HB 1480 Heatly

DIGEST: This bill required an additional $5000 lump sum death benefit payment to the survivor of Employee Retirement System members who died in the month of December 1978.

RESONS FOR VETO: Only nine people are eligible to receive benefits under this bill. People who died in months other than December would not receive any benefits.

REACTION: (The author was unavailable for comment.)

HB 1540 Lauhoff

DIGEST: This bill prohibited anyone from erecting a structure or using a motor vehicle or trailer for overnight camping at a scenic overlook, rest area, or comfort station. It also banned merchandise sales and the solicitation of funds at these locations.

REASONS FOR VETO: The parts of the bill that prevent the sale of merchandise and the solicitation of funds are good. But the bill also prohibits a sleepy driver from stopping overnight to rest at a roadside park. This goes against one of the reasons for the creation of these rest areas.

REACTION: According to Representative Lauhoff, this bill does the opposite of what the Governor alleges. Roadside areas are filling up with campers and RVs, camping for a day or more. Sometimes this doesn't leave enough room for tired drivers to pull over and sleep for a while.

Contrary to the Governor's statement, the Department of Highways and Public Transportation believes such a bill is necessary. It would give law enforcement officers some leverage for sending people on their way. The language of the bill prohibiting "camping" is flexible enough to allow discretion. The nature of the problem and the intent of the bill are obvious.

The sponsor says he was not contacted for an explanation. The bill will be introduced again next session.