Super Tuesdays are eyed for Great Lakes

Michigan voters should pay close attention to tomorrow's Super Tues-day presidential primaries in the South. If a state Senate committee has its way, Michigan could be part of a Great Lakes Super Tuesday in 1992

1992.
Such a step would allow Michigan voters the chance to vote directly in the presidential nomination process and could clear up the nominating chaos suffered this year by Michigan Tepublicans.
The Government Operations Committee gave 7-0 approval last week to a bill for a closed party primary.

"This proposal calls for a modified closed primary," said Rick Simon-son, an aide to Sen. Richard Fessler, R-Commerce. A closed primary re-quires voters to declare their party.

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Pessier has contacted an association of city and township clerks who estimated that the procedure for registering people's party preferences alone would cost them \$4.3 million.

PRESIDENTIAL primary would solve the Republicans 1988-bone would cost them \$4.3 million.

Observer & Eccentric area senator ing on Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohlo to hold their primaries the same day — the third Tuesday of March.

They could come to the Senato floor as early as March 15.

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widely agrees that needed.

A five-state Great Lakes primary would affect 41.5 million voters and come a week or two after the South's Super Tuesday.

"It would make presidential candidates' respond to our concerns," Simonson sold.

state convention that resulted in fichigan's sending a split delegation the GOP national convention in

and served as state convention sec-retary.

"One reason we went away from the primary was that it diluted the effect of the political parties."

"The primary had an excessive cost. = 3 million." In 1976, the last year both parties in Michigan held a presidential primary, only 1.8 mil-lion voted.— a cost of nearly \$2 a vote. to the GOP national convention in August.
Democrats will hold party-run presidential preference elections March 26.
Republicans had sought to be first in the nation with their January state convention. When it backfired into a bloodbath between supported of Vice President George Bush and evangelist Pal Robertson, with Jack Kenp supporters split. Republicans widely agreed that a change was a few states of the president of the pr

• A separate bill would require voters who wish to participate in the presidential primary to register by political party, for that primary political party, for that primary clection. This would be a costly pre-cedure for city and township clerks, on whom the work burden would fall.

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A CLOSED primary would be a drastic change from the Michigan system of open primaries, where a voice can take part in any party's primary without publicly revealing dogged the legislation for Fester

Many party leaders find fault with the open primary because too many voiers cross over in order to cause mischief. Two cases in point:

In 1972, Alabama Gov. George Wallace, never popular among liberal Michigan Democrats, won 809,000 of the 1.6 million presidential primary voies. The Republican primary, in which President Richard Nixon was streamly componed drives only

which President Richard Nixon was which President Richard Nixon was virtually unopposed, drew oil 337,000 voters. Clearly, Republicans had crossed over to back Wallace.

In 1976, Democrats got even. Their primary drew fewer proposed to the primary drew fewer proposed to the primary drew pearly 1.1 million voters, of whom 364,000 backed Ronald Reagan against home state President Gerald Ford.

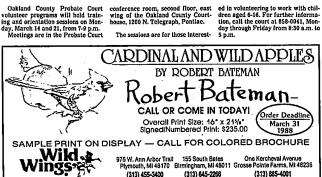
Pessier's attitude is to move slowly so there will be in ochilling effect on participation. If we keep changing the system every four years, there will be a chilling effect," the aide quoted him as saying.

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