EXHIBIT 3
DATE 3-2-05
754

HB 754 – SUMMARY

(1) Requires that candidates for state legislature, judge or statewide office complete a 50-question, multiple choice exam at the time of filing, testing their basic working knowledge of the state and federal constitutions (25 questions each.)

(2) Test scores are publicly disclosed. Test may be retaken prior to the primary or general election (3 times in two years.)

(3) Test is created by a panel of three constitutional scholars working as non-compensated volunteers. One each of the scholars will be selected by the two major parties and by a committee of third party representatives. Four versions of the exam will be administered, comprised of identical questions in varying order.

(4) The test will be reviewed and re-written every ten years. Cost of the test will be borne by the candidate. The test will be administered and scored by the Secretary of State, and available to be taken at each county election office.

COMMENTS: The state administers tests for virtually every trade and profession, determining if individuals are qualified to competently and safely perform the duties of their trade. Having a solid working knowledge of our state and U.S. constitutions is a necessary skill set for being a state legislator. These documents are our "operating manuals." They tell us how to govern. It is not possible, in good faith, to take our oath of office without a knowledge of what it is we are upholding and defending. While this bill does not require a minimum score to file for or serve in office, the public disclosure factor will provide a significant incentive for candidates to, on their own initiative, study and become more familiar with the constitutions. That is the primary objective of the legislation.