



NORTH CAROLINA BURGLAR AND FIRE ALARM ASSOCIATION

Weekly Legislative Report
April 14, 2005

INTRODUCTION

The legislature is still abuzz about the lottery bill approved last week by the House. Although the initial vote was 62-58 in favor of the lottery, one member, Representative Pricey Harrison, from Guilford County, changed her vote to make the final count 61-59. The bill now goes to the Senate where it has not yet been scheduled for a hearing. Although the Senate has approved a lottery bill more than three times in the past ten years, it is not clear whether the Senate has the votes to approve the lottery this session.

Joint Appropriation meetings between the House and the Senate are coming to a close and we are expecting the Senate to release their version of the budget within the next several weeks. It is unclear whether the Senate will include lottery revenue in its budget proposal or whether they will continue with the half cent sales tax or the high income bracket tax. Many ideas regarding budget cuts to different agency's and departments have been floated in the subcommittees but we are unclear what the total package will look like.

The House bill filing deadline is rapidly drawing near. Wednesday, April 13th was the deadline to have all bills to bill drafting and then the following Wednesday, April 20th, all bills must be filed in the clerk's office. The only bills filed after that would have to do with Appropriations or Financing which means either revenue generating bills or spending bills. We expect the next week and a half to be very heavy with House Bills because of this deadline, but after the deadline we should have a good idea of which bills we will need to work on this session.

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

HOUSE BILL 988, Property Tax-Value of Motor Vehicles, would provide that if the cost approach is used for tax purposes to determine the true value of a motor vehicle, an appraiser could not include highway use taxes as a factor to determine the taxpayer's liability. **Introduced by Representatives Blackwood and Church and referred to the House Finance Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1007, Written Parental Consent for School Surveys, would require written parental consent before certain survey information could be taken from students. Written parental consent would not be required from students who are 18 or older, married, or legally emancipated. **Introduced by Representatives Stam, McGee and Capps and referred to the House Education Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1018, Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act. This bill is identical to Senate Bill 976 which was summarized in a previous legislative report. **Introduced by Representative Rhodes and referred to the House Election Law Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1090, No Social Security Numbers in Recorded/Filed Documents, would prohibit the disclosure of social security numbers on documents prepared for recordation or filing, including mortgages and deeds of trust documents and powers of attorney. The Register of Deeds and Clerks of Court would be authorized to remove social security numbers before recording the documents. **Introduced by Representatives Langdon and Moore and referred to the House Judiciary II Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1104, Ban Cell Phone Use While Driving, would make it unlawful to use a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle on a public street or highway and would create exceptions for emergency situations, for use by law enforcement or rescue personnel, and hands-free cell phone use. Drivers under the age of 18 would, however, be prohibited from operating a hands-free cell phone. **Introduced by Representative McAllister and referred to the House Public Utilities Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1125, Drivers License-Anti-littering Pledge, would require drivers license applicants to sign an anti-littering pledge stating "I will not litter." **Introduced by Representative Howard and referred to the House Transportation Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1142, Local Tax Menu with Voter Approval, would authorize cities and counties to levy (1) a sales tax; (2) an impact tax; (3) a meals tax; (4) a room occupancy tax; (5) an income tax; and (6) land transfer tax if approved by the voters. The bill would provide that if both the county and city levy the tax, the taxes would be cumulative. **Introduced by Representative Michaux and referred to the House Finance Committee.**

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