



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



An update from the North Carolina House

May 30, 2011

Raleigh, North Carolina – Wow! What a busy time I had in Raleigh this week. Things moved at an extremely fast pace and I stayed in meetings all week. I met with representatives from the DA's Association, Sheriff's Association, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the Association of County Commissioners throughout the week to discuss legislation. It was also a busy weekend in the district once I returned to Brevard after leaving Raleigh late Thursday evening to head home.

HB 823 passed its third reading in the House this week. The bill would amend the state constitution to make the Superintendent of Public Instruction a member of the State Board of Education, to require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to make all state-level appointments necessary for supervision and administration of the free public schools, to modify the membership of the State Board of Education to include an additional at-large member, to require the General Assembly to elect all at-large members, to require the Governor to appoint the Chair of the State Board of Education, to eliminate the requirement that appointments by the Governor to the State Board of Education are subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, and to create a six-year term of office for State Board of Education members. The bill passed the House with overwhelming bi-partisan support and now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Earlier this year I sponsored HB 486, Tryon De-annexation. This bill passed its third reading in the House and has been sent to the Senate. The Town of Tryon, through its attorney, contacted me regarding this bill and requested that a parcel of land that had previously been voluntarily annexed be removed from the town limits due to the town's inability to provide the services promised when they asked the property owner to allow them to annex his property into the town limits.

There was a provision in the budget to move the governing authority of the DuPont State Forest from the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources to the Department of Agriculture. As a result of this change, I have been receiving many e-mails from people throughout the district regarding their concern over the continued use and access of the forest by all groups who presently use the forest. Senator Apodaca has introduced an amendment to the Senate budget to make the current DuPont State Forest into the state's first "state recreational forest". The Forest Service has mandates to prevent forest fires and manage timber but recreation is not presently within its core mission. That will change with DuPont becoming a state recreational forest. This amendment specifically recognizes the unique value of DuPont for recreation, and with this amendment, we are making sure that its scenic beauty will

continue to be protected as management of the forest moves from DENR to the NC Department of Agriculture. This gives us assurance that all of the current uses of the DuPont Forest are preserved. Hunters, anglers, mountain bikers, equestrians and hikers have had no conflicts under the current management of DuPont and a state recreational forest will preserve all of those uses.

With only two weeks left before the crossover deadline, we will be moving many bills through committees and hearing them on the House floor this week and next week. I also anticipate that the Senate will pass their version of the budget this week and it will return to the House for concurrence. I have several bills scheduled to be heard this week, both in Committees and on the House floor. HB 642, Justice Reinvestment, which I have talked about earlier is slated to be heard this week so I will be busy moving that piece of legislation through the House and hope to see it voted on this week.

It was a pleasure to have my niece, Alyssa Adcock, a student at Screamin' Eagle Academy in Flat Rock, serve as a page this week. She was also able to sit in on several meetings going on in my office during the week and simply could not believe how busy we stay in Raleigh. She was exhausted by Thursday evening but I do believe she learned a lot about the legislative process while in Raleigh.

It was also exciting to have Ted Owens and Ray Gasperson from Polk County in town this week for County Commissioners Day. I was able to enjoy dinner with them late Tuesday evening while discussing various issues they are facing in Polk County and then have them in the office for a visit on Wednesday.

As an elected official, I am often asked to make appearances for various events. This weekend, I had the honor of serving as the Master of Ceremonies for a dance recital for Pisgah Dance Academy which is in Transylvania County. It has been about 20 years since I attended my own daughter's last dance recital and I was absolutely amazed at the talent shown by these young dance students. I am also amazed at the talent and leadership abilities of Kristen Pangle, the owner of Pisgah Dance Academy. Kristen is only 20 years old and has over 70 dance students who participated in this year's recital. To me that is absolutely amazing! One of the things we always talk about in Raleigh is entrepreneurship and this young lady's business is a prime example of just that. There are simply not enough words to describe the honor I experienced in participating in this event. Those attending this event were also treated to a special appearance by Mr. & Mrs. Charmly, this year's winners in the Silver Arts competition of the Senior Games in Transylvania County. They performed a waltz which they will also perform in Raleigh as Transylvania's representatives in the Silver Arts competition.

Finally, I hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful Memorial Day and has had a great weekend! I know many of us get wrapped up in all of the celebration and family time on this holiday weekend but it is important that we take a moment to reflect on the reason we celebrate Memorial Day. Each week on the House floor we pause to remember those servicemen who have lost their life in the line of duty during that week. Not only do I think of these young men who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, but I think of those that they have left behind as well. We were privileged to have many veterans in our midst at the General Assembly this week as we honored them for their service to our country. The courage of these brave men and women has made our country the greatest nation in history and we must not forget their sacrifice.

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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