

They're back! The North Carolina General Assembly convened yesterday at noon for its 2007 session. This will be the "long" session during which there will be no limitation on the kinds or types of bills that can be introduced. The first order of business was the election of the House and Senate leadership. As expected, Rep. Joe Hackney was elected Speaker of the House, and Sen. Marc Basnight was elected President Pro Tem of the Senate. Committee appointments could take the better part of two weeks to complete, so there will be a lull in committee activity during the session's opening days.

Rep. Mitchell Setzer (R-Catawba) introduced **HB 2 - Long-Term Care Tax Credit**, which would restore the LTC tax credit under NCGS 105-151.28 (15% of premium costs up to \$350). Sen. Julia Boseman introduced **SB 12 - Recovery of Costs in Civil Actions**, which would clarify the trial court's discretion in the awarding of costs.

The Legislature will not meet tomorrow, and will convene again as usual on Monday evening, January 29. The General Assembly has traditionally not met during the day on Mondays or Fridays, confining its work week to Monday evenings and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. That schedule can change during crossover week and when adjournment looms.

The General Assembly is back at work. I will keep you advised as to developments of interest, and would welcome your thoughts, questions and comments at any time.

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