



## **NORTH CAROLINA BURGLAR AND FIRE ALARM ASSOCIATION**

**Weekly Legislative Report  
March 11, 2005**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

An interesting power struggle is taking place this week between three of the most powerful members of State Government. After Governor Easley challenged Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight in court regarding a transfer of land from the State to Currituck County, a bill was filed in the Senate which would clarify the transfer of the land from the State to Currituck County for the sale price of \$1.00. That bill sailed through the Senate and was in the House this week where Speaker Black made some changes of his own. Speaker Black included provisions which would require the state to transfer property where the Johnson & Wales University campus in Charlotte is located to the school in lieu of the development incentives they were to receive. The most interesting part about the changes to the bill was a provision that would exempt the two conveyances from the statutes that require transfer of state owned lands to be executed by the Governor and approved by the Council of State.

Appropriations subcommittees and committees continue to meet this week to review the budget and to hear from various speakers from state agencies as well as the legislative staff. State agencies are providing their priorities and committee members are getting a feel for the funding that is needed for the different programs and the potential cuts that could be made. Although the Senate has not released any form of its proposed budget, the leadership has been meeting to discuss budget terms and to formulate the proposal.

The next several weeks will be hectic with the Senate having their bill filing deadlines on March 23. The House deadlines will extend into the middle of April, so new bills will be filed in the House and the Senate and will continue to work on the budget and begin moving the bills that have been filed to date. Although there have been fewer bills filed so far this year, we are expecting a heavy volume of bills in the next several weeks. There continue to be a great number of blank bills filed and we will continue to monitor those blank bills in case they are modified to include specific language regarding issues of importance to your Association.

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

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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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## BILLS OF INTEREST

SENATE BILL 378, Increase Funding For Small Business Centers, would provide \$1.8 million to the community college system for small business centers. **Introduced by Senator Swindell and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

SENATE BILL 379, Customized Industry Training Program Funds, would provide over \$4.1 million in each of the next two years to establish the customized industry training program which would be in addition to the new and expanding industry program and the focused industrial training program. **Introduced by Senator Swindell and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

SENATE BILL 382, Gubernatorial Team Ticket, would require a voter referendum in the November 2006 general election to amend the North Carolina Constitution to provide that the Governor and Lt. Governor would run on a joint ticket. This bill would prevent the Governor and Lt. Governor from representing different parties. There is bipartisan support for this bill to make sure that in the absence or in the vacancy of the Governor that a new party would not take control of the executive branch. **Introduced by Senator Rand and referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee.**

SENATE BILL 393, Economic Development-Public Records, would require state agencies or local governments to provide information regarding economic development tax incentives as a matter of public record once the proposed expansion or location of a specific business or industrial project has been announced. The bill would also require the Department of Revenue to publish a report each year detailing the number of tax payers claiming credit, the number of new jobs created, the amount of investment made and the total cost of the credits. (This bill was filed as a result of frustration regarding the lack of information on the deal made by the state with the Dell Computer Company which was eventually located in Winston-Salem). **Introduced by Senator Hoyle and referred to the Senate Judiciary I Committee.**

SENATE BILL 407, Cabarrus Municipal Vehicle Registration, would increase the vehicle tax for municipalities located in Cabarrus County from \$5 to \$10. Funds generated by the tax would be placed in a separate fund for transportation uses within the individual municipalities. **Introduced by Senator Hartsell and referred to the Senate Finance Committee.**

SENATE BILL 419, Increased Security For Driver's License, would provide increased security for driver's licenses issued in North Carolina by requiring all applicants to provide proof either that they are U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted to the United States. The bill would also prohibit the Division of Motor Vehicles from accepting foreign documents as proof of residency or identification, except foreign passports. DMV would be required to submit annual reports of applications accepted and denied to the Governor and to the General Assembly. The bill also provides a variety of additional license security requirements and would require the State to participate in an interstate compact concerning sharing driver's license information with other states known as the Driver License Agreement. **Introduced by Senator Phil Berger and referred to the Senate Judiciary I Committee.**

SENATE BILL 439, Raise Compulsory School Attendance Age, would increase the compulsory school attendance age from 15 to 16 and would make conforming changes to the definition of an undisciplined juvenile. **Introduced by Senator Garwood and referred to the Senate Education Committee.**

SENATE BILL 445, Insurance Premium Discount/Prevention Course, would allow for a 10% reduction in premium rates for automobile insurance for driver's who are 55 years of age or older who successfully complete an approved motor vehicle accident prevention course. The reduction would be good for a period of three years following the completion of an approved course and no reduction in rates would be allowed for courses required to be taken by a court order, Division of Motor Vehicle order, or a statutory mandate. A driver who has more than two safe driver incentive points would not be eligible for the reduction. **Introduced by Senator Boseman and referred to the Senate Commerce Committee.**

SENATE BILL 477, Master Keys/Lock-Picking Devices Regulated, would make it a Class I felony for a person with the intent to commit any felony or larceny to be found to have in their possession without lawful excuse, a motor vehicle master key or other motor vehicle lock picking device such as a jiggle key. It would also be a Class I felony for persons to buy, sell or transfer a motor vehicle master key, manipulative key or device, key cutting device, lock pick or lock picking device designed to open or capable of opening the door or trunk of a motor vehicle. This provision would not apply to a dealer of new or used motor vehicles, a car rental agent, a locksmith, a person who is lawfully repossessing a vehicle, law enforcement officers acting in their official duties or businesses which have a key cutting device located for use on their premises. **Introduced by Senator Graham and referred to the Senate Judiciary II Committee.**

SENATE BILL 478, LRC Study Ways To Assist Small Business/Health Insurance, would allow the legislative research commission to study ways to assist small businesses in providing affordable health care coverage for their employees. **Introduced by Senator Dalton and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 482, Indoor Arena Smoking Regulations, would allow large indoor arenas with seating capacity greater than 23,000 to have smoking regulations and be exempt from the current North Carolina law which prohibits smoking regulations. **Introduced by Senator Dorsett and referred to the Senate Health Care Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 493, North Carolina Lottery For Education, would create an education lottery in North Carolina that would be run by the North Carolina State Lottery for Education Commission. The Commission would establish all lottery policies and would allocate at least 50% of the revenue as prizes, 34% of the revenue for scholarships and reserves and no more than 16% of the total revenue for Commission expenses. The Lottery Scholarship Fund would also be created to pay North Carolina residents to attend North Carolina colleges and universities. **Introduced by Representative Holliman and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 507, Economic Development-Public Records. This bill is identical to Senate Bill 393 that is summarized above in this week's legislative report. **Introduced by Representatives Weiss and McComas and referred to the House Commerce Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 552, Customized Industry Training Program, would create within the North Carolina Community College System the customized industry training (CIT Program). The CIT program would offer programs and training services for assisting existing business and industry to remain productive, profitable and within the state. The bill would provide \$4 million for each of the next two years for the Community College System Office to fund the Program. **Introduced by Representatives Tolson, England and Sauls and referred to the Education Subcommittee on Community Colleges.**

HOUSE BILL 553, Increase Funding For Small Business Centers, would provide \$1 million for each of the next two years for the Community Colleges System for small business centers. **Introduced by Representatives Tolson, Lucy Allen, England and Sauls and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.**

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