



## Michigan ROUNDUP

### Legislative Week in Review

- House and Senate leaders failed Thursday to reach a compromise on reinstatement of Detroit's utility tax. Negotiations involved linking continuance of the tax to reductions in inheritance and property taxes. The city's authority to collect the utility tax will expire April 11 unless the Michigan Court of Appeals extends the deadline.
- Under legislation approved by the Senate, local governments could not enact restrictions on the use of firearms that are more stringent than state or federal law. SB 813 also would repeal existing local firearm ordinances, including one recently enacted in Detroit that requires firearm purchasers to receive safety training. The bill's primary support comes from the National Rifle Association; it is opposed by Handgun Control, Inc., chaired by Sarah Brady, wife of James Brady, who was permanently disabled during an attack on former President Reagan.
- The last Senate-originated FY 1990-91 state budgets were approved by the Senate and sent to the House. The general fund (GF) allocation for higher education, including grants and financial aid, totals \$1.26 billion, 5.3 percent above FY 1989-90 appropriations and .3 percent more than recommended by the governor. The Department of Corrections GF budget matches the governor's \$770 million, a 7.9 percent increase over the current year. The budgets originated in the House will be through that chamber before Easter break.
- After several hours of debate, the House approved a supplemental appropriations bill for FY 1989-90. GF spending was reduced by \$115 million, largely through 2.5 percent cuts in all noneducation departments, but the addition of \$187 million in GF monies brought the net rise to \$72 million. The increases went to the departments of Corrections, Mental Health, Public Health, Social Services, and State Police.
- A compromise has been reached with Rep. Nick Ciaramitaro, a spokesperson for the Right to Life of Michigan, on medical decision legislation. It grants individuals the right to choose the extent of medical treatment or life support they wish to receive if incapacitated. The bill (HB 4016) is expected to be approved by the House Judiciary Committee at its April 22 meeting.
- The Easter break adjournment begins today in the Senate and on April 11 in the House; both return April 24.

### Political News

- Describing Michigan's November elections as "among the most crucial in America," President George Bush appeared at a Dearborn Republican fundraiser Tuesday. Accompanying Bush were U.S. Rep. Bill Schuette (R-District 10) and gubernatorial candidate and Senate Majority Leader John Engler (R-Mt. Pleasant), to whom Bush referred as a personal friend. Schuette is seeking his party's nomination for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Democrat Carl Levin. Schuette's rival for the nomination, Detroit attorney Clark Durant, met Bush at Metro airport.
- Poll results on the U.S. Senate race were released this week by The Marketing Resources Group. The survey was commissioned by William Ballenger, editor of *Inside Michigan Politics*, and gives Levin a lead of 56.3 percent to 28.5 percent over Schuette, with 15 percent undecided; against Durant Levin's lead is 62 percent to 19.3 percent, with 18.4 percent undecided. Despite these commanding margins, Ballenger reports that Schuette's strength against Levin stacks up roughly as well as that of Republican candidates in several other states where GOP upsets of incumbent Democrats are considered possible.
- Lansing lawyer and former State Sen. Alan Cropsey has announced a bid for the 10th Congressional District seat that Schuette will leave in order to run for the U.S. Senate. In addition to Cropsey, Republican primary contenders include former 6th District U.S. Rep. Jim Dunn and State Rep. David Camp (R-Midland).
- A compromise clean air bill, with some of the provisions most strongly opposed by the automobile industry filtered out, passed the U.S. Senate this week with support from both Michigan senators. Carl Levin and Donald Riegle voted with the 89-11 majority that sent the measure to the U.S. House. That chamber is expected to face intense lobbying before passing its own version of the legislation in May. Although tough mileage rules and emission limits were removed from the Senate version, it is still considered onerous by some industry representatives. "This bill takes a balanced approach by cleaning the air without costing jobs," Levin told the Detroit *Free Press*.
- Michigan is the tenth best-managed state according to a ranking published in *Financial World*. The magazine praised the state for diversifying its economy, providing seed money for high-risk ventures, working with local economies, and helping small and medium-sized manufacturers. The report rapped the state for apparent inability to stay within budgeted spending limits.