



Larry D. Hall
House of Representatives
29th District



The Raleigh Report

From the Office of Representative Larry D. Hall

June 26, 2009

The House of Representatives passed a budget proposal last Saturday that would help our economy while also investing in education and health care. Approval of the package leads us to the next phase of the budget-writing process, and I along with other members am negotiating with the Senate over a final proposal to present to Gov. Perdue.

Despite the large amount of work we've done on the budget, we continued our work to improve and refine legislation that makes our state a better place to live. The following information highlights some bills of interest that have made it through the House this week.

I hope you will contact me if you have questions, or if I can be of service. Thank you as always for your support and your interest in our state.

Crime - Storing and preserving DNA and biological evidence related to a crime would be the responsibility of the law enforcement agency investigating the offense under a bill that has been ratified by the General Assembly ([HB 1190](#)). Under existing law, clerks of court are responsible for storing such evidence, but law enforcement is better equipped for the job under the new law. The bill now goes to Gov. Perdue for a signature.

No Texting While Driving - The bill I co-sponsored on texting while driving has been ratified by the General Assembly ([HB 9](#)). It improves safety on North Carolina's roads and highways. Violators of the law would face the penalty of a \$100 fine plus court costs. The bill was signed by Gov. Perdue last Friday, June 19.

Improving Government - State facilities that provide mental health, developmental

disabilities, and substance abuse services would be required to disclose certain information about death reports, facility police reports, and incident reports under a bill that has passed both bodies of the legislature ([SB 799](#)). The intent of the legislation is to improve transparency. Conferees will be appointed from each chamber to negotiate a final version of the bill.

_ Legislation that I co-sponsored would expand the ability of counties and municipalities to form joint emergency management agencies have been ratified by the General Assembly. Currently, a county can only form joint agencies with municipalities within its borders. This proposal ([HB 380](#)) would allow counties to also work with other counties, as well as municipalities within the partnering county. Gov. Perdue must now sign the bill for it to become law.

_ State lawmakers have ratified legislation to clarify that counties and cities have the authority to order evacuations in certain emergency situations ([SB 256](#)). The legislation also clarifies that the Emergency Management Immunity Statute applies to counties and cities in these situations. The bill has now gone to Gov. Perdue for her signature.

Miscellaneous - Last week, lawmakers ratified a bill that will establish a minimum motor fuels tax rate, which will be effective for two years ([SB 200](#)). From July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011, the gasoline tax will go no lower than 29.9 cents per gallon. Fiscal analysts at the General Assembly have projected that establishing this floor on the gas tax could generate approximately \$67.5 million in new revenue for the coming fiscal year. The extra revenue would be utilized for highway and bridge projects across the state. The bill was signed into law by Gov. Perdue on Tuesday, June 16, 2009.

_ An act to reduce plastic and non-recycled paper bag used on North Carolina's Outer Banks has passed both bodies of the legislature ([SB 1018](#)). Under the law, no retailer shall provide customers with plastic bags unless the bag is reusable bag or used for some unpackaged items. The legislation would also restrict the substitution of paper bags for plastic bags. Paper bags could only be substituted for plastic if the bag is a recycled paper bag, or if the retailer offers certain specified incentives to a customer who uses their own reusable bags instead of the bags provided by the retailer. The bill now returns to the Senate for concurrence.

_ A portion of U.S. Highway 17 and U.S. Highway 70 will be designated as "The U.S. Marine Corps Highway: Home of the Carolina-Based Marines since 1941" under a bill that has been ratified by the General Assembly ([HB 1021](#)). The bill now goes to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law.

_ History and Geography curricula in public schools would be modified under a bill that has passed both bodies of the legislature ([HB 1032](#)). The legislation would amend middle school curriculum to require a one-year course on North Carolina history with United States history integrated into the instruction, instead of a course with a focus on national history with state history integrated into it. After the bill is ratified, it will go to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law.

Notes, In the past few weeks, three new members have been sworn into the North Carolina

House of Representatives. Rep. Rosa Gill of Wake County replaced former Rep. Dan Blue, who left the House to fill the Senate seat vacated by the late Sen. Vernon Malone. Rep. Frank Iler of Brunswick County and Rep. Dan W. Ingle of Alamance County, replace former Rep. Bonner Stiller and former Rep. Cary Allred, respectively. Both Stiller and Allred resigned from the General Assembly.

Community Information

NCCU Summer Camps- Summer Academic and Sports Program

In Keeping with the University's public service mission and its philosophy of outreach, North Carolina Central University offers a program of academic enrichment opportunities and challenging recreational activities for children, youth, and adults. The camps also give participants the opportunity to experience life on a college campus. Camp fees vary according to the activity and cover housing and meals for the length of the camp.

Please click on link below to view NCCU Summer Camp Offering:

[2009 NCCU Summer Camp Information](#)

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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.