

# Abortion battle in fall

## Stage is already set for hot debate on pro-life bills

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Look for a donnybrook at public hearings over state pro-life bills in September and October. That's when chairman Fred Dillingham's Senate Human Resources

Committee is likely to take up four pieces of legislation in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision allowing states greater powers to regulate the termination of a pregnancy.

"It's a committee designed for terror," said Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, who is pro-choice.

"It's a double-stacked committee," said Faxon after the Senate rejected pro-choice Sen. Lana Polack's effort to send the measures to the Health Policy Committee.

"Dillingham pledged a full opportunity for hearings," countered Sen. R. Robert Geake, R-Northville, a member of Dillingham's panel.

THE SENATE HUMAN RESOURCES Committee is one of the most conservative and pro-life in the Michigan Legislature.

Dillingham, R-Fowlerville, has his name on efforts to cut state spending for abortions. Geake, a psychologist, is pro-life.

Other members are Harmon Cropsey, R-Decatur, a religious fundamentalist; Gil Dinello, D-East Detroit, the Senate's most conservative Democrat; and John Cherry, D-Clio, who is pro-life.

"Polack moved to send it to the Health Policy Committee, which she thought would be friendlier," said Geake. Health Policy is headed by moderate Sen. William Soderburg, R-East Lansing, and includes a physician, Sen. John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek.

Geake predicted the measures would probably pass the full Senate in fall but might have more trouble in the House and on Gov. James J. Blanchard's desk.

Judiciary Chairman Rudy Ni-

chols, R-Waterford, said the bills didn't belong in his committee because no constitutional issue involved.

DILLINGHAM WAS out of town and unavailable for comment, but an aide said the Human Resources panel has dealt with similar issues in the past. "A great portion of the abortion issues are social services issues," said Jim Crawford, the aide.

"His committee has done a lot of health issues. It wasn't shenanigans" to send the anti-abortion issues to Human Resources.

"We've had a few pieces of mail already," he said.

THE MEASURES are:

• Senate Bill 513 (sponsored by Jack Welborn, R-Kalamazoo) — requiring parental consent before a minor (someone younger than 18) could have an abortion. But the mi-

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—Sen. Jack Faxon

nor could obtain a judge's consent under certain conditions.

• SB 514 (Welborn) — based on the Missouri statute upheld by the Supreme Court on July 3. It would prohibit abortions in hospitals associated with the state and require medical tests to determine whether a fetus could survive outside the womb. The Missouri act also contains a preamble declaring that life begins at conception.

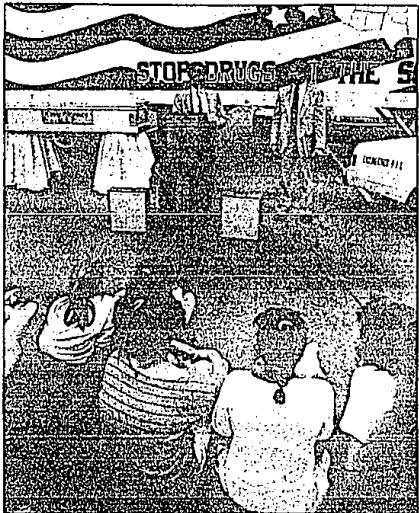
• SB 515 (Dillingham) — a ban on abortion counseling by state employees.

• Senate Joint Resolution H (Dillingham) — a constitutional amendment to outlaw abortion as a benefit in state employees' health care packages.

A two-thirds vote of both chambers would be required to place SJR H on the ballot, and voter approval would be required. Gov. Blanchard would have no veto power.

The three bills would require only a simple majority in both chambers, but Blanchard has threatened to veto them.

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DOUGLAS SUSALLA/staff photographer

Gil Hill, a Detroit police commander of "Beverly Hills Cop" fame, chats with some students about the dangers of drugs at a drug rally in Farmington. Michael Bouchard (right) coordinated the rally in his role as chairman of the Beverly Hills and Farmington-area committees on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.

## Few show up for anti-drug rally — even with Hill

By Casey Hana  
staff writer

It could have been the threatening clouds hovering overhead. Maybe it was the general hubbub surrounding the annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival in downtown Farmington.

A rally to promote anti-drug sentiments and civic involvement drew only a handful of people plus local dignitaries last week.

A "busload of students from Novi arrived at the end of the presentation, in time to hear a few comments from visiting Detroit, Police Commander and movie celebrity Gil Hill.

"We have city officials, law enforcement and the media. But we're still missing the people — the everyday person who needs to get involved," said Michael Bouchard, chairman of the Beverly Hills and Farmington-area committees of the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, which sponsored the rally. Bouchard, a candidate in the 69th state House district race last year, is president of the village of Beverly Hills.

"DRUG PROBLEMS, voting, there's just an apathy on all sorts of levels — and that's evident today," Bouchard said. "The general public just doesn't get involved with a number of events that affect them directly."

The rally included a 40-foot, hand-painted trailer, that is traveling across the country, stopping in mostly large, capital cities. It will eventually conclude in Washington where President Bush is expected to lead a rally.

The committee selected Farmington as its pre-Lansing stop July 12, when it brought the rally to the Village Commons shopping center downtown.

The purpose of the rally was to fight problems like drugs, and heighten civic awareness.

**'We must continue to let them know . . . when we don't say 'no' we're saying 'yes.' Drugs can do terrible things for them and their lives. We must all get together and lay civic illiteracy to rest.'**

—Gil Hill

Detroit police commander

DESPITE THE lack of a crowd, officials still had plenty to say about the threat of drugs to the community.

Farmington Hills Mayor Terry Sever likened the drug problem to a fire on a lackadaisical neighborhood block.

"You say 'Let the neighbor put it out.' Before you know it, you'll have a wildfire out of control," he said. "We must respond before it gets out of control."

"This is a small fire that is getting bigger and bigger."

Bouchard, a former Bloomfield Township police officer, cited statistics showing that 70 percent of crime is drug-related.

HILL, a celebrity from his roles in the "Beverly Hills Cop" movies, also spoke about the dangers of drugs.

"We must continue to let them know . . . when we don't say 'no' we're saying 'yes.' Drugs can do terrible things for them and their lives."

"We must all get together and lay civic illiteracy to rest," he said.

Heavy support for the rally effort came from area law enforcement agencies, including the Farmington Department of Public Safety, the Farmington Hills Police, the Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety, the Oakland County Sheriff and the Michigan State Police, who all had patrol cars on the scene.

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