

Sales tax hike barely survives 1st hurdle

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

The Engler administration's plan to beef up sales tax collections barely survived its first hurdle last week in the state Senate on a 19-15 vote.

"It's a tax increase of \$9 million on the medium and large retailers of this state," objected Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing, a probable candidate for governor. "We are not balancing the budget without raising taxes."

Sen. Fred Dillingham, R-Fowlerville, agreed and added, "It also hurts the small business of this state."

"We increased the cash flow on the backs of retailers," said Sen.

Michael Bouchard, R-Birmingham.

Senate Bills 437 and 438, sponsored by Sen. Robert Geake, R-Northville, move up tax collection dates and eliminate a collection fee for retailers. Geake said they were part of Gov. John Engler's plan to balance the budget in the face of revenue shortfalls in a lackluster economy. Spending cuts also are included. The bills now go to the House.

Voting yes: Sen. William Faust, D-Westland, Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, and Geake.

Voting no: Sen. Bouchard, Matt Dunaskis, R-Lake Orion, George Z. Hart, D-Deerborn, and

David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield. Consumers who pay the state's 4 percent sales tax and use tax will notice no changes, but retailers will be affected.

State Treasurer Doug Roberts said the bills will:

- Improve Treasury's cash flow by \$100 million by advancing the due date for retailers to pay. "This change would apply to large taxpayers only," said Roberts. "The disadvantage to the retailer is the loss of use and sales tax collections for several days. Requiring an earlier due date does not increase the retailer's liability."

In real terms, improved cash flow will help to protect the

state's credit rating and fiscal integrity."

- Eliminate a 0.75 percent collection fee retailers currently keep for paying their sales taxes on time. Roberts called the "discount" unfair to consumers, who receive no discounts for paying their taxes on time. Roberts said state revenue would be increased \$8 million for the rest of this fiscal year and \$20 million in the fiscal year starting Oct. 1.

Sen. Faust noted Democrats as well as Republicans were split over the issue. Voters approved the sales tax rate in the constitution, he said, but never approved the collection fee for retailers.

DATEBOOK

■ **CHAMBER AUCTION**
Jewelry, theater tickets and weekend trips are just a few of the items up for bid during Auction '93 on Friday, March 26, at the Northfield Hilton in Troy. Sponsored by the Oakland County Chamber Division of The Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce. Call 683-4747.

■ **HEALTH CARE**
The International Society of Certified Employee Benefit Specialists, Detroit area chapter, is sponsoring a seminar "Managed Health Care in an Era of Health Care Reform" at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Southfield from 8-11 a.m. on March 26. Speakers Ken Olson, vice president, government relations at The Prudential and Scott P. Serota, vice president, Health Care Management, the Prudential. RSVP by March 22. Call 596-7329 or 564-2048.

■ **LOVE YOUR JOB**
"How To Love The Job You Don't" will be the topic of a discussion by Jane Stewart PhD at Detroit Unity Temple on Saturday March 27 beginning at 12 noon.

■ **ACCOUNTING REVIEW**
A certified management accountant review course will be held at

Detroit College of Business, 4801 Oakman in Dearborn, beginning Saturday, March 27. Call 581-4400, ext. 249.

■ **INFLUENCING OTHERS**
Motivational speaker Phil Weiler will talk on "Influencing others positively" on Monday, March 29, from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Plaza Hotel in Southfield. Call 362-2424 for more info.

■ **TAX TIPS**
"Last Minute Tax Tips for '92 and '93" is the topic of a speech to be given by Leonard Grey on Wednesday, March 31, at the Skyline Club in Southfield. Grey will also discuss the impact of President Bill Clinton's tax proposal, and tax advantaged investments. Call 799-8492 for reservations.

■ **SECRETS OF SUCCESS**
Kenneth Way, chief executive officer of Lear Seating Corporation and Ralph Reins, president of Allied Signal Automotive will reveal their philosophies on leading a successful business at "Trading Secrets: Inside Views of Strategic Planning, Growth and Survival Tactics" at the Southfield Plaza Hotel on Wednesday, March 31 beginning at noon.

■ **UNIVERSITY WOMEN**
The annual joint legislative day will be held Wednesday, March 31, in the Lansing Civic Center beginning at 8 a.m. Call (616) 637-4166 for details.

■ **DBASE IV**
The American Society of Employment is sponsoring a seminar on "DBASE IV: Level 1" at 23815 Northwestern Highway in Southfield on Wednesday, March 31 from 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Speaker: Robert Battaglia, We Teach Call 353-4500 for more information.

■ **BUILDING IN '90S**
The Builders Association of Southeast Michigan will review the latest demographics and economic trends and their implications for the marketing of new homes in the metro Detroit area on Thursday, April 1. Call 737-4477.

■ **OPTIONS 93**
Women in Communications, Detroit Chapter in hosting its annual Great Lakes Regional Conference, Options '93, from Thursday, April 1 through Saturday, April 3 at the Troy Marriott. Call Ely Wright at 278-8573 for more information.

■ **MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS**
Society of Manufacturing Engineers meets 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 3, at Oakland Community College in Auburn Hills. Fee: \$20. Information: 855-7275.

■ **PROFESSIONAL SECRETARIES**
The Tri-county chapter of the Professional Secretaries International will hold its April meeting on Wednesday, April 7, at Hanselman Company, 500 Kirta Blvd. in Troy. Beginning at 5:45 p.m. Call Dee Lucas at 362-4400 ext. 355 or ext. 271.

■ **ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**
The Oakland County economic development division has scheduled its eighth annual economic outlook luncheon for Friday, April 16, with nationally renowned University of Michigan economists George Fulton and Donald Grimes beginning at 11:45 a.m. Call 858-0731 for reservations.

■ **WRITE US**
To have your upcoming item included in this calendar, write the datebook calendar, business editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150 or have the item dropped off at any of the Observer or Eccentric offices.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROJECT PLAN FOR COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW CONTROL FOR THE BLOOMFIELD VILLAGE CSO AREA
NPDES PERMIT NO. MI 0046046

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That the Office of the Oakland County Drain Commissioner will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 6, 1993 at 7:30 P.M. in the Andover High School Auditorium, located at 4190 Andover Road, to present information on the Bloomfield Village CSO Area Project Plan, including estimated user costs, and receive comments and views of interested persons. The Project Plan contains alternate solutions to control the pollution in the Rouge River caused by Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) from the Bloomfield Village CSO Area.

THE PURPOSE OF THE HEARING IS TO RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS AND INTERESTED PERSONS ON THE PROJECT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ALTERNATE SOLUTIONS

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE: That copies of the Draft Project Plan will be available for public inspection on or after March 8, 1993 at the following locations:

Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office
No. 1 Public Works Drive
Waterford, Michigan 48328-1907

City of Bloomfield Hills
45 East Long Lake Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, Michigan 48012

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE: That the alternatives proposed and contained in the Draft Project Plan are:
Alternative 1 - Collection, storage and treatment of overflow - Construction of one (1) Retention Treatment Basin (RTB) and required collection sewers to comply with the requirements of the Bloomfield Village CSO Area, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. MI 0046046. The RTB is located adjacent to Oakbrook Road, north of Fourteen Mile Road. The project includes partial separation of the tributary CSO area. Probable future requirements of the NPDES Permit will be discussed.
Alternative 2 - Sewer Separation - Construction of sanitary and/or storm sewers in all City/Township streets to separate combined sewers.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE: That written communications will be accepted up to and including seven (7) days after the date of the Public Hearing. All written communication shall be addressed to:

OAKLAND COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
No. 1, Public Works Drive
Waterford, Michigan 48328-1907

GEORGE W. KUHN,
Oakland County Drain Commissioner

Public: February 25, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and 5, 1993

Notice: Public Participation for Regional Long Range Transportation Plan From: SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

The Southeast Michigan Region is federally mandated to revise its Long Range Transportation Plan (L RTP) as a result of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. The L RTP looks ahead 20 years at the transportation needs of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, Monroe, Livingston and Washtenaw Counties.

This plan is being revised with input from federal, state and local government levels and must be completed by October 1, 1993. Local elected officials will make decisions about how to prioritize spending of transportation dollars for road reconstruction, road improvements and the building of new roads. Policy decisions must also be made about other forms of transportation — buses, airports, bicycles and trains — for example. In addition, the 1990 Clean Air Act identifies Southeast Michigan as a moderate non-attainment area. The L RTP must support efforts to reduce regional hydrocarbon emissions by 15% by 1996 as required by the Clean Air Act.

Public participation is a vital ingredient in the revision of the L RTP. Elected officials must have some sense of the public will if a comprehensive plan is to be developed that addresses regional transportation needs.

Public information meetings will be held to provide an opportunity to comment on the goals and objectives

of the L RTP. The meetings will be held:

• Wednesday, March 24, 1993, 3 p.m., at 278 Collingwood, Ann Arbor. Parking is available at the corner of Collingwood and Shelly Streets. For additional information contact Terri Blackmore 313-994-3127.

• Monday, March 29, 1993, 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m., at the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners Chambers, St. Clair County Bldg., 201 McMoran, Port Huron. For additional information contact Lisa Bitzinger, 313-987-4884.

• Wednesday, March 31, 1993, 1:30 p.m., at the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments office, 660 Plaza Drive, Suite 1900, Detroit. For additional information contact John Rempala, 313-961-4266.

Written comments are also welcome. The following survey form has been designed to solicit your input in the regional transportation planning process. Because the region is developing a plan that will shape important future transportation decisions about the allocation of limited federal, state and local dollars, some important choices must be made. Please complete the following two-part survey and return it to: SEMCOG, 660 Plaza Drive, Suite 1900 Detroit, MI 48226, by April 9, 1993.

Clip Here and Mail to SEMCOG

I. There are several options to be considered in developing a transportation plan. Rank these options in order of importance, "1" being the most important and "7" being the least important.

- Maintaining and resurfacing existing roads
- Building new or wider roads to reduce traffic congestion
- Making buses and trains more convenient to use
- Redesigning roads, traffic signs and signals to improve traffic safety and reduce accidents
- Improving shipping of goods by air, rail or truck
- Reducing energy consumption and air pollution from motor vehicles
- Enhancing alternative forms of transportation including pedestrian walkways and bike paths

II. Limited financial resources are available to maintain and improve our transportation system. This requires that some difficult choices be made about how to best invest these dollars in our regional transportation system. Review the pairs of options below and circle the one in each pair that is most acceptable to you.

- Maintaining the quality of transportation in existing or older urban areas or
- Building new roads and expanding transit service in less urban areas.

- Investing in special equipment on regular bus routes to assist senior citizens and disabled individuals or
- Providing door-to-door service for senior citizens and disabled individuals using special small buses.

- Widening roads to relieve traffic congestion or
- Providing more buses, carpooling to reduce traffic congestion.

- Investing in traditional road improvements, such as road widening or
- Investing in high technology road improvements such as computerized traffic signal systems.

- Reducing air pollution by limiting travel, driving less, increasing use of transit and carpools, for example, or
- Reducing air pollution by testing automobiles alternate years and making needed repairs.

- Accepting a scaled down transportation plan (with more congestion, potholes, etc.) for the region as a result of limited dollars or
- Providing more money for an improved transportation plan through increased user fees or taxes.

City/Township of residence _____

City/Township of Employment _____

Return to:

SEMCOG, 660 Plaza Drive, Suite 1900

Detroit, MI 48226 313-961-4266

If you would like to be on SEMCOG's mailing list for future information on transportation in the region, please include your name and address.

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