



Michigan ROUNDUP

Legislative Week in Review

- A recent Senate committee report on the Mackinac Bridge, which contends that "fundamental safety flaws" have existed for more than 25 years, recommends higher railings, a new center median, and a policy of closing the bridge when winds exceed 45 mph. A House report released Thursday asserts these recommendations would be a waste of money and proposes more wind speed monitors and a crackdown on speeders.
- The Senate passed legislation Tuesday that requires an **environmental assessment** of any land to be purchased by the state. Sponsored by Senator Doug Carl (R-Utica), it would require the inspection and study of the land's history prior to state purchase.
- Senate Majority Leader and gubernatorial hopeful **John Engler** (R-Mt. Pleasant) has announced plans to introduce legislation that requires candidates for governor to face one another in issue debates. The Candidate Accountability Act of 1990 would require gubernatorial contenders who accept public funding to participate in up to 14 televised debates. In addition, Engler will introduce what he calls the Michigan Clean Campaign Act of 1990, which would clean up campaign advertisements. Engler said that he wants the legislature to place a priority on the approval of these bills.
- The Michigan Tobacco Reduction Task Force, convened by Michigan Department of Public Health Director Raj Weiner, released a report this week that aims to cut smoking in half by 2000. Among the panel's 40 recommendations were: approximately doubling the cigarette tax, which would make Michigan's the highest in the nation; banning vending machine sales of tobacco products; eliminating billboard ads for tobacco products; and expanding the Michigan Clean Indoor Air Act (which restricts smoking in public places) to private work places.
- In a report commissioned by Clean Water Michigan, Public Sector Consultants, Inc., recommends a \$500 million bond issue to alleviate problems caused by **combined sewer overflows**. The funds would finance a portion of the estimated \$3 billion it will cost to separate storm and sanitary sewer systems, which soon will be unable to accommodate the demands of increasing population and developing industry. Clean Water Michigan, an environmental interest group, plans to submit the report to the legislature.

Political News

- Former state Representative **Dennis Dutko** (D-Warren) was found dead from apparent suicide in a Florida condominium Wednesday; foul play is not suspected. Dutko was arrested in Tennessee last Friday and charged with possession of cocaine, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia and with driving with a revoked license. He was released after posting bond. If Dutko had been convicted of any or all of these Tennessee misdemeanors, he would have faced up to a year for each offense in a county work facility. Nine days before his death, Dutko had finished serving his jail term in Ingham County for drunken driving.
- Warren Republican **D. Roman Kulchitsky** was elected Tuesday to fill the 25th House District seat vacated by the October resignation of Dennis Dutko. Four years ago, Kulchitsky, 28, moved from Philadelphia to Warren, where he works as an account executive for a Mount Clemens export company. Kulchitsky won with 8,906 votes, defeating city councilman Democrat Chuck Busse (7,340 votes) and Libertarian Ronald Burcham (393 votes). Kulchitsky, who lost to Dutko in the 1988 election by fewer than 3,000 votes, will serve out the term ending with this fall's general election.
- Former state Senator Alan Cropsey announced his bid for the GOP nomination for Michigan's 10th Congressional District seat, vacated when U.S. Representative Bill Schuette announced his plans to run for the U.S. Senate on the Republican ticket. Cropsey will face State Representative Dave Camp (R-Midland) and 1989 MSU graduate Joseph Simcox, from Ithaca, in the August 7 primary. Former U.S. Representative Jim Dunn also has indicated plans to be a contender in the GOP race. Republican Scott Schultz says he is no longer in the running for the congressional post but may run for the state Senate seat currently held by William Sederburg (R-East Lansing), who announced that he will not seek reelection.
- According to the *Detroit Free Press*, Detroit Mayor **Coleman Young** failed to appear Monday at two important events, a birthday celebration for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and an appearance with Governor Blanchard, following reports about the mayor's business links with Kenneth Weiner, the former civilian deputy police chief who is the central figure in the federal investigation into alleged Detroit police corruption. Reports Sunday and Monday showed that in 1987 Young established a private consulting firm; only Young and Weiner possessed keys to the firm's Greek Town office.



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