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Efforts for stricter teen licensing stalled

BY TIM RICHARD

Michigan's effort to toughen teen driver training courses bit an ideological anag when Senste Re-publicans tacked a private school

voucher system onto the bill. "It provides further erosion of public school education in Michi-gan," Democrat Henry Stallings of Detroit said.

The Senate passed its version 19-17. Voting yes were all area

Republicans, including Mike Bouchard of Birmingham and Mat Dunaskiss of Lake Orion. Voting no were 15 Democrats, in-cluding Gary Peters of Bloomfield Township, John Charry of Clio and two outstate Republicans. The bill goes back to the House, where sponsor Dan Gustafson, R-Williamston, hasn't decided whether he will agree to the Sen-ate amendments. The Senate: E Removed driver training as a

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training in the public school sys-tem." "This recognizes the fact that nearly 30 percent of students to-day got their driver training out-side of their public school," said Somate majority leader Dick Posthumus, R-Alto. Somo Democrate objected that a \$100 voucher was too small. "These parents will be paying anywhere from maybe a minimum of \$100 if they get a partial hav-

of \$100, if they get a partial pay-ment from the achool, to \$200,

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\$250 or \$300," said Son. Jim Ber-ryman, D-Adrian, a doctared can-didate for governor in 1998. "I think we took a U-turn for families," said Son. Art Miller, Dfamilies, Warren.

Warren. Here are the requirements on the Senate version of the bill: E Lovel 1 — Be at least 14 years and nine months pass vision and knowledge tests; have parental approval; complete first segment of driver training with six hours of read time with instructor; get un-limited driving privileges with parent, guerdlan or (with parent's permission) a licensed driver 21 or older:

permission; a or older. E Level 2 -- Be at least 16; hold a Henne for six months; - 00 Level 2 -- Be at least 16; hold a Level 1 license for six monthe; have no moving violations for 90 days; complete level 2 training; spend 60 hours behind the wheel (including 10 at night) as certified by parent or guardian; pass Secre-tary of State's road test; do not drive from midnight to 5 a.m. un-leas with parent, guardian or il. consed 21-year-01 (with parent's permission). Exception: driving to and from work.

for road commission BY PAT MURPHY BTATT WRITER

Familiar face selected

Barlier this month when Okiand County commission-ers began considering a new spointment to the Road Com-mission of Okiand County, of-ficials accepted applications from 16 people and conducted public interviews for the top the candidates. Commissioners praised the selection process, insisting it would produce highly qualified the appearances of cronyian. When the process was com-pleted Thursday, commission-rest of the top of the top of the twisted entity – former county commissioner Richard G. Startit of Milford. Res Fighly partians 18 to 7 Vote, Skartit was selected over for-missioner Chesno Vote, Skartit of Start Nithe road commission va-cancy created by the resigna-tion of John E. Olson of Troy. Skartit was selected over for-missioner Gilda Z. Jacobs, Di-Huntington Woods. Jacobs and other Democratis was and other Democratis reare supporting Cristiano he-currently chairman and CEO of Lifesofi Technologies, Inc., in Bigma Farma. Equally important, accord-ing to Democratis wo support of him, Cristiano in monortant of adminis-tion of administer of the support-need the southern portion of and the pencerate we support-ing to Democratis we support-support of the southern portion of

the county. The two other road commissioners live in Clarks-ton and White Lake. "I really think the southern communities need represents" ion on the road commission," said commissioner Nancy L. Quezies, D.Southfield, who nominated Christiano.

Queries, D-Southnish, who nominated Christiano. The road commission has three members — appointed by the county board. They are the policy making body for the road commission that employs about 540 people and has an annual budget of about \$90 million. Skarritt, a retired staff engi-neer at General Motors, was county commissioner from 1985 until 1992. As a commis-dance record while certing at chair of the general governi-ment committee and a member of the Oakland-Pontia Arport committee and the Community Development Advisory Com-mittee. mittee.

"Skaritt was a good ap-pointment," seld commission-er Thomas A. Law, R-West Bloomfield. "He's vory knowledgeshle and he's from an area that has a lot of road problems.

an area that has a lot of road problems. "Republicans are accused of making appointments from fa-millar faces," acid commis-sioner David L. Moffitt, who had initially supported another candidate, former Farmington Hills city councilman Ben Marks. "This familiar face (Skarritt) is also very well qualified."

public school mandate. Set up a \$100 voucher system that students could use to attend a private driving school under cer-tain conditions. One condition is that their pub-lie school failed to provide driver training; the other, that schedu-ling conflicts prevented their tak-ing public school driver courses. Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton, value the in a nother issue more local control." Bennett said. "State government should not be mandating something like driver training in the public school aya-tom."

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