



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

From: Joel Ford <joeldford@gmail.com>
To: Steve Johnston <sjohnston@tueforumclt.org>
Subject: Fwd: NC Sen. Joel Ford Legislative Update
Date: Tue, 9 Jul 2013 09:18:59 -0400

View as text

Please post.

Joel D. M. Ford
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Colette Forrest <coletteforrest@hotmail.com>
Date: July 9, 2013, 9:02:59 AM EDT
Subject: NC Sen. Joel Ford Legislative Update



Vol. I, Ed. 6

July 3, 2013

Greetings Constituents and Friends,

As the days wind down for this legislative session, I want to let you know how things are moving along. Laws have been passed by this Republican-led legislature that will significantly affect many people in this state. As of today, we have yet to adopt a finalized state budget to operate the state of North Carolina for FY July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015. As such, a continuing resolution (CR) was voted on to keep the state running through July 30, 2013.

Another significant issue currently being debated is tax reform. The House and Senate differ on how to reform the state's outdated tax structure. There are proposals that, if implemented, will drastically affect many people, businesses and organizations. The current North Carolina tax structure was put into place in the 1930s. Thus, I believe in good, sound tax reform that will help bring much needed revenue to our struggling economy. However, tax reform should NOT be implemented on the shoulders of working class and poor families to benefit wealthy North Carolinians.

Paid for by The Joel Ford Committee

To UNSUBSCRIBE FROM THIS MAILING LIST, CLICK HERE

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

The following recaps some significant legislation signed into law that may directly affect many residents here in the state.

Unemployment Insurance

On June 30, 2013, as a result of legislation passed earlier this session, the federal emergency unemployment compensation (EUC) program ended in North Carolina and will affect an estimated 70,000 North Carolinians who are out of work (HB 4). Further, new unemployment insurance claims filed on/after July 1, 2013, will have a maximum weekly benefit of \$350 (reduced from \$535/week) and a maximum period of 20 weeks (reduced from 26 weeks). North Carolina will no longer accept federal emergency EUC funds for the long-term unemployed. Elimination of EUC benefits will also affect the state’s economy, as less revenue will flow into communities and other service providers. The county level impact of loss of EUC for Mecklenburg County is as follows:

Unemployment Rate (April 2013)	Est. No. of Jobless Workers Who Will Lose EUC	Jobless Workers Who Will Lose EUC as Percent of Total Unemployed
8.5%	7200	16.9%

No Medicaid Expansion

North Carolina, through legislation signed into law, will not add more low-income individuals to Medicaid and will block implementation of a state-based health insurance exchange under the federal law (SB 4). By rejecting 100% federal funding for Medicaid expansion, vital health services will be refused for approximately 500,000 of North Carolina’s most vulnerable citizens.

Racial Justice Act Repealed

The Racial Justice Act, which was implemented by the legislature in 2009, has been repealed with legislation signed into law on June 19, 2013 (SB 306). This law effectively eliminates the process by which a defendant may use statistics to have a sentence of death reduced to life in prison without parole and paves the way to resume state executions.

Earned Income Tax Credit Elimination

Effective taxable years on/after January, 2013, the internal revenue code (IRC) is amended (HB 82). This legislation ends the state earned income tax credit for approximately 900,000 North Carolinians including military, low income and single parent households.

The following legislation is still under consideration:

Budget

As of today, there is no finalized budget in place for the state (SB 402). Some of the Senate budget proposals include:

- No pay raises for state employees, teachers or highway patrol
- Reduction of classroom teachers, teacher assistants and instructional personnel
- Cuts in rural economic development initiatives
- Elimination of special superior court judges
- Reduction of funding for early intervention/children’s development services

Voter ID

Legislation is still being considered to require North Carolina voters to show photo identification at polls in order to have their vote counted (HB 589). Implementation of this legislation is estimated to cost the state \$2.3 million at a time when our economy is still struggling. Other factors, including rolling back early voting and elimination of Sunday voting, could be affected if this legislation is passed.

Charlotte Regional Airport Authority

If implemented, this legislation will hand management of the Charlotte Douglas International Airport to an 11-member Charlotte Regional Airport Authority (Authority) 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 (SB 81). This legislation will also authorize the Authority to acquire any real or personal property from Mecklenburg

County or Charlotte that may be necessary for the construction, operation or maintenance of any airport or facilities located in Mecklenburg County.

Tax Reform

The House and Senate have different views on how to restructure our state's outdated tax system as noted below (HB 998). Note that discussions are currently taking place with regard to HB 998.

HB 998- Tax Reform Act	HOUSE (4th ed.)	SENATE (5th ed.)
INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX CHANGES		
Zero Tax Bracket	N/A	\$15,000(MFJ); \$12,000 (H/H); \$7,500 (MFS & Single)
Standard deduction	\$12,000 (MFJ)	Eliminate
Itemized deductions	Unlimited charitable contributions; Mtg. interest + property taxes paid on real estate (not to exceed \$25,000)	Eliminate
Social security	No change	Included to the extent included in federal AGI
Child credit	AGI ≤ \$100K = \$250 AGI > \$100K = \$100	No change
Effective date	2013 for business deduction 2014 for general changes	No change 2013 2014 for general changes 2015 for lower PIT rate of 5.25%
CORPORATE INCOME TAX CHANGES		
Rate	2014 ≤ 6.5% 2015 ≤ 6.35% 2016 ≤ 6.2% 2017 ≤ 5.6% Thereafter ≤ 5.4%	2014 ≤ 6% 2015 ≤ 4% 2016 ≤ 2% 2017 ≤ Eliminate CIT
Effective date	2014	2014
SALES TAX CHANGES		
Sales tax holiday for school	No change	Eliminate July 1, 2014
Exemption ≤ Food	No change	Eliminate local sales tax on food, November 2014; Give counties the authority to impose a local sales tax on food at the county's local sales tax rate, January 2015
Tax refunds ≤ nonprofits	No change	Capped 2014 - \$7.5M State, \$2.25M local 2015 - \$5M State, \$1.5M local 2016 - \$1M State, \$300,000 local 2017 - \$100,000 State, \$30,000 local

*****SPECIAL THANKS*****

Thank you for continuing to voice your issues, thoughts, and concerns through your many e-mails, phone calls and office visits regarding matters of importance. As always, I appreciate receiving input from you. I am here to help in any way that I can. Please feel free to contact me or my office.

Senator Joel D. M. Ford
North Carolina State Senate
Legislative Building
16 West Jones Street, Room 1119
Raleigh, NC 27601
(919) 733-5955 phone
(919) 754-3254 fax
Joel.Ford@ncleg.net