



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 3/24/06

A Senate Subcommittee met Tuesday and Thursday to discuss proposed property tax reform plans. The Subcommittee seems to be moving forward with a proposal that will increase the state sales tax by a ½ cent and use a portion of the \$300 generated to provide relief to the county operations part of property tax. Also, homeowners will pay **no more** than 5% of their income on property taxes, which is a concept called a “circuit breaker”. The Subcommittee will meet again Tuesday to finalize the proposal.

The House spent the week positioning itself to tackle the budget next week beginning with a rare Monday session. The House has to approve a budget plan by March 31st or the session will be extended one day for every day past the deadline.

Update on Eminent Domain

A Senate Subcommittee began debate on their version of the Eminent Domain bill, **S.1030**. Currently this bill does not change the way SPD’s can exercise their power of Eminent Domain. Also, the bill does not include the “takings legislation”, however there will be a strong push by certain organizations to include it in the Senate bill. It is anticipated that the subcommittee will meet again next week (March 28-30th) to discuss **S.1030** and the House version of the bill **H.4503**. Members of the Senate Subcommittee include: Senator Gregory (Chair), Senator Elliot, Senator Ford, Senator Rankin, Senator Sheheen, and Senator Campsen.

H.3184, *Harrison*, is a bill that provides appeals from the ALJ involving DHEC may be appealed to the Court of Appeals. The bill streamlines the appeal process cutting out a second opportunity for the DHEC board to review action on permits. The bill has been returned to the House with amendments and will be debated in the House on Wednesday April 5, 2006.

Time is Running Out!
Register now, for the 2006 SPD Leadership Program!
Tuesday, April 25, 2006
(Registration 9:30 am)
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
The Summit Club
Columbia, SC