

On Tuesday, July 8, the House and Senate each adopted the State budget. Thus, the way has been cleared for the short session to adjourn. The legislative calendar for Monday, July 14, 2008 has no items of interest on it. The Senate calendar reflects no committee activity. The House calendar reflects only minimal committee activity. By Friday of next week adjournment should be upon us.

H.B. 738 – Insurance Changes was ratified. This legislation progressed through the House Insurance Committee and to the floor of the House, where it passed easily. It fine tunes the Risk Pool's enabling legislation and adjusts the reporting deadlines for carriers which submit managed care data to the DOI. Note that with respect to auto insurance it makes uninsured and underinsured motorists coverage mandatory and does away with the troublesome selection/rejection form. The auto provisions of H.B. 738 go into effect on January 1, 2009, and apply to policies issued or renewed on or after that date.

S.B. 1766 – Liability Protection for Private Entities passed this week. I report this to you because it is in the nature of tort reform. This legislation provides immunity from liability for private associations, private corporations and private non-profits when responding to in-state emergencies or disasters.

H.B. 2340 – Transporting Children in Open Bed of Vehicle passed this week and has been referred to Senate J-1. This legislation prohibits the transportation of children under 16 years of age in the open cargo area of a vehicle. Earlier versions of this legislation would have required DMV to assess two drivers license points for violations of this law. Note that the House deleted this provision. I report on this legislation because it addresses an issue giving rise to injuries and accidents and because it may be of personal interest to you, your family and your clients.

H.B. 2688 - Health Care Policy Council took an unusual journey this week. House Health changed the name of the bill to **NCIOM - Access to Health Care Study Group**. The bill was revised to direct the N.C. Institute of Medicine to study issues relating to access to health care. The focus of the legislation shifted away from health insurance issues and centered on a study of provider shortages and prevention. Then, in what was likely a quiet goodbye, the bill was referred to House Rules, the traditional resting spot for end-of-session legislation that will progress no further.

H.B. 2404 - Increase Long Term Care Tax Credit is not making progress at this point. You will recall that House Aging endorsed the increased credit, and sent the bill along to House Finance. However, House Finance has not yet been able to hear the bill. With adjournment upon us it may well be that we will have to re-visit this issue in January.

That should cover the bases for now. I will provide you with a Closing Report once the Legislature adjourns, and would welcome your questions, comments and observations about matters of interest to you.

Robert C. Paschal

Attorney

Young Moore and Henderson, PA

PO Box 31627

Raleigh, NC 27622

919-782-6860

Fax: 919-782-6753

Direct Dial: 919-861-5107