

For Immediate Release

June 8, 2015

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REPRESENTATIVE RODNEY W. MOORE'S RALEIGH REPORT

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Rep. Rodney Moore, a native of Wilmington, NC, represents NC House District 99 in Mecklenburg County. Currently he is assigned to serve as Vice Chair of the House Finance and Vice Chair of the Commerce and Job Development committees. He also serves on the House Banking, Education-Universities, Public Utilities, Regulatory Reform and Transportation committees. In addition to his public service with the NCGA, Rep. Moore has served as Vice Chairman of the Charlotte Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and serves on the Board of Directors of the Urban League of Central Carolinas.

ON THE FLOOR

For legislative action lookup by day, click below:

- Bills with House Action by Day
- Bills with Senate Action by Day

COMMITTEES

House Commerce and Job Development Committee

The House Commerce and Job Development Committee met on Wednesday, June 3, and approved § 7, Food Stand Seating & Outdoor Food Service. The bill would a) allow a food stand to provide tables and seats for eight or fewer customers to use while eating or drinking on the premises; and b) allow pushcarts or mobile food units to prepare and serve food on the premises provided they are based from a permitted commissary or restaurant that is located on the premises of a facility containing at least 3,000 permanent seats.

House Rules Committee

The House Rules Committee met on Wednesday, June 3, and approved H 562, Amend Firearm Laws. The bill would make numerous amendments to the State's firearms laws including the following: a) amend the exemptions to carrying a concealed weapon to allow additional government officials or employees to concealed carry at work; b) allow a person with a concealed handgun permit to carry concealed on their person within a locked vehicle on educational property; c) authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture to prohibit the carrying of firearms on the State Fairgrounds during the State Fair; d) expand the shooting range protection act to provide that shooting ranges are only subject to noise ordinances that were in effect at the time the shooting range began operation; e) modify the firearm rights restoration statute to ensure recognition of the restoration by federal law; f) eliminate some misdemeanors from the list of misdemeanor convictions that prohibit a person from obtaining a concealed handgun permit; g) authorize the use of suppressors on short-barreled rifles for hunting; h) reduce the offense of carrying a concealed handgun on private posted property from a Class 1 misdemeanor to an infraction; i) repeal the pistol purchase permit requirement effective October 1, 2021 and would make various changes to the pistol purchase permit statutes pending that repeal; j) expand statewide uniformity of firearm regulation to specifically prohibit local governments from adopting any regulation relating to taxation, manufacture, or transportation of firearms; k) require certain State officials authorized by federal law to complete certifications required by federal law for transfer of certain weapons to complete those certifications within 15 days of request; I) require a sheriff to make the request for any records concerning the mental

health of an applicant for a concealed handgun permit within 15 days of receipt of the permit application and prohibit denial of the permit unless the applicant is determined to be ineligible pursuant to statute; m) amend G.S. 14-415.23, which limits local government regulation of carrying concealed handguns to allow a person to bring an action for declaratory and injunctive relief against the local government for violation of the statute; n) require any written questionnaire or other written form a health care provider asks a patient to complete that contains any question regarding the patient's lawful ownership, possession, handling, storage, maintenance of, or other conduct involving firearms and ammunition to clearly and conspicuously contain or have attached to it a notice that the patient is not required to answer those questions; and o) authorize a permanent resident of the United States to obtain a North Carolina concealed handgun permit.

House Health Committee

The Committee met on Wednesday, June 3, and passed three bills. <u>S 487</u>, Health Choice Technical Revisions, would amend the North Carolina Health Choice insurance program. <u>S 366</u>, Amend Certain Reqs/ Permanency Innovation Committee would clarify that the Committee report should be submitted by February 15 and the Committee must meet twice a year. <u>S 423</u>, Foster Care Family Act, would create a "reasonable and prudent parent standard" that allows foster parents to make decisions for their foster children. It would also allow foster children to obtain a driver's license and seeks to provide liability insurance to foster families. The bill received a favorable report and was referred to Judiciary III.

House Finance Committee

The House Finance Committee met on Thursday, June 4. On Thursday, the Committee approved seven bills. $\underline{\text{H}}$ 266, City of Lenoir/Satellite Annexation; $\underline{\text{H}}$ 400, Town of Mint Hill/Annexations; $\underline{\text{H}}$ 426, Town of Weldon/Deannexation; $\underline{\text{H}}$ 493 Lake Lure Deannexation/Referendum; and $\underline{\text{H}}$ 526, Town of Norwood/Deannexation are local bills dealing with the annexation or deannexation of property from municipal limits. $\underline{\text{H}}$ 192, Compliance Court Costs, would establish compliance court costs and direct the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to establish a system for the electronic payment of compliance court costs. Compliance court costs could be assessed when a person charged with certain offenses is allowed to obtain a dismissal of the offense by the district attorney upon proof of compliance. $\underline{\text{H}}$ 615, Probation Violation Court Costs, would establish a new \$50 court cost charged to probationers if a court hearing occurs and the court finds a violation of probation.

In The News

NCGA Overrides Ag Gag Veto

Both the state House and Senate voted Wednesday to override Gov. Pat McCrory's veto of House Bill 405, a law that proponents say protects private property rights but opponents say muzzles whistleblowers. Dubbed an "ag-gag" measure by its critics, the bill gives businesses the right to sue employees who expose trade secrets or take pictures of their workplaces. Animal rights groups say the measure is aimed at curbing the kind of undercover investigations that have exposed abusive practices in factory farms and slaughterhouses.

North Carolina governor signs abortion bill

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory on Monday signed into law a measure directing state officials to regulate abortion clinics based on the same standards as those for outpatient surgical centers, a change that critics say will force most to close.

Critics say the move represents a shift by the first-year Republican executive, who pledged as a candidate last fall that he wouldn't approve any new abortion restrictions if elected.

Committee Narrowly Approves Gun Bill

A gun measure that repeals North Carolina's pistol permit application system narrowly passed a House committee Wednesday, despite opposition by Gov. Pat McCrory and the association representing sheriffs who approve or deny the permits. The rules panel voted 14-13 in favor of the measure, which also would authorize General Assembly members and staff workers in the Legislative Building to carry legally held concealed weapons. The bill, if approved, also would mean more people convicted of misdemeanors would no longer be prohibited from obtaining a license to carry a concealed weapon. Penalties for violating a prohibition against carrying concealed weapons on private property would decrease.

NC One Step Away From Allowing Officials to Refuse Marriages

North Carolina senators voted on Monday night to override Gov. Pat McCrory's veto of a bill that would allow some court officials to opt out of same-sex marriage duties based on "sincerely held religious" objections. The Senate, in a largely party-line vote of 32 to 16, confirmed its support to give magistrates the option, although they would be required to stop performing all marriage duties. Senate Bill 2 was introduced in January by Senate Leader Phil Berger, arguably the state's most influential elected official, after federal court orders legalized gay marriage in North Carolina last October, and about a half dozen magistrates resigned. An override would require approval from the House of Representatives, which Speaker Tim Moore said would debate the motion on Wednesday.

Court: Taking Away Teacher Tenure Unconstitutional

The N.C. Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday that an attempt by the North Carolina General Assembly to strip teachers of "career status" - called teacher tenure by many - is unconstitutional. The ruling upholds a Superior Court decision in the case. Under the law, tenure would be completely phased out by 2018. In 2013, the North Carolina Association of Educators sued, and last year Superior Court Judge Robert Hobgood ruled that eliminating tenure was unconstitutional. The decision did not apply to teachers who had yet to earn

tenure. Tenure gives public school teachers extra due process rights, including the right to a hearing if they're disciplined or fired.

NC Moves Forward with Voter ID Rules Amid Lawsuit

The State Board of Elections is holding the first of nine public hearings on the rules governing North Carolina's voter identification law. The first hearing is scheduled for Raleigh beginning at 5 p.m. on Wednesday at board headquarters. The other hearings will be held throughout the state during June. Board spokesman Josh Lawson said the most productive comments are aimed at the rules themselves without commenting on the underlying merit of the law. The provisional rules will be used to determine if a photo ID bears a "reasonable resemblance" to a voter. The 2013 law is still being argued in state and federal courts. It requires North Carolina voters to show a government-issued photo ID before casting their ballots, starting in 2016.

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The NC State Board of Elections is holding public hearings across the state to hear comments about part of the new photo ID law that says the ID must "reasonably resemble" the voter. The Board has written preliminary rules that tell precinct officials how to decide if the ID "reasonably resembles" the voter. Please see the schedule below.

Charlotte, Monday, June 8, 5-7PM
Hal Marshall Auditorium
700 North Tryon St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Winston-Salem, Tuesday, June 9, 5-7PM
Forsyth County Government Center, Multi-Purpose Room
201 Chestnut Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Boone, Wednesday, June 10, 5-7PM Watauga Administration Building 814 West King Street Boone, NC 28607

Sylva, Thursday, June 11, 5-7PM Jackson County Transit 876 Skyland Drive, Suite 1 Sylva, NC 28779

Fayetteville, Friday, June 12, 5-7PM

Cumberland County Board of Elections, Training Room

227 Fountainhead Lane, Suite 101

Fayetteville, NC 28301

Tarboro, Monday, June 15, 5-7PM

Edgecombe County Administrative Building, Auditorium

201 St. Andrew St.

Tarboro, NC 27886

Districts Challenged Again

A federal lawsuit filed last week brings another challenge to North Carolina's legislative voting districts drawn by Republican lawmakers. The lawsuit by 27 voters, which comes weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court threw out North Carolina rulings upholding the voting maps, seeks a panel of three federal judges to review the maps and a court order requiring the General Assembly to redraw the

districts in time for the 2016 elections. The North Carolina Supreme Court is expected to revisit the existing maps in August to determine whether the legislature relied too heavily on race when it redrew voting districts following the 2010 census.

Toll Road Moves Ahead with Contractor Guilty of Fraud

The state Department of Transportation announced Thursday construction had begun on the Monroe Expressway, a 20-mile highway in Union County. The project, which had been stalled for years by a lawsuit over its environmental impact, is being built by a joint venture of three companies. One of those firms, Boggs Paving Inc. of Monroe, pleaded guilty to conspiracy in September in what federal prosecutors described as a bid-rigging and kickback scheme involving nearly \$88 million in government highway construction contracts between 2003 and 2014. Company president Carl A. "Drew" Boggs III is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to conspiracy and money laundering. He faces up to 25 years in prison and \$500,000 in fines.

Belhaven Mayor Marches to DC for 2nd Consecutive Year

The mayor of Belhaven, N.C. is walking to Washington, D.C., again, over hospital closures. Mayor Adam O'Neal made the trek last year when Belhaven Hospital shut down because of financial problems. Now he says there are as many as 283 rural hospitals across the country in danger of closing by the end of this year. "All we're doing is trying to bring awareness, national awareness to a horrific tragedy that's taking place in our country right now and that's the failure of rural hospitals."

CALENDAR

Mon, June (<u>08, 2015</u>	
3:00 PM	Regulatory Reform CORRECTED (House)	●) 544 LOB
	Zoning/Design & Aesthetic Controls. (<u>S25</u>) Measurability Assessments. (For Discussion Only) (<u>H805</u>)	
7:00 PM	Session Convenes (House)	House
7:00 PM	Session Convenes (Senate)	Senate
Tue, June 0	9. 2015	
11:00 AM	Commerce (Senate)	1027/1128 LB
	Agenda: to be determined	
11:00 AM	Sen Comm Commerce	1027/1128 LB
12:00 PM	State and Local Government CORRECTED (Senate)	423 LOB
	Town of Cary/Release Unneeded Easements. (<u>H337</u>) Wilson's Mills/Satellite Annexations. (<u>H353</u>) Fontana Dam/Establish Electric Power Board. (<u>H415</u>)	
1:00 PM	Finance CORRECTED (Senate)	♦) 544 LOB
	Cary Annexation. (H73) Town of Polkton/Deannexation. (H99) Clayton Deannexation/Annexation. (H217) Clayton Annexation. (H218) Wilson County Occupancy Tax Modification. (S50) Joint Agency & Waste Authority/Tax Exemption. (S399) Equalize Tax on Propane Used as a Motor Fuel. (S448)	
1:00 PM	Agriculture (House)	● 643 LOB
	North Carolina Farm Act of 2015. (<u>S513</u>)	
Wed, June 1	10, 2015	
10:00 AM	Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources (Senate)	● 0 544 LOB
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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.

Ariel Smith, Corresponding Secretary

Agenda: to be determined

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