



Feature update! Browser-side lookups - highlight text and search it on Google!

From: **Joel Ford** <joelford@gmail.com>
To: Steve Johnston <sjohnston@tueforumclt.org>
Subject: **Fwd: Sen. Joel Ford Legislative Update**
Date: Wed, 5 Jun 2013 10:30:16 -0400

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Please add.

Joel D. M. Ford

Please forgive any typos as this message was sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Senator Joel Ford " <info@votejoelford.com>
Date: June 3, 2013, 5:19:55 PM EDT
To: joelford@gmail.com
Subject: **Sen. Joel Ford Legislative Update**
Reply-To: info@votejoelford.com



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Vol. 1, Ed. 5 - June, 2013

Greetings Constituents and Friends,

Last week the North Carolina Senate passed its version of the \$20.6 billion budget- S.B. 402. I believe the goals of our state budget should be to empower communities to create good, sustainable jobs, provide quality education to all North Carolina students, provide affordable healthcare for North Carolinians, build necessary infrastructure and ensure accountability for taxpayer dollars. This budget falls short on many fronts. I am

disappointed that the Republican budget plan sets aside \$770 million for a tax reform package that shifts the tax burden to the middle class and working families -the backbone of our economy- in order to pay for unfair tax breaks for corporations and wealthy individuals. I support tax reform, however, not on the shoulders of the middle class and working poor!

Our state's unemployment rate is currently 8.9 percent, the fifth highest in the country, with many of our counties consistently faced with double-digit unemployment. Providing unnecessary tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy while increasing sales taxes on goods and services such as food, prescription drugs, and social security does not help our economy. Providing unwarranted tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy while slashing 10,000 teachers' and teacher assistants' jobs in public schools, yet subsidizing vouchers for private schools with minimal regulations and accountability, does not promote quality education. Providing unwanted tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy while not providing raises to state employees, teachers or state highway patrol officers does not help middle class working families.

I urge you to continue to be diligently informed about issues of importance involving your state government. Please refer to the North Carolina General Assembly website, www.ncleg.net<<http://www.ncleg.net>>, to track information on committee meetings, bill status, legislative updates, etc. The North Carolina state government website, www.ncgov.com<<http://www.ncgov.com>>, is helpful for in-depth information regarding our state resources.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

The following recaps some of the bills that received lively discussion in committees and/or on the Senate floor.

Legislation Passed-

H.B. 4, III Fund Solvency & Program Changes - The House and Senate acted without hesitation earlier this session to approve a bill reducing unemployment benefits to pay down the state's debt more quickly. The governor signed the bill into law on 3-06-13.
S.B. 4, No N.C. Exchange/No Medicaid Expansion- One of the first bills to pass the House and Senate and get the governor's signature which prevents the state from adding more low-income people to Medicaid and blocks the implementation of a state-based health insurance exchange under the federal law. It was signed and became law on 3-06-13.

Legislation Still Alive-

H.B. 589, VIVA (Voter Information Verification Act)- Requires voters to show photo identification at polls at a cost of \$2.3 million for implementation. It is presently in Senate Rules Committee.

H.B. 944, Opportunity Scholarship Act - provides that the State Education Assistance Authority will, no later than June 1 of each year, make applications available to eligible students and award scholarship grants to attend any nonpublic school. The school voucher bill would, at a minimum, sink approximately \$100 million over three years from public education in North Carolina to give \$4,200 per year to families wishing to send their children to private institutions. H.B. 944 is presently in House Appropriations Committee.

S.B. 76, Domestic Energy Jobs Act - Lifts the state's fracking moratorium in 2015 and allows deep-well injection of fracking waste - presently referred to the House Commerce and Job Development Committee.

S.B. 81, Charlotte Regional Airport Authority - Establishes the Charlotte Regional Airport Authority, consisting of eleven members with duties which include acquiring, administering, or otherwise regulating airports and/or landing fields for use by airplanes and other aircraft and all facilities incidental to their operation, within the limits of Mecklenburg County. S.B. 81 also authorizes the Authority to acquire any real or personal property from Mecklenburg County or Charlotte, which may be necessary for

the construction, operation, or maintenance of any airport or facilities located in Mecklenburg County. The bill has been referred to the House Transportation Committee.

SPECIAL THANKS

