

Rep. Bobbie Richardson

Summary

Dr. Bobbie Jean Richardson has represented Franklin and Nash Counties in the North Carolina House since earning appointment in 2013.

Richardson was born the sixth child of Bob and Patti Mae Richardson in Castalia, NC on Christmas Day, 1949, though she uses December 24, 1949 as her birthday on many official documents. An educator by trade, Richardson recently retired from Vance County as their Director of Exceptional Children, a special education-focused career.

Unfortunately, Richardson has a track record in support of liberal policies that would wreck North Carolina's economy, waste taxpayer dollars, and harm public schools. Consider these key positions:

- Banned prayer from school exercises like graduation ceremonies (6/2012)
- In the General Assembly, Richardson voted against budgets which lowered taxes and raised teacher pay and co-sponsored legislation:
 - To allow school boards to raise taxes (HB 955, 2013)
 - To raise taxes specifically (HB 1210, 2013; HB 549, 2015; HB 900, 2015)
 - To give driver's license to DACA beneficiaries (HB 393, 2013)
 - To give special privileges to illegal immigrants (HR 627, 2013)
 - To eliminate employer's right to ask for criminal record in job application (HB 605, 2015)
 - To fund local campaigns with taxpayer funds (HB 621, 2015)
 - To give in-state tuition to illegal immigrants (HB 689, 2015)
 - To eliminate the death penalty for 1st degree murderers (HB 686, 2015; HB 604, 2017)
- Marched with AFL-CIO and Moral Monday in 8/2013 Forward Together and 11/2013 Take Back Our State protests
- Communicated in radical social media posts, with fringe conspiracies and extreme language that sets a bad example for school-age children

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1: BACKGROUND AND BIOGRAPHY

Identifying Information

Name: Dr. Bobbie Jean Richardson, Ph.D.

DOB: December 24, 1949

Address: 7309 NC 561 Highway
Louisburg, NC 27549

Family: Three Children: Tarcia, James, and Bob
Previous husband: James E. Newton

Biography

The following biography was taken from *Richardson's campaign website*:

Rep. Bobbie Richardson has dedicated her life to education. She has served as the Director of Exceptional Children for Warren County Schools and Vance County Schools, where she recently retired. She also was the Director of Exceptional Students Program for the NC Department of Corrections, as well as the School Administrator for Licensure, Personnel & Curriculum. For ten years, from 1988-98, she was a consultant with the NC Department of Public Instruction.

She has also been in the trenches, working as a teacher in Durham Public Schools for the Children with Disabilities Program and as a teacher assistant for exceptional children classes. She is a former member of the Franklin County School Board.

Today, she is retired from helping the children and teachers of North Carolina become the best they can be, and is now representing the people of House District 7 (which consists of portions of Nash and Franklin Counties). She was appointed in January to take the place of Angela Bryant, who was appointed to fill the unexpired term of the late Sen. Ed Jones.

Rep. Richardson is a graduate of NC Central University, where she earned her undergrad degree and master's degree, and of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she earned her doctorate in Education Leadership.

She has been recognized many times for outstanding service to her community, including the 2010 Franklin County Democratic Woman of the Year Award, 2012

Perry's Alumni Humanitarian Award, and Who's Who Women in Education Award from Durham Public Schools in 1989.

She has served on the Executive Committee for the NC Democratic Party and is a past chairperson of the Franklin County Democratic Party. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Rep. Richardson lives in the Wood Community, in the northeast region of Franklin County near the Nash County line. She is the mother to three grown children and proud grandmother of two. She is the daughter of the late Bobbie Richardson and Pattie Mae Richardson (who lives near her in Wood), and the sister to 17 brothers and sisters.

A biography through the North Carolina General Assembly lists that Richardson is one of seventeen children, a mother of three, and grandmother to two.

Teaching Credential

According to the Public Schools of North Carolina's public database of teaching licenses, Richardson held a license from at least July 1, 2010 until June 30, 2015 (Lic. #: 835993). According to this information, she held licenses in the following areas: Exceptional Children Program Administrator, School Administrator (Superintendent), Mentally Disabled (K-12), and School Administrator (Principal).

2: PUBLIC SERVICE BACKGROUND

Richardson had a long career in the field of education prior to her appointment to the State Legislature in early 2013. She had also been active in local county Democratic politics. This profile from May 2010 in the *Franklin Times* offers the most concise summary of her personal life background.

- Richardson is a 2008 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she earned her Ed. D. degree in educational leadership. Richardson began her doctoral studies in 2000 as a part-time student while she worked as the director of exceptional children programs for Warren County Schools in Warrenton (1988-2004), and for the North Carolina Department of Correction/Division of Prisons, Educational Services Section (2004-present).
- She earned her bachelor's degree and master's degree from North Carolina Central University in Durham, in 1972 and 1977, respectively. Additionally, she holds a principal and supervision and administration certification.

- She taught for 11 years in Durham City Schools. She left Durham City Schools in November of 1988 to join the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh as a consultant in the Division of Exceptional Children Services. She was promoted three times during her 10-year tenure with the NCDPI.
- She left NCDPI in 1998 to become the director of exceptional children services for Warren County Schools (WCS). She served WCS for six years in that capacity. During her employment with WCS, she enrolled in the doctoral program at UNC-Chapel Hill. She worked during the day and attended classes at night at UNC.
- In 2004, she became director of exceptional students program for the Department of Correction/Division of Prisons, Educational Services Section. She is currently employed with DOC/DOP/ Educational Services Section as a school administrator for personnel, licensure and curriculum.
- She is the daughter of Pattie Richardson of Wood and the late Bob Richardson. She is one of 18 children who grew up on their father's farm. She credits her parents with beginning her leadership skills development process at an early age through Sunday school and church activities.
- She excelled in her studies at the former Perry High School in Centerville. She graduated as salutatorian of her class. At the time that she entered NCCU, she was the third African-American student from this rural community to attend college; she was the second to receive a college degree. Richardson was the first in her family to graduate from college. She married her former husband during the summer of her junior year (1970) in college. They had three children, Tarcia, James Jr. and Bob. She is very active in her church, her sorority, her community, professional organizations and the political arena. (Franklin Times, 5/25/10)

County Democratic Politics

- Richardson became involved with the Democratic Party in Franklin County, though it's not clear at what point. The earliest media story mentioning her political activities is being an alternate delegate to the 2004 Democratic Convention. (Winston Salem Journal, 7/28/04)
- By 2008, she was chair of the Franklin County Democratic Party. (Franklin Times, 5/2/08)
- She was a Clinton delegate to the 2008 Democratic Convention but went knowing she would be released to vote for Obama. (Franklin Times, 7/8/08)

- She was “shocked and disappointed” about the revelations of John Edwards’ scandal, having expected him to be a major part of an Obama Administration. (St. Petersburg Times, 7/29/08)
- In April 2009, at the County Democratic Convention, she was one of four elected to the State Executive Committee. (Franklin Times, 4/28/09)

Franklin County School Board

In 2010, Richardson ended up winning a seat on the Franklin County School Board but the circumstances under which it happened caused some controversy.

- An incumbent board member, John May, was already on the ballot unopposed for re-election in a non-partisan election, when he resigned to accept an appointment to a vacant seat in the State House. But this set-up a dynamic whereby Richardson and one other person entered the race late as write-in candidates and where May’s name was still on the ballot.
- May ended up getting the most votes and in effect “won” re-election to a new four year term on the Board. May could not be automatically disqualified because he had accepted the appointment after early voting for the seat had begun. That set up a two-fold dynamic ultimately where after initial talk of a runoff election between the write-in candidates, the Board decided to first appoint Richardson to fill the remaining part of the unexpired May term. Then in December, when May would have been entitled to take the seat for an elected four year term (he had by this point lost a bid for election to the House seat for a full term), he resigned and allowed the Board to appoint Richardson to the seat. So in effect, Richardson received two appointments to the Board without ever winning an election to the Board outright.
- Initially, there was some confusion over whether the Board could only appoint Richardson to a two year term instead of the full four year term, but it was determined that a quirk in local law caused by a past school system merger between Franklin County schools and Franklinton City schools allowed them to appoint Richardson to the full four year term. (Franklin Times, 5/25/10 and 12/14/10)

The one notable story covered by the media during Richardson’s time on the Board was their decision to capitulate to a threat of legal action by the ACLU if they didn’t formally ban prayer from school exercises like graduation ceremonies, which they agreed to do.

- Bowing to a request from the American Civil Liberties Union -- backed up by years of federal court cases and rulings in the U.S. Supreme Court -- the Franklin County

Board of Education agreed this week to ban prayers from school functions, including upcoming high school graduation services. The decision was made Tuesday evening at the end of a 90-minute special meeting, much of which was spent huddled in a secret session with the board's attorney, Boyd Sturges. Sturges justified the secret session by contending that Christopher Brook, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina, "threatened" the board with a lawsuit.

- Brook simply had told the board that it must comply with long-established legal precedent or face a court battle that other government entities, most notably Winston-Salem, have lost and which cost them "hundreds of thousands of dollars."
- The issue was raised when the parent of a Franklin Co. high school senior (who has gone unnamed) raised the issue of school-sanctioned prayer at the upcoming graduation ceremony. Brook told the board that "the Supreme Court has been diligent and thorough in protecting students from impermissible coercive pressures to participate in religious exercises."
- He said that events like high school graduation have been called by the courts "one of life's most significant occasions" but if the government (in this case the schools) put its stamp of approval on religious activity "it creates an impermissible 'atmosphere of coercion' in which students must choose between participating against their will and protesting in embarrassment."
- He also said that "labels are immaterial; defining an invocation as 'a term that primarily describes an appeal for divine assistance,' the Supreme Court has treated them as the functional equivalent of prayer." Brook also said that "courts have found that (to be the case) when the religious message is delivered on school property, at a school event and over a school public address system, despite the fact they were not delivered by school staff."
- "Finally, coercive pressures can exist in the school setting whether the religious message in question is sectarian or nonsectarian," he said. Brook told the school board that "case law is very clear on the issue, very much on point." The key, he said, is that the government cannot create a message of exclusion to religious minorities. Brook also assured the board that it was the preference of the ACLU to resolve this issue without litigation.
- He then outlined his three requests:
 - No prayers at the June 9 graduation exercises;
 - No prayer at future awards ceremonies, etc.;
 - Policy changes to ensure that there is no prayer at future school events or school-sponsored events.

- After huddling in their secret session, the board unanimously agreed to all three stipulations.
- Board member Dr. Bobbie Richardson asked Brook about the ACLU position on students who would like prayer. "The ACLU believes in personal choice," he responded, drawing a distinction between private speech and public speech. However, he said, allowing a student to lead a prayer with a school microphone would fall under the label of government-sponsored action. "Then it becomes government speech and the government must remain neutral," he said. "The Supreme Court is clear. The government has to remain neutral -- not sponsor, support or deliver" religious messages.
- "That's a fine line there," said board chairman Gil Johnson. "The law has been very clear," Brook said, adding that the ACLU position is that a private individual can pray before, during or after any event -- but the prayers cannot be school sanctioned or required.
- "What about other school districts across the state?" asked board member Bernard Hall. "We've had no other complaints in six years," Brook said. "The law is very clear." After the vote, Hall said "it's a shame to be dealing with this issue now. There are monumental issues facing this district. We need to focus on getting kids through high school graduation." Johnson commented that "taking away the right of a vast majority of this county disturbs me." (Franklin Times, 6/1/12)

State House Member

In January 2013, Richardson was appointed to fill a vacancy in the State House. She was subsequently elected to a full term in 2014 (without opposition) and again in 2016 (by a margin of 2 to 1).

Because of the overwhelming GOP majority in the Legislature, Richardson has had little legislation introduced that has become enacted into law. She has taken reliably Democrat positions against the GOP. Utilizing available information from "LegAlert" we found few instances of bills introduced by her where she was the sole sponsor or where she was one of a small number (in most cases her name is among 10 to 20 co-sponsors of a bill, most of which failed to get consideration out of committee). One of the rare exceptions was a bill prompted by elementary school students to get the bobcat officially named the state cat, and the ease of approval even surprised her.

- A group of Rocky Mount elementary school students were by far the youngest lobbyists at the legislature Monday, but they got results in their bid to name the official state cat. Fourth-graders from Benvenue Elementary School won support from the State House to designate the bobcat as North Carolina's state cat.

- Rep. Bobbie Richardson, a Louisburg Democrat who represents Rocky Mount, took up the cause and sponsored the bill. "We all wrote a letter and we put facts on why it should be the state cat," Benvenue student Shannon Rogers said. Rogers said she was surprised that the legislators didn't argue about the bill. The unanimous vote in the House Wildlife Committee came after just a minute or two of discussion, which also seemed to surprise its sponsor. Two hours later, it passed the full House in a 114-2 vote. "Can I have this support every time I present a bill?" Richardson joked. (Raleigh News Observer, 4/27/15)

Education Issues

Because of her background in education, Richardson has been very vocal in her criticism of cuts to funding for education that have taken place under GOP legislative control. This was her complaint about the 2013-15 state budget.

- Legislators were working to finalize a state budget on Wednesday that critics have said undercuts public education. While members of the General Assembly were working to finish off a budget that was unveiled just days before, Franklin County education leaders say it will be some time before they know the full ramifications of the state's \$20.6 billion budget. According to the budget as of press time, it cuts teacher assistance funding by 21 percent, ends the practice of teacher tenure and offers parents and guardians funds for vouchers to private schools. The budget also removes caps on class sizes.
- All told, said Rep. Bobbie Richardson, the budget cuts half a billion dollars for public education, from pre-K to college. "The Democratic party's take," said Richardson, "is that to pay for the tax break for the wealthiest 1 percent, [the Republicans] are making it harder to provide high quality education for children to graduate and compete in the 21st century."
- The budget, Richardson said, slices and dices money for a number of projects, but particularly education. It could mean the loss of 4,000 teachers and 3,800 teacher's assistants. It could also mean the loss of many other teachers to flight, leaving the state for higher paying positions. "That's one of the things we're concerned with," said Richardson, a former member of the county's Board of Education. (Franklin Times, 7/24/13)

Richardson also was critical of a 2017 GOP plan to expand the growth of charter school enrollment without State Board approval.

- "Another bill would allow charter enrollment to grow 30 percent a year without approval from the State Board of Education. Charters are now limited to 20 percent annual growth without board approval. Some Democrats objected on the grounds

that it could fuel growth in schools that aren't good. Allowing charters with bad records to expand would not be fair to taxpayers, parents or students, said Rep. Bobbie Richardson, a Louisburg Democrat. Attendance at charter schools has doubled since 2011, when the legislature allowed the number of schools in the state to exceed 100. Other laws have erased the need for charters to get State Board of Education approval before they add grades and students. (RNO, 4/25/17)

Richardson initially was supportive of, but then backed away from and then opposed, a bill that would allow teachers to carry stun guns. She justified her flip-flop on the grounds that it could open the door to let teachers carry guns in schools.

- Here's a stunner – or maybe not. Three N.C. lawmakers filed a bill last week to allow school personnel to carry and use stun guns – including Tasers – at school. One of the legislators, Rep. Bobbie Richardson, D-Franklin, quickly backed away from it, though, telling N.C. Policy Watch that she planned to have her name removed from the bill because the language of the proposal could be construed, she says, as allowing school personnel to carry any weapon including guns. (Charlotte Observer, 4/21/13)

She has co-sponsored these bills (one of 10-20 names) that deal with education matters (and looking for further tax breaks and benefits for teachers):

- 2013. HB 23. "AN ACT DIRECTING the state board of education to develop and implement digital Teaching and learning standards for teachers and school administrators." Signed into Law by Governor (2013-11)
- 2013. HB 317. "AN ACT to improve educational outcomes for North Carolina children who are deaf or hard of hearing." Signed into law by Governor. (2013-119)
- 2013. HB 955. "AN ACT TO provide for FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF SCHOOL BOARDS BY AUTHORIZING LOCAL school BOARDS TO RAISE REVENUE FOR THE SUPPORT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION." Died in Committee after first reading.
- 2013. HB 1119. "AN ACT to provide teachers who purchase certain school supplies and materials an income tax credit." Died in Committee after first reading.
- 2013. HB 1243. "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A Forgivable LOAN PROGRAM FOR PROSPECTIVE STEM AND SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS." Died in Committee after first reading.
- 2015. HB 709. "AN ACT to allow members of the North Carolina national guard who are enrolled in a program granting a graduate certificate to be eligible for the

North Carolina NATIONAL GUARD tuition assistance benefit." Signed into law by Governor. (2015-298)

- 2015. HB 936. "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A Forgivable LOAN PROGRAM FOR PROSPECTIVE STEM TEACHERS." Died in Committee after first reading.
- 2015. HB 1054. "AN ACT TO INCREASE TEACHER salaries by ten percent." Died in Committee. At the time, the proposed increase in teacher salary in the Governor's budget was five percent. (RNO, 5/2/16). Concurrent to this, Richardson also co-sponsored HB 1079 which called for a four and a half percent raise and COLA adjustments for state employees who weren't covered in the budget. That too died in committee.

Minimum Wage

Richardson has several times co-sponsored measures aimed at raising the state minimum wage, or to give local counties the flexibility to raise the minimum wage higher than the state level.

- 2013. HJR 1068. "A JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE 2013 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT AMENDING THE WAGE AND HOUR ACT TO RAISE THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE AND PROVIDE FOR AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT TO REFLECT INCREASES IN THE COST OF LIVING." Died in Committee.
- 2015. HB 230. "AN ACT amending the North Carolina constitution to set the state minimum wage." Died in committee.
- 2015. HB 360. "AN ACT amending the wage and hour act to raise the state minimum wage and provide for automatic adjustment to reflect increases in the cost of living." Died in committee.
- 2015. HB 885. "AN ACT to allow a local government to set the minimum wage within its jurisdiction and to provide for the automatic adjustment of that wage." Died in committee.
- 2015. HB 1046. "AN ACT amending the North Carolina constitution to set the state minimum wage and provide for automatic cost of living adjustments." Died in committee.
- 2017. HB 1089. "AN ACT increasing the state's minimum wage in phases until 2022 when the wage shall be adjusted automatically each year by increases in the cost of living." Died in committee.

Repealing Tax Cuts

In voting against the 2015 budget, Richardson voted against the income and corporate tax cuts that were part of it. (Franklin Times, 9/23/15) She has co-sponsored bills aimed at repealing tax cuts that she saw as favoring the wealthy.

- 2015. HB 549. "AN ACT to restore certain personal income tax rates to previous levels." Died in committee.
- 2015. HB 900. "AN ACT to eliminate the corporate income tax rate reduction trigger." Died in committee.

Infrastructure Concerns

In her 2016 re-election campaign, Richardson cited infrastructure as her biggest area of concern.

- Richardson said the district and state have a number of needs including infrastructure, jobs, education and economic development. "Infrastructure needs are prevalent," she said. "Roads in both counties are the biggest needs. Education is a must, too. That is the most attractive thing to any company that looks at re-locating. Expansion of education would improve our counties greatly in terms of jobs and infrastructure."
- Richardson said addressing the district's infrastructure is key to attracting businesses and jobs. "I think we need to make sure we have the infrastructure so people can continue to come in," she said. "We have a hub to develop workers. But we need the infrastructure to develop them." (Rocky Mount Telegraph, 10/21/16)

One area of local infrastructure concern to her has been improving US 401. As early as 2006, she was among citizens complaining about the road.

- An end to gridlock on U.S. 401 from Raleigh to Louisburg could be in sight. But state officials stopped short last week of making any promises or saying when, exactly, the road's widening would be finished. The stretch of road in question is no joy ride for commuters, who have to suffer through a two-lane road. "You get stuck behind a slow car or a bus, and there's no way to get around it," said Bobbie Richardson, who lives in Wood, 17 miles northeast of Louisburg. (RNO, 1/27/06)

But major improvements had not been made a decade later, and she was among those disappointed when widening of US 401 was not part of a DOT plan released in late 2014.

- The state's drafted blueprint for road construction and improvements doesn't include U.S. 401 in Franklin County in the near future. As recently as 2010, N.C. Department of Transportation's (DOT) 10-year plan called for widening U.S. 401 from N.C. 96 to Flat Rock Church Road in 2017. Since then, though, the state introduced a new formula to prioritize road projects and, in the spring, it was revealed that U.S. 401 scored low under the state's new data-driven criteria.
- The state's emphasis under the new plan, officials have said, is improving urban traffic congestion at the apparent expense of rural roadways. Last week, DOT released its draft 10-year State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), confirming fears that advocates for the road's improvements possessed.
- Improvements for U.S. 401 through Franklin County were kicked off the funding cycle for the next 10 years, pushed out to future years, with an unfunded status.
- The 10-year plan was produced after advocates for the roadway have had opportunities to share their passion for roadway improvements with DOT staff, state legislators, the Secretary of Transportation Joe Tata and Gov. Pat McCrory, himself.
- Rep. Bobbie Richardson said that has been particularly disappointing. "When Tata came to Franklin County, our citizens presented a well-defined and comprehensive plan for why it should be expanded," said Richardson, who represents portions of Franklin and Nash counties in the General Assembly. (Franklin Times, 12/10/14)

Medicaid Expansion

Richardson supports Medicaid expansion in the state.

- She blamed lack of Medicaid expansion on the October 2014 decision of Novant Medical Center in Franklin County to slash its workforce by 29 percent. "Novant came to me and other representatives of the General Assembly expressing their concerns over the fact that a lack of (Medicaid) expansion would have dire consequences on their ability to provide services." (Franklin Times, 10/5/14)

In 2017, she co-sponsored HB 858 which would make Medicaid expansion easier.

- **House** Bill 858, filed Wednesday, would establish a Medicaid expansion assessment that would pass through the General Fund. Primary sponsors are Reps. Jean Farmer-Butterfield, D-Wilson, John Autry and Beverly Earle, both D-Mecklenburg, and **Bobbie Richardson**, D-Franklin. The bill also would repeal the state law passed in 2013 by the Republican-controlled legislature that forbids the

governor from pursuing Medicaid expansion without legislative approval. (Winston Salem Journal, 4/21/17)

3: THE NEWS FILE. 2004-17

2004

JUL 2004 Alternate Delegate to Democratic Convention

Poet Maya Angelou took center stage last night at the Democratic convention to pay tribute to a civil-rights pioneer. Angelou was part of a 10-minute tribute to Fannie Lou Hamer, the Mississippi sharecropper who challenged the Democratic Party in 1964 when she led a protest against her state's all-white delegation.

"Fannie Lou Hamer knew that she was one woman and only one woman," Angelou said. "However, she knew she was an American, and as an American, she had a light to shine on the darkness of racism. It was a little light but, she aimed it directly at the darkness of ignorance."

Hamer led 60 black delegates in 1964 to challenge the seating of the all-White delegation. Her protest, which garnered support from other delegations, eventually cast a pall over the convention to nominate President Lyndon Johnson. Hamer died in 1977 at the age of 59.

Audio problems during Angelou's remarks made it difficult for those on the floor to hear her. That didn't seem to bother those in North Carolina delegation.

"She is simply a marvelous speaker and she knows how to inspire. She is truly an example that anything in this country is possible," said Bobbie Richardson, an alternate delegate from Louisburg.

Angelou is a professor at Wake Forest University. (Winston Salem Journal, 7/28/04)

2006

JAN 2006 Critical of US 401 Traffic

An end to gridlock on U.S. 401 from Raleigh to **Louisburg** could be in sight.

But state officials stopped short last week of making any promises or saying when, exactly, the road's widening would be finished.

The stretch of road in question is no joy ride for commuters, who have to suffer through a two-lane road.

"You get stuck behind a slow car or a bus, and there's no way to get around it," said **Bobbie Richardson**, who lives in Wood, 17 miles northeast of **Louisburg**.

The \$90 million project, which runs from Ligon Mill Road in Raleigh to Highway 56 in **Louisburg**, is only partially funded.

About \$20 million of the project is funded, but the difference could be made up with a federal bond program, though there's competition for that money, said Jon Nance, division engineer for the state Department of Transportation.

Ultimately, the state Board of Transportation will make a decision, which could come as soon as March.

Regardless, work will soon begin on the fully funded section, a roughly two-mile stretch starting at Ligon Mill Road.

But those in attendance at a Jan. 19 panel discussion focused on the unfunded sections. One member of the public asked when the project, in its entirety, would be finished.

Ken Spaulding, a recently appointed member of the Board of Transportation, tried to be reassuring but made no commitment.

"I'm not going to play a game with you and say that it's going to happen or it's not going to happen," he said. "But I will be weighing your points of view."

Later, Spaulding, returned to the subject.

"No false promises, but I will hear you well," he said. "I will also get with other people and hear them well, but there have been some very good points made here tonight."

The project is in competition with 15 other road projects in Wake County for \$950 million in federal bonds.

Nance said the competing projects include the Interstate 440 connector to Hillsborough Street; and Interstate 540, from Research Triangle Park to Holly Springs.

The money, coming from the federal GARVEE bond program, would have to be paid back.

GARVEE stands for Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle. It is, essentially, debt issued in anticipation of federal reimbursements in subsequent years. The bonds offer the advantage of today's buying power.

Last week's meeting was well attended by the public, with about 100 packed into a room of the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service Agriculture Services Center.

On the panel were Nance, Rep. Lucy Allen, Sen. Douglas Berger and Spaulding, a Durham resident appointed to the board last year by Gov. Mike Easley.

The project is made up of four sections, of which there is funding for one section already, and partial funding for another.

The first section, from Ligon Mill Road to **Louisburg** Road, is fully funded. It will cost \$10.6 million. Construction should be in 2008, Nance said.

The next section, from **Louisburg** Road to Highway 96, the Rolesville Bypass, has funding for right-of-way acquisition and partial funding for construction. This section will cost \$30 million and about \$9 million is available.

The other two sections are from Pilot Riley Road to Highway 96 and from 96 to Highway 56. (Raleigh News and Observer, 1/27/06)

2008

MAY 2008 Franklin County Democratic Party Chair

Hillary Clinton's press office confirmed that the presidential hopeful will tour Wake Forest during a campaign swing today, Saturday, May 3.

And President Bill Clinton is tentatively scheduled to come through Louisburg on Monday. The time and places the former president would visit were not finalized by Friday, though, press staff said.

The fact that Clinton's office sees Franklin County as vital to the campaign trail is important, said Franklin County Democratic Party Chairwoman Bobbie Richardson.

Sen. Barack Obama has established a headquarters in a building on Bickett Boulevard, Richardson said.

"It's been 30 years or more since North Carolina and Franklin County have had the opportunity to be a vital player in the selection of a candidate," Richardson said. "It's usually determined by now."

She said the history of the race, the potential for the first woman or first African-American president, has captured the attention of young voters. "This is such an energized election," she said. (Franklin Times, 5/2/08)

JUN 2008 Earns Doctorate

Dr. Bobbie Jean Richardson is a 2008 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She received her Ed. D. degree in educational leadership on May 10.

Dr. Richardson began her doctoral studies in 2000 as a part-time student while she worked as the director of exceptional children programs for Warren County School in Warrenton (1988-2004), and for the North Carolina Department of Correction/Division of Prisons, Educational Services Section (2004-present).

Dr. Richardson earned her bachelor's degree and master's degree from North Carolina Central University in Durham, in 1972 and 1977, respectively.

Additionally, she holds a principal and supervision and administration certification

Dr. Richardson's studies and work experiences have spanned about 37 years. She began her career as a bank teller at Mechanics and Farmers Bank in Durham, while pursuing a master in special education at night. Upon separating from the bank, she accepted employment with Durham City Schools as a special education teacher for junior high/middle grades education.

She taught for 11 years in Durham City Schools.

She separated from Durham City School in November of 1988 to join the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh as a consultant in the Division of Exceptional Children Services. She was promoted three times during her 10 years' tenure with the NCDPI.

She separated from NCDPI in 1998 to become the director of exceptional children services for Warren County School (WCS). She served WCS for six years in that capacity. During her employment with WCS, she enrolled in the doctoral program at UNC-Chapel Hill. She worked during the day and attended classes at night on the campus of UNC.

In 2004, Dr. Richardson separated from WCS to accept the director of exceptional students program for the Department of Correction/Division of Prisons, Educational Services Section. She is currently employed with DOC/DOP/ Educational Services Section as a school administrator for personnel, licensure and curriculum.

She is the proud daughter of Pattie S. Richardson of Wood and the late Bob Richardson.

She is one of 18 children who grew up on their father's farm and learned at an early age the value of hard work, perseverance and goal setting. She credits her parents with beginning her leadership skills development process at an early age through Sunday school and church activities. She excelled in her studies at the once Perry¹ High School in Centerville.

She graduated as salutatorian of her class. At the time that she entered NCCU, she was the third African-American student from this rural community to attend college; she was the second to receive a college degree. Dr. Richardson was the first in her family to graduate from college. She married her former husband during the summer of her junior year (1970) in college. They had three children, Tarcia, James Jr. and Bob.

Dr. Richardson's family has continued to grow; she has a son (George Flemming) the husband of Tarcia and they have two boys, Jordan and Justin, and she has a daughter-in-law (Tiffiney), the wife of James Jr.

Dr. Richardson is very active in her church. (Franklin Times, 6/24/08)

JUL 2008 Democratic Convention Delegate

Franklin County will be represented two-fold later this summer when Democrat leaders from across the country are expected to select Barack Obama as its presidential nominee at the Democratic National Convention in Denver.

During the North Carolina Democratic Party Convention in June, Sen. Doug Berger and county Democratic Party Chairwoman Bobbie Richardson were elected as delegates for Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, respectively.

They will be asked to cast their votes for Obama during the national convention, the springboard in Obama's race toward the White House against Republican John McCain. The week-long convention begins on Aug. 25.

"I'm excited about it," Berger said. "We'll be part of history electing the first African-American (as the presidential nominee). "We've come a long way."

Richardson agreed. She'll be a delegate for Clinton, but Clinton is expected to release her delegates to vote for Obama, uniting the party.

The weight and history of this nomination is not lost on Richardson, either.

"As a minority, both by ethnicity and gender, this is quite an historic experience for me," Richardson said.

"... I did not think I would live to see the day where minorities, in gender (Clinton) and ethnicity (Obama) would be top contenders."

This is the second national convention for both Berger and Richardson.

In 2004, Richardson served as an alternate delegate for Sen. John Edwards.

In 1992, Berger went as a Bill Clinton delegate.

In fact, Berger said, Hillary Clinton's campaign contacted him about supporting her push for the presidency. Berger would have hit the campaign trail with his idol, Bill Clinton.

"I never dreamed of the day I would have said no, I will not campaign for Hillary with Bill Clinton," Berger said. However, Obama gave him good reason to turn the invitation down.

"He provides the best opportunity to unify and move this country in the right direction," Berger said. "... Barack represents a movement toward progress in setting aside partisanship."

As in the primary, North Carolina will have a key role in the nomination, as well as the race for president.

North Carolina has not voted for the Democratic presidential nominee since 1976, and Obama has called North Carolina a battleground state between him and McCain.

The North Carolina delegation is expected to be seated close to the stage during the national convention.

"I think the city will be buzzing and packed with people there wanting to be a part of this," Richardson said of the convention.

"... The convention has always been an exciting time, but we're in a time in history where we've had many people trumpet for change and now the time has come," she said.

"Experiencing that and being part of that, I will have that imprinted in my mind for forever and a day." (Franklin Times, 7/8/08)

AUG 2008 Shocked and Disappointed by John Edwards Scandal

Zack Wynne has been a John Edwards guy from the beginning.

In 1998, at age 15, he made phone calls and planted signs as Edwards ran for U.S. Senate. In 2004, he went to Iowa to trudge across the tundra as Edwards ran for president. "It was like minus 9 degrees out," Wynne said. "But I believed in him."

The admission from Edwards that he cheated on his wife - and the meek excuse that he did so while her breast cancer was in remission - has stung Democrats nationwide but nowhere more vividly than in his home state of North **Carolina**.

The state's 134 delegates in Denver for the Democratic National Convention described a range of emotions, from anger to acceptance, but mostly forgiveness.

"Everybody messes up, everyone falls short. I'm taught to forgive and hopefully his wife forgives him, too," Wynne said as the delegates gathered for a group photo outside their hotel Thursday morning.

Edwards has remained out of sight, sparing Democrats and Barack Obama the distraction of his attending the convention. The party lions - Clinton, Kerry, Kennedy, Pelosi - have all made rousing speeches, but not Edwards.

"I was shocked and disappointed," said **Bobbie Richardson**, a 58-year-old prison educator from Wood, N.C. "We all had some expectation he would be a major player in an Obama administration and that's not going to happen now."

Some delegates wondered if Edwards' behavior resulted in their less-than-prime seating in the Pepsi Center, home turf for the bulk of the convention, but organizers denied any link.

Jimmie Bonham, 53, of Winston-Salem had headed up Edwards' past get-out-the-vote efforts in the Tar Heel state and said the scandal has cost Edwards his career in elective politics.

"I was shocked," Bonham said, "but John Edwards was a man before he became a politician." (St. Petersburg Times, 8/29/08)

OCT 2008 Nephew Killed In Car Accident

Cameron Scott "Scotty" Wayne, 17, died Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008 at Lexington Community Hospital, following a car accident.

The funeral will be at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, at Mount Zion Baptist Church, with the Rev. Harold Cone of Faith Harvest Fellowship Church officiating. Burial will follow at Guilford Memorial Cemetery, 6000 High Point Road.

The family will receive friends from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at Mount Zion Baptist Church. He was born in Greensboro. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Roosevelt Wayne; great-grandfather, Bob Richardson; and three great-uncles.

He is the great-grandson of Pattie M. Richardson of Wood and the nephew of Bobbie Richardson of Louisburg.

Surviving: his mother, Sharon Bennett; father Roosevelt Wayne; sister, Autumn Nicole Wayne of the home; grandmother, Brenda D. Bennett; five uncles; six aunts; and 15 very special cousins.

In lieu of flowers, scholarship contributions should be made to the Cameron Scott Wayne (CSW) Scholarship, c/o Damon M. Milan, MBA, Solution Accounting Tax Consulting LLC, 4411 West Market Street, Suite 300, Greensboro, NC 27407. Hargett Funeral Homes is assisting the Bennett/Wayne family. (Franklin Times, 10/8/08)

OCT 2008 GOP Bows Out of Local Pact

An agreement that had kept election sites free of rowdy pollsters for more than two decades is expected to dissolve for the first time in its history on Nov. 4.

The county's Republican Party announced this week that its candidates would not sign the agreement.

Republican Party Chairman John Edwards said Republican candidates are furious about allegations that a member of the county's elections' staff passed out partisan, marked sample ballots inside the early voting area last week.

The ballot was marked as a straight Democrat ticket.

The ballot allegation, Edwards said, coupled with an allegation by a Republican commissioner candidate that Democratic Party representatives were handing out hotdogs and the sample ballots in exchange for getting people out to vote, was too much for the party to remain ambivalent.

"It's the straw that broke the camels back," Edwards said of the allegation, which could become the subject of a state Board of Elections investigation.

"No one is coming forward on who distributed (the ballots)," Edwards said. "It's ticked off our candidates and me, too."

Democratic Party Chairwoman Bobbie Richardson said it's a shame that a 22-year-old agreement between both parties, which has been a source of pride in the community, is going away.

"It really surprised me (that the Republicans were not signing the agreement) because there had been just one alleged complaint," she said. "I could not understand why one complaint would create this kind of a climate."

Board of Elections Director Amy Southerland said her office has not received any other complaint, either in writing, in person or via phone, relating to voting fraud.

So far, Franklinton resident Paul Roberson is the only complaint the office has received. Roberson said he went to cast an early ballot on Oct. 16 and while inside the voter waiting area in the county's Administration Building, a man he believed to be an elections' worker handed him a marked sample ballot. State Board of Elections staff said such action, if true, would be in violation of election law.

Roberson wrote a complaint to the county election officials but was informed that he will have to submit another, more specific letter for his concern to be made official.

County Elections Chairman Larry Tetterton said that letter and information would be sent to the state Board of Elections, even though Tetterton doesn't believe the claim has merit.

Roberson, who was working out of town on Thursday and would not be back until Friday evening, has yet to file the official complaint.

"I'm not going to let this drop," Roberson said on Thursday. "I was there and I know what happened. I'm sure that as many people who were there saw these marked ballots and I'm sure someone has filed a complaint or said something to someone about it. I can't have been the only person in that room to have said something."

Richardson said she expected to talk with some Republican Party officials about changing their minds regarding the agreement because there is no expectation that a state investigation would be wrapped before the Nov. 4 election day.

Richardson, though, said she is advising Democratic candidates to proceed with any plans to work the polls because an agreement probably won't be reached by election day. Edwards said that was a fair assumption.

Roberson, though, doesn't feel that his complaint should be at the heart of partisan politics. "A lot of people are missing the whole point of this," said Roberson, who said he is a registered Democrat. "It was a marked ballot in the Democrats favor.

"It seems like all the Democrats hate me for it and the Republicans love me for it," he said. "How the ballot was marked is irrelevant. The fact is, it's marked. It doesn't make a difference how it was marked. It was handed to me by person in the voting room. That's what upsets me. What is right is right, and what is wrong is wrong."

The polls on election day open at 6:30 a.m. "I expect there to be some backlash from citizens," Richardson said. "They have truly valued the fact that they didn't get inundated with literature (and pollsters).

"This is going to be a major election, so voters don't need to be feeling pressure," she said. "It can get hostile." (Franklin Times, 10/24/08)

2009

APR 2009 Elected to State Executive Committee

The Hamilton Hobgood Courthouse was the scene of the annual Franklin County Democratic Party Convention last Saturday morning.

Delegates from the county's precincts elected the following officers for the next two years: Chair, Jerry Carlyle; 1st Vice Chair, Armenta Eaton; 2nd Vice Chair, Jenny Edwards; 3rd Vice Chair, Elic Senter; Secretary, Jean Crudup; and Treasurer, Richard Cash.

The following were elected as members of the State Executive Committee: Armenta Eaton, Bobbie Richardson, Barbara Tetterton and Jenny Edwards.

Delegates were also elected to attend the 2nd Congressional Convention which will be May 16 in Fayetteville. (Franklin Times, 4/28/09)

2010

APR 2010 Running Write-In Campaign For School Board Seat

When John May resigned his District 3 School Board seat and went to Raleigh, he left behind a post that two educators are vying to fill.

Former Democratic Party Chairwoman and current education administrator with the state Department of Corrections Bobbie Richardson and former Franklin Times Editor and current United Way Executive Director Kathy Harrelson are both mounting write-in campaigns for the post. The winner of the May 4 primary race will be elected to the nonpartisan school board.

Richardson, who has more than a dozen brothers and sisters, said serving on the board would be one of the best ways she could help the youth of the county.

"I want to give back to my community in a way that I think will have the greatest return through the policies, procedures and programs that will set standards for the students in Franklin County to reach their greatest potential," she said. "The benefits of educating our students will be to ensure that the foundation for a free democracy is ongoing."

Harrelson said she would rely on her own struggles to gain education to shape her service on the board.

"I value education more than I can fully explain," she said. "I worked my way through college against many obstacles and with much support from family and instructors.

"Faith and determination will get a child far, and we must instill hope every step."
The first step for both candidates was to decide to run for the office.

When May first became a candidate to replace Lucy Allen in the House 49 District seat, it was assumed that the Board of Education would appoint his replacement.

However, because of the timing, both candidates decided to mount a write-in campaign, giving residents of District 3 a chance to have a voice in their next school board representative.

May's name will be on the ballot in District 3, however, residents who favor a write-in candidate must fill in that name below May's, while also filling in the oval next to the write-in name.

"I believe that citizens of District 3 should vote for me because I have the educational background, a long work history dedicated to education, and because I am the most qualified candidate," Richardson said.

Harrelson said her priority will be serving children's best interest and the people and children in the area.

"... I will attend to what is best for the children in the county and will not bend to any influence otherwise," she said. "I will be fiscally conservative, truthful and will participate fully on the board and in District 3 schools." (Franklin Times, 4/30/10)

MAY 2010 Democratic Woman Of The Year

Bobbie Richardson was presented the 2010 Democratic Woman of the Year award at the party's annual banquet. Presenting the award is Evelyn Blackwell, president of the Franklin County Democratic Women. (Franklin Times, 5/4/10)

MAY 2010 Board Must Pick Winner

The Franklin County Board of Education will discuss Monday night how they will fill the seat vacated by John May. It's a seat they thought would be decided by Tuesday night's primary vote, but since May received the most tallies - 440, he is the school board member-elect and could begin service in December if he so chooses.

In a letter released Friday, May said he will not accept the school board seat under any circumstances and supports write-in candidate Bobbie Richardson's appointment to the board.

"The voters of District 3 have expressed their preference for Dr. Richardson," May said in the letter, noting that if you take out his votes, she received 352 votes to that of her fellow write-in candidate, Kathy Harrelson, who garnered 265 votes. "The voters' wishes should be respected."

Lucy Allen resigned her position as the representative for House District 49 on April 12.

May was appointed to the seat by Gov. Bev Perdue and sworn in by House Speaker Joe Hackney on April 23 - after one-stop voting for the May 2 primary had begun.

Because of that, his name remained on the ballot. If the timing had allowed him to withdraw, his name could have been removed.

"I assumed that by resigning that seat ... I disqualified myself as a candidate (for the school board)," May said this week, noting that the local board of elections did not make him aware that votes for him would count until the day before the election.

"I thought (the primary) would elect the person to replace me or help the board make an appointment," May said. "That was my assumption all along."

On Thursday, the county's Board of Elections met and by a two-to-one vote, the board agreed with the state Board of Elections' interpretation that May's votes count.

Republican board member Sandra Woodland cast the dissenting vote, noting that the intent of the law is not to have one person serving in two offices, since it is her interpretation that the primary winner should be immediately eligible to serve.

"Votes cast for him should be thrown out," Woodland said.

Board of Elections Chair Larry Tetterton said it's a matter of the intent of the law versus the letter of the law.

The letter of the law, Tetterton said, allows May to be the school board member-elect, with an opportunity to serve beginning in December if he chooses.

Some members of the Republican Party contend that it was the intent of May and Democratic Party all along to have May be on the ballot so that he could either return to the school board in December if he lost the House District 49 seat in November.

Or, he could throw his support behind Richardson for the school board seat if he won his election bid to the General Assembly.

Harrelson, a Democrat, said she had heard those stories.

"I think he knew that," Harrelson said. "No doubt. The party knew that ... That's how he played the cards."

"I'm disappointed that the people I trusted to give me good information about this didn't come through," Harrelson said, noting that she had been given conflicting information from the state and local boards of election about May's validity in the election.

"They misled me," she said. "It was not intentional. It was a complicated situation. I also think the Democratic Party realized the complications and crafted it to their benefit."

May said allegations of political maneuvers fall under the realm of conspiracy theorists.

"Such a plan is only in the imagination of people seeking to find a hidden agenda," May said. "I have not hid anything. I thought I was completely out of that after I sent in the letter (of resignation)."

Richardson said she was surprised to learn that May's votes would count, finding that fact out on Wednesday - the day after the primary, she said.

"I'm not going to buy into this, that there is some kind of cloak and dagger situation to make sure (May) remains an elected official," Richardson said. "I don't believe John's character is that flawed to do something like that."

Still, after a resignation, weeks of write-in campaigns and a Tuesday primary, the county's Board of Education is back to having to appoint someone to fill a school board seat that is currently vacated.

And they would need to appoint someone in December to fill the seat that May says he doesn't want, but was elected to anyway.

Both Harrelson and Richardson said they are interested in serving, even though the matter was not completely resolved by the primary.

School Board Chair Paige Sayles said the matter would be a topic of conversation on Monday.

"Before we do anything, the election has to be certified," Sayles said. That won't happen until after a canvass takes place this coming Tuesday - a day after the board meeting. How we replace John and what the board will suggest will be discussed Monday night."
(Franklin Times, 5/7/10)

MAY 2010 Can Request Runoff Election

Franklin County's Board of Elections rejected an election protest that would have thrown out School Board votes cast for John May, but they did inform the second highest vote getter that she can request a runoff election.

When School Board member John May resigned his District 3 seat, Bobbie Richardson and Kathy Harrelson both waged write-in campaigns to take the seat - which they both thought would be settled during the May 4 primary.

However, May received the most votes and was recognized as the school board member-elect.

On Monday evening, though, School Board Chairwoman Paige Sayles notified the board of a forgotten election provision that requires the winner of a nonpartisan school board race to receive a majority of the vote.

Less than that - May received 442 votes - and Richardson, who received the second highest votes, at 345, can request a runoff election.

If Richardson requests a June 22 runoff, her name, along with May's, would appear on the ballot.

Harrelson would still have the opportunity to run as a write-in candidate.

"I have not made that decision yet," Richardson said shortly after being informed of her option. "I need time to consider it." She has until noon on Thursday, board officials said.

The issue of a runoff election was not the only issue on the county Board of Election's plate during their meeting on Tuesday. They also reviewed a protest submitted by Louisburg resident Robert Schmidt.

In it, Schmidt asserted that votes for May should not have been counted as he was a disqualified candidate as he resigned his position and that Richardson should be declared the winner.

In his petition, Schmidt also alleged that the county's Board of Elections was silent in their interpretation of election law, not informing write-in candidates about the validity of May's status as a candidate.

"... Because of their silence, the District 3 School Board community believed John May was disqualified as a School Board candidate," Schmidt wrote in his protest, which was filed with the local election board on Tuesday.

"The District 3 voter community did not know to challenge Mr. May as a candidate for the school board."

By a 2-1 vote, the board rejected Schmidt's petition. Election Board Member Sandra Woodland, who has openly questioned the validity of May's votes - was the lone dissenter.

Board Chairman Larry Tetterton and Board member Walter Yarbrough sided with state elections staff, who said May remained a viable candidate even though he resigned his current school board position.

Tetterton said May resigned too late for his name to be removed from the ballot and that his resignation from his current seat had no effect on whether he could be elected to serve another term, beginning in December.

For the record, May has submitted a letter to the board of elections and school board that he does not plan to serve on the Board of Education in the fall.

"Based on what we've heard from the state, I move to reject the petition," Tetterton said. Schmidt has the opportunity to appeal the local board's decision to the state. Schmidt has 24 hours from the time he is notified by local officials to determine if he appeals the decision to the state Board of Elections.

Because of all the confusion, the local board decided to certify the May 4 primary, save for the results of the District 3 School Board race, pending the outcome of the petition.

Tetterton said Richardson could make a runoff request by noon on Thursday, regardless of the appeal matter, and the election certification. (Franklin Times, 5/11/10)

MAY 2010 Board Seat Still Not Decided

Unless an elections appeal brings about a definitive decision, the Franklin County Board of Education will be back at square one - appointing someone to fill the School Board District 3 seat.

The Franklin County Board of Elections certified the May 4 primary tabulations this week, making the results, including John May's District 3 win, official - even though May has expressed he has no desire to serve in that capacity.

Write-in candidate Bobbie Richardson, who received the second highest amount of votes, could have requested a runoff by noon on Thursday, but opted against that decision.

"I felt the voters have spoken," Richardson said. "(Taking out May's votes) I won the election and the school board has the decision to appoint either based on those results, or they can use their own discretion."

Before that, though, it seems that school board members will have to await the outcome of an election protest.

Louisburg resident and Cypress Creek Precinct Judge Robert Schmidt protested the election, arguing that since May resigned his seat prior to the election, he was disqualified as a candidate.

The local Board of Elections rejected his protest, siding with state elections officials who said May remained a valid candidate.

Schmidt filed an appeal of the local board's decision with the state Board of Elections. It was not clear in what time frame the state would be required to make its decision.

Attempts to reach state Board of Elections staff were not successful. "What I'm saying is, by filing this protest and appeal, it's important that people know who the candidates are and the votes that they cast," Schmidt said, noting that a number of voters, on election day, were asking who they needed to vote for.

By law, Schmidt said election workers could not shed such light on voters, but the process should have been clearer to voters.

"Perhaps those votes (for May) we cast in an ill-informed manner, but they were cast in earnest.

"The ideal outcome would be the seating of the candidate who had the most votes in the write-in - that would be Bobbie Richardson," Schmidt said. "(Take out May's votes) she had the most votes.

"She's the winner," Schmidt said. "(Having May's votes disqualified) may not be the legal expectation, but to me, it's the common sense expectation."

If nothing else, Schmidt said, he hopes his questions can lead to clarity in the future.

"If the law says something else, we should take a real important look at the law," he said. "That may be the outcome of all of this."

If Schmidt's protest falls on deaf ears, he could appeal the matter to Superior Court.

If those measures fail, School Board District 3 representation falls back into the hands of the Franklin County Board of Education, which would be charged with making the appointment.

School Board Chairwoman Paige Sayles said the board will move forward when it can.

"... It's my understanding that (May) can say, again, he has no intention of accepting the position, officially," Sayles said, noting that she wasn't clear how Schmidt's appeal would affect the timing of the board's decision. "Once we have (May's resignation) we can make that appointment." (Franklin Times, 5/14/10)

MAY 2010 Appointed to School Board

Bobbie Richardson was selected Monday night to fill the Franklin County Board of Education seat vacated by John May when he resigned from the board to accept appointment to the North Carolina House of Representatives.

Richardson's appointment came after a motion from board member Dannie Williams, seconded by Beverly Joseph and unanimously supported by the remaining board members.

After an unusual delay -- and some debate between board members and Richardson's supporters attending the meeting -- she was sworn into office at the end of Monday's meeting.

Earlier, the school board decided that the swearing-in would be held on June 14 because there was no official at Monday's meeting that could administer the oath.

That decision didn't sit well with some, including T. O. Anderson, who told the board that "you should have had someone here tonight."

Chairman Paige Sayles called the situation "my oversight" and said that when board member Gilbert Johnson was added to the board, he took his oath at the following meeting.

"We're not satisfied," said Anderson.

To rectify that, school board attorney Boyd Sturges slipped out of the meeting during another presentation and eventually rounded up District Court Judge John Davis who came to the meeting to administer the oath of office.

Judge Davis swore in Richardson while her mother, Pattie Mae Richardson, watched.

Richardson's appointment settles a long-simmering debate over who should fill the seat, a debate fueled by the fact that May's name remained on the recent May ballot and he gathered the most votes even though by election day he had already resigned his current seat. He captured 442 votes.

Vying for the seat as write-in candidates were Richardson and Kathy Harrelson. Richardson prevailed by a vote of 345 to 280.

Since there is no provision in state law for the second-highest vote recipient to take the office, the task of picking May's replacement fell to the school board.

But it's not that simple. According to Sturges, Richardson could be appointed to fill only the unexpired term of May, meaning that the appointment she received Monday night will keep her on the board until December.

At that time, that board seat was to be subject to a new term - that was supposed to have been decided in the primary - but wasn't since May has repeatedly said he has no intention of taking a new oath for the new term that he technically won.

That means the school board will again have to appoint someone in December to fill that term.

But that appointment will be good for only two years even though school board seats are usually four-year terms. Under what Sturges says is applicable state law, voters will have to select a school board member in the next election - 2013.

That didn't sit well with some of Richardson's supporters. Franklin County commissioner Sidney Dunston challenged that interpretation of state law, saying "it doesn't sound right," regarding the two-year term.

"It's just the way the law was written," Sayles said, explaining that the board's appointment currently was for the unexpired term that ends this year - and then the board will be faced with making a two-year appointment after which voters will decide who will have the seat.

"I'm not satisfied," Dunston said. "Some laws are just and some are unjust. This just doesn't seem right."

On Monday night, Richardson said she is "ready to become an active member of the school board and help work with students to help them toward higher achievement.

"I'm an educator," Richardson said "and in 30-plus years of experience, I've learned that policy is key. "The people who make policy are crucial - and I wanted to be part of helping make policy. Education is the foundation of our democracy and our future," she said.

"I've had the opportunity to reach higher levels of education," said Richardson. "When you have that opportunity it's your duty to give back."

Providing "motivation" for students is her main goal, she said. "Hopefully we can do that."

Richardson is a 2008 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she earned her Ed. D. degree in educational leadership.

Richardson began her doctoral studies in 2000 as a part-time student while she worked as the director of exceptional children programs for Warren County Schools in Warrenton (1988-2004), and for the North Carolina Department of Correction/Division of Prisons, Educational Services Section (2004-present).

She earned her bachelor's degree and master's degree from North Carolina Central University in Durham, in 1972 and 1977, respectively.

Additionally, she holds a principal and supervision and administration certification.

She taught for 11 years in Durham City Schools.

She left Durham City Schools in November of 1988 to join the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh as a consultant in the Division of Exceptional Children Services. She was promoted three times during her 10-year tenure with the NCDPI.

She left NCDPI in 1998 to become the director of exceptional children services for Warren County Schools (WCS). She served WCS for six years in that capacity. During her employment with WCS, she enrolled in the doctoral program at UNC-Chapel Hill. She worked during the day and attended classes at night at UNC.

In 2004, she became director of exceptional students program for the Department of Correction/Division of Prisons, Educational Services Section. She is currently employed with DOC/DOP/ Educational Services Section as a school administrator for personnel, licensure and curriculum.

She is the daughter of Pattie Richardson of Wood and the late Bob Richardson.

She is one of 18 children who grew up on their father's farm. She credits her parents with beginning her leadership skills development process at an early age through Sunday school and church activities.

She excelled in her studies at the former Perry High School in Centerville. She graduated as salutatorian of her class. At the time that she entered NCCU, she was the third African-American student from this rural community to attend college; she was the second to receive a college degree.

Richardson was the first in her family to graduate from college. She married her former husband during the summer of her junior year (1970) in college. They had three children, Tarcia, James Jr. and Bob.

She is very active in her church, her sorority, her community, professional organizations and the political arena. (Franklin Times, 5/25/10)

DEC 2010 Appointed to Full Four Year Term

It was a routine night filled with mostly good news and normal business for the Franklin County Board of Education on Monday.

The first item of business was swearing in three recently re-elected board members, Paige Sayles, Bernard Hall and Gilbert Johnson, an action that was followed quickly by the re-election of Sayles as board chair and Johnson as vice chair.

Once the board got re-organized, Dr. Bobbie Richardson was sworn in for a new four-year term in place of former board member John May.

May was technically re-elected to his seat on the board after resigning the seat to accept appointment to the North Carolina House of Representatives. May's resignation came too late to remove his name from the ballot and he was re-elected even though he was serving in the House.

Subsequently, May lost his re-election bid to the House and could have taken his old seat on the school board which had been filled by Richardson.

However, Monday night, May read a letter to the school board declining to accept the seat and clearing the way for Richardson's reappointment. She will serve out all of the four-year term that May was elected to because of a quirk in the way the law merging Franklin County and Franklinton City school districts was crafted in 1994.

May, in his letter, said that "I wholeheartedly endorse the Board of Education filling my unexpired term with Dr. Bobbie Richardson. I have been impressed with her service on the board for my prior unexpired term and I feel that she is a good person for the job and will continue to strive to educate the children of Franklin County."

Once that bit of business was behind it, the school board got good news in the form of an audit report presented by Mark Sotichek of the accounting firm Dixon Hughes.

Sotichek called the report "about as clean as it comes" and lauded the district's finance department for its work monitoring the budget and ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations.

It's about as clean a report as you could possibly get," said Sotichek as he pointed out a few highlights in the 54-page report.

About the only note of warning that the auditor sounded Monday night was something that school officials have been fretting about for some time - the loss of federal stimulus dollars.

He said that the local school district received about \$3.6 million in stimulus money this year - but noted "those funds will be drying up."

Another good news report came from Assistant Superintendent Tommy Piper who reported that all school construction projects are on schedule.

The work at Louisburg High, Bunn High and Edward Best Elementary schools is essentially completed with the exception of a few punch list items, Piper told the board.

Work at the new Franklinton High School is "really moving on" and is about dried in with windows installed. Construction there is "on target" for the scheduled July 1, 2011, completion, he said.

Plans for the modular units that will become the new Early College High School are about completed, Piper told the board, and should go out to bid by mid to late January.

The school board also got a brief report from Superintendent Eddie Ingram about an incident with a small-caliber handgun that was confiscated last Thursday from a Louisburg High School Student.

"The situation was resolved in a very few minutes. Students, staff and parents are commended for resolving the situation immediately," Ingram said.

"Students were not in immediate danger. The administration at LHS sent letters home to parents and debriefed the faculty about the situation," the superintendent added.

In the incident, 17-year-old Jamal Cauthen was arrested by Louisburg police who said he had an unloaded .25-caliber pistol in his possession. He also had ammunition with him, authorities said. Cauthen faces an automatic one-year suspension for bringing a weapon to school.

Since last month's school board meeting, there have been eight additional incidents involving students, Ingram said. There were two instances of marijuana, two instances of narcotics and knives and one razor, he said, adding that none of the weapons were used to threaten others.

Ingram also told the board that there were no serious injuries involved when a tractor-trailer struck a school activity bus last Friday as Bunn Middle School students were returning to school from a play at Wake Forest-Rolesville High School. Seven students and the bus driver were taken to the hospital as a precaution for minor bumps and bruises, Ingram said.

In other action, the board:

-SALUTED Melissa Yeazel, assistant principal at Bunn High School, who has been named the 2011 Franklin County Schools Assistant Principal of the Year. She was presented a plaque by Ingram.

-RECEIVED draft policies involving graduation requirements and promotion guidelines. The proposals will be posted on the school district's website where parents can comment before formal action on the policies is taken at the January meeting.

-SET their next regular meeting for 7 p.m. Monday Jan 10, at the Riverside Campus. (Franklin Times, 12/14/10)

2012

JUN 2012 Board Bans Prayers at School Functions

Bowing to a request from the American Civil Liberties Union -- backed up by years of federal court cases and rulings in the U.S. Supreme Court -- the Franklin County Board of Education agreed this week to ban prayers from school functions, including upcoming high school graduation services.

The decision was made Tuesday evening at the end of a 90-minute special meeting, much of which was spent huddled in a secret session with the board's attorney, Boyd Sturges.

Sturges justified the secret session by contending that Christopher Brook, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina, "threatened" the board with a lawsuit.

Brook simply had told the board that it must comply with long-established legal precedent or face a court battle that other government entities, most notably Winston-Salem, have lost and which cost them "hundreds of thousands of dollars."

The issue was raised when the parent of a Franklin Co. high school senior (who has gone unnamed) raised the issue of school-sanctioned prayer at the upcoming graduation ceremony.

Brook told the board that "the Supreme Court has been diligent and thorough in protecting students from impermissible coercive pressures to participate in religious exercises."

He said that events like high school graduation have been called by the courts "one of life's most significant occasions" but if the government (in this case the schools) put its stamp of approval on religious activity "it creates an impermissible 'atmosphere of coercion' in which students must choose between participating against their will and protesting in embarrassment."

He also said that "labels are immaterial; defining an invocation as 'a term that primarily describes an appeal for divine assistance,' the Supreme Court has treated them as the functional equivalent of prayer."

Brook also said that "courts have found that (to be the case) when the religious message is delivered on school property, at a school event and over a school public address system, despite the fact they were not delivered by school staff.

"Finally, coercive pressures can exist in the school setting whether the religious message in question is sectarian or nonsectarian," he said.

Brook told the school board that "case law is very clear on the issue, very much on point." The key, he said, is that the government cannot create a message of exclusion to religious minorities.

Brook also assured the board that it was the preference of the ACLU to resolve this issue without litigation.

He then outlined his three requests:

- 1) No prayers at the June 9 graduation exercises;
- 2) No prayer at future awards ceremonies, etc.;
- 3) Policy changes to ensure that there is no prayer at future school events or school-sponsored events.

After huddling in their secret session, the board unanimously agreed to all three stipulations.

Board member Dr. Bobbie Richardson asked Brook about the ACLU position on students who would like prayer.

"The ACLU believes in personal choice," he responded, drawing a distinction between private speech and public speech.

However, he said, allowing a student to lead a prayer with a school microphone would fall under the label of government-sponsored action.

"Then it becomes government speech and the government must remain neutral," he said. "The Supreme Court is clear. The government has to remain neutral -- not sponsor, support or deliver" religious messages.

"That's a fine line there," said board chairman Gil Johnson.

"The law has been very clear," Brook said, adding that the ACLU position is that a private individual can pray before, during or after any event -- but the prayers cannot be school sanctioned or required.

"What about other school districts across the state?" asked board member Bernard Hall.

"We've had no other complaints in six years," Brook said. "The law is very clear."

After the vote, Hall said "it's a shame to be dealing with this issue now. There are monumental issues facing this district. We need to focus on getting kids through high school graduation."

Johnson commented that "taking away the right of a vast majority of this county disturbs me." (Franklin Times, 6/1/12)

JUL 2012 Board Begins Drawing Policy on Religious Practices

Beginning with a template about religion in the schools supplied by the North Carolina School Board Association, the Franklin County school board's policy committee began crafting its own policy Monday night, adding bits and pieces from both the Buncombe and Caldwell county policies to the proposed document.

The policy committee will meet at least one more time to finalize the policy before releasing it for public review and comment.

After that, the policy will be brought to the full board for consideration, probably at the September meeting.

In a nutshell, the tentative policy states that both the federal and state constitutions "protect the right of an individual to choose his or her own religious or non-religious beliefs and prohibit any government action that may advance or inhibit such beliefs. This policy is intended to protect the religious rights of students and school personnel, to preserve the separation of church and state and to provide guidance to students and personnel about religion in the public schools."

One key point in the policy is that schools will be allowed to observe a moment of silence before school and before school-related functions -- although the purpose of the moment of silence cannot be explained, according to board attorney Boyd Sturges.

"You can't say we're having a moment of silence because our blessed Supreme Court has done this stupid thing ... as much fun as that would be," Sturges jokingly told the board.

The portion controlling moments of silence also notes that they may not exceed one minute, shall be totally and completely unstructured and free of guidance or influence from any sources and that no other activity will be allowed during that time.

The policy also notes that "school officials may not mandate, organize or encourage prayer at graduation or any other school activities or dedications, such as award ceremonies."

It also stipulates that "schools may not organize or sponsor a baccalaureate service. The baccalaureate service is traditionally religious in nature and shall be a voluntary service and not a required part of graduation exercises."

The policy does acknowledge that students may voluntarily participate in prayer individually or in groups "so long as they are not disruptive. Voluntary prayer is not considered government-sponsored prayer."

The policy, as it now stands, also notes that "teachers and school administrators, when acting in those capacities, are representatives of the state and are prohibited from encouraging or soliciting student religious or anti-religious activity."

The policy continues by stating that "when acting in their official capacities, teachers may not engage in religious activities with their students" but "may engage in private religious activity during duty-free and non-contractual hours."

Student religious clubs in secondary schools are permitted to meet and to have equal access to campus media to announce their meetings, the policy states, adding that "teachers may not actively participate in club activities and 'non-school persons' may not control or regularly attend club meetings."

One of the more difficult technical points discussed by the committee was how to handle requests from parents who object to something in either school activities or studies.

The proposed policy states that if parents have religious-based objections to certain programs, they must petition, in writing, to have their child exempted.

Once their objections are explained, the policy allows parents and teachers to work together to try to find an alternative activity or course of study that will be acceptable.

"Parents cannot ask to have their child opt out of, say a calculus class, just because the child doesn't like math," said school board member Bobbie Richardson.

The school superintendent would be given the power to address these concerns and try to form a solution under the proposed policy and the parent would have a right of appeal to the board of education if that becomes necessary. Superintendent Eddie Ingram told the committee that only three times in his 32 years of teaching and administration has he had such objections raised.

In no case, he said, the curriculum was changed for other students but a solution was found to accommodate the students whose parents objected.

The draft of the proposed policy was unanimously approved by the policy committee Monday night -- and set aside for fine-tuning and another policy committee vote before the entire draft policy is made public.

When it's complete, The Franklin Times will post the proposed policy on its website and it also will be on the school district's website so the public can understand and comment on it before it goes to the full school board for a decision. (Franklin Times, 7/17/12)

JUL 2012 Board Agenda

From robotics to a new computer system for school board members, technology was on center stage during much of Monday night's county Board of Education meeting.

Student Britni Mickey, who just completed a school-district-sponsored robotics camp, gave the board a brief demonstration of the creation she crafted and learned to program at the camp, describing the experience as "fun." Britni is a rising sixth grader headed to Terrell Lane Middle School in the fall.

She was accompanied by two camp counselors, master teachers Mary Brantley and Betty Bryan, who told the board that the popular camp which has been held for several years, reaches students from rising fifth graders through high school and introduces them to robots and the computer controls that operate them. Brantley and Bryan are instructional technology facilitators in the school system.

"They (students) are actually programming," said Chris Shearer, the school technology chief. "It's their first chance to begin learning programming language."

He added that he'd like to see robotics added to the middle school as an elective and noted that the subject draws a "good mix" of both boys and girls.

"This is applied math at a higher level," he told the board.

"I'm amazed at what they accomplished in two days," said School Superintendent Eddie Ingram, who echoed the need for robotics classes in the middle schools, something he said he hoped would happen soon.

In the other technology issue, the board agreed to spend \$32,700 for a new "paperless board meeting software package" that will digitize many school records, including board meeting minutes" and make them not only searchable but also accessible.

"This is not just for convenience, it's also economically minded," said board member Bobbie Richardson, adding that "we need to make sure the public understands it's an enhancement to what we're doing."

Noting that the topic has been under discussion for months, board member Paige Sayles said "it's time to hold our nose and jump in" -- and the board did, unanimously.

The board also discussed the proposed opening of a new Franklinton Middle School in the former FHS High School in downtown Franklinton in the fall of 2013.

Key to that will be creating attendance district boundaries and Assistant Superintendent Tommy Piper suggested the board begin planning for public meetings in September in both Franklinton and Bunn, areas most likely to be affected.

But Sayles also suggested the board "talk about whether we can afford to open that school" and cited meager support from Franklin County commissioners for new schools over the past two budget cycles.

"The county won't be throwing dollars at us," she added. (She was alluding to the fact that when the new FHS and new Early College High Schools opened in the fall of 2012, the school budget was increased by only \$167 by the county. In the current budget, the school district got only 27 percent of the new money it requested.)

Doug Moore, assistant superintendent for business and finance, said there would be both utility and personnel costs associated with the new middle school.

"But I don't think the budget should drive the decision alone," he said. "Total funding should not outweigh the need for student learning."

"But we should know how expensive it will be" to open the new school, said Chairman Gil Johnson.

The new school is designed to ease overcrowding at Cedar Creek Middle School, which now has a capacity of 800 students but an enrollment of 830.

"That school grows every year, even in these slow times," Piper told the board.

Moore said he would prepare "ballpark estimates" about the cost of opening the new middle school and cautioned the board that the main variable will be how many new teachers are required to cover classes at two schools instead of one. (Franklin Times, 7/17/12)

Louisburg College has announced three new appointments to the college's Board of Trustees. Dr. Bobbie Richardson, Lynda C. Lumpkin, and Brian Wilder began their service in June 2012 for a term of four years.

"We are excited about the gifts and talents these individuals bring to the board," said Louisburg College President Mark La Branche. "Their willingness to serve is a reflection of the strong forward momentum we are experiencing as an institution."

Richardson, a Louisburg resident, brings experience as an educator and school administrator, from her early days teaching in the Durham Public School System to her previous tenure as the director of Exceptional Children for Warren County Schools.

Currently, Dr. Richardson is the school administrator for licensure, personnel and curriculum for the North Carolina Department of Corrections.

A graduate of North Carolina Central University, in 2008 she received her doctorate in Education Leadership from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Richardson is a graduate of the Progress Energy Leadership Institute, and is a member of numerous civic and professional organizations. She also serves as the social action commissioner for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., sits on the Franklin County Board of Education and is a Sunday school teacher and trustee of Gillfield Missionary Baptist Church. (Franklin Times, 7/17/12)

DEC 2012 Appointed Director of Department for Exceptional Children

Dr. **Bobbie Richardson** wanted to continue to tap into her passion for education, but wanted to do so closer to home.

As the new director of the Department for Exceptional Children with Vance County Schools she can now do just that.

The Franklin County native previously worked in Raleigh in the N.C. Department of Public Safety and was most recently the human resource director of Educational Services working with principals for services to state inmates looking to earn their GED and begin college course work.

She began in her new position on Sept. 17 and moved quickly to work with support specialists, school administrators and teachers. "I'm really enjoying working with public school educators again," she said.

"I wanted to be closer to home. I also feel I have something to offer the program. Hopefully, I can help to make a difference with children before they get to the public safety side of things."

Maintaining residence in Franklin County, she is a member of the Franklin County Board of Education and the Board of Trustees at **Louisburg** College.

Entering the workforce as a bank teller, she soon became a teacher assistant and then a classroom teacher.

Eventually, Richardson became the Exceptional Children's director for Warren County Schools, also coordinating the school system's program for an alternative school. In addition, she served for 10 years as a consultant with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. "I want us all to work together," she said.

"With everyone working together, we can help our students to be more successful. Most of our students are doing the right things. A small number bring more challenges and take more attention." (Henderson Daily Dispatch, 12/26/12)

2013

JAN 2013 Chosen to Fill House Vacancy

Democratic leaders in a northeastern Piedmont legislative district have named a local educator to fill a vacancy in the North Carolina **House**.

The Rocky Mount Telegram reported (<http://bit.ly/11cJj2>) **Bobbie Richardson** will succeed outgoing Rep. Angela Bryant, who was named last week to replace the late Ed Jones in the state Senate.

The newspaper said Richardson narrowly defeated John Gibson of Nash County during a Democratic committee vote Tuesday morning. Gov. Pat McCrory must formally appoint Richardson before she can be seated. The Legislature holds a one-day organizational session Wednesday.

Richardson is a Franklin County school board member and director of exceptional children services for the Vance County Schools.

Richardson will fill Bryant's term through the end of 2014 in the 7th **House** District covering parts of Franklin and Nash counties. (AP, 1/8/13)

APR 2013 Supports Taxing and Regulating Video Sweepstakes

If video sweepstakes centers find a way around the law banning their machines, state Rep. Jeff Collins wants to regulate and tax the popular games.

Collins, a Rocky Mount Republican, is sponsoring a bipartisan bill to establish state oversight of the sweepstakes industry. He signed on with Rep. Michael Wray, a Democrat from the Northampton County town of Gaston.

"It seems like a cat with nine lives," Collins said. "I hate gambling, but I'm a pragmatist enough to know that no matter what we do legislatively, some of these places might stay open."

In its current form, House Bill 547 would abolish the state statute outlawing video sweepstakes games. Collins said he'd only support the bill if it's revised to leave existing laws in place.

"I'm not trying to determine the legality," Collins said. "I'm willing to leave it up to the current law and the courts."

N.C. General Statute 14-306.4, which took effect in 2010, prohibits most forms of electronic sweepstakes games. The state Supreme Court upheld the law as constitutional in a December ruling after lower courts said the statute was too broad and could infringe on businesses' free-speech rights.

Authorities have raided a handful of sweepstakes parlors across the state since the Supreme Court ruling, but many businesses claim that their electronic games operate in ways that don't violate the law. Several remain in operation throughout Wilson County. A judge in Catawba County found a sweepstakes center employee not guilty of violating the 2010 law earlier this month, leaving the door open to more legal challenges.

"My intent is not to rule them out or rule them in," Collins said. "I'm willing to leave that up to the courts. If any of them continue to operate, they ought to be regulated."

Collins said he would only be satisfied with the bill if the provision repealing the 2010 video sweepstakes ban is removed. Wray, who drafted the bill and introduced it on April 4, couldn't be reached in time for this story.

"If I can get that out of it, I like the bill," Collins said. "If I can't get that out, I don't like it."

Video sweepstakes games in North Carolina generate more than a quarter-billion dollars in direct revenue each year, according to the Coalition for Electronic Sweepstakes, a trade group lobbying for the machines to be made legal and the businesses taxed and regulated.

HB 547 would require sweepstakes centers to apply for licenses from the N.C. Department of Commerce and pay a \$250 application fee. It also would set disclosure requirements, limit the kinds of software that may be installed on the machines and limit the maximum prize to \$10,000.

Sweepstakes businesses would be assessed an annual excise tax of \$2,000 plus an additional \$1,000 for each sweepstakes machine, according to the bill. Each business also would pay 4 percent of taxable gross receipts as a state excise tax.

Operators would receive tax stamps that must be affixed to each machine. Counties and cities could impose local taxes of \$1,000 per year plus an additional \$500 per machine on top of the state tax.

Collins doesn't approve of gambling, but he said the state should get a cut of the proceeds if courts allow the businesses to continue operating.

"If I were king of North Carolina, I'd shut them all down and I'd shut the North Carolina Education Lottery down -- the whole nine yards," he said. "If we just keep trying to outlaw them and they keep finding ways to stay open, they're basically operating with no regulation."

The concept of taxing and regulating sweepstakes games seems to enjoy some bipartisan support. Joining Wray and Collins on the bill are three Democrats -- Reps. Elmer Floyd, Marvin Lucas and Bobbie Richardson -- and two Republicans -- Reps. Chris Malone and John Szoka. (Wilson Daily Times, 4/10/13)

APR 2013 Co-Sponsors Bill To Downgrade Marijuana Penalties

A bill introduced by State Rep. Kelly Alexander, Jr. (D-Mecklenburg) to downgrade the penalty for simple possession of marijuana in North **Carolina** passed first reading Wednesday and was referred to the **House** Committee on Judiciary. It is being co-sponsored by Rep. Carla Cunningham (D-Mecklenburg), Rep. Beverly Earle (D-Mecklenburg), Rep. Susan Fisher (D-Buncombe), Rep. Susi Hamilton (D-Brunswick, New Hanover), Rep. Pricey Harrison (D-Guilford), Rep. Rodney Moore (D-Mecklenburg), and Rep. **Bobbie Richardson** (D-Franklin).

HB 637 would replace criminal penalties for the possession of less than one ounce of marijuana with a civil infraction similar to a traffic ticket. Simple marijuana possession is currently classified as a Class 3 criminal misdemeanor and is punishable by a suspended sentence and a \$200 fine.

A majority (56%) of North **Carolina** voters believe the penalty for marijuana possession should entail only a fine, according to a Public Policy Polling survey of 611 voters released in March.

Statement from Robert Capecchi, Deputy Director of State Policies for the Marijuana Policy Project:

"We applaud Rep. Alexander and his **House** colleagues for championing a more sensible marijuana policy for the Tar Heel State. Nobody should be subject to life-altering criminal penalties simply for using a substance that is objectively less harmful than alcohol. Police and prosecutors' time and resources would be better spent focusing on violent and otherwise serious crimes instead of enforcing criminal penalties for simple marijuana possession." (Targeted News Service, 4/11/13)

APR 2013 Backs Off Support of Stun Gun Bill For Teachers

Here's a stunner – or maybe not. Three N.C. lawmakers filed a bill last week to allow school personnel to carry and use stun guns – including Tasers – at school. One of the legislators, Rep. **Bobbie Richardson** , D-Franklin, quickly backed away from it, though, telling N.C. Policy Watch that she planned to have her name removed from the bill because the language of the proposal could be construed, she says, as allowing school personnel to carry any weapon including guns.

Of course, other N.C. lawmakers are already pushing that bad idea.

The stun-gun bill is also sponsored by Reps. Dennis Riddell , R-Alamance, and Jason Saine , R-Lincoln. It would require training by the Department of Public Instruction , and a \$200,000 appropriation to implement.

Lawmakers might want to hit the pause button on this idea and talk to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department .

Even with law enforcement training – better training than the Department of Public Instruction can provide for gun training, we'd wager – they've had some trouble getting Taser use right. A teen died after an officer used a Taser on him at a grocery store in 2008. A 21-year-old died in 2011 after officers tased him at a light rail. Both deaths prompted lawsuits. A jury awarded the family in the teen's death \$10 million, an award against the makers of the Taser. The city admitted no wrongdoing but settled out of court for \$625,000. The lawsuits faulted training.

The possibilities for expensive, unwise, even tragic, decisions are high with this plan. The idea is bad. Drop it.

The sausage-makers are different this session

The N.C. Center for Public Policy Research , a nonpartisan think tank, released some intriguing data about the 2013-2014 N.C. General Assembly last week. It's been well-reported that Republicans control both the governor's office and both **houses** of the legislature. That historic change swept away decades of dominance by Democrats.

But there are other noteworthy changes as well. Law as a profession among lawmakers has declined. More legislators have business backgrounds.

More also come with local government experience, something more common years earlier. That local government experience might partially explain all the state meddling in local government affairs this session. Charlotte is feeling the sting as state leaders have introduced bills to seize Charlotte-Douglas International Airport from the city and turn it over to an independent regional authority. But, as the Center points out, other cities getting it as well: Greensboro and Raleigh, as lawmakers push changing school board terms and district boundaries; Asheville, as legislators try to set up an independent authority for its water system.

And this session, a slew of constitutional amendments have been proposed for conservative issues. They range from preventing some government eminent domain powers to limiting restrictions on concealed gun carry permits to sticking anti-union provisions in the constitution.

All this plus record numbers of first-time legislators is making for interesting, but too often problematic, lawmaking. (Charlotte Observer, 4/21/13)

MAY 2013 Resigned Position as EC Director for Vance County Schools

Pamela Jackson, recently appointed exceptional children's director for Vance County Schools, is expected to be recognized by the N.C. Association of Educators during Monday night's school board meeting.

Jackson replaced **Bobbie Richardson** as EC director for Vance County Schools, and was appointed to the new position during April's meeting when she received board approval.

"**Bobbie Richardson** had to resign and go to the N.C. General Assembly as an N.C. Senate member," said Terry Hedrick, public information officer for Vance County Schools. "She lives in Franklin County so she won't be representing us, but Bobbie retired to accept that position in the General Assembly." (Henderson Daily Dispatch, 5/11/13)

JUL 2013 Complains About Education Cuts in Budget

Legislators were working to finalize a state budget on Wednesday that critics have said undercuts public education.

While members of the General Assembly were working to finish off a budget that was unveiled just days before, Franklin County education leaders say it will be some time before they know the full ramifications of the state's \$20.6 billion budget.

According to the budget as of press time, it cuts teacher assistance funding by 21 percent, ends the practice of teacher tenure and offers parents and guardians funds for vouchers to private schools.

The budget also removes caps on class sizes.

All told, said Rep. Bobbie Richardson, the budget cuts half a billion dollars for public education, from pre-K to college.

"The Democratic party's take," said Richardson, "is that to pay for the tax break for the wealthiest 1 percent, [the Republicans] are making it harder to provide high quality education for children to graduate and compete in the 21st century."

Immediate attempts to contact the county's Republican legislators, Sen. Chad Barefoot and Rep. Jeff Collins, were not immediately successful.

The budget, Richardson said, slices and dices money for a number of projects, but particularly education.

It could mean the loss of 4,000 teachers and 3,800 teacher's assistants.

It could also mean the loss of many other teachers to flight, leaving the state for higher paying positions.

"That's one of the things we're concerned with," said Richardson, a former member of the county's Board of Education.

Democratic members of the General Assembly have not been the only group critical of the 2013-15 state budget.

The North Carolina Association of Educators has issue with the budget, threatening a lawsuit, specifically regarding the matters of tenure and vouchers.

The practical impacts of the budget, though, won't be known for some time, said Franklin County Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Doug Moore.

"Right now," Moore said earlier this week, I've got more questions than I've got answers. I'm still trying to discern and find out what it all means."

The budget does not include raises for teachers.

And far as the issue of vouchers, the fear is vouchers for private education takes money away from public education.

Tenure would be replaced by one-, two- and four-year contracts for teachers.

Depending on the vantage point, tenure is viewed as either a means to protect bad teachers, or a method to insure that disciplinary action taken against a teacher is done fairly. The state budget removes that.

The state budget removes a lot of things, Richardson said. No state employees will get raises. Funding for road maintenance is getting cut. Community college tuition will rise. Minority business support is being cut. Department of Public Safety positions are being slashed.

And so is funding for Health and Human Services and the Wildlife Commission.

The state budget also proposes changes in funding for the Rural Economic Development Center - an agency that has come under fire for the oversight of its funding.

But it is a program, advocates say, that provides crucial funding for rural communities. At this point, said County Economic Development Director Ronnie Goswick, state funding for the program might be funneled through a different arm of government, however, there is a question as to what will happen with money provided from other sources.

"[The cut to the Rural Center] is going to affect us somewhat," Goswick said, noting it will take some time to determine the full impact. "Right now, he said, the state has frozen funding at the Rural Center.

"Counties and cities looking to do projects are being put on hold," said Goswick, noting that Youngsville had one project that was looking to get into the pipeline for Rural Center funding, but developers decided to do the project without such funding.

A project in Franklinton, using Rural Center funding, is nearly finished.

Time will tell how it all shakes out, Goswick said.

"If the (state) Department of Commerce does what it says, [the Rural Center] funding will be available.

"It'll just be through a different avenue." (Franklin Times, 7/24/13)

AUG 2013 Attends "Forward Together" Protest March

North **Carolina** State University, Raleigh, NC August 29, 2013 (The Technician, provided by UWIRE, a division of Uloop via Comtex) --Hours after President Obama spoke at a Washington rally to help mark the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "March on Washington," the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held 13 rallies throughout the state of North **Carolina**.

The Raleigh event was led by the Rev. Portia Rochelle, president of the Raleigh and Apex branches of the NAACP.

The rally, called the Forward Together Movement, brought a crowd of people who wanted to remember King for his contributions and show their disapproval of North **Carolina's** Republican-led government. Although no official attendance estimates were available, police officers on the scene estimated around 250 people were in attendance.

Although the crowd at this event was not in the thousands, as several of the Moral Monday crowds had been, MaryBe McMillan, secretary-treasurer of the North **Carolina** State AFL-CIO and a speaker at the rally, said she was impressed with the showing.

"When you take into account that there's a rally in Chapel Hill and in 13 other places, it's a good crowd," McMillan said.

McMillan said that that people of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds were banding together because they were unhappy with their leaders in the government.

"We see all these attacks on workers in this state-cutting unemployment benefits, denying Medicaid, attacking workers right to organize and our voting rights--and it's very important that all of us stand together, because that's the only way we can affect change here," McMillan said.

The Forward Together Movement gave supporters of the Moral Monday demonstrations another chance to voice their concerns about the slew of law changes and bills introduced since Gov. Pat McCrory took office.

Although McMillan was upset about the government's recent decisions, she said she was encouraged by the crowd of diverse people who came together to support the cause.

"We are going to stand together and move forward together until we get our state back and everybody has justice and freedom," McMillan said.

One of the supporters of the movement was Kevin Sheridan, a 25-year-old employee at Cisco Systems who is also working toward his master's degree at UNC-Greensboro.

Sheridan dressed in a Captain America-like costume to get his message out, which drew a lot of attention, as he was constantly being asked to pose for photographs

Sheridan said that he dressed that way because he wanted to make sure that people saw his message--and they did.

"As you can see from the pictures, I think it worked out well," Sheridan said.

Sheridan said he was unhappy with lawmakers because the “sensible economic policies” that were always being talked about were not actually sensible.

“The policies that [lawmakers] are doing are harmful to North **Carolina**, they’re harmful to the poor, [and] they’re harmful to the middle class,” Sheridan said. “The only people that [policies] help are a very few wealthy people, and that’s not sensible economics--that’s not the driver of the recovery.”

Christopher Hill, director of the Education & Law Project at the North **Carolina** Justice Center and a speaker at the rally, said that education was being hurt as well.

“We need something that encourages student achievement and that is not done with vouchers, that is not done with a proliferation of charter schools, [but] that is done by ensuring that teachers are paid,” Hill said. “It shouldn’t take [teachers] 15 years to make \$40,000, and it also should ensure that what we do keep student achievement first so we don’t put pressure on kids--that their teacher may lose their job because they don’t do well on a standardized test.”

As speakers from different backgrounds and different races each spoke their piece, many of the people who were arrested through Moral Mondays were honored, and a few government officials made an appearance.

Rep. **Bobbie Richardson**, D-District 7, Rep. David Price, D-District 4, and Rep. Rosa Gill, D-District 33, each came to the podium to show their support.

The rally ended with a recording of Martin Luther King Jr.’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech. (University Wire, 8/29/13)

SEP 2013 Criticizes Reductions in Unemployment Funding

NC Senator Angela R. Bryant (Democrat) and NC Representative Bobbie Richardson (Democrat) spoke Monday night at the VOICE of Nashville meeting held in the Council Chambers at the Harold D. Cooley Library in Nashville. The two North Carolina congresswomen spoke for over an hour, addressing recent decisions made by the state legislature.

The NC state legislature is now largely ruled by Republicans, who won the majority in 2010. This was the first time Republicans had been in control of the legislature since 1896. In 2012, Republican Governor Pat McCrory was elected as well.

Senator Bryant said that the recent decisions by the Republican-led legislature had "put us in a three way vice." For one thing, she said, the legislature has granted tax breaks to the

wealthy and to corporations. For another, they have squeezed the revenue side so that the state now has less money to spend on services such as schools, housing, and public transportation. Also, she said, those working government jobs will continue to have no significant increase in income, a situation that has continued over the last several years.

Bryant balks against the current state trend toward reduced government. "We want to be efficient," she said, "but there is a role for government in our lives to provide services, opportunities, and economic stimulus."

Richardson, who has an extensive background in education, is especially concerned at the way teachers are being treated by the current legislature. She said that the current move toward shorter contracts and the changes in career status mean that teachers will be treated more as "at will" employees, like most employees in the state.

"This is already affecting their credit status," Richardson said. "Teachers are not perceived as having the job security that they once had."

However, Bryant sees the most detrimental move by the state legislature as being the decision to not expand the state Medicare roles as encouraged by the Affordable Care Act. "This will leave about 500,000 North Carolinians without health care," she said. Bryant said that Democrats plan to revisit this decision in the short session in an effort to change the outcome.

Richardson said that she felt that the second worst move by the state legislature was the decision to reduce the funding for unemployment and to cut funding for those who had been unemployed for over two years. "This was just mean-spirited," she said.

Currently, the NC unemployment insurance program currently owes roughly 2.5 billion dollars to the federal government for benefits already paid.

The two legislators also discussed changes to the new voting laws and some of the new Affordable Care Act changes that will be taking place in the near future.

The VOICE of Nashville is a community based group that meets regularly to discuss issues of importance to the Nashville community. (Nashville Graphic, 9/10/13)

SEP 2013 Supports Lawsuit Against Voter ID Law

Rep. Bobbie Richardson, representing portions of Franklin and Nash counties, announced her support of a recent lawsuit filed against the state of North Carolina for passing a reform bill that restricts the voting rights of the elderly, the poor and the young.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of Louisburg-area native Rosanell Johnson Eaton, seeks to strike down the legitimacy of some provisions of House Bill 589 which was passed this

year and signed into law by Gov. Pat McCrory. Rep. Richardson voted against the measure.

Eaton is 92 years old and was born at home.

In the lawsuit she contends that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain a state-issued ID card because the name on her birth certificate does not match the name she has used all her life.

The midwife at her birth inaccurately recorded her name, she said in an interview with a newspaper in August.

The new law requires voters to show government-issued ID cards, shortens early voting by a week, ends same-day registration and eliminates preregistration initiatives for high school students.

A long-time civil rights activist who was named Citizen of the Year in 2008 by the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Mrs. Eaton has worked vigorously over the years to register voters and get them to the polls. (Franklin Times, 9/25/13)

NOV 2013 Speaks at "Take Back Our State" Rally

The NC Legislative Black, Senate, and Democratic Caucuses hosted a Town Hall Meeting in downtown Rocky Mount last week in order to discuss strategies for "Taking Back Our State" from Republican rule. State Senators Angela Bryant and Don Davis, as well as NC Representatives Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Bobbie Richardson, and Joe Tolson were among those who spoke at the event, which was held on Thursday, November 14 at the Four Seasons Restaurant in Rocky Mount.

Senator Angela Bryant was the moderator of the event, which focused on four major topics of discussion: the impact on education, voter "suppression," Medicaid expansion, and community economic development. There were also question and answer sessions dealing with the topics.

Rep. Bobbie Richardson focused on the topic of education. Richardson decried the recent decisions at the state level to eliminate teacher tenure and to no longer increase pay for non-essential master's degrees. She also spoke against the decision to approve vouchers for private education, claiming that the ideas harkened back to pre-integration policies and ideas prevalent in the 1950s. (Nashville Graphic, 11/19/13)

2014

MAR 2014 No Opposition For Re-Election

Candidates finish filing for elections. When the filing period ended Friday, few primary elections were necessary and some incumbents ended up unopposed, but several local matchups were set up for the fall election.

In the May 6 primary, two Democratic candidates, Stanley Griffin of Nashville and Gene Braswell of Spring Hope, will face off for the right to compete against Republican Keith Stone of Rocky Mount in the fall for Nash County sheriff.

No other primaries for county offices were necessary, and incumbent county commissioners Fred Belfield and Wayne Outlaw and district attorney Robert Evans are unopposed in the fall.

Incumbent Democratic commissioner Mary Wells, however, will face Republican challenger Rev. Peter Gilliland in the fall and incumbent Republican commissioner Robbie Davis will have a fall challenge from Democrat Barbara High Tyre of Red Oak.

Long-time incumbent Clerk of Superior Court Rachel Joyner had no Democratic challengers but will face Republican challenger Tripp Finch of Spring Hope in the fall.

State Sen. Buck Newton of Wilson will be re-elected without opposition in the fall, but incumbent state Sen. Angela Bryant of Rocky Mount, a Democrat, will face a challenge from Republican Richard Scott of Scotland Neck.

Rookie incumbent state Rep. Bobbie Richardson, a Democrat, won a free pass to re-election in the fall, but Republican incumbent state Rep. Jeff Collins of Rocky Mount will face Democratic challenger Joe Hester of Rocky Mount in the fall. (Spring Hope Enterprise, 3/5/14)

APR 2014 Honored by Conservation Voters

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS : The N.C. League of Conservation voters announced its 2014 Green Tie winners. The Senator of the Year: Democrat Angela Bryant. The Representative of the Year: Democrat Larry Hall. The rising stars it listed, again Democrats: Sens. Valerie Foushee and Sen. Mike Woodard of Durham and Reps. Nathan Baskerville, Carla Cunningham, George Graham, Duane Hall, Yvonne Lewis Holley, **Bobbie Richardson** and Evelyn Terry. (RNO, 4/29/14)

MAY 2014 Commencement Speaker

Vance-Granville Community College will hold commencement exercises dedicated exclusively to new graduates of Adult Basic Skills programs on Thursday, May 8. The ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. in the Civic Center on the college's Main Campus (<http://www.vgcc.edu/about-vgcc/main-campus.cfm>) in Vance County.

Those being honored at commencement will include approximately 350 students who have completed either the Adult High School Diploma (<http://www.vgcc.edu/Literacy-Education/ahsd.cfm>) program or the High School Equivalency (<http://www.vgcc.edu/Literacy-Education/ged.cfm>) program in the past year.

N.C. Representative **Bobbie Richardson** will serve as the guest speaker.

Rep. Richardson recently retired after a distinguished career in education. She has served as the Director of Exceptional Children for Warren County Schools and for Vance County Schools, and in administrative and consulting roles for the N.C. Department of Correction and the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. Richardson is also a former teacher and teacher assistant, working with exceptional children.

A former member of the Franklin County School Board, Richardson was appointed in Jan. 2013 to fill a vacancy in the North **Carolina House** of Representatives for **House** District 7 (which consists of portions of Nash and Franklin counties). She currently serves on the following committees: Appropriations, Commerce and Job Development, Elections, Insurance, Judiciary, Regulatory Reform, and the Joint Legislative Committee on Local Government.

Richardson is a graduate of North **Carolina** Central University, where she earned her undergraduate and master's degrees, and of the University of North **Carolina** at Chapel Hill, where she earned her doctorate in Education Leadership. Richardson lives in the Wood community in northeastern Franklin County. She is the mother of three grown children and grandmother of two.

Speaking on behalf of the graduating students during the ceremony will be Tra-Ron Williams of Henderson. He completed the High School Equivalency program in December 2013. (TNS, 5/11/14)

MAY 2014 Arranges Town Hall Meeting on Duke Energy

About two dozen people showed up for a town hall meeting this week, including residents and environmentalists concerned about water quality, officials worried about cleanup costs and representatives of the company responsible for a 39,000-ton coal ash spill.

State Rep. Bobbie Richardson arranged for the May 13 meeting, giving all interested parties a chance to learn more about the incident, the state of our drinking water and Duke Energy's efforts to solve the problem.

"I called this meeting because Franklin County needs to know what's happening," Richardson told the group gathered inside the conference room of the Franklin County Cooperative Extension office. (Franklin Times, 5/14/14)

OCT 2014 Blames Lack of Medicaid Expansion on Medical Center Cutbacks

Days after one of the county's largest employers slashed its workforce by 29 percent, the community was putting the pieces back together.

Novant Health Franklin Medical Center officials notified 59 employees on Tuesday that it was their last day on the job.

Officials said a drop in patient load, changes in this country's healthcare and a drop in payer reimbursements made the cost-cutting decision necessary.

"We've sustained a \$6.1 million loss (projected for this year)," said Novant Health Franklin Medical Center spokesperson Kathryn Knight said. "And we're seeing 65 empty beds a day.

"... We're working really hard to stay in Franklin County and stay as successful as we can," she said. "We think this restructure should help us here." *

The decision caught many flat-footed.

The county's Existing Industries Coordinator, Richie Duncan, said she and Workforce Development representatives met with Knight and Novant Health Franklin Medical Center President Jody Morris to discuss ways to support and increase business, but there was no discussion about heading off job cuts.

"[Job cuts] was not public information at that time," Duncan said.

"... It is sad," Duncan said. "They are a really good corporate citizen," she said. "We'll continue to support them as we have."

Novant Health bought the majority stake of Franklin Medical Center from Health Management Associates in the fall of 2009.

In a letter its Winston-Salem-based attorneys sent to the North Carolina Department of Health Service Regulation, the hospital has faced "significant challenges in the last several years concerning its utilization," said attorneys with Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough.

The hospital, though, is not required to notify the state about personnel matters, a spokesperson with the regulation office said.

The number of discharged patients has dropped 21 percent in the five-year span and only about 13 of its available 70-acute care beds get staffed on a daily basis.

"It's something we've struggled with for a while," Knight said.

To fix its finances, the overall 83-bed hospital will essentially cut back to an emergency room and a couple of in-patient beds.

The hospital, though, is not delicensing any beds or operating rooms and intends to remain a licensed acute care hospital.

The hospital will maintain its emergency and outpatient services, including surgery, imaging, laboratory, rehabilitation, infusion and the geriatric behavior health unit.

"We want to assure the community that the changes are being made to ensure we have the financial resources to continue to deliver high-quality care to Franklin County, said Patrick Easterling, senior vice president of Novant Health consumer operations.

"While these choices are never easy, we are not alone in the need to review options and make difficult decisions to operate in this rapidly changing world of health care."

Easterling said the declines at the Louisburg location could be attributed to the same pressures healthcare operations across the country are facing.

"Hospitals in North Carolina and across the nation feel the effects of declining demand for inpatient care combined with reduced payer reimbursement," he said. "With the changes occurring in healthcare, a realignment of our services is necessary to preserve our ability to provide care for our community."

Included in those changes to healthcare, Knight said, was the state's decision not to expand Medicaid.

The hospital has lost \$195,000 in Medicaid funding so far this year, with projections to lose \$390,000 by the end of the fiscal year, Knight said.

"That is something that has impacted the hospital," she acknowledged.

Rep. Bobbie Richardson, who represents part of Franklin and Nash counties, said the Medicaid impacts on hospitals like Novant could be seen coming. She had not yet been appointed to the General Assembly at the time of the 2013 vote on Medicaid.

"Novant came to me and other representatives of the General Assembly expressing their concerns over the fact that a lack of (Medicaid) expansion would have dire consequences on their ability to provide services," she said, noting that Novant relayed to leaders they serve a lot of uninsured and under-insured patients.

"... I just pray that when we come back (to session) in January, if the governor does not call us sooner, that the General Assembly will have compassion and a sense of business about them and reverse it." (Franklin Times, 10/15/14)

DEC 2014 Disappointed Over Lack of Funds for US 401 Improvement

The state's drafted blueprint for road construction and improvements doesn't include U.S. 401 in Franklin County in the near future.

As recently as 2010, N.C. Department of Transportation's (DOT) 10-year plan called for widening U.S. 401 from N.C. 96 to Flat Rock Church Road in 2017.

Since then, though, the state introduced a new formula to prioritize road projects and, in the spring, it was revealed that U.S. 401 scored low under the state's new data-driven criteria.

The state's emphasis under the new plan, officials have said, is improving urban traffic congestion at the apparent expense of rural roadways.

Last week, DOT released its draft 10-year State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), confirming fears that advocates for the road's improvements possessed.

Improvements for U.S. 401 through Franklin County were kicked off the funding cycle for the next 10 years, pushed out to future years, with an unfunded status.

"I'm seriously disappointed in the DOT and its ability to make decisions based on what I believe to be for the benefit of the citizens of North Carolina, especially those who live in rural North Carolina," said County Commission Chair Sidney Dunston.

"[Improving U.S. 401] is not a new idea," It's an argument that's been made over the decades," he said. "Improving this road not only benefits Franklin County, but Wake County and northeastern North Carolina.

"... It seems to be so deceitful on the Department of Transportation to assure us that at least that part of 401 between 96 and Flat Rock [Church Road] was a certainty to be on that list for completion and now to scratch it off and have no indication that it will come back again."

The 10-year plan was produced after advocates for the roadway have had opportunities to share their passion for roadway improvements with DOT staff, state legislators, the Secretary of Transportation Joe Tata and Gov. Pat McCrory, himself.

Rep. Bobbie Richardson said that has been particularly disappointing.

"When Tata came to Franklin County, our citizens presented a well-defined and comprehensive plan for why it should be expanded," said Richardson, who represents portions of Franklin and Nash counties in the General Assembly. (Franklin Times, 12/10/14)

2015

JAN 2015 MLK Day Speech

Today's America needs another Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Those were the words of Representative Bobbie Richardson, who spoke on Monday at the Nashville Willing Workers' annual celebration honoring the life of the civil rights leader.

Richardson said Dr. King was a man who defied all odds, rising up against the injustices of the south.

"He was thrust into leadership at a very tender age but nevertheless he took the lead," Richardson said.

King put the ugliness of what was happening in America at the forefront of the American people, causing news stations to televise events that occurred.

"America began to see that the land that touted itself as the land of the free and the home of the brave had much to be embarrassed about," Richardson said.

"Dr. King faced brutality," she added. "His character was attacked. His home was bombed but nothing stopped him."

Richardson said because of King's efforts, the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964. The Right to Vote followed soon after.

But today, Richardson added, some of those same policies are being threatened.

"Today we see these very policies of opportunity being challenged by the people in Washington and the people in Raleigh that I sit with," she said.

"America needs another Dr. King," Richardson added. "We need Dr. King back today to lead us and stand up against such injustices."

"We need a Dr. King when there is money out there to fund Medicaid expansion but the General Assembly said North Carolina doesn't want it so 500,000 people continue to suffer, continue to have aches and pains and diseases but cannot get medical help because they can't afford it. We need a Dr. King to come to the General Assembly and let them understand that God said that we are to also look out for those that are the least among us."

"We need Dr. King back here today."

Richardson spoke to over 100 who attended the annual breakfast, which was held at the O.D. Moore Building on Alston Street in Nashville. (Nashville Graphic, 1/21/15)

APR 2015 Successful State Cat Bill

A group of Rocky Mount elementary school students were by far the youngest lobbyists at the legislature Monday, but they got results in their bid to name the official state cat.

Fourth-graders from Benvenue Elementary School won support from the state House to designate the bobcat as North **Carolina's** state cat.

"We got the idea of a bobcat because our school mascot is a bobcat, and we noticed that we didn't have a state cat," said Benvenue student My'Kel Scott. "We just decided to make up this bill, and it's going great so far."

Rep. **Bobbie Richardson**, a **Louisburg** Democrat who represents Rocky Mount, took up the cause and sponsored the bill. "We all wrote a letter and we put facts on why it should be the state cat," Benvenue student Shannon Rogers said.

Rogers said she was surprised that the legislators didn't argue about the bill. The unanimous vote in the **House** Wildlife Committee came after just a minute or two of discussion, which also seemed to surprise its sponsor. Two hours later, it passed the full **House** in a 114-2 vote.

"Can I have this support every time I present a bill?" Richardson joked.

Richardson let the students argue for the bill. Rogers told the committee that the bobcat is "the only wildcat in North **Carolina**."

And Scott also came prepared. "We figured out some interesting facts about the bobcat, like how it kills pests that we don't want in our **houses** like snakes, rats and other animals," he said.

The students' bill heads next to the Senate. If it becomes law, the bobcat would get a boost after it lost its job as the mascot for Charlotte's professional basketball team. The team recently changed its name to the Charlotte Hornets.

"Do you think Hugo the Hornet will have any concerns about this bill?" joked Rep. David Lewis, a Dunn Republican.

Two other animals are seeking official status this legislative session. Senate bills that would name the osprey as the state raptor and the Linville Caverns spider as the state spider haven't yet received a committee hearing. (RNO, 4/27/15)

APR 2015 Opposed Failed Bill To Ban School Board Lawsuits

The N.C. **House** voted down a bill that would have banned school boards from suing the county commissions that provide their funding.

The failure of **House** Bill 726 Tuesday night by a 52-66 vote marked a rare occasion in which legislation was placed on the **House** floor without majority support.

The bill generated more than an hour of heated debate – some **House** members who have served on county commissions supported the bill, while others whose previous political experience was on a school board opposed it.

The bill sponsor, Rep. Debra Conrad of Winston-Salem, said the bill would prevent costly lawsuits that leave taxpayers stuck with legal fees.

"We do not need to be wasting dollars in the courtroom," she said, adding that the two elected boards should instead "have a constant open dialogue."

Rep. Gary Pendleton, a Raleigh Republican and a former Wake County Commission chairman, said he found that the school board was always seeking more funding by any means possible.

Rep. **Bobbie Richardson**, a **Louisburg** Democrat and a former school board member, said the legal option is necessary for school boards.

"We hope that school boards and county commissions can work in collaboration, but when they cannot, there needs to be an alternate means," Richardson said. "The people that will be hurt the most are the students that we serve." (RNO, 4/28/15)

MAY 2015 Gets Nine Vacant State Park Jobs Restored

The budget recommended by the subcommittee on the environment takes a big swipe at unfilled jobs, rejects a key proposal of the governor's efficiency program and spares the state parks some painful cuts.

- The initial proposal would have eliminated 70 vacant positions in the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources , but nine of those positions were restored. Rep.

Bobbie Richardson, a Democrat from **Louisburg**, saved saved those jobs from the 36 ½ state parks positions proposed for elimination.

Many of the cuts would be to jobs that have been vacant for at least a year, but the cuts also include positions empty only for six months.

Rep. Jimmy Dixon, a Republican from Warsaw and a co-chairman of the committee, said the chairs aggressively looked for cuts down to the six-month level, but agreed to Richardson's request, saying in some cases they might have been too aggressive.

The governor told state agencies he would reduce the number of positions that have been left open for a year if agencies can't justify them. (RNO, 5/14/15)

MAY 2015 Successful Amendment to Budget to Save Rocky Mount Call Center

The North **Carolina House** voted on 45 amendments during debate Thursday and early Friday over the chamber's two-year state budget. Here are the outcomes of some contentious or high-profile issues. The chamber:

- defeated an amendment by Rep. Dana Bumgardner, R-Gaston, that would have eliminated the 30 percent increases in Division of Motor Vehicles fees. It also would have eliminated money for new port improvements and scaled back some road-building funds.
- created a \$5 million matching grant program run by the state budget office for municipal and county law enforcement agencies to purchase and use body-worn video cameras and for training and other expenses. Law enforcement agencies will be limited to grants of \$100,000. The approved amendment was offered by Reps. Ed Hanes, D-Forsyth, and Charles Jeter, R-Mecklenburg.
- allowed another round of payments for those sterilized under North **Carolina's** 20th century eugenics program to occur before July 1. The first checks of \$20,000 were issued last fall to a couple hundred people who qualified for compensation. North **Carolina** was the first state to compensate victims by setting aside \$10 million in 2013. The approved amendment from Rep. Paul Stam, R-Wake, would allow additional awards of \$15,000 to the first batch of people whose compensation claims were approved.
- narrowly approved an amendment by Rep. **Bobbie Richardson**, D-Franklin, that would prevent the Department of Revenue from closing a Rocky Mount call center by mid-2017. (AP, 5/22/15)

SEP 2015 Votes Against Budget With Income Tax Cut

With only hours to spare before the third extension expired, Gov. Pat McCrory signed the budget into law.

This boondoggle (it's a family newspaper) was originally due on July 1.

The budget is the only thing the Republican controlled General Assembly is required to do and they were almost three months late.

Between now and Election Day 2016, I'm sure McCrory, who is fighting for his political life, will lead the Republicans all over North Carolina bragging about how they cut taxes.

Let's take a look at just who they served and how the budget's tax package will impact the average Franklin County family.

The personal income tax rate was cut from 5.75 percent to 5.499 percent.

The United States Census Bureau tells us that the annual median household income in Franklin County is a bit under \$41,700.

This budget also increases the standard deduction by \$500 to \$15,500. Using round numbers, the average Franklin County household will see their state income tax bill drop by \$65.

If you happened to be one of the Republicans' fat cat financiers paying taxes on \$1 million a year, you are ahead of the game by a little over \$2,500.

Hold on now; don't let that 65 bucks burn a hole in your pocket. We need to look at a bit more of the package. I'll concentrate on just one aspect today -- the expansion of what is subject to sales tax.

In fact, I'll just look at one service -- repairs.

Our fat cat probably drives a new car while Joe Franklin County's car has some mileage and years on it.

New cars are under warranty. In the unlikely event that it requires repairs, they are free of charge.

For our regular guy, the warranty is a distant memory and repairs are a fact of life.

If you have \$1,000 in repairs over the course of the year, the sales tax will be a tad over \$67.

While the personal income tax rate went down, what happened to your tax liability?

Remember that when the Republicans tell you about how they lowered your taxes!

Of local interest, Democratic Rep. Dr. Bobbie Richardson voted against the budget.

I seldom agree with Republican State Sen. Chad Barefoot and this time is no exception as he voted for the budget.

At least he has the courage of his convictions.

Republican Rep. Jeff Collins did not vote -- not an excused absence of which there were five in the House -- he was the lone member of the House who did not vote. (Franklin Times, (Regular Column By County Democratic Chair), 9/23/15)

2016

MAY 2016 Concerned About Lack of COLA for Retirees in Budget

It took no longer than the first budget meeting before the battle lines were drawn in what will become the biggest spending-related debate of 2016.

It will be about raises and bonuses for state employees and teachers, as well as cost-of-living adjustments for government retirees.

It is an election year, and General Assembly lawmakers have a modest surplus at their disposal for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

At a meeting of the House and Senate appropriations committees, Andrew Heath, Gov. Pat McCrory's budget director, outlined the governor's priorities for raises and bonuses.

McCrory wants to bring average teacher pay in the state above \$50,000 a year through average 5 percent pay increases. Teachers also would get bonuses.

His budget includes bonuses, but not across-the-board raises, for other state employees. It also doesn't include increases for retirees.

McCrory's top priority is bringing average base teacher pay above \$50,000 to put the state more in line with other states.

"The governor was laser-focused on doing that and trying to do something bold and historic by getting it above \$50,000 for the first time," Heath said.

The governor's budget also includes money for raises for positions that are hard to fill or hard to retain because the private sector pays more.

As legislators started asking questions, disagreement was evident.

Sen. Tommy Tucker, a Waxhaw Republican, questioned why the governor's budget would give 5 percent raises to teachers but not across-the-board raises to other employees. Other state employees don't get the time off that teachers do, he said.

"I look at my own company, and if I was giving merit increases, I could justify it," he said. "But in my own company, I couldn't give one group of people a raise and not give another group of people the same raise across the board." Rep. Paul "Skip" Stam, an Apex Republican, pointed out that non-teacher state employees generally live in areas with higher costs of living, like Raleigh.

Rep. Bobbie Richardson, a Louisburg Democrat, expressed concern about the lack of cost-of-living increases for retirees in the governor's spending plan. "Those are people that has made North Carolina what it is," she said. (RNO, 5/2/16)

MAY 2016 Co-Sponsors Bill to Have Lottery Profits Used to Repay Teacher Student Loans

What do you think of the idea of using N.C. lottery proceeds to help teachers repay their student loans? Tell us on Facebook.com/WinstonSalemJournal.

A bill filed in the North **Carolina House** would allow teachers to pay back a portion of their student loans with profit the state received from the largest lottery jackpot in United States history in exchange for a commitment to stay in the classroom for at least four years.

House Bill 1031 would take \$38.5 million in proceeds from the North **Carolina** Education Lottery to establish the North **Carolina** Teacher HELP Fund, which would be used to pay

off teachers' student loans in amounts up to \$10,000. In exchange, the teachers would have to commit to teach in a North **Carolina** public school classroom for at least four more years.

Rep. Ed Hanes, D-Forsyth and one of the primary sponsors of the bill, said the fund would be one way to help recruit and retain teachers, something the state has struggled with over the last several years. Hanes said it could help encourage teachers to come to or stay in North **Carolina** instead of moving to other states that might not offer the same benefit.

"Our public school teachers are being financially squeezed at every turn," Hanes said. "While we are working on raises, they simply aren't coming fast enough. Our teachers and their families need relief."

Forsyth County had 73 teaching vacancies at the end of March and is looking at new ways, such as Teach for America, to help fill staffing shortages.

Beverly Emory, superintendent of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, said she would support such a program if it was something that teachers got behind. But said she also hopes the state tackles base salary concerns for all teachers.

"We can't not look at any opportunity to keep people," she said.

Hanes said that the loan repayment fund could help teachers struggling to pay off student loans. While proposed changes to the bill haven't been filed, Hanes said the plan is to graduate the repayment amounts, giving the most to teachers who commit to teach in the state's rural and economically disadvantaged counties.

"It's a good idea because we'll be able to help more people, and because teachers in Forsyth and other Tier 3 counties already get a supplement that folks in rural counties don't get," Hanes said.

Under the proposed changes, teachers in Tier 1 counties - the 40 most economically distressed - would receive up to \$10,000. Teachers in Tier 2 counties would be eligible for up to \$7,500 and those in Tier 3 counties, such as Forsyth and other urban centers, could receive up to \$5,000.

The original language in the bill called for awarding up to \$10,000 to all teachers who participated in the program and would have helped about 3,800 teachers. With the graduated system favoring teachers in smaller counties, Hanes estimates the program could help around 5,700 teachers.

Data from the National Center of Education Statistics shows that less than 5 percent of education majors graduating nationally in 2008 - the most recent data available - had no debt. About 50 percent graduated with at least \$20,000 in debt.

"It's a major concern," said Ronda Gordon, president of the Forsyth County Association of Educators. "With the salaries the way they are, teachers don't have the money to pay back their loans."

Gordon said she had not seen the specifics of HB1031, but said she thought a broad program that was open to all teachers would be a good idea.

The \$38.5 million would come from a lottery revenue windfall created by January's record Powerball jackpot of almost \$1.6 billion. The bill would appropriate the money to the North **Carolina** State Education Assistance Authority, which would administer the fund.

Current bill language makes the program available to teachers with at least two years of experience, but not more than eight. In their applications, teachers would sign an intent to remain in a North **Carolina** public school classroom for an additional four years after receiving their repayment assistance loan. The loan would be forgiven after those four years.

The bill's other primary co-sponsors are Reps. Graig Meyer, D-Orange; **Bobbie Richardson**, D-Franklin; and Brad Salmon, D-Harnett. Hanes said he is hopeful the bill will receive bipartisan support, but has not found a Republican to sign on. About 18 other Democrats have become co-sponsors.

The bill has been referred to the **House** Committee on Education-Universities.

Last week Gov. Pat McCrory proposed his own plan to spend extra lottery profits. McCrory's budget adjustments for next year call for extra lottery revenues to finance a digital learning initiative, additional classroom supplies, expand access to NC Pre-K and award more scholarships to special-needs students for use at private schools. (Wilmington Star-News, 5/9/16)

JUN 2016 Opposes Charter School District

A plan to hand over some of North Carolina's struggling elementary schools to charter operators is headed to Gov. Pat McCrory's desk despite outcry from educators and local school boards who call it a charter school takeover.

The House passed the Senate version of a bill Wednesday to create a five-school Achievement School District pilot program for schools that have consistently shown poor growth and performance.

Supporters say the bill is an innovative attempt to better serve children at failing schools. Last year, 93 schools had less than 5 percent of students testing at grade level in more than one subject, according to North Carolina Department of Public Instruction data.

Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, the proposal would allow a State Board of Education-appointed superintendent to choose charter companies with proven success to run the schools. The companies would have hiring and firing powers and would be exempt from oversight and evaluations from local school boards.

The bill's supporters say rural locations and limited resources trap students at schools where they are doomed to fail.

Opponents say it seizes power from local school boards that know the culture of a community better than outside operators.

Mark Jewell of the North Carolina Association of Educators has said the organization opposes the plan because it does nothing to treat the poverty issues at the root of poor test scores.

Rep. Bobbie Richardson, D-Franklin, urged lawmakers to reconsider their support of the bill in light of lackluster results from similar proposals in other states.

North Carolina's legislation closely resembles a Tennessee Achievement School District, which was established in 2012. Researchers say student testing scores at the charter-operated schools have shown little to no comparative growth. Gov. Pat McCrory's office did not immediately respond to an email for comment. (AP, 6/30/16)

JUL 2016 Democratic Convention Delegate

About 150 delegates and alternate delegates from North **Carolina** have arrived in Philadelphia for the Democratic National Convention , where they'll hold a formal vote this week to nominate Hillary Clinton for president.

Here are some details about the state's delegation:

How many votes will each candidate get from North **Carolina**? Based on the March 15 primary results, Hillary Clinton will receive 60 of the state's pledged delegates, and Bernie Sanders will get 47.

What about the superdelegates? According to an Associated Press survey, 11 of North **Carolina's** superdelegates say they plan to vote for Clinton, while two plan to vote for Sanders. Superdelegates aren't required to vote based on primary results and can pick

whichever candidate they prefer. Nationally, most superdelegates plan to vote for Clinton, prompting Sanders' supporters to complain that the system is "rigged."

Who are North **Carolina's** superdelegates? The state's three Democratic members of Congress – Reps. David Price, G.K. Butterfield and Alma Adams – serve as superdelegates. Three others are elected officials who get to be superdelegates because of their leadership roles in the party: State Treasurer Janet Cowell, Cumberland County Commissioner Jeanette Council and Mecklenburg County Commissioner Pat Cotham. The other eight are state party officials, most of them elected by party members to serve on the Democratic National Committee . They include state party chairwoman Patsy Keever, Goldman Sachs lobbyist Joyce Brayboy, St. Augustine's University president Everett Ward and East **Carolina** University development director Zack Hawkins.

How are the regular delegates selected? The N.C. Democratic Party elects them at conventions in each congressional district and at the statewide convention in June.

Notable names among the regular delegates: Wake County Democratic Party Chairman Brian Fitzsimmons is a Clinton delegate. So is Wake County Commissioner Jessica Holmes. N.C. Association of Educators President Mark Jewell is also a Clinton delegate.

Longtime Durham activist Lavonia Allison is serving as a Sanders delegate. Wendy Ella May, a transgender Johnston County commissioner candidate, is an alternate Sanders delegate.

And 12 state legislators are all pledged to Clinton: Rep. Cecil Brockman of High Point, Sen. Don Davis of Greene County, Rep. Beverly Earle of Charlotte, Rep. Rosa Gill of Raleigh, Rep. Pricey Harrison of Greensboro, Sen. Paul Lowe of Winston-Salem, Sen. Floyd McKissick of Durham, Rep. Graig Meyer of Hillsborough, Rep. Rodney Moore of Charlotte, Rep. **Bobbie Richardson** of **Louisburg**, Rep. Chris Sgro of Greensboro and Sen. Erica Smith-Ingram of Northampton County. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall is also a Clinton delegate. (RNO, 7/25/16)

JUL 2016 Praises Bill Clinton Speech About Hillary

Bill Clinton isn't used to being the second act, but he slipped comfortably into that role Tuesday night when making a forceful case that his wife is the proven change-maker who should become president of the United States in November.

After struggling to control his temper and his outbursts on the campaign trail in 2008, the former president has been a far more disciplined, supportive spouse on the campaign trail this time -- traveling across the country to campaign for his wife and carefully avoiding GOP nominee Donald Trump's provocations.

On Tuesday night, he delved deeply into her biography to cast her as change agent -- hinting that while she might not be as natural a politician, she has spent her life fighting to improve people's lives, particularly the lives of children and the disabled.

"She's the best darn change-maker I've ever met in my entire life. This is a really important point," Clinton said of his wife. "This woman has never been satisfied with the status quo ... She always wants to move the ball forward. That is just who she is."

At a time when many voters say they don't trust Hillary Clinton, her husband sought to soften her harder edges. He recalled how relentlessly he had pursued her, proposing to her three times before she accepted.

Bill Clinton's artful effort to humanize his wife, who sometimes comes off as robotic on the campaign trail and has struggled to win voters' trust, was met with enthusiastic cheers in the room. Before the former President's speech, several delegates said they were worried about the harsh negativity of the election and the seeming inability of Hillary Clinton to endear herself to voters.

The former President went to great lengths to do that for her.

"In the spring of 1971 I met a girl," he mused at the beginning of the speech -- as though Hillary Clinton was just any girl he might have courted in a long flowered skirt. He went on to note, in great detail, how she had repeatedly spurned his marriage proposals to focus on her work for poor children and education reform. He also described her as selfless, completely taken aback when he told her at one point that she would run for office. No one would ever vote for her, she told him laughing.

"I married my best friend. I was still in awe after more than four years of being around her at how smart and strong and loving and caring she was and really hoped that her choosing me and rejecting my advice to pursue her own career was a decision she would never regret," Bill Clinton said.

"I was very impressed, I think he made people understand who Hillary was from the time that he met her -- and how she fascinated him, and all the great things she has done for so many different groups. Most importantly how she put off making money to serve the people, the public," said Bobbie Richardson, a state legislator and delegate from North Carolina.

Richardson said she felt that for most of the American public that is a story that they don't know. "That's the beauty of it," she said. "As he said, people in Arkansas didn't know that she was the reason that they were benefiting from so many of these different programs."

Asked about the high level of distrust that many voters feel about Hillary Clinton, Richardson said testimonials like Bill's are exactly what is needed to change those perceptions.

"I think the more they hear about her between now and November 8th, the more they will realize that she's human. There were mistakes that she's made, but she's cleared of those mistakes," Richardson said. "Tonight we got the truth."

Richardson said she liked the wistful touch of romance that Bill Clinton added to his speech: "I think he was trying to show that he remembered what she looked like, and what she wore 40 years ago. I thought that was the beauty of how romance starts." (CNN Wire, 7/27/16)

AUG 2016 Critical of Current Districting Map

Capping a summer's work, a group led by former UNC system President Tom Ross on Monday unveiled a map it says shows the state can assemble a representative set of Congressional districts without taking partisan politics into account.

Crafted largely by 10 retired judges, half Democrats, half Republicans, the map does away with the blatant gerrymanders that in 2011 yielded districts that in some cases looked more like squiggles than coherent constituencies.

Given recent voting patterns, the judges' map would favor Republicans somewhat, with the GOP's candidate likely to win six of the state's 13 U.S. **House** districts and the Democrat's four.

The remaining three districts -- most notably one centered on Greensboro -- would likely be toss-ups either party could win in any given election.

Even in some of the others, elections would be a bit more competitive than they were under the 2011 map -- or than they promise to be this fall under a new, official one Republicans in the N.C. General Assembly drew this year with the avowed purpose of maintaining a 10-3 GOP majority in the state's Congressional delegation.

Ross said his group's map-drawing exercise, a joint project of Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy and Common Cause N.C., is an unofficial "educational effort" to show it's possible to draw Congressional districts using rules that bar consideration of political factors like voter registration data.

When it comes to gerrymandering, "this is not a one-party-right, the-other-party-wrong situation," Ross said. "Both parties have had a chance to fix this problem and neither, when they've been in power, have done so."

He argued the upcoming 2020 census gives them an incentive to act now, as neither can be sure of holding power once new population counts arrive.

One of the retired jurists who participated in the exercise, former N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Rhoda Billings, added that public pressure could also play a role in bringing the parties to the table.

"People are getting tired of having elections that don't count because the map they were voting under was declared unconstitutional," Billings, a Republican, said in alluding to a long string of court decisions invalidating one set of districts or another.

Just such a ruling sparked the General Assembly's most recent redistricting exercise, a court-directed effort this year to replace the set of Congressional districts legislators set up in 2011.

The 2011 map was notorious for among other things parceling Durham into four districts, including one that for the first time in living memory grouped part of it with Fayetteville.

The General Assembly's reworking of it this year reduced the Durham split to two districts, one seat now occupied by U.S. Rep. David Price, D-4th, the other by U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield, D-1st.

The Sanford School/Common Cause map did away with the division entirely.

All of Durham County was in a single district with all of Orange County, the northeast portion of Chatham County, the northern third or so of Wake County, a piece of Granville County and the eastern half of Alamance County.

Ross noted the judges' map splits 12 of the state's 100 counties.

A county split somewhere is inevitable because North **Carolina's** two most-populous counties, Wake and Mecklenburg, are each too large to be single **House** districts, he said.

But each could get a district covering much of its area. Wake's could cover Raleigh, Cary and its southern suburbs. Mecklenburg's could take in Charlotte and its eastern suburbs, leaving out only the areas bordering Gaston County and in the Interstate 77 corridor around Lake Norman.

The Durham-, Wake- and Mecklenburg-centered districts were among the four the results of past elections suggest would tend to vote for Democrats. The fourth was a smaller version, by land area, of Butterfield's 1st District.

Participating judges applied the rules of redistricting-process bill that's stalled in the General Assembly despite having bipartisan support, which favors drawing districts that are "reasonably compact in form," Ross said.

Toss-up districts included the one centered on Guilford County, another covering northern Cumberland County and some of the region between Raleigh and Greenville, and a third that includes New Hanover County and communities in the state's southeast.

The preference for compact form showed most strongly in the district centered on the Winston-Salem area.

Apart from its Forsyth County base, it included counties south, north and northwest of the city that have been in its economic orbit since the days tobacco was king in the Piedmont.

The General Assembly's 2011 and 2016 redistricting efforts stretched the Winston-Salem district significantly farther west, to include several mountain-region counties that border Tennessee.

Such wide geographic spreads are a problem in and of themselves, said state Rep. **Bobbie Richardson**, D-Franklin.

So-called "finger districts" make it difficult for communities to get satisfaction from their elected representatives, she said.

"With G.K's area, he has people from the far east [of the state] and urban Durham," she said, alluding to Butterfield's present district. "How does he divvy up policies or make decisions that are going to impact positively on that different [assemblage] of people?" (Durham Herald-Sun, 8/29/16)

OCT 2016 Profile of Re-Election Campaign

race for the N.C. House District 7 seat will feature two familiar faces this year.

Republican William Duke Hancock II is facing off against Democratic incumbent **Bobbie Richardson** N.C. House District 7, which includes portions of Franklin and Nash counties.

This year's race is Hancock's second attempt at the seat, having last run in 2012 against then-incumbent Angela Bryant. Bryant defeated Hancock in that race, but was later appointed to the N.C. Senate as a replacement for Ed Jones in 2013 after he died in office.

Richardson, who was appointed to fill Bryant's remaining term, is was elected to the seat in her own right in 2014 and is seeking another term.

Hancock is campaigning on a platform centered on balancing treatment services for disabled people living in state institutions and the community.

Richardson's platform also focuses on health and medical issues, but in a different avenue. She is campaigning on a platform supporting affordable health care for all Americans.

While the topic of health care connects the candidates to a point, the duo is split on other topics including the needs facing District 7.

Hancock said he believes the district's needs are equal rather than any one outweighing another.

"I don't believe there is any specific element in our economic success that is the biggest or most important," he said. "Conversely, I do not believe there is an element of economic growth that is least important. All elements of economic growth must grow collectively. The most important element in any district enjoying success, growth and prosperity is to have representation that is strong and effective."

Richardson said the district and state have a number of needs including infrastructure, jobs, education and economic development.

"Infrastructure needs are prevalent," she said. "Roads in both counties are the biggest needs. Education is a must, too. That is the most attractive thing to any company that looks at re-locating. Expansion of education would improve our counties greatly in terms of jobs and infrastructure."

Hancock said residents play as much of a role as the government in attracting jobs to the region.

"One of the most important elements of bringing more jobs to the district is to be proactive," he said. "Seek opportunities and act upon them. Get involved with any city, town and community that is considering a business's interest in their community — then attempt to redirect those businesses to our community."

Richardson said addressing the district's infrastructure is key to attracting businesses and jobs.

"I think we need to make sure we have the infrastructure so people can continue to come in," she said. "We have a hub to develop workers. But we need the infrastructure to develop them."

One of the jobs that has received a lot of attention in North Carolina is that of teacher. Hancock and Richardson are just as divided on this topic as the district's needs and attracting jobs to the region. Hancock said he feels teacher pay is only part of the issue that should be addressed in the discussion.

"There is more to teacher pay than just the pay/compensation," he said. He added that he

felt providing needed supplies for teachers in the classroom is just as important in keeping teachers in North Carolina as pay rates.

Richardson said the state as a whole needs a system in which teachers can move up both financially and in terms of their career.

“We need to see a system where teachers can move up,” she said. “Reinstating masters and doctorate pay will make a difference, too.”

The candidates also addressed the issue of the hotly debated House Bill 2.

Richardson said the bill is discriminatory both in regard to the bathroom portion of the bill and its language addressing employment and pay. Hancock meanwhile said he supports the bill.

“It is very discriminatory,” Richardson said. “It allows anyone to be fired without cause. It is very overreaching in how local governments can set standards for contractors in local communities.”

She added the bill’s bathroom section has negatively impacted the state in terms of its impact on students who identify as transgender and on the state’s economy.

Hancock said he feels the bill is a reflection, especially, of his supporters.

“From what my constituents have reflected, the majority of the citizens prefer to keep our toilet rooms to be gender-specific based on their natural-born gender,” he said, adding he supports the bill’s language regarding employment.

“North Carolina is a “Hire and Fire at Will” state,” he said. “Other than the restrictions mandated by our constitution, an employer can dismiss an employee for any reason. To give the LGBTQ group a special privilege concerning employment would be unfair to others that were not of the LGBTQ group.”

Bobbie Richardson

Age: 66 Education: NC Central: Undergraduate, Graduate; UNC Chapel Hill: Ph.D. Professional Background: Retired educator, administrator Political Background: Two-term N.C. representative Family: Three children, two grandchildren, 17 brothers and sisters

William Duke Hancock II

Age: 57 Education: High school graduate Professional Background: Retired U.S. Marine

aviator Political Background: Second run for public office Family: Divorced, two sons
(Rocky Mount Telegram, 10/21/16)

NOV 2016 Easily Wins Re-Election

-- Franklin County will continue to be represented by Bobbie Richardson and Jeff Collins in the N.C. House as both incumbents secured re-election.

Richardson retained her District 7 seat, beating out a challenge by newcomer William Hancock II, 23,153 votes to 11,010. She also carried Franklin County with 6,362 votes to 3,334 for Hancock.

"I am happy that I won the election and I wish my opponent good deeds," she said. "And, hopefully we can work together."

Richardson, a Democrat, said she's readying herself to begin work anew with a Republican-led General Assembly. But she's positive.

"I'm happy I won, but I'm not so jubilant," she said. "I'm going back to a General Assembly that is still a super majority ... hopefully, I have built some relationship with those in the chamber where we can work together and move North Carolina forward."
(Franklin Times, 11/9/16)

NOV 2016 Court Orders District Redrawn

-- A federal court has ordered the state to redraw House and Senate Districts for an election next year.

The Nov. 29 decision directly calls for the state to redraw House District 7 covering Franklin County and redrawn maps, experts have said, would most likely impact other districts not directly named in the judges' order.

The order, issued by a three-judge panel of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, imposes a March 15 deadline for the state to draw new districts.

The order is the result of an August decision where federal judges ruled that lines drawn by the Republican-led General Assembly in 2011 were unconstitutional -- essentially deeming them to be racial gerrymandering.

Directly, the courts ruled that 19 of the state's 120 House districts must be redrawn and nine of the state's 50 Senate districts must be redrawn. The order directly names Rep. Bobbie Richardson's District 7, which covers Franklin and Nash counties. (Franklin Times, 11/30/16)

DEC 2016 Letter to Editor Rips Special Session

Dear editor:

On Wednesday (Dec. 14), when the Republican leadership of the NC General Assembly launched a surprise special session, my office that night began receiving email protests from citizens across the state.

Within 48 hours, more than 2,500 emails had poured in, dozens of protesters had been arrested inside the Legislative Building, and hundreds had chanted through the halls against the appalling attempts by the GOP to limit the powers of Governor-elect Roy Cooper.

Cooper is a Democrat of course, and the GOP leadership, not content to have a super-majority in the House and Senate, is attempting to strangle what power he has.

They have proposed bills to cut his political appointees from the 1,500 allowed under McCrory to less than 450.

They want the Senate to confirm his cabinet appointments.

The blatant power grab will affect the state Board of Elections and appointments to the UNC Board of Governors, and it will affect the powers of the state Supreme Court and state Court of Appeals.

The citizens are right to protest this brazen effort to undermine democracy.

The people elected Roy Cooper as their next governor, and they expect him to carry out his duties as other governors before him have done.

One of the cornerstones of our democracy is the ability to accept the outcome of an election.

Indeed, it is the most important aspect of our political system, because without that respect, we are treading on a political slippery slope, the results of which could be catastrophic.

Republicans are attempting, and, so far, succeeding in passing these bills, despite the protestations of many, including two former governors, but Cooper has promised to meet them in court for what will most likely be lengthy and costly litigation.

As Cooper has pointed out, "they do not have a good track record there," so it will be an unnecessary cost to taxpayers.

In the meantime, even if they lose in court, the GOP knows that it can keep Cooper preoccupied with litigating and take away from governing for months or even years to come.

Maybe that was the game plan all along.
Rep. Bobbie Richardson
Franklin County (Franklin Times, 12/21/16)

2017

FEB 2017 Named One of Three Party Whips

Rep. **Bobbie Richardson** was recently chosen from among her peers to the position of House Democratic Whip at the NC General Assembly. Richardson is one of three whips approved by the Democratic caucus to the leadership role.

"I am excited to take on this added responsibility," said Rep. Richardson. "I am proud that my peers have confidence in my ability to provide leadership within the Democratic caucus."

Whips are assigned a team of legislative members from their caucus, and their job is to keep track of votes on upcoming bills. In her role, Richardson will "whip up" support for bills that the Democratic leadership favors.

Democratic whips are also responsible for raising funds for the caucus.

Rep. Richardson is in her third term representing District 7 which includes portions of Franklin and Nash counties. She resides in Franklin County. (Nashville Graphic, 2/8/17)

FEB 2017 Supports Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project

The 1.5-MMDth/d Atlantic Coast Pipeline LLC natural gas transportation project has been the focus of opposition from environmental groups, but other groups told the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission they want the project built.

The support came as a coalition of opposition groups reiterated their request that FERC cancel or supplement a positive draft environmental impact statement for the Atlantic Coast project and a connected project. The request was prompted by new information from project developer Dominion Resources Inc. The company has said the information

was a routine step as FERC develops a fuller picture of the project during the preparation of a final impact statement.

Countries voice support for project

As the opposition groups wait for a response, the \$5 billion to 5.5 billion Atlantic Coast project and Dominion's related Supply Header project have received support from stakeholders and businesses. In separate Feb. 15 filings, counties in North **Carolina** and West Virginia supported the Atlantic Coast project and the potential revenue it might bring to their areas.

"The project will ... enhance our ability to recruit additional businesses, especially manufacturing," Halifax County, N.C., Economic Development Commission Executive Director Cathy Scott said. The commission requested that FERC approve the project.

The Wetzel County Commission of West Virginia also suggested the project could attract commercial and industrial development. The commission said it was happy the infrastructure would be built with union labor.

North **Carolina** Rep. **Bobbie Richardson**, a Democrat, supported the project "because it will mean cleaner energy sources for the area as well as jobs for my constituents." Richardson said the project would offer energy options to businesses that could stimulate job growth.

Virginia Natural Gas Inc., one of the Atlantic Coast subscribers, said it would like FERC to approve the project for its customers. "Despite the prolific production of natural gas in the Marcellus and Utica Shales, regional transportation capacity constraints continue to result in supply price volatility at purchase points distant from the production area," VNG President Jim Kibler said in a letter. "By having firm primary point access to additional liquid trading points in the production area, VNG will be able to improve price certainty and economy to its firm sales customers."

FERC staff issued a positive draft EIS for the Atlantic Coast and Supply Header projects Dec. 30, 2016. Atlantic Coast Pipeline is a joint venture formed by Dominion, Duke Energy Corp., Piedmont Natural Gas Co. Inc., and Southern Co. Inc's Southern Gas Co. (FERC dockets CP15-554, CP15-555) (Platts Energy Trader, 2/21/17)

MAR 2017 Co-Sponsors BRIGHT Futures Act Bill

House Bill 68, the BRIGHT Futures Act, would provide state grants for municipal broadband agencies to extend infrastructure to underserved areas. The fiber-optic networks would then be leased to cable and internet companies, who would provide the service and bill customers.

That bill, which enjoys the North **Carolina** League of Municipalities' backing, was referred to the **House** Committee on Energy and Public Utilities, where it has yet to receive a hearing. HB 396 has not yet been assigned to a committee.

Rep. **Bobbie Richardson**, D-Franklin, who represents a portion of Nash County, signed on to co-sponsor the Thursday bill, along with Reps. Verla Insko, D-Orange, and Evelyn Terry, D-Forsyth. (Wilson Daily Times, 3/20/17)

APR 2017 **Votes For Compromise Bathroom Bill**

Staunch supporters of North **Carolina's** bathroom bill call Thursday's repeal a stunning surrender, while LGBT rights advocates say it's a baby step in the right direction.

Six of the eight state lawmakers representing Wilson, Nash and Edgecombe counties voted with the majority to take **House** Bill 2 off the books. Sen. Rick Horner, R-Wilson, and Rep. Jeff Collins, R-Nash, cast their votes against the compromise bill that Gov. Roy Cooper signed into law Thursday evening.

"I was adamantly opposed to the repeal of HB2," Collins said. "It was good legislation. Nobody could tell me substantively what was wrong with it."

Sens. Angela Bryant, D-Nash, and Erica Smith-Ingram, D-Northampton, joined Reps. Susan Martin, R-Wilson, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, D-Wilson, **Bobbie Richardson**, D-Nash, and Shelly Willingham, D-Edgecombe, in voting for the compromise.

Legislators were under pressure to pass the repeal this week so that North **Carolina** cities could be considered as NCAA championship tournament sites. The college sports sanctioning body had pulled its events in protest of **House** Bill 2, which it said promoted discrimination against gay and transgender people.

"I think they probably ought to be charged with racketeering," Collins said of the NCAA. "We definitely shouldn't be rewarding their bad behavior by giving them what they want. They probably should have their nonprofit status revoked because of all the political activity they've been doing."

Some conservative leaders, including Lt. Gov. Dan Forest, say rewarding or punishing states through tournament selection for the laws elected officials enact is improper and makes the NCAA a lobbying group.

House Bill 2 required people to use the public restrooms, changing rooms and showers matching the gender listed on their birth certificates, though it had no enforcement mechanism or penalty for violators. It also prevented North **Carolina** cities from adopting

nondiscrimination ordinances and set a statewide policy that mirrors federal law, where sexual orientation and gender identity are not considered protected classes.

The HB2 “reset” passed Thursday as **House** Bill 142 prevents local governments from enacting any regulations on private employment practices or public accommodations like bathrooms until Dec. 1, 2020.

Horner, a freshman senator representing Wilson, Nash and Johnston counties, said he opposed the compromise because the 3 1/2 -year moratorium failed to resolve the issue of city-level restroom access rules.

“I did not want to be a part of any temporary fix for HB2 to kick the can down the road,” he said. “I had a lot of issues with the deadlines. I think we needed to be deliberate and thoughtful about what we do.”

While Horner cast a no vote, he said the repeal and moratorium is “a Band-Aid for now” that should end economic boycotts waged against North **Carolina** in HB2’s wake and will prevent the bathroom bill from looming over the legislature as a distraction during the 2017-19 term.

“Everybody’s going to come back,” he said. “I think this will satisfy them. Most people in the middle who go about their lives on a daily basis will be satisfied with it.”

Eventually, Horner said, lawmakers will have to deal with the issue of local-level nondiscrimination rules. He favored permanently reserving that power for the state instead of allowing a patchwork approach where cities could adopt dozens of different definitions for classes of people protected from discrimination.

Farmer-Butterfield, who has long opposed HB2, said the repeal compromise didn’t satisfy progressives. She voted for the bill because it was “the best deal we could get at this point in time given all the players.”

“I wanted more,” she said, “but I wasn’t going to get more, and that has been evident since December.”

An HB2 repeal sponsored by Senate leader Phil Berger was defeated during a special legislative session late last year, with equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats opposing the bill in a 32-16 vote. That compromise would have imposed a shorter moratorium on local government nondiscrimination ordinances.

“This was the best deal we could put in place,” Farmer-Butterfield said. “It took a bipartisan vote on behalf of the legislature and the governor to make it happen.”

The eight-term representative and senior member of Wilson County's legislative delegation said repealing **House** Bill 2 will improve North **Carolina's** image. Major companies including PayPal scrapped expansion plans, the NBA and NCAA withdrew sporting events and a slew of musicians refused to perform in the state after the bill's passage.

"I hope we'll start to recover from our national negative reputation," Farmer-Butterfield said.

An Associated Press analysis found that HB2 would cost the state \$3.7 billion in economic activity over a 12-year span, though the lieutenant governor and others have disputed that figure.

HB2 supporters say the law protected women and girls' privacy in public restrooms and showers. Opponents say the fear of men claiming to be transgender in order to exploit restroom access policies is unfounded and the bill was a pretense to discriminate against transgender people.

Farmer-Butterfield said the 3 1/2 -year moratorium gives transgender rights advocates an opportunity to change attitudes and educate North Carolinians about gender identity issues.

"I just think that the work for people in the LGBT community and their friends and family and supporters is cut out for them," she said. "Nothing in this bill prevents them from going forward in their advocacy to protect them from discrimination." (Wilson Daily Times, 4/1/17)

APR 2017 Sponsors Body Cam Bill

A bill introduced Wednesday in Raleigh would require police officers and sheriff's deputies in larger counties to wear body cameras to record traffic stops and their other public encounters.

The bill submitted by state Reps. Cecil Brockman and Amos Quick, both Democrats from Guilford County, would mandate an "operational video camera provided by a law enforcement agency and affixed to a law enforcement officer's uniform and positioned in a way that allows the video camera to capture interactions the law enforcement officer has with the public."

Those recordings would be a public record accessible to "any person who submits a written request to the law enforcement agency," except that the agency could cut out or "redact" certain parts of a tape for good cause, according to the bill that also was

sponsored by state Reps. Kelly Alexander (D-Charlotte) and **Bobbie Richardson** (D-Louisburg).

The bill would appropriate \$10 million during the next two years for matching grants to help law enforcement agencies “buy and maintain” the recording equipment.

All the backers of the “Body Worn Camera Recordings” bill are black legislators. Brockman said the measure stems from the ongoing friction between police agencies and the black community that has played out in recent years from Greensboro to other parts of North **Carolina** and across the nation.

“It’s not about any one particular incident that has happened,” Brockman said. “But there have been incidents in the past that everybody is very well aware of. And I think that for African-Americans, in particular, it is kind of in the forefront of our minds.”

Brockman noted that officers in many larger metropolitan areas, including Greensboro and Winston-Salem, already are equipped with body cameras.

Quick said the bill is meant to provide a safety net that can prevent those relatively rare instances where things go awry between officers and members of the public.

“While most interactions with law enforcement are not issues, we have seen incidents that have ended in tragedy,” said Quick, a former member of the Guilford County Board of Education. “This bill can help shine light on situations like those and hopefully save lives.”

In crafting the bill, Brockman said he tried to strike a “transparent” balance between the public’s interest in knowing the details of such encounters and police officers’ latitude as trained professionals.

Brockman submitted a similar bill during the last session of the General Assembly two years ago and the proposal never made it out of committee in the Republican-dominated **House**.

He said in a Wednesday evening telephone interview that he hopes the proposal meets a kindlier fate this time around.

But one of Guilford’s more prominent Republican office holders, Sheriff BJ Barnes, questioned the wisdom of making the recorded interactions a public record that could be readily obtained and widely dispersed.

Guidelines already exist telling law enforcement agencies when to release body camera footage and to whom, Barnes said.

"I think if this bill passed, it would be a disaster for law enforcement," said Barnes, who added that he believes if footage is released to the public it would end up on social media. "If it was all made public, how could you have a jury trial?"

"The intentions are good, but I don't see this working for law enforcement," he said.

Brockman noted that research suggests that when officers are equipped with body cameras, the technology tends to result in fewer complaints being filed against officers by members of the public because both parties are "on their best behavior" when they know they are being taped.

The proposed body cam law would only apply in North **Carolina** counties with populations greater than 200,000, Brockman said, as a way of acknowledging that it might be more difficult for officials to carry out its mandates in smaller, more rural settings with smaller tax bases. (Greensboro News And Record, 4/6/17)

APR 2017 Co-Sponsors Medicaid Expansion Bill

A Democratic-sponsored bill would expand the state's Medicaid program in part through funding from an assessment of the state's hospitals.

It is a similar strategy to what has been proposed in **House** Bill 662 by four **House** Republicans, including Rep. Donny Lambeth, R-Forsyth. It represents the third Democratic attempt at expansion.

Expansion supporters, as well as several academic studies, have determined that expanding Medicaid could benefit more than 500,000 North Carolinians - potentially raising total Medicaid recipients to 2.4 million.

House Bill 858, filed Wednesday, would establish a Medicaid expansion assessment that would pass through the General Fund. Primary sponsors are Reps. Jean Farmer-Butterfield, D-Wilson, John Autry and Beverly Earle, both D-Mecklenburg, and **Bobbie Richardson**, D-Franklin.

The bill also would repeal the state law passed in 2013 by the Republican-controlled legislature that forbids the governor from pursuing Medicaid expansion without legislative approval.

Analysts say that condition is likely to draw criticism from Republican legislative leaders who have fought in federal court since January to halt Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper's Medicaid expansion waiver request with federal health officials.

"Overall, I believe this bill further highlights growing support for expansion," said Ciara Zachary, a policy analyst with the left-leaning N.C. Health Advocacy Project.

The assessment in HB858 would be calculated by the state Health secretary. It would encompass "the total state share of service and administrative costs of Medicaid expansion for the applicable time period, the hospital's share of all Medicaid services billed, and the amount assessed to the hospital."

The Medicaid assessment would take priority over any other assessment hospitals pay.

HB858 lists state funds of \$27.5 million for fiscal 2017-18 and \$41 million for fiscal 2018-19 for administrative costs. That assessment would nearly match projected federal funding of \$29.1 million for fiscal 2017-18 and just under \$43 million for fiscal 2018-19.

There would be a state appropriation for Medicaid services costs, representing \$114.8 million for the first half of 2017-18. Another \$6.7 million would be provided from the N.C. Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse.

Those funds would serve as a state-required match of \$1.245 billion in federal funding for 2017-18.

For 2018-19, the state would provide \$273.4 million from the General Fund, \$13.5 million from MHDDSA funding and \$7.88 million from the N.C. Division of Adult Correction's inmate health-care program. The projected federal funding would be \$3.47 billion.

In both instances, if more federal funds are provided than projected, the state funding would be reduced by the federal overage.

By comparison, HB662, titled "**Carolina** Cares," requires "participant contributions."

Lambeth said the expansion initiative would work "more like an insurance product for those working who can pay a portion of the cost, and the benefits and coverage are built around preventive and wellness care."

For example, participants must follow protocols for routine physicals and screenings to improve their health if they have conditions such as diabetes, overweight, etc."

The bill represents the first bona fide expansion attempt by Republican legislators even though many in the party seem to oppose any initiative.

Participant contribution would consist of an annual premium, billed monthly, representing 2 percent of their household income. That element appears to be based on the Healthy Indiana Medicaid expansion plan established by former Gov. Mike Pence.

Participants must be employed or pursuing a job to qualify, a component that may draw criticism from some expansion supporters.

The bill includes several qualifying exemptions: individuals caring for a dependent minor child, adult disabled child or disabled parent; in active treatment for substance abuse; and determined to be medically frail.

"I am meeting with groups to inform them of the benefits and value," Lambeth said Thursday.

The N.C. Medical Society and N.C. Hospital Association have signaled their support for Cooper's proposal that would include not-for-profit health care systems helping to pay the state's 5 percent match of Medicaid expansion administrative costs for 2017, 2018 and 2019.

The association said it is reviewing HB662. It could not be reached for comment about HB858.

"We appreciate Rep. Lambeth and his **House** colleagues for seeking an innovative solution to this critical issue and stand ready to work with the General Assembly and the Cooper administration to address the financial aspects of the plan," NCHA spokesman Julie Henry said. (Winston Salem Journal, 4/21/17)

APR 2017 Opposes Charter School Expansion

RALEIGH Students could gain admission to charter schools based on where their parents work or where they live under legislation that would make significant changes in the ways the schools fill their classrooms.

The state House is considering a collection of bills that would change who can start a charter and how quickly the schools can grow. Corporations would be able to reserve spaces in schools for their employees' children, and two towns would be able to set up charter schools for their residents. Under current law, charters are open to any student in the state, although schools can give preference to siblings and school employees' children.

"This is loosening the restrictions on how charters operate and what they're allowed to do," Rep. Graig Meyer, an Orange County Democrat, said of the collection of bills the House Education Committee approved Monday in divided votes.

Under one bill, up to half a charter school's seats could be reserved for children whose parents work for companies that donate land, buildings or equipment to the school.

Employees of those companies would also be able to join the charter school's board of directors.

Rep. John R. Bradford III, a Mecklenburg Republican, framed the bill as an economic development tool that could help attract companies to rural counties. Companies would be able to offer classroom seats as employee perks, Bradford said, equating charter enrollment to companies paying for employee meals.

"This creates a vehicle where a company can create an employee benefit," he said.

Meyer objected, saying the provision would have taxpayer money going to company schools.

"This moves closer to privatization than North Carolina has ever allowed before," he said.

Another bill would allow charter enrollment to grow 30 percent a year without approval from the State Board of Education. Charters are now limited to 20 percent annual growth without board approval. Some Democrats objected on the grounds that it could fuel growth in schools that aren't good. Allowing charters with bad records to expand would not be fair to taxpayers, parents or students, said Rep. **Bobbie Richardson**, a Louisburg Democrat.

Attendance at charter schools has doubled since 2011, when the legislature allowed the number of schools in the state to exceed 100. Other laws have erased the need for charters to get State Board of Education approval before they add grades and students. (RNO, 4/25/17)

APR 2017 Co-Sponsors Bill to Strengthen Rainy Day Fund

State Treasurer Dale R. Folwell, CPA, joined the credit rating agency Moody's in recognizing new legislation bolstering the state's Savings Reserve or, "Rainy Day Fund," as a "credit positive" measure.

House Bill 7, the subject of a new comment by Moody's, was approved by the North **Carolina** General Assembly and signed by Governor Roy Cooper on April 13th. Moody's is one of the "big three" agencies providing research and credit ratings for commercial and government entities. The company stated in the comment that the measure "will improve the state's financial flexibility and its ability to respond to future contingencies."

"The General Assembly deserves the credit for taking the necessary steps to strengthen the 'Rainy Day Fund,'" said Treasurer Folwell. "The Moody's comment is proof that this type of leadership has not gone unnoticed by the rating agencies and should only help North **Carolina** preserve and strengthen its AAA bond rating."

North **Carolina** is one of only 12 states in the U.S. that has a AAA bond rating with all three rating agencies. Bond ratings are an important component in determining the costs of borrowing money through the issuance of state and local bonds. Higher bond ratings potentially reduce interest costs, resulting in more funding for schools, roads and law enforcement.

The new law requires 15% of each fiscal year's estimated growth in sales tax revenue be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund while also limiting the fund's use to prevent it from being exhausted in a single year.

Moody's further noted that "the new law will provide guidelines for current and future administrations, helping to maintain a steady level of reserves."

House Bill 7 was sponsored by Representatives Nelson Dollar, Chuck McGrady, Dean Arp, **Bobbie Richardson**, George Cleveland, Kevin Corbin, Jimmie Dixon, Carl Ford, Kyle Hall, D. Craig Horn, Pat Hurley, Frank Iler, Susan Martin, Allen McNeill and Harry Warren. (State News Service, 4/27/17)

JUN 2017 Against Call For Constitutional Convention

A resolution calling for a constitutional convention is headed to the **House** floor after a committee voted 8-6 along party lines to move the proposal forward.

The move came one day after former U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint visited the legislature to lobby for the Convention of States idea, which is popular among conservatives seeking term limits for Congress and a balanced federal budget. The group also brought a hat-wearing llama to draw attention to their cause.

In April, the Senate passed a resolution calling for a convention of the states in a 29-20 vote, but the **House** hadn't taken any action until this week. Sponsors of the resolution in the **House** said Tuesday that it's unclear if the measure has enough votes.

"New people have been sent to Washington many times over, and it's very obvious that Washington will not fix the problem because Washington is the problem," said Rep. Bert Jones, a Reidsville Republican and sponsor of the resolution. "By failing to act, we become part of the problem. We are aiding and abetting the problem that is driving our nation deeper and deeper into the black hole of debt."

But Democrats on the committee voiced concerns about a constitutional convention. Rep. **Bobbie Richardson**, a Franklin County Democrat who is African-American, noted that many of her own rights came from federal government action.

"My fear is that my children and grandchildren's rights are being taken away," she said. "I think we should be very cautious about saying what the federal government should not do. Many of us benefited from the federal government stepping in."

Others argued that a constitutional convention isn't the best way to resolve Washington's problems. "The power rests with the people," said Rep. Terry Garrison, a Democrat from Henderson. "It's incumbent on the people to elect persons to office who will keep those priorities in order."

Rep. Michael Speciale, a New Bern Republican who isn't on the committee, said he's eager to "drain the swamp" in Washington but called for the resolution to be defeated.

"This is not the way to do it," he said. "This is a full blown constitutional convention. This should only be used as a very last resort."

Two Republicans on the committee voted for the resolution because they wanted the entire **House** to have a chance to vote on it, but they said they had reservations about the proposal – including how convention delegates would be chosen. The appointments would be controlled by the legislature but the process isn't clear.

There hasn't been a constitutional convention since the first one in 1787. If two-thirds of the states call for a convention, Congress has to call the meeting. North **Carolina** would become the 13th state to pass a resolution.

Proposed amendments would have to be ratified by 38 state legislatures before they become part of the Constitution – a requirement that Jones argued would prevent any unpopular amendments from passing.

Rep. Dennis Riddell, an Alamance County Republican and co-sponsor of the resolution, said the convention is the only solution to the national debt problem, which he compared to a drug addiction.

"We are putting the next generation in a form of involuntary servitude," he said.

The resolution could get a hearing on the **House** floor as early as Wednesday afternoon. If it passes, North **Carolina's** call would become official because the resolution doesn't need to be signed by the governor. (RNO, 6/28/17)

AUG 2017 Moved to Overwhelming Pro-Trump District

Political data released by state lawmakers Monday shows voting patterns in proposed N.C. General Assembly districts.

Most of the proposed districts lean Republican, similar to the current makeup of the General Assembly, where Republicans hold supermajorities in both the state **House** and Senate. Lawmakers drew new districts after courts ruled that the current maps, drawn in 2011, are unconstitutional racial gerrymanders.

President Donald Trump would have won 33 of the 50 proposed Senate districts and 76 of the 120 proposed **House** districts. Statewide last year, Republican nominee Trump won 49.9 percent of the vote to 46.1 percent for Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

Gov. Roy Cooper, a Democrat, would have won 18 of the 50 Senate districts and 47 of the 120 **House** districts. Cooper narrowly unseated Republican Pat McCrory last year, 49 percent to 48.9 percent statewide.

Many of the districts will likely be uncompetitive in next year's elections. That's not a change from recent history; in 2016 nearly half of all General Assembly races were uncontested, which activists have blamed on gerrymandering.

The numbers released Monday show that just 10 of the 50 Senate districts will likely be competitive next year – those are the only districts in which either Trump or Clinton would have won by single digits. Seven of the competitive districts lean Republican and the other three lean Democratic. On the other hand, a handful of districts would have seen presidential results as lopsided as a 70-30 split.

Just 19 of the 120 **House** districts are competitive by that measure, including 12 that lean to Republicans and seven that lean to Democrats.

To find out which districts you live in, zoom in on the **House** map released Saturday and the Senate map released Sunday.

To see whether a district leans left, right or center, check out the new documents for the **House** and Senate.

2017 **House** map insetFrom the proposed 2017 state **House** map.

Several legislators will be double-bunked if the new maps pass, meaning two incumbents will have to run against each other unless one drops out or moves to another district. There are also several open districts where no current incumbent lives, which could provide openings to political newcomers around the state.

There are four open **House** districts. Two of them (one in Pitt and the other in Chatham and Durham counties) are Democratic areas, and two (one in Guilford and the other in Craven and Beaufort counties) are Republican.

There are also four open Senate districts. One (in Wake County) is strongly Democratic, one (covering 11 northeastern counties) leans Republican, and two (one in Stanly and Rowan and one in Iredell and Yadkin counties) are strongly Republican.

Some incumbents have uphill climb

A few Republican incumbents would be placed in new, Democratic-leaning districts.

Sen. Jeff Tarte of Mecklenburg County and Sen. Rick Horner of Wilson County would represent districts that voted for Clinton in 2016. Horner's district is especially unfavorable; 58 percent of the vote there last year went to Clinton. Tarte's is more of a tossup; Clinton beat Trump in that district by 49-45.

Another GOP senator, Bill Cook, faces a tough challenge – he would be double-bunked with a Democratic incumbent, Sen. Erica Smith-Ingram, in a northeastern district that would've supported Clinton 53-45.

In the Charlotte area, two GOP **House** members (Andy Dulin and Scott Stone) will find themselves in districts that narrowly supported Clinton over Trump. Nearby in Rowan and Cabarrus counties, two other Republican incumbents (Larry Pittman and Carl Ford) will be double-bunked in a pro-Trump district.

And Republican Rep. Jeff Collins of Nash County was placed in a district that went for Clinton over Trump by eight points. In nearby Wilson County, Republican Rep. Susan Martin is double-bunked with a Democratic incumbent, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, in another close district that supported Clinton, 52-46.

Across the aisle, Sen. Angela Bryant of Nash County would see the tables turned against her. She would be moved to a new district that went for Trump by a margin of 56-40.

Three **House** Democrats would be in districts that supported Trump by a whopping 17 points or more: Ken Goodman (Richmond County), William Brisson (Bladen County) and **Bobbie Richardson** (Nash County).

Several other Democrats landed in pro-Trump districts that were much closer, including George Graham in Lenoir County and Robert Reives II in Lee County.

Reives would be double-bunked with Republican Rep. John Sauls but has said he wants to keep representing Chatham County, which would be moved to a safely Democratic district with no incumbent under the new maps. (RNO, 8/21/17)

Nash County Democrats heard from a state lawmaker about judicial gerrymandering during a local party meeting Thursday in Rocky Mount.

N.C. Rep. **Bobbie Richardson**, D-Franklin, said the state GOP wants to reduce the number of prosecutorial districts from eight to five so more Republican judges can be elected.

“A judge in Durham County would serve all the way to Dare County,” Richardson said. “So here we go again with gerrymandering.”

Speaking of gerrymandering, state legislative districts have been shaped in a way to benefit Republicans, Richardson said. Her N.C. House district has been redrawn to include all of Franklin County and southern Nash County, which skews conservative.

Richardson said the N.C. Senate maps are even worse, stripping away favorable voters from N.C. Sen. Angela Bryant, D-Nash.

“Hopefully Angela will return to the House,” Richardson said. “She can win no doubt.”

Richardson said there is a short session set for early October, but with an overwhelming majority in the N.C. General Assembly, Republicans always get a knockout punch.

As far as local politics, Nash County Democratic Party Chairman Dwight Jordan said Democrats need to help re-elect Rocky Mount Councilwoman Chris Miller in Ward 7. She faces two opponents in the October nonpartisan municipal election.

“All good Democrats need to help Chris bring this thing home,” Jordan said.

Jordan said local Democrats need to continue fundraising efforts so the party can keep open its headquarters on Sunset Avenue. (Rocky Mount Telegram, 9/29/17)

DEC 2017 Questions Why Black Schools Not Picked for State Teaching Fellows Program

Lawmakers are questioning why some schools, including historically black colleges and universities, weren't chosen to host a new state program designed to train future teachers.

Elon University , Meredith College , N.C. State University , UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC-Charlotte were selected for the N.C. Teaching Fellows Program, which is aimed at training teachers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, math or special education.

The five schools were selected by the N.C. Teaching Fellows Commission based on such factors as teacher effectiveness, internship experiences and passage rates for teacher licensure exams. But some Republican and Democratic state lawmakers complained at

Tuesday's Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee meeting about why schools they felt were equally qualified were not chosen.

"I too am perplexed that none of our HBCUs have made it when we've had many students graduate from our HBCUs that are very effective in the classroom," said Rep. **Bobbie Richardson**, a Franklin County Democrat. "So I am saddened to hear that we have written legislation that has eliminated a great portion of our teaching population and also the teachers who would possibly have background experience that would be successful in relating to students who look like them."

More than 80 percent of North **Carolina's** teachers are white, while white students account for less than half of the state's traditional public school enrollment.

Sponsors of the legislation said they didn't intend to exclude HBCUs and that they'd look at adding more schools once the new program is established.

"No matter who you choose there are going to be folks who didn't make the cut this time," said Rep. Craig Horn, a Union County Republican and co-chair of the oversight committee. "It is the intent of the sponsors of this legislation and this concept that we're going to continue to grow the teaching fellows. We had to start somewhere."

The N.C. Teaching Fellows Program, created by the legislature, will provide scholarships to about 160 future teachers each year, starting in the 2018-19 academic year. It replaces a previous teaching fellows program that had been phased out in 2011. The new program is more targeted, with the goal of attracting students to go into teaching specialties where there are shortages.

Students in the program will receive up to \$8,250 per year in forgivable loans if they commit to teach in a STEM or a special education area. Teachers have 10 years to pay back the loan, either through cash or loan forgiveness. Recipients have to serve a year in a low-performing school or two years in another public school for each year they received the loan.

The application period opened Monday. Go to <https://ncteachingfellows.com/> for more information, including a link to the online application.

To determine which schools would host the program, the commission reviewed applications from 16 schools using criteria developed by lawmakers. The five schools with the top scores were chosen. Individual scores aren't being released to avoid embarrassing schools, according to Sara Ulm, director of the teaching fellows program.

"There is no doubt among the applications there were a number of other outstanding institutions that by all standards would have been meritorious," said Mary Ann Danowitz, chairwoman of the Teaching Fellows Commission and N.C. State's education dean.

In addition to Danowitz, the commission included three other deans from educator preparation programs, teachers, principals, a member from business and industry and a local school board member.

Several legislators questioned why specific schools were not chosen. Sen. Chad Barefoot, a Republican from Wake Forest and co-chair of the committee, said this is why the selection process was turned over to an independent commission.

In addition to questioning the lack of HBCUs, Sen. Erica Smith-Ingram, a Northampton County Democrat, complained about the lack of host schools in Eastern North **Carolina**.

"It caused me deep consternation to see there is a great lack of geographic diversity," she said.

Sen. Jerry Tillman, a Randolph County Republican, said he could not see why Appalachian State University was omitted when schools "not noted for their teacher preparation programs seem to have made the cut."

Sen. Rick Horner, a Wilson County Republican, wondered why East **Carolina** University was not picked. But Horner said that while the five schools may not be to everyone's liking, he's glad the teaching fellows program is back.

"It's a darn good start and I'm glad to be here today," he said. (RNO, 12/5/17)

4: LEGISLATIVE ALERTS

2013

JAN 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 23 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko, Joe P. Tolson, Marvin W. Lucas, Linda P. Johnson, Rick Glazier, Susan C. Fisher, Michael H. Wray, Pricey Harrison, Ruth Samuelson, Tricia Ann Cotham, Hugh Blackwell, Rosa U. Gill, D. Craig Horn, Susi H. Hamilton, Tim D. Moffitt, Tom Murry, Phil Shepard, Jason Saine, Dean Arp, Nathan Ramsey, Dennis Riddell, Ken Waddell, Rob Bryan, **Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT DIRECTING the state board of education to develop and implement digital Teaching and learning standards for teachers and school administrators.

Summary Line

01/31/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

01/31/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

02/13/2013 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

02/13/2013 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

02/13/2013 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 02/14/2013

02/14/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

02/14/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

02/18/2013 SENATE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

02/18/2013 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

02/18/2013 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION/HIGHER EDUCATION

03/06/2013 SENATE REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

03/06/2013 SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED

03/07/2013 SENATE PASSED 2ND READING

03/07/2013 SENATE PASSED 3RD READING

03/11/2013 **HOUSE** RECOMMENDED TO CONCUR S COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

03/12/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

03/12/2013 **HOUSE** WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

03/12/2013 **HOUSE** ADDED TO CALENDAR

03/12/2013 **HOUSE** CONCURRED IN S/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

03/12/2013 **HOUSE** ORDERED ENROLLED

03/13/2013 **HOUSE** RATIFIED

03/14/2013 **HOUSE** PRESENTED TO GOVERNOR 3/14/2013

03/15/2013 **HOUSE** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 3/15/2013

03/15/2013 **HOUSE** CHAPTERED SESSION LAW 2013-11

JAN 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 7 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Marvin W. Lucas,Larry M. Bell,Paul Stam,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Nelson Dollar,Pricey Harrison,Pat B. Hurley,Thom Tillis,Larry D. Hall,Elmer Floyd,Darren G. Jackson,Rosa U. Gill,Frank Iler,John Faircloth,Marcus Brandon,Ken Goodman,Susi H. Hamilton,Tim D. Moffitt,Tom Murry,Ken Waddell,Edward Hanes, Jr.,Evelyn Terry,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT TO PROVIDE MONETARY COMPENSATION TO PERSONS ASEXUALIZED or STERILIZED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE EUGENICS BOARD OF NORTH **CAROLINA**.

Summary Line

01/31/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

01/31/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FEB 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 152 (NS)

Sponsor: Paul Luebke,Marvin W. Lucas,Deborah K. Ross,Rick Glazier,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,W. A. (Winkie) Wilkins,Pricey Harrison,Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.,Rosa U. Gill,Susi H. Hamilton,Rodney W. Moore,Larry G. Pittman,Carla D. Cunningham,Nathan Baskerville,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Paul Tine,Deb McManus,Valerie P. Foushee,Joe Sam Queen,Edward Hanes, Jr.,Evelyn Terry,Duane Hall,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to extend the sunset for the earned income tax credit.

Summary Line

02/27/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

02/27/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, IF FAVORABLE, APPROPRIATIONS, IF FAVORABLE, COMMERCE AND JOB DEVELOPMENT, IF FAVORABLE, GOVERNMENT, IF FAVORABLE, RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

FEB 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.J.R. 171 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Marvin W. Lucas,Rick Glazier,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,W. A. (Winkie) Wilkins,Pricey Harrison,Larry D. Hall,Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.,Rosa U. Gill,Susi H. Hamilton,Valerie P. Foushee,George Graham,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting that congress propose an amendment to the united states constitution to overturn the united states supreme court ruling in citizens united v. federal election commission concerning corporate campaign spending.

Summary Line

02/28/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

02/28/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**, IF FAVORABLE, ELECTIONS

FEB 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 188 (NS)

Sponsor: Alma Adams,Verla Insko,Marvin W. Lucas,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Garland E. Pierce,Pricey Harrison,Larry D. Hall,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Marcus Brandon,Charles Graham,Susi H. Hamilton,Rodney W. Moore,Nathan Baskerville,Edward Hanes, Jr.,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to mandate a minimum amount of early voting on weekends.

Summary Line

03/04/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/04/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**, IF FAVORABLE, ELECTIONS

FEB 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 184 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Henry M. Michaux, Jr.,Marvin W. Lucas,Deborah K. Ross,Rick Glazier,Susan C. Fisher,Pricey Harrison,Larry D. Hall,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Susi H. Hamilton,Rodney W. Moore,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Deb McManus,Edward Hanes, Jr.,Evelyn Terry,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to clarify that beneficiaries of the federal deferred action for childhood arrivals initiative are eligible to obtain a drivers license in this state.

Summary Line

03/04/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/04/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**, IF FAVORABLE, TRANSPORTATION

MAR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 221 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko, Mitchell S. Setzer, Marvin W. Lucas, Rick Glazier, Becky Carney, Susan C. Fisher, Pricey Harrison, William D. Brisson, Pat B. Hurley, Annie W. Mobley, Tricia Ann Cotham, Elmer Floyd, Darren G. Jackson, Rosa U. Gill, Ken Goodman, Charles Graham, Susi H. Hamilton, Jonathan C. Jordan, Tim D. Moffitt, Rodney W. Moore, Harry Warren, Larry G. Pittman, Allen McNeill, Ted Davis, Jr., Nathan Ramsey, Brian Brown, Dana Bumgardner, John R. Bell, IV, Dennis Riddell, George Graham, **Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to increase the criminal penalty for the offenses of human trafficking and certain other related crimes and to require that a person convicted of certain offenses of human trafficking, involuntary servitude, sexual servitude, or the unlawful sale, surrender, or purchase of a minor must register under the sex offender and public protection registration program.

Summary Line

03/06/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/06/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE B, IF FAVORABLE, APPROPRIATIONS

MAR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 256 (NS)

Sponsor: Marvin W. Lucas, Rick Glazier, Becky Carney, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, David R. Lewis, Susan C. Fisher, Michael H. Wray, Garland E. Pierce, Pricey Harrison, Pat B. Hurley, Larry D. Hall, Elmer Floyd, Rosa U. Gill, John Faircloth, Jeff Collins, Charles Graham, Susi H. Hamilton, Bert Jones, Rodney W. Moore, Carla D. Cunningham, Nathan Baskerville, Yvonne Lewis Holley, Paul Tine, Deb McManus, Valerie P. Foushee, Chris Whitmire, Susan Martin, Michael Speciale, George Graham, Ken Waddell, Evelyn Terry, **Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to allow a deduction for Veterans Affairs SURVIVorS pension benefit when defining income for medicaid ELIGIBILITY.

Summary Line

03/11/2013 HOUSE PASSED 1ST READING

03/11/2013 HOUSE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, MILITARY, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, IF FAVORABLE, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, IF FAVORABLE, APPROPRIATIONS

03/21/2013 HOUSE REPORTED FAV

03/21/2013 HOUSE RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MAR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 311 (NS)

Sponsor: Paul Luebke, Henry M. Michaux, Jr., Mitchell S. Setzer, Marvin W. Lucas, Deborah K. Ross, Rick Glazier, Becky Carney, Tim Moore, David R. Lewis, Pricey Harrison, Tricia Ann Cotham, Kelly M. Alexander, Jr., Elmer Floyd, Darren G. Jackson, Rosa U. Gill, Frank Iler, John Faircloth, D. Craig Horn, Chuck McGrady, Susi H. Hamilton, Bert Jones, Jonathan C. Jordan, Tim D. Moffitt, Rodney W. Moore, Tom Murry, Harry Warren, Carla D. Cunningham, Nathan Baskerville, Yvonne Lewis Holley, Nathan Ramsey, Brian Brown, Deb McManus, Valerie P. Foushee, Rena W. Turner, Dana Bumgardner, Michael Speciale, Ken Waddell, Charles Jeter, **Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to repeal the literacy test for voters.

Summary Line

03/18/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/18/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

05/02/2013 **HOUSE** WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

05/02/2013 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

05/08/2013 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

05/08/2013 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

05/09/2013 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 05/13/2013

05/13/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

05/14/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

05/15/2013 SENATE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

05/15/2013 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

05/15/2013 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY I

MAR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 317 (NS)

Sponsor: Joe P. Tolson,Marvin W. Lucas,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Pricey Harrison,Bryan R. Holloway,Pat B. Hurley,Hugh Blackwell,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,John Faircloth,John A. Torbett,Susi H. Hamilton,Tim D. Moffitt,Tom Murry,Phil Shepard,Larry G. Pittman,Carla D. Cunningham,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Nathan Ramsey,Rena W. Turner,Dana Bumgardner,Chris Whitmire,John Szoka,Susan Martin,Ken Waddell,Edward Hanes, Jr.,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to improve educational outcomes for north **carolina** children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Summary Line

03/18/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/18/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, IF FAVORABLE, APPROPRIATIONS

03/27/2013 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

03/27/2013 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

04/03/2013 **HOUSE** WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

04/03/2013 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

04/03/2013 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 04/08/2013

04/08/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

04/08/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

04/09/2013 SENATE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

04/09/2013 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

04/09/2013 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION/HIGHER EDUCATION

05/29/2013 SENATE REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

05/29/2013 SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED

05/29/2013 SENATE PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 06/04/2013

06/04/2013 SENATE PASSED 2ND READING

06/04/2013 SENATE PASSED 3RD READING

06/05/2013 **HOUSE** RECEIVED FROM SENATE

06/05/2013 **HOUSE** RECOMMENDED TO CONCUR S COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

06/06/2013 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT 36(B)

06/06/2013 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 06/07/2013

06/07/2013 **HOUSE** CONCURRED IN S/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

06/07/2013 **HOUSE** ORDERED ENROLLED

06/10/2013 **HOUSE** RATIFIED

06/11/2013 **HOUSE** PRESENTED TO GOVERNOR 6/11/2013

06/19/2013 **HOUSE** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 6/19/2013

06/19/2013 **HOUSE** CHAPTERED SESSION LAW 2013-119

MAR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 299 (NS)

Sponsor: Deborah K. Ross,Rick Glazier,Marilyn Avila,Darren G. Jackson,Jeff Collins,Jimmy Dixon,Jonathan C. Jordan,Chris Malone,Dana Bumgardner,Chris Whitmire,John Szoka,Joe Sam Queen,Michael Speciale,Charles Jeter,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to standardize the dismissal of municipal law enforcement officers.

Summary Line

03/14/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/14/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

MAR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 347 (NS)

Sponsor: Alma Adams, Pricey Harrison, Elmer Floyd,John Faircloth,Marcus Brandon,Jon Hardister,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to amend the greensboro firefighters' supplemental retirement system and to amend the charter of the city of greensboro to change certain references from building inspector to compliance officer.

Summary Line

03/20/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/20/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT, IF FAVORABLE, STATE PERSONNEL, IF FAVORABLE, FINANCE

04/04/2013 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

04/04/2013 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON STATE PERSONNEL

04/24/2013 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

04/24/2013 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

05/01/2013 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

05/01/2013 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

05/01/2013 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 05/02/2013

05/02/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

05/02/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

05/06/2013 SENATE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

05/06/2013 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

05/06/2013 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS & RETIREMENT AND AGING

06/25/2013 SENATE REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

06/25/2013 SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED

06/26/2013 SENATE PASSED 2ND READING

06/26/2013 SENATE PASSED 3RD READING

06/27/2013 **HOUSE** RECEIVED FROM SENATE

06/27/2013 **HOUSE** RECOMMENDED TO CONCUR S COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

07/01/2013 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT 36(B)

07/01/2013 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 07/08/2013

07/08/2013 **HOUSE** CONCURRED IN S/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

07/08/2013 **HOUSE** ORDERED ENROLLED

07/09/2013 **HOUSE** RATIFIED

07/09/2013 **HOUSE** CHAPTERED SESSION LAW 2013-252

MAR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 393 (NS)

Sponsor: Alma Adams,Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Henry M. Michaux, Jr.,Marvin W. Lucas,Larry M. Bell,Deborah K. Ross,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Pricey Harrison,Annie W. Mobley,Rosa U. Gill,Marcus Brandon,Charles Graham,Rodney W. Moore,Valerie P. Foushee,Duane Hall,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT TO ADDRESS FUNDING DEFICIENCIES AND NEEDED ENHANCEMENTS IN NORTH **CAROLINA'S** PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Summary Line

03/21/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/21/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MAR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 461 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Marvin W. Lucas,Rick Glazier,Susan C. Fisher,Pricey Harrison,Elmer Floyd,Darren G. Jackson,Rosa U. Gill,John Faircloth,Jonathan C. Jordan,Larry G. Pittman,Nathan Baskerville,Yvonne Lewis Holley,George Graham,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to repeal the restriction on travel reimbursement to superior court and district court judges, district attorneys, assistant district attorneys, public defenders, and assistant public defenders for travel within the county of residence and to make the reimbursement language for those offices consistent.

Summary Line

04/01/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/01/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, IF FAVORABLE, APPROPRIATIONS

04/11/2013 **HOUSE** ASSIGNED TO JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE A

05/15/2013 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

05/15/2013 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MAR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 471 (NS)

Sponsor: Elmer Floyd,Nathan Baskerville,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Bobbie Richardson

SUMMARY: AN ACT aUTHORIZING vance and warren COUNTies TO APPROVE A LEASE FOR THE SITING AND OPERATION OF A RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY FOR A

TERM of UP TO TWENTY YEARS WITHOUT TREATING THE LEASE as A SALE OF PROPERTY.

Summary Line

04/01/2013 HOUSE PASSED 1ST READING

04/01/2013 HOUSE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, IF FAVORABLE, GOVERNMENT

05/06/2013 HOUSE REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

05/06/2013 HOUSE RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT

MAR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 481 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Marvin W. Lucas,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Pricey Harrison,Elmer Floyd,Susi H. Hamilton,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to reduce needle stick injuries AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, emergency responders, and others by excluding needles, syringes, and other injection equipment from the list of items designated as drug paraphernalia; and by decriminalizing the use, possession, manufacture, and delivery of injection equipment under the north **carolina** drug paraphernalia act.

Summary Line

04/01/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/01/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

04/17/2013 **HOUSE** WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

04/17/2013 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

APR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 528 (NS)

Sponsor: Alma Adams,Garland E. Pierce,Rosa U. Gill,George Graham,Evelyn Terry,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT providing for the payment of benefits to displaced workers in the event of mass layoffs designated by the governor as a major distress event.

Summary Line

04/04/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/04/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

APR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 498 (NS)

Sponsor: Paul Luebke, Mitchell S. Setzer, Marvin W. Lucas, Larry M. Bell, Rick Glazier, Becky Carney, Susan C. Fisher, Michael H. Wray, Pricey Harrison, Pat B. Hurley, Ruth Samuelson, Pat McElraft, Tricia Ann Cotham, Elmer Floyd, D. Craig Horn, Chuck McGrady, Charles Graham, Mike Hager, Susi H. Hamilton, Jonathan C. Jordan, Tom Murry, Phil Shepard, C. Robert Brawley, Carla D. Cunningham, Donny Lambeth, Nathan Baskerville, Yvonne Lewis Holley, Nathan Ramsey, Paul Tine, Brian Brown, Rena W. Turner, Chris Whitmire, Stephen M. Ross, Susan Martin, George Graham, Ken Waddell, Debra Conrad, Evelyn Terry, Charles Jeter, **Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT TO REQUIRE HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS, INCLUDING THE STATE HEALTH PLAN FOR TEACHERS AND STATE EMPLOYEES, TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR the TREATMENT OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.

Summary Line

04/03/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/03/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, IF FAVORABLE, APPROPRIATIONS

05/14/2013 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

05/14/2013 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

05/15/2013 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE 2

05/15/2013 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

05/15/2013 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 05/15/2013

05/15/2013 **HOUSE** AMEND ADOPTED A1

05/15/2013 **HOUSE** AMENDMENT FAILED A2

05/15/2013 **HOUSE** AMEND ADOPTED A3

05/15/2013 **HOUSE** AMENDMENT FAILED A4

05/15/2013 **HOUSE** AMENDMENT FAILED A5

05/15/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

05/15/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

05/15/2013 **HOUSE** ORDERED ENGROSSED

05/16/2013 SENATE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

05/16/2013 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

05/16/2013 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE

APR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 547 (NS)

Sponsor: Marvin W. Lucas,Michael H. Wray,Elmer Floyd,Jeff Collins,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to REGulate and impose aN EXCISE tax on electronic SWEePSTAKES.

Summary Line

04/04/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/04/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND JOB DEVELOPMENT, IF FAVORABLE, FINANCE

APR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 609 (NS)

Sponsor: Alma Adams,Beverly M. Earle,Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Marvin W. Lucas,Deborah K. Ross,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Tim Moore,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,David R. Lewis,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Nelson Dollar,W. A. (Winkie) Wilkins,Pricey Harrison,William D. Brisson,Ruth Samuelson,Marilyn Avila,Pat

McElraft, Larry D. Hall, Tricia Ann Cotham, Justin P. Burr, Elmer Floyd, Darren G. Jackson, Ken Goodman, Susi H. Hamilton, Mark W. Hollo, Bert Jones, Jonathan C. Jordan, Rodney W. Moore, Tom Murry, Phil Shepard, Harry Warren, Larry G. Pittman, Carla D. Cunningham, Carl Ford, Donny Lambeth, Jim Fulghum, M.D., Nathan Ramsey, Paul Tine, Valerie P. Foushee, Chris Whitmire, Stephen M. Ross, Susan Martin, Ken Waddell, Charles Jeter, **Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT relating to health benefit plan coverage for orally administered anticancer drugs.

Summary Line

04/09/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/09/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

04/24/2013 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

04/24/2013 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

04/24/2013 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 04/25/2013

04/25/2013 **HOUSE** WITHDRAWN FROM CALENDAR

04/25/2013 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE

05/07/2013 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE 2

05/07/2013 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

05/07/2013 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 05/08/2013

05/08/2013 **HOUSE** AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN A1

05/08/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

05/09/2013 **HOUSE** AMEND ADOPTED A2

05/09/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

05/09/2013 **HOUSE** ORDERED ENGROSSED

01/09/2013 SENATE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

01/09/2013 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

01/09/2013 SENATE REFERRED TO HEALTH CARE. IF FAV, RE-REFERRED TO INSURANCE

APR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.R. 627 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle,Paul Luebke,Marvin W. Lucas,Deborah K. Ross,Rick Glazier,Susan C. Fisher,Garland E. Pierce,Pricey Harrison,Larry D. Hall,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Charles Graham,Rodney W. Moore,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Deb McManus,Valerie P. Foushee,George Graham,Evelyn Terry,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: A **HOUSE** RESOLUTION supporting comprehensive immigration reform.

Summary Line

04/10/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/10/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

APR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 637 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle,Susan C. Fisher,Pricey Harrison,Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.,Susi H. Hamilton,Carla D. Cunningham,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to amend the penalty imposed for possession of certain quantities of marijuana and to provide for the expunction of a Class 3 Misdemeanor conviction of possession of marijuana that occurred prior to December 1, 2013.

Summary Line

04/10/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/10/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE B

APR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 916 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle,Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Rick Glazier,Susan C. Fisher,Garland E. Pierce,Pricey Harrison,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Rodney W. Moore,Carla D. Cunningham,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Deb McManus,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT requiring the north **carolina** department of commerce, division of employment security, to develop a survey to assess equal pay practices among private employers in this state.

Summary Line

04/15/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/15/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

APR 2013 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 955 (NS)

Sponsor: Paul Luebke,Becky Carney,Pricey Harrison,Annie W. Mobley,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Deb McManus,George Graham,Bobbie Richardson

SUMMARY: AN ACT TO provide for FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF SCHOOL BOARDS BY AUTHORIZING LOCAL school BOARDS TO RAISE REVENUE FOR THE SUPPORT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Summary Line

04/18/2013 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/18/2013 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSE

2014

MAY 2014 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.J.R. 1068 (NS)

Sponsor: Alma Adams,Paul Luebke,Marvin W. Lucas,Larry M. Bell,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Michael H. Wray,Garland E. Pierce,Pricey Harrison,Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.,Elmer Floyd,Rodney W. Moore,George Graham,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: A JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE 2013 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT AMENDING THE WAGE AND HOUR ACT TO RAISE THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE AND PROVIDE FOR AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT TO REFLECT INCREASES IN THE COST OF LIVING.

Summary Line

05/15/2014 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

05/15/2014 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND JOB DEVELOPMENT, IF FAVORABLE, **HOUSE** SELECT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

MAY 2014 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 1119 (NS)

Sponsor: Marvin W. Lucas, Larry M. Bell, Rick Glazier, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Michael H. Wray, Garland E. Pierce, Pricey Harrison, Pat B. Hurley, Rosa U. Gill, Frank Iler, Chuck McGrady, Tim D. Moffitt, Rodney W. Moore, Phil Shepard, Harry Warren, Larry G. Pittman, Allen McNeill, C. Robert Brawley, Carla D. Cunningham, Jeffrey Elmore, Donny Lambeth, Chris Malone, Nathan Baskerville, Yvonne Lewis Holley, Nathan Ramsey, Paul Tine, Brian Brown, Chris Whitmire, Dennis Riddell, Susan Martin, Michael Speciale, Edward Hanes, Jr., Duane Hall, **Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to provide teachers who purchase certain school supplies and materials an income tax credit.

Summary Line

05/20/2014 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

05/20/2014 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, IF FAVORABLE, FINANCE

MAY 2014 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 1124 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko, Marvin W. Lucas, Becky Carney, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Michael H. Wray, Pricey Harrison, Pat B. Hurley, Ruth Samuelson, Elmer Floyd, Rosa U. Gill, Frank Iler, Charles Graham, Susi H. Hamilton, Rodney W. Moore, Dean Arp, Carla D. Cunningham, Chris Malone, Nathan Baskerville, Yvonne Lewis Holley, Brian Brown, George Graham, Edward Hanes, Jr., **Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to extend by one year the department of TRANSPORTATION disadvantaged minority-owned and women-owned business program,

AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

Summary Line

05/20/2014 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

05/20/2014 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, IF FAVORABLE, APPROPRIATIONS

06/03/2014 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

06/03/2014 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MAY 2014 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 1238 (NS)

Sponsor: Justin P. Burr, Marcus Brandon, Jonathan C. Jordan, Nathan Baskerville, Brian Brown, **Bobbie Richardson**, Josh Dobson, Roger Younts

SUMMARY: AN ACT to amend the North **Carolina** constitution to reduce the age of eligibility to hold elected office from Twenty-One to eighteen in order to encourage the participation of young north CAROLINIANS in local and state government.

Summary Line

05/28/2014 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

05/28/2014 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

MAY 2014 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 1240 (NS)

Sponsor: Alma Adams, Beverly M. Earle, Verla Insko, Paul Luebke, Henry M. Michaux, Jr., Marvin W. Lucas, Larry M. Bell, Rick Glazier, Becky Carney, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Susan C. Fisher, Michael H. Wray, Grier Martin, Garland E. Pierce, W. A. (Winkie) Wilkins, Pricey Harrison, Larry D. Hall, Annie W. Mobley, Kelly M. Alexander, Jr., Elmer Floyd, Rosa U. Gill, Marcus Brandon, Ken Goodman, Charles Graham, Susi H. Hamilton, Rodney W. Moore, Carla D. Cunningham, Nathan Baskerville, Yvonne Lewis Holley, Joe Sam Queen, George Graham, Evelyn Terry, Duane Hall, **Bobbie Richardson**, Graig R. Meyer, Robert T. Reives, II

SUMMARY: AN ACT to allow a student photo identification card issued by north **carolina** colleges and universities to be used to identify voters if it has a printed expiration date and has not expired.

Summary Line

05/28/2014 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

05/28/2014 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

MAY 2014 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 1243 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle,Rick Glazier,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Pricey Harrison,Bryan R. Holloway,Darren G. Jackson,Frank Iler,Charles Graham,Susi H. Hamilton,Rodney W. Moore,Donny Lambeth,Nathan Ramsey,Paul Tine,Chris Whitmire,Stephen M. Ross,Edward Hanes, Jr.,Evelyn Terry,Duane Hall,**Bobbie Richardson**,Graig R. Meyer,Robert T. Reives, II

SUMMARY: AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A Forgivable LOAN PROGRAM FOR PROSPECTIVE STEM AND SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS.

Summary Line

05/28/2014 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

05/28/2014 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MAY 2014 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 1223 (NS)

Sponsor: Alma Adams,Beverly M. Earle,Verla Insko,Marvin W. Lucas,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Garland E. Pierce,Pricey Harrison,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Susi H. Hamilton,Rodney W. Moore,Carla D. Cunningham,Nathan Baskerville,Yvonne Lewis Holley,George Graham,Edward Hanes, Jr.,Evelyn Terry,Duane Hall,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to amend election laws to provide that a special election to fill a vacancy occurring in the united states **house** of representatives shall be held within six months from the date the vacancy occurs and to further provide that the governor shall fill a vacancy in the united states **house** of representatives only by nomination of the political party congressional district executive committee in the district in which the vacancy occurs.

Summary Line

05/28/2014 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

05/28/2014 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

MAY 2014 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 1213 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle,Verla Insko,Larry M. Bell,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Rosa U. Gill,Tim D. Moffitt,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Nathan Ramsey,Brian Brown,Susan Martin,George Graham,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to allow local government units to enroll their employees, retirees, and dependents in the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees, subject to certain conditions.

Summary Line

05/28/2014 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

05/28/2014 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT, IF FAVORABLE, FINANCE

MAY 2014 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 1210 (NS)

Sponsor: Alma Adams,Beverly M. Earle,Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Marvin W. Lucas,Larry M. Bell,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Garland E. Pierce,Pricey Harrison,Annie W. Mobley,Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Marcus Brandon,Charles Graham,Susi H. Hamilton,Rodney W. Moore,Carla D. Cunningham,Yvonne Lewis Holley,George Graham,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to rescind the income tax rate reduction for millionaires and other high-income taxpayers.

Summary Line

05/28/2014 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

05/28/2014 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

JUN 2014 Bill Id: 2013 NC H.B. 1264 (NS)

Sponsor: Alma Adams, Verla Insko, Susan C. Fisher, Pricey Harrison, Larry D. Hall, Annie W. Mobley, Susi H. Hamilton, C. Robert Brawley, Nathan Baskerville, Yvonne Lewis Holley, **Bobbie Richardson**, Graig R. Meyer

SUMMARY: AN ACT to Require disclosure of establishment of a federal campaign committee and to require disclosure of certain solicitations by legislators and members of the council of state.

Summary Line

06/13/2014 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

06/13/2014 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

2015

JAN 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 3 (NS)

Sponsor: Paul Luebke, Mitchell S. Setzer, Roger West, Paul Stam, Rick Glazier, Becky Carney, David R. Lewis, George G. Cleveland, James H. Langdon, Jr., Nelson Dollar, William D. Brisson, Pat B. Hurley, Marilyn Avila, Pat McElraft, Hugh Blackwell, Justin P. Burr, Sarah Stevens, Rosa U. Gill, Frank Iler, John Faircloth, D. Craig Horn, Chuck McGrady, John A. Torbett, William Brawley, Rayne Brown, Jeff Collins, Jimmy Dixon, Ken Goodman, Mike Hager, Bert Jones, Jonathan C. Jordan, Rodney W. Moore, Phil Shepard, Harry Warren, Jason Saine, Larry G. Pittman, Allen McNeill, Ted Davis, Jr., Chris Millis, Dean Arp, Carl Ford, Jon Hardister, Chris Malone, Brian Brown, Chris Whitmire, John R. Bell, IV, John Szoka, Mark Brody, Stephen M. Ross, Dennis Riddell, Bob Steinburg, Susan Martin, Michele D. Presnell, Michael Speciale, Debra Conrad, Charles Jeter, Rob Bryan, **Bobbie Richardson**, Robert T. Reives, II, Brig Gen (Ret) Gary Pendleton, John A. Fraley, Sam Watford, John Ager, John R. Bradford, III, Larry Yarborough, Lee Zachary, Brian Turner, Jay Adams, Dan Bishop

SUMMARY: AN ACT TO Amend the north **carolina** constitution to prohibit condemnation of private property except for a public use; to provide for the payment of just compensation with right of trial by jury in all condemnation cases; to provide for taxpayer protections that establish a state emergency savings reserve fund; to reduce the maximum income tax rate to five and one-half percent from ten percent; and to protect the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife.

Summary Line

01/28/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

01/28/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY II

02/04/2015 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

02/04/2015 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

02/04/2015 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 02/05/2015

02/05/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

02/05/2015 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 02/10/2015

02/10/2015 **HOUSE** AMENDMENT FAILED A1

02/10/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

02/11/2015 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO SENATE

02/11/2015 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

02/11/2015 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

02/11/2015 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

06/24/2016 SENATE REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

06/24/2016 SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED

06/27/2016 SENATE AMEND TABLED A1

06/27/2016 SENATE PASSED 2ND READING

06/28/2016 SENATE AMENDMENT FAILED A2

06/28/2016 SENATE AMEND TABLED A3

06/28/2016 SENATE PASSED 3RD READING

06/28/2016 SENATE SPECIAL MESSAGE SENT TO **HOUSE**

06/28/2016 **HOUSE** SPECIAL MESSAGE RECEIVED FOR CONCURRENCE IN S
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

06/28/2016 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND
OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

JAN 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 26 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko, Garland E. Pierce, Pricey Harrison, Larry D. Hall, Elmer Floyd, Charles
Graham, Rodney W. Moore, Yvonne Lewis Holley, George Graham, **Bobbie
Richardson**, John Ager, Cecil Brockman

SUMMARY: AN ACT to reenact the sales and use tax holiday for school supplies.

Summary Line

02/02/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

02/02/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

JAN 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 28 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko, Paul Luebke, Garland E. Pierce, Pricey Harrison, Elmer Floyd, Yvonne
Lewis Holley, George Graham, **Bobbie Richardson**, Cecil Brockman

SUMMARY: AN ACT creating a permanent statewide poverty task force and funding its
operations; establishing a governor's executive advisor on economic PROSPERITY and
poverty reduction; and appropriating funds for those purposes.

Summary Line

02/02/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

02/02/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

JAN 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 21 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko, Paul Luebke, Rick Glazier, Becky Carney, Garland E. Pierce, Pricey
Harrison, Larry D. Hall, Elmer Floyd, Charles Graham, Yvonne Lewis Holley, Joe Sam
Queen, George Graham, Ken Waddell, **Bobbie Richardson**, Gale Adcock, John Ager, Cecil
Brockman, Brian Turner

SUMMARY: AN ACT to restore the teaching fellows program.

Summary Line

02/02/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

02/02/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FEB 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 46 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Mitchell S. Setzer,Marvin W. Lucas,Larry M. Bell,Rick Glazier,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Marilyn Avila,Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.,Sarah Stevens,Darren G. Jackson,Frank Iler,Rodney W. Moore,Chris Malone,Rick Catlin,Ken Waddell,Edward Hanes, Jr.,**Bobbie Richardson**,Gale Adcock,Howard J. Hunter, III

SUMMARY: AN ACT to allow an individual income tax deduction for medical expenses.

Summary Line

02/05/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

02/05/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGING, IF FAVORABLE, FINANCE

03/25/2015 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

03/25/2015 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEB 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 56 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Marvin W. Lucas,Linda P. Johnson,Larry M. Bell,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,George G. Cleveland,Michael H. Wray,James H. Langdon, Jr.,Pricey Harrison,Bryan R. Holloway,Pat B. Hurley,Tricia Ann Cotham,Justin P. Burr,Sarah Stevens,Darren G. Jackson,Rosa U. Gill,John Faircloth,Chuck McGrady,Bert Jones,Rodney W. Moore,Phil Shepard,Larry G. Pittman,Jeffrey Elmore,Donny Lambeth,Paul Tine,Chris Whitmire,Dennis Riddell,Michael Speciale,George Graham,Ken Waddell,Edward Hanes, Jr.,Charles Jeter,**Bobbie Richardson**,Josh Dobson,Graig R. Meyer,Gale Adcock,Cecil Brockman,Brian Turner

SUMMARY: AN ACT to allow RETIREES who return to work for the state in nonpermanent positions to retain their coverage options under the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees rather than limiting such retirees' coverage options to the "Bronze Level" High-Deductible Health plan necessitated by the Affordable Care Act, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

Summary Line

02/09/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

02/09/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE PERSONNEL

03/09/2015 **HOUSE** SERIAL REFERRAL TO APPROPRIATIONS ADDED

04/22/2015 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

04/22/2015 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

04/29/2015 **HOUSE** WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

04/29/2015 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

04/29/2015 **HOUSE** ADDED TO CALENDAR

04/29/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

04/29/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

04/30/2015 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO SENATE

04/30/2015 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

04/30/2015 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

04/30/2015 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

05/05/2015 SENATE WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

05/05/2015 SENATE RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE

FEB 2015 **Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 82 (NS)**

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Rick Glazier,Susan C. Fisher,Sarah Stevens,Rosa U. Gill,Jonathan C. Jordan,**Bobbie Richardson**,Lee Zachary

SUMMARY: AN ACT clarifying the manner in which a law enforcement officer may take custody of a juvenile when executing a nonsecure custody order under the laws pertaining to abuse, neglect, and dependency.

Summary Line

02/16/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

02/16/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES, IF FAVORABLE, JUDICIARY III

03/16/2015 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

03/16/2015 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY III

03/18/2015 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

03/18/2015 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

03/18/2015 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 03/19/2015

03/19/2015 **HOUSE** POSTPONED TO 03/24/2015

03/24/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

03/24/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

03/25/2015 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO SENATE

03/25/2015 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

03/25/2015 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

03/25/2015 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

05/05/2015 SENATE WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

05/05/2015 SENATE RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY II

05/12/2015 SENATE REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

05/12/2015 SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED

08/20/2014 SENATE PASSED 2ND READING

08/20/2014 SENATE PASSED 3RD READING

05/14/2015 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO **HOUSE**

05/14/2015 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FOR CONCURRENCE IN S
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

05/18/2015 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT 36(B)

05/20/2015 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 05/21/2015

05/21/2015 **HOUSE** CONCURRED IN S/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

05/21/2015 **HOUSE** ORDERED ENROLLED

05/26/2015 **HOUSE** RATIFIED

05/27/2015 **HOUSE** PRESENTED TO GOVERNOR 5/27/2015

06/02/2015 **HOUSE** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 6/2/2015

06/02/2015 **HOUSE** CHAPTERED SESSION LAW 2015-43

MAR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 124 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle, Henry M. Michaux, Jr., Marvin W. Lucas, Jean Farmer-
Butterfield, Garland E. Pierce, Kelly M. Alexander, Jr., Elmer Floyd, Rosa U. Gill, Charles
Graham, Jonathan C. Jordan, Carla D. Cunningham, Nathan Baskerville, Yvonne Lewis
Holley, George Graham, Edward Hanes, Jr., Evelyn Terry, **Bobbie Richardson**, Cecil
Brockman, Howard J. Hunter, III, Shelly Willingham

SUMMARY: AN ACT to eliminate second primaries and make other conforming statutory
changes.

Summary Line

03/03/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/03/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS, IF FAVORABLE, RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

04/21/2015 **HOUSE** WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

04/21/2015 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

MAR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.J.R. 125 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Henry M. Michaux, Jr.,Marvin W. Lucas,Rick Glazier,Susan C. Fisher,Pricey Harrison,Rosa U. Gill,Susi H. Hamilton,Nathan Baskerville,Joe Sam Queen,Evelyn Terry,Duane Hall,**Bobbie Richardson**,Graig R. Meyer,John Ager,Cecil Brockman,Howard J. Hunter, III,Brian Turner,Ralph C. Johnson,Shelly Willingham

SUMMARY: A JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT CONGRESS PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO OVERTURN THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT RULING IN CITIZENS UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION CONCERNING CORPORATE CAMPAIGN SPENDING.

Summary Line

03/03/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/03/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

MAR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 180 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle,Marvin W. Lucas,Larry M. Bell,Rick Glazier,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Frank Iler,Charles Graham,Susi H. Hamilton,Bert Jones,Rodney W. Moore,Phil Shepard,Harry Warren,Larry G. Pittman,Carla D. Cunningham,Jon Hardister,Donny Lambeth,Chris Malone,Nathan Baskerville,Paul Tine,George Graham,Ken Waddell,Edward Hanes, Jr.,Debra Conrad,Duane Hall, **Bobbie Richardson**, Graig R. Meyer,Brig Gen (R) Gary Pendleton,Gale Adcock,Cecil Brockman,Howard J. Hunter, III,Larry Yarborough,Brian Turner,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to provide FOR four-year terms for members of the general assembly.

Summary Line

03/10/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/10/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS, IF FAVORABLE, JUDICIARY I

MAR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 205 (NS)

Sponsor: N. Leo Daughtry, Verla Insko, Marvin W. Lucas, Rick Glazier, Becky Carney, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Susan C. Fisher, Michael H. Wray, Pricey Harrison, Hugh Blackwell, Elmer Floyd, Darren G. Jackson, Rosa U. Gill, John Faircloth, Harry Warren, Larry G. Pittman, Jacqueline Michelle Schaffer, Yvonne Lewis Holley, Stephen M. Ross, Susan Martin, Michael Speciale, George Graham, Ken Waddell, Rob Bryan, **Bobbie Richardson**, Robert T. Reives, II, John A. Fraley, Gale Adcock, Brad Salmon, Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to increase the mandatory retirement age for judges and justices of the General Court of Justice and for magistrates, and to allow judges, justices, and magistrates to serve until the end of the calendar year in which they attain the age of 75.

Summary Line

03/12/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/12/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY IV

03/18/2015 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

03/18/2015 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT

04/27/2015 **HOUSE** SERIAL REFERRAL TO APPROPRIATIONS ADDED

04/28/2015 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

04/28/2015 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MAR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 230 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Marvin W. Lucas,Rick Glazier,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Garland E. Pierce,Pricey Harrison,Larry D. Hall,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Charles Graham,Susi H. Hamilton,Carla D. Cunningham,Yvonne Lewis Holley,George Graham,Edward Hanes, Jr.,Duane Hall,**Bobbie Richardson**,Cecil Brockman,Howard J. Hunter, III,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT amending the north **carolina** constitution to set the state minimum wage.

Summary Line

03/16/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/16/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY I, IF FAVORABLE, COMMERCE AND JOB DEVELOPMENT, IF FAVORABLE, ELECTIONS

MAR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 325 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle,Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Marvin W. Lucas,Becky Carney,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Garland E. Pierce,Pricey Harrison,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Charles Graham,Susi H. Hamilton,Carla D. Cunningham,Yvonne Lewis Holley,George Graham,Edward Hanes, Jr.,Evelyn Terry,**Bobbie Richardson**,Graig R. Meyer,Gale Adcock,John Ager,Howard J. Hunter, III,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to reenact the credit for child care and certain employment‑related expenses.

Summary Line

03/24/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/24/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, IF FAVORABLE, APPROPRIATIONS

MAR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 360 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Becky Carney,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Garland E. Pierce,Pricey Harrison,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Susi H. Hamilton,Carla D. Cunningham,Nathan Baskerville,Yvonne Lewis Holley,George Graham,Duane Hall,**Bobbie Richardson**,Graig R. Meyer,Cecil Brockman,Howard J. Hunter, III,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT amending the wage and hour act to raise the state minimum wage and provide for automatic adjustment to reflect increases in the cost of living.

Summary Line

03/26/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/26/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

MAR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 397 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Marvin W. Lucas,Paul Stam,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Garland E. Pierce,Pricey Harrison,Larry D. Hall,Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.,Hugh Blackwell,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,John Faircloth,Charles Graham,Susi H. Hamilton,Jonathan C. Jordan,Rodney W. Moore,Larry G. Pittman,Nathan Baskerville,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Paul Tine,Stephen M. Ross,Dennis Riddell,Ken Waddell,Evelyn Terry,Charles Jeter,**Bobbie Richardson**,Robert T. Reives, II,Cecil Brockman,Howard J. Hunter, III,Brad Salmon,Brian Turner,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to clarify that upon conviction for exploitation of an older adult or disabled adult, any seized assets shall be used to satisfy the defendant's restitution obligation as ordered by the court.

Summary Line

03/31/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/31/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY II

04/21/2015 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

04/21/2015 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

04/21/2015 **HOUSE** ADDED TO CALENDAR

04/21/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

04/21/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

04/22/2015 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO SENATE

04/22/2015 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

04/22/2015 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

04/22/2015 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

06/24/2015 SENATE WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

06/24/2015 SENATE RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY II

07/21/2015 SENATE REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

07/21/2015 SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED

07/22/2015 SENATE AMEND ADOPTED A1

07/22/2015 SENATE PASSED 2ND READING

07/22/2015 SENATE PASSED 3RD READING

07/22/2015 SENATE ENGROSSED

07/23/2015 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO **HOUSE**

07/23/2015 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FOR CONCURRENCE IN S COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

07/27/2015 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT 36(B)

07/27/2015 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 07/28/2015

07/28/2015 **HOUSE** CONCURRED IN S/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

07/28/2015 **HOUSE** ORDERED ENROLLED

07/29/2015 **HOUSE** RATIFIED

07/30/2015 **HOUSE** PRESENTED TO GOVERNOR 7/30/2015

08/05/2015 **HOUSE** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 8/5/2015

08/05/2015 **HOUSE** CHAPTERED SESSION LAW 2015-182

MAR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 434 (NS)

Sponsor: Marvin W. Lucas, Rick Glazier, Becky Carney, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Susan C. Fisher, Michael H. Wray, Pricey Harrison, William D. Brisson, Pat B. Hurley, Elmer Floyd, Chuck McGrady, John A. Torbett, Yvonne Lewis Holley, Susan Martin, **Bobbie Richardson**, Robert T. Reives, II, Gale Adcock, Howard J. Hunter, III, Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to provide that medical recertification is not required for renewals of removable windshield handicapped placards if the person is certified as totally and permanently disabled.

Summary Line

04/01/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/01/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

04/14/2015 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

04/14/2015 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

04/14/2015 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 04/15/2015

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

04/16/2015 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO SENATE

04/16/2015 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

04/16/2015 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

04/16/2015 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

08/20/2014 SENATE REPORTED FAV

05/14/2015 SENATE PASSED 2ND READING

05/14/2015 SENATE PASSED 3RD READING

05/14/2015 SENATE ORDERED ENROLLED

05/18/2015 **HOUSE** RATIFIED

05/19/2015 **HOUSE** PRESENTED TO GOVERNOR 5/19/2015

05/21/2015 **HOUSE** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 5/21/2015

05/21/2015 **HOUSE** CHAPTERED SESSION LAW 2015-29

MAR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 443 (NS)

Sponsor: Paul Luebke,Marvin W. Lucas,Larry M. Bell,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Grier Martin,Pricey Harrison,Tricia Ann Cotham,Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Susi H. Hamilton,Nathan Baskerville,Yvonne Lewis Holley,George Graham,Edward Hanes, Jr.,Duane Hall,**Bobbie Richardson**,Graig R. Meyer,Robert T. Reives, II,Cecil Brockman,Howard J. Hunter, III,Ralph C. Johnson,Shelly Willingham

SUMMARY: AN ACT amending the state human resources act to include sexual orientation and gender identity or expression to the list of classifications covered by the state's equal employment opportunity law and requiring local boards of education to adopt policies for nondiscrimination in employment, including sexual orientation and gender identity or expression among the covered classifications.

Summary Line

04/02/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/02/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY I, IF FAVORABLE, STATE PERSONNEL

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 455 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Pricey Harrison,Larry D. Hall,Susi H. Hamilton,Yvonne Lewis Holley,George Graham,**Bobbie Richardson**,John Ager,Cecil Brockman,Brian Turner,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to create a local food sourcing tax credit.

Summary Line

04/02/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/02/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, IF FAVORABLE, FINANCE

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 509 (NS)

Sponsor: Paul Luebke,Marvin W. Lucas,Larry M. Bell,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Grier Martin,Pricey Harrison,Elmer Floyd,Chuck McGrady,Jonathan C. Jordan,Rodney W. Moore,Jason Saine,Jon Hardister,Paul Tine,John R. Bell, IV,Mark Brody,Michael Speciale,George Graham,Charles Jeter,**Bobbie Richardson**,Howard J. Hunter, III,Brian Turner,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to amend the definition of a "political party" and to reduce the signature requirement for unaffiliated candidates.

Summary Line

04/02/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/02/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS, IF FAVORABLE, APPROPRIATIONS

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 571 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Pricey Harrison,Chuck McGrady,Mike Hager,Carla D. Cunningham,**Bobbie Richardson**,Ralph C. Johnson,George S. Robinson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to require state agencies, boards, and commissions to implement a clean power plan consistent with the federal clean air act.

Summary Line

04/06/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/06/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

04/16/2015 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

04/16/2015 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

04/16/2015 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 04/20/2015

04/20/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

04/20/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

04/21/2015 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO SENATE

04/21/2015 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

04/21/2015 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

04/21/2015 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

07/21/2015 SENATE WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

07/21/2015 SENATE RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE/ENVIRONMENT/NATURAL RESOURCES

07/22/2015 SENATE REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

07/22/2015 SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED

07/23/2015 SENATE WITHDRAWN FROM CALENDAR

07/23/2015 SENATE PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 07/29/2015

07/29/2015 SENATE WITHDRAWN FROM CALENDAR

07/29/2015 SENATE PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 08/04/2015

08/04/2015 SENATE WITHDRAWN FROM CALENDAR

08/04/2015 SENATE PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 08/05/2015

08/05/2015 SENATE AMEND ADOPTED A1

08/05/2015 SENATE PASSED 2ND READING

08/05/2015 SENATE PASSED 3RD READING

08/05/2015 SENATE ENGROSSED

08/06/2015 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO **HOUSE**

08/06/2015 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FOR CONCURRENCE IN S
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

08/10/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND
OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 580 (NS)

Sponsor: Rick Glazier,Tricia Ann Cotham,Susi H. Hamilton,Harry Warren,Evelyn
Terry,**Bobbie Richardson**,Gale Adcock,Howard J. Hunter, III,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT authorizing the social services commission to adopt a policy
prohibiting a foster parent from smoking in the presence of an infant in the foster parent's
care.

Summary Line

04/06/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/06/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 549 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Susan C. Fisher,Pricey Harrison,Rosa U. Gill,Carla D.
Cunningham,Nathan Baskerville,**Bobbie Richardson**,Cecil Brockman,Howard J. Hunter,
III,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to restore certain personal income tax rates to previous levels.

Summary Line

04/06/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/06/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND
OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 617 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,David R. Lewis,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Pricey Harrison,Larry D. Hall,Tricia Ann Cotham,Susi H. Hamilton,Yvonne Lewis Holley,**Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: AN ACT to make Lobbyist Expenditure reports available and searchable online and to require lobbyists and lobbyist principals TO provide invoices upon request.

Summary Line

04/13/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/13/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 616 (NS)

Sponsor: Becky Carney,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Pricey Harrison,Rosa U. Gill,Susi H. Hamilton,Allen McNeill,Yvonne Lewis Holley,John Szoka,Ken Waddell,**Bobbie Richardson**,Brig Gen (Ret) Gary Pendleton,Howard J. Hunter, III

SUMMARY: AN ACT to provide cost‑of‑living increases for members of the local governmental employees' retirement system.

Summary Line

04/13/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/13/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT, IF FAVORABLE, APPROPRIATIONS

04/21/2015 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

04/21/2015 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

04/28/2015 **HOUSE** WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

04/28/2015 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

04/28/2015 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 04/29/2015

04/29/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

04/29/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

04/30/2015 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO SENATE

04/30/2015 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

04/30/2015 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

04/30/2015 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 608 (NS)

Sponsor: Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Grier Martin,Pricey Harrison,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Bobbie Richardson,John Ager,Howard J. Hunter, III,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to include political robocalls as a type of telephone solicitation that can be prohibited as part of the do not call registry and to strengthen the do not call registry.

Summary Line

04/13/2015 HOUSE PASSED 1ST READING

04/13/2015 HOUSE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 605 (NS)

Sponsor: Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Garland E. Pierce,Pricey Harrison,Larry D. Hall,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Susi H. Hamilton,Yvonne Lewis Holley,**Bobbie Richardson**,Cecil Brockman,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to reduce unfair barriers to public employment by requiring that a public employer neither ask about nor consider the criminal record of a job applicant until the applicant has been selected by the employer for an interview.

Summary Line

04/13/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/13/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY I, IF FAVORABLE, STATE PERSONNEL, IF FAVORABLE, COMMERCE AND JOB DEVELOPMENT

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 611 (NS)

Sponsor: Susan C. Fisher,Pricey Harrison,Evelyn Terry,**Bobbie Richardson**,Graig R. Meyer,Howard J. Hunter, III

SUMMARY: AN ACT establishing a DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT to allow qualified patients diagnosed with a terminal illness to end life in a humane and dignified manner.

Summary Line

04/13/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/13/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY I, IF FAVORABLE, HEALTH

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 621 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Marvin W. Lucas,Rick Glazier,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Grier Martin,Pricey Harrison,Larry D. Hall,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Evelyn Terry,**Bobbie Richardson**,Graig R. Meyer,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to establish a pilot program for public financing of municipal election campaigns.

Summary Line

04/13/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 689 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle,Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Marvin W. Lucas,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Susan C. Fisher,Pricey Harrison,Tricia Ann Cotham,Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Charles Graham,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Evelyn Terry,**Bobbie Richardson**,Graig R. Meyer,Cecil Brockman,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to authorize certain immigrant youth to receive in‑state tuition at the UNIVERSITY of north **carolina** and community colleges in this state.

Summary Line

04/14/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/14/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION - UNIVERSITIES, IF FAVORABLE, JUDICIARY I, IF FAVORABLE, APPROPRIATIONS

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 686 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Henry M. Michaux, Jr.,Susan C. Fisher,Pricey Harrison,Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.,Rosa U. Gill,Rodney W. Moore,**Bobbie Richardson**,Graig R. Meyer,Cecil Brockman,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to repeal the death penalty and to provide that all current prisoners sentenced to death shall be resentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Summary Line

04/14/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/14/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY I, IF FAVORABLE, RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 709 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Michael H. Wray,Grier Martin,Garland E. Pierce,Larry D. Hall,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Susi H. Hamilton,Rodney W. Moore,Carla D. Cunningham,Nathan Baskerville,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Chris Whitmire,Bob Steinburg,Joe Sam Queen,George Graham,Ken Waddell,Edward Hanes, Jr.,**Bobbie Richardson**,Graig R. Meyer,Robert T. Reives, II,Brig Gen (Ret) Gary Pendleton,Gale Adcock,John Ager,Cecil Brockman,Brad Salmon,Brian Turner,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to allow members of the north **carolina** national guard who are enrolled in a program granting a graduate certificate to be eligible for the north **carolina** NATIONAL GUARD tuition assistance benefit.

Summary Line

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, MILITARY, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, IF FAVORABLE, EDUCATION - UNIVERSITIES

04/21/2015 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

04/21/2015 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION - UNIVERSITIES

04/27/2015 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

04/27/2015 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

04/27/2015 **HOUSE** ADDED TO CALENDAR

04/27/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

04/27/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

04/28/2015 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO SENATE

04/28/2015 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

04/28/2015 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

04/28/2015 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

07/15/2015 SENATE WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

07/15/2015 SENATE RE-REFERRED TO EDUCATION/HIGHER EDUCATION. IF FAV, RE-REFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS/BASE BUDGET

07/22/2015 SENATE REPORTED FAV

07/22/2015 SENATE RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS/BASE BUDGET

09/15/2015 SENATE WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

09/15/2015 SENATE RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

09/16/2015 SENATE REPORTED FAV

09/17/2015 SENATE PASSED 2ND READING

09/17/2015 SENATE PASSED 3RD READING

09/17/2015 SENATE ORDERED ENROLLED

09/21/2015 **HOUSE** RATIFIED

09/22/2015 **HOUSE** PRESENTED TO GOVERNOR 9/22/2015

10/30/2015 **HOUSE** SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 10/30/2015

10/30/2015 **HOUSE** CHAPTERED SESSION LAW 2015-298

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 759 (NS)

Sponsor: Marvin W. Lucas, Larry M. Bell, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Garland E. Pierce, Pricey Harrison, Elmer Floyd, Rosa U. Gill, Charles Graham, Carla D. Cunningham, Nathan Baskerville, Yvonne Lewis Holley, **Bobbie Richardson**, Brig Gen (R) Gary Pendleton, Howard J. Hunter, III, Brad Salmon, Brian Turner, Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to provide cost-of-living increases for members of the teachers' and state employees' retirement system, the local governmental employees' retirement system, the legislative retirement system, and the consolidated judicial retirement system.

Summary Line

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT, IF FAVORABLE, APPROPRIATIONS

05/12/2015 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

05/12/2015 **HOUSE** SERIAL REFERRAL TO APPROPRIATIONS STRICKEN

05/12/2015 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 749 (NS)

Sponsor: Tricia Ann Cotham, Elmer Floyd, Rosa U. Gill, **Bobbie Richardson**, Cecil Brockman

SUMMARY: AN ACT providing that A WRITTEN COMPLAINT alleging HARASSMENT, SEXUAL HARASSMENT, PHYSICAL ASSAULT, THREATENED PHYSICAL ASSAULT, OR OTHER UNLAWFUL CONDUCT BY CERTAIN ELECTED OFFICIALS AGAINST A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE IS A PUBLIC RECORD.

Summary Line

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 769 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Marvin W. Lucas,Larry M. Bell,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Pricey Harrison,Bryan R. Holloway,Tricia Ann Cotham,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Frank Iler,Susi H. Hamilton,Phil Shepard,Carla D. Cunningham,Jeffrey Elmore,Jon Hardister,Donny Lambeth,Chris Malone,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Chris Whitmire,Bob Steinburg,Joe Sam Queen,Edward Hanes, Jr.,Charles Jeter,Duane Hall,**Bobbie Richardson**,Graig R. Meyer,Robert T. Reives, II,Brig Gen (R) Gary Pendleton,Cecil Brockman,Howard J. Hunter, III,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to increase teacher pay by two thousand dollars.

Summary Line

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 867 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Larry M. Bell,Becky Carney,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Tricia Ann Cotham,Justin P. Burr,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Susi H. Hamilton,Carla D. Cunningham,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Charles Jeter,**Bobbie Richardson**,Brig Gen (R) Gary Pendleton,Cecil Brockman,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to eliminate the required one‑year period of separation for absolute divorce when a person in the marriage is a victim of domestic violence.

Summary Line

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY III

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 773 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Marvin W. Lucas,Larry M. Bell,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Susan C. Fisher,Pricey Harrison,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Susi H. Hamilton,Carla D. Cunningham,Joe Sam Queen,Duane Hall,**Bobbie Richardson**,Robert T. Reives, II,John Ager,Cecil Brockman,Howard J. Hunter, III,Brad Salmon,Brian Turner,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to strengthen the public's right to know regarding the composition and contents of chemicals injected into the earth by oil and gas developers using hydraulic fracturing treatments.

Summary Line

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 885 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Marvin W. Lucas,Susan C. Fisher,Pricey Harrison,Larry D. Hall,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,**Bobbie Richardson**,Howard J. Hunter, III

SUMMARY: AN ACT to allow a local government to set the minimum wage within its jurisdiction and to provide for the automatic adjustment of that wage.

Summary Line

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/15/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 900 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Elmer Floyd,Rosa U. Gill,Carla D. Cunningham,Yvonne Lewis Holley,**Bobbie Richardson**,Cecil Brockman,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to eliminate the corporate income tax rate reduction trigger.

Summary Line

04/16/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/16/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

APR 2015 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 936 (NS)

Sponsor: Marvin W. Lucas,Rick Glazier,Becky Carney,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Garland E. Pierce,Larry D. Hall,Elmer Floyd,Charles Graham,Susi H. Hamilton,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Edward Hanes, Jr.,Evelyn Terry,**Bobbie Richardson**,Robert T. Reives, II,Cecil Brockman,Howard J. Hunter, III,Ralph C. Johnson

SUMMARY: AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A Forgivable LOAN PROGRAM FOR PROSPECTIVE STEM TEACHERS.

Summary Line

04/20/2015 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/20/2015 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2016

APR 2016 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 988 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle,Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Marvin W. Lucas,Becky Carney,Susan C. Fisher,Grier Martin,Pricey Harrison,Pat B. Hurley,Larry D. Hall,Tricia Ann Cotham,Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.,Darren G. Jackson,Rosa U. Gill,John Faircloth,Chuck McGrady,John A. Torbett,William Brawley,Rodney W. Moore,Phil Shepard,Carla D. Cunningham,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Paul Tine,Stephen M. Ross,Charles Jeter,Duane Hall,**Bobbie Richardson**,Robert T. Reives, II,John A. Fraley,John Ager,Cecil Brockman,Howard J. Hunter, III,Brian Turner

SUMMARY: AN ACT to repeal the limitation on funding from the highway trust fund for light rail transit system projects, as recommended by the **house** select committee on strategic transportation planning and long term funding solutions.

Summary Line

04/28/2016 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/28/2016 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, IF FAVORABLE, APPROPRIATIONS

05/10/2016 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

05/10/2016 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MAY 2016 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 1046 (NS)

Sponsor: Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Larry D. Hall,Rosa U. Gill,Carla D. Cunningham,Evelyn Terry,**Bobbie Richardson**,Graig R. Meyer

SUMMARY: AN ACT amending the north **carolina** constitution to set the state minimum wage and provide for automatic cost‑of‑living adjustments.

Summary Line

05/09/2016 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

05/09/2016 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

MAY 2016 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 1054 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle,Verla Insko,Paul Luebke,Marvin W. Lucas,Larry M. Bell,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Pricey Harrison,Larry D. Hall,Tricia Ann Cotham,Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.,Rosa U. Gill,Susi H. Hamilton,Nathan Baskerville,Yvonne Lewis Holley,**Bobbie Richardson**,Graig R. Meyer,Cecil Brockman,Howard J. Hunter, III,Shelly Willingham,Chris Sgro

SUMMARY: AN ACT TO INCREASE TEACHER salaries by ten percent.

Summary Line

05/10/2016 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

05/10/2016 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MAY 2016 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 1079 (NS)

Sponsor: Michael H. Wray, James H. Langdon, Jr., Pricey Harrison, Hugh Blackwell, Rosa U. Gill, Charles Graham, Susi H. Hamilton, Jonathan C. Jordan, Phil Shepard, Carla D. Cunningham, Chris Malone, Yvonne Lewis Holley, Ken Waddell, **Bobbie Richardson**, Robert T. Reives, II, Brig Gen (Ret) Gary Pendleton, Howard J. Hunter, III, Shelly Willingham

SUMMARY: AN ACT to award a four percent salary increase to state employees and public school personnel and a two and one-half percent cost of living adjustment for state retirees AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THOSE PURPOSES.

Summary Line

05/11/2016 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

05/11/2016 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MAY 2016 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.J.R. 1103 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle, Verla Insko, Susan C. Fisher, Grier Martin, Pricey Harrison, Larry D. Hall, Tricia Ann Cotham, Rosa U. Gill, Carla D. Cunningham, Yvonne Lewis Holley, Evelyn Terry, **Bobbie Richardson**

SUMMARY: A JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE 2015 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO ENACT THE EQUAL PAY ACT TO ENSURE THAT EMPLOYEES IN THIS STATE ARE PAID THE SAME WAGES IN THE SAME ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE SAME QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF THE SAME CLASSIFICATION OF WORK.

Summary Line

05/11/2016 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

05/11/2016 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

MAY 2016 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 1076 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle, Verla Insko, Paul Luebke, Marvin W. Lucas, Larry M. Bell, Susan C. Fisher, Michael H. Wray, Garland E. Pierce, Pricey Harrison, Larry D. Hall, Tricia Ann Cotham, Kelly M. Alexander, Jr., Rosa U. Gill, Charles Graham, Susi H. Hamilton, Rodney W. Moore, Carla D. Cunningham, Nathan Baskerville, Yvonne Lewis Holley, Evelyn Terry, **Bobbie Richardson**, Robert T. Reives, II, John Ager, Cecil Brockman, Howard J. Hunter, III, Brian Turner, Shelly Willingham, William O. Richardson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to restore the earned income tax credit and increase the credit to ten percent of the amount of the federal credit.

MAY 2016 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 1118 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle, Verla Insko, Marvin W. Lucas, Susan C. Fisher, Pricey Harrison, Tricia Ann Cotham, Rosa U. Gill, Susi H. Hamilton, Carla D. Cunningham, Yvonne Lewis Holley, Evelyn Terry, Duane Hall, **Bobbie Richardson**, Cecil Brockman, William O. Richardson

SUMMARY: AN ACT to repeal restrictions on use of public bathrooms and statewide PREEMPTIONS IN LAWS RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT and public ACCOMMODATIONS; to repeal restrictions on local government contracts; to ADD veteran status, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, and GENDER IDENTITY AS CLASSES PROTECTED FROM DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR PRIVATE ENFORCEMENT OF THOSE RIGHTS; and to provide funding for the human relations commission.

Summary Line

05/11/2016 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

05/11/2016 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY I, IF FAVORABLE, APPROPRIATIONS

DEC 2016 Bill Id: 2015 NC H.B. 5 (NS)

Sponsor: Larry D. Hall, Susi H. Hamilton, **Bobbie Richardson**, John Ager

SUMMARY: AN ACT that restores the number of early voting days to the number of days prior to the enactment of the voter information verification act.

Summary Line

12/13/2016 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

12/13/2016 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

2017

JAN 2017 Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 7 (NS)

Sponsor: George G. Cleveland,Nelson Dollar,Pat B. Hurley,Frank Iler,D. Craig Horn,Chuck McGrady,Jimmy Dixon,Harry Warren,Allen McNeill,Dean Arp,Carl Ford,Susan Martin,Bobbie Richardson,Kyle Hall,Kevin Corbin

SUMMARY: AN ACT to strengthen the savings reserve, as recommended by the legislative research commission.

Summary Line

01/26/2017 HOUSE PASSED 1ST READING

01/26/2017 HOUSE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

02/09/2017 HOUSE REPORTED FAV

02/09/2017 HOUSE CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

02/09/2017 HOUSE PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 02/14/2017

02/13/2017 HOUSE WITHDRAWN FROM CALENDAR

02/13/2017 HOUSE PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 02/15/2017

02/15/2017 HOUSE AMEND ADOPTED A1

02/15/2017 HOUSE AMENDMENT FAILED A2

02/15/2017 HOUSE PASSED 2ND READING

FEB 2017 Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 54 (NS)

Sponsor: Julia C. Howard,Mitchell S. Setzer,Marvin W. Lucas,Linda P. Johnson,Susan C. Fisher,Michael H. Wray,Nelson Dollar,Pat B. Hurley,Justin P. Burr,Darren G. Jackson,Rosa U. Gill,John Faircloth,John A. Torbett,William Brawley,Jimmy Dixon,Ken Goodman,Kelly E. Hastings,Bert Jones,Jonathan C. Jordan,Rodney W. Moore,Phil Shepard,Jason Saine,Larry G. Pittman,Allen McNeill,Carla D. Cunningham,Carl Ford,Jon Hardister,Donny Lambeth,Chris Malone,Dana Bumgardner,John R. Bell, IV,Stephen M. Ross,Michele D. Presnell,George Graham,Edward Hanes, Jr.,Duane Hall,**Bobbie Richardson**,Josh Dobson,Graig R. Meyer,Robert T. Reives, II,John A. Fraley,Sam

Watford,Gale Adcock,John Ager,John R. Bradford, III,Cecil Brockman,Brian Turner,William O. Richardson,Kyle Hall,Scott Stone,Holly Grange,Beverly G. Boswell,Mike Clampitt,Andy Dulin,Destin Hall,Cody Henson,Linda Hunt Williams,Joe John,Brenden H. Jones,Larry C. Strickland,Donna McDowell White,Deb Butler

SUMMARY: AN ACT to remove the limitation on the income tax deduction for mortgage expense and property tax.

Summary Line

02/08/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

02/08/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEB 2017 **Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 78 (NS)**

Sponsor: Rosa U. Gill,Yvonne Lewis Holley,Bobbie Richardson,Cecil Brockman

SUMMARY: AN ACT to protect all north carolinians against DISCRIMINATION in all walks of life AND to INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR CERTAIN CRIMES THAT INVOLVE SEXUAL ASSAULTS.

Summary Line

02/13/2017 HOUSE PASSED 1ST READING

02/13/2017 HOUSE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSE

FEB 2017 **Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 82 (NS)**

Sponsor: Susan C. Fisher,Grier Martin,Pricey Harrison,Darren G. Jackson,Rosa U. Gill,Yvonne Lewis Holley,George Graham,Edward Hanes, Jr.,Evelyn Terry,**Bobbie Richardson**,Graig R. Meyer,Robert T. Reives, II,Gale Adcock,Brian Turner,Shelly Willingham,William O. Richardson,John Autry,Cynthia Ball,Chaz Beasley,Mary Belk,Amos L. Quick, III,Philip A. Lehman,Deb Butler

SUMMARY: AN ACT to protect all north carolinians against DISCRIMINATION in all walks of life and to repeal **House** Bill 2, as enacted during the 2016 second extra session of the 2015 general assembly.

Summary Line

02/13/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

02/13/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

FEB 2017 **Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 152 (NS)**

Sponsor: Marvin W. Lucas, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Susan C. Fisher, Pricey Harrison, Kelly M. Alexander, Jr., Rosa U. Gill, Rodney W. Moore, Yvonne Lewis Holley, **Bobbie Richardson**, Graig R. Meyer, Robert T. Reives, II, Cecil Brockman, William O. Richardson, John Autry, Deb Butler

SUMMARY: AN ACT to create the criminal offense of felonious assault as a hate crime, to expand the population protected by current misdemeanor hate crimes, and to amend the aggravating factor regarding hate crimes to include persons targeted due to gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

Summary Line

02/22/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

02/22/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY III

FEB 2017 **Bill Id: 2017 NC H.R. 191 (NS)**

Sponsor: Marvin W. Lucas, Michael H. Wray, Nelson Dollar, Kelly E. Hastings, **Bobbie Richardson**, John A. Fraley, Howard J. Hunter, III

SUMMARY: A **HOUSE** RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING AND ELECTING MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH **CAROLINA**.

Summary Line

02/27/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

02/27/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS NOMINATING

02/27/2017 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE FOR ADOPTION

02/27/2017 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

02/27/2017 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 02/28/2017

02/28/2017 **HOUSE** ADOPTED

03/06/2017 **HOUSE** RECONSIDERED ADOPTION

03/06/2017 **HOUSE** AMEND ADOPTED A1

03/06/2017 **HOUSE** ORDERED ENGROSSED

03/06/2017 **HOUSE** ADOPTED

FEB 2017 Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 198 (NS)

Sponsor: Marvin W. Lucas,Rosa U. Gill,Yvonne Lewis Holley,**Bobbie Richardson**,Robert T. Reives, II

SUMMARY: AN ACT to amend the charter of the city of Fayetteville to authorize the city to establish a small business enterprise program to promote the development of small businesses in the city and to enhance the opportunities for small businesses to participate in city contractS AND TO AUTHORIZE caldwell COUNTY TO REQUIRE THE PAYMENT OF DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES BEFORE RECORDING DEEDS CONVEYING PROPERTY.

Summary Line

02/28/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

02/28/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT I

03/15/2017 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

03/15/2017 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

03/15/2017 **HOUSE** ADDED TO CALENDAR

03/15/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

03/15/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

03/16/2017 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO SENATE

03/16/2017 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

03/16/2017 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

03/16/2017 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

06/28/2017 SENATE REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

06/28/2017 SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED

06/28/2017 SENATE PLACED ON TODAY'S CALENDAR

06/28/2017 SENATE PASSED 2ND READING

06/28/2017 SENATE PASSED 3RD READING

06/28/2017 SENATE SPECIAL MESSAGE SENT TO **HOUSE**

06/28/2017 **HOUSE** SPECIAL MESSAGE RECEIVED FOR CONCURRENCE IN S COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

06/28/2017 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT 36(B)

06/28/2017 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 06/29/2017

06/29/2017 **HOUSE** CONCURRED IN S/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

06/29/2017 **HOUSE** ORDERED ENROLLED

06/29/2017 **HOUSE** RATIFIED

06/29/2017 **HOUSE** CHAPTERED SESSION LAW 2017-81

MAR 2017 Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 235 (NS)

Sponsor: Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Michael H. Wray, Rosa U. Gill, Bert Jones, Jeffrey Elmore, John R. Bell, IV, Bob Steinburg, Susan Martin, George Graham, Edward Hanes, Jr., Debra Conrad, **Bobbie Richardson**, Robert T. Reives, II, Kevin Corbin, Linda Hunt Williams, Larry W. Potts, Larry C. Strickland, Deb Butler

SUMMARY: AN ACT to modify the CRITERIA for selection of teacher mentors.

Summary Line

03/06/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/06/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION - K-12

03/14/2017 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

03/14/2017 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

03/15/2017 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 03/16/2017

03/16/2017 **HOUSE** AMEND ADOPTED A1

03/16/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

03/16/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

03/16/2017 **HOUSE** ORDERED ENGROSSED

03/16/2017 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO SENATE

03/20/2017 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

03/20/2017 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

03/20/2017 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

05/16/2017 SENATE WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

05/16/2017 SENATE RE-REFERRED TO EDUCATION/HIGHER EDUCATION. IF FAV, RE-REFERRED TO RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

MAR 2017 Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 244 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko, Julia C. Howard, Mitchell S. Setzer, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Susan C. Fisher, Pricey Harrison, Pat McElraft, Hugh Blackwell, Elmer Floyd, Chuck McGrady, Bob Steinburg, George Graham, Evelyn Terry, **Bobbie Richardson**, Shelly Willingham, Amos L. Quick, III, Deb Butler

SUMMARY: AN ACT to (1) require a five-hundred-foot buffer between solid waste management facilities and schools, athletic fields, and community facilities hosting outdoor activities; (2) require the adoption of rules to reduce odor emissions from composting facilities; and (3) provide for public notice of permits for such facilities.

Summary Line

03/06/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/06/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, IF FAVORABLE, ENVIRONMENT

03/14/2017 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

03/14/2017 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

04/05/2017 **HOUSE** SERIAL REFERRAL TO AGRICULTURE ADDED

04/11/2017 **HOUSE** SERIAL REFERRAL TO AGRICULTURE STRICKEN

04/20/2017 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE 2

04/20/2017 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

04/20/2017 **HOUSE** ADDED TO CALENDAR

04/20/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

04/20/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

04/21/2017 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO SENATE

04/21/2017 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

04/21/2017 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

04/21/2017 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

MAR 2017 Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 289 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko,Marvin W. Lucas,Larry M. Bell,Becky Carney,Jean Farmer-Butterfield,Susan C. Fisher,Pricey Harrison,Darren G. Jackson,Carla D.

Cunningham, Yvonne Lewis Holley, George Graham, Edward Hanes, Jr., Evelyn Terry, **Bobbie Richardson**, Graig R. Meyer, John Ager, Cecil Brockman, Howard J. Hunter, III, William O. Richardson, John Autry, Amos L. Quick, III, Philip A. Lehman, Deb Butler, MaryAnn Black

SUMMARY: AN ACT increasing the state's minimum wage in phases until 2022 when the wage shall be adjusted automatically each year by increases in the cost of living.

Summary Line

03/09/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/09/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

MAR 2017 Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 303 (NS)

Sponsor: Marvin W. Lucas, Garland E. Pierce, Pricey Harrison, Elmer Floyd, Yvonne Lewis Holley, **Bobbie Richardson**, Cecil Brockman, Amos L. Quick, III, Philip A. Lehman, Deb Butler

SUMMARY: AN ACT regarding the required proof sufficient to challenge a person's eligibility to vote.

Summary Line

03/13/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/13/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

MAR 2017 Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 385 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko, Elmer Floyd, Charles Graham, **Bobbie Richardson**, Graig R. Meyer

SUMMARY: AN ACT to prohibit hunting on private property in orange county while under the influence of an impairing substance.

Summary Line

03/20/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/20/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT I, IF FAVORABLE, JUDICIARY I

04/19/2017 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

04/19/2017 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY I

04/26/2017 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

04/26/2017 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

04/26/2017 **HOUSE** ADDED TO CALENDAR

04/26/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

04/26/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

04/27/2017 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO SENATE

04/27/2017 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

04/27/2017 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

04/27/2017 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

06/14/2017 SENATE WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

06/14/2017 SENATE RE-REFERRED TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT. IF FAV, RE-REFERRED TO RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

06/20/2017 SENATE REPORTED FAV

06/20/2017 SENATE RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

06/22/2017 SENATE REPORTED FAV

06/22/2017 SENATE PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 06/26/2017

06/26/2017 SENATE PASSED 2ND READING

06/26/2017 SENATE PASSED 3RD READING

06/26/2017 SENATE ORDERED ENROLLED

06/27/2017 **HOUSE** RATIFIED

06/27/2017 **HOUSE** CHAPTERED SESSION LAW 2017-54

MAR 2017 Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 424 (NS)

Sponsor: Pricey Harrison, **Bobbie Richardson**, Robert T. Reives, II, William O. Richardson, Mary Belk

SUMMARY: AN ACT to provide that subsequent orders related to custody, child and spousal support, and possession of property supersede like provisions in temporary custody order.

Summary Line

03/22/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/22/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY IV, IF FAVORABLE, RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

04/19/2017 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

04/19/2017 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

04/19/2017 **HOUSE** WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

04/19/2017 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

04/21/2017 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 04/24/2017

04/24/2017 **HOUSE** AMEND ADOPTED A1

04/24/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

04/24/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

04/24/2017 **HOUSE** ORDERED ENGROSSED

04/25/2017 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO SENATE

04/25/2017 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

04/25/2017 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

04/25/2017 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

MAR 2017 Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 455 (NS)

Sponsor: Kelly M. Alexander, Jr., **Bobbie Richardson**, Howard J. Hunter, III, Joe John

SUMMARY: AN ACT to combine the second and third classes of claims against the estate of a decedent and to combine the allowable amounts for funeral expenses, gravestones, and a burial place to equal five thousand dollars.

Summary Line

03/27/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

03/27/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, MILITARY, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, IF FAVORABLE, FINANCE

03/29/2017 **HOUSE** SERIAL REFERRAL TO FINANCE STRICKEN

03/29/2017 **HOUSE** WITHDRAWN FROM COMMITTEE

03/29/2017 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY I, IF FAVORABLE, FINANCE

04/25/2017 **HOUSE** REPORTED WITHOUT PREJUDICE

04/25/2017 **HOUSE** RE-REFERRED COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

05/16/2017 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAVORABLE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

05/16/2017 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

05/18/2017 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 05/23/2017

05/23/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

05/23/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

05/24/2017 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO SENATE

05/25/2017 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

05/25/2017 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

05/25/2017 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

APR 2017 **Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 549 (NS)**

Sponsor: **Bobbie Richardson**, John A. Fraley

SUMMARY: AN ACT authorizing the board of governors to set the expenditure benchmark for the president of the university of north **carolina** at an amount consistent with the maximum benchmark set for constituent institutions; authorizing the board of governors to submit annual progress reports on the installation of fire sprinklers in residence halls; and changing the date by which the board of governors shall begin reporting annually the number of students who graduated from early college high school and applied for admission to a constituent institution.

Summary Line

04/05/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/05/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION - UNIVERSITIES

04/19/2017 **HOUSE** REPORTED FAV

04/19/2017 **HOUSE** CALENDAR PURSUANT RULE 36(B)

04/19/2017 **HOUSE** PLACED ON CALENDAR FOR 04/20/2017

04/20/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 2ND READING

04/20/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 3RD READING

04/21/2017 **HOUSE** REGULAR MESSAGE SENT TO SENATE

04/21/2017 SENATE REGULAR MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM **HOUSE**

04/21/2017 SENATE PASSED 1ST READING

04/21/2017 SENATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE

APR 2017 Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 604 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko, Henry M. Michaux, Jr., Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Susan C. Fisher, Pricey Harrison, Elmer Floyd, Rosa U. Gill, Yvonne Lewis Holley, Evelyn Terry, **Bobbie Richardson**, Graig R. Meyer, Cecil Brockman, MaryAnn Black

SUMMARY: AN ACT to repeal the death penalty and to provide that all current prisoners sentenced to death shall be resentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Summary Line

04/06/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/06/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

APR 2017 Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 599 (NS)

Sponsor: Larry M. Bell, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Susan C. Fisher, Garland E. Pierce, Pricey Harrison, Kelly M. Alexander, Jr., Elmer Floyd, Rosa U. Gill, Rodney W. Moore, Evelyn Terry, **Bobbie Richardson**, Cecil Brockman, Amos L. Quick, III

SUMMARY: AN ACT to require most law enforcement officers to wear and activate body-worn cameras during certain interactions with the public, to establish a use policy for body-worn cameras and dashboard cameras, and to establish an access policy for recordings captured by body-worn cameras and dashboard cameras.

Summary Line

04/06/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/06/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY I

APR 2017 Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 700 (NS)

Sponsor: Verla Insko, Marvin W. Lucas, Becky Carney, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Susan C. Fisher, Pricey Harrison, Kelly M. Alexander, Jr., Rosa U. Gill, Charles Graham, Rodney W.

Moore, Yvonne Lewis Holley, Duane Hall, **Bobbie Richardson**, Graig R. Meyer, Robert T. Reives, II, Cecil Brockman, Amos L. Quick, III, Marcia Morey

SUMMARY: AN ACT to allow individuals who meet the criteria to register to vote or change voter registration online.

Summary Line

04/11/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/11/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE **HOUSE**

APR 2017 Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 858 (NS)

Sponsor: Beverly M. Earle, Verla Insko, Marvin W. Lucas, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Susan C. Fisher, Pricey Harrison, Elmer Floyd, Rosa U. Gill, Rodney W. Moore, Yvonne Lewis Holley, George Graham, Evelyn Terry, **Bobbie Richardson**, John Ager, Cecil Brockman, Howard J. Hunter, III, John Autry, Amos L. Quick, III, Deb Butler

SUMMARY: AN ACT to expand eligibility for the medicaid program to include all people under age SIXTY-FIVE who have incomes equal to or below ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE PERCENT of the federal poverty level, to APPROPRIATE funds for costs associated with the expansion, to account for the savings to other state programs as a result of the expansion, and to have the state share of costs of the expansion FUNDED by hospital providers.

Summary Line

04/20/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/20/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

APR 2017 Bill Id: 2017 NC H.B. 891 (NS)

Sponsor: Larry M. Bell, Garland E. Pierce, Charles Graham, Yvonne Lewis Holley, George Graham, **Bobbie Richardson**, Cecil Brockman, John Autry, Amos L. Quick, III, Deb Butler, Marcia Morey

SUMMARY: AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO PROVIDE FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH TO STUDENTS attending k-12 public schools.

Summary Line

04/26/2017 **HOUSE** PASSED 1ST READING

04/26/2017 **HOUSE** REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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