## Malpractice immunity bill may be doomed

1.1. Gov. Connie Binsfeld broke a tie to give Sen. John Schwarra 19-18 victory with its bill to give hospital emergency care professionals some immunity from lawsuits.

But Sen. Fred Dillingham, R-Fowlerville, warmed the victory could be short-lived.

"It will die in the House," predicted Dillingham, the Senate's No. 2 Republicant.

publican.
"This should be referred back to
the Judiciary Committee. It's the intent of that committee to work on an
entire (tort reform) package through

## Local grads get assistance from OCC

Oakland Community College has presented 23 scholarships to June graduates of Oakland County public and private high schools, seven from area hith schools.

and private high schools, seven from area high schools.

Awarded for academic excellence, the OCC High School Scholarship covers tuition for the fall and winter semesters, and is renewable for a second year. High School grade points of the recipients ranged from 3.28 to 4.0, the average being 3.57.

The winners from our area and the intended fields of study are:

Frank Anderson — Farmington Hills — drafting

Bethany Broadwell — Orchard Lake — liberal arts

• Cristina Constantine — Farm-ington Hills — business

Angela Copini — Bloomfield
 Hills — exercise science

• Karen Delargy — Troy — culi-nary arts

 Christine Frey — Rochester
Hills — undecided Kristen Mastrogiacomo — oy — education

Jennifer Stephens — Orchard

Lake — child development







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the summer. This bill should be worked on as part of a package.

"We should stop staking out political positions on something that will pass (only) the Senate but opt for good public policy that will pass both houses."

Dillingham's motion to send the bill to committee failed on a 16-19

ON FINAL passage, Schwarz's Senate Bill 268 drew an 18-18 tie that Republican Binafeld broke. Voting yes were area Republicans Mat Dunaskiss of Lake Orion and

'We should stop staking out political positions on something that will pass (only) the Senate but opt for good public policy that will pass both

> - State Sen. Fred Dillingham R-Fowlerville

Robert Geake of Northville. Faxon of Farmington Hills and Voling no were Democrats Jack George Z. Hart of Dearborn along

with Republicans David Honigman of West filoconfield and Dillingham. William Faust. Deventiend, had an excused absence, and one seat is vacant.

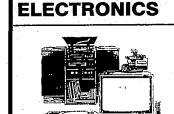
The Senate's only medical doctor, Schwarz, R-Battle Creek, drafted the bill to give immunity to doctors, nurses, techniclans and other emergency care personnel from lawsuits accept for gross regilgence. Schwarz wants to cover cases where there has been no previous doctor-patient relationship. He and hospital officials said lawsuits are driving doctors from the state.

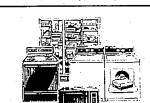
OPPONENTS SAID Schwarz's bill went too far.

"It allows suits only for gross negligence and wanton misconduct," said Sen. Debble Stabenow, D Lansing. "For practical purposes, that's immunity. Her "middle ground" amendment allowing a court to look at specific circumstances failed 16 to 19.

Schwarz accepted a narrowing amendment by Sen. Michael O'Brien, D-betroit, to remove therapitst and X-ray techniclans and to confine the ecope of immunity to the emergency

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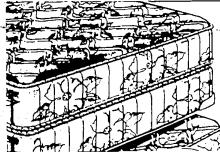
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