

## Bill would keeps medics in state

A bill aimed at bolstering the state's supply of doctors has been introduced in the Michigan Senate by State Sen. Donald Bishop, R-Rochester.

The Bishop bill would offer graduates of Michigan medical schools the choice of practicing medicine in this state for a period of four years or reimbursing the state in the amount of \$8,000 for state-supported costs of the students' education.

"The purpose of this legislation is clearly to encourage graduating medical students to remain in Michigan to practice medicine," Bishop explained.

"We have tried the incentive method whereby portions of medical students' loans are forgiven for their remaining in Michigan, but this program is just not proving adequate," he noted.

Bishop said he would expect most graduating students who are Michigan residents to elect the first alternative of practicing medicine in their home state, rather than reimbursing the state for their education.

For out-of-state medical students, the choice might be more difficult, he acknowledged. But he said these students, if they are not interested in serving in Michigan, should be required to reimburse the taxpayers who supported their education.

Under the first alternative, the student would be allowed to choose from a list of assignments designated or approved by the state director of public health where he would practice medicine during his four-year period of medical service in the state.

Trustees of each medical school in Michigan would receive a report each year describing the geographic distribution of physicians throughout the state and identifying underserved areas and agencies which are in need of the services of a physician.

The length of time for repayment required under the second alternative would be specified at the time the bill is implemented by the State Department of Public Health.



## Licensing bill has Humane Society director purring

By ARLENE VANDERLEUN

The manager of a Michigan Humane Society pet shelter thinks a pending state bill is simply the cat's meow.

That bill, which would allow counties to license cats much as they now do dogs, is on the floor of the Michigan House of Representatives. The bill last week was reported out of the House Towns and Counties Committee, which is chaired by State Rep. Thomas Brown, D-Westland.

"I think (the bill) would promote more responsibility among pet owners," says Kathy Krause, manager of the Kindness Center on Marquette in Westland, which is operated by the Michigan Humane Society.

But if Ms. Krause supports the bill, some legislators are less than excited about its importance. In fact, some observers say the bill was greeted on the House floor by — you'll pardon the expression — catcalls and yowls of amusement.

"I don't think anybody is in a hurry," says

Brown. "There have been bills out (before). They never have passed."

The latest proposed cat licensing bill was introduced by State Rep. Roy Smith of Saline.

According to Brown, counties have limited legislative powers. The proposed law would allow counties to pass a law to license cats "if they choose."

Is such a law really necessary?

"Why should cats be licensed?" says Ms. Krause. "People allow cats to roam. They use neighbors' flower beds and sandboxes as litter boxes."

Angry neighbors retaliate by getting into squabbles with pet owners or even by poisoning the animals.

Perhaps more serious are strays. Ms. Krause recalls that recently someone brought in four live kittens which had been placed, inside a garbage bag and tossed along the side of the street.

In April, for example, 122 cats were brought to the Kindness Center.

Of that number, only six were claimed by their owners. The rest were adopted or destroyed.

"As it gets farther into spring and summer there will be more," due to litters being born, added Ms. Krause.

Some communities have an ordinance mandating licenses, leashes and shots for cats. Many cities and townships haven't any regulations.

"I haven't seen too many people come in here for a license," says Ms. Krause.

On the other hand, any person in a community that has a license ordinance who adopts a cat from the Kindness Center first must buy a tag for his pet. In addition, the cat must be given a shot by a staff veterinarian.

"It seems when people have to pay for upkeep, they will look after the (cat) better," adds Ms. Krause.

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