



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



An update from the North Carolina House

June 13, 2011

Raleigh, North Carolina – As I sit here writing this week’s update, I reflect on the long hours we spent in committee meetings and on the House floor debating bills in an effort to meet the crossover deadline on Thursday. This week our days began before 8:00 am and session didn’t adjourn until almost midnight each evening. I know I have mentioned “crossover” several times in the past couple of weeks without an explanation of what that means. Quite simply, “crossover” deadline is a predetermined date by which bills which have been filed in the House must be passed in the House chamber and sent to the Senate and likewise from the Senate to the House. Any introduced bill not being passed by this deadline is no longer available for consideration and essentially dies without any further legislative action being taken. Any bill meeting crossover can continue to move through the legislative process through the end of the short session next year if it does not pass prior to adjournment of the long session this year.

Between the House and Senate over two hundred bills were passed this week and I anticipate much more activity this week as we work to hopefully adjourn as this week comes to a close. Due to the extremely large number of bills that were passed in the House this week, I am not going to elaborate on specifics but all of the activity had can be found on our website at www.ncleg.net. One bill which has created much controversy and debate this session which has been sent to the Governor for signature is SB8 which is the “Charter School” bill. I have indicated earlier that this bill that began as a one page document grew into a 24 page document however, after scrutiny and review by a conference committee it came back to the House for concurrence as a 3 page document. The major points of the bill as passed are that the cap on charter schools has been lifted and oversight of charter schools will be had by the Department of Public Instruction. The conference report was adopted by an overwhelming vote of 108 – 5 in the House and 45 – 0 in the Senate.

I learned this afternoon that Governor Perdue has vetoed the budget which was passed last week and sent to her for signature. There was speculation that she might veto this budget which “right-sizes” state government, making it smaller and more productive without raising taxes and today she did just that. Her major reason for this veto was what she felt was an attack on education and in drafting this budget, budget writers included per pupil spending of \$4,800.00, only two hundred dollars less that Gov. Perdue’s initial proposed budget. Education is the cornerstone of a strong economy and our plan focuses on spending in the classroom, not on the non-essential and redundant administrative positions thereby focusing on the needs of our state’s children and funding teaching positions in the classroom and

teacher assistant positions. I believe we will have a bi-partisan vote this week to override Governor Perdue's veto of the budget which we spent four months working to draft.

In addition to all of our busy work this week, I saw several people from the district in the office and halls of the legislative buildings who were in Raleigh for various reasons. For those of you who I was able to spend a few moments with, it was a great pleasure to do so and for those of you who were in town and stopped by the office but were unable to see me because of the hectic schedule, I apologize for not being able to talk with you personally. I do appreciate the hard work of legislative assistant in taking the time to see those who came while I was in session and want to thank Kerry for working those long hours this week as well. I also want to add that most days you can log onto www.wral.com and see a live stream of our legislative sessions as we engage in lively debate on legislative bills prior to voting. I would encourage each of you to take at least a few minutes to tune in and watch the legislative session in progress to better understand the activity that happens on the House floor while we are in session.

If you have questions or concerns regarding my work here in Raleigh, please contact my office and either my legislative assistant or I will get back to you as quickly as we can. It is always an honor to be in Raleigh serving you, the citizens of House District 113!

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