



NORTH CAROLINA BURGLAR AND FIRE ALARM ASSOCIATION

Weekly Legislative Report
February 18, 2005

INTRODUCTION

The House assigned chairs (chairmen and vice-chairmen) and members to all their committees this week and true to their claim of coalition government, appointed 40 chairs to Democrats and 21 to Republicans. Both the House and the Senate are now organized and ready to conduct their business. As is tradition, both the House and the Senate have requested the Governor to appear on Monday, February 21 to give his State of the State address. The Governor will likely set forth his budget priorities and try to convince both chambers to follow his lead. The Governor is expected to release his budget proposal in the next several weeks.

Once the Governor releases his budget proposal, the Senate will then draft their budget through their Appropriations Committees. There are usually tremendous changes from the Governor's proposal to the actual Senate budget that is presented. The interesting thing this year will be to see where additional revenue will come from to close the budget gap of \$1.3 billion. The most likely prospects are an increase in the cigarette tax, extension of the temporary sales and income taxes or budget cuts for social services programs.

The bill filing deadlines in the Senate are approaching in March and we expect the House deadlines to be similar. There will be a flurry of activity in the next several weeks while everyone tries to file their bills before the deadline. Now that the committees are established, bills will be sent to committees for discussion and debate and we will report on any amendments or changes to bills that are important to your Association as they move through the process.

The House has announced committees for this session and the chairs and vice chairs of the committees are listed below:

- **Aging**

Chairman	Representative Bordsen
Chairman	Representative Farmer-Butterfield
Vice Chairman	Representative Almond
Vice Chairman	Representative Earle
Vice Chairman	Representative Pierce

- **Agriculture**
 Chairman Representative Hill
 Vice Chairman Representative Bell
 Vice Chairman Representative Coates
 Vice Chairman Representative Langdon
 Vice Chairman Representative Tucker
 Vice Chairman Representative West
 Vice Chairman Representative Williams

- **ABC**
 Chairman Representative Hall
 Chairman Representative Gibson
 Chairman Representative Grady
 Vice Chairman Representative Miller

- **Appropriations**
 Chairman Representative Clary
 Chairman Representative Crawford
 Chairman Representative Earle
 Chairman Representative Nye
 Chairman Representative Owens
 Chairman Representative Sherrill
 Vice Chairman Representative Adams
 Vice Chairman Representative Coates
 Vice Chairman Representative Cole
 Vice Chairman Representative Haire
 Vice Chairman Representative Hunter
 Vice Chairman Representative Insko
 Vice Chairman Representative Jeffus
 Vice Chairman Representative Michaux
 Vice Chairman Representative Tolson
 Vice Chairman Representative Warren
 Vice Chairman Representative Wright
 Vice Chairman Representative Yongue

- **Appropriations Subcommittee on Capital**
 Chairman Representative Wright
 Vice Chairman Representative Hunter
 Vice Chairman Representative West

- **Appropriations Subcommittee on Education**
 Chairman Representative Jeffus
 Chairman Representative Tolson
 Chairman Representative Yongue
 Vice Chairman Representative Johnson

Vice Chairman Representative Preston
Vice Chairman Representative Rapp

- **Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government**

Chairman Representative Adams
Chairman Representative West
Vice Chairman Representative Lucas
Vice Chairman Representative McLawhorn
Vice Chairman Representative Wilson

- **Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services**

Chairman Representative Barnhart
Chairman Representative Insko
Vice Chairman Representative Farmer-Butterfield

- **Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice and Public Safety**

Chairman Representative Haire
Chairman Representative Kiser
Vice Chairman Representative Ray
Vice Chairman Representative Sutton

- **Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural and Economic Resources**

Chairman Representative Hunter
Chairman Representative Warren
Vice Chairman Representative Lucy Allen
Vice Chairman Representative Walker

- **Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation**

Chairman Representative Coates
Chairman Representative Cole
Vice Chairman Representative McAllister
Vice Chairman Representative Stiller

- **Children, Youth and Families**

Chairman Representative McAllister
Vice Chairman Representative Goodwin
Vice Chairman Representative Weiss

- **Commerce**

Chairman Representative Daughtridge
Chairman Representative Goforth
Chairman Representative LaRoque
Chairman Representative Rapp
Vice Chairman Representative Owens
Vice Chairman Representative Rayfield

- **Education**

Chairman	Representative Bell
Chairman	Representative Lucas
Chairman	Representative McLawhorn
Vice Chairman	Representative Dickson
Vice Chairman	Representative England
Vice Chairman	Representative Glazier
Vice Chairman	Representative Parmon
Vice Chairman	Representative Preston
Vice Chairman	Representative Sauls

- **Education-K12**

Chairman	Representative Glazier
Chairman	Representative Parmon
Vice Chairman	Representative Blackwood
Vice Chairman	Representative Goforth

- **Education-Community Colleges**

Chairman	Representative England
Chairman	Representative Sauls
Vice Chairman	Representative Frye
Vice Chairman	Representative Wilkins

- **Education-Universities**

Chairman	Representative Dickson
Chairman	Representative Ray
Vice Chairman	Representative Grady
Vice Chairman	Representative Harrell

- **Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform**

Chairman	Representative Moore
Chairman	Representative Ross
Vice Chairman	Representative Kiser
Vice Chairman	Representative Luebke
Vice Chairman	Representative Michaux

- **Environment and Natural Resources**

Chairman	Representative Harrell
Chairman	Representative Justice
Vice Chairman	Representative Lucy Allen
Vice Chairman	Representative Harrison
Vice Chairman	Representative McComas

- **Ethics**

Chairman	Representative Fisher
Chairman	Representative Setzer
Vice Chairman	Representative Howard
Vice Chairman	Representative Yongue

- **Federal Relations and Trade Issues**

Chairman	Representative Frye
Chairman	Representative Hilton
Vice Chairman	Representative Current
Vice Chairman	Representative Farmer-Butterfield
Vice Chairman	Representative Glazier

- **Financial Institutions**

Chairman	Representative Church
Chairman	Representative Grady
Vice Chairman	Representative Vinson
Vice Chairman	Representative Wainwright

- **Finance**

Chairman	Representative Alexander
Chairman	Representative Gibson
Chairman	Representative Howard
Chairman	Representative Luebke
Chairman	Representative McComas
Chairman	Representative Wainwright
Vice Chairman	Representative Daughtridg
Vice Chairman	Representative Hill
Vice Chairman	Representative Ross
Vice Chairman	Representative Weiss
Vice Chairman	Representative Womble

- **Health**

Chairman	Representative Wright
Vice Chairman	Representative England
Vice Chairman	Representative Justus

- **Insurance**

Chairman	Representative Holliman
Vice Chairman	Representative Faison
Vice Chairman	Representative Hall
Vice Chairman	Representative Nye
Vice Chairman	Representative Setzer

- **Judiciary I**
 Chairman Representative Hackney
 Vice Chairman Representative Ross
 Vice Chairman Representative Stiller

- **Judiciary II**
 Chairman Representative Michaux
 Vice Chairman Representative Bordsen
 Vice Chairman Representative Harrell
 Vice Chairman Representative Moore

- **Judiciary III**
 Chairman Representative Sutton
 Vice Chairman Representative Haire
 Vice Chairman Representative Jones
 Vice Chairman Representative Sherrill

- **Judiciary IV**
 Chairman Representative Weiss
 Vice Chairman Representative Glazier
 Vice Chairman Representative Kiser

- **Local Government I**
 Chairman Representative Tucker
 Vice Chairman Representative Coleman
 Vice Chairman Representative McGee

- **Local Government II**
 Chairman Representative Jones
 Chairman Representative Walker
 Vice Chairman Representative Carney
 Vice Chairman Representative Rayfield

- **Military, Veterans and Indian Affairs**
 Chairman Representative Pate
 Chairman Representative Underhill
 Vice Chairman Representative Hollo
 Vice Chairman Representative Lucas
 Vice Chairman Representative Wainwright

- **Pensions and Retirement**
 Chairman Representative Bell
 Chairman Representative Wilson
 Vice Chairman Representative Bernard Allen

- **Public Utilities**

Chairman	Representative Brubaker
Chairman	Representative Saunders
Vice Chairman	Representative Cole
Vice Chairman	Representative Sauls

- **Rules, Calendar and Operations of the Senate**

Chairman	Representative Culpepper
Vice Chairman	Representative Hackney
Vice Chairman	Representative LaRoque

- **Science and Technology**

Chairman	Representative Miller
Vice Chairman	Representative Martin

- **State Government**

Chairman	Representative Johnson
Chairman	Representative Womble
Vice Chairman	Representative Alexander

- **State Personnel**

Chairman	Representative Bernard Allen
Chairman	Representative Justus
Vice Chairman	Representative Church
Vice Chairman	Representative Walker

- **Transportation**

Chairman	Representative Lucy Allen
Chairman	Representative Allred
Chairman	Representative Carney
Chairman	Representative Stiller
Vice Chairman	Representative Crawford
Vice Chairman	Representative Saunders
Vice Chairman	Representative Steen
Vice Chairman	Representative Williams
Vice Chairman	Representative Wright

- **Ways and Means**

Chairman	Representative Womble
Vice Chairman	Representative Allred
Vice Chairman	Representative Fisher

- **Wildlife Resources**
 Chairman Representative Steen
 Chairman Representative Williams
 Vice Chairman Representative Wray

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene next Monday evening.

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>.

BILLS OF INTEREST

SENATE BILL 139, Session Limits, would require a referendum during the next statewide election to amend the North Carolina Constitution to limit the length of legislative sessions. The long session of the General Assembly would be limited to 135 calendar days and the short session to 60 calendar days. (Currently there are no limits on the length of either session). **Introduced by Senator Hoyle and referred to the Senate Way & Means Committee.**

SENATE BILL 150, NC Turnpike Authority Changes. This bill is identical to House Bill 253 which is summarized below in this week's legislative report. **Introduced by Senator Hoyle and referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.**

SENATE BILL 154, 8-Year Drivers License/Internet Drivers License Renewal, would extend the valid time for a drivers' license from the current 5 years to 8 years for drivers ages 18-37. Driver's who are under the age of 18 would be required to renew their license by their 21st birthday. All other drivers licenses would expire five years after issuance. The Division of Motor Vehicles would be permitted to electronically renew licenses for one additional five-year period, and waive the vision and sign test for electronic renewals, if the person is at least 25 years old and less than 60 years old and complies with other requirements regarding their driving record. Commercial drivers licenses could not be renewed electronically. **Introduced by Senator Jenkins and referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.**

SENATE BILL 155, DOT Driveway Connection Changes, would allow the Department of Transportation (DOT) to add traffic control devices to the improvements that they may require for certain driveway connections. The 4,000 vehicles per day threshold would be measured by considering projected travel from the new development as well as the existing traffic. DOT could also require improvements without meeting the threshold if they determined that an unsafe condition would be created. **Introduced by Senator Jenkins and referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.**

SENATE BILL 162, Session Limits. This bill is identical to Senate Bill 139 which is summarized above in this week's legislative report. **Introduced by Senator Phil Berger and referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 223, 2005 Education Lottery Referendum, would allow a referendum to ask North Carolina voters if they want to have a lottery. If a lottery is approved, the funds would be used to supplement education needs including statewide prekindergarten programs, reduction in class sizes, and to provide more one-on-one instruction. **Introduced by Representative Bernard Allen and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 253, NC Turnpike Authority Changes, would increase the number of turnpikes that may be designed and established from three to six and would authorize the turnpike authority to study, plan, develop and begin the preliminary design work. **Introduced by Representative Crawford and referred to the House Transportation Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 258, Extend Liability Limits to General Partners, would extend the individual liability exemption for partners for debts and obligations of the partnership to all North Carolina partnerships formed and currently existing. The current law exempts only partners in registered limited liability partnerships. **Introduced by Representative Faison and referred to the House Judiciary III Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 267, 8-Year Drivers License/Internet Drivers License Removal. This bill is identical to Senate Bill 154 which is summarized above in this week's legislative report. **Introduced by Representative Sutton and referred to the House Transportation Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 283, Tax Credit for Employing Felons, would provide a tax credit of up to \$1,000 for those who provide full-time employment to felons. The tax credit would be provided to a tax payer who employs a felon in a full-time job for at least 9 months during a taxable year. The credit could not exceed 50% of the amount of the tax imposed. **Introduced by Representative Pierce and referred to the House Finance Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 285, Tax Incentive-Preventive Health Care, would provide an individual income tax deduction for expense for preventive health services for the taxpayer or the taxpayer's dependents. Preventive health services would include (1) periodic medical, dental, and vision examinations; (2) health education; (3) maintenance of drug use profiles, drug monitoring and drug use education; (4) mental health preventative services; (5) substance abuse prevention measures; (6) immunizations; (7) prevention of gradually developing disabilities; (8) genetic counseling; and (9) periodic reexamination for members of high risk groups. **Introduced by Representative Pierce and referred to the House Finance Committee.**

Colleen Kochanek
NCBFAA Legislative Counsel
Holt York McDarris & High, LLP
ckochanek@hymh.com
<http://www.hymh.com>