



NORTH CAROLINA GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FEBRUARY 5, 2007



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INTRODUCTION

The 2007 Session of the General Assembly entered its second week very quietly. Although members in both the House and the Senate are filing bills, there are no committee meetings taking place and the sessions are brief and are not being used to debate any bills since they have not gone through committee. On the Senate side, all the bills that have been filed are being held and have yet been assigned to a committee. On the House side, all the bills have been sent to the Rules Committee until committees can be set up by the new Speaker and his leadership team. Normally in this report we provide a summary of the bill, who sponsored the bill, and which committee the bill went to; however, since all bills are being held or sent to the Rules Committee, we will provide that information later in the session.

The Senate is working on their committees and seems to be waiting to announce the membership of those committees until the House does the same. Although there should be few changes in the Senate, with the death of Senator Holloman and Senator Jeanne Lucas' illness, there will be some shuffling with those leadership positions. Once the House and Senate establish their committees, we expect to see an avalanche of legislation being filed by legislators once they know who is going to be chairing the committees where their bills will be sent. In addition, the bill filing deadlines have been established by both the House and the Senate.

	Study and Agency Bills	Local Bills	Public Bills	Appropriations and Finance	Crossover Deadline
HOUSE	March 14 th	March 28 th	April 18 th	May 9 th	May 17 th
SENATE		March 7 th	March 21 st		May 17 th

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene today, Monday, February 5th, at 7:00 p.m.



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 31, License Revocation Penalties, would add another penalty for those who allow a person to operate a motor vehicle while the operator's license is suspended or revoked by requiring a minimum fine of \$1,000. In addition, a person whose driver's license or driving privileges are suspended or revoked would have their registration plate immediately revoked for the same period of time that the person's driver's license or privilege is revoked or suspended. **Introduced by Representative Brown.**

HOUSE BILL 32, Suspend Involuntary Annexations, would prohibit any municipality from initiating or continuing involuntary annexations throughout the state until a 10 member legislative study commission on annexations has been established and has submitted a final report to the 2009 General Assembly with its findings and recommendations. The Commission would study the current statutory procedures for involuntary annexations, including whether those procedures protect the rights of property owners. **Introduced by Representative Brown.**

HOUSE BILL 51, Earned Income Tax Credit, would provide a state earned income tax credit equal to 10% of the federal earned income tax credit. **Introduced by Representatives Weiss, Insko, and Rapp.**

HOUSE BILL 55, Security and Immigration Compliance. This bill would establish the North Carolina Security and Immigration Compliance Act that would provide comprehensive regulations for persons who are not lawfully present in the United States. The Act has 7 substantive parts that address: (1) public employer participation in a federal work authorization program; (2) enforcement of federal immigration laws; (3) determination of the immigration status of persons who are jailed for felonies or driving offenses; (5) an immigration assistance registration act; (6) elimination of income tax deductions for wages paid to illegal immigrants; and (7) ensuring tax withholding on compensation paid to illegal immigrants and verification of a person's lawful presence in the United States before receiving public benefits. The bill would require all North Carolina employers to register and participate in the electronic verification of all workers by participating in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security program and prohibiting contracts or physical performance of services between employers and contractors unless that contractor has registered and participates in the new program. **Introduced by Representatives Clay, Moore, McComas, and Neumann.**



HOUSE BILL 56, Annexation Service, would prohibit involuntary annexation of property that has substantially received all urban services including water and sewage, fire protection, police protection, and road maintenance. **Introduced by Representative Brown.**

HOUSE BILL 60, Moore Annexation Referendum, would require any annexation in Moore County to be subject to a referendum if 10% of the registered voters in the proposed annexation area present the city a petition in opposition to the annexation. **Introduced by Representative Boylan.**

HOUSE BILL 61, Child Restraint Systems/Federal Compliance. This bill is identical to Senate Bill 23, summarized below in this Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representatives Weiss, Goodwin, Glazier, and Folwell.**

SENATE BILL 38, Eminent Domain, would allow a referendum vote to be held to amend the Constitution to prohibit eminent domain from being used for economic development purposes. The amendment would prohibit state and local governments from taking property by eminent domain if the purpose of the condemnation is for economic development purposes, including increasing the tax base or increasing the rate or quality of employment in a community. **Introduced by Senator Smith.**

SENATE BILL 43, Smoking in State Government Buildings/Prohibition, would prohibit smoking in buildings owned, leased, or occupied by state government. This bill was recommended by the Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force. **Introduced by Senator Purcell.**

SENATE BILL 44, Amend Child Restraint Systems Exemptions. This bill is identical to Senate Bill 23 which was summarized above in this week's Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Pittenger.**

— Colleen Kochanek
NCGWA Legislative Counsel
Smith Moore LLP
colleen.kochanek@smithmoorelaw.com
www.smithmoorelaw.com