

## School quality bills pass Senate

AP — The state Senate has approved four bills designed to improve the quality of Michigan schools, a move one education lobbyist said could be key to passing the much debated finance reform measure.

The bills, which passed on votes of 28-5 and 25-9 and went to the House, would:

- Require school boards to develop a core curriculum of basic courses for students, in an attempt to improve their knowledge of history, geography, math and other subjects.
- Require school boards to prepare and distribute annual education reports detailing accreditation status, the core curriculum, student achievement and other issues.
- Require school boards to adopt

multi-year school improvement plans for each school in the district. The State Board of Education would periodically review such plans.

• Authorize school competency and employability skills tests for students to demonstrate they mastered the courses taken. However, a school district could exempt itself from the policy.

The measures passed with little discussion.

"I've recommended to the Senate as well as the House that they proceed with quality," said Gov. James J. Blanchard, who puts that issue ahead of finance reform. "I would suggest that if they are at a real impasse, they move on quality and accountability."

(AP) — Three Michigan congressmen kept more than \$100,000 each in speaking fees from 1983 through 1987, said Common Cause, an advocacy group which published a study of who in the House benefited the most from honoraria.

The Michigan representative who kept the most in honoraria was Rep. John Dingell, D-Trenton. Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Dingell kept \$112,860 in honoraria during the five-year period and ranked eighth among representatives.

Rep. Guy Vander Jagt, R-Luther, a member of the Ways and Means Committee, trailed Dingell slightly, keeping \$112,467 during the five years.

Rep. William Ford, D-Taylor, chairman of the House Post Office committee, kept \$105,400 during the period.

REP. WILLIAM Broomfield, R-Lake Orion, whose 18th District covers much of Oakland County, gave

his speaking fees to charity.

Rep. Sander Levin, D-Southfield, took no honoraria.

Altogether, 52 members of the House kept more than \$100,000, Common Cause said.

Honoraria kept by the three Michigan members rose steadily over the five years. Dingell's 1987 honoraria stood 22.3 percent above five years earlier. Vander Jagt's was up 20.1 percent, and Ford's nearly doubled.

The study showed a great gulf in honoraria kept by representatives in positions of power, like Dingell, Ford and Vander Jagt, and their rank-and-file colleagues.

Most other Michigan representatives kept less than \$60,000 over the five years.

Other Michigan representatives serving the full five years and the amounts they kept were:

- John Conyers, D-Detroit, \$54,864.
- Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, \$24,300.
- Howard Wolpe, D-Lansing, \$24,036.
- Bob Carr, D-East Lansing, \$59,561.
- Bob Traxler, D-Bay City, \$14,700.

• Robert Davis, R-Gaylord, \$73,499.

• David Bonior, D-Mount Clemens, \$41,583.

• George Crockett, D-Detroit, \$4,250.

• Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, \$31,700.

Reps. Dale Kildee, D-Flint, took no honoraria.

Three Michiganans served only part of the five-year period.

Rep. Bill Schuette, R-Sanford, kept \$12,200 in three years; Rep. Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph, \$4,500 in one year; and Rep. Paul Henry, R-Grand Rapids, \$7,175 in three years.

## Laid-off dogs to be sold

Two German shepherds in the Oakland County sheriff's disbanded canine unit will be sold to their handlers for \$1.

Sheriff John Nichols disbanded the unit after deputies sought thousands in back pay and overtime pay for caring for the dogs.

"They priced themselves out of

the market," said a Nichols aide.

"These dogs can neither be re-trained to respond to new handlers, therefore being unsuitable for placement with another law enforcement unit, nor can these animals be put up for placement by the Animal Control Division as pets," said the board resolution.

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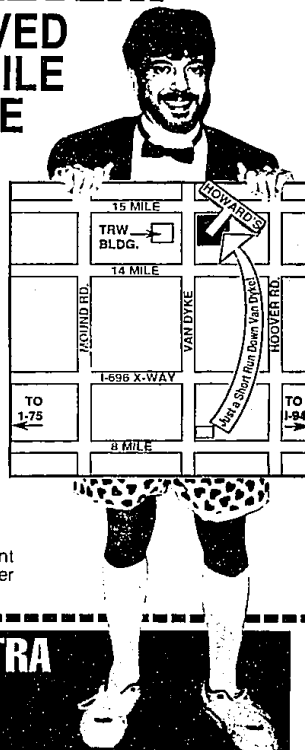
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