

# State's house passes bill curbing abortion

HARRISBURG, Pa. (CNS) — After nine hours of debate, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives approved by a 143-58 vote stiffer restrictions on abortion.

It was the first jurisdiction to pass such restrictions since the U.S. Supreme Court gave states more authority in July to do so.

Representatives tacked the measure Oct. 24 onto a state Senate-approved bill that increased penalties for incest, a move intended to hasten the abortion restrictions to the Senate floor.

"We think it is terrific," said Howard Fetterhoff, executive director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. "It was really a great day for the Pennsylvania pro-life movement."

On recess until after the Nov. 7 elections, the Senate was not expected to act before Nov. 13.

Gov. Robert P. Casey, a Catholic and a pro-life supporter, has indicated he would sign the legislation if it reaches his desk.

Under the bill offered by Republican Rep. Stephen Freind and 73 co-sponsors, abortion would be banned after the 24th week of pregnancy, except in cases where the mother's health was in serious danger. The mother's condition would have to be verified by a physician other than the doctor performing the abortion.

A 24-hour waiting period would be required before a fetus could be aborted, thus giving doctors an opportunity to inform the woman about a baby's development and alternatives to abortion.

Women would also be required to tell their husbands of their decisions to have abortions, except in special cases.

Abortions designed to choose between male and female babies would be outlawed.

The bill would ban most abortions in public hospitals and would regulate the use of fetal tissue in treating serious illness. It

would ban any non-therapeutic experiments on unborn children.

Similar legislation has passed the Pennsylvania Legislature previously but always has been modified by the courts.

"I thought we could hold 135 votes," said Democratic Rep. Gerard Kosinski, a supporter of the bill. "Nothing has changed. Pennsylvania is still the most pro-life state."

Freind said that should the legislation pass, he did not expect to introduce any further abortion bills this year.

"There are only so many times in a session you can put the legislators' feet to the fire," he said, adding that between 35 and 40 amendments were debated.

By amending the Senate's incest measure, Fetterhoff explained, the abortion restrictions were kept from going to what he said would be a hostile Senate committee.

"It would either go to the Judicial or Health and Welfare committees," he said. "And the membership of those committees is stacked against us."

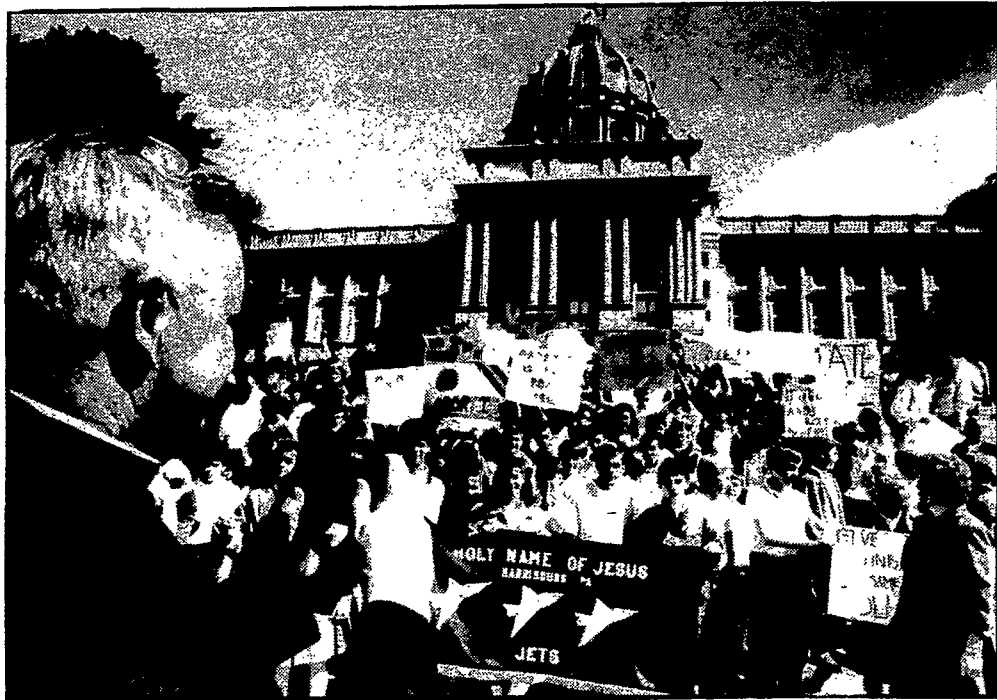
As passed by the House of Representatives, the bill will go to the Senate Rules Committee and then to the floor for a single vote of concurrence, Fetterhoff said.

Abortion rights supporters may try to suspend the rules to permit amendments and debate, he said.

"We really hope it comes through the Senate unscathed," Fetterhoff said. "It all depends on how successful we are in defeating the move to suspend the rules and what type of lobbying takes place before the vote is taken."

Senate Majority Leader F. Joseph Loeper, a Republican who is chairman of the Rules Committee, said "I expect we will consider the bill and report it to the floor the same day or the next day."

Fetterhoff said that currently a 32-18



**Father Daniel Mahoney, pastor of Holy Name Parish in Harrisburg, Pa., snaps photos of students who were among the 8,000 demonstrators gathered Oct. 3 at the state Capitol to show support for legislation to restrict abortions.**

margin exists in the bill's favor in the Senate. "I'd be disappointed if that number fell below 30."

Bishop Anthony G. Bosco of Greensburg said he was "very happy" with the House vote. "The fight for the unborn isn't over yet, but we know where our legislature stands."

"Contrary to what some people are saying," the bishop continued, "we hope the Legislature's decision represents the opinion of the majority of the people in this state."

"We hope the people see this not only as morally right," Bishop Bosco said, "but as politically astute as well."

He said that "people are beginning to see that *Roe vs. Wade* was a real tragedy," referring to the 1973 Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion.

Bernard Shire, spokesman for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, said the conference was "confident that this legislation will give the U.S. Supreme Court, if it chooses, an opportunity to re-examine *Roe vs. Wade*."

Florida was the first state to take up abortion restrictions since the Supreme Court's Webster decision. Gov. Bob Mar-

tinez called a special session of the Legislature on abortion earlier in October, but most of the restrictive proposals died in committee and the lawmakers adjourned before the session was scheduled to end.

Contributing to this report were Vince Capozzi in Greensburg and Lou Baldwin in Philadelphia.

## Physicians' guild schedules annual dinner for November

The Catholic Physicians' Guild of the Rochester diocese has scheduled its annual dinner for Saturday, Nov. 4.

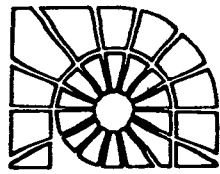
Following a 6:30 p.m. Eucharistic liturgy at St. Thomas More Church, 2617 East Ave., Rochester, the guild will host dinner and a reception at The Other Side of the Tracks at The Depot, 41 Main St., Pittsford.

The keynote speaker will be Father Joseph DeMaio, O. Carm., who will talk about drug and alcohol abuse in teenagers.

The cost for the dinner is \$25. The registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 27.

Call Dr. Marjanne H. Crino, 716/381-9663, for information.

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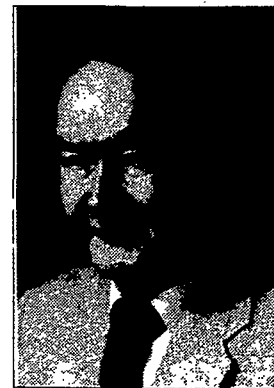
## Jeff Wilkin

27 Legislator - Democrat - Conservative

Parish: Sacred Heart Cathedral, since 1952  
Past President, Aquinas Sports Booster Club  
Past President, Sacred Heart Home School Assn.  
Member of Nazareth Academy Advisory Board, 1976-1980

Belong to American Legion Greece Post 468  
Member, Air Force Association

Present Treasurer, Sacred Heart Men's Club  
Graduate, John Marshall High School and University of Rochester  
Elected to Monroe Board of Supervisors, 1961  
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