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RELIEF PROPOSED FOR COUNTY MEDICAID BURDEN

Two bills introduced this week would phase out the county share of the non-federal share of Medicaid costs. [H132](#), introduced by Rep. Edd Nye (Bladen), would phase out the county share over a six-year period, cap county Medicaid costs at 2004-05 levels, and, for counties where the number of Medicaid-eligible individuals exceeds 25 percent of the population, reduce the county Medicaid share to two-thirds of the reduced share or two-thirds of the share paid in 2004-05, whichever is less. The proposal represents the recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Medicaid Reform. **The bill, if enacted, would accomplish the highest priority goal adopted by the Association.**

A second bill introduced this week, incorporates the phaseout of county Medicaid expenditures and the cap on county costs at 2004-05 levels. [H149](#), introduced by Rep. Julia Howard (Davie), begins the phaseout in the upcoming 2005-06 fiscal year.

Both bills provide significant relief sought by counties and are supported by the Association.

BILLS OF INTEREST

CORRECTIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Introductions

[H29](#) “To prohibit the possession or operation of video gaming machines except by a federally recognized Indian tribe as authorized by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and a valid Tribal-State Compact.” Rep. Ronnie Sutton (Robeson). **If enacted, this bill would accomplish an Association Legislative Goal.** It is identical to [S6](#), introduced last week in the Senate, and would ban video poker except on Indian reservations. The bill was referred to the House Rules Committee.

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Introductions

H30 **“To allow a trial project for voting by mail in municipal elections and referenda conducted in May of 2005.”** Rep. Jennifer Weiss (Wake), Sen. Richard Stevens (Wake). Each of these identical bills would allow the State Board of Elections to conduct pilot elections upon the request of a City Council and a County Board of Elections in a municipality with a population of 90,000 or more. **H30** was referred to the House Rules Committee. **S33** was referred to the Senate Committee on State Government.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Introductions

S72 **“To authorize certain counties to expand county Board of Health membership to include a restaurant owner.”** Sen. Kay Hagan (Guilford). This bill would authorize a Board of County Commissioners in a county with a population of over 400,000 to add a 12th member to the board of health who is a restaurant owner. This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

H132 **“To phase out the county share of the nonfederal share of Medicaid costs over a six-year period, to provide that the total county share during the phaseout period shall not exceed the county share paid by each county for the 2004-2005 fiscal year, and to further provide that in certain counties the county share shall be further reduced based on the number of Medicaid-eligible individuals in the county, as recommended by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Medicaid Reform.”** Rep. Edd Nye (Bladen). This bill, explained on page 1, has been referred to the House Health Committee.

H149 **“To phase out the county share of the nonfederal share of Medicaid costs over a five-year period, and to provide that the total share during the phaseout period shall not exceed the county share paid by each county for the 2004-2005 fiscal year.”** Rep. Julia Howard (Davie). This bill, explained on page 1, has been referred to the House Health Committee.

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