policies, such as those that supplement government Medicare coverage.
- Prohibit nursing home discrimination against Medicaid patients.
- Strengthen the authority of the state attorney general to investigate suspected patient abuse in nursing homes and provide jail terms and fines for nursing home owners, directors or administrators who knowingly permit patient abuse.

with high consumer traffic," said Maurice L. Vermeulen, Detroit Edison's Oakland Division manager. "Customers now will find it easier to get information on products such as security lighting, helpful tips on how to make their lives more comfortable with electric energy and assistance with their monthly statements."

"In addition, we are allocating more employees to help Oakland customers who call Detroit Edison." More than twice as many Oakland County customers call the utility compared to those who visit customer offices.

• Increase protection for adults in court-ordered guardianship relationships.

• Create a state-issued Golden Seal Card that older Michigan residents could use to claim discounts, reduced admissions and other special services.

THE MOST ambitious and far-reaching proposal is probably Rep. Thomas Mattheu's bill to subsidize medical prescriptions for low-income Michigan residents age 62 and older who earn less than \$9,000 a year, but still don't qualify for Medicaid.

Owen said he supports Mattheu's plan, but said that it would be up to his fellow House Democrats to find a funding mechanism for the program,

which he said could cost between \$14 million and \$40 million.

The bill, which passed the House last May, is currently in the Senate. Owen said one way to pay for the prescription drug program would be to close a number of income tax loopholes that now allow lottery winners and military personnel to skip paying state taxes.

"Most of our caucus believe if we're going to pass this on to the governor's desk, we're going to have to find ways to fund it," Owen said.

HOUSE JUDICIARY Committee Chairman Perry Bullard, D-Ann Arbor, said that within 30 years, one in every five Americans will be over age 65 and the state needs to start dealing with their concerns.

"It is time we get serious about removing barriers that deprive older people of the opportunity to remain independent," Bullard said.

Bullard said he hopes the Senate Judiciary Committee will take up his proposal to reform the state's guardianship laws to protect seniors from prematurely losing their financial independence.



WE FIX MEMORIES
Doll Repair
Free Estimates on Doll Restoration
Wigs • Antique Parts
Eyework • Restoring
Repainting • China Heads &
Antique Bodies Restored
The Doll Hospital
& Toy Seller Shop
3547 W. 12 Mile • Berkley
3 Bldg. E. of Greenfield • 543-3115
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10-5 • Fri. 10-9

STREET WISE
is for smart people
Every Monday in Street Scene

State repeals

'kiddie tax' law

AP — A day after returning to session, the state Senate last week joined the House in voting to repeal Michigan's new "kiddie tax" and save young snow shovelers and baby sitters from having to file 1987 tax returns.

The bill cleared the Senate on a vote of 32-3. The House had passed an identical bill just the day before.

The bills would exempt anyone who makes less than \$1,500 last year from paying state income taxes.

Supporters hope to shield children who earn small amounts of money from having to pay state income taxes under a little-known provision of federal tax reform that escaped the attention of state officials last year.

THE ISSUE got prompt attention as the Michigan Legislature held its opening session of 1988. Public outcry about the so-called "kiddie tax" convinced legislators to dispense with it quickly.

State treasurer Robert Bowman — who said Gov. James Blanchard

supports the bill — said it would cost the state \$4 million to \$5 million in lost revenue.

But some lawmakers said that anyone who made just \$1 more than the \$1,500 limit would owe taxes on the entire amount, or \$89. However, someone who earned exactly \$1,500 would owe no state taxes.

"The bill is inequitable," said Sen. Vernon Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids. "We have to achieve fairness and equity."

THE PROBLEM was caused by federal tax changes, which said children who are claimed as dependents on their parents' tax returns can't claim themselves as a personal exemption and avoid paying taxes on the first \$1,500 they earned.

The new twist was intended to prevent parents from shifting money to their children's accounts to lighten their own tax loads.

But it also meant that a 10-year-old with a lemonade stand would have to pay state income taxes on the first dollar he earned in 1987.



GOLF IN THE SUN!!!

LET P.A.R. GOLF

ARRANGE YOUR GOLF VACATION

- FLORIDA
- GEORGIA
- MYRTLE BEACH
- CALIFORNIA and more from \$59 a day!

LOW CHARTER FARES TO
FLORIDA & CARRIBEAN Through...

P.A.R. GOLF, INC.
930 MASON—DEARBORN
562-2533
800-222-2220



Edison shifts Oakland offices

Detroit Edison Co. opened one new customer office Tuesday in Novi and will relocate its Pontiac office Feb. 18.

Three offices will be closed. The Milford and Lincoln Center (Oak Park) customer offices were closed this week, and the Rochester office will be closed Feb. 26.

The new Novi office will be in the Novi Town Center, 43292 11 Mile, near Grand River and Novi roads.

The existing Pontiac customer office will move from 58 W. Huron to the new Oakland Pointe Shopping Center at 490 N. Telegraph.

"Our new locations are in areas

OU narrows architects list to 3 firms

Three architectural firms in Michigan have been selected as finalists in the competition to design Oakland University's planned \$30 million science building.

OU received 23 proposals, picked five firms for extensive presentations, and then selected as finalists the firms of Harley Ellington Pierce Yee Associates Inc., William Kessler & Associates Inc., and Smith, Hinchman & Grylls Associates Inc.

OU has received state authorization to select an architect. A recommendation could be made by the trustees as early as February.

Wardair
Canada
TORONTO
TO

LONDON (Gatwick)
OR MANCHESTER
FROM
\$448



For More Info Call

WOODSIDE.
TRAVEL SERVICES
600 Quiescent Ave. • Windsor
313-964-3500

Douglas Furs

JANUARY FUR SALE

STOREWIDE SAVINGS **25%-50%**

Duty & Sales Tax Refunded
Full Premium on U.S. Funds

EXAMPLES OF OUR JANUARY SALE PRICES
Prices Shown In U.S. Funds

DESCRIPTION	REG.	NOW
Natural Female Black Llama & Canada Majestic Mink Coats (Fully Let Out)	\$7,850	\$5,295
Natural Indigo Silver Fox Coat (Fully Let Out)	\$5,000	\$3,775
Natural Shadow Mink Coats (Fully Let Out)	\$4,415	\$2,320
Chevron Fox Coats (Fully Let Out)	\$3,000	\$2,075
Let Out Coyote 1/2 (p.c. length)	\$2,925	\$1,935
Dk. Ranch Mink Paw Coats	\$3,375	\$1,885
Designer Leather & Fur Jacket	\$1,700	\$1,300

JACK Douglas Furs LTD.
"Where something beautiful always comes into your life."
423 Pettisler St. (Place Pettisler - Lower Level) Windsor
Directly Opposite City Parking Garage
Major Credit Cards Accepted
1-519-977-0171 Mon.-Sat. 9-6:00
Fri. 10-9:00

JANUARY COLOR SALE

CASABLANCA

BROSE BANISHES THE WINTER BLUES! THIS JANUARY SALE FEATURES CASABLANCA FANS IN A STUNNING ARRAY OF DAZZLINGLY DIFFERENT DESIGNER HUES. CASABLANCA FANS BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF YOUR DECOR WITH SUCH COLORS AS SNOW WHITE, ANTIQUE WHITE, BLACK, DESIGNER GREY, FERRARI RED, DUSTY ROSE, MOROCCAN SAND AND TRADITIONAL BROWN.

WHY NOT ADD COLOR TO YOUR LIFE? SELECT A PRACTICAL AND PRETTY CASABLANCA FAN — THE FAN THAT COOLS IN SUMMER AND — IN WINTER, IN REVERSE CYCLE, CIRCULATES WARM AIR DOWNWARD. BROSE MAKES OWNING A CASABLANCA FAN AFFORDABLE.

SALE PRICES START AT
\$189⁹⁵
(LIGHT KITS OPTIONAL)

CASABLANCA FANS ARE SILENT & WARRANTED FOR 10 YRS.

SALE LASTS 10 DAYS ONLY

Lighting Fixtures for Every Decor • Wiring Supplies and Light Bulbs

BROSE ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION, INC.

37400 W. 7 MILE ROAD
LIVONIA, MI 48152 • (313) 464-2211

MON. TUES. WED. SAT. 9-5:00
THURS. FRI. 9-6:00

Schrader's
HOME FURNISHINGS
111 N. CENTER ST., NORTHVILLE 349-1838
(SHELDON ROAD) BETWEEN 7 & 8 MILE IN DOWNTOWN NORTHVILLE

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE

Our Warehouses Are Clear
New Merchandise Is
On The Floor!
Still A Large Selection
Of Top Quality Furniture
Henredon • Hekman • Marlow

EVERYTHING IS ON DISPLAY AND PRICED TO MOVE

Sorry NO CHECKS
ALL SALES FINAL
ALL SALES AS IS
DELIVERIES EXTRA
NO C.O.D.'s

TERMS OF SALE
CASH, VISA OR MASTERCARD
This Week's Sale Hours
Daily 10-5
Closed Weds. & Sun.
LAY-A-WAYS AND PREVIOUS ORDERS EXCLUDED

EVERYTHING 50% to 70% OFF NOTHING HELD BACK

HURRY FOR BEST SELECTION