



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 4/7/06

The Senate gave key approval to a controversial bill Thursday, **S.1205** that will keep counties from further regulating poultry operations. The bill did not take cities ability to regulate poultry farms away. If the bill passes the House, then only DHEC will regulate poultry farms outside cities. The bill will also nullify stricter poultry ordinances in some counties that have adopted them.

A Senate Finance Committee met Tuesday to finalize a proposed property tax reform plan **H.4449**. The committee approved a proposal that will increase the state sales tax by 1 cent and half of the \$670 million in revenue will provide relief to the school operations part of vehicle tax. About \$200 million of the remainder would provide relief for school operating taxes on homes and the rest would provide for a 5% “circuit breaker”. The bill has already been set for special order on the Senate Calendar and debate will begin soon.

Update on Eminent Domain

A Senate Subcommittee renewed debate Thursday on their version of the Eminent Domain bill, **S.1030**, ***Campsen***. The subcommittee heard testimony on proposed amendments to **S.1030** from the Greenville Redevelopment Authority, S.C. Association of Realtors, SCDOT, and the Electric Cooperatives. It appears that the subcommittee will not include the “takings legislation” or change the way SPD’s and other governmental entities can exercise their power of Eminent Domain. As we understand the Subcommittee will meet Thursday, April 13th to finalize **S.1030**. Members of the Senate Subcommittee include: Senator Gregory (Chair), Senator Elliot, Senator Ford, Senator Rankin, Senator Sheheen, and Senator Campsen.

The House spent much of the week debating a controversial worker’s comp bill which they passed. **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. Debate on the bill was adjourned until Tuesday, April 18th.

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