



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 1/15/2009

The first regular session of the 118th South Carolina General Assembly began Tuesday, January 13, 2009. On Opening day the Senate passed new rules that will allow for roll call votes on more pieces of Legislation. Bills that create a new tax, raise or reduce an existing tax must receive a recorded “yea” or “nay” vote from Senate Members. Also, bills that affect pay, benefits or retirement of legislators, judges, executive branch of state government, vetoes, heavily amended House bills and bills with a fiscal impact of more than \$10,000.

H.3006, Rep. Harrison, is a joint resolution proposing a Constitutional Amendment to authorize the General Assembly, by special or local law, to abolish a Special Purpose District and transfer its assets and liabilities to an assuming service provider. The bill was read a first time and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. The House is expected to be on furlough next week due to the President-Elect Barack Obama’s Inauguration.

SPD’s, please contact Members of the House Judiciary Committee, on the list provided, and request they oppose H.3006, which provides a Constitutional Amendment to abolish Special Purpose Districts.

SPD’s are opposed to this legislation for the following reasons:

1. SPD’s are the third form of local government in the State and local governments should not be easily abolished by simple procedures.
2. Citizens of the district should decide the fate of their district because they asked that their district be created.
3. Impact on the bond market that would effect all local governments (Cities, Counties, SPD’s).