Senate toughens penalty for selling booze to kids

BY TIM RICHARD
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BY TYMERT

Liquer dealers who sell to minors couldn't be prosecuted unless their young buyers also are prosecuted, under a controversial bill in Lansite in the state Senate were deeply divided as they approved tougher penalties under the Liquer Control Act.

"The bill is a sheld for retailers," objected Sen. Virgil Smith, D-Detrolt, an opponent He said sponsor Gil DiNeilo, R-Maccomb County, 'was pimping for licensees and retailers." "It seriously limits the Liquer Control Commission," added Sen. William Van Regenmorter, R-Jenison. "The requirement for contemporaneous prosecution (of both seller and buyer) seriously handleaps prosecutors."
The Senate passed St 482 on a vote of 21 yes and 13 no with four absent. Here's how local members voted:
YES — Mat Dunnskiss, R-

voted: YES

voted:
YES — Mat Dunaskiss, R.
Lake Orlon, Robert Geake, R.
Northville, and George Z. Hart,
D-Bearborn.
NO — Michael Bouchard, R.
Birmingham, William Faust, D.
Westland, and Jack Faxon, DFarmington Hills.
ABSENT — David Honigman,
R.-West Bloomfield.
The bill goes to the House.
Ex-cops opposed
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Bouchard, a former police officer, was joined by Jon Cisky, R-Saginaw, a former shoriff, and Van Regenmorter, a former prosecutor, in opposing the bill.

"Law enforcement officers dion't like this bill," said Bouchard. He compared it to a traffic officer stopping someone for speeding and be required to issue a ticket.

"The unintended consequence," Bouchard said, "will be to keep police from enforcing this law,"

"We are trying to curtail minors from even thinking of purchasing alcohol," said billyello.

He said separating prosecution of dealers and minor buyers "removes the aura of penalty that the minor won't be afraid of. They (underage drinkers) are going to have a field day.

OU plans novel workshop

Oakland University is having a workshop for fiction writers called "Plotting to Sell" 81.5 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Saturday, June 5, in the Oakland Center. Fee is \$130.Call 370-3120. Speakers include mystery writer Elmore Leonard of Birmingham, romance novelist Ruth Langan of Farmington Hills and young-adult book author Bettie Cannon of West Bloomfield.



DOES YOUR COMMUNITY PROVIDE **ADVANCED EMERGENCY** LIFE SUPPORT?

TO FIND OUT. CALL 1-800-233-2367 oums people here who are soft on crime want to nail the busi-nessman," said DlNello, who add-ed the bill was supported by res-taurants, package (bottle) dealers and licensed beverage associa-tions.

No deals The Senate shot down a Cleky amendment that would have al-lowed police officers to cut deals with minors — act as undercover agents for police.

"This is the real world," said Clicky. "You're hammering the discretion of the police officer in a misdemeanor case."

But GOP floor leader Phil arthurhuitz of Whitehall opposed his fellow Republican. "Suppose a kid buys alcohel and is apprehended. The police officer says, 'I could prosecute you, but now I'll let you off if you agree to become a squealer.' I don't think that's right. What we have is a judge and jury on the street.

tion.
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There's no option for the kid. That decision ought to be made in court," said Arthurhultz. Claky's amendment was rejected in an unrecorded vote. Sponsor DilNello and Sen, Lana Pollack, D-Ann Arbor, got into a bruising oral exchange. Pollack offered an amendment that would require police to seek consent of the parents to use their under-18 child in a sting operation." "It's a little incongruous," said "It's a little incongruous," said "Here are the bill's other ba-

sic provisions:

A minor who bought, possessed, consumed or transported injure rould be fined at least \$100 but not more than \$500 and ordered to perform community service, participate in substance abuse services and be subject to a driver's license suspension.

An adult furnishing liquer to a minor must be fined \$1,000 and minor must be fined \$1,000 and

minor must be fined \$1,000 and could be jailed for 60 days and or-dered to perform community ser-vice.

