



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



An update from the North Carolina House

March 21, 2011

Raleigh, North Carolina – This week was another busy week in the North Carolina General Assembly and there are several key issues I want to update you on.

This week the House passed HB 49, titled “Laura’s Law”. This bill will increase the punishment for repeat DWI offenders by providing not only for jail time, but will provide for post-release supervision for a period of four months. This will be done in order that they may be monitored for that four month period of time to ascertain that they are abstaining from alcohol consumption. This will be accomplished by the offender having to wear a monitoring device which will monitor the alcohol content in their system and will result in the revocation of post-release supervision if alcohol is consumed. Hopefully, this measure will help to rehabilitate these offenders as well as protect our citizens from habitually drunk drivers who are on our highways.

The House Election Law Committee held its first committee meeting on HB 351 this week. This bill, titled “Restore Confidence in Government” would require voters to provide a photo ID before voting in any election. The bill also provides safeguards against “pay to play” politics in that any entity affiliated with a vendor that has a contract in excess of \$25,000 with any principal office or department listed under NCGS 143A-11 and subject to contract requirements would be prohibited from making a contribution to a relevant political campaign during the contract’s term. The bill would further prohibit any campaign from knowingly accepting a contribution during the contract. The third prominent feature of the bill is that it amends NCGS 163-230.2 to indicate a written request for an absentee ballot is valid only if it is signed by the person requesting the ballot and would delete all other conditions currently placed on an absentee ballot request therefore making it much easier for someone to request an absentee ballot.

SB8 which is a bill to eliminate the cap on Charter Schools has passed the House Education Committee earlier this week. There has been much concern over this bill in that the bill does much more than eliminate the cap as was its original intent. The bill has grown from a one page document to a 23-page document and we are seeing many changes in the bill as it moves through committee. I mentioned in my last update some of the specifics of this bill and how it affects both of these systems so I will not detail that information again. If you would like to learn all of the details of the bill, you may do so by going to our website at www.ncleg.net and linking to the bill itself. I am working closely with our local school administrators to address their concerns over the bill and how it affects our traditional schools and also continue to listen to the proponents of our Charter School system in North Carolina to determine what proves to be in the best interest of our school children throughout the state. I feel there

is room for both of these systems to exist in North Carolina and hope that we can find resolve so as to not weaken our traditional schools while enhancing our charter schools.

The House passed a bill this week that basically repealed the Land Transfer Tax. The Land Transfer Tax is a tax which would be implemented upon the transfer of any property in North Carolina but can only be imposed after a county chooses to exercise its option to place a referendum on the ballot for implementation. Many counties placed the referendum on their ballot only to have them defeated by the voters. As a result, we have not seen the tax being implemented so passing the bill to do away with this process is simply the will of the voters of North Carolina.

This week I was honored to be appointed by Speaker Tillis to serve as a member of the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Commission. This commission was established in 1990 with the task of making recommendations to the General Assembly regarding modifications to our sentencing laws and policies here in North Carolina. The commission is composed of 30 members from across all three branches of government, different aspects of the criminal justice system and the general public. I am humbled by this opportunity to serve the people of North Carolina in this capacity.

The budget process continues to make progress as our subcommittees continue to work diligently on the budget issues before them. The mission of the majority party is “To develop a budget for North Carolina which brings spending into line with available revenues by identifying the proper and necessary functions of state government and then prioritizing them.” I honestly believe this is the duty we are empowered to perform as elected representatives and I will work to see that the budget reflects this statement.

I am humbled to serve you, the people of District 113, in the North Carolina House of Representatives. I know that by working together we can make a lasting difference in the lives of people throughout North Carolina. We face tremendous issues in our state. These issues also present us with opportunities to be creative and find effective and efficient ways to deal with those things currently facing us as a state.

Please continue to keep your feedback, input, concerns and questions coming my way. And remember, if you are in the Raleigh area please stop by the office and visit with us.

Representative W. David Guice
Legislative Office Building, Room 528
300 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
(919) 715-4466
David.Guice@ncleg.net

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