

House bans polygraph use in business

Here's how area House members were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending June 3. The Senate was not in session.

POLYGRAPH TESTING — By a vote of 251 for and 129 against, the House approved the conference report on legislation (HR 1212) prohibiting most private employers from administering polygraph tests to employees and job applicants.

Among the few categories of employers exempted from the ban are those that handle controlled drugs, do intelligence work for the government and operate private security services.

The bill puts no restrictions on lie detector testing by governments.

Supporter James Jeffords, R-Vt., said, "You can't just plug a person into a machine and determine whether or not he or she is lying."

Opponent George Darden, D-Ga., said regulation of polygraphs "is best left up to the individual states."

Members voting yes favored the ban on polygraph testing. Voting yes:

Roll Call Report

Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.
Not voting: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth.

CATASTROPHIC COVERAGE — By a vote of 328 for and 72 against, the House approved the conference report on legislation expanding Medicare to protect the elderly and disabled against catastrophic medical expenses.

The bill (HR 2470) puts a cap on what the 32 million Medicare beneficiaries must pay in doctor, hospital and outpatient charges and reimburses some outpatient drug costs.

It does not protect the chronically ill against catastrophic home-care and nursing home costs.

The bill's estimated \$33 billion cost over five years would be paid by

flat premium hikes and premium surcharges levied on Medicare beneficiaries who pay federal income taxes.

Supporter Ed Jenkins, D-Ga., termed the bill imperfect but needed because "there is no fear that is more valid and more real than the fear of catastrophic illness."

Opponent Harris Fawell, R-Ill., said, "We are voting on an income tax increase" affecting Medicare beneficiaries on fixed incomes."

Members voting yes favored the legislation. Voting yes: Pursell, Hertel, Ford, Levin and Broomfield.

NASA BUDGET — By a vote of 360 for and 26 against, the House passed and sent to the Senate a bill (HR 4561) authorizing a National Aeronautics and Space Agency budget of \$11.5 billion in fiscal 1989.

The funding is all that the administration had requested and nearly an 18 percent hike over NASA's 1988 budget.

In addition to reaffirming the space shuttle as a long-term program, the bill advances projects such as increased satellite study of Earth, a manned space station, multi-country exploration of Mars and stepped-up commercialization of the space program.

Supporter Ron Packard, R-Calif., said, "If we don't move forward now... we will relinquish our pre-eminence in space."

Opponent Denny Smith, R-Ore., complained that the bill gives NASA the option of building a GOCO (government-owned, contractor-operated) plant for manufacturing solid rocket motors for the space shuttle.

He said "regular business competition will do the job" of providing shuttle rockets.

Members voting yes supported the bill. Voting yes: Pursell, Hertel, Ford, Broomfield.
Not voting: Levin.

Bullard dog bill supported

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Oakland County commissioners are backing a state House bill to control dangerous animals — not just the well-publicized pit bulldogs.

"Most bites we record are from German shepherd mixes," Carl Anderson, manager of Oakland's animal control division, told the board's general government committee.

The committee recommended the full board endorse a broad bill by state Rep. Willis Bullard, R-Milford, rather than the pit bull bill pushed by Sen. Joe Mack, D-Ironwood.

THE SENATE bill "picks on one breed," said Joseph Mancini, Macomb animal control officer and president of the state association. He

joined Anderson in speaking before the Oakland committee.

"We need something simple. We need to get these people (irresponsible owners) in front of judges," Mancini said.

He said the Bullard bill doesn't specify a breed but defines a dangerous animal. He said the purpose is to get at owners who use dogs as fighters rather than to specify pit bulls, Staffordshire terriers or bull terriers, "because these people are not going to register it anyway."

The resolution supporting Bullard's bill was reported out on a 7-1 vote.

DISSENTING WAS Commissioner Donald Bishop, R-Rochester. An attorney, Bishop objected that the definition of injury was the same

as in the no-fault law, over which much litigation has resulted.

"I seriously question whether such broad language should be in a criminal statute," Bishop said.

The bill defines "serious injury" as "permanent, serious disfigurement, serious impairment of health, or serious impairment of a bodily function of a person."

MAJOR PROVISIONS of the bill:

- "The owner of a dangerous animal that causes the death of a person is guilty of involuntary manslaughter" under the penal code.
- The owner of a dangerous animal that causes a serious injury is guilty of a felony punishable by up to four years in prison and a fine of \$2,000.
- If the animal causes "an injury

that is not a serious injury," the owner is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by 90 days in jail and a fine of \$250 to \$500.

• A dog found by a court to be dangerous but that has not caused injury or death may, by court order, be registered and tattooed on the inner left thigh.

EXCLUDED FROM the definition of "dangerous animal" is one that:

- Attacks a trespasser if the property is posted and the animal is confined.
- Is tormented or provoked by a person.
- Is protecting an owner who is unlawfully assaulted.

A dog judged to be dangerous may be ordered destroyed at the owner's expense.

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