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Rapids area in spelling out their opposition at a special press conference.

Barnett said the right to govern locally and even free speech itself are "under attack" by the bill, which initially had been aimed at Detroit's living wage resolution, but was broadened to include over 20 other regulatory areas such as anti-smoking and anti-noise ordinances, and weapons permits.

"I'd like to recommend a governmental version of the Golden Rule," she continued.

"Let the state legislators do unto the locals as they would

like the Feds to do unto them," Barnett declared, to resounding cheers.

If the aim of the bill originally was to do away with the living wage law - which is required now only in city of Detroit contracts and which was approved by 80 percent of its residents - then the bill turned out far different, said Bates.

In its present form, she said, "It's like using an elephant gun to kill a gnat."

The day started out with a rally at Hills City Hall, with Vagnozzi telling the crowded chamber: "If this bill passes, this

room can be shut down and turned into a day nursery.

"There's a real bad bill in Lansing...a great threat to Home Rule" that will lead to "local government destruction."

Barnett told the gathering that citizens don't understand "how insidious this bill is," citing wording that prohibits local governments from regulating, duplicating, extending or revising the provisions or "subject matter" of state and federal laws. Subject matter includes, but isn't limited to, any issue, term, concept, program, service, idea or topic referenced directly or indirectly by a

■ 'Let the state legislators do unto the locals as they would like the Feds to do unto them.'

Vicki Barnett
—Councilwoman

statute.

Raczkowski, the second-term state representative who was present, stood and denounced Vagnozzi's charge that the bill was on a "fast track" to being passed.

He later challenged Vagnozzi directly, saying the mayor's charges were "completely false" and offering him a \$1,000 personal check if "you can prove to me that everything you said today is true."

Vagnozzi refused, calling the offer a "red herring."

"He's trying to cover up a bad bill," the mayor said.

Raczkowski said HB 4777, parts of which he claimed "are very good," will be either amended, substituted or die, but that other bills following it will have "the flavor of this legislation."

Manager

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Banks is just the right person."

Dick Brady, corporate vice president for sales and marketing, has been serving as interim general manager.

Dishmon came to The Observer & Eccentric in 1986 from the Dallas-Fort Worth Suburban Newspapers where he served as vice president of newspaper operations. Dishmon worked as city circulation manager for the Dallas Morning News and Shreveport Times. He was circulation director at the Texarkana Gazette.

He will rejoin the O&E on Oct. 18.

Dishmon and his wife, LouAnna, live in Livonia. They have six children and one grandchild.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers publishes the Birmingham-Bloomfield, West Bloomfield, Troy, Rochester, Lake Orion, Oxford, Clarkston, Southfield and Waterford Eccentrics in Oakland County and the Farmington Observer in Oakland County along with the Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Redford, Westland and Garden City editions in western Wayne County.

Ouch

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the charge was Aldo Vagnozzi, mayor of Farmington Hills.

"You can't wait until something gets to this point before you react," said council member JoAnne McShane to Raczkowski, mentioning the bus trip.

Andrew Raczkowski
—State representative

"... I really feel it's not the state who should determine our policies."

McShane point-blankly urged the state representative to think more about the people who live in his district than about chambers of commerce or other business groups who support the bill.

"My question to you is, Who are you responding to? The chamber? You need to turn that around and make this an issue for all the people," McShane said.

Raczkowski did note that many people from other parts of his 37th House District wrote or telephoned him in favor of the measure. But, he underscored his allegiance to the two cities.

"There's a recurring message tonight that hurts," Raczkowski said, "and that's 'Who do you represent?' A lot of times, it's a thankless job. On this issue I might be wrong, and I'll admit it... But I represent you."

The Farmington Hills Republican stressed that the bill wasn't on a "fast track," as reported, and that it would have died a quick death in committee, even without any bus trips to Lansing.

"What has happened is, there's been such a large uproar that this has become a partisan issue," Raczkowski said, during his opening comments. "This bill will suffer tremendous defeat, substitution or amendment."

The bill Raczkowski co-sponsored was written by state Rep. Robert Gosselin, R-Troy and is considered a reaction to city driven laws such as Detroit's living wage and Marquette's no-smoking ordinances.

Raczkowski did say he thinks the bill will be resurrected in a living wage bill that acts on the communities in the state on the same page... and that page will state that living wage is outlawed in Michigan."

Mitchell suggested that state legislators focus on the living wage issue, rather than address "everything else at once" and try to push it all through.

According to Raczkowski, the wording and narrow drafting of House Bill 4777 - such as including 18 "tie-bars" to be added later - curtailed Gosselin's measure.

But Raczkowski lamented misinformation, for example, that the bill "does away with the petitioning process, that a city can't put a petition on the ballot.... That's not anywhere delineated in that bill."

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