

Insurance bill on Senate floor

by Richard Cowperthwait
Staff Writer

RALEIGH—Action was expected Wednesday in the Senate on a bill that would abolish age and sex criteria in setting automobile insurance rates. Most observers expected Senate approval of the bill.

Currently, male drivers under 25, regardless of their driving records, pay the highest insurance rates.

The bill, passed in the House by a 2-1 margin, and in the Senate Finance

Committee last week, has been strongly pushed by state Insurance Commissioner John Ingram, who has made the bill the cornerstone of his legislative program. Ingram has actively lobbied recently in the Assembly for the bill which is strongly opposed by the insurance industry.

After the House passed the bill, Ingram wrote letters to the editors of newspapers in the legislators' home districts praising those legislators who voted for the bill.

Under the bill, different use categories would be established for drivers and rates

would be based solely on a driver's use category and his driving record. Drivers with violations on their record would have to pay a surcharge on their premiums.

In reporting the bill favorably, the Senate Insurance Committee added two amendments which were not included in the House-passed bill. The first would automatically repeal the bill after a two-year trial necessitating review by the 1977 legislature.

The other amendment would permit the insurance rating bureau to set rates with the insurance commissioner's approval. The House-passed version gave the commissioner absolute control over rates.

Ingram said Tuesday the two amendments were not necessary. "I'm hopeful the full Senate will do something to strike them from the bill."

Sen. George Marion Jr., D-Surry, said Tuesday efforts would be made on the Senate floor to remove the two amendments from the bill.

Marion, a supporter of the bill, said there would be no problem passing the bill in the Senate without the two amendments.

While the car insurance bill is headed for enactment by the General Assembly, another bill designed to promote land use planning and restrict development in western North Carolina appears to have no chance of passage this session.

The Mountain Area Management Act would affect over 20 western N.C. counties and would require them to have land use plans in accordance with state goals. The bill would prohibit development in designated "environmental concern" areas.

The bill is still locked in the Senate Natural and Economic Resources Committee and the House Water and Air

Resources Committee. According to several legislative sources, neither committee will report the bill.

These sources noted that while the bill could be reported out of the Senate committee and could possibly be passed by the full Senate, it stands no chance of passage in the House. Thus, the bill will be withdrawn from the committees this session and reactivated in the 1977 session when the sources expect it to pass.

The bill is sponsored in the House by Rep. Jack Stevens, D-Buncombe, and in the Senate by Sen. Willis Whichard, D-Durham. Whichard was instrumental in getting the General Assembly to pass the landmark Coastal Area Management Act, after which the mountain bill is patterned, last session.

While some observers expected the Mountain Area Management Act to have a relatively easy time getting approval in wake of the passage of the coastal bill, the sources said they didn't expect passage of the bill this session.

The bill has evoked intense opposition from local governmental officials in western N.C. as well as from that area's legislators.

One of the few western legislators who supports the bill, Rep. Fred Dorsey, R-Henderson, said Tuesday, "If we don't pass the bill, we'll leave a legacy of honky-tonk development in the mountains."

A \$2,000 mistake

Jennie Lund thought she was getting pennies from heaven last week when she got a tuition refund of over \$2,000. They turned out to be bad pennies.

Thursday the University made her give it back. The refund was due to a typographical error.

The \$2,000-typo was made on a letter which changed her residency from out-of-state to in-state for tuition purposes. The letter stated that the change was effective for the summer of 1974 but should have read 1975, making the change in her residency

seem retroactive.

Lund said she called the Cashier's Office when she saw the error in the letter, but they told her there was no mistake since their copy of the letter had the same date.

The Admissions Office discovered the error later when someone cleaned out a file, Lund said.

"Some guy behind me in line said, 'Take it (the money) they'll change their minds' when I first got the refund," Lund said.

Unfortunately for her, the guy was right.

Campus Calendar

Runners, come do your workout with us Sunday and on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. Meet at Fetzer Field Track. No racing experience necessary. Community Runners.

The Campus Governing Council will meet Tuesday, June 10 at 6 p.m. in the Union.

Joel R. Williamson of the History Department will speak at 8 p.m. June 12 at the weekly meeting of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Literary Societies, 300 New West. His subject is "W.J. Cash and the Two Minds of the South".

Veterans! Interested in summer fun and working for benefits? Vet's Club meeting, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 10 in Room 217 of the Union.

ECOS, INC. needs the volunteer help of anyone who could cut clippings concerning environmental issues from several local newspapers. Interested people should contact ECOS at its office in Suite A of the Union. Please leave a note.

Any female student who will be enrolled in UNC this fall is eligible to sign up for sorority rush. Sign up Monday, 3-4 p.m., in the Pan Hellenic Office, Room 262-B of the Union.

The Morehead Planetarium's current program, "Unearthly Life", will be shown every evening at 8 p.m., and at the following weekend afternoon times: 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday. Admission prices: \$1.50 Adult, \$1.00 Student, 75¢ Child.

The Morehead Planetarium's North Art Gallery is featuring an art exhibit by Susan Pollard.

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THE OLD BOOK CORNER

137 A East Rosemary Street
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A Women's Outdoor Cultural Festival will take place from 10 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, June 7, at Umstead Park in Chapel Hill (train date June 8th). Activities will include drama, music, poetry, dance, crafts and much more.

The Summer Media Board will meet Monday at 3 p.m. in the Union.

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