

Oakland lawmakers back Detroit, stadium aid bill

By TIM RICHARD

"No member of the Oakland County delegation was aware the Pontiac Stadium subsidy would be in the Detroit aid bill until they sprang it on us," said State Sen. Bill S. Huffman (D-Madison Heights) as he recalled the three-week legislative battle over the big appropriation bill.

The Democratic legislative leadership's strategy was successful. By tying the \$88.8 million stadium subsidy to the \$20 million Detroit aid bill, Speaker Bobby Crim and Senate Majority Leader William F.

graham made a majority of lawmakers an offer they couldn't refuse.

The package passed both houses last week with bipartisan support from Oakland lawmakers.

IN THE SENATE, Huffman, whose district includes part of Troy, and Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park), whose district includes Southfield and Farmington, supported the bill as it passed 21-11.

Almost all listed as cosponsors were Sen. Donald E. Bishop (R-Rochester), whose district includes Birmingham, West Bloomfield, northwest Troy and Southfield Township.

The House barely passed the measure with nothing to spare, 55-49.

Support came from Reps. W.V. Broderick (R-Farmington), whose district includes western Southfield; James Debraugh (R-Birmingham), whose district includes West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills and Southfield Township; Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park), whose district includes eastern Southfield; Mel Lerner (R-Oakland), whose district includes Oakland Township; and Rush McNamee (R-Birmingham), whose district includes Rochester, Avon and most of Troy.

Opposed was Rep. Sal Rizzo (D-Eastland), a Macomb County lawmaker whose district includes southeast Troy.

HUFFMAN DEFENDED both parts of the package.

Detroit patrols its freeways, a job handled by state police in most parts of the state. Detroit operates its own crime lab, while all other Michigan departments use state police crime labs; Detroit General Hospital has not had the kind of state subsidies other hospitals have had, Huffman said.

In earlier maneuverings, Huffman said, "The Pontiac Stadium subsidy had 30 votes every time. The Detroit package had less than 30 votes every time."

So the party leadership tied the two together and picked up the minimum number of votes to pass them.

Huffman said the stadium subsidy was justified because the bond issue to build it had passed by a vote of the people and was entitled to state support.

Huffman has become acting chairman of the powerful senate appropriations committee. Chairman Jerome Hart (D-Detroit) had a foot amputated last week and is in poor health.

with Chicago, New York, Boston, Atlanta and other large cities in the number of employees per 1,000 population.

"The exception is that Detroit is very, very high on salaries. It is number one in the country. They do pay me higher salaries in comparable jobs—higher than the state and federal governments."

"But the legislature can't abrogate Detroit's contracts. What Detroit gets in phase 2 depends on how effectively the city deals with its 52 deferred bargaining units in negotiations. If they don't hold the line, then the situation is up in the air."

Debraugh said the aid went to Detroit institutions—the art institute, historical museums and others—that perform state and regional functions.

"Both parts of the package were justifiable. I would have voted for the Detroit aid even if the Pontiac Stadium weren't tied to it," Debraugh said.

FORBES, DEMOCRATIC floor leader in the House, said that "putting the two together wasn't my idea. I thought they should have been separated. I was for separating them in the caucus. I led."

"But apart or separate I would have voted for them. Detroit has a problem. Certain institutions—the libraries, historical museums, art institute, hospital, transportation—are regional. Those are my regional thoughts as a regional man."

Forbes said the legislature made a subsidy commitment on Pontiac's stadium bonds six years ago, but he added he is "for phasing it out over four or five years. We should at least honor the \$88.8 million commitment until they get their feet on the ground."

SUBURBAN LAWMAKERS from western Wayne County, however, were sabbey against the package.

Some, like Rep. William Keith (D-Garden City) and R. Robert Geake (R-Northville), favored aid to Detroit but voted against the package because of the Pontiac Stadium subsidy.

But Sen. Carl Purcell (R-Plymouth) said the "power guys, like Rep. Bill Ryan" (D-Detroit), won votes for the Detroit aid by buying off outside legislators with increased appropriations for their favorite universities and natural resources projects.

"I sit on the appropriations committee and I see these things," said Purcell.

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DEFERBAUGH said, "I supported both parts."

"With one exception, Detroit has done a good job to cut back and hold down expenditures. Detroit compares favorably

Safety tips for bikers

Being a good bike rider involves more than staying upright without training wheels.

The Traffic Safety Association of Detroit has issued some guidelines to make summer bike excursions safer and more enjoyable.

Bikes should be equipped with rear view mirrors and plenty of reflectors. A working light is a must for night pedaling. A good horn is also an attention getter as well as a warning device.

Bike riders should practice hand signals when making turns. The left arm goes up for a right turn, straight out for a left and out and down for slowing or stopping.

According to the T.S.A., a safe way to make a left turn at a busy, signalized intersection is to cross the street and then turn and cross the other street with the light.

Don't forget to watch for cars turning right on a red light when crossing on a green signal, cautioned the association.

Above all, traffic laws apply to bikers as well as motorists. Always ride with traffic and not against it. The best way to ride is single file and as far to the right as possible.

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This meeting is part of a continuing series of forums to keep you informed about the development of the water quality management plan for Southeast Michigan. The plan is being prepared by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments under provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972.

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
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The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) is a voluntary association of over 100 governmental units in the seven counties of Southeast Michigan. SEMCOG develops and coordinates regional planning for transportation, land use, recreation and open space, water supply, sewage disposal, storm drainage, housing and criminal justice.

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