

NC BAR ASSOCIATION

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

UPDATE

A Publication of the NCBA Office of Governmental Affairs

Volume 4, Number 4 • March 23, 2009 • www.ncbar.org



GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RELEASED

Governor Perdue released her proposed budget for the upcoming biennium last week. With the state facing a budget shortfall of over \$3 billion, Governor Perdue's \$21 billion budget proposes to close the gap with increased cuts, increased taxes and the help of federal stimulus money. Proposed cuts as they relate to the Judicial Branch include:

- Reduction in judicial salaries of four percent
- Freezing of step increases for salaries of magistrates and clerks
- Reduction in funding for Dispute Resolution Centers
- Elimination of Sentencing Services Program
- Elimination of pass-through funding to the NC State Bar that provides funding for the Land Loss Prevention Project and the Financial Protection Law Center
- Reduction in funding for Center for Death Penalty Litigation and Prisoner Legal Services

The budget also proposes an increase in licensure fees for professional services, including attorneys, of \$150.

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](#).

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.

2009 NCBA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Please click the link below to access the 2009 NCBA Legislative Agenda.

[2009 NCBA Legislative Agenda](#)

BILL TRACKING

The Office of Governmental Affairs will be reviewing, on a continuing basis, all legislation that is introduced during the 2009 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](#)

ABA

The ABA *Washington Letter*, provided by the ABA Office of Governmental Affairs, provides up-to-date information to the legal profession on federal legislative issues. Please click the link below to access the latest edition.

[March 2009 Washington Letter](#)

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](#)