

NC BAR ASSOCIATION

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

UPDATE

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HOUSE PASSES BUDGET

Last week the House of Representatives passed its proposed budget for the 2007-2009 biennium. Under the House spending plan, the Judicial Department would receive an additional \$4 million in recurring funds (R) and \$2.4 million in non-recurring funds (NR). Highlights of the budget are detailed below:

- **Judicial Salary Increase:** 5% Increase, which falls short when compared to the House and Senate bills which called for \$40 million to implement the 2005 State Judicial Council's salary recommendations supported by the NCBA.
- **Technology Initiatives**
\$1.8 million (R), \$1.9 million (NR)
- **New Prosecutors and Support Staff:** 30 Assistant District Attorneys and 9 Victim Witness Legal Assistants
\$3.3 million (R), \$131,000 (NR)
- **New Deputy Clerk Positions:** 58 new Deputy Clerk positions
\$2.2 million (R), \$128,000 (NR)
- **District Court Judges and Support Staff:** 3 new District Court Judge and Assistant positions
\$548,000 (R), \$38,000 (NR)
- **Family Court Expansion**
\$295,000 (R), \$25,000 (NR)
- **OAH:** Funding for AH Assistant position to support 2 new ALJ's created in 2006 and funding for automated case tracking system.

INSIDE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

CROSSOVER DEADLINE EXTENDED

The deadline for which a bill must pass one chamber to remain eligible in the 2007 Session has been extended from May 17th to May 24th. Overall, the NCBA Legislative Agenda is progressing well, although the annual effort to repeal Alienation of Affections & Criminal Conversation was defeated last week in the Senate Committee on Judiciary I. Watch for a complete update in the next edition of the *Governmental Affairs Update*.

DEVELOPING ISSUES IN THE NCGA

Stay up-to-date with developing news from the General Assembly.

Protect Judicial Officer Safety Bill Becomes Law

Senate Bill 184, Protect Judicial Officer Safety, has been signed by the Governor, becoming Session Law 2007-29. The legislation would allow judicial officers, including justices, judges, district attorneys and clerks of court, to list a business address on a statement of economic interest and to keep their home addresses and the names of their unemancipated minor children confidential.

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](#)