



Michigan ROUNDUP

....The House Transportation Committee approved a bill that would raise the speed limit on rural interstate highways to 65 mph, but removed a ban on radar detectors supported by the Senate and Governor Blanchard. The full House is expected to consider the bill next week.

....Right to Life of Michigan filed well over 457,000 petition signatures with the secretary of state in an effort to require the legislature to act on a proposal to ban Medicaid-funded abortions. If 191,726 signatures are deemed valid, the legislature will have 40 session days to act on the measure. A majority vote of both houses is needed for approval, but if the proposal is rejected or not acted on, it will go before voters in the 1988 general election. If the Right to Life proposal is approved by the legislature, the People's Campaign for Choice will immediately begin an opposing petition drive that would allow voters to decide whether or not to ban Medicaid-funded abortions.

....A proposal addressing all state-funded abortions was introduced this week. House Joint Resolution D, sponsored by Representative Ralph Ostling, calls for a ballot proposal that would allow voters to decide whether or not to ban all public funds for abortions unless the life of the mother was at risk.

....The Senate voted to eliminate all funding for Detroit and out-state equity recipients; the cuts include \$34.1 million to Detroit for museums, the zoo, and other cultural programs; \$3.6 million to aid Chrysler in constructing facilities in Detroit and Oakland County; and \$6.1 million for out-state programs.

....Department of Management and Budget Director Robert Naftaly announced his resignation Thursday. He will leave July 1 to accept a position as vice-president and general auditor at Detroit Edison. A successor has not yet been named.

....University of Michigan President Harold Shapiro announced that he will resign at the end of the calendar year to become president of Princeton University. University regents said that a nationwide search for a new president will begin immediately.

....The Michigan Supreme Court's Probate Court Task Force, formed in April to study ways to improve services to abused, neglected, and delinquent youths in Michigan, recommends large-scale changes in the juvenile services and juvenile justice systems. The task force report includes proposals to create a state department to consolidate services now shared by the departments of Mental Health and Social Services, to make it easier to try juveniles as adults for violent crimes, and to allow probate courts to keep some 19-to-23-year-old delinquents in detention programs.

....Republican party leaders announced that state Republicans will select the nation's first 1988 presidential delegates on January 29-30, 1988. Seventy-seven delegates will be chosen at the state convention, which will come almost a week before the Iowa caucuses and two weeks before the New Hampshire primary.

....Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis has declared his candidacy for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination, joining Gary Hart, Bruce Babbitt, and Richard Gephardt as official Democratic candidates. Former Nevada Senator Paul Laxalt said that his decision to run for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination is "as close to final as it could be."