No rush to vote on House 'right to die' bill

By Tim Richard

A few sentences are holding up ac-tion on a state "right to die" bill in which a terminally ill patient could give someone else legal power of at-torney to order removal of a life

torney to order removal of a life support system.
"We're down to one, maybe two sentences," said state Rep. Gerald Law, R.Plymouth, a minority mem-ber of the House Judiciary Commit-tee.

rible way to die. People think it's in-

humane."
Said Right to Life spokesman
Mark Schaeffer: "Our organization
will not support starvation and dehydration to cause a patient's death."
Whener said the bill allows food
and water to be withdrawn only
when death is imminent and caused
by the disease, not by starvationdehydration.

monumental concessions compared to where they were three years ago. Hollster's haven't moved an inch." Hollster sees chances of his bill's passing as 60-40 against. "Right to Life is digging in," he said. Wiener said," There is no schedule to take it to a vote. We don't want to get into a floor right. We're working it out among the interested parties."

HOLLISTER DISLIKES the "right

POLITICALLY, each side points a inger at the other.

Hollster's bill has been reported not of the flouse Judiciary Committee and is on what's known as 'section to the state probate code. It would allow a patient to twite a "du ond reading" — waiting in the wings for its first floor debate.

The committee majority rejected the rival version sponsored by Inghal (Infamiliaro, supported by Law and embodying details endorsed by Right is the first floor in the state probate code. It would allow a patient to write a "du ond reading" another person — called the "patient another person — called the "patient another person — called the patient so the patient she half when the patient is unable to participate in making to close." POLITICALLY, each side points a to die" phrase. He sees the bill sper at the other part of the flower and list of

advocate isn't acting in the patient's
best interest.
With a law, a terminally ill patient
like the late Clifford Culham, 57, a
former contractor from Farmington
Hills, wouldn't have had to fight for
a Circuit Court order from Judge
David Breck to be removed from
life-support systems. Breck on Dec.
the had to assure health care providlike the late Clifford Colham, 57, a former contractor from Ermington Hills, wouldn't have had to fight for a Circuit Court order from Judge David Breck to be removed from life-support systems. Breck on Dec. 15 had to assure health care providers they could do so "without incurring any criminal or civil liability under the laws of the state of Michigan."

under the laws of the state of Mienzan."
RLM spokesman Schaeffer said his group has no problem with the Culham decision because Culham was conscious. RLM is concerned about incompetent and comatose patients. "It should allow protection of the vulnerable," he said.
Law said there is a fear of relatives hastening the death of a comatives hastening the death of a comatives hastening the death of a comative share and the said of the said

Hollister, pointing to 41 states which have laws like the bill he's sponsoring, said, "Modern medical technology has made it possible to sustain people beyond the point at which they can participate in decisions regarding their own care, custody and treatment."

LAW SAID Michigan attorneys be power of attorney papers.
"But not everybody (hospitals and dectors) will accept them. Some accept them routinely. Some don't."
He said that if RLM's wording is accepted, he said, some attorneys will have to rewrite existing power

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