



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 4/21/06

Property tax reform plan, H.4449. The Senate again spent Thursday afternoon discussing another property tax plan proposed by Senator Campsen. His plan includes a “local option” where voters in each county would decide to raise sales tax to pay for the school operations portion of property tax. The Senate voted and agreed to use the Campsen plan as a framework when the property tax debate resumes May 2nd. The Senate will tackle the budget next week.

Eminent Domain bill, S.1030, was on the agenda to be discussed by full Senate Judiciary Committee, however they did meet due to the property tax reform debate. 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.

S.1354, *Senators Pickney and Richardson,* this bill provides for changes in the annexation notification procedure. At this point, legal counsel is reviewing the proposed legislation. The bill was just introduced and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

S.1354, *Cooper,* this bill will enact the “Volunteer Strategic Assistance and Fire Equipment Act of 2006 (V-SAFE)” that requires the General Assembly to appropriate funds annually for grants that must be awarded to certain volunteer and combination fire departments. The bill received a favorable report from the House Ways and Means Committee.

****For your convenience directions to the Summit Club for the 2006 Leadership Program are provided on the back. Thanks!***