

Senate approves fishing measure

Bill requires a license to fish from the shore

By ZANE WILSON
For The Sun News

The end of the free surf-fishing tradition in South Carolina is closer to reality after the Senate passed the bill last week.

The House had already passed the measure that requires the \$10 recreational saltwater fishing license for those angling in the surf or from the banks or a private dock.

The bill passed 29-15 on second reading Wednesday and got an automatic third reading Friday.

South Carolina is among the last of the East Coast states to change its law on fishing licenses. The current law requires the licenses for recreational crabbing and shellfishing and for those fishing from private boats but not from shore.

Federal fisheries agencies are requiring the fee for all so the government can track fishing pressure and respond if some types are being overfished.

Much of the opposition during the Senate debate Wednesday was from those who said the government should not force the fee on the state. But Sen. Ronnie Cromer, R-Prosperity, said the federal government will impose a \$25 fee or more for shore fishing if the state does not.

Some opponents said they would take a stance against the fee on principle even if the federal license cost more. The debate became part of an ongoing discussion over adopting a resolution

See **WEEK** | Page **7C**

WEEK

From Page 1C

asserting the state's rights under the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Many states are considering the resolution, which notes the 10th Amendment reserves all rights to the states that are not specifically granted to the federal government by the Constitution.

Others said they oppose adding fees to anglers. Sen. Dick Elliott, D-North Myrtle Beach, was among those voting no. The other three Horry and Georgetown County senators were in favor of the bill.

If the House agrees to the

Preserve prompted the bill because existing law forbids selling or giving away land in the state preserves and the interstate will take about 30 acres.

Sen. Ray Cleary's bill setting up a pilot dental screening and dental education program in three to five needy counties also passed, on a 33-10 vote, and will be sent to the House. Cleary, R-Murrells Inlet, is a dentist, and has said children whose teeth hurt can't learn properly.

Charlie Brindel, retiring May 8 after 32 years as executive vice president of the Coastal Carolinas Association of Realtors, is honored in a resolution that Elliott sponsored.

The resolution, which was

homeowners associations is before the full Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, with changes made last week by a subcommittee that reduce the fees to be charged to HOAs.

The committee will also consider a bill that requires county governments in high-growth areas to provide the school districts with information about residential developments larger than 25 acres.

The schools would have to report on how the development would affect their services. The report would become part of the public record on the project.

In the House, a subcommittee will review a proposal to allow hunting of bears in enclosures that are a minimum of 200

special two-week archery hunt in early September and extend the season a month to begin in mid-August and have it available for both archers and gunners.

The panel meets at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in Room 410 of the Blatt House Office Building.

The Silver Alert bill sponsored by Rep. Alan Clemmons, R-Myrtle Beach, will have a subcommittee review at

2:30 p.m. Wednesday in Room 516 Blatt. The measure allows something similar to Amber Alerts for missing children to be used for missing adults who suffer from dementia or similar ailments.

The House is back after a two-week furlough because of budget cuts.

► Contact **ZANE WILSON** at xtsnscribe@aol.com.