

# NC BAR ASSOCIATION

## GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

### UPDATE

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#### GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RELEASED

Governor Easley released his proposed budget for the upcoming biennium last week. Funding highlights of the \$20 billion budget as it relates to the Judicial Branch are as follows:

- Technology Initiatives
- District Court Judges and support staff
- Expansion of the Family Court Program
- 50 new Deputy Clerk positions
- 30 new Assistant District Attorneys and 18 new Victim-Witness/Legal Assistants
- Increase in hourly rate for private assigned counsel (non-capital) from \$65 to \$68

The Governor's budget proposal will go to the General Assembly, which will formulate its own two-year budget. To view the proposal, [click here](#).

#### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FINALIZED

The House has announced its committee appointments. Many lawyer legislators will continue to chair or co-chair a number of committees. For a full listing of the House and Senate appointments, please click on the links below.

[Senate Committee Appointments](#)

[House Committee Appointments](#)

#### INSIDE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

House and Senate Committees are beginning to meet. Please [click here](#) for a link to the House and Senate calendars, which are updated daily with committee meeting notices and agendas.

#### ACTION ITEMS

Several sections and committees of the NCBA have already asked the Office of Governmental Affairs to take action regarding legislation that is not Bar Association sponsored legislation. The Section's recommendations will be presented to the Executive Committee at their March meeting and then to the Board of Governors in April. Once approved, these requests will become part of the NCBA's Legislative Agenda. Please [click here](#) for a full listing of these requests.

#### BILL TRACKING

The Office of Governmental Affairs will be reviewing, on a continuing basis, all legislation that is introduced during the 2007 Session and will be referring such legislation to the appropriate sections and committee of the NCBA for further review. Please click the link below to view the legislation currently being tracked by the OGA.

[Bill Tracking Chart](#)

#### GAVEL TO GAVEL

Provided by the National Center for State Courts, *Gavel to Gavel* is a national overview of trends in legislative activity as it relates to the courts. Please click the link below to access the latest edition.

[Gavel to Gavel](#)