

Honigman bill will 'improve business climate'

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

State Sen. David Honigman wasn't smoking anything. His long-buffed trucking deregulation bill is headed toward Gov. John Engler's desk for signing into law.

"What if someone told you that the government had just done something which will improve Michigan's business climate, reduce prices for consumers, expand opportunities for people strugg-

ling to make an honest living, while also reducing air pollution and traffic accidents?" said Honigman, R-West Bloomfield.

"You'd probably wonder what he'd been smoking, or what looney bin he'd escaped from.

"But wait — This isn't an out-of-season April Fool's joke. The government has finally managed to do something that makes almost everybody better off."

The state would cease regulating 70 percent of intrastate truck-

ing under Honigman's Senate Bill 581.

"The political reality is that the votes simply aren't there to totally eliminate all economic regulation of intrastate trucking," Honigman and Democratic floor leader John Cherry of Clio said in a letter to colleagues.

During the Christmas Eve marathon session that rewrote school finance, the Senate quietly concurred in minor House amendments to the bill. The

House holdup was over the question of total deregulation.

Honigman's bill ran into a buzz saw of opposition when it first reached the Senate floor in spring. He took it back into his Labor Committee, negotiated with business and industry, and won Senate passage in October.

The bill deregulates the largest shippers but allows state regulation of small, local movers.

Many senators from both parties feared total deregulation

would bring the same result as federal deregulation of airlines and bus companies — bankruptcy of small firms and no service in rural counties.

About 20 to 30 percent of trucking in Michigan is intrastate and subject to state regulation.

Under a 1933 state law, the state Public Service Commission granted "operating authorities" to trucking companies to carry specified products over certain routes. PSC regulated their prices.

The process became lucrative for attorneys because whenever a company sought an operating authority, others could file protests with PSC.

Results, said Honigman, have been intrastate rates 20 to 25 percent higher than interstate rates, and rates 15 to 20 percent higher than in Ohio and Illinois.

The new law says truckers won't have to file route, cargo or rate information with PSC.

OU offers paralegal seminar

A free seminar about a paralegal career will be conducted by the Oakland University Division of Continuing Education from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Jan. 6 in the Oakland Center on campus near Rochester, directly off I-76.

The seminar will cover the paralegal profession in general, career options and OU's one-year certificate program, now in its 19th year and consistently approved by the American Bar Association. The program starts the week of Jan. 17 at Rochester Adams High School and at Royal Oak Shrine High School. The personal assessment inventory required for entry into the program will be conducted Monday, Jan. 10.

To reserve a place for the information seminar and for a detailed brochure, call (810) 370-3120, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Adult chorus seeks members

The Oakland University Community Chorus, now in its 31st season of performing classical choral music, invites new adult singers to join its 130-voice mixed group beginning Jan. 4 on campus near Rochester.

The chorus, offered through OU's Division of Continuing Education, will be directed by John Dovaras on Tuesdays, Jan. 4 through April 5, from 7:30-10 p.m. in Room 134, Varner Hall.

During winter term, the chorus will rehearse for a public performance at 8 p.m. March 25 at Guardian Angels Church, Clawson. The concert will feature Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms," with harp, percussion and organ; Ramirez's Brazilian "Missa Criolna" with percussion and bells; and Bloch's "Avodath Hakodish," sung in Hebrew.

Interested singers are invited to observe the first rehearsal. Tuition is \$32. For registration information call (810) 370-3120, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Winners of benefit raffle announced

A raffle to benefit the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Oakland County raised \$65,000.

The money will be used for rehabilitation, clubhouse facilities and activities, gifts of clothing, holiday celebrations and more.

The drawing occurred on Dec. 21 at Jack Conley Chevrolet in West Bloomfield Township. The winning tickets were drawn by Farmington Hills councilman Aldo Vagnozzi.

Tony Randazzo of Grosse Pointe won the grand prize, a 1994 Chevy Corvette. William Soklow of Plymouth won a television set. Frank Pellerito of Birmingham won a microwave oven. And Cecilia Hamilton of Clinton Township won a cassette player.

ACT workshop begins Jan. 15

ACT workshop sessions, offered by the Oakland University Division of Continuing Education, begin Jan. 15 on campus near Rochester.

The three-session ACT workshop is set for Saturdays, Jan. 15, 22 and 29, the first session meeting from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The next ACT exam is Feb. 5.

Instructors hold advanced degrees in the fields they teach and are expert in test preparation techniques.

Tuition is \$115. For information and to register call (810) 370-3120, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

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