

# Commissioners stall on downtown plans

By WAYNE PEAL  
STAFF WRITER

It is a way to restore older downtowns — or the return of an already-rejected step toward regional government.

Oakland County Commissioners couldn't make up their mind on the so-called "Recycled Cities Act," so they've postponed action on the plan.

Approved by the state Senate this spring, and awaiting House approval this fall, the act would help downtowns both large and small.

County and local leaders would form councils to assemble land parcels and seek state Department of Commerce financing for demolition and construction projects.

Members of the commission's general government committee were split on the concept.

"I like what this bill would do," said Lillian Jaffe Oaks, D-Southfield.

Others linked it to the regional development initiative proposed by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and rejected, on a split vote, by these same county commissioners.

"We already rejected something

like this," said Kay Schmid, R-Nov.

The bill doesn't specifically spell out financing details, leaving it unclear whether the project council would have to raise money on their own.

"The problem with these planning boards, is that they try to become implementation boards," said Donna Wolf, R-Farmington Hills.

Whatever their city or party affiliation, commissioners were most upset the councils could be created by the county executive, or commission chairman, without input from the full board.

Bill backers are already claiming support from Oakland County, based on statements apparently issued through the executive's office.

"We need to tell them we speak for the county and we act by issuing

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**Donn Wolf**  
R-Farmington Hills

resolutions," Schmid said.

Commissioners believe the provision oversteps authority spelled out under state law governing counties like Oakland.

Commissioners took no action on the proposal Monday, though they are expected to issue a recommendation next month. From there, the matter will move to the full commission.

## Program helps to relieve parent-teacher hostility

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It takes a frank look at delicate situations, including violence, substance abuse and changes in the nuclear family.

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