# \$9.2 billion break

## State tax expenditures higher than tax bills

By Tim Richard staff writer

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On paper, it looks as if Michigan state and local governments collect \$15 billion in taxes.

But when all the exemptions are figured in, only 40 percent of that is paid to state and local treasurers. People, businesses and non-profit groups get \$25. billion back in so-called "tax expenditurers."

"This tax report is not advocating either the elimination or the expansion of tax expenditurers, add state treasurer Robert Bowman. The report simply details the magnitude of the tax-reducing features we have built into our system.

"The information is important to

policymakers who must monitor and review the structure of our tax pro-gram."

THE REPORT has the lofty title of Tax Expenditure Appendix to the 1987-88 fiscal year Executive Budget. Running 70 pages. It was published by Bowman and budget director Shelby Solomon.

In 1987-88, state laws granted \$9.2 billion in tax expenditures, up from \$8.9 billion in the previous fiscal

Another way of looking at it: Tax expenditures are actually larger than the \$6 billion state general fund budget. To some, tax expenditures are

"loopholes." But the Legislature doesn't see it that way.

Don Drake, who heads tax analysis in the governor's budget office, said tax expeditures can be defined as. "a preference granted to a group within the tax structure," often to encourage the group to do something the first many thin the tax structure, of the to encourage the group to do something the some tax expenditure; even if it's a simple matter of going to the draw some tax expenditure; even if it's a simple matter of going to the draw some tax expenditure; even if it's a simple matter of going to the draw some tax expenditure; even if it's a simple matter of going to the draw as imple matter of going to the draw as imple matter of going to the draw in the sales are through a constitutional amendment.

In dollar terms, here are the state's and local units' major tax expenditures.

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#### Weight loss program introduced to area women

Area women are invited to try a new program to help them lose weight through a new method using videotapes at home. In Control – A Home Video, Home Call the Weight Loss Program is used by the American Heart Association in its health promotion program, Heart at Work.

#### Valentine's Gift Idea

Glamour & Boudoir
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Call for an appointment by January 16 and we will create a total image look for your boudoir portrait. Professional styles is available for complete

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#### Chamber to celebrate

A fun-filled evening with county chamber officers and directors, huleaders is the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce's annual members alpidinaer on Thursday, Jan. 26.

The public may attend the evening in the Northfield Hillon, Tro, It includes a prime rib dinner, presentation of the first annual Athena Award, introduction of the 1989 683-4747 or 844-1229.

TONY SPINA Photojournalist, Chief Photographer **Detroit Free Press** 

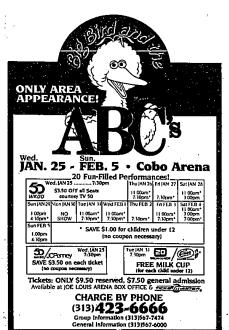
> JULIA SPINA-KILAR Fine Art Photographer

JANUARY 11 - JANUARY 31 Meet the Artists

Thursday, January 12th – 7 to 9 PM
Tony will autograph copies of his book
Available at Doubleday Books in the Mall

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day. For even greater privacy and service, there is The Ritz-Carlton, Club. And, weekends through February 15, you can stay at The Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn for as little as \$79 per room per night based on availability. For reservations, call The Ritz-Carlton at (313) 441-2000 or (800) 241-3333. And come enjoy.

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