

Drinking Drivers Face Hard Days Ahead

Implied Consent Act Becomes Law

Michigan's drinking drivers will reach the point of no return Thursday when the historic and controversial implied consent law goes into effect.

The average male, weighing 150 pounds, could find himself behind bars for drinking three bottles of beer.

The measure was signed by Gov. George Romney last July

after he had noted that 50 per cent of the state's 2,000 fatal accidents each year involved drinking drivers.

The law zeroes in on not only drunk drivers, but all persons who give police a reason to believe they have been drinking excessively.

Persons can be convicted of both driving while their abilities are impaired by drink

and driving under the influence of alcohol.

Officials can measure blood, breath, saliva or urine to determine the extent of drinking, although the driver may demand the breath test. Blood tests will be administered by a nurse or physician in a hospital or clinic and may not be performed on hemophiliacs, persons with diabetes or any

condition requiring anti-coagulation.

THE MEASURE is not without expense. Officials note that \$441,419 is budgeted for the first 12 months. Of this, \$220,000 will be used to buy 188 breathalyzers and to train 300 policemen in their use.

The law, which takes effect 12:01 Thursday, works like

this: A policeman, having reasonable suspicion that a driver has been drinking, arrests the driver. The driver is then told that he can take or refuse the test.

If he volunteers, he is taken to a test center. If he refuses, he may still be charged with drunk driving and the policeman must prove his case in court.

"But if the driver does refuse, he's in trouble," says a spokesman for the Secretary of State's office.

The arresting policeman will submit a sworn statement to the Secretary of State that he had reasonable grounds for requesting the test. If evidence at a hearing of the License Appeal Board does not contra-

dict this (the driver must request the hearing within 14 days of the arrest, the hearing to be held within the next 10 days), the Secretary of State must automatically revoke the driver's license for 90 days to two years.

IN THE act, there are three levels of alcoholic effect. A person with .05 per cent of 100-proof liquor in his sys-

tem may be judged impaired. At this level, however, corroborating evidence is required, such as testimony of the arresting policeman or witnesses.

A driver with .10 per cent is automatically presumed to be impaired.

The person with .15 per cent is automatically presumed to have driven under the influence of alcohol.

According to these levels, a 150-pound person who consumes 2 1/2 ounces of 100-proof liquor in one hour on an empty stomach may be judged impaired. The man who downs five ounces is impaired, and the fellow who dumps down 7 1/2 ounces is considered to be under the influence of alcohol—he's drunk.

An important provision of the act is that physicians and nurses called to administer blood tests are guaranteed immunity from prosecution for malpractice, unless their actions were in disregard of accepted medical practices.

Tests cannot be administered to dead or unconscious persons.

BREATH TESTS, the most common of the exams, will be administered on breathalyzers. These machines collect a driver's breath, then measure the alcoholic content according to how much the alcohol discolors chemicals. The machines have been installed at each of the 13 Detroit precinct stations, all State Police posts and at least one place in each county.

Conviction for driving while impaired and under the influence of alcohol has the same maximum penalty—imprisonment for 90 days and a fine of \$100.

But conviction for driving under the influence is the more severe, because the driver must file proof of financial responsibility—he must carry high-risk insurance, which can run as high as \$700 a year. Conviction for driving under the influence also means a mandatory 90-day suspension.

'Politics' Clips COG Wings

An unhappy DeLoe Hamlin, chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors, says the Legislature has turned the proposed southeastern Michigan Council of Governments into "a political football."

"A year ago, I would never have thought this would have happened," said Hamlin, of Farmington.

The veteran county official, a champion of inter-government cooperation and a leader in the COG movement, referred to last week's fight in the State Senate over enabling legislation for regional councils.

THE SENATE scuttled an original broad bill proposed by Sen. Gilbert Bursley, a liberal Republican from Ann Arbor, and adopted 27-5 a substitute bill offered by three Oakland GOP conservatives—Robert Huter of Troy, George Kuhn of West Bloomfield and L. Harvey Lodge of Waterford.

Purpose of COG would be to provide a regional forum for the discussion of local governmental problems. The conservative substitute, however, restricted the types of problems COG could discuss and eliminated schools from membership.

The Observer quizzed four persons close to the bill to get their varying views.

SEN. KUHN, who represents most of Observerland, emphasized "safeguards" that the substitute bill contained.

First, the original bill provided for a COG of 25 per cent appointed officials and 75 per cent elected. The substitute Kuhn co-sponsored provided for representation only by elected officials—"no the citizenry can get at 'em."

Second, schools were eliminated from membership, Kuhn said, because most COGs in other states also eliminated them. But he pointed out that the Senate municipalities committee, which wrote the substitute, had agreed to give special study to school membership next year.

Third, "social problems" were eliminated, and a list of 16 specific problems was substituted. Kuhn said this list would give any COG "enough authority for now."

Fourth, the substitute will protect the rights of non-members of COG who seek federal grants, inasmuch as COG would have advisory powers of approval over some federal grants. A non-member of COG would be able to get an answer on its application for federal funds within a limited period, Kuhn said, and would also be able to get a written statement of reasons if the application were disappointed.

Kuhn said opposition to the substitute came only from "liberal, extremist" Democrats.

SEN. ROGER CRAIG, Dearborn Democrat, was one of the five who voted "no" on the substitute bill.

"It's not a good as no bill at all. They just offered it so The Detroit News wouldn't bother Sen. Huber any more," said Craig, referring to the ally's opposition to the activities of State conservatives.

Craig said the conservatives have "a paranoid fear of the spectre of metro government... But this isn't metro government."

Craig said it was wrong to eliminate school-including community college districts—from COG membership. They could benefit from cooperative purchasing arrangements, provide research work, gain efficiency by cooperating with municipalities on elections.

The Dearborn lawmaker also attacked the substitute bill for eliminating "social problems" from COG's possible agenda and for confining COG's agenda to a list of 16 problems.

district extends north to Bedford, felt it wise to hold off on letting school districts join COG.

A former teacher at everything from elementary to community college and university levels, Mrs. Beebe said "I've

talked to a couple of superintendents who were both interested at first by the Council of Governments."

"But later they had reservations, and they were relieved when schools were left out," she said.

"Although it's voluntary, this (COG) is a major step, and I'd rather see us move slowly and make sure we're on the right track."

Because she is a former teacher and has many school districts in her senatorial district, Mrs. Beebe has asked to become an ex officio member of the Senate municipalities committee when it begins studying whether to allow schools to join COG next year. She believes the committee will invite her.

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DEM LEADERS go over future strategy with U.S. Senator Philip Hart during the fund raising dinner Friday at the Thunderbird Inn. The group includes: (from left) former Congressman Wes Vivian, of Ann Arbor; Jerry Sixby, Democratic chairman of Livingston County; State Representative James Tierney, of Garden City; and Hart.

Pupils Get Vacation; Teachers Go To School



THE YOUNG AND THE ELDERLY both found enjoyment at the craft and hobby show put on at the Livonia City Hall by five Senior Citizens groups from Livonia last weekend. (above) Marie Pelc looks over a table full of careful work done by some of her community's older residents. (below) Mrs. W. H. Kolen shows some of the Thanksgiving favors she made.



Pupils from Observerland Schools will have Thursday and Friday off while teachers leave the classrooms to attend the annual Institute programs at 16 instructional centers throughout a four county area.

The conferences, sponsored by the Michigan Education Association for teachers in Wayne, Macomb, Oakland and St. Clair counties, has been organized to emphasize the improvement of instruction. The sessions do not include the City of Detroit.

Small campuses have been organized to provide in-depth sessions to meet every imaginable interest from art through special education. For example, the Livonia schools are hosting the art workshop, while educators interested in business and cooperative education will find their programs in Detroit, Oak Park, or Ferndale.

Or, teachers will journey to meetings scheduled for Wayne and Ferndale where they are interested in family living or home economics. Those wishing to update their knowledge of audio-visual education will find their interests met in Livonia, as will teachers of foreign languages.

MEETINGS IN LANGUAGE arts are slated for high schools in Warren, Royal Oak, Farmington, and Birmingham. Mathematics teachers will spend their time at specially-prepared meetings in Warren and music educators will go to Oak Park and Mount Clemens.

Instructors in physical education will journey to Port Huron for their two-day sessions, as will teachers of driver education. Utica will host sessions in pre-school and early elementary education.

The science programs are centered at Romulus High School, social studies at Troy High School, and special education at Lincoln Park. A center for professional activities will be located in Garden City.

The forthcoming two-day learning experiences constitute a practical means of solving instructional problems that face every classroom teacher.

OBSERVER

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Second Front Page

Hart Compares Civil, Viet Wars

Senator Philip A. Hart told Wayne County Democrats in Plymouth that the county's last war-time struggle between hawks and doves came in 1964.

The doves won, and President Abraham Lincoln was soundly rejected at the Detroit polls. "That episode certainly doesn't prove that a desire for peace is bad," Hart said, "but it is one more demonstration that no one—hawk or dove—has the right to cloak himself in piety certainly that history will prove him right."

HART, WHO SPOKE at a 2nd District dinner in Plymouth, said the 1964 peace movement understandably picked up momentum as the Civil War seemed to drag on endlessly, the draft took more men and casualty lists mounted.

One Detroit-recruiting rally erupted into a riot and the city was made increasingly nervous by organized bands of Confederates in Canada—escapes from northern prison camps.

"These bands were raiding south, then escaping to the sanctity of the northern border and it didn't seem that anything could be done about it," Hart said wryly.

"President Lincoln was committed to the war and his opponent for reelection, General George McClellan, spoke vaguely on peace through negotiations that, he said, only a new face could accomplish."

"Lincoln's advocates, meanwhile, argued that McClellan's election would only encourage the south to fight on in the face of weakening northern will."

"THE DETROIT Free Press thundered for peace and McClellan. And the city went Democratic."

Hart admitted that he had selected those historical facts that most readily fit a modern parallel. "And another interesting parallel could easily find a dozen very sound reasons why the parallel is tawdry."

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