

NC BAR ASSOCIATION

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

UPDATE

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SENATE PASSES BUDGET

Last week the Senate passed its proposed \$20 billion budget for the 2009-2011 biennium. Similar to the Governor, the Senate proposes to close the gap with spending cuts, increased taxes and the help of federal stimulus money. Proposed cuts as they relate to the Judicial Department are detailed below:

- Reduction in judicial salaries of four percent
- Reduction in information technology funding
- Elimination of vacant positions at AOC
- Reduction in employee travel budget
- Freezing of step increases for salaries of magistrates and clerks
- Reduction in funding for Dispute Resolution Centers
- Reduction of pass-through funding to the NC State Bar that provides funding for the Civil Justice Act, the Land Loss Protection Center and the Financial Protection Law Center
- Elimination of funding for the \$7,000 annual subsistence allowance for Superior Court judges
- Requires AOC to manage additional reductions totaling \$9.4 million

NCBA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The North Carolina Bar Association Legislative Agenda for the 2009-2010 Session has been finalized. The Office of Governmental Affairs has secured bill sponsors for Section sponsored legislation that was submitted and the bills have been introduced. Please [click here](#) to access the complete Legislative Agenda.

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.

AROUND THE BAR ASSOCIATION

The Board of Governors of the NCBA meets on April 24-25 in Asheboro to consider all action requests from the Office of Governmental Affairs. Watch for a full report of action taken to be included in the *Governmental Affairs Update* following the meeting.

DEVELOPING ISSUES IN THE NCGA

NC Open Book

Governor Perdue announced the launch NC Open Book, a web site that allows people to search for information on state government contracts and grant awards. [Click here](#) to view the site.

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](#)

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](#)