



SCASPD LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 1/19/07

Governor Sanford gave his fifth State of the State Address on Wednesday. Sanford asked lawmakers to join him in restructuring state government and called it the number one priority to better State Government and in turn, people's lives. Sanford, since he has been in office, has wanted to change most of the constitutional offices from being elected positions to appointed positions and this year it seems the legislature is poised to do so.

There was no change, as of yet, in the status of the four bills reported on in last week's legislative update; however, the time is now, please contact your legislator and raise your concerns about the following bills:

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 bill was introduced and referred to 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. The bill was introduced and referred to 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. The bill was introduced and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

H.3145, Representative Talley, this bill would devolve the authority for appointments and for certain offices, boards, and commissions from the joint legislative delegation representing Spartanburg County to the Spartanburg County Council.

The following legislation was introduced this week:

S.289, Senators Bryant and Ryberg, this bill would not allow a city to require annexation as a condition to provide utility services. The bill was introduced and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Please contact your Senate and House Member and encourage them to support this legislation to stop aggressive annexation procedures.

H.3286, Representative Crawford, this bill would provide each local and state emergency, fire, and law enforcement agency shall either: (1) adopt plain language communications as outlined by the Department of Homeland Security as its agency's standard; or (2) implement and submit for review by the State Law Enforcement Division a plan for the use of plain language communication during periods of a declared emergency. The bill was introduced and referred to the House Education and Public Works Committee.

*** A strategic planning session, in place of the Leadership Program, has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 27th, 2007. Mark your calendar! More information to follow...**

