



Bulletin #13-04
Friday, Feb. 22, 2013

NCACC Executive Committee meets with state leaders

Members of the NCACC Executive Committee met Tuesday with Governor Pat McCrory, Speaker of the House Rep. Thom Tillis, and Sen. Phil Berger, the President Pro Tem of the Senate, to discuss the county legislative agenda. NCACC President Howard Hunter III (Hertford County), President Elect Ray Jeffers (Person County) First Vice President Ronnie Beale (Macon County) and Second Vice President Glen Webb (Pitt County), along with NCACC Executive Director David F. Thompson and other staff members, held separate meetings with the various leaders throughout the day. The NCACC officers stressed the importance of counties receiving the full share of lottery proceeds for school construction with Gov. McCrory, especially in light of his comments during his State of the State address on Monday night about expanding the uses of lottery school construction funds to include school technology needs. Counties are supposed to receive 40 percent of lottery proceeds to help with school construction needs, but in the current state budget, counties are receiving less than 25 percent of the lottery proceeds. Allowing school boards to request lottery proceeds for school technology needs makes restoring the full allotment even more critical. Both Speaker Tillis and Sen. Berger reiterated their stance that the Legislature would not push down any unfunded mandates or shift any costs to counties in an effort to balance the state budget. However, both leaders warned that revenues for 2013 are basically on target and that there would be no new money available for legislative leaders to spend in 2013-2015. Speaker Tillis also expressed his support for implementation of the Tax and Tag Together program through the Division of Motor Vehicles that will combine the payment of vehicle property taxes with the registration renewal. The program is scheduled to become operational July 1, but [H30](#) (Repeal Combined M.V. Registration/Tax System) would curtail the program before it starts. Both the House and Senate unanimously passed the original legislation to set up the combined approach in 2005. It is believed that this approach will help increase counties' efforts to collect property taxes on motor vehicles, resulting in as much as \$50 million a year in uncollected tax revenues for counties and another \$30 million for municipalities.

Ag Commissioner Troxler visits NCACC Agriculture Steering Committee

North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler spoke to the NCACC's Agriculture Steering Committee on Thursday, and expressed his support for both of the NCACC's Agriculture Legislative Goals. Commissioner Troxler said that North Carolina is well-positioned to be a leader in agriculture production in the coming years and that he believes the state needs to be spending more on agriculture research. The NCACC's top agriculture goal is to "Adequately fund agricultural research and extension services." Commissioner Troxler also spoke about the importance of farmland preservation and preserving the existing farms. He expressed concern at the growing number of farms that are being converted into solar farms. The NCACC's other agriculture goal is to "Support and promote conservation of working lands and farmland preservation." The Agriculture Steering Committee is chaired by Henderson County Chairman Charlie Messer. To see highlights of Commissioner Troxler's appearance, watch this week's installment of This Week at the General Assembly on the NCACC's [YouTube Channel](#).



County Caucus hosts County 101 session for new legislators

More than 30 legislators, including many of the newly elected Representatives and Senators, attended a County 101 training



Tweet of the Week

N.C. Rep: Nathan Ramsey
(Buncombe) @NathanRamsey115

"County caucus mtg @ NCGA, great 2 c so many fmr county commr serving from both parties! #ncga #ncgov @NCACC"

Follow the NCACC at @NCACC

session hosted by the General Assembly's County Caucus on Tuesday. The session was sponsored by the NCACC and School of Government and gave the newly elected legislators an overview of the state-county relationship. Intergovernmental Relations Director Rebecca Troutman reviewed many of the research activities and other resources offered by the NCACC to help the new legislators understand the role of counties in the intergovernmental system. The County Caucus is co-chaired by Sens. Earline Parmon, a former Forsyth County Commissioner, and Jim Davis, a former Macon County Commissioner, and Reps. Becky Carney, a former Mecklenburg County Commissioner, and Chuck McGrady, a former Henderson County Commissioner. Kara Millonzi of the School of Government reviewed the structure, function and authority of county government, and Gerry Cohen, the General Assembly's Special Counsel, discussed the differences between a local bill and statewide legislation.

Senator proposes Joint Legislative Public Infrastructure Oversight Commission

A Senate bill would create a 24-member Joint Legislative Public Infrastructure Oversight Commission to examine "public infrastructure issues in North Carolina in order to make ongoing recommendations to the General Assembly on ways to promote comprehensive and coordinated local, regional, and State planning and investment in public infrastructure." Several local government representatives would serve on the commission, including the Executive Director of the NCACC, or another Association employee as designated by the Executive Director, and the same for the N.C. League of Municipalities and the N.C. School Boards Association. The Director of the Local Government Commission or an employee of the State Treasurer's Office designated by the Director would also serve on the commission. One of the goals for the commission would be to "identify areas in which local governments may require additional assistance in undertaking public infrastructure projects, such as staffing, training, financing expertise, project review, or service delivery." [S102](#) is sponsored by Sen. Fletcher Hartsell of Cabarrus County and has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

Grassroots update: Meeting in a Box mailed, Walk the Hall Wednesdays



The NCACC mailed its Meeting in a Box to all counties on Thursday. The box contains copies of the NCACC Legislative Goals booklet, white papers on several county legislative goals and information on other legislative issues. Counties are asked to conduct meetings with their local delegation to educate them on the county legislative priorities. Counties will be asked to report on what they learned in their meetings with legislators during the NCACC's [April District Meetings](#). For more information on either of these initiatives, please contact Grassroots Coordinator [Alissa Willett](#) at (919) 715-7654.

The NCACC is inviting county commissioners to Raleigh this year to walk the halls with the NCACC advocacy team during the 2013 legislative session. NCACC staff will guide you through the halls of the General Assembly where you will meet with legislators, attend committee meetings and be a part of the advocacy team for a day! If you are interested in joining the NCACC advocacy team in Raleigh for a Wednesday at the General Assembly, please complete [this form](#). And please remember to bring comfortable shoes.

House, Senate set local bill deadlines

The House and Senate have established their bill deadlines for the 2013 Long Session. For the House, local bills must be submitted to bill drafting by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20 and filed in the House by Wednesday, April 3. For the Senate, local bills must be submitted to bill drafting by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, and filed in the Senate no later than Wednesday, March 13 by 3 p.m. County officials interested in pursuing local legislation are urged to act quickly to ensure that their requests are eligible for the long session.

Bills of Interest

Bill: [H120](#)

Sponsors: Hager (R112); Brawley, W. (R103); Cotham (D100); Arp (R69)

Title: BUILDING INSPECTIONS/LOCAL CONSISTENCY

Comments: This bill would restrict counties and cities from making "routine inspections of buildings or structures constructed pursuant to the North Carolina Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings in addition to the specific inspections required by the North Carolina Building Code without first obtaining approval from the North Carolina Building Code Council." The bill was referred to the Local Government Subcommittee of the House Committee on Regulatory Reform.

Bill: [S100](#)

Sponsor: Gunn (R24)

Title: EMS IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL LIABILITY

Comments: This bill would exempt Emergency Medical Services personnel, as defined in G.S. 131E-155, from being liable "for damages for personal injury or death alleged to have been sustained as a result of acts or omissions in the performance of their duties, unless it is established that the personal injury or death was caused by gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing on the part of the emergency management personnel."

- Johanna Reese, Government Relations Director
- David F. Thompson, Executive Director



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