



## NORTH CAROLINA BURGLAR AND FIRE ALARM ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

JULY 18, 2008

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### INTRODUCTION

This will be the last regular legislative report for the 2008 short session. It appears that the session will end sometime at the end of the week and, once the session ends, we will prepare a final legislative report which will review and summarize all bills of interest that were approved during the session and also will include a full summary of the 2008-2010 budget. This report summarizes activities up to Monday, July 14, 2008. Obviously, there is a lot of action taking place this week to wrap up the session and we will summarize all of that activity in the final legislative report.

Although leadership in both the House and the Senate announced early on that this short session would not include controversial issues, the session has been full of them. The House approved an involuntary annexation moratorium and the Senate approved a repeal of the transfer tax. In addition, bills regarding bullying, gang prevention, union bills, requirements for trucks on highways, and legislation limiting gun purchases for those involuntarily committed were all discussed and debated during the session.

Although many legislators and lobbyists thought the session would end extremely early - by July 4<sup>th</sup> - the session has worn on and many important issues and controversial bills have been debated during the last two weeks. The budget was voted on last week, was sent to the Governor on July 8, 2008, and the Governor signed the budget into law on July 16, 2008. The Governor threatened to veto the budget bill; however, since both the House and the Senate passed the budget by margins that were veto-proof, it was highly unlikely.

Most legislators are anxious to return home to campaign for the November elections. With the presidential election receiving so much interest, legislators are worried about the new voters who may come out and how their votes will be cast. In the Senate, there are at least six open seats with current senators either running for higher office or retiring. These seats will be difficult for the Democrats to hold and the leadership is concerned about keeping their majority. The House has many open seats as well and it will be a tough election year with a lot at stake since next session the General Assembly will be dealing with redistricting.



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If you would like a copy of any of the legislation introduced or considered by this year's General Assembly, you may receive one copy of as many bills as you are interested in, free of charge, by calling the General Assembly's Printed Bills office at 919/733-5648. They will need to know if it is a House bill or Senate bill and the bill number. (For example, Senate Bill 8). Copies are also available on the General Assembly's World Wide Web site: <http://www.ncleg.net>.

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### BILL UPDATES

SENATE BILL 1597, City/County Energy Efficiency Incentive. This bill would authorize Cabarrus County, the Cities of Concord, Durham, Kannapolis, and Locust, and the Towns of Cary, Harrisburg, Midland, Mt. Pleasant, and Stanford to provide development incentives in exchange for reductions in energy consumption. **This bill was approved by the House and the Senate and became law on June 30, 2008.**

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