

North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Serving the Sheriffs and Citizens of North Carolina since 1922

Weekly Legislative Report



June 27, 2008

Although the economy has slowed somewhat, the tent rental business in Raleigh appears to be thriving. About three days per week while the General Assembly is in Session, each day a different group holds a rally in the grassy area between the State Legislative Building and the Legislative Office Building.

In almost every case, lunch is provided for all legislators and the General Assembly staff, but not for lobbyists, by the group hosting the event. There are often guest speakers and occasionally a band to provide some lively music. Groups that host these events during the Legislative Session do so as a way to get their members to come to Raleigh in an attempt to get their message across to the General Assembly on issues that they are interested in. Whether or not such events actually make a difference in the outcome of legislation is questionable. But there is no doubt that these events are good for the economy in Raleigh for the tent rental companies and those who cater barbeque lunches.

The tents erected for these events range in size from those that are similar to a tent used for graveside funeral services, or a wedding reception, all the way up to some that are large enough to host a small circus. For those involved in the legislative process, you can experience the sadness of a funeral, the joy of a wedding and the excitement of the circus, sometimes all in one day. As we approach the Independence Day holiday on July 4th, we should all remember that although our democracy is not perfect, it is clearly the best form of government in the world.

Although the budget negotiators are likely to be working on Friday, and maybe throughout part of the weekend, the remainder of the legislators went home upon adjournment on Thursday and will return when the Session reconvenes on Monday evening.

BILL STATUS

HOUSE BILL 44, Domestic Violence Orders/Repeat Violators, was approved by the House and referred to the Senate Judiciary I Committee.

HOUSE BILL 545, Clarify and Amend Various Provisions, contains various miscellaneous changes to the law as requested by various legislators. This bill includes a provision that in counties with

population exceeding 600,000, jail dormitories may house up to 56 inmates as long as certain specified criteria are complied with.

Wake and Mecklenburg are the only two counties with population exceeding 600,000 and this provision will assist Wake County in moving forward with the construction of an additional jail facility. This bill has been approved by a Senate Committee and is pending consideration by the full Senate early next week. If approved by the Senate, the bill will be returned to the House for consideration of the Senate changes.

HOUSE BILL 738, Insurance Changes, would require that all motor vehicle insurance policies sold in this State must include uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage except for policies available only to commercial vehicles.

HOUSE BILL 887, Amend Criminal Offense of Stalking, makes various changes concerning the criminal offense of stalking. This bill has been approved by a Senate Committee and will next be considered by the full Senate.

HOUSE BILL 946, Vandalism Damages More Than \$5,000/Felony, has been enacted into law effective December 1, 2008.

HOUSE BILL 1003, Probation Violation Changes, has been approved by the Senate and returned to the House for consideration of the Senate changes.

HOUSE BILL 2167, Towing of Recreational Boats/Exemption, has passed the House and been sent to the Senate.

HOUSE BILL 2338, Hospital Report Child Injuries, has been approved by the House and referred to the Senate Judiciary II Committee for consideration.

HOUSE BILL 2340, Transporting Children in Open Bed of Vehicle, was withdrawn from consideration by the full House and referred to the House Judiciary II Committee for further consideration.

HOUSE BILL 2487, Change Format of Drivers Licenses/Under 21, has been approved by the House and referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

HOUSE BILL 2492, Amend Release of Juvenile Escape Information, passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Judiciary II Committee.

HOUSE BILL 2523, Autism Committee Recommendations, passed the House and was sent to the Senate.

HOUSE BILL 2666, Ashe Hospital Police/Limited Traffic Direction, has been approved by two House Committees and will be considered by the full House early next week.

HOUSE BILL 2771, Joint Jurisdiction Bertie-Martin Jail/Execute Process, was approved by a House Committee this week and is expected to be considered by the full House early next week.

SENATE BILL 1358, Street Gang/Prevention and Intervention, has been approved by the General Assembly and sent to Governor Easley for his signature.

SENATE BILL 1892, Autism Committee Recommendations, was passed by the Senate and referred to the House Health Committee.

SENATE BILL 1957, North Carolina General Assembly Police Powers, was amended in Committee at the request of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association, was then approved by the Committee and the full Senate, and referred to the House Judiciary II Committee.

SENATE BILL 1989, Craven Fox Trapping Season, has been enacted into law effective June 24, 2008.

SENATE BILL 2122, Campus Police for Private Schools/Durham County, was amended at the request the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association in Committee to limit the jurisdiction of the campus police to the premises of the property owned or leased by their employer. With this amendment, the bill passed the Senate and has been sent to the House Local Government I Committee for further consideration.

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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