

# **Report of the NCLA Public Policy Committee**

*July 15, 2005*

More money for the Aid to Public Libraries (State Aid) fund, and increased funding for NC LIVE in the university system and community college system budgets, are the primary goals of the NCLA/NCPLDA legislative advocacy effort this session. Increased state aid seems likely, but increased NC LIVE funding does not.

Negotiations are underway between the House and the Senate to reconcile conflicting budgets for the next biennium, but both budgets include \$1 million in additional State Aid during each year of the biennium, for a total of \$2 million. The status of the new funding presumably is not up for reconsideration in the negotiations (since both the House and the Senate agree on the amount), but nothing is certain until the budget is passed.

Most of the wrangling seems to be taking place on the revenue side of the budget rather than the expenditure side, but any agreement that makes a dramatic change in the revenue picture could affect programs on the expenditure side.

Efforts by some counties to eliminate or modify the local Maintenance of Effort (MOE) rules associated with state aid appear to have failed.

There appears to be no new funding for NC LIVE in either the UNC system or community college system budgets.

The bill that includes the "North Carolina Libraries" special license plate authorization has been ratified; 300 people must purchase a plate before it will be struck. More on this from the Marketing and Publications Committee.

The Public Policy Committee endorses the Resolution Opposing the Parental Empowerment Act submitted by the Intellectual Freedom Committee.