



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

May 8, 2015

This week's good news is that North Carolina has a revenue surplus for the year. On Wednesday, state fiscal staff [announced](#) that North Carolina will collect around \$400 million more in revenue this year than was originally projected. The last official projection in February forecasted a \$270 million shortfall. Although this new development is great news for the state budget picture, it must be noted that there are tremendous pressures on the budget, particularly booming school enrollment growth (expected to cost around \$100 million) and ever-rising Medicaid costs.

This updated forecast came right on time as House Appropriations Committees will be meeting over the next two weeks to develop the House's proposed budget for the next two fiscal years. House leadership provided a tentative timeline for their budget work:

1. May 14 – House Appropriations Committees reviewing/amending budget proposal
2. May 19 – Budget proposal goes to House floor for amendments, debate, and votes
3. May 21 – Final vote on House budget proposal
4. May 25 – Senate formally begins its budget process

Also, the State Board of Education convened for its Spring Planning and Work Session/Board Meeting this week. On Monday, the SBE received a [presentation](#) about North Carolina's rapidly changing demographics from Dr. James Johnson, Jr., of the UNC Kenan-Flagler School of Business. On Tuesday, the Board covered various pressing topics in public education, such as: (1) proposed testing changes from the SBE Task Force on Summative Assessment, (2) [measuring](#) teacher and leader quality, and (3) [statewide support](#) systems for low-performing schools.

### **Relevant Bills Heard in Committee this Week:**

#### [HB 358](#) School Performance Grade Scale

On Wednesday, the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education approved HB 358, and the Senate passed it on Thursday. It will now go to the Governor's desk for his consideration. The bill would extend the current application of a 15-point scale for School Performance Grades for school years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. The total school performance score would still be converted to a total 100-point scale, and the following increments would be in effect for at least the next two years:

- A = 85–100
- B = 70–84
- C = 55–69
- D = 40–54
- F = 0–40

There was an effort to amend the bill which did not succeed. The amendment would have changed the current 80:20 ratio (achievement:student growth) to 50:50. The amendment also would have converted the scale to 10-point intervals; however, this effort did not pass the Senate, and the bill goes to the Governor's office without amendment.

#### [HB 562](#) Second Amendment Affirmation Act

Last Wednesday, the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations amended and approved HB 562. It was referred to the House Committee on Appropriations. Under Section 3 of the bill, individuals authorized to have a concealed handgun in a locked vehicle on educational property would be allowed to remove their gun from the vehicle and carry it on the property if their action is in response to a threatening situation in which deadly force is justified under the state's Stand Your Ground law (the individual reasonably believes deadly force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm). Apparently, there are anticipated amendments to this bill before it is heard in House Appropriations.

#### **Other Relevant Bills with Action This Week:**

#### [HB 13](#) Amend School Health Assessment Requirement (Torbett)

- Withdrawn from the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate
- Re-referred to the Senate Committee on Health Care, if favorable, Education/Higher Education

#### [HB 18](#) Planning Year for CIHSs (S. Martin, Horn, Shepard, Hanes)

- Withdrawn from the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate
- Re-referred to the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education

#### [HB 56](#) ([SB 6](#)) State Health Plan/Rehired Retiree Eligibility (Holloway, L. Johnson, McGrady, Lucas)

- Withdrawn from the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate
- Re-referred to the Senate Committee on Insurance

#### [HB 86](#) Utility Line Relocation/School Board (McNeill, Hurley, Shepard)

- Withdrawn from the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate
- Re-referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation

#### [HB 111](#) Stanly County Board of Education Recall (Burr)

- Withdrawn from the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate
- Re-referred to the Senate Committee on State and Local Government

#### [HB 112](#) Stanly County Board of Education Election Method (Burr)

- Withdrawn from the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate
- Re-referred to the Senate Committee on State and Local Government

#### [HB 158](#) ([SB 125](#)) Jim Fulghum Teen Skin Cancer Prevention Act (Lambeth, Dollar, Hurley, McElraft)

- Withdrawn from the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate
- Re-referred to the Senate Committee on Health Care

#### [HB 602](#) Recruit CC Students to Teach/Pilot (Elmore, Jordan)

- Withdrawn from the House Committee on Education – Community Colleges
- Re-referred to the House Committee on Education – Universities

[HB 760](#) Regulatory Reform Act of 2015 (Millis, J. Bell, Riddell)

- Passed the House on Wednesday, May 6
- Referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources, if favorable Finance

[HB 879](#) Juvenile Code Reform (Jordan, Glazier, McGrady, Avila)

- Withdrawn from the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate
- Re-referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary II
- Favorable report from the Senate Committee on Judiciary II

**Committee Meetings Next Week (May 11-15):**

Tuesday, May 12

- 10:00 AM House Committee on Pensions and Retirement, 415 LOB
  - [HB 759](#) Retirement System Cost of Living Adjustments
- 11:00 AM House Committee on Education – Universities, 643 LOB
  - [HB 602](#) Recruit CC Students to Teach/Pilot
  - [HB 844](#) STEM Teacher Forgivable Loan Program
- 11:00 AM Senate Committee on Health Care, 544 LOB
  - [HB 13](#) Amend School Health Assessment
- 12:00 PM Senate Committee on State and Local Government, 423 LOB
  - [HB 110](#) Cherokee/Rutherford Bds. of Ed. Elections
  - [HB 111](#) Stanly County Board of Education Recall
  - [HB 112](#) Stanly County Board of Education Election Method

Wednesday, May 13

- TBD

Thursday, May 14

- TBD

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