

State Senate preserves teachers' health training

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Teacher training in the Michigan Model for Comprehensive Health Education was preserved when the state Senate last week kept \$2 million in a budget bill.

The Michigan Model, under right-wing attack as undermining parental authority, won a 23-9 vote of confidence during the school aid debate.

"It's anti-family, anti-religion, it teaches situation ethics and says nothing is right or wrong," objected Sen. Doug Carl, R-Orion, who sought to remove the money.

Carl said questions a child should resolve by asking his or her father and mother are treated as "problem-solving."

"It's not anti-family or anti-relig-

ion, and it's not pro-sex and drugs," replied Sen. John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek. "It's opposed by the Eagle Forum and the Dads Foundation, right wing groups. There's a bunch of winners for sure."

The Michigan Model question split majority Republicans and could become an issue in races for higher office. Carl is running for Congress in a Macomb County district, Schwarz in a new mid-state district.

Voting against Michigan Model funding was Mar. Dumas, R-Lake Orion.

Voting to keep it were Michael Butcher, R-Birmingham, William Furst, D-Westland, Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, George Hart, D-

Dearborn, and David Hoenigman, R-West Bloomfield.

Missing the vote was Robert Griske, R-Northville. Griske is a member of the select Senate committee studying the Michigan Model, chaired by Sen. Gil DiSello, D-Clinton Township.

"Wait for our final report," said DiSello. "It's a well intentioned piece of work for K-3 kindergarten through eighth grade on history and geography. But to be fair, there are some problems. I don't think it ought to be eliminated, it ought to be improved."

When you have parents saying they couldn't get their kids out of class unless they went to the police or the prosecutor, DiSello said the state just implemented the pro-

gram in 1978 and that it isn't statutory.

The section was part of the \$3 billion school aid bill that the Senate passed and sent to the House. If history is a guide, the numbers will be compromised in a six-member conference committee in June.

Opponents have tied deep breathing as a method of calming oneself, which is taught under the Michigan Model, to Eastern religious meditation and witchcraft. In listing "sacred people" from whom a child could ask advice, the Michigan Model lists mother and father.

father — an "anti-family bias," opponents contend.

"Exaggeration and misinformation," said Sen. Jim Berryman, D-Adrian.

Added Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing: "They (opponents) were not successful in convincing their local school districts (to opt out of the Michigan Model), so they come to the state." Some 520 of Michigan's 562 school districts use the state health education program.

Senators rejected, on a 19-19 tie vote, a Democratic effort to remove a section that would penalize a dis-

trict one 180th of its state aid per day if the its schools are closed by a strike.

"It enriches the school aid fund by a very punitive process," said Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills. "It puts the burden on the children."

"Teachers are not penalized by striking," replied Gil DiSello, D-Clinton Township, who voted with Republicans on the measure.

Area Republicans: Butcher, Dumas, Griske and Hoenigman voted against removing the section. Democrats: Furst, Faxon and Hart voted in favor.

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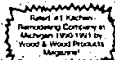


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