A state Senate committee has taken two steps toward making smoking "no longer socially acceptable," in the words of a surgery professor.

Tobacco industry spokesmen argued that studies linking "second-hand" smoke and diseases are "liawed and delicient," but Public Health Committee Chairman Vern Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids, repiled:
"We wrote the bill from the point of view that some people don't like other people's smoke."

AFTER A series of hearings around the state and a three-hour session in the Capitol Tuesday, the panel reported favorably on bills to require health labels on snuff and chewing tobacco and to tighten limits on restaurant smoking (see box).

After showing senators graphic pictures of mouth cancers suffered by tobacco chewers, Dr. Arthur Weaver, professor of surgery at Wayne State University, said, "98 percent of the head and neck cancers we see are by smokers."

Weaver said that while it may be impossible to outlaw tobacco, the four-bill package would lead toward the "desocialization" of smoking.

tion" of smoking.

THE "SMOKELESS" tobacco bill had relatively easy sailing, passing 3-1.

But Sen. Patrick McCollough, D-Dearborn, issued some legal walrungs, Michigan may have trouble attempting to regulate a power the U.S. Constitution reserves to Congress, he said.

Nevertheless, McCollough, whose district includes Garden City, voted for the bill, calling chewing tobacco "an ugly kind of habit." He recalled his boyhood when his father eured him of any craving for tobacco by giving him a chew.

"They're adding sweeteners and licorice to flavor it now," replied Dr. Nathaniel II. Howe of the University of Michigan. Representing the American Dental Society, flow testified that use of smokeless tobacco is increasing rapidly, even among children as testified that use of smokeless tobacco is increasing rapidly, even among children as young as 5.

The medical professor suggests

young as 5.

The medical professor suggested sena-tors disregard tobacco industry lobbylsts because they are lawyers. "Lawyers don't see patients," he said.

SPONSOR William Scderburg, R-Lansing, noted the U.S. House has voted to require health labels on smokeless tobacco and to ban broadcast advertising of it. A federal law, if passed, would preempt any

leaderal law, it passed, wound preempt any Michigan law.

But the measure — particularly the ad ban — could be in trouble in the U.S. Senate, Sederburg said. He asked the committee to report out the bill — "to keep the pressure on in case something falls apart in Webbleater".

pressure on in case something falls apart in Washington."
Heeding McCollough's advice, Sederburg sald he would hold off on pushing the bill on the state Senate calendar to see what Con-

THE RESTAURANT smoking bill proved compilicated. The version reported by the committee was the third draft of the substitute bill. Sederburg said.

The current law, passed in 1977, didn't define scating areas, failed to provide for fines and contained no provision for lifting the license of a restaurant that failed to comply, Sederburg said.





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Bills to limit public smoking

Public smoking

Here is the status of four tobacco regulation bills in the Michigan Senate's Public Health Committee:

SB 381 — Require health warning on packages of smokeless tobacco (snuff, chewing tobacco). Committee recommended 3-1; full Senate vote will be elegated for possible pre-empire statum by U.S. Congress. (Sponsor is William Sederburg, Ri-Lansing) restaurant no-smoking area rules to specify sizes, smoking size of the licensing procedure: Committee recommended 3-0. (Sponsors Sederburg.)

SB 196 — Limits smoking in public buildings and work places to designated areas: Still pending in committee, which will consider at least 10 amendment. (Sponsor: Jack Faxon, D-Farmington illul).

SB 215 — Prohibit free distribution of tobacco products in public places: Still to be considered by Public Health Committee. (Sponsor: Faxon).

The Senate Public Health Committee's regular meeting time is 130 p.m. Tuesdays on the fourth floor of the State Capitol Building, Lansing. To confirm schedule, contact committee clerk at 1-S17-S73-1801.

"I took my family to a Pizza Hut and asked for a no-smoking table," he said. "They gave us a table in the middle of the smoking area, took the ashray off the table and called that a no-smoking area." Sederburg's original bill would have required every restaurant to reserve at least 59 percent of its space for no-smoking tables. He dropped that idea, however, when restaurant owners — and his own experience working in a restaurant — convinced him a light percentage rule would be unworkable.

Mary Ellen Mayhall, president of the 3,000-member Michigan Restaurant Association, said the need for non-smoking tables varied with the clientele, day of the week, time of day and even the kind of food a restaurant serves.

A Mr. Steak manager from East Lansing said his clientele is 70 percent non-smoking on Sunday but only 30 percent on Friday night.

SEN. JACK FAXON, D-Farmington Hills, got the most attention — and most flak — on his bill to prohibit smoking in public buildings and work places to designated areas.

"People can be impaired by 'sidestream's moke," the senator said to the delight of the packed committee room. An identical measure has been sponsored in the House by Rep. Justine Barrs, D-Westland.

But Dr. Greg Niehaus, professor of finance at the University of Michigan, placed the cost of such a law at \$148 mil-ilon to \$843 million — "conservatively."

These costs included lost work time for cigarette breaks, alteration of work places and lost revenues on tobacco products, Nichaus sald.

DR. WARNER of WSU replied that Niehaus ignored the costs of productivity losses from smoking on the job, along with the costs of life insurance, disability, absen-teeism, ventilation and cleaning.

The only way industry could benefit from permitting smoking. Warner said, is through reduced pension costs. "Smoking tends to kill people at or near retirement. It (restricting smoking) could increase parsion costs (if retirees live longer). You will have the most permitted that the control is not the control in the con

Sen. Ed Fredricks, R-Holland, said he wanted to offer 10 amendments to Faxon's bill.

Chairman Ehlers postponed considera-tion of Faxon's bill and the Fredricks amendments until the next committee meeting when all five committee members could attend. Sen. John Kelly, D-Detroit, was absent Tuesday.

'People can be impaired by 'sidestream' smoke.'

-state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, who introduced a bill to limit smoking in public buildings to designated areas



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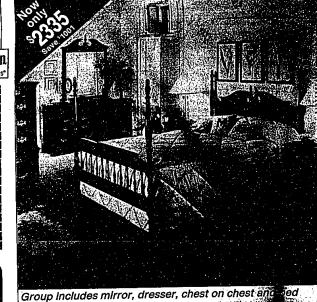
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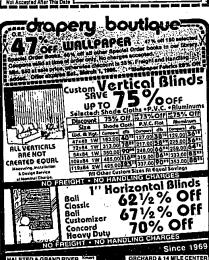
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