But staff costs of \$1.3 million stir ruckus

By Tim Richard staff writer

A split Oakland County Board of Commissioners agreed to add two more circuit Judged edspile warnings it will cost \$1.3 million a year for 20 support staff.

"A lot of times we don't realize the ancillary costs of something, We're asking taxpayers to fund these foreyer," said Commissioner Marilynn E. Gestling, R-Bloomfield Hills. "I have big problems tying up that much money."

McPherson, D. Berkley, and Robert Bage, R-Birmingham. A week earlier, however, the properties of the page, R-Birmingham. A week earlier, however, the properties of the reviews all money matters. That panel later reversed itself. Sub the bill also is tied up in Lansing politicking. The Senate passed over; said Commissioner Marilynn E. Gestling, R-Bioomfield Hills." I have big problems tying up that much money."

"The burden of proof is with the [14 current) circuit judges. Their case is woefully lacking," added James Doyn, D-Madison Heights, a lame duck commissioner who isn't seeking re-election.

"It's unrealistic to presume won't need them," countered Commissioner David Mofflitt, R-Bloomiseld-Township." It is unrealistic to presume won't need them," countered Commissioner David Mofflitt, R-Bloomiseld-Township.

on't need them," countered Commissioner David Mofflit, R-Bloom filed Township.

THE BOARD Thursday approved a resolution, 17-3, asking the Michigan Legislature to pass a bill creating the two judgeshps.

A more crucial vote — to send the proposal to the personnel committee — was rejected on a closer vote, 5 yes and 17 against. The dissenters, byes and 17 against. The dissenters, the sides Gooling and Doyon, were Anne Hobart, R-Waterford, Angus

cast \$1.3 million a year beginning in 1991. Second complication is that the county is designing a new and more secure courtroom wing, and new judges will mean higher capital

judges will mean higher capital costs.

Doyon noted that judges say, "Every judge is equal." It mean viewery judge has to have what the other judges have," he said, clip ast demands for paneling and impressive furniture.

Doyon, supported by Gosling, made the motion to refer the resolution to the personnel committee to study what savings might be made. For example, one court has substituted a videolape camera for a storagrapher in recording its proceedings. Another example is that Oakland has done ploneer work in settling up "alternative dispute resolution" systems that use trained referees and less formal methods.

COMMISSIONER James E. Lan-ni, R-Royal Oak, had still another objection, although he finally sup-ported the new judgeships.

"My concern is that the state is funding all the courts in Wayne County fout not the other \$2]. Land state is making decisions for the county."

County Executive Daniel T. Murphy, asked whether he would veto the resolution. "You decide how many judges you want. I decide where they're gonna go. I'm not going to answer the (veto) question." Moffilt was the only commissioner who vocally supported the new judgeships.

"Our population is growing The tide of illigation is growing andionally," he said, cliing delays in cases coming to trial of four years in Wayne County and seven in Los Angeles County.

Wayne County and seven in Los Angeles County.

"Here it (delay) is considerably less, But there is a delay."

In reply to Doyon's charge that some judges weren't working and their cars weren't in the parking lot during court hours, Mofflit cited his experience before Circuit Judge Pred Mester, who had to listen to 90 motions by 90 pairs of attorneys in a single day. "It's a superhuman task," Mofflit said.

OCC's libraries losers of decade

during the recession of the early 1980s, Chancellor R. Stephen Nicholson says.

In "real" dollars, adjusted for inflation, OCC is spending less in fiscal 1987 that it did in fiscal 1978, Nicholson told trustees recently.

In the earlier year, OCC spent \$2,018 per student, Currently it is spending \$2,288. But after adjustment for inflation, that figure shrinks to \$1,868 — less than was spend adecade against the state and over 10 years at \$33 million. The college's current budget is \$48 million, of which \$14 million comes from state aid.

No only did the state fall to increase appropriations some years, but the governor had to issue executive orders cutting ald as revenues shriveled.

SABBATICAL leaves have been

SABBATICAL leaves have been approved by the OCC board for one faculty member and two administra-

Joan Leininger, on the communi-cations arts faculty at the Orchard Ridge Campus, will have a leave in

The libraries of Oakland Commu-nity College were the biggest losers will conduct research nationally on during the recession of the early developmental programs in oral 1980s, Chancellor R. Stephen Nichol-communications and listening. OCC's

developmental programs in observed programs and extended communications and listening. OCC's developmental programs are almed to bringing new students up to college-level performance.

Henry Freigruber, an information and telecommunications specialist in the central office for 22 years, will take off the spring semester at fail take off the spring semester at fail year to complete work on a master's degree in administration at Central Michigan University.

Linda Casenhiser, a five-year employee in the central academic and student affairs office, will be off the spring semester at half-pay to complete her bachelor's degree work in business administration at Stean Heights College.

MAJOR GIFTS accepted by the OCC board were:

• \$600 to the men's basketball program at Highland Lakes from the OCC Foundation, a private fund-raising group.

OCC Foundation, a private fund-ratsing group.

• \$3,000 to the Harbinger Dance
Company, a private group that
teaches and performs under contract
at the Orchard Ridge Campus —
also from the OCC Foundation.

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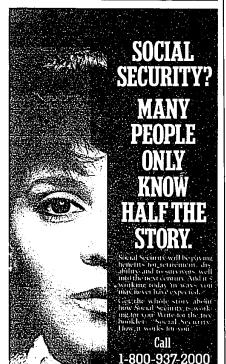




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