

# 3 Districts Can Reduce Tax Rates

LANSING

The state school aid bill, which caused heated controversy while in its early stage, passed the Legislature in its final form recently with unanimous support from local legislators.

The \$1.24 billion appropriation gives local districts at least \$38 per mill per student up to a levy of 22 mills and gives some local districts an opportunity to cut their millage levies.

Supporting the final version of the bill were Sens. William Faust (D-Westland), Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth), David Plawecki (D-Deerborn Heights) and Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park).

Also supporting it were Reps. John Bennett (D-Redford Township), Raymond A. Baker (R-Farmington), Thomas Brown (D-Westland), William Keith (D-Garden City), John Markes (D-Westland), Raymond Smit (R-Ann Arbor), Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park) and R. Robert Geake (R-Northville).

Three Observerland districts levy more than 30 mills for school operations and therefore are eligible for additional state funding which will allow them to cut back their millage levies.

Under the bill, the Dearborn School District can cut its levy by .95 mills, Wayne-Westland by 1.65 mills and Redford Union by 1.4 mills.

The state will reimburse these districts for the revenue they will lose by reducing their levies.

Some educators, however, predicted that Gov. Milliken will veto Sect. 21, item 5, the provision allowing the funding increase.

"It is our understanding that the governor is almost certain to red line this item," said David McDowell, Clarenceville school superintendent and a member of the Michigan Assn. of School Administrators legislative committee. "The guess now is that it will be vetoed," he said.

Geake said that the bill is basically the original bill proposed in the Senate.

Although he isn't satisfied with it, Geake said it is "the best compromise we could reach after weeks of tough negotiation."

He objected to the bill because it has a special provision for districts levying less than 22 mills which "rewards those areas which have not been adequately financing their own school districts through the proper tax in the past."

The final version cut aid to special education programs over the House version but had more than the Senate version. Geake said that "a \$100 million will be adequate to finance all programs we can teach with the number of students this year under the mandatory special education."

Markes said he was "pleased with the outcome of the conference committee."

He initially withheld his support from the House version "in hopes of getting an improvement for districts paying high millages" which was achieved, he said.

Improvements in special education and academically talented program funding over last year are included in the bill he said, "making it a better package now than when the bill came from the Senate."

Markes added that the bill "isn't the answer in equity in taxation for education, there's still room for improvement."

## Mrs. Evans Heads Regional Citizens

Julie Evans, formerly president of the Birmingham League of Women Voters, and long interested in regionalism in southeastern Michigan, has been elected chairperson for Regional Citizens.

Regional Citizens, an organization of individuals from southeastern Michigan committed to understanding regional problems, working toward the solution of those problems, and exercising citizen involvement, was formed in the spring of 1972 with interim officers and steering committee.

In July 1972, more than 200 charter members elected permanent officers, a board of directors, and ratified the organization's permanent by-laws.

In addition, three vice chairpersons were elected for one-year terms. They are David Gason Jr., (College of Architecture, University of Michigan) of Detroit; Dr. Leonard E. Goodall (chancellor, University of Michigan - Dearborn) of Wayne County; and Dr. Reginald Wilson, (president, Wayne County Community College) of Detroit.

Regional Citizens is a project of the Metropolitan Fund, Inc. (a non-profit research corporation).

All residents in the six-county area of southeastern Michigan may join Regional Citizens. Contact Regional Citizens, Suite 1002, 211 V. Fort, Detroit, 48226.

## Lions Plan Picnic For Blind Persons

A special picnic for blind persons and their families will be held by the metropolitan Detroit Lions Clubs starting at 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 12, in Hines Park, just west of Inkster Rd.

The annual picnic, hosted this year by the Westland Lions Club, will have games and food available.

Pinic coordinator is Al DiMatteo of the Westland club.

Persons planning to attend and those needing a drive to and from the picnic may contact Lions member John Bushaw, of 2150 Minerva, Westland.

**observer newspapers**

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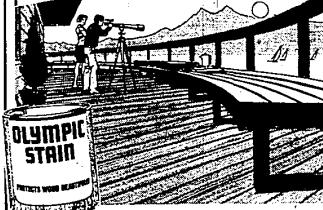
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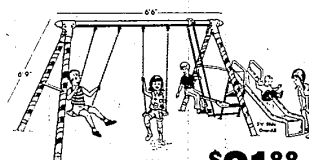
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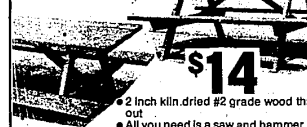
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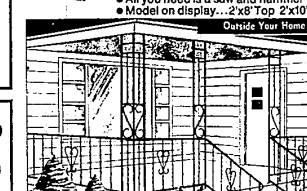
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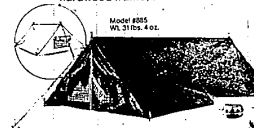


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