

# Bottle deposits

## Petitioners seek unclaimed funds for conservation

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Michigan United Conservation Clubs will work harder than ever on its petition drive to let the state take unclaimed bottle deposits in the wake of legislative defeat of a competing bill.

"We're delighted with the outcome," said MUCC publicist Don Stypula after the House rejected a beverage industry-supported bill to split the unclaimed funds.

"We speculate their (industry) polling shows 80 percent support for our proposal," said Stypula. The former Livonia resident said the MUCC-led campaign has 22,000 counted petition signatures in its quest to get 192,000 signatures to put its proposal on the ballot.

backed by the Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers.

That was 12 short of the three-fourths majority needed to amend a law enacted by voters — the 1978 deposit law for beer and pop bottles and cans.

MUCC led the campaign for that bill. (A later law included wine coolers.)

HB 4704 estimated that unclaimed deposits total about \$20 million and would split the money, now kept by wholesalers, this way: 60 percent for hazardous waste cleanup, 25 percent to be kept by retailers and 15 percent for alcohol abuse treatment.

MUCC estimates the available money is closer to \$40 million. Its petition, intended for the 1990 ballot, would give half to hazardous waste cleanup and half to recycling.

Yes — Democrats John Bennett of Redford, William Keith of Garden City and Wilfred Webb of Hazel Park, Republicans Lyn Banks of Livonia, Matt Dunastock of Lake Orion, Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills, Gerald Law of Plymouth, Judith Miller of Birmingham and Gordon Sparks of Troy.

No — Democrats Justine Barna of Westland, Maxine Berman of Southfield, and James Kosteva of Canton; Republican David Honigman of West Bloomfield.

There was no floor debate on final passage.

The only argument was over a failed amendment to eliminate the alcohol treatment money. Rep. Gerald Law, R-Plymouth, joined Rep. David Gubow, D-Huntington Woods, in arguing that section was unrelated to the environmental intent of the law.

### How to spend \$40 million in bottle money

**Beer and Wine Wholesalers:**  
\$20 million to wholesalers  
\$12 million to toxic cleanup  
\$5 million to retailers  
\$3 million to alcohol abuse programs

**Michigan United Conservation Corps:**  
\$20 million to hazardous waste cleanup  
\$20 million to solid waste programs

ed to the environmental intent of the law.

After the vote, sponsor Michael Griffin, D-Jackson, moved for postponed reconsideration. But it was unclear whether he will be able to muster the extra dozen votes he

needs this week.

IN THE HOUSE press room following the session, Stypula said some MUCC supporters had been misled by the Griffin bill into thinking, "OK, it's all over," and there

was no need to continue the petition drive.

For copies of the petition form, he said voters should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Committee to Keep Michigan Clean, PO Box 30235, Lansing 48909.

The MUCC proposal, if adopted, would take effect Jan. 1, 1991. It would set up a Michigan Unclaimed Deposits Environmental Trust Fund within the state Treasury.

Other groups in the coalition are Public Interest Research Group in Michigan (PIRGIM), Sierra Club, Michigan Environmental Coalition, Michigan Interfaith Council on Alcohol Problems, Michigan Parks and Recreation Association, Michigan Association of Conservation Districts and the state Natural Resources Commission.

THE HOUSE of Representatives last week voted 71-30 for HB 4704.

HERE'S HOW area representatives voted on HB 4704:

## Landfill site: ski hill, golf course, park?

Look ahead 40 years into the future, to the year 2029. What will life in Oakland County be like? And what is going to become of all the trash we are burying?

The Oakland County committee in charge of finding a site for a landfill recently considered possible uses of closed landfills sites based on ideas from other parts of the country.

The committee discussed its ideas for landfill site uses after the landfills are filled and closed. However,

the shape of the landfill during operation can limit the options for end uses.

For example, a mound-shaped landfill cannot easily be converted into a golf course, but can make a good ski hill. The final shape of the landfill is determined by local geology and groundwater conditions and is therefore an important consideration in the siting process.

Ideas from committee members ranged from golf courses and other

recreational facilities, to light industrial parks in a campus-like setting. Committee members agreed, however, that no final decisions should be made now.

"THERE IS NOT an easy answer," said committee member Thomas Vukonich of Southfield. "I always thought of it (a closed landfill) in terms of a ski hill, golf course, or park. But with the rapid change in technology, what new processes will be available in 40 years?"

Sharon Foster of Oxford said, "I look 40 years back, to 1949, and life was so different! It would be impossible to project what this landfill should be. It should be left up to the township that gets the landfill," she added.

The landfill site advisory committee meets the second and fourth Thursdays in the Oakland County Courthouse Cafeteria in the basement of the Courthouse at 1200 N. Telegraph Road in Pontiac.

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