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**GENERAL PRACTICE**

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(Office Hours Mon.-Thurs.)  
9:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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**TO: JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

**RE: S.B. No. 987 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAINTENANCE OF TREES BY HOMEOWNERS (JUD)**

**PRESENTER: RALPH E. WILSON, ESQ.**

**MY FAMILY'S SITUATION – TWO TRACTS OF LAND 30 ACRES – 84 ACRES  
3 MILES OF PEREMETER – TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TREES**

**DATE: MARCH 4, 2013**

**CONCERNS ABOUT PROPOSED BILL**

1. Mechanics about how the bill would be effectuated?
  - a. Visually inspection – when, who monitors if inspection was done properly.
    - Will there be a filing requirement at City Hall or the State.
    - Will the property owner be required to have an arborist?
    - Will the property owner need to get special training on what they are looking for?
    - Will there be monetary fines, or some type of other penalty?
  - b. What is “unhealthy condition”?
  - c. What is “potentially dangerous condition”?
  - d. Removal of tree or tree limb – cost.
  - e. Cost for one tree removal \$1,914.30.
  - f. Effect on owners of property – elderly, young, farmers, open space property just being held.
  
2. Constructive notice of the disease or defect of a tree if owner receives or refuses to receive a letter sent by certified mail that a tree located on such owner's real property appears to be diseased or have a defect.
  - a. Who sends the notice?
  - b. Who determines if a tree is diseased or has a defect?
  
3. More government intrusion in home ownership.

More potential costs to home and property ownership just when property owners are now just trying to pay their taxes and mortgages.

Just a sad day in government when now trees on your property are subject to governmental regulation.

At what point does governmental intrusion in our lives stop?