



## NORTH CAROLINA BURGLAR AND FIRE ALARM ASSOCIATION

Weekly Legislative Report  
May 2, 2005

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### INTRODUCTION

The pressure is on at the Legislature with the cross-over deadline on May 19, 2005 to move bills forward. During caucus meetings last week, the leadership of both the House and the Senate urged committee chairmen to move bills through and threatened not to extend the cross-over deadline. Many chairmen are putting five and six bills on their agenda for committee meetings, although usually only a couple can be considered at a time. It will be interesting to see whether the leadership backs off and extends the cross-over deadline to allow mostly uncontroversial bills to get through the system.

The Senate is expected to release its budget proposal this week in Appropriations Subcommittees. The budget is expected to include revenue from a small cigarette tax increase, although it is reported that it will be less than the Governor's proposal and less than that advocated by the healthcare community. There also seems to be strong evidence that the lottery will be included in the Senate budget as well as an extension of the half cent sale tax. Once the Appropriations subcommittees review the proposals they will send their portions of the budget to the full Senate Appropriations Committee. Usually in the Senate very few changes are made to the budget proposal and it will go quickly to the full Senate floor. Once the budget is passed in the Senate it will go to the House. The House members have been participating in joint Appropriations meetings and have heard from the different agencies regarding their budgetary needs. The House will not go through that process again but will review the Senate's budget proposal and will work behind closed doors to draft their own proposal.

An interesting development in the discussions regarding the budget and the lottery are the inclusion of issues like video poker and gaming tables at the Cherokee reservation. There is speculation that if a lottery is approved it will affect these other issues and that the leadership is trying to work out an arrangement to appease all the different interests. Several other states use income from casinos on Indian reservations to help fund the State budget.

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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

HOUSE BILL 267, 8-Year Drivers License/Internet Drivers License Renewal, was amended in the House Transportation Committee to require that a drivers license issued or renewed by the Division of Motor Vehicles to a holder of a visa of limited duration would only be valid for the duration of the visa. The bill would also provide that a 10 day temporary license valid for driving purposes only would be issued and the Division of Motor Vehicles would mail an applicant's drivers license to an address provided by the applicant. **The bill was approved by the House Transportation Committee and was referred to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation.**

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