



[Representative Rodney W. Moore](#)

N. C. House Of Representatives

Legislative Office Building

Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

(919) 733-5606

Rodney.Moore@ncleg.net

Mecklenburg County



For Immediate Release

June 23, 2014

REPRESENTATIVE RODNEY W. MOORE'S RALEIGH REPORT

House Republicans Made a Bad Bet on Teacher Pay

News reports throughout the past week have indicated that the Republican proposal to fund an average 5% raise for teachers is fiscally irresponsible. Lottery Director Alice Garland testified before members of the legislature this week that revenues from the lottery will not be sufficient to cover the cost of the raises, and stated in an interview that lead budget writers knew about this shortfall before pushing their proposal on the floor of the House. Republican budget writers have purposely misled members of the General Assembly and the North Carolina public in order to improve their political outlook in an election year.

[House Misled Legislators, Public](#)

Rep. Nelson Dollar, the chief House budget writer, wouldn't say if he saw the memo before the House vote, which he almost certainly did. There's no way that legislative staffers would have kept that memo to themselves. That means that Dollar and other House leaders intentionally misled members of the House and the public about the budget they were debating. It also means they passed a budget they knew was not balanced.

[Cuts Won't Fix Medicaid's Problems](#)

The General Assembly was awash with representatives from hospitals across the state on Tuesday. Their mission was to talk with lawmakers about Medicaid cuts...which would reduce reimbursement rates for health-care providers and halt eligibility for about 15,000 blind, elderly, disabled or otherwise medically disadvantaged patients. More than 40 of the hospital representatives came from Cape Fear Valley Health System. Their numbers were a sign of

how badly the proposed cuts would hurt the health-care provider, with more than 20 percent of its patients covered by Medicaid. Reimbursement rates are already below the actual cost of care, in many cases. Poorly conceived reform could make a bad situation worse.

[Roy Cooper Demands Duke Clean up Coal Ash](#)

North Carolina's attorney general said Wednesday that Duke Energy's coal ash pits must be cleaned up to protect the state's waterways, but the costs shouldn't be passed along to consumers through higher utility rates. The state Senate is considering legislation that would require Duke by 2029 to remove its 100 million tons of coal ash now stored in 33 unlined pits across the state or seal it in place.

[National Labor Leaders Arrested at Moral Monday](#)

J. David Cox, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, and Bryan DeWyngaert, the organization's chief of staff, were both charged with one count each of misdemeanor trespassing, according to arrest warrants filed Tuesday at the Wake County Clerk of Court's Office. Cox, 63, of Silver Spring, Md., and DeWyngaert, 54, of Springfield, Va., were accused by police with remaining on the premises of the N.C. General Assembly "after having been notified not to enter or remain there by a person in charge of the premises," according to the arrest warrant.

[First Test for Voting Laws Approaching](#)

Proponents of what would become one of the most restrictive voting laws in the nation were keen on learning just whose votes they'd be suppressing. And when the numbers placed before them revealed that in large part those votes belonged to African Americans, seniors, and young voters, they pushed their bill to passage in a hurry. "From the very conception of House Bill 589, the main sponsors of the bill had sought and obtained information from the State Board of Elections indicating that the challenged provisions repealed practices used disproportionately by African Americans," groups opposing the new voting law said in recent court filings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senate Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources Committee

The Committee met twice last week, Monday, June 16, and Tuesday, June 17, to address [SB 729](#), Governor's Coal Ash Plan. A proposed committee substitute and a couple of amendments were adopted to the base bill. The bill title also changed to the Coal Ash Management Act of 2014. The bill would require Duke to close "high-risk" coal ash sites by Aug. 1, 2019. Any rated as intermediate risks would have to be excavated and closed by December 31, 2024. Those rated low-risk could be capped and left in place but would have to be closed by December 31, 2029. The bill passed the Committee and was referred to the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee.

Senate Commerce Committee

The Committee met on Tuesday, June 17 and approved [H 1031](#), NC Econ. Dev. Partnership Modifications. The bill establishes the framework for a private, nonprofit entity to take over many activities related to economic development and business recruitment. In addition, the bill makes modifications to the Board of Science and Technology and creates new Collaboration for Prosperity Zones to provide one-stop locations for interactions with multiple State agencies. The bill has now passed both chambers of the General Assembly and has been presented to the Governor for approval.

Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee

The Committee met twice last week. On Wednesday, June 18, the Committee took up [H 1031](#) NC Economic Development Partnership Modifications and [S 729](#), the Coal Ash Management Act of 2014. [H 1031](#) would establish the statutory framework that would allow the Department of Commerce to contract with a private, nonprofit entity for business development and recruitment activities. Both bills passed Committee and [S 729](#) was referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

On Thursday, June 19, the Committee met and reviewed the House and Senate Medicaid budget differences.

Senate Finance Committee

The Senate Finance Committee met on Thursday, June 19, and approved seven bills including the following three local bills: [H 1080](#), Watha Deannexation; [S 731](#), Southport Occupancy Tax Modification; and [S 846](#), Shallotte Deannexations. [H 346](#), Governing Bodies/Collect Unpaid Judgments, would allow counties and cities to attach and garnish the compensation paid to a member of the governing body if the county or city has been granted a money judgment against that member and the judgment has not been satisfied. [H 1034](#), Volunteer Fire and Rescue Finances (PED), would amend laws related to various firefighters' and rescue squad workers' relief funds, workers' compensation, and pension plans. [S 729](#), Coal Ash Management Act of 2014, would establish a legal framework with respect to the cleanup and management of coal ash ponds throughout the State. [S 742](#), Adjust the Utility Regulatory Fee, would allow the General Assembly to establish a different utility regulatory fee for the retail services of telecommunications providers that have elected an alternative method of regulation.

House Regulatory Reform Committee

The House Regulatory Reform Committee met on Wednesday, June 18, to take up [S 493](#), 2014 Regulatory Reform Act. The omnibus bill would make numerous changes to State statutes. After making additional changes in Committee, the bill was given a favorable report and sent to the House floor. [S 493](#) was ultimately re-referred to the House Regulatory Reform Committee for further review.

House Finance Committee

The House Finance Committee met on Wednesday, June 18, and Thursday, June 19. On Wednesday, the Committee approved six bills including the following five local bills: [H 1033](#), Special Assessment/Dam Repair/Richmond Co; [H 1044](#), Averasboro Township TDA Changes, [H 1114](#), Elk Park/Deed Transferring Property; [H 1211](#), Mount Gilead Charter Revision & Consolidation; and [H 1244](#), Wilson County Occupancy Tax Increase. In addition, the Committee approved [S 493](#), 2014 Regulatory Reform Act. The 32-page bill made numerous changes to State statutes. [S 493](#) was then re-referred to the House Committee on Regulatory Reform. That Committee made further changes to the bill before approving it. Once approved by the Committee on Regulatory Reform, the bill was sent to the House floor, but was then sent back to the Committee on Regulatory Reform for further review.

On Thursday, the Committee approved 10 bills, including the following five local bills: [H 1059](#), Venus Flytrap-Taking Penalty/Occup. Tax Use, H 1070, Town of Duck/Eminent Domain; [H 1154](#), Moore Co. Schools Transfer of Property; [H 1212](#), Burlington Charter/Revision and Consolidation; and [S 741](#), Bladen, Columbus, Franklin/Tax Cert. [H 1052](#), Adjust the Utility Regulatory Fee, would allow the General Assembly to establish a different utility regulatory fee for the retail services of telecommunications providers that have elected an alternative method of regulation. [H 1145](#), Registration Required for Mopeds, would require that mopeds be registered with the Division of Motor Vehicles. [H 1182](#), UNC Nonappropriated Capital Projects, would authorize various capital projects in the University system to be paid for by receipts other than State appropriations. [H 1220](#), Hope 4 Haley and Friends, would create a registry of patients, caregivers, and neurologists for the compassionate use of hemp extract for intractable epileptic disorders. [S 790](#), Cape Hatteras/Gas Cities/Infrastructure Land, would phase in the sales tax on electricity sold by the Cape Hatteras Electric Membership Corporation and on piped natural gas sold by the eight gas cities over two years, would modify the infrastructure property tax deferral program, and would delay the change in the highway use tax base to include dealer administrative fees.

House Education Committee

The House Education Committee met on Thursday, June 19, to address two bills. [S 815](#), Ensuring Privacy of Student Records, would require the State Board of Education to make information regarding the student data system available to the public, create rules and plans to ensure privacy and security of individual student data in the system, and restrict the collection certain data in the system. The bill would also require local school boards to provide notice on parental rights and opt-out opportunities regarding student records and participation in certain surveys. [S 815](#) received a favorable report in Committee.

[S 812](#), Maintain State Authority Over Academic Standards, would repeal Common Core and establish a commission to study standards nationwide, including Common Core, and determine a new set of standards for North Carolina. A committee substitute was adopted

that gutted the Senate bill and replaced it with the language already passed by the House in [H 1061](#). The major difference between the two pieces of legislation is that the Senate gives the new commission the option of looking at Common Core when developing the new set of standards for students. Once the House gives final approval to [S 812](#), the two chambers will go to conference to iron out their differences.

House Health and Human Services Committee

The House Health and Human Services Committee met on Thursday, June 19, and approved [H 1181](#), North Carolina Medicaid Modernization. The bill would direct the Department of Health and Human Services to begin a restructuring of the State's Medicaid program by transitioning the program from a traditional fee-for-service plan to a system of provider-led networks that receive a capitated amount per Medicaid beneficiary and assume risks for cost overruns related to those beneficiaries. The bill envisions that the implementation to the new system would be initiated by July 1, 2020.

Please remember that you can listen to committee meetings and press conferences on the General Assembly's website at www.ncleg.net. Once on the site, select "Audio," and then make your selection – House Chamber, Senate Chamber, Appropriations Committee Room or Press Conference Room. A schedule of committee meetings and other events is also available on the website.

2 Attached Images



