

# Audit doubts state job programs effective

(AP) — State auditors say the Michigan Commerce Department has failed to properly evaluate the effectiveness of its economic development programs.

"The department does not have

adequate procedures for evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of its economic development programs," the audit said.

"We noted that efficiency evaluations generally addressed only the

number of activities performed, without consideration of cost," it said.

Officials at the Department of Commerce, headed by Doug Ross, former legislator from Southfield,

had no immediate comment.

THE AUDIT covered the period July 1, 1983, through Sept. 30, 1987. It addressed the programs of three department bureaus that attempt to strengthen business conditions and

job opportunities.

It also criticized the methods used by the department to gauge its effectiveness.

"The number of new jobs projected alone is a questionable indicator because the projected new jobs may not actually materialize," the audit said. "Also, the new jobs may have been created whether or not the company was contacted by the department."

The audit said reports to the Legislature haven't addressed the effectiveness of tax-funded programs "but rather address only the quantities of activities."

ness owners program, which boasted of holding eight local conferences; presenting three seminars and establishing local area task forces, among a long list of statistics.

"In each of these examples and in the reports of other programs, the quantity of activities is the focus," the audit said. "Reporting quantities of activities alone does not accomplish program evaluation."

And, the audit said, the department apparently only conducted reviews required by the Legislature.

"We believe that the department should perform such reviews for all its programs," the report said.

The audit also said the department didn't process applications for industrial tax abatements quickly enough.

# Proposal B aids crime victims

(AP) — A state lawmaker says voters should approve Proposal B in November, giving crime-victims' rights a place in the Michigan Constitution.

Rep. Bill Van Regenmorter, R-Jenison, launched a statewide campaign to increase public awareness of Proposal B, which has to compete for attention with more controversial issues on the election ballot.

Proposal A would ban state-funded abortions for poor women. Proposals C and D would propose selling a total of \$300 million in bonds for environmental cleanup and recreation, respectively.

"The constitution currently in-

cludes a number of rights for criminal defendants, and I think that's appropriate. But it provides absolutely no rights for the people probably most impacted by crime victims," Van Regenmorter said.

PROPOSAL B would alter the constitution to include laws already in force in the state.

The proposition would make the laws easier to enforce and would prevent future lawmakers from coming along and amending them, said Van Regenmorter.

He was joined at a news conference by Wayne County Prosecutor John D. O'Hair, St. Clair County Pro-

secutor Robert Cleland, state police Inspector Col. Rich Davis and Anthony Goodman, executive director of Mothers Against Drunk Driving in Michigan.

If the issue is approved by the public Nov. 8, the constitution would provide victims with rights such as protection from the accused during the criminal justice process; notification of court proceedings; information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment and release of the suspect; and restitution.

The proposition also asks that convicted criminals be fined to help finance victims' rights. Van Regenmorter said if the proposal passes,

he will introduce legislation detailing the fines, which he hasn't determined but may be \$5 for misdemeanors per conviction and \$10 for felonies.

"Some simply won't be able to pay anything and we understand that," the lawmaker said.

VAN REGENMORTER said he doesn't expect significant opposition to Proposal B, but said public awareness needs to be increased.

Cleland said he thinks the law would provide citizens with more confidence in the judicial system, encouraging them to report crimes and pursue charges.

AS AN EXAMPLE, it cited an 1985-86 report on the women bus-

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# 'At-risk youth' neglected — report

AP — The United States will have a "soup kitchen workforce," unable to take part in the technical job market of the future, unless it upgrades the critical skills of at least 12 million at-risk youth, according to reports released in Washington.

"If we don't upgrade their skills, we will continue to increase the po-

larization between those at low-income levels and those at the high-income levels," said Larry Brown, chairman of the National Youth Employment Coalition.

He warned that such a situation would add "pressure put on the social fabric of this nation which has not been seen since the early '60s."

Brown, who is also president of Washington, D.C.-based 7001 Training & Employment Institute, was one of five representatives presenting his organization's report at the coalition's press conference, called to focus attention on "America's Forgotten Future: A Close-Up Look at Solving the Problems of At-Risk

Children and Youth."

"At-risk" youth are those between 14 and 24 years of age who may be members of low-income or welfare families, teenage parents, dropouts, lack basic educational skills or have criminal records that place them at risk for education and employment failure, the coalition said.

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