

# Redwine Pleased With Legislative Session

BY SUSAN USHER

During the 1985 legislative session, Rep. David Redwine introduced or cosponsored 73 bills, several of which he says could have far-reaching impact on Brunswick County.

In the process, Redwine says he also "did some right things" that bode well for his future in the General Assembly.

Redwine returned home in mid-July from a session that began in February and was criticized for its length, ambivalence and relationship with Gov. Jim Martin.

His smorgasbord of measures responded to farming, fishing, education and business concerns. Eleven bills of a local nature ran the gamut from revoking the charter for the town of Shady Forest to a water extension procedure for the county and a \$500,000 appropriation for the Brunswick Technical College building program.

As 14th District representative, Redwine represents all of Brunswick and parts of New Hanover and Pender counties.

While education bills affect more people, Redwine said an artificial reef program funded by the legislature "may have as big an impact here as anywhere—it's been proven that for every \$1 spent on reefs, you can expect \$10 in tourist-related expenditures."

Brunswick County has the permits and local mechanisms ready to take advantage of the new program quickly.

Redwine was pleased with gaining passage of a farm machinery franchise bill over speculation to the contrary. Another measure of benefit to the farm community makes tobacco leaf assessment payments deductible from state income taxes.

In regard to fishing, Redwine also cosponsored a bill that would have regulated menhaden fishing off the local coast. Instead, a temporary agreement was reached with the fishery companies and Marine Fisheries Commission pending further action by the Commission later this year.

His proposal to finance a study of the need for a salt-water fishing license wasn't funded, leaving two alternatives, Redwine said: drafting a bill during the next session or allowing the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development to conduct its own study.

A local bill that could have long-ranging significance "if done properly" governs installation of water lines in sold-out subdivisions. It allows the county to collect the prorated cost from property owners and reimburse the party or parties that advanced the cash for installation.

"I don't think we were a really 'do-nothing' legislature," he reflected, responding to criticisms of the General Assembly in its final weeks. "We passed the largest tax cut in dollars in the history of the state. It certainly wasn't all the governor asked for. But at the same time, we legislators, after looking at the figures, decided it was not possible to give all that the governor wanted and still do some things we wanted to see done."

The tax package finally adopted, he added, was broader-based than that proposed by Martin, touching the lives of more people.

Redwine cosponsored a bill that provided the Department of Commerce an additional \$1.6 million for tourist-related expenditures. He also cosponsored the measure that allows silent prayer in classrooms across the state.

"I don't think we can go back to any kind of state prayer," he said, "but I also don't think there's nothing wrong constitutionally with a mo-

ment of silence if they want to pray, whatever they want to pray.

"Everyone can use a moment to reflect on who they are and where they are going and what they have to be thankful for."

In other accomplishments, he cited implementation of a basic education plan that includes a career ladder for teachers, pay raises for state employees and "Year of the Child" bills such as day care revisions and establishment of a missing child bureau.

While the General Assembly was criticized for failure to adopt environmental bills affecting the coast, Redwine defended its position.

With more conservative members, he said, the legislature is moving more slowly, "not passing something just because it sounds good."

Also, added Redwine, who represents a predominantly coastal voting population, a lot of legislators are seeing the coast not as "an island unto itself" but as part of a larger whole.

"The days are gone when the coast can be singled out for environmental legislation. The entire state has fragile environments. We can't continue to just address issues in that one area."

The debate over H.B. 540 "got a little out of hand," he said. While state environmental officials told Redwine the bill's passage wouldn't make much difference, the legislature's reluctance to pass the measure drew statewide attention. The bill would have added a review of impact on current and future uses of adjoining water to the items considered by the Coastal Resources Commission in approving CAMA development permits. Redwine said the review is already being done by another state agency under administrative regulations.

"The people I represent tell me 'leave us alone, don't legislate us to death.'"

Redwine said he empathized with that position, being something of a Jeffersonian in the view that less government is better.

One bill he worked particularly hard to pass upped the limit for small

claims from \$1,000 to \$1,500. He originally sought a \$2,000 cap, but ran into opposition from the Office of Administration of the Courts and others.

The maneuvering that led to the compromise figure was just one of the learning experiences in his second year as a legislator. Redwine was appointed to fill the second year of Tom Rabon's term and was re-elected in 1984 to a two-year term. He files for re-election in January.

"I start campaigning tomorrow," he said, a twinkle in his eye as he acknowledged that a legislator never stops running for office.

During the 1985 term, Redwine felt he experienced personal success, learning more of the intricacies of the legislature, "the nuts and bolts" of how things get done, who are the movers and shakers, "who I need to be friends with."



DAVID REDWINE

good for the duration of the two-year term.

He concluded, "With the number of people who say they won't run again and with normal depreciation, I should be in good shape for committee assignments."

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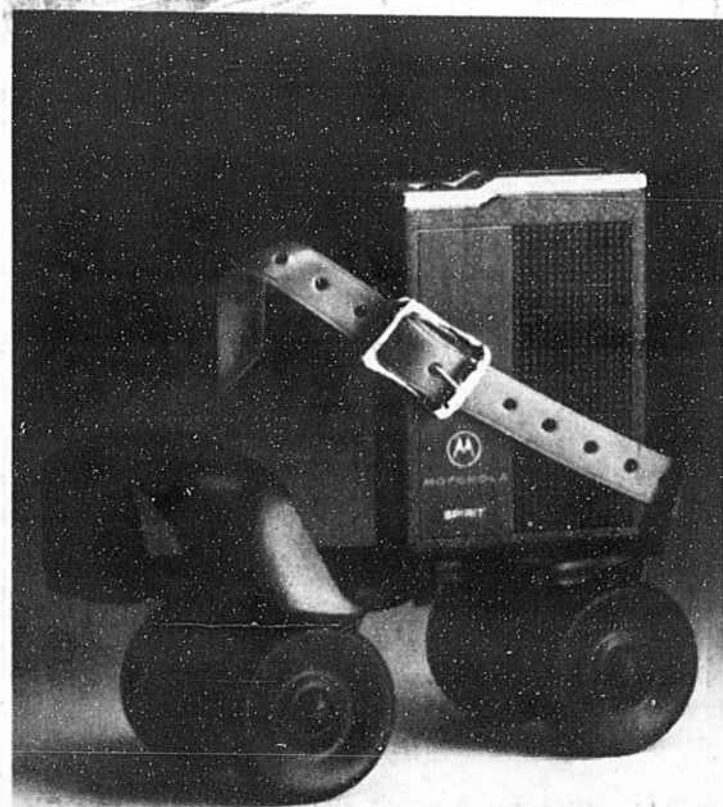
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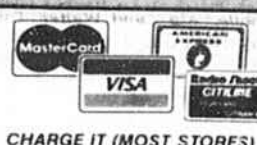
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