

# Schools taken out of consent law

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Michigan schools won't be ordered to teach sex through 12th graders, about 100 to obtain court permission for an abortion.

The bill is on its way to Gov. John Engler's desk after winning 90 to 15 passage Tuesday in the House of Representatives.

The measure corrects the "parental consent" abortion law passed last year after a petition drive by Right to Life.

"I wonder why Right to Life forgot to mention their terrible blunder," said Rep. Maxine Berman, D-Southfield, a vocal opponent of any abortion restriction.

THE LAW allows girls under 18 to obtain an abortion only with parental consent or the consent of a pro-

**'I wonder why Right to Life forgot to mention their terrible blunder.'**

— Rep. Maxine Berman  
D-Southfield

bate judge.

School districts were angry, however, at Sec. 9, which required them to teach students how to get a private court order allowing an abortion.

In a key test, the House rejected, 43 to 80 against, a substitute by Rep. Michael Bennane, D-Detroit, to give each district the option of teaching "how to circumvent parental consent."

Voting for the Bennane version were Democrats Justine Barnes of

Lyn Bankes, R-Livonia, was absent.

IF IT HAD been up to the women, however, the Bennane amendment would have passed.

Of the 19 women, 12 supported the Bennane amendment, five were opposed and two were absent.

On final passage, all area lawmakers voted yes except Bankes, who was absent.

The House still has not acted on a Senate-passed "informed consent" bill. That measure would require a surgeon to give a woman seeking an abortion information on possible physical and mental ill effects and show her photos of a fetus at her own fetus' stage of development.

## Commission paves way for road improvements

The Oakland County Road Commission recently approved an additional \$774,000 to area road safety projects.

That will be added to the \$3 million worth of projects approved earlier this year.

The program is a partnership among the road commission, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and participating local units of government.

Local units combine to contribute \$1 million to the program. The road commission's community board also contributes \$1 million each.

Funding exceeds \$3 million because some communities held over

money from last year.

Communities selecting projects to be funded out of the newest allotment include Bloomfield Township, Orchard Lake Village, Sylvan Lake and Commerce Township.

Already in the works in this area are projects selected by Oakland Township, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Southfield and Troy.

Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Keego Harbor, Lahser, Village and Walling Lake are among the communities which haven't yet selected projects for this year's program.

Bingham Farms and Franklin are among communities who aren't participating this year.

## Day camp set for kids of substance abusers

By Ralph R. Echlinaw  
staff writer

"We're going to try to be outdoors as much as possible," Walton said. "In a camp situation, we can throw in fun things to do."

Children will also be invited to stay overnight once at Bloomer Park in tents and sleeping bags.

Walton taught substance abuse prevention in Lansing for seven years before moving to Rochester Hills two years ago.

The Maplegrove volunteers take 80 hours of training before working in the program. Walton said the training costs \$100, but most people can find a way to be trained free. "The one commonality (among volunteers) is the need to see that kids get a better deal."

Betty Conger, also of Rochester Hills, is Walton's partner in the day-camp program. A Maplegrove volunteer since 1985, Conger has a master's in social work.

WHILE THERE is no follow-up program to see how these children are doing with time, Conger said she saw immediate changes in kids who went through the Troy center program. "They seem to be a little brighter, a little livelier," she said.

The indoor Troy program runs year round, but it's on hiatus until October due to the day-camp program.

Maplegrove is also planning to establish indoor programs for children this fall at the Fisher Building in Detroit and the Maplegrove center in West Bloomfield, creating a network of indoor programs.

To be a volunteer, or to enroll children in the day-camp program, call 661-6170. To enroll children in the Troy indoor program, call 637-2960.

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