

# Blanchard signs 8-bill recycling package

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Two bills sponsored by state Rep. James Kosteva, D-Canton, are part of an eight-bill package promoting recycling that Gov. James J. Blanchard has signed into law.

The new laws and an executive order will make state government a leader in the effort to reduce the nearly 12 million tons of trash generated in Michigan every year, the governor said.

Kosteva's House Bills 5805-5808 and a companion measure require

the labeling of plastic containers to facilitate plastics recycling.

They establish a government-industry plastics recycling consortium to do research on recycling technologies.

And they create a recycling target enterprise advisory committee within the state Department of Natural Resources to promote creation of jobs in the recycling industry.

A former township planner, Kosteva, 35, will start his third term in the Legislature this year.

"THE STATE can lead the way in

promoting waste reduction and recycling as alternatives to landfills, in order to protect our health and to maintain the quality of Michigan's environment," Blanchard said.

A policy adopted by the state Natural Resources Commission last year sets a goal of reducing landfilling of trash from 85 percent to 15 percent over the next 15 years, he said.

Proposal C, the \$660 million bond issue approved by voters Nov. 8, contains \$150 million to implement solid waste policy.

**OTHER BILLS** signed by Blanchard will:

- Require 50 percent of state paper purchases to be recycled paper and 20 percent of product purchases to be recycled products by 1991. The three Senate bills also seek to expand the state's paper recovery program. The goal is to recover 15,000 tons of paper each year, saving an estimated 42,000 cubic yards of dump space. Sponsors were Sens. Vern Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids, and Jack Welborn, R-Kalamazoo.

- Clarify the state requirement that all counties must consider recycling in solid waste plans. The DNR is authorized to establish a pilot program to collect used motor oil for recycling at state facilities. Sponsors were Ehlers and Connie Blansfield, R-Maple City.

BY EXECUTIVE order, Blanchard told state departments to:

- Undertake at least one project in 1989 to demonstrate the usefulness of recycled products.
- Create a "Recycling State

Park," at which facilities and equipment would be largely made from recycled materials.

- Set up dropoff facilities at some commuter lots operated by the state Department of Transportation to promote awareness of recycling.
- Revise state purchasing policies to eliminate barriers to purchase of recycled products.
- Ban state purchase of materials that generate excessive amounts of trash or contain chemicals that deplete the ozone layer.

## SBT to be profits tax for small firms

Small business owners and their families can get a tax break under a revised single business tax law signed by Gov. James J. Blanchard.

"These changes were sought by small business owners for more than a decade," said Blanchard. The bill passed unanimously in both chambers of the Legislature.

The National Federation of Independent Business and the Small Business Association of Michigan praised the measure, sponsored by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Norm Shinkle, R-Lambertville.

As written in 1975, the SBT has been a value-added tax, based largely on a company's payroll without taking actual profit into consideration.

UNDER THE new law:

- Owners have the option of paying SBT or a 4 percent profits tax on adjusted business income. Some 30,000 firms are expected to receive cuts of \$5 million to \$10 million.
- Each family member working in a family-owned business may receive income and benefits up to

\$95,000. Previously, the cap applied collectively to all family members.

"The old system penalized owners of small businesses for having family members working in the business," said NFIB director Juanita Fierman of Lansing. NFIB said it represents 22,000 Michigan businesses.

THE PRESIDENT of SBAM, Wayne publisher David Willett, said hiring will become easier.

"Now that a smaller enterprise has the option of paying taxes on its

profit, the hiring disincentive... has lessened, leaving business freer to expand their workforce without having their taxes raised as a result," said the head of the 4,000-member association.

Rep. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing, who worked on House passage, said that in order to qualify for the alternative tax, an individual business owner must have an adjusted business income of less than \$475,000, and could not pay any one owner a salary of more than \$95,000.

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