

North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Serving the Sheriffs and Citizens of North Carolina since 1922

Weekly Legislative Report



June 06, 2008

As promised, the North Carolina House of Representatives approved their proposed state budget bill on Thursday of this week and sent it to the Senate for their consideration. It is anticipated that the Senate will take the next two weeks to approve their version of the budget bill, and then leaders from the House and Senate will get together to resolve the differences between the two budgets and to agree on a final budget for this year.

The House version of the proposed budget was passed on Thursday by a vote of 102 to 12, a bi-partisan coalition. Only time will tell whether or not the final version of this year's budget will be crafted in such a way to capture similar overwhelming bi-partisan support.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday evening.

BILL STATUS

HOUSE BILL 933, Jessica Lunsford Act for NC, was approved by the Senate Judiciary I Committee, with amendments to make various changes in the criminal laws concerning rape and other sexual offenses with a child. The bill also makes various changes in the Sex Offender Registration Act, to include reducing from ten days to three business days the deadline for sex offenders to register, provide notice of a change of address, etc. with the Sheriff of the county within which the sex offender resides.

This bill would also make it unlawful for a sex offender to be at certain locations, to include: (1) schools, children's museums, childcare centers, nurseries, playgrounds, and any place intended primarily for the use, care or supervision of minors; and (2) at any place where minors gather for regularly scheduled educational, recreational or social programs. The bill would also require each licensed daycare center and each elementary, middle and high school to register with the North Carolina Sex Offender and Public Protection Registry so that these persons can receive email notification when a registered sex offender moves within a 1-mile radius of the licensed daycare center or school. The bill also contains various other provisions amending the Sex Offender Registration Act.

HOUSE BILL 274, Street Gang Prevention Act. Conferees from the House and Senate have been appointed to review the various versions of this bill with a goal of agreeing on a version of the bill that can be enacted into law this Session.

HOUSE BILL 2189, Domestic Violence Victim Assistance, has passed the House and has been sent to the Senate for further consideration.

HOUSE BILL 2436, Modify Appropriations Act of 2007. Most of the provisions contained in this year's House version of the state budget bill were detailed in the May 30, 2008 Weekly Legislative Report. This week, the House adopted an amendment to this bill that restores the funding to counties for providing telephone equipment and service for state offices housed in courthouses across the State.

An amendment was also added directing the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in consultation with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, to study alternative sources of paying for the cost of telephone services in county courthouses, other than the State's General Fund.

SENATE BILL 1480, Medical Release for Ill and Disabled Inmates, has been approved by the House and Senate and sent to Governor Easley for his signature.

SENATE BILL 1770, Expand Medical Examiner Jurisdiction/Funds, was amended in committee to add the requirement that every state facility report the death of any client to the medical examiner of the county in which the body of the deceased is located.

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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