JOHN J. H. SCHWARZ, M.D.
24TH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 30036
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7536
OFFICE: (517) 373-3447
FAX: (517) 373-5849
DISTRICT TOLL-FREE: (877) 868-8353
TDD: (517) 373-0543
E-MAIL: senjschwarz@senate.state.mi.us



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SENATE FISCAL AGENCY
GOVERNING BOARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rebecca Jarvis
(517) 373-3447

Terrorism Bills Package Passed, Signed Into Law

Oct. 23, 2001 – Michigan families will have more tools for protection under a two-bill package given final approval by the Legislature and signed into law today, Senator John Schwarz (R-Battle Creek) announced today.

"This legislation addresses the situation that communities in Michigan are facing today. The men and women who are courageously working to keep residents safe need these tools to accomplish the jobs we are asking them to complete," Schwarz said.

Senator Schwarz and colleagues today gave final approval to Senate Bills 497 and 675 to enhance residents' protection from false threats of terrorism. The amended measures were signed into law this afternoon.

The legislation will help protect Michigan residents by:

- Increasing to a felony punishable by five years imprisonment and a $5,000 fine the penalty for manufacturing, possessing or using an imitation harmful substance resulting in property damage and a felony punishable by seven years imprisonment and a $10,000 fine for subsequent offenses;
- Increasing the penalty for manufacturing, possessing or using an imitation harmful substance that results in personal injury to a felony punishable by 10 years imprisonment and a $15,000 fine. A similar incident resulting in serious personal injury would be a felony punishable by 25 years imprisonment and a $25,000 fine;
- Maintaining the up-to life in prison and a $40,000 fine for possessing, releasing or using an imitation harmful substance resulting in death; and
- Creating a new crime punishable by five years imprisonment and a $10,000 fine for intentionally causing a person to falsely believe he or she has been exposed to a real harmful biological, chemical or radioactive substance.

(More)

“The offenses targeted by this legislation send a message to criminals that Michigan will not tolerate false attacks on our health, safety or emotional welfare,” said Schwarz.

Senate Bills 497 and 675 were signed into law today at 3:30 p.m., shortly after the Senate gave its final approval to the amended measures.

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