



**Larry D. Hall**  
House of Representatives  
29<sup>th</sup> District



## **The Raleigh Report**

**From the Office of Representative Larry D. Hall**

*April 17, 2009*

As you have certainly seen in the media, we touched on a great many issues, from education to healthcare and emergency planning. Our daily floor sessions are stretching out to several hours on some days and the pace of our committee work continues to increase.

Next week will be even a more pivotal one in the General Assembly. The reports of the latest tax revenue projections from the Department of Revenue are due. That information will shape the budget that is now in our hands. Our colleagues in the Senate approved their spending plan last week, but additional cuts or increased revenue may be needed to balance the plan depending on what we hear about tax collections.

I am also including some information below about bills of interest that is moving through the House and were heard in the Homeland Security committee that I chair.

As always, I welcome any thoughts or ideas you may have to share with me and I hope you will let me know if I can be of any service.

Education- A bill that would give parents more say about the kind of sex education they want for their children has been approved on the House floor. The Healthy Youth Act ([HB 88](#)) gives parents the ability to choose an abstinence-only program, a comprehensive sex education curriculum or to opt out of sexual education entirely. The bill previously passed in both the Health Committee and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.

Six-year olds would have to attend school under a bill that made it through the House Committee on Education ([HB 161](#)). Under existing law, children are not required to attend school until the age of 7. The bill is now in the Appropriations Committee.

An act that would set a minimum filing fee for candidates for local boards of education passed

the House ([HB 76](#)). The legislation would set the filing fee as 1 percent of the annual salary of the office sought or a minimum of \$25. The bill is intended to add uniformity to the filing fees across the state

Emergency Management- Legislation expanding the ability of counties and municipalities to form joint emergency management agencies is now headed to the Senate after the Homeland Security Committee that I chair approved it. Currently, counties can only form joint agencies with municipalities within its borders. ([HB 380](#)) would allow counties to also work with other counties, as well as municipalities within the partnering county.

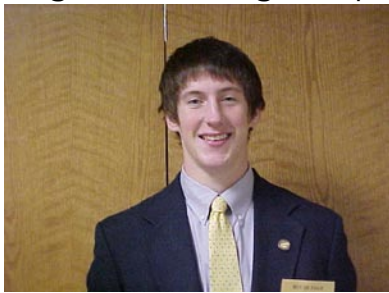
\_ In the Homeland Security Committee that I chair, we approved a Division of Emergency Management effort to establishing a Voluntary Emergency Management Certification Program. The proposal if approved by the senate, ([HB 377](#)) will strengthen the professional abilities of emergency management personnel by setting up educational and training standards for both state and local emergency management agencies.

\_The final item we acted on in the Homeland Security Committee was approval to establish the Division of Emergency Management within the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. ([HB 378](#)) went to the floor and was approved. The legislation was recommended by the Joint Select Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management Recovery.

Health and Safety- The Nicolas Adkins School Bus Safety Act unanimously passed the House and is now in the Senate ([HB 440](#)). The proposal allows evidence from bus mounted cameras and video recording systems to be used to detect and prosecute drivers who pass stopped school buses.

\_ State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees legislation was passed by the house after changes in the Senate plan had been approved in two House committees. The House Insurance and Appropriations committees both approved the bill ([SB 287](#)). The bill is the first step being taken so that the state can restore solvency to the plan. The bill will go to the conference committee to make changes to address long-term cost and membership concerns about the health plan.

### Legislative Page Report



Andrew Evans, a student at Riverside High School, recently served as a Page for the North Carolina House of Representatives. He is the son of Dean and Stacie Evans of Durham and was

sponsored by Representative Larry D. Hall.

### Office Activities

- \_ Representatives from the Herald Sun and the North Carolina Press Association visited on April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- \_ I participated in The Faces of the Constituency Symposium at Jordan High School on April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- \_ Representatives from The State Employees Association of North Carolina visited on April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- \_ North Carolina Symphony visited us on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Larry D. Hall*