



NORTH CAROLINA GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

MARCH 7, 2007



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INTRODUCTION

The General Assembly was extremely busy last week with most of the Appropriations Subcommittees meeting twice a day to review the Governor's budget proposal. The subcommittees also heard from state agencies with recommendations of funding projects that agencies want for the 2007-2008 budget years and heard a historical perspective from the legislative fiscal staff regarding past spending and potential funding issues. In addition, most of the committees are organized and are now scheduling meetings to review bills. On the Senate side, the local bill filing deadline is coming up this week so many of the bills being filed are local bills regarding funding for individual legislators' districts. The Senate bill filing deadline for public bills is only two weeks away, March 21, 2007, so the Senate will be done filing bills in late March. In contrast, the House's bill filing deadlines are not until April 18th and then they may also file bills into May that affect the budget or financing.

With the quick reaction to the Governor's budget by the subcommittees, it looks as though the House and the Senate would like to work on the budget and complete it before the end of the fiscal year which is June 30, 2007. Although this is the goal every session, in light of some of the controversy and ethical problems, we believe the Democrats in both the House and the Senate would like to show that their leadership will enable an efficient and well-run system which will enable the budget to be out on time. We still expect to see a great deal of legislation being introduced and it is our understanding that the legislative drafting office still has over 1,500 bills waiting to be filed or being worked on to be filed before the bill filing deadlines.

BILLS OF INTEREST

HOUSE BILL 376, Caswell Water Extension Funds, would provide \$2.9 million to Caswell County to extend water lines from Yanceyville to areas in Prospect Hill. **Introduced by Representative Faison and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 393, Charlotte/Water and Sewer Facilities, would allow the City of Charlotte to use the design-build and design-build-operate methods of construction to build water and sewer facilities. **Introduced by Representatives Saunders and Samuelson and referred to the House Local Government I Committee.**



HOUSE BILL 401, County Water/Sewer District Financing, would authorize the county water and sewer districts to engage in installment purchase financing. **Introduced by Representative Langdon and referred to the House Finance Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 462, Modernize Corporate Income Tax Filing. This bill is identical to Senate Bill 244, summarized in the February 27th Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representative Luebke and referred to the House Finance Committee.**

SENATE BILL 354, Wilmington Eminent Domain, would authorize the City of Wilmington to use the power of eminent domain to resolve its current water and sewer problem. **Introduced by Senator Boseman and referred to the Senate State and Local Government Committee.**

SENATE BILL 357, Corporate Income Tax Exemption, would provide a corporate income tax exemption by providing a \$25,000 exemption for those whose income is up to \$100,000 and an exemption of \$12,500 for those whose income is between \$100,000 and \$200,000. **Introduced by Senator Smith and referred to the Senate Finance Committee.**

SENATE BILL 396, Restriction on EMC Rulemaking Authority, would limit the Environmental Management Commission by prohibiting it from adopting rules that condition the granting of a permit, approval, or certification on fulfillment of a requirement that is beyond the authority of the applicant and that is within the authority of someone other than the applicant. **Introduced by Senator Hoyle and referred to the Senate Commerce, Small Business, and Entrepreneurship Committee.**

SENATE BILL 403, Charlotte/Water and Sewer Facilities. This bill is identical to House Bill 393, summarized above in this Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Clodfelter and referred to the Senate State and Local Government Committee.**

SENATE BILL 445, Study Bill for Property Tax Relief, would authorize the Property Tax Subcommittee of the Revenue Laws Study Committee to study whether to provide property tax relief and to review methods used by other states to provide tax relief to their citizens. **Introduced by Senator Jacumin and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 479, Mandatory Water/Sewer Connection, would provide that cities must allow property owners in annexed areas to pay for mandatory water or sewer connections over a period of 25 years. **Introduced by Senator Brock and referred to the Senate Finance Committee.**

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