Arena

multi-purpose facility sponsoring several different entertainment and educational events. It will only be used for basketball about 15 percent of the time."

Sen. Wendell Murphy, D-Duplin, supported the proposed arena, saying that his constituents in Duplin County, as well as many other people who live east of Raleigh, aren't served by facilities in Chapel Hill, Greensboro and Charlotte.

"People from Raleigh all the way to the coast don't have a facility like this," Murphy said. "The general public would like to go see an ACC basketball game, but under the existing structure, there is no opportunity for that. In this arena, half of the seats would be reserved for the public, and I think that makes it a fair way to go about running a facility."

Sen. Helen Marvin, D-Gaston, said that she thought the spending priorities of the General Assembly were out of order.

"They already have a basketball arena at N.C. State, and the city of Raleigh is talking about building one," Marvin said. "North Carolina is not hurting for another basketball arena, but we do need a building for the School of Social Work, which has been overlooked for far too many years."

The School of Social Work at the

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has filed numerous requests with the legislature for a new building, but has been denied funding.

Ken Maness, a member of Raleigh's Downtown Planning Board, said that the city did have a threepoint proposal for expanding Memorial Auditorium and the Civic Center, and a large arena was part of that plan, but that NCSU's Centennial Center has put a hold on things.

"A good deal of how the city proceeds on these proposals depends on how N.C. State's plans turn out," Maness said.

According to James Evans, director of the Greensboro Coliseum, a facility like the proposed arena in Raleigh may be in for hard times not because of debate over legislative spending priorities, but because individual ticket buyers are already supporting as many arenas as the region can hold.

"There's only so much business for this market, and if you spread it around, it's going to weaken all of us, unquestionably," Evans said. "I think people may have discounted the Winston-Salem facility opening up in August. It seats 14,800, which is almost as big as our facility and they're only 25 miles from our doorstep. From our perspective, we have that (Winston-Salem arena), the Smith Center, the new Charlotte building and now this Raleigh building all competing with each other and us."

"People have to pick and choose

between what events they want to go to," Evans said. "You can oversaturate the market and, without question, that's what is happening right now."

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the governor wanted to have a "talent mix of new people as well as people who have served already."

BOT

Prather added that the governor's decision was not an indication that he was dissatisfied with Perry's performance as a board member. "Serving on the Board of Trustees is a very prestigious position," Prather said. "There is quite a bit of competition for the available spots, and he (Martin) can't appoint everyone. The fact that he does not reappoint someone does not necessarily mean that the person did not do a good job."

