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**Legislative Report
March 10, 2017**

This week legislation was introduced to give the juvenile criminal justice system jurisdiction over 16- and 17-year-olds regarding nonviolent crimes and low-level offenses. On Wednesday, Representative Chuck McGrady (R-Henderson) filed House Bill 280, The Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act. The bill establishes that a 16- or 17-year-old who commits certain crimes will be tried as a juvenile -- not as an adult. North Carolina is one of two states that automatically prosecutes people as young as 16 as adults. Violent felonies and some drug offenses would still be considered in adult court. The bill has a bipartisan list of 30 co-sponsors and four primary sponsors.

Certain members of the House are calling for the creation of a felony offense for what they call "economic terrorism." House Bill 249 defines the term as committing a crime with the intent to intimidate people or influence public policy and that crime impedes the normal course of a business or a government agency, resulting in the loss of at least \$1,000. Such crimes include trespassing or blocking streets. Under the proposal, anyone found guilty of economic terrorism would face four months to more than two years in prison, could be sued for damages of at least \$50,000 and could be held liable for the costs of police and other public safety personnel who respond to the disturbance. Representative John Torbett (R-Gaston) said the legislation is meant to address violent protests that close streets and harm businesses. He cited protests in Charlotte after a fatal police shooting last September that became violent and left businesses damaged. Torbett said his bill is not aimed at peaceful events. Rather, he said, there is a rising level of violence at public protests.

Governor Roy Cooper (D-Nash) is scheduled to deliver his first State of the State Address to a joint session of the legislature Monday March 13th at 7:00 p.m. Senators will join House members in the House Chamber for Governor Cooper's first address to the legislature since he took office in January 2017. Governor Cooper is expected to outline his goals for his administration, with a heavy emphasis on education, the economy, and his state budget and funding requests.

The legislature adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene next Monday evening.

BILLS OF INTEREST

House Bill 261, Displaced Residential Land Tax Deferral, would create a property tax deferral program for permanent residences that are subsequently rezoned for nonresidential uses. The bill provides that displaced residential land is designated a special class of property under Section 2(2) of Article V of the North Carolina Constitution and must be appraised, assessed, and taxed in accordance with this section. For purposes of this section, "displaced residential land" means a person's legal residence, including the dwelling, the dwelling site, and related improvements. The dwelling may be a single-family residence, a unit in a multifamily residential complex, or a

manufactured home. The bill establishes the procedure for an owner to apply for the designation. **Introduced by Representatives Millis, Howard and Warren and referred to the House State and Local Government II Committee, and if favorable House Finance Committee.**

House Bill 264, Disqualify Certain Property From PUV, would disqualify property which contains a solar energy electric facility where the energy generated by the system is not solely used by the owner for the benefit of the land from the present-use value classification.

Introduced by Representatives Dixon, J. Bell, Collins and Adams and referred to the House Energy Committee, and if forwarded to House Finance Committee.

For more information about legislation described in the legislative reports, feel free to contact me at dferrell@vanblk.com or (919) 754-1171. Information is also available on the General Assembly's website: www.ncga.state.nc.us.

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