



## **MESSAGE FROM MARSHA House District 19, State Representative**

### **FEES, FINES AND MORE FRIVOLOUS BILLS.....**

This year the General Assembly members discussed and argued bills that would increase fees, fines and even some bills that were outright ridiculous. One of those ridiculous bills was the prohibition on tanning booths! The title in Senate Bill 23 clearly states, “Prohibits the use of an artificial tanning device by a minor unless specifically prescribed by a physician. Requires an owner, employee or operator of an artificial tanning device or tanning facility to verify the age of any person seeking access to an artificial tanning device”.

### **TALK ABOUT BIG BROTHER INTERFERING IN OUR LIVES!**

The “Tanning Booth Bill” would prohibit anyone under 18 years of age from using an artificial tanning device unless; (1) the person has a written prescription from a physician; (2) the person has Colorado State’s notarized affidavit of consent; or (3) the person is accompanied by a legal parent or guardian who signs the State sponsored affidavit and presents identification to the tanning booth employee.

The “Tanning Booth Bill” would require the State Board of Health to develop the affidavit of consent and the Department of Public Health would be required to post the form on it’s website.

Talk about crazy, this bill establishes; (1) fines up to \$200 per day for an owner, employee or operator of a company who fails to comply with the bill’s requirements; (2) class 2 misdemeanor for a notary who notarizes an affidavit of consent in violation of the bill’s requirements; and (3) a second degree forgery for a person who falsely makes, completes or alters the affidavit of consent.

Parents, what do you think about two new misdemeanor penalties that would lead to a 3 – 12 month imprisonment in a county jail, a fine of \$250 to \$1,000 or both because your teenager did not have the “STATE SPONSORED and STATE MANDATED” permission slip signed by you?

The local government impact could be substantial! The cost to house an offender in county jails varies from \$45 to \$50 per day in smaller rural jails and \$62 to \$65 per day in larger metro area jails. Instead of housing hardened criminals who have committed serious crimes some legislators want to imprison teenagers, parents and tanning booth operators because they did not comply with these crazy new tanning booth laws.

I opposed to this type of invasion of the government in our personal lives. However, this bill Passed by one vote in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and passed the full Senate by a vote of 19 to 16. Many of the members of the House of Representatives saw this as one more intrusion of government in our personal lives. This bill failed by a vote of 38 to 27 in the House of Representatives. If you are interested in who voted for and against this bill consider visiting the Legislative website at [WWW.LEG.STATE.CO.US](http://WWW.LEG.STATE.CO.US) to view the details.

Your vote does count! It took just one vote of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee to get a bill like this passed out of committee. A wise legislator once told me it costs the taxpayer up to \$4,000 for a bill to be passed by the General Assembly. I think this is an example of a waste of taxpayer’s money and a waste of legislator’s time.

If you have any questions or concerns about this issue or any other issue, please call me at 719-238-5600, email me at [marshalooper@hughes.net](mailto:marshalooper@hughes.net) or visit my website at [WWW.GOMARSHA.ORG](http://WWW.GOMARSHA.ORG). Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you and I look forward to representing you in the upcoming session.

Respectfully,

Marsha Looper  
Colorado State Representative  
House District 19