



Public Sector Reports

Michigan ROUNDUP

Legislative Week in Review

- On its return from spring break, the Michigan House held a dedication ceremony for the newly restored House Chamber. Future restoration projects include renovating office space and the capitol dome. The budget for the total restoration is \$45 million.
- The *Detroit News* reports that four state Republican lawmakers have filed a lawsuit asking the Michigan Supreme Court to determine, in advance of the 1990 census results, standards and guidelines for reapportionment. Michigan's 148 legislative district boundaries are redrawn every ten years based on the census. According to attorney David McKeague, who is representing the lawmakers: "By establishing standards and guidelines now, before the census is completed, the court will go a long way toward eliminating partisan politics from the reapportionment process."
- A federal judge ruled that Michigan's Medicaid system fails to meet federal reimbursement requirements and ordered the Department of Social Services to develop a remedy within six months. The Michigan Hospital Association filed the lawsuit in 1989, contending that state Medicaid payments were inadequate and illegal. The decision comes while lawmakers are debating payment rates for FY 1990-91.
- Sen. Fred Dillingham (R-Fowlerville) announced that there is agreement among interested parties in the House and Senate to let the federal minimum wage law stand in Michigan for companies with more than \$500,000 in revenues. Lawmakers had been considering bills that would permit Michigan's minimum wage to exceed the federal requirement. The state's current minimum wage for companies with less than \$500,000 in revenues is not affected by the agreement.
- The state's failure to comply with a 1977 consent order stipulating guidelines for parole hearings has prompted U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor to announce she will name a special parole master to help the state improve the efficiency and fairness of the system. Attorneys for inmates charge that Michigan's noncompliance with the guidelines has caused undue delays.
- All gubernatorial candidates who accept public campaign financing would be held to truth in advertising under a bill debated in the Senate. SB 747 is sponsored by gubernatorial candidate and Senate Majority Leader John Engler (R-Mt. Pleasant). All other candidates for public office could opt to sign an affidavit declaring that their advertising is true.

Political News

- The retirement announced by Sen. Joseph Mack (D-Ironwood) after 30 years in public office brings to six the number of state Senate seats being vacated by incumbents. Mack relinquished his 38th District seat as part of a plea agreement with the attorney general following his indictment on misdemeanor charges of improperly filing for state expense reimbursement. Mack entered a plea of no contest and will be sentenced on July 31. (Rep. Ethel Terrell [D-Highland Park] also was under investigation on similar allegations and was cleared of wrongdoing.)
- Five Senate seats are being vacated by Republicans (including gubernatorial candidate and Majority Leader John Engler of the 35th District), which has fueled speculation about a Democratic takeover of the chamber controlled since 1973 by a slender 20-18 Republican margin. Although Sen. William Sederburg of East Lansing announced several months ago his plan to leave the 24th District seat for the private sector, a Republican candidate to succeed him had not come forward until now: Herbert Rudman, a Michigan State University professor and chairman of Sederburg's higher education advisory council, this week announced his bid. Also announcing this week was Sen. Edgar Fredricks of Holland; after serving three terms in the 23rd District seat, he has declared his candidacy for the 4th congressional district seat. Four-term State Rep. William Van Regenmorter (R-Jenison) hopes to replace Fredricks in the Senate. Decatur Senator Harmon Cropsey announced last week his intent to forgo a reelection bid in the 21st District in order to assist with his son Alan's bid for the 10th congressional district. Rep. Paul Wartner (R-Portage) announced he will run for Cropsey's seat. In the 8th District Sen. Rudy Nichols of Waterford will run for Oakland County Circuit Court. Sen. Richard Posthumus of Lowell, who chairs the Republican Senate campaign committee, told the *Detroit Free Press* that four of the departing Republicans are leaving safe GOP seats; Sederburg's district is divided.
- A federal study just released says Michigan ranks tenth highest in toxic pollution in the United States. The review of 1988 data shows that the state's industry dumped 120 million pounds of toxic chemicals into the environment in that year—about 13 pounds for every person in the state. In the Great Lakes region, Ohio and Indiana added even more pollutants—229 million and 212 million pounds, respectively—than Michigan, according to the study done by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Democratic Michigan Supreme Court Justices Patricia Boyle and Michael Cavanaugh filed for reelection last week; each has predicted campaign expenditures of \$.5 million. No opponents have yet come forward, although the state Republican Party is said to be recruiting heavily among political loyalists.



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