



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



Legislative Update Three – Short Session
May 30, 2010

Brevard, North Carolina – Let me begin by wishing everyone a happy Memorial Day. It is important that we take this time to stop and remember those who have laid the greatest sacrifice upon the altar of freedom. Our future is indeed strengthened by our past and their work; their efforts will never be forgotten. I want to lift up my thanks and the thanks of my family to all of those who have served and are serving in the United State Armed Forces.

I want to spend time this week talking to you about a couple of local issues addressed this week in the North Carolina General Assembly. Additionally, I want to talk to you and make you aware about the continuing budget issues facing us here in North Carolina. I spent a good bit of time during the long session talking about these budgetary issues and yes, my friends, the same problems are once again facing us.

I was able to work with other members of the House to use a legislative tactic and insert language into a bill that was entered during the 2009 long session. We were able to use the old bill as a vehicle to get the new legislation passed. Due to the legislative rules governing the short session it was necessary for us to use this tool. Senate Bill 1022 passed its' second and third readings this past week in the North Carolina House of Representatives. It now heads back to the Senate for concurrence. This piece of legislation will allow flexibility in the school calendar for the remainder of this school year for several western counties, to include Transylvania County. This flexibility only applies to the 2009-2010 school year and allows for 1,000 hours of instructional time or 180 school days.

House Bill 1664 also passed its' second and third readings this past week in the North Carolina House of Representatives. As you will recall this piece of legislation seeks to allow the Brevard City Manager the authority to hire and set the salary of the City Clerk. This bill now heads to the North Carolina Senate.

The budget continues to be written in virtual secrecy. As I have said to you before all voices are not at the table in these budget discussions. Decisions are made by a select few people and thrown on the remainder of us in both the House and the Senate. Each of us has been elected to represent the people of North Carolina and in order for us to truly have an effective and efficient budget process, we all must be at the table and allowed to speak. Back room deals and decisions made without full discussion are not helpful to the citizens of North Carolina. And my friends, the people of North Carolina do deserve better from their elected officials.

We continue to face major issues and major holes in our budget in North Carolina. For example it was determined this week that because of a vote in the United States House of Representatives the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services budget will be short approximately \$500 million dollars. There is much speculation about how we might deal with this new figure which is to be added to the already growing budget shortfall; however, none of the answers are good as they are based on assumptions and not definite projections.

Committee meetings and budget discussions are happening fast these days in Raleigh. I do not believe this is an open and honest way to write a multi-billion dollar budget. We have not set priorities and we have not made funding decisions based on those priorities. I will be honest and say that it is very frustrating because I know this is not what the people of North Carolina expect from their elected officials. We must change the way we conduct the business of the people in Raleigh. I remain determined to this end and I hope that you will join me on this journey.

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, 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.

Representative W. David Guice
Legislative Building, Room 1015
16 West Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
(919) 715-4466
David.Guice@ncleg.net

#