



## Michigan ROUNDUP

### Legislative Week in Review

....House and Senate conferees approved the **K-12 school aid budget** for next year. The committee met the governor's revised general fund/general purpose target of \$503.8 million. The overall appropriation is \$2,414 billion. The bill includes the first statewide high school graduation requirements. Beginning this fall, ninth graders must take a total of ten years of English, mathematics, science, and social science, with at least two years of each subject; one year of fine, practical, or performing arts or vocational education; one semester of computer education; and one year of health or physical education. The bill also provides an appropriation of \$12 million for early childhood education programs, up from \$2 million this year.

....The legislature was not in session this week, but a few of the conference committees continued work on **budget bills**. Higher education and social services conference committees are scheduled to meet again on Tuesday. The budget is expected to be completed by the end of next week.

....The House passed bills on Friday and Tuesday **prohibiting smoking** in school buildings, child care centers, hospitals, and other health care facilities except in designated lounges. Long-term care facilities are exempt. The bills now go to the governor for signature.

....House and Senate conferees met again yesterday in their continued effort to reach agreement on **school finance reform**. Senate conferees offered a new proposal to cap school property tax rates at 25 mills, with complete state reimbursement for higher rates. The conferees will discuss this and other proposals Monday.

### Political News

....Governor Blanchard has signed into law a bill prohibiting municipalities from passing **rent control ordinances**. Although there are no such ordinances in effect in Michigan, the issue has been raised by ballot proposals in Ann Arbor and Detroit. Ann Arbor voters recently rejected a proposal to limit rent increases, and Detroit has a rent control proposal on its August 2 ballot. The new law would nullify all such voter-approved proposals. Tenants' rights organizations promise to challenge the law in court.

....The House has rejected a bill passed last week by the Senate that would expand **chiropractors'** scope of practice. The bill failed 1-86 after sponsor Rep. Michael Griffin stated that its original purpose was much narrower—to adjust chiropractors' licensing fees. A House-Senate conference committee will meet to resolve differences.

....By a margin wide enough to override President Reagan's anticipated veto, the U.S. Senate passed a bill requiring companies to give 60 days' **notice of plant closings and large layoffs** to its employees and local officials. Companies or plants with fewer than 100 employees are exempt, as are those laying off fewer than 50 full-time employees. The House is expected to approve the bill overwhelmingly next week.

....The *Detroit News* reports that two dozen members of Mayor Coleman Young's **Casino Gaming Study Commission** will campaign against the proposal on Detroit's August primary ballot that would ban casinos in the city even if the state legalizes them. The coalition, which includes commission co-chair and former Recorder's Court Chief Judge Samuel Gardner and commission administrator Beverly Payne, intends to raise money for electronic and print media spots. They will emphasize the jobs created—one consultant estimates 40,000—if casino hotels are built in Detroit. The formation of the coalition means that pro-gambling forces will focus on the August proposal rather than ignoring it and drafting a pro-casino proposal for the November ballot.