



*Public Sector Reports*

## Michigan ROUNDUP

### *Legislative Week in Review*

- The Senate Wednesday approved by a vote of 29-8 a bill (SB 513) requiring a woman under age 18 to obtain **parental consent for an abortion**. The bill was amended to require the consent of only one parent, clarify that birth control devices such as the pill and the IUD are not prohibited, and allow physicians as well as minors to petition the court for a waiver of the requirement under certain circumstances. The House is expected to approve the bill, most likely with amendments, yet this year. Governor Blanchard has threatened to veto any bill restricting access to abortion. A veto would be followed by a vote in both houses; a two-thirds vote is necessary to override.
- A battle is looming between the legislature and the executive branch over a new \$50 million general fund cut in the **Department of Social Services (DSS) budget**. DSS director Pat Babcock and budget director Shelby Solomon called for the cuts late last week, explaining that they were needed "to insure that departmental expenditures are within available resources." As authorization for making some of the cuts without legislative approval—including \$11.8 million to Medicaid—they have cited an obscure section of Public Act 431 of 1984. Concerned that this section may not give the executive branch the authority to bypass the legislature, the chairs of the House and Senate appropriations committees have asked the attorney general for an interpretation of the section's intent. Several House members have voiced their disapproval of the cuts and the manner in which they were made.
- Anyone using 100,000 gallons or more a day of **water from the Great Lakes basin** would be required to register with the state under a bill passed unanimously by the House. Supporters of the registration program, which include the Blanchard administration, believe that documenting the use of and need for Great Lakes water will help the state fight diversion attempts.
- A conference committee, led by Sen. John Schwartz (R-Battle Creek) and Rep. Curtis Hertel (D-Detroit), continues to debate whether children under age 13 should be allowed to ride **all-terrain vehicles (ATVs)**. Schwartz, with strong support from the Michigan State Medical Society, wants to ban the use of ATVs by children under age 13. Hertel and the ATV dealers favor allowing children to ride smaller, less powerful ATVs under adult supervision.

### *Political News*

- Governor Blanchard has scheduled a December 12 primary and a January 16 general election to fill the vacant **25th District House seat** created by former Representative Dennis Dutko's (D-Warren) resignation earlier this month. Interested Democrats include Warren city council members Charles Busse, Jeanne Omelenchuk, and Cecil St. Pierre; 37th District Court Probation Director Orba Underwood; Macomb Community College trustee Steven DeLuca; and Rep. Curtis Hertel's administrative assistant, Dennis Olshove. According to House Republicans, interested Republicans include consultant Roman Kulchitsky, retired Detroit police officer Mike Wiecek, and former Warren city council member Don Blevins.
- Two Flint television stations have offered free air time for opponents of school finance reform **Proposal A**. The head of the well-funded campaign for Proposal A reports that 60 percent of their budget will be spent on TV advertising. Flint stations WEYI, a CBS affiliate, and WJRT, an ABC affiliate, both say that the free air time for Proposal A's minimally funded opposition will allow both sides of the issue to be presented.
- In Yale, Michigan Low-Level Radioactive Waste Authority's first open house to show informational displays about **low-level nuclear waste** was met by a rally of demonstrators protesting the state's plan to consider St. Clair County as a location for a waste facility. St. Clair, Lenawee, and Ontonagon counties are the three sites under consideration for a facility that will store low-level radioactive waste from seven states for twenty years.
- A Senate bill (SB 582) to **reform state campaign finance laws**, sponsored by Sen. William Sederburg (R-East Lansing) is expected to receive committee approval next week. The legislation would restrict political action committee (PAC) campaign contributions to a nine-month period in an election year. It also would require that PACs inform their contributors about how the money is spent; candidates disclose *all* campaign contributions; and PACs use the name of the sponsor in the committee name. Similar legislation was introduced in the House by Minority Leader Paul Hillemonds (R-Holland).
- The Public Interest Research Group in Michigan (PIRGIM) contends that the state is using **environmental cleanup bond money** for toxic cleanups that are the responsibility of the private sector. PIRGIM says that the funds are used to handle toxic cleanups related to bankrupt companies when the source of the contamination is unknown.

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