



Mail



Calendar



Contacts



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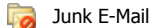
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Drafts [2]



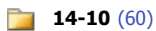
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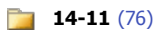
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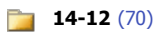
Sent Items

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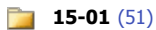
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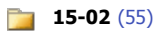
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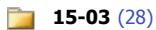
14-12 (70)



15-01 (51)



15-02 (55)



15-03 (28)



Manage Folders...

**Fwd: 3/9 - 3/13 Week in Review**

Sen. Joel Ford [Joel.Ford@ncleg.net]

Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 3:13 PM

Sincerely,
Sen. Joel D. M. Ford
District 38 (Mecklenburg)
919-733-5<tel:919-733-5654>955
joel.ford@ncleg.net<mailto:joel.ford@ncleg.net>

North Carolina Senate
16 W. Jones Street, Room 1<x-apple-data-detectors://5>119
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

Subject: 3/9 - 3/13 Week in Review

Monday 3/9 - Friday 3/13 Week in Review

Chad Barefoot, Senate GOP Make Grab For Local Control. This week in the Senate, Chad Barefoot and Trudy Wade ushered through legislation that will change the makeup of local elections in their districts. Barefoot's legislation, S181, forces the Wake County Board of Commissioners to run on previously drawn school board maps, in wake of unfavorable election results for Republicans in 2014. This will likely swing the makeup of the Board to a Republican led commission. S36, championed by Wade, redraws the Greensboro City Council districts and will also likely favor a Republican majority. Senators Stein and Robinson each introduced amendments to send these new maps to referendum, allowing the voters to have the final say, but Republican leadership tabled both amendments on the floor on Wednesday afternoon. Both bills passed final reading on Thursday morning, and will now go to the House. For more on the Wake bill, click here<<http://www.wral.com/senate-gives-tentative-approval-to-new-maps-for-wake-commissioners/14507186/>>. For more on the Greensboro bill, click here. <http://www.news-record.com/blogs/killian_lehmert_the_inside_scoop/senate-approves-bill-to-change-greensboro-city-council/article_82a67b0e-c830-11e4-af1b-ab3b27bd39e2.html>

Monday evening, the Senate sent the NC Competes Bill to the Rules Committee. H117 pass the House last week with bipartisan support, but is not expected to move through Rules quickly. Senator Apodoca doesn't seem in any hurry to take up this legislation, leaving it still to be determined what incentives programs, if any, Republican leadership in the Senate will put their support behind. Read more here. <<http://www.wral.com/senators-skeptical-of-house-economic-development-bill/14503197/>>

SB 20, Gas Tax, Sent to Conference. After facing changes in the House, Senate Bill 20, which raises the gas tax in order to fund transportation projects, was sent to conference, where the House and Senate will have to negotiate the one cent difference in their plans. The original bill raised the gas tax by \$1.2 billion over the next four years, and ended tax deductions for students and families going through loan forgiveness. The House dropped these controversial provisions and changed the formula under which the gas tax will operate. Read more here. <http://www.journalpatriot.com/news/house-senate-gas-tax-plans-differ/article_36edbd70-c818-11e4-b0bf-9bfc2335d808.html>

Governor's budget proposal leaves out raises for 2/3 of teachers. McCrory's Budget Director, Lee Roberts, outlined the Governor's Budget Proposal on Tuesday in a joint committee for Members and staff. The Governor's proposal will merely provide a proposed direction for the House and Senate to build upon once budget negotiations begin. The Governor's proposal does a good job focusing on jobs and incentives to bring jobs to the state, but is still lacking in the education department. A recent DPI study suggests that two thirds of teachers will be left out of the proposed teacher raises, again raising concern over the current leadership's lack of attention to our public school systems. Read more here.<<http://www.wral.com/one-third-of-nc-teachers-would-get-raises-under-governor-s-budget/14504226/>>

House sends air quality rules to the Senate. Thursday morning, the Senate took up House Bill 157, which under normal circumstances would be a house cleaning bill that

includes environmental rules. However, environmental groups are concerned because the bill includes controversial language that would allow state regulators to opt out of creating specific air quality regulations for natural gas drilling operations. Supporters of the bill say it must move quickly as we are running out of time before fracking permits need to be issued, but those opposed argue that this bill reneges on a promise to establish the most stringent rules on fracking in the country. Read more here.<<http://www.wral.com/house-passes-controversial-air-quality-rule-on-fracking/14506639/>>

In Case You Missed It – Last Week’s Review
Mon 3/2 – Fri 3/6 Week In Review

Governor McCrory introduced his \$21.5 billion budget proposal Thursday morning at a press conference in Raleigh. His budget proposal comes just before tax season, and final budget numbers will determine the actual pool of money the state has to work with. The proposal includes the historic tax credit and film incentives, but leaves room for growth in supporting public education. It is now up to legislators to consider his recommendations and move forward with legislation, that will return to the Governor’s Desk for approval later this year. See the full budget proposal here.<http://www.wral.com/asset/news/state/nccapitol/2015/03/05/14492641/thebudget_2015-17.pdf>

Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Martin addressed the Joint Chambers of the NC House and Senate Wednesday in the first State of the Judiciary in 14 years. In his address, Chief Justice Martin called for increased spending of \$30 million to adequately fund the state court system. The Governor’s budget proposal did not address Chief Justice Martin’s concern, and included just \$6 million in additional funds for the courts.

House passes incentives bill. House legislators this week voted with bipartisan support to reinstate and increase funding to the Job Development Investment Grants (JDIG), and rebrand the program as the Job Growth Opportunities Program. This bill doubles JDIG funding from previous levels and includes \$20 million for an infrastructure grant program that helps companies build new sites. The Senate will get to consider this bill, and likely make changes, in coming weeks. Read more here.<<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article12218483.html>>

House OK’s gas tax changes. House legislators this week passed a drastically changed version of Senate Bill 20 that would drop the gas tax to 36 cents per gallon for the remainder of 2015, then set a floor moving forward. The Senate will have to address the changes to the bill and vote on a new version of the legislation in the coming weeks. Read more here.<<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/traffic/road-worrier-blog/article12530201.html>>

GOP Introduces legislation to redraw Wake Commissioner districts. A bill filed Wednesday by Chad Barefoot (R-18) will change the way the Wake County Board of Commissioners is Elected. This bill comes mere months after Democrats won back control of the Wake County Board of Commissioners in the 2014 elections. This is the second local redistricting bill introduced in the Senate this session. Senate Bill 36 affects Guilford County, and would change the size of the council, eliminate its al-large members, change the power of the mayor, and draw seven new council districts. Read more here.<<http://www.wral.com/gop-bill-to-expand-wake-county-board-of-commissioners-rankles-dems/14491211/>>

