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## House Democrats fail to force Republicans to consider trash bills

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LANSING, Mich. (AP) -- Democrats in the state House failed Wednesday to force Republicans to consider legislation aimed at lessening the amount of Canadian trash coming into Michigan.

Democrats tried unsuccessfully to discharge the bill to the full House after the GOP committee chairman refused to take up the bill.

The motion to discharge the bill was rejected by Republicans on a party-line vote. Republicans hold a 58-52 edge in the House.

Minority Leader Dianne Byrum, D-Onondaga, noted that the Toronto City Council voted Wednesday to renew a three-year contract to ship its garbage to Michigan.

"Basically, the trash keeps coming into Michigan," she said. "The fundamental question is, what are Republicans waiting for?"

Republicans, however, said the raising the dumping fee from 21 cents per ton to \$7.50 would increase fees for business and residential customers in Michigan.

"It's a tax increase on Michigan residents that won't do a thing to stop Canadian trash," said Matt Resch, spokesman for Republican Speaker Craig DeRoche of Novi.

The five-bill package is intended to reduce Canadian trash coming to Michigan.

Other bills in the package would distribute revenue generated by the higher dumping fee

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to local governments for recycling efforts and better enforcement of state trash laws, ban construction of new landfills until 2010 and make any trash-related violations a civil infraction carrying a maximum fine of \$1,000.

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The bills to further curb the flow of Canadian trash are House Bills 4758-62.

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