

Submerged Land Bills Clear Last House Votes

Five bills intended to help resolve claims to submerged lands in coastal counties passed the State House of Representatives last Tuesday with little debate.

Three passed with unanimous votes, while a fourth drew objections from only a few members. Most discussion centered around H.B. 111, which would establish title to raised lands covered by deeds issued by the State Board of Education, or by permits issued under the Dredge and Fill Act or under the Coastal Area Management Act.

Rep. David Redwine said he attempted, unsuccessfully, to amend the bill to include lands originally conveyed by land grants issued in the 1600s by Charles II of England to the eight Lords Proprietors of the Carolinas.

Redwine did succeed in amending H.B. 112 so that it would not apply to any pending litigation. The bill provides that land subject to public trust rights may not be acquired by adverse possession or "squatting."

Public trust rights are established by common law and include such rights as fishing, swimming and hunting in watercourses and access to and use of beaches.

Redwine said he and several other legislators plan to co-sponsor an amendment to a bill that revises the methods for issuing shellfish leases.

Redwine wants to prohibit issuance of shellfish leases in waters that are heavily used for recreational purposes. The existing statute states

that leased shellfish beds must be "compatible" with other uses, such as navigation, fishing and recreation.

Also last week, Redwine said his Committee on Children and Youth held a public hearing on legislation that would require fingerprinting of child daycare workers. Most speakers favored the measure, but opponents said it was a precursor to a "police state."

The intent of the bill is to help identify individuals who have a record of child abuse or sexual abuse before they are employed by day care facilities. The legislation would not apply to volunteer groups such as the Boy Scouts.

Redwine also plans to fight a recommendation from the Human Resources Appropriations Subcommittee to eliminate \$961,000 in state funds for mosquito control in 21 counties, including Brunswick. The subcommittee suggested that more than half the money is spent for "water projects." No studies have been made to determine whether the control efforts work.

"In my opinion," said Redwine in his weekly report, "(eliminating the funds) would create a terrible health problem in Brunswick, Pender and New Hanover counties."

In Brunswick the control money is used to spray insecticides and to dig drainage ditches.

In other legislative action, a bill recently introduced in the Senate would give local health departments more flexibility in issuing permits for

small septic tank systems.

At present public and community sewage systems of all types—such as the septic tank for Town Creek Township Park installed last year—must be approved the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

The bill would provide for approval from the Division of Health

Resources' local health departments for systems designed to discharge effluent below the surface. Those discharging on the surface—land or water—would still require approval from NRCD.

While the bill is intended to speed up issuance of the public utility permits, but might also affect the state's dual system of obtaining permits for

large treatment systems. Depending upon the legal structure of the package plant, the permit might be obtained from either of the two state agencies.

A bill also has been introduced that would provide state protection to the Venus flytrap as an endangered species. Another bill, which has passed the house, would make owners of

oceanfront erosion-control devices liable for damage the structures cause to adjacent beach property.

Presently the plaintiffs must prove faulty construction of the device to win a judgment.

Existing structures would be exempted and only the property owner who built the device—or subsequent owners—would be subject to liability.

Girl Chased By Dog Hit By Car Saturday

A 7-year-old girl remained in serious condition Tuesday after being struck by a car Saturday on N.C. 179 near Ocean Isle Beach, the State Highway Patrol reported.

Kellie Michelle Tew, of Route 4, Box 405, Dunn, was struck by a car driven by Wanda Floyd Anderson, 30, of Route 5, Box 472, Shallotte, according to State Trooper B.C. Jones' report.

According to Jones, Miss Tew was

running away from a dog when she ran onto the highway about 1.6 miles south of Ocean Isle Beach and was struck by Ms. Anderson's 1976 Chrysler.

She was taken to the Brunswick Hospital in Supply, but was later transferred to the New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington where she was listed in serious condition.

The accident occurred around 2:25 p.m. Saturday. No charges were filed

by Jones. Ms. Anderson was not injured.

In another accident Saturday, five persons received minor injuries following a two-car collision on U.S. 17 about 13 miles south of Shallotte.

Nell M. Hudson, 47, of Fayetteville, was charged with a stop sign violation after she failed to stop for a stop sign while making a right turn onto U.S. 17 from RPR 1165, State Trooper J.V. Dove reported.

Hudson's 1985 Oldsmobile struck a 1984 Lincoln Continental driven by John R. Giarrusso, 61, of Flemington, N.J., in the 4:15 accident, Dove reported.

Giarrusso and a passenger in his car, May D. Giarrusso, 58, were taken to the Brunswick Hospital in Supply with minor injuries. Also transported to the hospital were Ms. Hudson and two passengers in her car, Jane Cheney, 44, and Missy Cheney, 18, both from Fayetteville.

Robbery Suspects Get Prison Terms

A Riegglewood couple charged with attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon and larceny of a Shallotte resident's vehicle pleaded guilty to lesser charges in Brunswick County Superior Court last week and received active prison terms.

Edward Douglas Crisp, 23, and Wendy Jo Southerland Crisp, 21, of Route 2, Riegglewood, both pleaded guilty to unauthorized use of a conveyance. Edward Crisp also pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault with a deadly weapon while charges of attempted armed robbery were dismissed against Ms. Crisp.

Judge B. Craig Ellis sentenced Crisp to two years in prison, to be served at the expiration of a federal sentence the defendant is now serving. Ms. Crisp was given a six-month active prison sentence to be served at

the women's facility at the N.C. Department of Corrections.

Ms. Crisp was also sentenced to two years in prison, suspended for three years and placed on three years supervised probation. She was given credit for time already served in the Brunswick County Jail.

Both suspects were arrested in Whiteville on April 11 and charged by Shallotte Police Sgt. Rodney Gause with robbery with a dangerous weapon and larceny of a van.

The suspects were charged with allegedly attempting to rob James Luther Smith, 41, of Route 2, Shallotte, at knifepoint and taking his 1969 Ford van on N.C. 130 in Shallotte. Police officers recovered the van and suspects in Whiteville about an hour after the incident.

Woman Appeals Setting Fire Case

A Leland woman convicted last week in Brunswick County Superior Court of setting fire to a dwelling house plans to appeal her case to the N.C. Court of Appeals.

Rebecca Sneedon Gaylord was found guilty by a Brunswick County jury following 90 minutes of deliberations and was sentenced to three years in prison. Her attorney, Michael Ramos of Shallotte, filed immediate notice of appeal.

Ms. Gaylord was charged last year with setting fire to a dwelling house by Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Douglas "Sonny" Padgett in a fire that destroyed an unoccupied mobile home.

Judge B. Craig Ellis denied two

motions filed by Ramos last Wednesday that asked for dismissal of the charges at the end of the state's evidence and at the end of all evidence.

Setting fire to a dwelling house carries a maximum sentence of ten years in prison and a minimum sentence of three years. In sentencing Ms. Gaylord, Judge Ellis also recommended that she be made eligible for immediate work release and receive psychiatric evaluation and substance abuse evaluation and treatment as necessary.

Following evidence last Wednesday, the jury began deliberating at around 10:30 a.m. and returned with a guilty verdict at 12:04 p.m.

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