



Larry D. Hall
House of Representatives
29th District



The Raleigh Report

From the Office of Representative Larry D. Hall

March 27, 2009

This week, we continued our work to improve the lives of the people of North Carolina. We moved a number of important bills to make life easier for our military members, improve education and protect your safety. A number of these initiatives continue to work through our committees and will be discussed on our chamber floor within the next few weeks. We have continued to be mindful of the effect these bills have on our current financial crisis while looking to the effect they will have on the future.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and ideas about my work in Raleigh and I have included below information about some of the legislation we are considering. I also listed some of the visitors to our office here in Raleigh and I look forward to hearing and seeing you.

Military - Members of the House voted unanimously in favor of legislation that would make it easier for soldiers, reservists and National Guard members to renew their drivers' licenses ([HB 98](#)). Under current law North Carolinians may renew their drivers' licenses as much as six months prior to the expiration date. If enacted, this legislation would allow members of the armed forces to renew their licenses upon receipt of deployment orders. The bill would also allow a 30-day grace period for the renewal of an expired license upon release from active duty. The bill will now go to the Senate.

Education - Legislation that would encourage policies to facilitate graduation has been approved in the House ([HB 187](#)). If enacted, the legislation would direct local boards of education to encourage local businesses to adopt personnel policies to permit parents to attend school conferences. The legislation would also encourage local boards of education to adopt policies to implement programs that: (1) assist students in making a successful transition between the middle school and high school years, (2) increase parental involvement in student achievement, and (3) reduce suspension and expulsion rates and encourage academic progress during suspensions. In addition, the bill would direct local school boards to modify policies on

pregnant and parenting students that would better enable those students to graduate. The bill is now being considered in the Senate.

_The State Board of Community Colleges would be authorized to waive tuition for members of the National Guard under legislation filed in the House this week ([HB 795](#)).

Health - Counties interested in establishing health insurance pilot demonstration projects to provide a model for affordable employer-based health insurance would be authorized to do so under a bill that passed the House this week ([HB 212](#)). The bill will now go on to the Senate.

_Legislation that would appropriate money for the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees and make other changes related to the State Health Plan was debated in the House Committee on Insurance this Thursday ([SB 287](#)). The bill will remain in the Insurance Committee for further discussion next Tuesday.

_The Division of Emergency Management would be authorized to establish a registry that counties and municipalities could use to identify functionally and medically fragile people during a disaster. [House Bill 382](#) passed the House this week and would also authorize counties and municipalities to operate similar registries. The intent of this legislation is to improve the safety of medically vulnerable individuals in the event of a disaster. The bill will now go on to the Senate.

_A bill to ban smoking in restaurants and workplaces was found favorable in the House Committee on Judiciary I on Wednesday ([HB 2](#)). Supporters of the bill say it will improve health. Opponents of the bill say that it infringes on personal property rights.

Miscellaneous - Local governments could object to the location of Alcoholic Beverage Control stores in their districts under legislation approved this week ([HB 186](#)). The bill establishes a procedure for municipalities to object and allows them extra time to conduct a public hearing or submit a resolution concerning a potential store location. The ABC Commission would still have the final authority to determine the location of ABC stores. The bill has now gone to the Senate, where it was referred to the Senate Committee on State and Local Government.

_The penalty for altering, destroying, or removing the permanent serial number of a firearm would be increased from a misdemeanor to a felony under legislation filed in the House this week ([HB 787](#)). The existing Class I misdemeanor would be upgraded to a to a Class H felony if the law passes.

Legislative Page Report



Maya Rowland, a student at Hillside High School, served as a Page for the North Carolina House of Representatives. She is the daughter of Lamar Rowland and Maricoma Steele of Durham and was sponsored by Representative Larry D. Hall.

Notes

- _ Durham Girl Scouts visited on advocacy day on March 11th.
- _ North Carolina Central University School of Nursing visited us March 18th – Nurses Day.
- _ I visited Northern High School in Mr. Dwyer's Business Class – March 23.
- _The American Cancer Assoc. visited us on March 24 for "Smoke Free" Lobby Day.
- _ I visited North Carolina Central University for the Reception of the New Nursing School – March 25.
- _ The Pres. of Durham Tech Comm. College visited us on March 26.
- _The North Carolina Biodiesel Association visited the General Assembly on Wednesday.
- _ "People of Color" day took place on Wednesday in the Legislative Auditorium.
- _ I participated in the Youth Health Day Program at North Carolina Central University. - March 28

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Please remember that you can listen to each day's session, committee meetings and press conferences on the General Assembly's website at www.ncleg.net. Once on the site, select "audio," and then make your selection – House Chamber, Senate Chamber, Appropriations Committee Room or Press Conference Room.

