



Representative W. David Guice
North Carolina House of Representatives
District 113



Release: **Immediate**
Date: April 1, 2009

Contact: W. David Guice
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Brevard, North Carolina – Representative W. David Guice updates the citizens of District 113 about House Bill 547 and other efforts within the North Carolina General Assembly to allow local control and flexibility over the school calendar. Specifically, House Bill 547 seeks to allow more flexibility in the creation of the school calendar for education leaders in Transylvania County, Henderson County and Polk County.

“There have been developments today in the North Carolina House regarding several bills that seek to allow certain school systems the flexibility to control the creation of their school calendars” said David Guice. Members of the Local Government II Committee of the North Carolina House of Representatives voted not to refer House Bill 483 and House Bill 499 out of committee. For both bills the vote was 8-5 against moving them out of committee. “Essentially these bills are dead and will go no further in the legislative process. Additionally, I anticipate there will be no further movement on this matter this year. Both of these bills were sponsored by members of the majority party and neither of them received the support needed for passage. I simply do not believe that there is, currently, the support needed to return control of this issue back to our local school systems” said Guice.

On Friday, March 27 Representative Guice participated in a community meeting in Polk County regarding the school calendar bill. School officials, parents, teachers, students and the business community were represented at this meeting. There was an honest and open dialogue about this proposed legislation and both sides were able to express their opinions, both positive and negative, regarding the calendar. Those in attendance expressed their support for this type of dialogue and talked about how important it is to have a conversation about these issues – even if they are tough.

“I have learned a lot about this specific issue as we have moved through this process” said Guice. “I have listened to people on both sides of this matter and I believe that the democratic process is stronger because of this dialogue. Public education is by its’ very nature evolutionary and we can expect change as we move forward; from the delivery method to the time and place where students learn. It is imperative that we continue to raise the level of public debate about the issues we face. It is only through this dialogue and this debate that we will truly be able to lead North Carolina into a strong and bright future. In the spirit of dialogue, I plan to proceed with meetings between business leaders and educational leaders. I still believe it is important for all stakeholders involved to sit down and talk through their concerns about the school calendar legislation.

“As a member of the Local Government II Committee I was able to witness and participate in the debate over House Bill 483 and House Bill 499 earlier today” said David Guice. “I still believe that the creation of the school calendar is a local issue and one that should be decided locally; however, it is abundantly clear to me that there is not the support for this initiative within the General Assembly. I also acknowledge there are many ways in which I can help the citizens of District 113 and I do not want to limit my ability to become an effective member of the General Assembly. Therefore, I have requested that my bill, House Bill 547, be moved off of the legislative calendar.”

“It is my goal to always strengthen our schools, continue to support economic development efforts in our district and throughout the region and work with people from all aspects of the process to ensure their needs are met” said Guice. “I look forward to working with our parents, teachers, students, school board members, county commissioners, business leaders and all community members to ensure that the needs of District 113 are heard in the halls of the North Carolina General Assembly.”

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District 113



Release: **Immediate**
Date: April 10, 2009

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Brevard, North Carolina – Representative W. David Guice Co-Sponsors House Bill 518. This proposed legislation seeks to change the name of the North Carolina lottery from the North Carolina Education Lottery to the North Carolina State Lottery. This bill also directs the North Carolina Lottery Commission to promote and advertise the lottery under the new name.

"I believe the way in which our lottery became law and the way our lottery has been managed since its' inception is by very definition wrong" said Representative Guice. "That is why I decided to co-sponsor this legislation and will work hard to see that this legislation passes. It is time for people throughout North Carolina to understand that our state lottery is not focused on education as we were told it would be initially."

"Our children are indeed our future and if we are going to have an education lottery then let's have an education lottery" said Guice. "What we have right now is not an education lottery. What we have is a lottery that is flawed in all aspects. House Bill 518 seeks to begin the process to add transparency to the lottery process in North Carolina."

According to the North Carolina Lottery Commission's website, 7% of funds raised go back to retailers as commission, up to 8% of funds raised are used for administrative costs and 50% of funds raised must be used for prizes. Approximately 35% is actually used for educational advancement.

"When the lottery began we were told that these funds would be used to supplement, not supplant, current education funding and that they would be protected education dollars" said Representative Guice. "Governor Perdue, in one of her first budgetary acts, moved a substantial portion of the lottery funds into the general fund to help balance the budget. These funds were promised to our local school systems and in many cases were already spent, on debt service and other fiscal obligations. I understand the difficult budget situation we are currently in; however, what is the point of calling a certain funding stream protected when you steal each time things get tough. This is simply not right and it is not the way to conduct business."

"House Bill 518 is a beginning. We must push for legislation prohibiting the use of these funds for any purpose other than education and this legislation must include provisions that solidify the fact that these funds can only be used to supplement existing education dollars" said Guice.

"Let's face it; the lottery is here to stay. It is important that we work to create the best situation possible and ensure that as many of these lottery dollars are spread around the state, fairly, for education" said Representative Guice.

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Representative W. David Guice
North Carolina House of Representatives
District 113



Release: **Immediate**
Date: April 24, 2009

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Brevard, North Carolina – The North Carolina General Assembly passed the Future Volunteer Firefighters Act this week. The North Carolina General Assembly passed House Bill 557, a bill that will allow uncompensated qualified youths between ages 15 and 18 to receive training through their Volunteer Fire Departments and Rescue Squads, the Office of State Fire Marshal, or the Department of Community Colleges.

This law will be successful in protecting the future of Volunteer Fire Departments and Rescue Squads across North Carolina” said Representative Guice. Senator Weinstein (D-Hoke, Robeson), who shepherded the bill through the Senate, stated, “I have always supported the Volunteer Fire Departments and Rescue Squads in Hoke and Robeson Counties.”

“Volunteer Fire Departments and Rescue Squads are often times the first line of defense in an emergency” said Representative Guice. “Not only do they protect our lives, but they also help to lower our homeowner’s insurance rates. My record is clear that I am a strong supporter of our public safety agencies and I am proud that I had the opportunity to serve as a primary sponsor of this legislation.”

“As Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal, I commend Representative Folwell, Sen. Weinstein, and the other legislators who support this important legislation that will help grow the junior firefighter programs within our 1,570 volunteer fire and rescue departments across North Carolina,” said North Carolina Department of Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin. “If approved, this legislation will allow these departments to attract, fully train and retain the fire and rescue workers that we so desperately need – but too often do not have – to protect our state. If fire and rescue departments are better equipped to handle emergencies, their communities will not only be better protected, but also receive larger homeowners’ insurance discounts.”

The primary sponsors of the “Future Volunteer Firefighters Act” in the North Carolina House include Rep. Dale Folwell (R-Forsyth), Rep. W. David Guice (R-Transylvania, Polk, Henderson), Rep. Garland E. Pierce (D-Hoke, Robeson, Scotland), and Rep. Sarah Stevens (R- Alleghany, Surry).

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