



*Public Sector Reports*

## Michigan ROUNDUP

### *Legislative Week in Review*

....Before recessing until April 12, the legislature approved a **supplemental spending** bill for the current year budgets of the departments of Social Services, Transportation, and Labor. Most of the money--\$110 million--will go to the DSS because welfare caseloads were underestimated when the department's budget was passed in December.

....The House Appropriations Subcommittee on **Social Services** has recommended a social services budget for FY 1988-89 about \$200 million larger than the governor recommended. The proposal includes a 3 percent increase for welfare recipients and providers of social services and medical care. The subcommittee will agree to cut the budget back to the governor's target when negotiations resume after spring break; this week's action was designed to call attention to needs of recipients and providers.

....Rep. Shirley Johnson (R-Royal Oak) says her bill to **outlaw spousal rape**--which passed the House 102 to zero this week--could face opposition in the Senate where conservative Republicans may come under pressure from the Moral Majority, which views the legislation as a feminist tactic. The bill, which has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee, is unlikely to receive a hearing before summer recess, according to Chairman Sen. Rudy Nichols (R-Waterford). Opponents claim the bill would allow women to use rape charges as revenge against husbands, while proponents say the legislation would give Michigan marital rape victims the same legal rights as women raped outside wedlock. The bill would overrule 19th century common law prohibiting spouses from filing rape charges against each other unless they live apart and one has filed for divorce or separation.

### *Political News*

....Speaker Gary Owen (D-Ypsilanti Township) has named House Majority Floor Leader Lew Dodak (D-Birch Run) as chair of a committee to develop policy and issue advisory opinions in instances in which a legislator may have a **conflict of interest** because s/he has a business or other relationship with a party involved in a contract with state government or a political committee. Minority Floor Leader Don Van Singel (R-Grant) and Rep. Teola Hunter (D-Detroit) also will serve on the committee.

....Supreme court justices James H. Brickley and Charles Levin will seek **re-election** in November. Brickley will seek a Republican endorsement; Levin will seek none.

....Donald Bemis, superintendent of Utica Schools, and David Spatheif, superintendent of the Genesee Intermediate School District, are among the five leading candidates to become **Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction**, a post left vacant by Philip Runkel when he became president of Northwestern Michigan Community College. Other top contenders are superintendents Roger Lulow of Willoughby, Ohio, and William Mathis of Brandon, Vermont, and Timothy Quinn, deputy superintendent of the Wisconsin Department of Education.

...Douglas B. Roberts has been named **director of the Senate Fiscal Agency**. He replaces Patricia Woodworth who left to become state budget director in Florida. Roberts has been deputy superintendent for public instruction since 1984. He previously was with the Department of Management and Budget and served as deputy state budget director for four years.

....Legislation to ban **state-funded abortions** did not take effect as scheduled Wednesday because Attorney General Frank Kelley ruled that a petition calling for a referendum on the ban must be presumed valid until the secretary of state determines the legality of 229,000 signatures filed by the People's Campaign for Choice. If 129,000 signatures receive validation, the question of whether to approve the legislative ban on state-funded abortions will appear on the November ballot.

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