



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

NORTH CAROLINA BURGLAR AND FIRE ALARM ASSOCIATION

MAY 26, 2006

INTRODUCTION

The second week of the short session continued on a fast pace with legislators filing almost 700 new bills. It is unusual to have so many bills filed during the short session, but it is mainly because of a new policy in both the House and the Senate. In previous years if legislators wanted an item in the budget they would talk to the Appropriations Chairmen or the Subcommittee Chairmen about their request. Because of the controversy regarding items placed in the budget without debate or review, both the House and the Senate have requested that their members file bills for any budget request that they may have. As a result hundreds of bills are being filed requesting as little as \$5,000 for various items in their district. For example, there are over 19 bills requesting assistant district attorneys in the House alone. Many of these districts are almost assured of receiving a new assistant district attorney; however, legislators wanted to file bills to have it on the record that they had officially requested an assistant district attorney.

The Senate completed their budget this week and have sent it on to the House. We will provide a summary of the Senate's budget in the next legislative report. The House will now review the Senate budget and prepare their own proposal. On the House side, they have announced that they are going to have a more open process and will consider each budget request in the various subcommittees. Since almost 1,000 bills have been filed in the House, most having to do with budget requests, it could be a long process. The Senate is pushing hard to have the House complete its budget so that they can complete the final negotiations before the end of the fiscal year, which is June 30th.

BILLS OF INTEREST

HOUSE BILL 1987, Health Plans/Changes to Basic and Standard, would make a variety of changes to the regulations regarding health plans for small employers. These changes were recommended by the House Select Committee on Health Care to give insurers more flexibility so that small employers could provide insurance to their employees. The changes would include allowing insurers to have optional deductible and co-payment levels, including high deductible options. **Introduced by Representatives Holliman and Underhill and referred to the House Insurance Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 2033, Occupational Licensing Board Reports, would require all occupational licensing boards to provide an annual report to the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee which would include the substance of any anticipated request for new legislation or any anticipated changes in the licensing board's rules. Currently an annual financial report is required with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General's office. **Introduced by Representative Goodwin and referred to the House State Government Committee.**

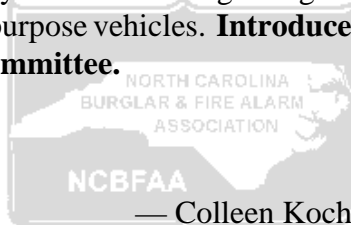


HOUSE BILL 2193, Study Building Code Issues. This bill is identical to Senate Bill 1488 which is summarized below in this legislative report. **Introduced by Representative Cunningham and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 2206, Cell Phone Use by Drivers under 18 Prohibited. This bill is identical to Senate Bill 1289 which was summarized in a previous legislative report. **Introduced by Representative Clary and referred to the House Judiciary I Committee.**

SENATE BILL 1485, Occupational Licensing Board Reports. This bill is substantially similar to House Bill 2033 which is summarized above in this legislative report. **Introduced by Senator Nesbitt and referred to the Senate Judiciary I Committee.**

SENATE BILL 1582, Seat Belt Use Changes, would amend the seat belt use law to conform to federal motor carrier laws to prevent the loss of federal highway funds. The changes would affect the exemptions from the mandatory seat belt law regarding commercial motor vehicles, property-carrying vehicles and agricultural purpose vehicles. **Introduced by Senator Jenkins and referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.**



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