County moves on court taxation issue

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The Oakland County Board of Commissioners finally has taken a step toward relieving so-called double dipping taxation of courts. Commissioners approved a resolution Thursday calling for the county to keep more of the money collected as fines from the \$2nd District Court. That district court has four

The resolution is almed at correct-ing double taxation in communities ing double taxation in communities that support the ceur but receive no service from it, according to commissioner Michael McCulloch, R-Royal Oak, who authored the resolution.

Those communities include Birmingham, Bioomiteld Hills, Bloomiteld Hills, Bloomiteld Commissioner Michael Township and West Bloomfield,

which have consistently made a fusa about their residents' county taxes being used to pay for a district court, the 52nd, which provides them no services.

rvices.

These communities have an inde-redent district court, the 48th, lopendent district court, the 48 cated in Bloomfield Township.

BIRMINGHAM CITY commissioner Eleanor Siewert later Thurs-day described the county's action as

'a short-term solution to a long term problem."
"We appreciate their support and effort to finance the 52nd on their

"We appreciate their support active their support active to flow a long-term solution because it doesn't deal with the principle. It doesn't deal with the principle. It doesn't relieve our residents from the responsibility of financing both the 48th and 32nd district courts sing caseload of the 52nd court, she said, "concern ne because I think there are long-term cost implications." Communities in the 48th District Court have called on the county and state to find a solution to the double taxation. One suggestion has been that the county offer a tax rebate to those taxed twice.

those taxed twice.

CURRENTLY, THE county retains two-thirds of all revenue generated by the 52nd. This year, however, the court faces a projected \$874,113 bedget deficit. The resolution axis that Oakland County be allowed to retain 90 percent of the income. Early McCollech said of the foce, his first major effort since the county of the foreign of the foce of the

Commissioner Lawrence Peraick, D-Southfield, co-sponsor of the reso-lution, called the vote and its debate "the most exciting thing the commis-sion has had before it in a long, long

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IN AN EFFORT to head off pas-

IN AN EFFORT to head off pasage of the resolution, commissioner Marilym Gosling, R-Rochester Hills, introduced an amendment calling for additional montes to be phased in over a four-year period.

In an effort, to give even more funds back to the county, commission vice-chair Nancy McConnell, R-Bloomfield Hills, introduced an amendment asking that surplus funds generated by the court also be included in calculations.

Both resolutions were narrowly defeated.

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Also defeated was a request by commissioner G. William Caddeli, R. Walled Lake, that the resolution be referred back to the finance committee. Commissioner Richard Skarritt, R-Highland, joined in opposing the resolution.

"THIS IS taking money out of the district I represent. It's self serving and I oppose it," Skarritt said. The most vocal opponent was first-term commissioner John Pap-pageorge, R-Troy.

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"The trouble with the 90/10 proposal is that it is a point solution to a moving problem. Whatever percent you put in there, you will have inequities on one side or the other. The real problem is (a lack of) funding by the state. This will defer getting to the real issue," Pappageorge said to commissioners and in a letter printed in an area newspaper.

Commissioners John Olsen, R-Berkley, Donald Jensen, R-Birmingham, and Donn Wolf, R-Farmington Hills, and Pernick co-sponsared the resolution with McCulloch, who acknowledges it is not the ideal solution.

"The best thing would be state-wide funding of all courts, with un-form pay scales for all court em-ployees. The problem is, the state has never indicated what it's going to do. This, at least, recognizes the inequity in Oakland County."

inequity in Oskiana County.

In a conciliatory gesture following the vote, Pernick told commissioners the issue has been before them for years. "It festers, it breeds resentment and conflict. In the future, we should try to address this in a more positive way, it's not a question of equity, it's a matter of fairness, a tradition we're known for.

Whew! State fully funds teacher pensions

The state Senate has adopted budget bills that will pump \$300 million more into K-12 school coffers than recommended by Gov. Blancton

hard.

In a victory for out-of-formula school districts, one included \$103 million for full state funding 103 million for full state funding 103 teacher pensions and Social Security taxes. Blanchard had sought to cap those costs, which would have cost many suburban districts more from their property laxes.

Total state ald tab will be about \$3.1 billion. Senators said the Blanchard administration is underestimating revenues, and it dipped into the current state surplus for the extra money.

MOST DEMOCRATS went along with the Republican-sponsored plan. The GOP was aiming to show it's unnecessary to raise the state sales

Blanchard, along with many labor, school and some business groups, is endorsing a plan to raise the sales tax to 5 percent from the current 4. Half the increase would go into school aid, the other half into property tax relief.

That plan has been reported out of a House committee but hasn't come to a floor yould A Senate version of

a house committee but make version of the same plan is stuck in committee. Sen. Jack Welborn, R-Kalamazoo, childed school lobbyists, particularly

the Michigan Education Association, for failing to turn out in force to support the Senate's aid plan.

"Where are they? Why wen's works ago wen they would be supported to the supported to the supported to the support of the supported to the su

THE BILL to continue paying pen-sion and Social Security costs passed 32-1, with Sens. Doug Cruce, R-Troy,

and Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, absent. Lone dissenter was Sen. Nick Smith, R-Hillsdale County, who said teachers should pay part of the cost

cheer's should pay part of the cost themselves.

"In 1974 we supposedly 'cut a deal' with the teachers, that they would no longer have to contibute to their retirement, and in return there would be fewer strikes and a reduced demand for salary increase," Smith said.

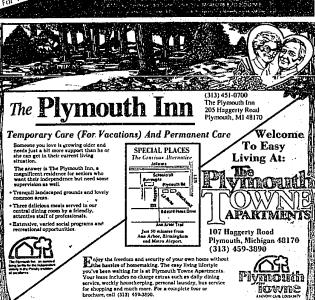
"With Michigan teacher salaries now one of the highest in the nation, it is time to reconsider the 'deal'. It is now more properlate for the school boards to pay half, as the employer, and for the teachers to pay half, as the employee."

Census workers needed 0 SAMPLE SALE The U.S. Census Bureau has opened an office in Rochester Hills, certifying that the countdown to the 1990 United States Census is under- Have a car in good working condition: Be United States citizens. Be 18 years old, or be 16 or 17 with a high school diploma or equivalent work or educational experience. 1990 United States Census Is under-way. The bureau needs several hundred persons to list and verify residential addresses throughout Oakland Coun-ty. The collected addresses will be combined to build a nationwide auto-mated address file — a key to a complete and successful census. Census workers must: • Pass a 30-minute test. June 1, 2 & 3 If you live outside the Rochester calling zone and would like to learn more about employment opportun-ties with the Census Bureau, call col-lect to the Rochester Hills district office at (313) 853-8200. 20%-75% OFF **SAVE 15% SAVE 10%**













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