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# Schwarz Legislation Aids Michigan Families

**August 2, 2002** – Seven pieces of legislation sponsored by Senator John J.H. Schwarz, M.D. (R-Battle Creek) were recently signed into law by Governor John Engler.

"I am dedicated to serving my constituents actively and effectively in the Michigan State Senate," Schwarz said. "This legislation, ranging from health care to traffic safety to genealogical research, will help citizens across the state of Michigan."

Senate," Schwarz said.

The newly signed laws are:

- Senate Bill 184 adds physician assistants to Michigan's Good Samaritan Act, giving them the same immunity as other health care professionals responding to an emergency or volunteering their services at school sporting events:
- Senate Bill 1084 prohibits vehicles with a front loading device or boom to be moved on a highway if the boom is in a horizontal position;
- Senate Bill 1232 makes changes to the state's Commercial Drivers License Act, bringing Michigan into compliance with federal law and protecting federal highway revenue;
- Senate Bill 926 amends the Michigan Merit Award Scholarship Program by lowering the scholarship eligibility period from seven years to four years, enabling Michigan to reduce spending this year;

**(More)**

- Senate Bill 794 changes the law to allow people to get a copy of a Michigan birth certificate that is 100 years old, lowering the age from 110 years and giving genealogists a valuable research tool; and
- Senate Bills 1241 and 1242 require insurers to pay for certain drugs, called "off-label" drugs that are prescribed for a medical use other than the use described on the FDA labeling.

"I'm happy to have worked with so many people on these new laws," Schwarz said. "Patients will benefit from the Off-Label Drug Act by getting cutting edge, effective drugs. Researchers trying to find out more about their family history will be able to get information. Physician Assistants, helping out at an emergency scene or volunteering their time and expertise at a sporting event, can do so without threat of legal action. Students in Michigan will have better access to Merit Scholarship funds. And, finally, truck and commercial vehicle safety is improved by new regulations we have enacted."

For more information on legislation sponsored by Senator Schwarz, please call 517-373-3447.

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