

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Institute of Government
Chapel Hill, N. C.

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(The following article was written for last week's issue of the FRANKLIN TIMES, but was received too late to be put in type.—Editor.)

The eighth legislative week, interrupted by a junket to Elizabeth City on February 26, came and went with the Appropriations bill still in committee, and saw most hopes of adjournment by March 8th go glimmering; but the legislative hopper was kept busy by the introduction of 204 bills, a new high for the session.

Of especial interest to local governmental units are bills which would allow the governing body of any city or town of 10,000 or more population by the last census to extend or decrease its corporate units by ordinance annexing or detaching territory; permit municipalities to own and operate parking lots within the city limits; authorize municipalities to furnish fire protection to areas within twelve miles of the city limits; require motor freight carriers to use state highways or truck lanes through cities and towns; exempt from taxation and listing requirements for your realty acquired by counties, cities, townships and school districts in foreclosure of tax liens; authorize county commissioners to defer revaluations of realty until 1943; modify the law relating to issuance of school district funding, and refunding bonds; renew the power of counties, cities and other municipalities to issue revenue bonds to acquire, construct and operate revenue-producing undertakings; make the expenses of the board of viewers in setting up drainage districts a lien, second only to state and county taxes on the lands assessed; restrict debt service apportionment between counties and cities in certain particulars.

Most important item on the education front seems to be the proposed amendments to the 1939 School Machinery Act, which include several changes in the present practice relating to election of teachers, principals and superintendents, and the hiring of

teachers. Other bills would authorize \$50,000 improvements in Appalachian Teachers' College power plant; extend free tuition in state educational institutions to children of fathers who died from World War injuries, regardless of the time of the father's death; and make certain changes in the supervision of business schools and in the custody of funds for vocational education.

Latest administrative reorganization is that proposed by a bill to abolish the office of utilities commissioner and set up a utilities commission of three full-time members, with staggered terms. The members would be appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate.

Highways, motor vehicles and related problems were not forgotten. Bills were proposed to enlarge the motor fuel tax definition and to levy a road use tax on persons operating vehicles propelled by products not within the present definition of motor fuels; to reduce the license fees for private vehicles; to exempt vehicle operators from liability to guests for death or injury except when caused by the operator's gross negligence; and to remove the present gross weight limitations of 10 tons for 2-axled vehicles and 20 tons for vehicles with 3 or more axles.

Of interest to farmers and middlemen is a bill to authorize a "Tar Heel" trade-mark to be used under regulations of the Department of Agriculture, to identify standardized North Carolina farm products. Other bills would revise the present methods of preparing agricultural statistics and increase the powers of the Commissioner of Agriculture to prevent violations of the laws relating to sales of stock and poultry tonics. A standard, optional form of agricultural lien and chattel mortgage is proposed, while two other bills would increase the tonnage tax and alter the marking, grading and inspection requirements for fertilizer, and regulate the manufacture, sale and distribution of agricultural limes and land plaster. Irish potato farmers would benefit by passage of a bill to require vendors of seed potatoes, fertilizer or other supplies to give growers a written guarantee of at least \$5.00 return per bag of seed potatoes planted.

Re-enactment of the substance of the 1937 law setting up a commission to license and regulate real estate brokers (held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court

as it was formerly drawn) headed the list of bills to regulate various commercial activities. Three bills would: (a) require jewelry and silverware auctioneers to prove their citizenship by affidavits from certain county officials; (b) provide for revocation of their licenses by the Insurance Commissioner on specified grounds; (c) regulate auctions of articles with "latent values". Another bill would require proper tagging and branding of second-hand watches. Other bills would reduce the fees for renewal licenses of plumbing and heating contractors; allow mutual associations to pay a \$10 corporate franchise tax, and re-define and limit the powers of the Building Code Council. The powers of the Southport Port Commission would be materially increased by a proposed act, and ticket-scalping at athletic contests would be rendered profitless by a bill to prevent re-sale of any athletic ticket at a price in excess of the price written or printed on the ticket.

Much-needed reforms in the law of adoption in North Carolina are promised by a bill to simplify the process of adoption and to make it more binding on the parties concerned. Other welfare measures proposed would liberalize the rules as to eligibility for old age assistance and aid to dependent children, and authorize the Board of Charities and Welfare to set up a merit system.

Several public health measures were introduced. Among these were bills to prohibit the manufacture and sale of filled milk, to require certain reports to the Dept. of Agriculture by milk distributors and processors, to provide for filing of delayed birth reports, and to include radiology, with certain limitations, as a part of the "practice of medicine."

Bills affecting labor would preserve unemployment benefit rights for employees called into military service; prohibit employment of any person for longer than six consecutive hours without at least half an hour for lunch, and require that persons on an hourly basis of wages be

paid twice a month. "Certain Irresponsible Persons" would be severely penalized by a bill to prevent setting free poisonous snakes or reptiles before audiences or bringing them into dwelling houses when other people are present. The offender would be chargeable with murder if such a snake bites and kills any person in such a situation.

Action on Franklin Bills
SB 170 (Franklin Bond Restrictions)—Passed second reading in Senate, February 28; HB 280 (Franklin Paving Assessments)—Enrolled and ratified, February 28.

It's estimated that 2,350,000 babies were born in U. S. last year. That's a wall of a lot of youngsters.

Statistics show the sale of hair dye on the increase. The old gray hair she ain't what she used to be.

DON'T COUGH YOUR HEAD OFF
ASK FOR MENTHOMULSION
FOR COUGHS FROM COLDS THAT WON'T TURN LOOSE
TAKE ONE SIP OF MENTHOMULSION WAIT FIVE MINUTES
IF YOU FAIL TO GET RELIEF—ASK FOR YOUR MONEY BACK
SCOGGIN'S DRUG STORE

Approximately 30,000 tree seedlings have been delivered to Jackson County farmers this year to be used in planting eroded land, reports G. R. Lackey, farm agent of the Extension Service.

When an idle gossip meets an idle rumor they both go to work.

N. C. U. S. Poultry—Passed
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