

**1998 SHORT SESSION
September 4, 1998**

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Members of SBCC
Presidents
NCCC System Office Employees**

FROM: H. Martin Lancaster

The General Assembly virtually closed down the week of August 24 to allow legislators from eastern North Carolina to return home as hurricane Bonnie hit the coastline. This week as the Labor Day holiday approaches members have exchanged philosophical differences stemming from the budget stalemate as a means of posturing. Almost every vote taken in committee or on the floor has inspired a procedural or substantive fight indicating the close political margin in the House.

S.1176 - (Perdue, D-34th) The Senate passed a measure cutting off reimbursement (\$104 per day) of subsistence and travel for legislators after September 10. Sent to the House Sept. 3.

The House rejected the Senate's latest budget proposal, which addressed the inheritance tax exemption. The Senate accepted a full exemption for the value of a closely-held, family-owned business or a family farm. This was conditional on the House's acceptance of the Senate's position on the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (\$47.4 mil.) and the expansion of Smart Start to all 100 counties in FY 98-99 with an adjustment in start-up costs, effective October 1. The Senate also proposed its continued position of funding educational needs and the juvenile justice package. The House rejected this proposal September 2.

The House is scheduled to meet Friday, September 4, adjourn for Labor Day and return Tuesday night, September 8. The Senate adjourned September 3 and will work Labor Day, September 7.

Legislation of interest...

S.78 - STATE EMPLOYEE SEXUAL HARASSMENT (Ballance, D-2nd)

To include racial, sexual or other harassment based on such as disability, nationality or religion; House adopted conference report 9/2/98.

H.1327 - SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BIDDING (Owens, D-1st)

Senate passed second and third readings; enrolled 9/1/98.

S.1260 - JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ACT (Cooper, D-10th)
House passed third reading; sent to Senate 9/2/98.

S.763 - CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS ACT (Cooper, D-10th)
Senate passed third reading 9/2/98; sent to House.

S.1552 - CHANGES TO NOTARY PUBLIC ACT (Kerr, D-8th)
House Finance reported favorably. Committee substitute, calendared pursuant 36(A).

H.926 - PREFERRED PROVIDER CONTRACTS (Brawley, R-43rd)
The Senate Committee substitute includes an amendment to provide that charitable organizations and educational institutions may receive transfer of property contingent on agreement to pay an annuity benefit to the transferor without being subject to GS Chapter 58 under specified conditions, including disclosure. Senate Pensions and Retirement/Insurance Committee reported favorably 9/2/98.

Voter Registration

The deadline to register for the September 15 congressional primaries was August 21. The registration deadline for the November general elections is October 9.

You may register to vote at the County Board of Elections or almost any state government office, including the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Employment Security Commission. Mail-in voter registration forms are available at all county board offices, libraries and high schools.

After you register, you should receive a letter from the county board of elections directing you to the proper precinct and polling location.

You have to be a county resident and North Carolina resident for at least 30 days prior to the election.

CC-98-270

Suzanne E. Williams, Governmental Relations, 200 W. Jones Street, Caswell Building, Raleigh, NC 27603-1379
919-733-7051 FAX: 919-733-0680 E-Mail: williamss@ncccs.cc.nc.us