



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2/20/2009

The Senate passed legislation this week that would restructure the State Ports Authority. After a lengthy debate, the Senate was able to reach a compromise on the oversight of the Ports Authority by limiting the Governor's power over the Ports Authority Board. The bill will also add a layer of upper-level management, add language that supports opening a port in Jasper County and limit the terms of Ports Authority Board Members from seven years to five years.

H.3556, Rep. Loftis, is a bill to change the name of the Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority to Renewable Water Resources. The bill was read a third time in the House and sent to the Senate. **S.449, Senator Fair**, is a companion bill that resides on the Senate Local and Uncontested Second Reading Calendar. The Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority supports this legislation and requested that it be introduced.

S.452, Senator Campbell, is a bill titled the South Carolina Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use, and Reporting Act. The bill was read a first time and referred to the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. This is one of several bills that have been introduced concerning surface water permitting (S.275 & H.3577). At this time, we expect the Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting, Use, and Reporting Act legislation to be developed in the Senate. Please contact the Association Office for a copy of the entire bill.

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 status of the bill has remained unchanged.