

----- Original Message -----

From: mail@mitchseabaugh.com

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thu May 20 13:00:24 2010

Subject: e-mail response

Thank you for your e-mail regarding SB 308.

SB 308 passed on the 40th and last day of our session. The last day is very busy and since it is a do or die day for legislation, emotions and anxiety are at a heightened level.

The day began with the restaurant association expressing with SB 308. That was unexpected and it took more than three hours to work those concerns out and get the bill on the House floor for a vote. After the bill passed the House the work began on a conference committee report.

A conference committee takes into account the respective language passed in the Senate and the House versions, but the committee also takes into consideration input from other stakeholders. In this case, the Governor's office and the NRA were among those giving input on a bill for final passage.

It takes time to try to work out individual questions and concerns. Attorneys are consulted and language has to be written. The first draft of a conference committee report was available about 4:00 pm. Stakeholders began reviewing and providing input on any areas they had questions or concerns.

The NRA provided some input on areas they felt needed to be looked at, just like the other stakeholders. We looked at the input we received and where necessary, changes were made. The state's attorneys and the Attorney General's office did not agree with all the suggestions that were received.

Since the last day is do or die, the level of stress is very high. When someone feels there is language in a bill that might harm the bill's ability to obtain the Governor's signature, the sense of urgency is at a high level to make sure the issue is communicated.

A final bill draft was finally produced around 8:30 pm. Unfortunately there was not the time for additional in-depth discussion on the merits of certain interpretations. Since a conference committee bill has to be on the desk for one hour before it can be voted on, we were out of time. The session ends at midnight of the 40th day. By the time the bill was printed to be passed out and placed on all Senator's desks, it was 9:23 pm. The bill was taken up for final passage and voted on at 11:03 in the Senate and 11:04 in the House.

It is unfortunate that the process produces such a frantic ending to our session. There are numerous bills that are under at risk for not being passed and that raises the stress level for almost all members of the General Assembly and all of the lobbyists involved. The NRA was supportive of SB 308 and were just trying to ensure we had the very best language and that we didn't cause the bill to be vetoed.

The NRA has expressed their support for the bill privately and publicly and are currently lobbying the Governor to sign SB 308 along with another good bill that passed this session, SB 291.

The last night produces high drama and tension. This year's session was not different. The fact is SB 308 and SB 291 both have passed and are on the Governor's desk for signature. Our focus and our efforts need to now be on urging him to sign both.

Thank you for your e-mail and feel to let me know if you have any other questions or concerns.

Mitch Seabaugh  
Georgia State Senate, District 28  
(404) 656-6446  
[mail@mitchseabaugh.com](mailto:mail@mitchseabaugh.com)