## State eyes lifting licenses of dropouts

. High school dropouts would have their driver's license suspended if he Legislature passes bills supported by the Michigan Association of Transis and youngsters crepiled from school for 15 days also would rose driving privileges.

Locally, educators are lukewarm hout the proposal, saying it would hoj really keep many students in acpool and unfairly penalize those few suburban students who do drop but.

kew suburban students who oo one, but, it is wouldn't say that it iphuld be completely take have, said Barbara Stock, assistant principal at West Bloomfield High. She and others favor, perhaps, a restrict-dilecase instead.

In House testimony about the bill, Principal Kelth Wing of St. Louis High School said, "Young people where they are independent of achievity."

ithority."

"School is an exciting place to be.
I'm 52 years old, and I can't wait to
get there in the morning," said Wing,

arguing that alternative programs and vocational courses could grab kids attention.

Adrian High Principal Jerry Burg salt, Tropouts are not thinking through their decision. They are impulsive. The driver's license may be the key to keeping students in school."

MEMBERS OF the House Educa tion Committee were skeptical, even after a solid hour of recent testimo-

after a solid hour of recent testimony.

The hearing occurred a day before the federal government reported Michigan's high school graduation rate had dropped to 82 percent – 48th in the nation, ahead of only the District of Columbia, Florida and Louisiana.

Under House Bills 4234 and 4236, superintendents of public and private secondary schools would be required to report names of dropouts, trunats and expelled students to the Secretary of State, who could suppend their driving privileges.

Sponsors are Reps. Phillip Hoff-

man, R-Horton, and Claude Trim, R-Waterford.

The 19-member panel, chaired by Rep. William Keith, D-Garden City, will study them further before deciding whether to report them to the House floor.

"We don't have very many students that drop out," said James Stone, counselor at Birmingham's Groves High School. "The few that do drop out go to work. For them it would defeat the purpose of what we're trying to accomplish, which is to make them productive members of society." What it would keep the in school. It's a punitive type of sclion,"

"What if a student dropped out for a good reason and needed the auto to support the family?" asked Rep. Robert DeMan, D-Lincoln Park.

Burg said, most new jobs in an increasingly technical society will require high school and even college degrees. "That two-year period, 18

to 18, is critical. If we can keep them coming in the door, we have a chance.

chance.
"In drivers' ed, we don't keep attendance. They're there. I have students failing basic English who pass the drivers' ed test," Burg said.

"IT'S HONIC," said Rep. Nelson Saunders, D-Detrolt, "that the state says you can drop out at 15 and the (would) take away your driver's license. Many make a conscious decision they eant survive in that (school) environment."

Burg replied: "The law says we can't prosecute parents for not sending students to school after ago 16."

"The purpose is laudable," said Rep. Gary Randall, Re-Elwell. "But it's a radical departure."

SEVERAL MEMBERS said stu-dents might turn surly if forced to return to school in order to drive le-

gally.
"Do you want someone in your class whose only purpose is to keep a driver's license?" asked Rep. James

Kosteva, D-Canton.

"All you're doing," said Officer
"John Himmelspach, police liaison at
West Bloomfield High. "Is foreing
them to be in our building and, if hes
disruptive it's harmful for education."

"What if you had expelled them as
"What if you had expelled them as of school a year and go on Sat-

disruptive it's harmful for education;

"What if you had expelled them as incorrigible?" asked Rep. Nate Jonker, D-Cilo.

"At Adrian, we've had only one expoision in 10 years in a town of 25,000; replied Burg.
"You've done great things with 
dropouts," said Rep. Tim Walberg, R-Tipton. "But this seems to keep students in school Josens achieve super things 
without a high school diploma." "It's rare to achieve success without education," said Burg.

urday.

"They keep their children until
they graduate. They (children) are
not allowed to hold a job. They're not
allowed to drive. It is a great family

"On the other side, they have a tremendous mass transit program in Japan."

Staff writers Tim Richard and Dave Varga contributed to this

## Oakland gets most of road funds

Oakland County's roads will get more than half of the money Michi-gan has issued for road improve-ments to keep up with economic de-

velopments.
Michigan gave out \$96.5 million
Statewide Friday, with Oakland
County communities getting nearly
\$59.5 million to build up their roads
to keep up with planned business and

industry growth.

The money comes out of the
Transportation Economic Development Fund created in 1987 and first
ssued last year as part of a strategy
to spur economic growth by improv-

arsco

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ing the state transportation system. It is funded by driver license and vehicle registration fees.

THE ROAD work is designed to support private investment by Michigan business and industry, wills will vall total more than \$2 billion and create more than 30,000 jobs across the state, according to Gov. James Blanchard.

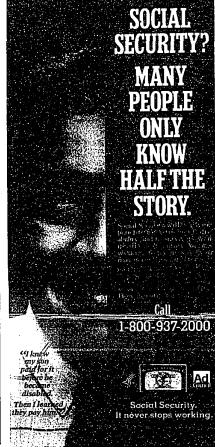
Major projects in Oakland County include \$21.9 million for highways and roads serving the new Chrysler Tech Center in Auburn Hills, another 32.2 million toward the cent of re-

constructing a section of 12 Mile Road as a boulevard for office cen-ter development in Farmington Hills and \$9.8 million for roads serving Northfield Hills Corp. Center in

Joy said, "Anytime anybody improves any road anywhere (in Oakland County) everybody wins."
Joy said he wasn't surprised Oakland County got most of the state funds. "We're the most economically developing county," he said.

Be commarkson, Wayne County









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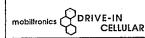
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FIG. 5-19-2440

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FIG. 5-19-2440

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MON.-FRI. 8-8