

Gender line apparent on informed consent vote

**BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER**

Both pro life and pro choice sides lost ground as the Michigan Legislature this week wrapped up the "informed consent" abortion law and sent it to Gov. John Engler's desk.

The law won't take effect until about April 1, 1994, because neither chamber could muster a two-thirds majority to give it immediate effect.

"Right to Life was forced to compromise," Sen. Lana Pollack, D-Ann Arbor, a bitter foe of the bill, said Tuesday as the Senate concurred in House amendments. Pollack referred to a provision requiring a woman seeking an abortion to look only at drawings of fetuses rather than color photographs, as originally proposed.

Pollack also noted that House support for restrictions on abortion had shrunk from 72 votes in the Medicaid funding arguments of the mid 1980s to 62 votes on the latest bill.

But Pollack lost ground, too. Her efforts at softening the bill used to get nine to 12 votes. Tuesday she could muster only three votes as she tried vainly to re-

move a sentence saying abortion had had psychological effects on women.

An effort by Sen. Jim Berryman, D-Adrian, to require a 24-hour waiting period before getting vasectomies also got only three votes — his, Pollack's and gubernatorial hopeful Debbie Stabenow's.

How Senate voted

The final Senate vote was 25 to 5 with eight members absent.

Area members voting yes: Republicans Michael Boudiard of Birmingham, Mat Dunaskis of Lake Orion and David Hanigman of West Bloomfield.

Missing the vote was Democrat Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills.

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After Pollack labelled the law "insulting and intrusive" and accused male senators of being "concerned only about controlling and punishing women," sponsor Jack Welborn, R-Kalamazoo, replied:

"We had much testimony that women weren't appropriately informed (by abortion clinics). Ninety percent who had had abortions said they didn't know the doctor's name. This bill reflects

directly the testimony.

"This will not stop abortion," said Welborn, "but it's a step in the right direction of giving women a right to know."

Replying more directly to Pollack, Sen. Joanne Emmons, R-Big Rapids, blamed "irresponsible men" for "harrassing" pregnant women into obtaining abortions.

The informed consent bill requires a 24-hour waiting period and the presenting of much information to a woman seeking an abortion.

March goes on

It's Step 3 in Right to Life's effort to curb abortions in Michigan.

Voters took step 1 in 1988 when they eliminated Medicaid funding for abortions. The Legislature took step 2 later when it required parental or judicial approval for minors' abortions.

Steps 4 and 5 — if taken — would be to outlaw abortions as a state-paid health benefit for state employees and to prohibit abortions in state or local government hospitals.

How House voted

The House passed Senate Bill 384 on a vote of 62 to 40 and sent it back to the Senate for concurrence in amendments. It was the narrowest victory yet for a measure restricting abortion.

The vote came Wednesday evening after an all-day session. Seven of 25 women members present (28 percent) voted yes, as did 54 of the 77 men (70 percent). Ten members missed the vote.

Area members voting yes: Republicans John Jamlin of Bloomfield Township, Greg Kaza of Rochester Hills.

Area members voting no: Republicans Penny Crisman of Rochester, Barbara Dobb of Union

Lake, Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills, Shirley Johnson of Royal Oak, Maxine Berman, Southfield.

Berman wins one

Berman, the House's staunchest pro choice member, won 60 to 39 approval of one amendment. It would make confidential the name and address of a woman provided information or consenting to an abortion.

Local health departments would be required to "destroy the information containing the identity and address of the patient within 30 days after assisting the patient under this section."

In committees, Berman had lost,

on a tie vote, an amendment requiring men seeking vasectomies to wait 24 hours and be given a pamphlet detailing its medical risks.

"There is a fetus involved in abortion," countered Rep. Richard Bandstra, R-Grand Rapids, a pro-life voice, "and there isn't with tubal ligation or vasectomy. That's the difference."

In floor debate, Vorva of Plymouth lost an amendment to require the state to compensate women lost wages and transportation costs because of the 24-hour waiting period.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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