## Local Reps Split n Court Reform

C1. Lower court reorganization, mandated by the 1963 Michigan constitution, died in the 1963 to 1964 t

Rieps, Louis E, Schmidt (R-Livonia), Raymond Baker (R-Farmington) and Richard A, Young (D-Dearborn Heighta) voted for the package and Reps, James Tierney (D-Garden City), John Bennett (D-Reddord) and Vincent Petitiren (D-West-

THE BILL hit the floor with more than 100 amendments and twp. Donald O. Holbrook (R-Jare), its sponsor and chairman of the House Judiciary Committee said it was beyond

John Live Saute of the Control of th

thirds, or research thirds, or reform and modernization withered under the practical political matters of extra costs to local governments from loss of fee revenues the alimination of ernments from loss of fee rev-enues and the elimination of municipal courts already es-tablished with elected judges. The constitution requires the abolition of the justice of the peace courts by Jan. 1, 1969.

RIDDLED BY amendments, the bill's fundamental provis-ions were these:

it would create 53 judicial districts as courts of record, manned by 227 judges, 108 of them in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Kent counties, and each paid a basic \$20,000 supplemented by counties.

The number of judges per district would vary from 1 to 62, based on district population. All judges would be elected at large except in Wayne, Oak-land, Macomb and Kent, in those counties, I to 30 would be elect-ed from each election division.

NOW...

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The district courts would have limited purisdiction in civil, criminal and traffic cases, in civil actions, the court would have exclusive jurisdiction in cases up to \$1,000 and equal jurisdiction with circuit courts in cases up to \$5,000.

District courts would cover mistemeanors, ordinance and charter violations and traffic

## offenses not involving felonies or high misdemeanors, it would handle examinations in all criminal cases. Lansing insiders said the bill will be revived in January when the new Legislative session starts. Under the constitution, the bill is dead for the remainder of the special session, Manufacturers Bank Aims

At Directors of Manufacturers National Bank of Defroit, at their Dec. 8, meeting, recommended to the shareholders a 10 per cent stock dividend to consist of 155,308 shares of common stock. This would give the shareholders an additional share for each 10 shares presently outstanding.

It is the board's intention to continue the present \$2 annual dividend on the increased number of shares.

At Stock Dividend

SIOCK DIVIGENG

If the stock dividend is approved by the shareholders at their annual meeting on Feb.

20, and by the Comptroller of the Currency, it will increase the Bank's common stock from \$15,539,840 to \$17,033,820.

The proposed stock dividend will be accomplished by a transfer of \$1,533,980 from "surplus" to "undivided profits" and subsequently a transfer of this amount from 'undivided profits' and subsequently a transfer of this amount from 'undivided profits' to the bank's capital account.



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## See Renter-Landlord Fight Over Tax Credit

Rentiers and landlords may lock borns next year over a provision of Michigan's new income tax law granting property tax relief.

The problem is a section in the income tax law providing for property tax relief for both inclindrost and renters. The bill is intended to give both the same break. But State Revenue Commissioner Charges Lock expenses trouble mises the Legislature clarifies the law.

THE LAW ASSUMES that if indiords took the tax credit,

they would pass the savings along to the renters by reducing rents.

One side or the other can. One side or the other can. Consider of the other can. If the renter takes the tax credit, he will have to get a certificate from his landlord showing how much gross rent he paid in 1968.

But through fluffs no one caught, lawmakers neglected to require landlords to furnish those certificates and also failed to say how it would be decided who would get the credit.

"YOU KNOW what will hap-

pen," said one state official.
"They'll both claim it and we'll
end up losing lods of money."
Revenue officials now fear
lot of hard feeling before
landiords and tenants get it all
or otherwise discrimingtants of the control of the

"I can see where a guy with a lot of apartments would just say 'nuts--I'm going to claim that credit, so il's just your tough luck,'" Lock said.

tough luck," Lock said.

In order to make it unprofitable for a landlord to refuse to issue certificates, the law should be changed to bar him from any credit on property

ALREADY IN THE LAW is a section that makes it a crime for a landlord to raise rents or otherwise discriminate against a tenant who claims a

Michigan residents will have to pay a 2.6 per cent income tax for that three-month period. Starting next year, they will

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subtract a property tax credit from their income tax due. For renters and owners alike, the law provides a sliding scale

of relief for party of property taxes paid ranging from 20 per cent of taxes less than \$100 to 4 per cent of taxes in excess of \$10,000. Renters will use 20 per cent of their gross rent as the base for figuring their credit.

For example, the renter of a \$135-a-month apartment would pay \$1,620 a year rent. Of that, the state would assume he paid \$325 in taxes and would allow him \$38.70 credit on his income tax-the same as a property owner who paid \$324 in taxes during one year.





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