

Oakland judge wages war against crime, MS

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The unknown is one of the "most difficult parts" of the disease, Gage said.

In an effort to counter increasing symptoms, she received treatment last year from Jimmy Huga, a former Olympic medalist who was diagnosed with MS several years before Gage when the treatment of choice was complete bedrest.

Huga prescribes physical fitness. "Results show his program doesn't improve your condition. But it doesn't hurt you, and that's what people need to think."

GAGE FEELS she is now "in a

holding pattern. I'm no worse this year than last year. I don't think the disease has progressed. Nor have I gotten any better. You do what you can."

Her own prescription: "I truly believe peacefulness has an impact on this condition. If I'm under pressure, it's exacerbated. Peace of mind and a positive attitude can put it into remission."

Gage said she has no new professional goals.

"I love this job. I don't aspire to different work. I want to spend the rest of my days as an Oakland County Circuit judge. I hope my health allows me to continue."

County trash plan gets some help

By Tim Richard
staff writer

With a minimum of fuss, two bills crucial to Oakland County's trash reduction program are sailing through the state Legislature.

"Pleased but not surprised" is how Joe Mullen, the county board's legislative agent, described the progress. Senate Bills 363 and 364 would allow the county to set up a solid waste department under the executive, issue revenue bonds and, if need be, establish assessment districts to pay off the bonds.

Sen. Rudy Nichols, R-Waterford, is shepherding the companion bills through the halls in Lansing.

THE BILLS have passed the Senate on votes of 32-2 and 31-4 earlier in the session. Last week, the House Conservation Committee reported them to the House floor unanimously.

"There was very little discussion," said Mullen after the House hearing.

"We had talked to most of the committee members in advance. Rudy had talked to (chairman) Tom Alley (D-West Branch). The bills came up late in the meeting, and Alley cut short testimony."

The bills affect the powers of only two of the 83 Michigan counties, Oakland and Bay, which have set up executive systems under Act 139 of 1973. Wayne, which has a home-rule charter, and the other 80 counties aren't affected.

On the Senate floor, only a few conservative outside senators opposed the bills.

AT ONE POINT last year, Oakland Drain Commissioner George Kuhn said the changes were unnecessary because his office had sufficient bonding authority. Later, Kuhn withdrew his objection and has been silent.

Oakland is developing a \$1 billion program to reduce its dependence on landfills. The plan includes up to three incinerators of 1,500 tons daily capacity, recycling of glass and met-

als, composting of organic materials and one landfill for the incinerator ash.

A special citizens committee is meeting Thursday evenings to select a landfill site.

Westinghouse Electric was low bidder on the first incinerator, scheduled to be built in Pontiac.

NICHOLS' BILLS would:

- Allow the county board to establish a department of solid waste management under the executive.
- Empower County Executive Daniel T. Murphy to appoint a director and prepare a budget.
- Allow the board to issue revenue bonds for the solid waste system. These would be used "uplifting" fees.
- Permit the board to levy a tax to pay obligations and to establish special assessment districts. This could be done only if revenues were insufficient.
- Empower the county to acquire or condemn property for the system.

OAKLAND HASN'T become embroiled in the incinerator ash landfill controversy currently shaking the Legislature.

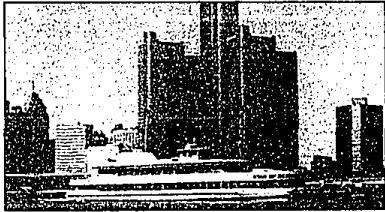
State authorities shut down incinerators in Detroit, Jackson and the eastern suburbs, saying their ash should be in expensive toxic landfills.

Rep. Michael Griffin, D-Jackson, wrote House Bill 4311 to set up an intermediate type of landfill. That bill was pushed through the House almost unnoticed, but it has been stalled in a Senate committee while environmental groups from around the state fight it.

The Michigan Association of Counties wants the bill amended to require "front end" removal of such hazardous wastes as batteries, tires, recyclables and combustibles. Organized labor fears workers at the landfills won't receive proper protective gear, training, medical surveillance and sanitation facilities.

Oakland officials have taken no stand on the bill, saying they'll live with whatever standards are written.

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