



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 5/12/06

Property tax reform plan, H.4449 the Senate came to agreement on a property tax reform plan that will allow county-by-county referendums. The plan would provide tax relief to all classes of property if local residents decide in a referendum to do so. To change their current system, local residents must vote and approve a sales tax increase. They can petition on the ballot for a sales tax swap or county council can come up with a plan for approval. The plan does not include a statewide sales tax increase. The House is expected to deny the plan, which will send it to conference committee to reach an agreement.

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 has passed the Senate and received a favorable report from House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

H.4366, *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 is awaiting debate in the Senate Finance Committee

H.5064, *J.E. Smith*, this bill would delete the authority of the Richland County Recreation Commission to levy ad valorem property taxes upon taxable property for operating or capital purposes and to issue general obligation bonds or revenue bonds of the district and the authority will be transferred to the Richland County Council. Debate on the bill has been adjourned until Tuesday, May 23, 2006

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 Governor vetoed the bill and in rare occurrence the House sustained his veto.

