

Bill

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While it's illegal for teachers to strike in Michigan, there has been little enforcement of that law.

Webb said the bill will change the tenor of negotiations. Unions are less likely to use the threat of a strike as a bargaining tool.

"Strikes are not a major problem in the state," Alley said. "Our last strike in Farmington was in 1973."

Alley and members of the rank and file are troubled by other fallout from the bill, which they contend is borne out of anti-union fervor.

School boards could contract non-teaching services such as security and cafeteria services without the union's OK. They would also be able to set the length of the school day and year.

I think in their zeal of stripping the union of its power, they have gone far off the deep end," said Herb Cook, High Math Teacher at Redford Stratus. "I'm most troubled with a lot of the ancillary things they are talking about."

Strayer said he sees such action as punitive. Alley rebuts those sentiments.

What does lengthening the school day have to do with cost containment? Alley asked.

Senate OKs bill limiting teachers' bargaining power

By TIM RICHARD STAFF WRITER

Caunt and pale, Sen. David Hutchinson, R-West Bloomfield, left his recovery bed Wednesday to give state Senate Republicans the 19th vote they needed to enact a law limiting the bargaining power of teachers unions.

Senators gave Honigman, who lost much of his intestine in surgery, a bipartisan welcome, but that was before he voted yes, two hours later on House Bill 5128, a major revision of pro-union changes in labor law that Democrats won in 1965.

It's meant to destroy the teachers of this state," said Sen. William Faust, D-Westland, summing up Democratic speeches.

"It will cause an exodus of teachers. It will cause 'A' and 'B' schools to be expelled from the profession of teaching," added Sen. Lana Pollack, D-Ann Arbor.

Teacher unionists packed the Senate gallery, three times applauding Democratic opponents and their boozing passage of the bill. Lt. Gov. Connie Binfield, a former teacher, gawpled them into silence and threatened to have them removed for the disruptions. Republicans kept Binfield in

the chair as presiding officer in case her vote was needed to break a tie. It wasn't. The GOP had the votes despite the defection of Fred Dillingham of Fowlerville and Jon Cisky of Saginaw into the no column.

Area Republicans Mat Dunaskis of Lake Orion, Michael Boucias of Birmingham, Robert Geake of Northville and Honigman voted yes.

Area Democrats Faust, Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills and George Z. Hart of Dearborn voted no.

Faxon blistered Republicans for discharging the bill from the Education Committee before that panel could hold a hearing on it. "What is the calamity we are about to address? The Senate has never done this before," Faxon said.

HB 5128 is certain to be signed by Gov. John Engler, not only because it would fine teachers a day's pay for a day's strike, but also because it would prohibit their unions from bargaining away school quality measures that Engler won last year.

Teachers unions, which have conducted 48 strikes since 1988 in Michigan, also would be fined \$5,000 per strike day. The fines

would go into the state Treasury.

Republicans estimate Michigan school districts will save up to \$1 billion by a second key provision — giving school boards the right to take bids on health insurance contracts. Currently, MEA bargains not only for the level of benefits but to have its health insurer subsidize MESSA, administrator the benefits.

The law, which will take effect April 1, 1995, prohibits teachers unions from bargaining over: ■ Starting day of classes and amount of "pupil contact time."

■ Composition of "site-based decision-making bodies" and school improvement committees, which new laws require be broadly based.

■ Organizing public school academies, which would be authorized solely by school boards.

■ Contracting non-instructional services to the private sector such as transportation, janitorial and food service.

■ Use of volunteers in schools.

■ Experimental or pilot programs and their staffing.

Arena from page 1A

The resolution to put the question of an ice arena on the Aug. 2 ballot says the project would be a two-surface multi-purpose ice arena that includes concessions and food service located in Founders Sports Park on Eight Mile with the cost not to exceed \$6 million.

In comparison with other recently built arenas in the area, the price tag is too high at \$6 million, said council watcher Maaha Silver. The council members planned "not to exceed" that amount, said Councilwoman Joanne Smith.

"If it can be done for less, that's fine," Smith said.

Councilman Terry Sever, who has visited several arenas, said features such as sand floors for the ice surface can save money, but wouldn't allow the arena to be as versatile. The city council is re-

commending a more versatile option such as concrete. Council members want the arena to have a dry surface, in addition to ice, to offer more uses such as a running track or a craft sale area.

The council plans to approve the final ballot language no later than its May 23 meeting to get it on the Aug. 2 ballot.

In other action, the council: ■ Voted to consider a rezoning request from one-family residential to industrial research office for property on the east side of Haggerty, north of Hills Tech Drive in Section 18.

■ Voted to consider a revised cluster site plan for a six-unit residential housing project on the east side of Halsted bordered on the south by Eight Mile.

■ Heard a report from city manager Bill Costick on the status of major road projects in the city.

Pageant deadline May 1

The application deadline for the Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Scholarship Pageant is Sunday, May 1.

Young women must be between 17 and 23 years old. The pageant will be Wednesday, July 13, at Vladimir's.

Applications are available at the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.

Gift donors and sponsors also are needed. The winner will receive at least a \$1,000 scholarship and the opportunity to go on and represent Farmington/Farmington Hills in the Miss Michigan contest.

For more information, call pageant headquarters at 474-9042.

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