



NORTH CAROLINA BURGLAR AND FIRE ALARM ASSOCIATION

Weekly Legislative Report
April 28, 2005

INTRODUCTION

This legislative report includes all the bills that have been filed through the bill filing deadline on Wednesday, April 20, 2005. We should now have a good idea of the bills we need to work with except for the various blank bills that have been filed which we will have to handle as they are changed in the legislative process. There is a great deal of work and a large number of committee meetings being scheduled as legislators work to get all these bills that have been filed through the process before the crossover deadline on May 19th. It will be a struggle to get many of these bills passed by that time since most of the committees only meet once or twice a week and are only able to get through a couple of bills per meeting.

The Senate is close to rolling out their official budget proposal and we expect that once it is released it will be voted on very quickly. Since the Democrats have a majority in the Senate they usually can push through their budget proposal with very few changes. Meetings continue to go on behind the scenes with the Senate leadership determining what revenue and what expenses will be added or cut. It will be interesting to see the dynamic between the House Speaker, Senate President Pro Tem and the Governor over the budget since there has been some conflict this year between those three powerful politicians.

BILLS OF INTEREST

HOUSE BILL 1257, Tax Refund Donation for the Arts, would allow income tax payers to donate all or a portion of their income tax returns to support the development of community arts programs. **Introduced by Representative Pierce and referred to the House Finance Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1268, Casino Nights for Nonprofit Organizations, would authorize nonprofit organizations to operate "Casino Nights". **This is a blank bill which has been filed without any content. Introduced by Representative Owens and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1306, Nonresidential Building Maintenance Code, would authorize municipalities to adopt ordinances establishing a nonresidential building maintenance code which would set minimum standards for maintenance, sanitation, and safety. The bill would also provide for the appointment for a public officer to determine, after notice and hearing, whether repair, closing, or demolition of nonresidential buildings would be necessary. **Introduced by Representatives Crawford and Wray and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1312, Insurance Premium Discount/Prevention Course. This bill is identical to Senate Bill 445 which was summarized in a previous legislative report. **Introduced by Representative Wright and referred to the House Insurance Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1313, Increase Processing Fee for Returned Checks, would increase the processing fee for returned checks from \$25.00 to \$30.00. **Introduced by Representatives Wright and Gibson and referred to the House Finance Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1333, Arbitration Notice to Consumer, would require businesses to provide notice to customers when any consumer contract contains a provision requiring the customer to submit to binding arbitration as the only method for resolving a contract dispute. The bill provides that the contract itself must contain notice and the business would also be required to explain the provision to the customer. **Introduced by Representative Allred and referred to the House Judiciary II Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1334, Patient Safety Act, would establish a twenty-five (25) member joint legislative commission on promoting patient safety in the provision of healthcare. **Introduced by Representative Lucy Allen and referred to the House Health Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1358, Health Care for All, would require a voter referendum during the November, 2006 election to amend the North Carolina Constitution to recognize the right to health care. **Introduced by Representatives Insko, Alexander and Wright and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1367, Waive Marriage License Fee/Premarital Counseling/Funds, would waive the fee for a marriage license for individuals who receive premarital counseling and would provide \$150,000 to support the waivers. **Introduced by Representative Hilton and referred to the House Judiciary IV Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1413, Enhance Local Government Administration of Environmental Programs. This bill is identical to Senate Bill 1114 which was summarized in a previous legislative report. **Introduced by Representatives Lucy Allen, Hackney, Justice and Weiss and referred to the House Environment Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1447, Government Agencies Limit Release of Social Security Numbers. This bill is identical to Senate Bill 793 which was summarized in a previous legislative report. **Introduced by Representative Blust and referred to the House Judiciary I Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1453, Line-Item Veto, would require a voter referendum during the November, 2005 election or primaries to amend the North Carolina Constitution to grant the Governor a line-item veto of appropriations items. **Introduced by Representative Blust and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1456, Charitable Entity Exemption Standard, would provide that tax-exempt status for charitable and similar organizations is conditioned on the organization using a minimum amount

of its gross income for charitable purposes. **Introduced by Representative Blust and referred to the House Finance Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1487, License Plate Design Contest, would direct the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to conduct a statewide contest to design a license plate to replace the “First in Flight” design currently used. **Introduced by Representative Dickson and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1544, Nonresident CDL/Training Changes, would allow a person who is a nonresident enrolled in a commercial truck driver training school in North Carolina to obtain a North Carolina commercial driver’s license or learner’s permit and would increase the training required for a commercial driver’s license to 160 hours. **Introduced by Representative Lewis and referred to the House Transportation Committee.**

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