



## ***LEGISLATIVE UPDATE June 7, 2007***

---

### ***SINE DIE 6/7/07***

The first Session of the 117th South Carolina General Assembly came to a close Thursday, June 7th. While legislators did not agree on much, like DOT Reform, Worker's Comp and the State Budget, they did agree on a Sine Die Resolution that will bring them back later in June to further discuss these issues. Since this is the first session of a two year legislative cycle all bills will maintain their current position until the next legislative session. The following reports on the status of legislation concerning SPD's:

**H.3726, Representative Cato**, the Dissolution Legislation, remains in the House Special Laws Subcommittee.

**H.4105, Representative Doug Smith**, the joint resolution provides for an advisory referendum to be conducted at the same time as the next party primaries to determine if the qualified electors of Spartanburg County favor legislation which would make it easier for municipalities to annex unincorporated areas. The bill passed the House and the Senate referred it to the Spartanburg Delegation.

**H.3145, Representative Talley**, this bill would devolve the authority for appoints for certain offices, Boards and Commissions from the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation to the Spartanburg County Council. The bill received second reading but was then committed to the Spartanburg Delegation on June 7th by Representative Talley.

**S.201, Senator Ritchie**, this bill would allow a city council to annex an area by ordinance if the area is completely surrounded by the city. The cities have entitled this legislation the "Community Unification Act". Remains in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**S.202, Senator Ritchie**, this bill would allow an alternate method of municipal annexation based on certain population density and development criteria. Remains in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**S.203, Senator Ritchie**, this bill would change current annexation procedures by lowering from seventy-five to sixty percent of freeholders, property owners outside the city limits, who must sign a petition with the city to be annexed and lower the percentage of assessed value of property from seventy-five to sixty percent that must be owned by those property owners. Remains in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**H.3045, Representative Cooper**, AN ACT TO ENACT THE "VOLUNTEER STRATEGIC ASSISTANCE AND FIRE EQUIPMENT PILOT PROGRAM (V-SAFE)" WHOSE PURPOSE, CONTINGENT UPON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATING APPROPRIATE FUNDS, IS TO OFFER GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER AND COMBINATION FIRED DEPARTMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND REGIONAL RESPONSE AREAS FROM INCIDENTS OF FIRE, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, TERRORISM, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFETY OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS. Was Ratified on June 7, 2007 and now awaits the Governor's signature.

At this point, the Eminent Domain Study Committee has not met to discuss their proposals; however at the last meeting there was a proposal to keep SPD's power to condemn intact. If there are any questions on this or any of the above legislation please contact the SPD Association Office.

---