

April 29, 2009

Dear Members:

I wanted to provide you with a legislative update. Last week 2 very important matters were being heard in committee which allowed the ability to express whether you were for or against and testimony.

HB 1069 – the 18 years or older bill not requiring education and criminal history checks was opposed by many. Many groups testified against this bill. This included Judges, Constables and members of your association. I was one that testified with the belief that this was not in the best interest of our industry. I don't believe those in favor made a compelling argument and it appears this bill will remain dormant. We will continue to monitor it.

HB 397 – the bill in its original form proposing strict licensing was completely rewritten by committee substitute language. This language would help achieve some of your association's original legislative efforts including dropping the requirements for notarizing the return of service and paving the way to allow filing returns of service electronically. Naturally we testified in favor of this as well as a representative of the Office of the Attorney General. It appears this will be passed with slight modification so that it will be assigned to Calendar Committee in its journey to the House floor.

Besides the House side, SB 1388 (the funding bill) was set for the intent calendar and is poised to be passed on the Senate floor anytime now.

Although things appear to be positive with our achievements, we are keenly aware of the time remaining in this session. Each day that passes without a required step in the process being accomplished, our risk of running out of time increases.

We still have many steps to go and your continued help is irreplaceable. Please look for our notices and alerts as we navigate through these very important matters.

Eric Johnson
President