



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



*An update from the North Carolina House*

*May 23, 2011*

**Raleigh, North Carolina** – Another busy week has come and gone at the North Carolina General Assembly!

HB54, Habitual Misdemeanor Larceny, passed the House this week with only 7 people voting against the bill. This bill provides that if a defendant has seven or more prior larceny convictions, a subsequent larceny offense will result in a felony charge for the offense without regard to the value of the property in question provided certain criteria is met. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

HB451, DWLR Penalties Increased/Vehicle Seizures, passed the House and has been sent to the Senate. This bill increases the penalties for driving while license revoked by setting minimum fines for the initial and subsequent convictions and by requiring the vehicle being operated by a driver whose license or driving privileges are revoked after two prior convictions for driving while license revoked to be seized and forfeited to the State. If passed, this bill will become effective December 1, 2011.

Also passed this week was HB493, Landlord Tenant Law Changes, which simply amends some of the laws relating to tenant/landlord leases in North Carolina.

One of the more controversial bills heard on the House floor this week was HB658, Change Early Voting Period. This bill was introduced by Rep. Bert Jones who ran as an unaffiliated voter and has aligned himself with the Republican caucus. The bill, as amended, will shorten the time period for early voting by one week, however, during the early voting period, will allow for an additional Saturday of early voting and extend the early voting hours beyond 5:00 Monday – Friday to allow those who work until 5:00 p.m. additional time to get to the early voting site to vote. While the bill does allow for additional time during the early voting period, it does shorten the number of days available for early voting. I spoke against this bill and voted against the bill because I feel that we should not be doing anything to hinder the availability we provide for our citizens to be able to vote. The bill was passed by a 60 – 58 margin and has now been sent to the Senate.

It is anticipated that the Senate will unveil its budget proposals this week in the appropriations committee. These proposals will reflect the changes that the Senate has made to the House budget that was passed several weeks ago. The Senate bill should move through committees this week and move to the Senate floor for a vote next week. Once passed in the Senate, the changes will be sent back to the House for concurrence.

I was honored to have Elizabeth Moore from Brevard High School serve as a House page from our district this week. The General Assembly offers a wonderful program for high school students from across North Carolina to come to Raleigh and serve as a page which enables them to observe and participate in the legislative process. I would encourage any of our high school students throughout the district whether attending public schools, private schools or home schools to apply to participate in our page program. If you are interested in making application, please contact my legislative at [guicela@ncleg.net](mailto:guicela@ncleg.net) to have her get the application information to you. Having these young people spend a week in Raleigh is just another one of the privileges I enjoy serving as your Representative and I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to do so.

I will keep you posted throughout the coming weeks on the budget discussions. Please continue to contact my office with any questions or concerns. I enjoy hearing from each of you and it is my goal to ensure that the voice of the people is always heard throughout our state government. Also, please continue to visit my website, [www.davidguice.com](http://www.davidguice.com), for updates and information. Thank you again for the humbling experience to serve you, the people of District 113, in the North Carolina House of Representatives.

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