ROLL CALL

AIDS: The House adopted, 402 for and four against, the conference report on a bill (S 641) providing \$738 million over five years to states and communities for the treatment of people with AIDS.

Area representatives voting yes were: Dale Kildec, D-Flint, Joe Knollenberg, R-Birmingham, Sander Levin, D-Southfield and Lynn Rivers, D-Ann Arbor.

To Deregulate Shipping: The House passed, 239 for and 182 against, a bill (HR 2149) to deregulate the ocean shipping industry, dismantle the Federal Maritime Commission and allow carriers such as steamship companies to make private deals with shippers such as manufacturers. manufacturers.

A yes vote was to derequitate the ocean shipping industry. Area representatives voting yes were: Joe Knollenberg, Voting no: Dale Kildes, Sander Levin and Lynn Rivers.

M STNATE

Immigration: Voting 97 for and three against, the Senate sent to conference with the House a bill (Hr. 2020) that seeks to tighten America's borders against lilegel immigration and deny jobs, welfare and ether benefits to those who enter without visas.

A yes vote was to pass the bill. Michigan Senators Carl Levin, D, and Spencer Abra-ham R, voted yes.

Cuban Immigrants: The Senate voted, 62 for and 37 against, to preserve the 30-year-old Cuban Refugee Adjustment Act that allows Cubans who flee their home-land to seek resident status land to seek resident status after one year in the United States.

Michigan Senators Carl Levin voted no. Spencer Abraham voted yes.

Democrats field a candidate for executive race

By Pat Murphy Stapp writes

A Troy man believes Oakland County's top Republican is "too cocky."

"I really think Mr. Patterson has forgotten the fundamentals," said Edward T. Hamilton, a Democrat who last week filed nominating papers to challenge the incumbent county executive. "I think he's vulnerable."

Hamilton, a "."

vulnorable."

Hamilton's challenge is something of a surprise in this year's election cycle that officially gets underway this week. The deadline for filing nominating petitions is 4 p.m. Tuesday.

Hamilton, 53, is a new vehicle launch manager at the Chrysler Corp. headquarters in Auburn Hills. He said county government should emulate the auto industry, namely downsizing and getting more efficient.

The auto industry learned.

"The auto industry learned to improve efficiency by giving workers more autono-

"The auto industry learned to improve efficiency by giving workers more autonomy. The county could do the same."

Edward Hamilton Democratic candidate for Oakland County Executive

my," said Hamilton who was born in Indonesia to an American father and Indonesian mother. "The county could do the same."

He also believes Patterson should be He also believes Patterson should be taken to task for not doing more to assure that Oakland County gets more of its tax dollars back from Lansing.

Oakland county pays more than \$2 billion annually in state taxes," he said, "but very little of that comes back" for roads, infrastructure or mental health.

Republicans – lead by Patterson – talk about lowering the tax burden, Hamilton said, but they do very little.

Hamilton and his wife Silvia have two children, Adam, 13, and Krystle, 12.

Besides being the last day to qualify for the ballot, Tuesday will likely kick off a flurry of political activity as candidates seek to maximize public exposure.

Incumbent Sheriff John F. Nichols, for example, previously said he will announce his candidacy – and kick off his campaign – on Tuesday.

David Gorcyca, who has been running for the Republican nomination for county prosecutor for about a year, has also scheduled a press conference for 10 a.m. Tuesday to formally kick off his campaign to oust incumbent Richard Thompson.

Gorcyca, 34, is a graduate of Birming-

Gorcyca, 34, is a graduate of Birming-ham Brother Rice High School and a for-mer Oakland County assistant prosecumer Oakland County assistant prosecu-tor. He lives in Royal Oak where he is a vention work among young people.

Thompson, 59, of Clarkston, kicked off his campaign last Monday, promising to continue his tough-on-crime policies and refusing to plea bargain.

He told enthusiastic supporters that he prosecuted Dr. Jack Keverkian – known as "Dr. Denth" because of his advocacy for assisted suicide – because it was his duty as prosecutor.

The winner of the Republican primary will run against Steve Kaplan, a West Bloomfield resident who in 1992, as an unknown Democrat in a Republican stronghold, came within 42,000 votes of beating an entrenched incumbent.

Kaplan is an assistant prosecutor in Macomb County who contends, among other things, the incumbent is too rigid and doesn't do enough enough crime pro-

Senate debating changes in worker's comp laws

BY TIM RICHARD STAFF WRITER

SYTH MICHAED
SYNT WHITE
Sen, Mike Rogers, a Republican, says his worker's compreform bill will stop fraud "Ind
won't reduce benefits a penny."
"If that's all it did," replied
Democrat Ken DeBeaussaert,
"we could come to an agreement." But DeBeaussaert said
Rogers' bill overturns two court
decisions, rewrites workers compligibility standards, retroactiveby terminates benefits for those
paid under the old standard and
generally was rammed
through by the GOP mignity.
The state Senate May 2 gave
to the third way and the state of the state
Rogers' Senate Bill 896 and sent
it to the House, where a narrow
56-54 GOP majority makes it
doubtful the bill will survive
inter.

intact.
"The bill makes it more diffi-cult for dishonest employees to abuse the system," said Sen. Robert Geake, R-Northville, a

Robert Geake, R-Northville, a backer.
Two years ago, Rogers' bill would have been in more trouble. A freshman from Brighton and chair of the Labor Committee, Rogers was preceded by Fred Dillingham, R-Fowlerville, with crossed over and voted with Democrats on labor bills. If he

hadn't retired, Dillingham would have faced a tough primary chal-

have faced a tough primary cnal-lenge in 1994.
Rogers' bill would:
•Make worker's comp fraud a folony punishable by up to four years in prison and a fine of \$50,000.
•Make it tougher to collect benefits for mental stress on the

*Make it tougher to collect benefits for mental stress on the job by overturning two Supreme Court decisions out of Wayne County. They allowed people to self-diagnose, "Rogers said." They made us the laughing stock of the country. There was a strong incentive to lie about psychiatric disorders. Mental stress claims went up 62 percent in one year from state employees."

*Require lawyers' advertisements for worker's compensation claim is a felony. The Senate yanked out language requiring 12-point type (roughly 26 percent larger than this story's typo) at the insistence of Ropublican Bill Schuette of Midland.

*Require that employees making claims provide records to back up their disability.

Democrate somplained bitterly that Rogers had kept the bill's final draft hidden in committee until an hour before voting time, in order to avoid their amend.

ments. So Democrats offered changes on the Senate floor.

'Only one major Democratic amendment was successful. Chris Dingoll, R-Tronton, won 19-15 support to make it a fraud for an employer to require an examining physician to certify that a worker isn't disabled.
"That is fraud No. 1 - health care providers who never saw a person who wasn't fit to work," said Dingoll.
Sen. John Cherry, D-Clio, said some doctors are getting reputations as "cut-off physicians."

"I see nothing wrong with the amendment," agreed Sen. John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek, the chamber's only physician. Schwarz was joined by two other Republicans in backing that Dingoll amendment.
Dincell accused Republicans of

care providers who never saw a person who wasn't fit to work, said Dingell.

Sen. John Cherry, D-Clio, said some dectors are getting reputations as "cut-off physicians." I see nothing wrong with the amendment," agreed Sen. John Schwarz, R.-Battle Creek, the chamber's only physician. Schwarz, was joined by two other Republicans in backing that Dingell amendment.

Dingell accused Republicans of The bill declared "crroneous" a 1994 decision on mental disabili-

breaking a labor-management deal going back to 1912 "to give broad exposure for limited danges. This bill gives Ilmited exposure..." It pointed to a section that said halling benefits "to an employee who loses his or her own fault or action." Dingell proposed changing "fault" to "intentional and willful misconduct."

ty of the Michigan Supreme Court in Gardner vs. Van Buren Public Schools.

Public Schools.
The new bill says, "Mental disabilities are not compensable if founded on general conclusions," of stross, anxiety, personality, conflicts, misperceptions of stim will or events, or exertion over a period of time, or from events that result in a hypersensitive or an idiosyncratic reaction by the explayer.

employee.
"Mental disabilities are not "Montal disabilities are not compensable if they arise out of an employee personnel transaction, including but not limited to a transfer, promotion, demotion, cerdination or oral disagreement."

Refer to Senate Bill 895 when writing to your state representative, State Capitol, Lansing 48909





