

North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Serving the Sheriffs and Citizens of North Carolina since 1922

Weekly Legislative Report



April 17, 2009

The House Appropriations Subcommittees began their review this week of the Senate version of the budget bill. House leaders have said that it could take approximately six weeks for their version of the budget to be completed. The House anticipates having sufficient information from the Department of Revenue from the April 15th tax deadline to establish how much money will be available to spend by early May. It will be after that date before the House begins to make the toughest decisions about the budget reductions.

With the May 15th “crossover” deadline rapidly approaching, committee chairs are reminding members that bills need to start moving through the committee process to beat the deadline. Most committees have a full agenda scheduled, but with only 50 minutes per meeting, sometimes the discussion for one bill can occupy the entire meeting.

Because numerous committees meet simultaneously, often a legislator will have to leave a committee meeting that the legislator serves on in order to go to a different committee to present one of the legislator’s own bills. It can also be challenging for lobbyists who often have to be in more than one committee meeting at the same time. For example, there are three judiciary committees in the House and two judiciary committees in the Senate. All five of these judiciary committees meet simultaneously at 10:00 on Tuesday and Thursday, in two separate buildings. It is not unusual for the lobbyists who deal with criminal justice issues to need to be in several of these committees at the same time.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday to reconvene on Monday evening

BILL STATUS

HOUSE BILL 9, No Texting While Driving, was approved by the House and has been sent to the Senate for further consideration.

HOUSE BILL 67, License Plate Frame/State Name Visible, has been approved by the House and sent to the Senate for further consideration.

HOUSE BILL 201, Add Division of LESS to CCPS, was approved by the Senate State and Local Government Committee and has been re-referred to the Senate Finance Committee for further consideration.

HOUSE BILL 676, Law Enforcement Jurisdiction in Iredell County. This bill passed the House, is pending in the Senate Committee on State and Local Government. **This bill is supported by the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association.**

HOUSE BILL 766, Amend Survivor's Alternate Benefit, has been approved by the House Committee on Homeland Security, Military, and Veterans Affairs and has been re-referred to the House Committee on Pensions and Retirement for further consideration. **This bill is supported by the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association.**

HOUSE BILL 888, County Bow Hunting, was originally introduced to make it unlawful to hunt with a bow and arrow on the lands of another person without permission in Hyde County. This bill was amended in committee to also include Wayne County. As amended, the bill was approved by the Local Government II Committee and re-referred to the Wildlife Resources Committee for further consideration.

HOUSE BILL 1098, Kill Search and Rescue Animal, has been approved by the House Committee on Homeland Security, Military, and Veterans Affairs and has been re-referred to the House Judiciary III Committee for further consideration.

HOUSE BILL 1129, Clarify Silver Alert-All Ages, would clarify that a "Silver Alert" could be issued for a person of any age who is believed to be suffering from dementia or other cognitive impairment. This bill passed the House Aging Committee and has been re-referred to the House State Government/State Personnel Committee for further consideration.

HOUSE BILL 1190, Preservation of DNA and Biological Evidence, was scheduled on Wednesday in the House Science and Technology Committee. Because it was obvious that another bill was going to consume all of the committee's meeting time, the bill sponsor for HB1190 (Representative Rick Glazier) used that time to hold a meeting for all of those interested in this legislation to comment on the bill. Several suggestions on how to improve the bill were identified and the bill sponsor agreed to get the changes made and to submit an updated version to all interested parties for consideration.

SENATE BILL 584, Amend Private Protective Services Act, was amended in the Senate Judiciary II Committee to delete the provisions that would have allowed the Private Protective Services Board to regulate a "digital forensics examiner." With this amendment, the bill was approved by the committee and sent to the Senate Finance Committee for further consideration.

SENATE BILL 1082, Juvenile Records/Probation Risk Assessment, would allow probation officers to access the juvenile records of persons under their probationary supervision to assist the probation officer in making a "risk assessment" of the probationer. This bill was approved by the Senate Judiciary II Committee and will next be considered by the full Senate.

SENATE BILL 1090, Amend Civil Procedure Rule 4, was scheduled for consideration in the Senate Judiciary II Committee. The bill was deleted from the committee's agenda and we do not anticipate it being added back on the committee's agenda. **This bill is opposed by the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association.**

If you would like a copy of any of the legislation introduced or considered by this year's General Assembly, copies are available on the General Assembly's World Wide Web site: www.ncleg.net.

You may also 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).

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