

North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Serving the Sheriffs and Citizens of North Carolina since 1922

Weekly Legislative Report



May 23, 2008

The General Assembly was in Raleigh early this week and then departed to finish out the week in Greensboro. On Thursday, the General Assembly convened at 11:00 a.m. in Greensboro at North Carolina A & T State University in honor of the Greensboro Bicentennial Anniversary. Although it was a short week for formal activity, so far this session the House has introduced 487 bills and the Senate has introduced 379 bills, for a total of 866.

The final deadline for formal introduction of new bills this session is next Wednesday, May 28th, although with a two-thirds majority vote the rules can be suspended to allow a new bill to be introduced at any time. The House budget leaders are working diligently to get the House version of this year's State Budget Bill drafted. When they have done so, they will send their version to the Senate, and the Senate will draft their own version of the budget bill, which will most certainly be different from the House version. Then, House and Senate leaders will work together to agree upon a final version of the budget bill. Most legislative observers anticipate that this year's Session will adjourn shortly [i.e. 7 to 10 days] after the budget is finally agreed upon and adopted.

The House and Senate adjourned for the Memorial Day Weekend and will resume a regular schedule next Tuesday, May 27th.

BILLS OF INTEREST

HOUSE BILL 2155, Holden Beach No-Wake Zone, would establish a no-wake speed zone in the Intracoastal Waterway adjacent to the Town of Holden Beach. **Introduced by Representatives Stiller and Hill.**

HOUSE BILL 2202, Legislative Research Commission/Study Mental Health Commitment Statutes/Transportation, would authorize the Legislative Research Commission to study the involuntary commitment statutes and to make a final report to the 2009 Session of the General Assembly. We have talked with the bill sponsor and leaders in the mental health advocates community about the important interest of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association in this legislative issue. It appears that all parties are interested in pursuing legislation in 2009 that will address the issues related to transportation of involuntarily committed persons. **Introduced by Representative Insko.**

HOUSE BILL 2223, Anatomical Gifts, would revise the Anatomical Gift Act by providing that law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, or other official emergency rescuers “may” make a reasonable search of an individual who is reasonably believed to be dead or near death for a document indicating the person is an organ donor. This bill would repeal the requirement that law enforcement officers (and others) “shall” make a search of an individual the officer believes is dead or near death. **Introduced by Representative Ross.**

HOUSE BILL 2234, Craven Fox Trapping, would establish an open season for taking foxes in Craven County with rubber cleat traps from January 2- February 28 of each year with no bag limit. **Introduced by Representatives Wainwright and Underhill.**

HOUSE BILL 2252, Smoke-Free Motor Fleet, would authorize local governments to require local government-owned vehicles to be smoke-free, as well as requiring that automobiles in the state motor fleet be smoke-free. **Introduced by Representatives Weiss, Williams, Lucas and Glazier.**

HOUSE BILL 2253, Smoke-Free State and Local Building Grounds, would authorize local governments to designate grounds within a certain distance of locally owned or operated buildings to be smoke-free, and would require that the grounds within a certain distance of state-owned or operated buildings be smoke-free. **Introduced by Representatives Weiss, Williams, Lucas and Glazier.**

HOUSE BILL 2254, Community Colleges/Tobacco Free, would authorize local community college boards of trustees to adopt policies prohibiting the use of tobacco products on community college property or at community college-related events. **Introduced by Representatives Weiss, Williams, Justice and Glazier.**

HOUSE BILL 2260, Special Plate for Organ Donor Awareness, would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a special registration plate including the phrase “Donate Life” upon receipt of at least 300 applications. **Introduced by Representatives Gillespie and Folwell.**

HOUSE BILL 2261, Special Plate for Mining/Travel & Tourism, would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a special registration plate including the phrase “NC Mining” upon receipt of at least 300 applications. **Introduced by Representatives Gillespie and Frye.**

HOUSE BILL 2265, School Buses Exempt from Safety Inspection, would exempt school buses from safety inspections required under the motor vehicle law if they are owned by a local school board and are subject to the specific school bus inspection requirements. **Introduced by Representatives Carney, Cole, Allen and Yongue.**

HOUSE BILL 2280, Beulaville Regulation of Golf Carts, would authorize the Town of Beulaville to regulate golf carts. **Introduced by Representative Tucker.**

HOUSE BILL 2286, Increase Reward Amount for Crime Information, would increase from \$10,000 to \$100,000 the amount of a reward that the Governor may offer for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a person who has committed a felony or other infamous crime. **Introduced by Representatives J. Harrell and T. Harrell.**

HOUSE BILL 2287, Service of Process/Electronic or Fax Receipt, would authorize the use of an electronic or facsimile delivery receipt when service of process is performed by a “designated delivery service” such as UPS, FedEx, etc. **Introduced by Representative Ross.**

HOUSE BILL 2288, Continue the Dropout Prevention Commission, would continue the Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation through the 2009 - 2010 Session of the General Assembly. **Introduced by Representatives Parmon, Fisher, Tarleton and Current.**

HOUSE BILL 2289, Study Raising Compulsory Attendance Age, would direct the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina to study the impacts of raising the compulsory attendance age for public school children from 16 to 17 or 18 years of age and would require a report no later than November 15, 2008. **Introduced by Representatives Parmon, Bryant, Fisher and Tarleton.**

HOUSE BILL 2292, Moore Co. Sheriff/Access DHHS Drug Data Base, would authorize the Moore County Sheriff to access the Department of Health and Human Services database concerning prescription information regarding controlled substances if the Sheriff or a deputy sheriff was engaged in a “bonafide specific investigation related to the illegal use of prescription drugs.” The bill would also require the Sheriff to notify the Attorney General each time the Sheriff requested to inspect DHHS records. **Introduced by Representative Boylan.**

HOUSE BILL 2302, Continuous Alcohol Monitoring System, would appropriate \$500,000 to the Department of Correction, Division of Community Corrections, for the Continuous Alcohol Monitoring System Program so that community corrections officers could more closely monitor individuals who need more direct supervision. **Introduced by Representative Alexander.**

HOUSE BILL 2308, CDL/Federal Compliance, is identical to Senate Bill 1699 discussed below in this week’s Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representative Cole.**

HOUSE BILL 2310, Vehicle Registration/Inspection Changes, would require certain motor vehicles to be inspected before the vehicle is registered with the Division of Motor Vehicles. Current law allows vehicles to be inspected within 10 days after the vehicle is registered with the Division of Motor Vehicles when the vehicle is acquired by a North Carolina resident from outside the state, when a vehicle is owned by a new resident of North Carolina who transfers the registration from another state to North Carolina, etc. **Introduced by Representative Cole.**

HOUSE BILL 2311, Amend Definitions/MV Law/Federal Compliance, would amend the definitions of “hazardous materials” and “state” in the motor vehicle law in order to comply with federal law. **Introduced by Representative Cole.**

HOUSE BILL 2312, Contract Agents/Payment by Credit Card, would authorize license tag offices across North Carolina, technically known as “contract agents”, to accept payment by credit card, charge card or debit card. **Introduced by Representative Cole.**

HOUSE BILL 2319, DMV Employee Criminal History, would authorize the Department of Justice to provide to the Division of Motor Vehicles the criminal history of applicants and employees of Division of Motor Vehicles. **Introduced by Representative Cole.**

HOUSE BILL 2338, Hospital Report Child Injuries, would require hospitals and physicians to report serious, non-accidental trauma injuries in children to law enforcement officials. **Introduced by Representatives Weiss, Clary and Earle.**

HOUSE BILL 2339, Amend Child Abuse/Child Fatality Task Force, would increase the criminal penalty for misdemeanor child abuse from a Class 1 to a Class A1 offense. This bill would also make it a felony for a parent or other person providing care to or supervision of a child to commit an act that is so “gross, wanton and culpable” as to show reckless disregard for human life. **Introduced by Representatives Weiss and Clary.**

HOUSE BILL 2340, Transporting Children in Open Bed of Vehicle, is identical to Senate Bill 1734 discussed below in this week’s Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representatives Weiss, Pierce, Earle and Glazier.**

HOUSE BILL 2341, Child Passenger Safety Technician Liability, would adopt a definition for a “certified child passenger safety technician” and would provide that a technician or the technician sponsoring organization would not be liable for any actions that occur solely in the inspection, installation or adjustment of a child safety seat or in providing education regarding the installation or adjustment of a child safety seat, so long as the technician or sponsoring organization acts in good faith. **Introduced by Representatives Weiss, Martin, Earle and Pierce.**

HOUSE BILL 2348, Special Plate for Volleyball Association, would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a “Carolina Regional Volleyball Association” special registration plate upon receipt of at least 300 applications. **Introduced by Representative McGee.**

HOUSE BILL 2350, Law Enforcement 25-Year Retirement, would provide state and local law enforcement officers with unreduced retirement benefits after reaching age 50 and completing 25 years of service. This bill would also make law enforcement officers eligible for the special separation allowance benefit when they attain 50 years of age and complete 25 or more years of creditable service. **Introduced by Representatives McLawhorn, Bell, Spear and Warren.**

HOUSE BILL 2358, Divide District Court District 19B, would leave Montgomery and Randolph Counties in newly-configured District 19B and place Moore County in newly-created District 19D. **Introduced by Representative Boylan.**

HOUSE BILL 2369, Liability Protection/Private Orgs/Emergency, is identical to Senate Bill 1684 discussed below in this week’s Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representatives England and Alexander.**

HOUSE BILL 2377, County Service District Tax Refund, is identical to Senate Bill 1829 discussed below in this week’s Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representative Gulley.**

HOUSE BILL 2389, Funds for Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils, would provide that the Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPC) would receive continued funding from the General Assembly at prior funding levels plus an additional \$5 million. **Introduced by Representatives Bordsen, Love and Farmer-Butterfield.**

HOUSE BILL 2391, No Auto. Revoke/Driver's License/Incompetent Person, is identical to Senate Bill 1805 discussed below in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representatives Bordsen, Goodwin, Farmer-Butterfield and Pierce.**

HOUSE BILL 2400, Special Plate for the North Carolina IAAP, would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a special registration plate for the International Association of Administrative Professionals, Inc. upon receipt of at least 300 applications. **Introduced by Representatives Farmer-Butterfield and Boylan.**

HOUSE BILL 2403, Regulate Dangerous Animals, is identical to Senate Bill 1788 discussed below in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representative Jones.**

HOUSE BILL 2407, Liability Protection for Private Entities, is identical to Senate Bill 1766 discussed below in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representatives Ross, Glazier and Martin.**

HOUSE BILL 2408, Vehicle Size and Weight Changes, is identical to Senate Bill 1695 discussed below in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representatives Cole, Spear and Warren.**

HOUSE BILL 2417, Crimes of Torture and Enforced Disappearance, would enact additional criminal statutes concerning the offenses of torture and enforced disappearance, and would allow an investigative grand jury to be convened to investigate these offenses. **Introduced by Representatives Luebke, Harrison, Coleman and Jones.**

HOUSE BILL 2422, Liability Protection for Private Entities, is identical to Senate Bill 1766 discussed below in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representatives Martin and Glazier.**

HOUSE BILL 2428, Address Autopsy Backlog/Funds, is identical to Senate Bill 1774 discussed below in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representatives Martin and Glazier.**

HOUSE BILL 2429, Expand Medical Examiner Jurisdiction/Funds, is identical to Senate Bill 1770 discussed below in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representatives Martin and Glazier.**

HOUSE BILL 2431, Emergency Preparedness Study, is identical to Senate Bill 1780 discussed below in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representatives Martin, Glazier, McComas and Wainwright.**

HOUSE BILL 2432, Study/Local Disaster Management Capability, is identical to Senate Bill 1775 discussed below in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representatives Martin, Glazier, McComas and Wainwright.**

HOUSE BILL 2434, Special Plate for Retired Piedmont Employees, is identical to Senate Bill 1823 discussed below in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representatives Justice, Brown, McGee and Parmon.**

HOUSE BILL 2442, Columbus Assistant County Ranger Funds, would provide funding to the Division of Forest Resources to fund an Assistant County Ranger in Columbus County. **Introduced by Representatives Stiller and Hill.**

HOUSE BILL 2487, Change Format of Drivers Licenses/Under 21, would change the format of a driver's license issued to a person less than 21 year's of age from a horizontal format to a vertical format to make recognition of underage persons more easy for store clerks selling alcoholic beverages and tobacco products. **Introduced by Representatives Folwell, Pierce, McElraft and Faison.**

HOUSE BILL 2492, Amend Release of Juvenile Escape Info, would amend the statutes governing the release of juvenile identification information when a juvenile escapes from custody. **Introduced by Representatives Justus, Goforth, Spear and Sutton.**

HOUSE BILL 2522, Special Plate for the Horse Council, would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a special registration plate for the North Carolina Horse Council, Inc. upon receipt of 300 applications. **Introduced by Representatives Dickson, Pierce, Cole and Warren.**

HOUSE BILL 2545, Funding for VIPER Program, would appropriate \$10 million to the State Highway Patrol to continue building the VIPER System. **Introduced by Representatives McLawhorn and Warren.**

HOUSE BILL 2553, Matthews/Mint Hill Gang Prevention Funds, would appropriate \$100,000 to the Matthews Police Department and \$100,000 to the Mint Hill Police Department for use in the effort to prevent gang violence and other crimes. **Introduced by Representative Gulley.**

SENATE BILL 1645, Regulation of Golf Carts in Butner, would allow the Town of Butner to regulate golf carts. **Introduced by Senator Berger.**

SENATE BILL 1651, Anatomical Gifts, is identical to House Bill 2223 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Hartsell.**

SENATE BILL 1669, Community Colleges/Tobacco Free, is identical to House Bill 2254 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Purcell.**

SENATE BILL 1681, Smoke-Free Motor Fleet, is identical to House Bill 2252 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Purcell.**

SENATE BILL 1684, Liability Protection/Private Orgs/Emergencies, would provide immunity for certain emergency management work done by private associations, corporations and non-profits when responding to in-state emergencies at the request of governmental units, and not for compensation. **Introduced by Senator Purcell.**

SENATE BILL 1686, Smoke-Free State and Local Building Grounds, is identical to House Bill 2253 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Purcell.**

SENATE BILL 1688, Holden Beach No-Wake Zone, is identical to House Bill 2155 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Soles.**

SENATE BILL 1690, New Trooper Position in Brunswick County, is identical to House Bill 2152 discussed in the May 16, 2008 Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Soles.**

SENATE BILL 1695, Vehicle Size and Weight Changes, would make various changes to the motor vehicle laws governing the size and weight of vehicles, including vehicles towing boat trailers and including farm vehicles for cotton transportation. **Introduced by Senator Jenkins.**

SENATE BILL 1699, CDL/Federal Compliance, would make various changes to the commercial driver's license (CDL) laws to bring them into compliance with federal law. **Introduced by Senator Jenkins.**

SENATE BILL 1700, Special Plate - Piedmont Wildlife Center, would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a special license plate related to the Piedmont Wildlife Center upon receipt of at least 300 applications. **Introduced by Senator Atwater.**

SENATE BILL 1701, Special License Plate - Boating Enthusiast, would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a special registration plate including the phrase "Boating Enthusiast" upon receipt of at least 300 applications. **Introduced by Senator Atwater.**

SENATE BILL 1704, Rev Laws Tech., Clarifying, & Admin Changes, would allow the 911 Board to adjust funding allocations to insure that each local government receives at least as much funding as it collected in 911 fees for the 2006 - 2007 fiscal year. This bill also allows law enforcement officers employed by the Department of Revenue's Unauthorized Substance Tax Division to testify in court concerning offenses committed against those officers while administering the Unauthorized Substance Tax Law. It would also allow the Department of Revenue to consider information received from the State Highway Patrol when determining the potential liability of a motor carrier for nonpayment of fuel tax. **Introduced by Senator Hartsell.**

SENATE BILL 1706, Alamance Fox and Coyote Trapping, is identical to House Bill 2123 discussed in the May 16, 2008 Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Foriest.**

SENATE BILL 1709, Create New Titling Categories/Street Rod, would create new motor vehicle title and registration categories for motor vehicles classified as custom built vehicles, replica vehicles and street rods. **Introduced by Senator Rand.**

SENATE BILL 1722, Beulaville Regulation of Golf Carts, is identical to House Bill 2280 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Albertson.**

SENATE BILL 1733, Hospital Report Child Injuries, is identical to House Bill 2338 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Purcell.**

SENATE BILL 1734, Transporting Children in Open Bed of Vehicle, would raise the minimum age from 12 to 16 years of age for children to be allowed to be transported in the bed or cargo area of a pickup truck or open bed vehicle, and it would remove the exemption in the law that is allowed when an adult is present in the vehicle or when the vehicle is operated in a county with a small population. **Introduced by Senator Purcell.**

SENATE BILL 1736, Child Passenger Safety Technician Liability, is identical to House Bill 2341 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Purcell.**

SENATE BILL 1746, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden Special Plate, would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to produce a Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden special registration plate upon receipt of 300 applications. **Introduced by Senator Hoyle.**

SENATE BILL 1751, Adult Protective Services Pilot Funds, would appropriate funding for a pilot program designed to improve North Carolina's system of responding to allegations of abuse, neglect, exploitation or substantial risk of vulnerable or elder adult. **Introduced by Senator Malone.**

SENATE BILL 1766, Liability Protection for Private Entities, is similar to Senate Bill 1684 and House Bill 2369 discussed elsewhere in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Rand.**

SENATE BILL 1770, Expand Medical Examiner Jurisdiction/Funds, would expand the jurisdiction of medical examiners to include deaths that occur at facilities operated by or on behalf of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. **Introduced by Senator Nesbitt.**

SENATE BILL 1774, Address Autopsy Backlog/Funds, would provide \$1.4 million to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to address the backlog of autopsies. **Introduced by Senator Nesbitt.**

SENATE BILL 1775, Study/Local Disaster Management Capability, would require the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management, in consultation with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, to study and develop plans to enhance disaster management at the county level. **Introduced by Senator Nesbitt.**

SENATE BILL 1776, Liability Protection for Private Entities, is similar to Senate Bill 1766 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Nesbitt.**

SENATE BILL 1780, Emergency Preparedness Study, would continue in existence the 30 member Joint Legislative Study Committee on emergency preparedness and disaster management recovery. **Introduced by Senator Nesbitt.**

SENATE BILL 1786, Oppose Real ID Act of 2005, is identical to House Bill 2136 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Jenkins.**

SENATE BILL 1787, Vehicle Registration/Inspection Changes, is identical to House Bill 2310 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Jenkins.**

SENATE BILL 1788, Regulate Dangerous Animals, would enact comprehensive new legislation to restrict or regulate, rather than prohibit, possession of inherently dangerous wild animals. **Introduced by Senator Jones.**

SENATE BILL 1798, Contract Agents/Payment by Credit Card, is identical to House Bill 2312 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Jenkins.**

SENATE BILL 1799, DMV Employee Criminal History, is identical to House Bill 2319 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Jenkins.**

SENATE BILL 1800, Amend Definitions/MV Law/Federal Compliance, is identical to House Bill 2311 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Jenkins.**

SENATE BILL 1805, No Auto. Revoke/Driver's License/Incompetent Person, is identical to House Bill 796 filed in 2007 and would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to consider recommendations from the clerk of court when determining whether to revoke the driver's license of a person adjudicated incompetent under the guardianship laws. **Introduced by Senator Malone.**

SENATE BILL 1812, Study Raising Compulsory Attendance Age, is identical to House Bill 2289 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Malone.**

SENATE BILL 1816, Amend Child Abuse/Child Fatality Task Force, is identical to House Bill 2339 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Boseman.**

SENATE BILL 1823, Special Plate for Retired Piedmont Employees, would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a special registration plate for Retired Piedmont Airlines Employees upon the receipt of 300 applications. **Introduced by Senator Garrou.**

SENATE BILL 1829, Authorizing/County Service District Tax Refund, would make technical corrections to the County Service District Act of 1973 to allow refunds and releases when part of a law enforcement service district is annexed by a municipality during a fiscal year. This appears to be a local bill affecting a jurisdiction in Mecklenburg County. **Introduced by Senator Goodall.**

SENATE BILL 1832, Martin County Road Hunting, would prohibit hunting from the right-of-way in Martin County. It would also make it unlawful to possess a loaded firearm while outside the passenger compartment of a vehicle while on the roadway or right-of-way unless the person is the owner or lessee of the adjoining property or has written permission of the property owner. **Introduced by Senator Jenkins.**

SENATE BILL 1834, 13th District Judicial Assistant Funds, would fund a Judicial Assistant in the District Court District serving Bladen, Brunswick and Columbus Counties. **Introduced by Senator Soles.**

SENATE BILL 1851, Service of Process/Electronic or Fax Receipt, is identical to House Bill 2287 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Hartsell.**

SENATE BILL 1856, Craven Fox Trapping, is identical to House Bill 2234 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Preston.**

SENATE BILL 1860, Amend Child Abuse/Child Fatality Task Force, would increase the criminal penalty for misdemeanor child abuse and would make various amendments to the criminal offense of felony child abuse. **Introduced by Senator Allran.**

SENATE BILL 1868, Charlotte Transit Police, would expand the jurisdiction of company police officers contracted by the City of Charlotte and give those officers the authority to exercise police powers on Charlotte area transit system vehicles. **Introduced by Senator Goodall.**

SENATE BILL 1881, 26th District ADA Funds, would provide funding for eight additional assistant district attorney positions in Mecklenburg County. **Introduced by Senator Clodfelter.**

SENATE BILL 1884, Increase Per Diem Reimbursement to Counties, would increase the rate from \$18 per day to \$90 per day for state inmates serving sentences of 30 days or more in local county jails. **Introduced by Senator Clodfelter.**

SENATE BILL 1886, Mental Health Court Position Funds, would provide funding for two additional positions for the Mental Health Court Pilot Project in the 26th Judicial District (Mecklenburg County). **Introduced by Senator Clodfelter.**

SENATE BILL 1891, Change Format of Drivers Licenses/Under 21, is identical to House Bill 2487 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Bingham.**

SENATE BILL 1892, Autism Committee Recommendations, would amend the "Silver Alert" missing persons project so that an alert could be issued when a missing person of any age (currently, must be 18 years of age or older) has been reported to a law enforcement agency. **Introduced by Senator Purcell.**

SENATE BILL 1897, Special Plate for the North Carolina IAAP, is identical to House Bill 2400 discussed above in this week's Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Swindell.**

SENATE BILL 1921, New State Capitol Police Positions, would fund additional state capitol police officer positions. **Introduced by Senator Dorsett.**

SENATE BILL 1922, Free Parking For Handicapped/Gov't Parking, would provide free parking in government owned parking lots for handicapped individuals displaying a proper handicap license plate or placard. **Introduced by Senator Dorsett.**

BILL STATUS

HOUSE BILL 274, Street Gang Prevention Act, is a revised version of this bill that passed the House in 2007 and has been pending in the Senate. This bill creates the North Carolina Street Gang Suppression Act that is similar to the bill approved by the House last year, but it makes various changes. It removes the provision in the previous bill that did not allow the law to apply to juveniles under the age of 16 and it also removes the provision in the prior version that allowed an expunction of records for a first offense.

Both House Bill 274 and Senate Bill 1358 have been passed by the Senate and sent to the House. We anticipate that the House will not agree to the Senate changes and that both bills will be put into a Conference Committee to work out the differences between the various versions of the bill. In addition, it is anticipated that funding will be included in the State Budget Act to fund programs designed to assist children in not joining gangs (prevention) and to assist children in dropping out of a gang when the child wishes to do so (intervention).

SENATE BILL 1358, Street Gang Prevention Act, is a revised version of Senate Bill 1358 that was pending in the Senate since last year's General Assembly Session. This bill, along with House Bill 274 described above, have been approved by the Senate and sent to the House where a Conference Committee will be appointed of House and Senate members to work out the differences in the various legislation and issues related to street gangs.

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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