## Presidential primary altered

With one dissent from an area representative, the Michigan Legislature has passed and sent to Gov. William Millians a bill altering the way delegates are selected to attend national presidential nominating conventions.

State Rep. Sal Rocca (D-Sterling Heights), whose district includes southeast Troy, said the new system will work against the interests of growing suburbs with high voter turn-outs.

But Aldo Vagnozzi, a high Democrat-

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it. When the bill passed the Senate 22-6. State Sen. Bill S. Huffman (D-Madison Heights), whose district also reludes part of Troy, supported it. State Sens. Daniel Cooper (D-Qak Park) and Donald Bishop (R-Rochester) were absent and excused for that session.

ROCCA SAID suburban congressional districts—such as the IRsh and listricts—such as the IRsh and high-have growing populations and high voter turmouts. "Instead of having the average of 400,000 or so persons, these districts have \$90,000 or 600,000 while districts like the first and 18th in Detroit may have only \$50,000."
"A delegate from Detroit may report.

mary.

Some critics see this as a blow to Alabama Gov. George Wallace. Rocca prefers to phrase it in Detroit vs. sub-urbs terms.

VAGNOZZI CONTENDS, however, that "at this time, you can't tell whether it helps or hurts Wallace." Allocation of delegates, Vagnozzi says, is based on a formula One large part is the party vote for president in the previous election. Another part of the formula is the number of paid-up Democratic Party memberships in a congressional district 60 days before the primary.

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Democratic National Convention delegates will be apportioned to the 19 congressional districts on the basis of the formula, he said The other one-fourth will be picked by the Democratic State Central Committee

Delegates within a congressional district will be elected in a district caucus Persons pledged to candidates

THERE ARE OTHER changes in

THERE ARE OTHER changes in the act. Vagnozzi says.

One is that precinct delegates may, at the party's option, be elected in the August state primary rather than during the May presidential primary. Thus, the persons sitentialing the congressional district caucuses to pick national convention delegates will be the previous state primary, not delegates elected in May 1978.

This switch allows Medigan Democrats to go back to the pre-1972 system of picking national convention delegates with precinct delegates with precinct delegates when the modern than office two years rather than with "Tresh" delegates. Democrats are now going back to a system they have much criticized with the anomale criticized with the allotted convention delegates from Michigan if he wins 15 per cent of a district's vote. Previously, a candidate had to have five per cent of the state-wide vote. "This will make it easier for 'responal' candidates." he says:

Many changes in the law were genand 13th in Detroit may have only 50,000 "The delegate from Detroit may represent 8,000 or 9,000 voters. A naturban delegate may represent 12,000 votes." Blocca said

The reasoning works like this: National convention delegates are apportioned to congressional districts in large part on the basis of the party vote in the 1972 general election. On a part of the first and 18th districts had relatively good turnouts compared to the suburbs. Michigan voters will go to the polls in May to reveal their presidential preferences in party primaries. The first and 18th districts will be a suburb as Vaporozii asys, a candidate who excites black voters turns up. Thus, say the critics, the formula for apportioning delegates is based on an election with a far different voter turnout from the 1976 presidential primary.

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REPUBLICAN changes have stir-red virtually no controversy. A national Republican rule that the new law implements allows two-thirds of the national conversion delegates to be picked in district caucuses and one-limit statewide. State Republican rules are that a candidate who polls 26 per cert of the May primary vote will get one of the three delegates allocated to each corner pressional district; a candidate receiv-ing more than 26 per cert but less than 75 per cert will get two del-gates; a candidate receiving more than 75 per cert will get all three dis-trict delegates

## Infant deaths drop

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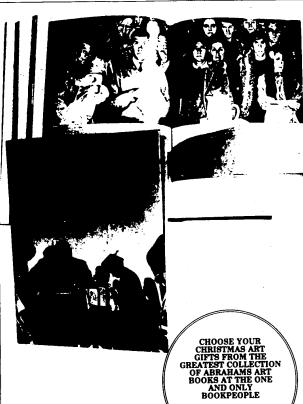


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