## Seat belt bill heads to governor for his signature

You'll have to buckle up when you drive. Legislation to make enforcement of Michigan's mandatory seatbelt law subject to "primary enforcement" by police was approved last week by the state House of Representatives.

the state House of Representa-tives.

Since seatbelt use was first mandated in the 1980s, viola-tions have been considered a "secondary offense," meaning police could not stop drivers for

See related opinion page A14-

that reason. Tickets could only be written if police pulled a driv-er over for another reason. er over for another reason.
Passage of Sonte Bill Bullard
(R-Highland) means officers will
be able to pull drivers over is
they see the shoulder harness
hanging nunsed inside the ear.
The bill was approved by the
House May 11 by a 68-42 vote.
The Sonate concurred later in
the week to amendments added
on the House floor. The bill is

now headed to the governor for signature.

One amendment tacked on to the bill called for passing the cost savings, realized by insurance companies as a result of the legislation, on to the policy holders. According to the estimates offered by Bullard, primary enforcement of the sentbelt law will save a total of \$170 million statewide annually, much of it as a result of lowered payouts from insurance companies to injured drivers and passengers.

Rep. Lingg Brewer (D-Holt)

wanted the savings given back to policy holders. His amendment was approved in a 100-8 ballot. Rep. Ruth Johnson (R-Holly) offered an amendment which would have altered the bill significantly, applying primary enforcement only if minors are unbuckled. Unbuckled adults would not have been subject to the primary enforcement. She explained that for adults, she believed seatbelt use should be a matter of personal choice. Nonetheless, the House rejected her propogal.

According to Bullard, mandatory seathelt use is the only traffic law considered to be subject to "secondary enforcement." For all other violations, police already use primary enforcement, he said, pulling vehicles over when the violation is spotted.

Bullard estimates the change will save 100 lines new year and will save 100 lines new year and

will save 100 lives per year and eliminate 3,000 injuries received in traffic accidents.

Bullard said he expects the change will raise compliance with Michigan's mandatory seat-

belt law by 10 to 15 percent. At present, about 71 percent of Michigan actually wear their belts.

Here's how local representa-

Here's how local representatives voted:
Yes — Andrew Raczkowski (R. Farmington Hills), Mike Bishop (R. Rochester), Patricia Godchaux (R. Birmingham), John Pappageorge (R. Troy), Nancy Quarles (D. Southfield), and Marc Shulman (R. West Bloomfield)
No — Bob Gosselin (R. Troy) and Ruth Johnson (R. Holly).

## **POLICE AND FIRE NEWS**

The following are police and fire incidents that were reported in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week.

duting the past mee...
AUIO REFT
In Farmington Hills:
Someone stole a green 1993
Ford Ranger from the Mobil gas
station on 12 Mile and Middlebelt at 4 p.m. May 13.

WALLET STOLEN

WALLET STOLEN
In Farmington Hills:
A Commerce Township
woman, 35, found her wallet had
been stolen outside of T.J. Mnxx
on Orchard Lake and 14 Mile at
11 a.m. May 14. She thought
she may have lost it but found
someone had already used her
Visa card at a gas station by the

card company.

ASSAULY
In Farmington Hills:
Police ticketed a Livonia man,
28, after a Hills man, 38, was
punched in the face numerous
times during a dispute on Mayfield near Flanders Elementary
School at 7:15 p.m. May 14. The

time she contacted the credit card company.

ASSAUT

In Farmington Hills:
Police ticketed a Livonia man, 28, after a Hills man, 38, was punched in the face numerous times during a dispute on May 14. The lills man had cuts and bruises ever his left eye. The driver had a bloody nose, cut lip and knuckles. The driver said he was defending himself. A witness said the Hills man asked the was defending himself. A witness said the Hills man asked the was defending himself.

polite.
A go-cart rider punched a Putt
N' Games employee in the face
several times after he was told to
take his foot off the accelerator

at 1:40 p.m. May 16. The man's cart was crashing to others on the course. After the assault, the man left on foot down Hawthorne from Grand River. HEROIN SHOOTER

HEROIN SHOOTER
In Farmington Hills:
Police ticketed a West Bloomfield woman, 41, for narcotic paraphernalia after finding, her parised out in a woman's restroom at Mayberry's restaurant on Grand River at 10 p.m. May 14. EMS workers and police found the woman lying on the floor with her pants down to mid-thigh. A blood spot near the pubic area indiented where she'd just taken an injection. A spoon with heroin residue was found nearby, She was taken to Botsford Hospital.

MARHUMANA POSSESSION

MARUUANA POSSESSION

In Farmington Hills:
Police arrested a Northville man, 23, after finding 2.3 grams of marijuana on him during a traffic stop on Orchard Lake and 12 Mile at 2.35 a.m. May 16. The man, who was a passenger in the 1988 Toysta Corolla, had an outstanding warrant in Westland for marijuana dulivery.
Police ticketed a Northvilla man, 20, after finding 5.8 grams of marijuana in a plastic bag when questioning him in the Kmart parking let on Orchard Lake and 14 Mile at 5.15 a.m. May 16. He three whe bag over his ear as officers approached. He then pieked it up and tried to hide it.

DRUNKEN DRIVING
In Farmington Hills:

Please see POUCE, All

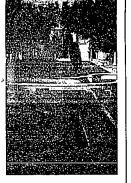














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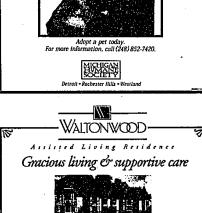
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