

October 12, 1982

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Michigan Legislature has recessed until November 9, 1982, to allow members to finish their Fall campaigns.

Several past Newsletters have reported to you regarding bills that have stalled in Committees and no action is expected on them in the less than six weeks of session that remain until all bills are dead for the year.

A few are noteworthy and are reported here as action is possible on them after the election.

(For complete list of bills affecting MTCDDVA, please refer to the accompanying legislative list.)

SB 948 - Michigan Clean Indoor Air Act: Introduced September 9, 1982 by Senator Jack Faxon, D-Detroit. This bill is a re-run of SB 486 which MTCDDVA successfully kept in the Senate Labor Committee early in 1982.

Senator Faxon has watered the bill down from his previous attempts and had it referred to the Senate Environmental Committee where he hopes for more favorable reception.

The bill seeks to separate smokers and nonsmokers in most places of employment in the state.

Through watered down language, Senator Faxon has exempted from the requirements most factories and warehouses, and all restaurants and bars. He has also reduced the penalties for violations. Public places remain affected by the bill.

Senator Faxon apparently will not give up on his attempt to enact a broad smoking restriction bill in this state this year.

MTCDDVA and TAN efforts in the past have successfully kept the bill from reaching the Senate floor. It is expected that Senator Faxon will try to have the bill heard by the Committee before year-end.

SB 956 - Self-Extinguishing Cigarette: Introduced on September 15, 1982, by Senator Jack Faxon, D-Detroit. In another far-reaching attempt to cripple the tobacco industry in Michigan, Senator Faxon has introduced SB 956 which would prohibit, after three years, the sale of any cigarette which does not self-extinguish before a period of 4 minutes during which the cigarette is not smoked.

Senator Faxon has introduced the bill he says, because of deaths attributed to falling asleep while smoking.

The effect of the bill would prohibit sales of cigarettes in the state because the science to produce such a cigarette does not currently exist.

The bill has been assigned to the Senate Consumer Affairs Committee.

HB 6063 - Vending License Fees: Introduced on September 9, 1982, by Representative Ray Hood, D-Detroit.

HB 6063 was introduced at the request of MTCDDVA with the interest of prohibiting local city license fees on vending machines and food service establishments which are required to be, and are currently, licensed by a local public health department.

MTCDDVA in its drive to eliminate these costly and burdensome fees, is supported by the Governor's Regulatory Task Force and the Michigan Department of Public Health.

Affected by the bill are cities, other than the City of Detroit, that license vending machines selling perishable items such as cup soft drinks, sandwiches, etc. Candy, cigarette, or snack machines would not come under the bill. Detroit is similarly not affected because the city maintains a health department certified by the state. It is the only certified city health department in Michigan.

Each of the aforementioned bills will receive concentrated attention by MTCDDVA during the Fall session.

It is certain that if we are successful in defeating SB 948 and 956, that Senator Faxon will introduce them in the new session beginning in 1983.

It is our goal that swift consideration of HB 6063 will result in its passage before the end of the session.