



## ***LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 4/13/06***

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### ***Update on Eminent Domain***

Eminent Domain bill, **S.1030**, was given a favorable report by a Senate Subcommittee on Thursday and will move on to the full Senate Judiciary Committee. The amended bill did not include the “takings legislation” or change the way SPD’s and other governmental entities can exercise their power of Eminent Domain. Also, as we understand there will be a study committee developed to further research who should have the power of Eminent Domain. The bill is expected to be discussed by the Senate Judiciary Committee next week.

***Property tax reform plan, H.4449.*** The Senate spent Thursday afternoon discussing a different property tax plan proposed by Senator Larry Grooms. His \$2.4 billion proposal would increase the state sales tax by 2 cents, raise cigarette taxes about \$1, increase the cap on vehicle taxes to \$900.00 and triple tax on beer, wine, and liquor. His proposal would also do away with school operating taxes at the county level and provide for a 2/3 reduction in personal auto taxes. The Senate did not vote on the Grooms proposal but it did develop some momentum.

**S.1346, *Sheheen*,** provides that DHEC will provide public notice before issuing a construction permit for a facility that stores sludge or other residuals that is not located at the site of an existing wastewater or sludge treatment facility. The bill was referred to the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

***Have a Happy and Safe Easter!***