

# Bill prohibits warning

By SEN. DANIAL COOPER (D-Oak Park)

Legislation prohibiting prior notification of state inspections of nursing homes was sent to the governor after the senate voted 29-1 for its passage.

Supporters of the measure say an unannounced inspection is the only way to determine the actual day-to-day conditions in a nursing home and that the present law

enables nursing homes to be on their best behavior for the inspection because of advance warning.

The bill was sent to the governor after the house concurred in a senate amendment permitting prior announcement of consultation visits by the Department of Public Health.

The senate also voted 30-3 to allow the awarding of grants to private colleges and universities for degrees conferred upon state students. The program is expected to cost \$1.9 million.

LEGISLATION which could save Michigan motorists millions of dollars annually by eliminating the so-called double dip in health and accident insurance coverage was approved by the senate this week.

The bill requires auto insurers to give reduced rates to persons already covered by other insurance carriers for health and medical benefits. A.A.A. conservatively estimates that approval of the measure will save each insured driver twelve dollars a year.

Others estimate the bill could save motorists from \$30 to \$45 per year on each auto insurance policy.

The senate voted 30-0 in support of a bill which would increase the

allowable interest rate for municipal housing bonds from six to eight percent. Supporters of the bill say the increase was needed because of the difficulties faced by some communities in selling bonds at lower rates.

MICHIGAN dog racing looks like it is out of the running — at least for this session of the legislature. The Senate State Affairs Committee this week voted two to three against a motion to report out of committee a bill legalizing greyhound dog racing and betting in Michigan.

Before the vote was taken, the bill was amended to prohibit location of a dog track within 50 miles of an existing track where pari-mutuel wagering is allowed — effectively banning location of dog tracks in southeastern Michigan.

Those who supported the amended version of the bill insisted the measure would help the tourist industry in western Michigan while protecting the horse racing business in southeastern Michigan.

The Senate Municipalities and Elections Committee unanimously reported a bill designed to limit the number of candidates seeking election as judge of the Common Pleas Court by requiring all candidates except incumbents to file nominating petitions.

The bill would enable incumbents to file for election to filing an affidavit of candidacy. All other candidates would be prohibited from filing a \$100 filing fee in lieu of nominating petitions.

THE SENATE also reported out of committee legislation requiring elected public officials to disclose their economic interest. Key changes to the bill made by the committee would:

- encompass Congressmen and District Judges within the definition of elected public officials;

- require public officials to report annually to the Secretary of State their financial holdings and all sources of income (not the amount of income);

- permit identification of property holdings by legal description rather than address;

- require reporting of property holdings, capital assets where capital gain is realized, services to an agency or unit of government of at least \$1,000 and names of corporations in which the official holds stock of any value;

- delete a prior provision requiring the reporting of income only in excess of \$1,000.

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## AUTO FACTS



by Bill Miller, Sr.

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**HELPFUL HINT:** Carry a small spade in the trunk of the car at all times—for ice in the winter, and for mud in the summer.

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