

N.C. lending bill draws criticism

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Payday lenders were driven out of North Carolina in March after Attorney General Roy Cooper entered into an agreement with Check Into Cash, Check N'Go and First American Cash Advance.

These lenders, in March, joined Advance America—the largest payday lender in the state—which stopped making loans in September. All agreed to stop collecting on existing loans and pay a total of \$700,000 to help consumers impacted by payday loans.

The need is still there

Earle told the Associated Press that although payday lenders are disappearing consumers will still need financial help. The company that

would issue the loans, Atlanta-based CompuCredit, has been a contributor to Earle's re-election campaigns. According to reports filed with the State Board of Elections, CompuCredit has given at least \$1,000.

"CompuCredit is pushing this bill and I don't think (Earle) understands that this bill doesn't help people in need," Corbett said.

According to the Center for Responsible Lending's web site, consumers who've gotten payday loans found themselves paying thousands of dollars in fees.

Sandra Harris of Wilmington related her experience with payday lending on the site.

"At the time it seemed like a way out, but this is not a

quick fix," she said. "It's like a ton of bricks."

Harris said after her husband lost his job, the couple found themselves in a cash crunch. She took out a \$200 loan from a payday lender, paying \$50. On her next payday, she was ready to pay off the loan. But the clerk, according to the site, told her she could renew the agreement.

Needing to pay other bills, Harris did and took out a larger loan with more fees.

The fees added up and Harris ended up losing her apartment, car and bounced checks.

"When people need a raft," Corbett said, "we don't throw them a brick."

He added that putting the majority of payday lending

companies in black neighborhoods it would have normalized it in those communities.

When those shops were open, African American neighborhoods had three times as many payday lenders per capita as white neighborhoods, according to the center's report.

"This study shows in the starkest terms that African American neighborhoods bear the brunt of predatory payday loans," said Mark Pearce, the center's president.

Corbett said it's typical for payday lobbyists to target black lawmakers.

"I see it across the country. They get the African American legislatures divided," he said.

"Sometimes we are our own worst enemy."

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Unity urged at legislative caucus summit

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right direction. Several groups, including the NAACP, Southerners for Economic Justice and the Women of Color group, participated in the day along with other grassroots organizations.

"It was a good first try," Crowder said.

Robert Wilson, a lobbyist at the state Legislature, said blacks have not pinpointed certain issues to rally around.

"The issue is what drives the people," he said. "We don't have a burning issue as

African Americans, but they vary from place to place."

Rep. Edward Jones, D-Halifax, suggested one rallying point could be education in low-performing schools.

Ronald McElrath of the N.C. Human Relations Commission said Hispanics are willing to work with African Americans because they face many of the same obstacles.

Gail Eluwa, who works for U.S. Rep. Brad Miller, said she's noted that black groups are comfortable with passing information along in their

own circles, but not outside. She feels those databases should be broadened so the information will not just float around in a few choice groups.

Rep. Jean Farmer-Butterfield, D-Edgecombe, said different groups also come to the General Assembly with their own agendas.

"They can come individually, but they can also come together," she said.

Warren Dorsett, the husband of N.C. Sen. Katie Dorsett, D-Guilford, said the

African American constituency across the state needs a nucleus group to determine the problems of the black community and then map out a plan to address them.

"We don't know what our problems are," he said. "Young folks, we've been fooled. We think we've got it made and we've arrived."

Womble still has hope. He would like to see about 20,000 African Americans rally at Legislative Building during next February for Black History Month.

Motivational speaker Les Brown at New Birth

FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Motivational speaker and author Les Brown is coming to Charlotte next month.

Brown's "Maximize Your Millionaire Mindset" will be held at 6 p.m. at New Birth, Charlotte, 604 Doug Mayes Place Shriners Headquarters.

As a professional speaker, author and television personality, Brown has risen to national prominence by delivering a high-

energy presentation that tells people how to recover from mediocrity and live up to their greatness. It is a message Brown has learned from his own life and one he is helping others apply to their lives.

Born a twin in low-income Liberty City in Miami, Fla., Brown and his twin brother, Wes, were adopted when they were six-weeks-old by Mamie Brown. Ms. Brown was a single woman who had very little education or financial means, but a very big heart. As a child Les' inattention to schoolwork, his restless ener-

gy, and the failure of his teachers to motivate and recognize his potential resulted in Brown being mislabeled a slow learner.

The label and the stigma stayed with him, damaging his self-esteem to such an extent that it took several years to overcome.

Since 1986, Brown has been prominent in the public speaking arena full-time and formed his own company, Les Brown Enterprises, providing motivational tapes and materials, workshops, and personal/professional development programs.

Sponsored by AJ Financial, tickets are \$30 in advance and \$45 at the door. To purchase tickets online log onto www.startnowinrich.org. For more information, call (704) 529 2920.



Brown

Parents sue over alleged taping

By Sommer Brockaw
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

DURHAM — Wendell Tabb, a drama teacher at Hillside High, and his wife, Duchess Alicia Stallings, have filed a lawsuit against Durham Public Schools on behalf of their son, alleging his mouth was forcefully taped.

"Today marks the beginning of our legal process, and we will be making our claims in the court of law, not the court of public opinion," said the Tabbs' attorney, Jason Knott, at a press conference.

The complaint alleges that on April 19, 2005, 10-year-old Emanuel Tabb's special needs therapist at Hope Valley Elementary, Jill Mitchell, rebuked him for talking to another student in class. After several minutes had passed without either boy talking, Emmanuel whispered an apology to the student for getting him in trouble. Mitchell allegedly then rebuked him again, and without warning ripped a piece of masking tape from a roll and forcefully placed it over Emmanuel's mouth.

Emmanuel suffers complications from being born three months premature. He is partially blind and has cerebral palsy - a condition caused by damage to the brain and characterized by an inability to control one motor function. He also has asthma.

At the time of the alleged taping, Tabb said that Emmanuel was "no longer able to breathe."

Tabb made an emotional plea.

"Imagine your child having severe asthma, having his mouth bound and taped

shut," he said. "Imagine that the person who taped his mouth shut was the person you trusted to protect your child."

The complaint further alleges that Emanuel has suffered severe mental anguish and physical setbacks as a result of the April 19 incident.

"Imagine watching your special needs child taking several painful steps backward in his mental and psychological development because of the cruel conduct

of his teacher," Tabb said. "No parent or child should ever have to experience such abuse."

Initially, Tabb tried to work through the school system, but said he has not gotten a response from the administration or central office.

Knott said his client wrote a letter to Hope Valley Principal Betsy Knott a day after the alleged incident, requesting an investigation, but never received any response.

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