

How Gas Tax Split Lawmakers

4 Back Pension Boost

LANSING
The bill increasing the tax on gasoline by two cents split local legislators when it passed the House and Senate last week.

State Sens. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth), David Plawcki (D-Deaeron Heights) and Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park) voted for the measure, but Sen. William Faust (D-Westland) voted against it.

Local state representatives split 5 to 4 with Reps. Marvin Stempien (D - Livonia), Raymond Baker (R - Farmington), Joseph Forbes (D - Oak Park), Raymond Smit (R - Ann Arbor) and James Denebaugh (R - Birmingham) voting for it.

Opposing the tax increase were Reps. Richard Young (D - Dearborn Heights), John Bennett (D - Redford Township), James Tierney (D - Garden City) and Thomas Brown (D - Westland).



License All Liveries ---DNR

LANSING
The Dept. of Natural Resources announced that its fight to protect Michigan waters from over-use will place high priority upon seeking legislation for blanket authority to license and set rental quotas for boat liveries and marinas on inland lakes, as well as for canoes on inland streams.

Norman F. Smith, chairman of the DNR's river-use committee, reported that a state-wide licensing program would provide control over the biggest share of canoeing activity. Liveries account for about 90 per cent of the canoe use on popular, troubled stretches of the AuSable, Pere Marquette, Manistee, and Pine rivers.

Livery licensing should cover inland lakes as well as streams, Smith said.

"THE SAME problems of over-crowding exist on many lakes and will become more acute in the future. Licensing would, in effect, be a rental fee for the commercial use of public waters."

Smith told the Natural Resources Commission that the DNR is drafting the livery licensing bill it plans to push elsewhere on the stream in for during next year's session

THE MEASURE increased the gasoline tax from seven to nine cents, with one-half cent earmarked for financing an urban mass transit system. The tax takes effect Feb. 1.

It is expected that \$83 million will be raised from the tax increase. Nearly \$21 million will be put into a general transportation fund and used for bailing out urban bus lines.

Communities in southeastern Michigan will benefit by nearly \$11 million of the tax revenue, which will be used for maintenance of roads.

The remaining \$31 million will go into the state highway fund for maintenance of major roads in Michigan.

OPPOSITION to the increase generally came from out-state legislators who didn't want money diverted from the highway fund for a mass transit system which

IVAN FRANKEL, a Bloomfield Township resident, has been named 1973 president of the Builders Assn. of South-eastern Michigan's board of directors. Frankel has his own construction company which has constructed residential estates in West Bloomfield. He is also a general partner in Gateway Associates, which recently broke ground for a multi-family development in Farmington Township at Middle Belt and 12 Mile.

of the State Legislature.

At the same time, certain rivers will be studied and carefully watched for possible signs of over-use, conflicts of use, and environmental damage which triggered the laying down of proposed river-use rules for problem stretches of the AuSable, Pere Marquette, Manistee, and Pine rivers.

Actual establishment of those controls still remains clouded by pending court action.

SMITH, speaking for the DNR's river-use committee, said it appears that no new waters should be immediately targeted for such regulations before studies are undertaken on several rivers to determine if and where reasonable use limits might be necessary.

He noted that the committee generally believes there are no other rivers at present "which have reached such a critical stage that establishment of rules could not wait."

DNR developed canoe camps in the Parmelee Bridge and Mio Pond areas of the AuSable, and he observed that other facilities will be added elsewhere on the stream in 1973.

would benefit the Detroit and metropolitan area.

Faust had voted against the tax increase on earlier votes, saying that the people from his district wouldn't get a fair share of the increase.

He estimated that his constituents from Garden City, Westland, Canton Township and southeastern Michigan communities would only get 25 per cent of the revenue in the form of road repair.

He also was critical of bailing out the bus systems.

In the Senate, Sen. David Plawcki (D - Dearborn Heights) voted for it, Sen. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) voted

LANSING
Although only four local legislators voted for an increase in their pensions, the hike was passed by both the House and Senate last week.

The legislators approved a measure allowing a lawmaker with 15 years service to retire at age 55 and receive 50 per cent of his last year's salary. That would entitle him to \$7,630. Formerly the retirement age was 60.

No local legislator has 15 years service, but five are age 55 or older.

IN THE SENATE, Sen. David Plawcki (D - Dearborn Heights) voted for it, Sen. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) voted

against it and Sens. William Faust (D - Westland) and Daniel Cooper (D - Oak Park) didn't vote.

In January, when the measure first passed the Senate, both Plawcki and Cooper approved it, Pursell opposed it and Faust didn't vote.

State Reps. Marvin Stempien (D - Livonia), Joseph Forbes (D - Oak Park) and Thomas Brown (D - Westland) voted for it.

Voting against it were Reps. Raymond Baker (R - Farmington), Raymond Smit (R - Ypsilanti) and James Denebaugh (R - Birmingham).

Reps. Richard Young (D - Dearborn Heights), John

Bennett (D - Redford Township) and James Tierney (D - Garden City) didn't vote on the measure.

Tierney is 67 and retired at the end of this session after eight years in the House.

THE CURRENT pension system allows legislators to collect retirement benefits at age 55, but they must sacrifice a penalty of two per cent for each year they are short of 60.

At age 60 they can collect 25 per cent of their salaries once they have served eight years.

Both Bennett, who is 60, and Tierney have eight years service. Baker, at 66, has 12 years service and was elected to a seventh term in November.

Other legislators and their terms of service are Forbes, 56, two years; Brown, 55, two years; Denebaugh, 46, two years; Smith, 44, six years; Stempien (who is leaving this term), 39, six years; and Young, 38, two years.

Faust is 43 with six years service; Cooper, 42, two years; Pursell, 39, two years; and Plawcki, 25, with two years.

"I THINK IT'S wrong for legislators to add a better retirement program for themselves when there are other state priorities ahead of it," Pursell said.

"I think it's self-serving and, I might add, the total

retirement program for state employees should be considered as a whole package, which we did not do."

State legislators were denied salary increases in November when the State Officers Compensation Commission decreed that current salaries of \$17,000 were sufficient.

Ranks 9th

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