

Local Legislators Split On Issue Of Food Tax

LANSING State representatives from Observerland split 4-2 with two absent on a bill to exempt food from the state sales tax.

The bill was defeated when the House gave it only 49-37 support, with 56 votes needed for passage.

Supporting it across party lines were Reps. William Keith (D - Garden City) and Ray Smit (R - Ann Arbor), whose district covers most of the Plymouth area.

Opposed were Reps. John Bennett (D - Redford), Thomas Brown (D - Westland), R. Robert Geake (R - Northville), whose district covers most of Livonia, and John Markes (D - Westland) who also covers part of Livonia.

Absent were Reps. Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park), whose district includes eastern Southfield and Lathrup Village, and Ray Baker

(D-Plymouth), who covers western Southfield. Although pushed by Democratic leaders, the bill received bipartisan support. Opponents argued it would cost local governments too much in revenue and that in modern supermarkets, the definition of "food" was unclear.

Odd-Year Election Defeated

LANSING All four Observerland state senators opposed an unsuccessful attempt to change the election of county and local judges and township officers to odd-numbered years.

Senate Joint Resolution M got only 15 favorable votes and 17 opposed; 26 were needed to place the proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot.

Sen. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) joined a preponderance of Democrats to help defeat the measure.

Terms For Drugs Are Explained

Q: As a concerned parent I have so many questions about drugs to ask, could you answer some of them for me? Thank you.

A.: Many of these questions have been covered in our column before, but in the hope that we can be of help to you, we'll put them all together:

1. What are sopors? Quaaludes - a hypnotic sedative; can be addicting.
 2. What are reds? Downers - depressants; can be addicting.
 3. What is smack? Heroin - can be addicting.
 4. What is angel dust? PCP (phencyclidine) - a heavy animal tranquilizer.
 5. What is THC? Tetrahydrocannabinol or THC is one of the cannabinoids in marijuana. Incidentally, there is no sure THC to be bought.
 6. What is mescaline? Mesc, as it is sometimes called, is an hallucinogenic and pure mescaline cannot be bought. It's usually LSD or perhaps a combination of LSD and PCP.
- I hope these answers have helped you.

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