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**Subject:** REPRESENTATIVE RODNEY W. MOORE'S RALEIGH REPORT - May 11, 2015

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Mecklenburg County



For Immediate Release

May 11, 2015

## **REPRESENTATIVE RODNEY W. MOORE'S RALEIGH REPORT**

### **COMMITTEES**

#### **House Transportation Committee**

The Committee met on Tuesday, May 5, to discuss [H 927](#), Reestablish NC as the "Good Roads State". H 927 sets out a plan to improve long term transportation funding in the State. The bill proposes to temporarily reduce the gas tax by five cents until 2017, when it would be adjusted based on population growth and inflation; to raise the highway use tax from three to four percent; and increases fees on licenses, registrations and titles. The bill also phases out the annual transfer from the Highway Trust Fund to the General Fund and appropriates an additional \$300 million in transportation funding in the upcoming fiscal year. During the discussion, the bill sponsor agreed to remove a provision that would impose a six and half percent tax on auto insurance contracts. The Committee could take action on a revised version of H 927 as early as next week.

#### **House Commerce and Job Development Committee**

The Committee met on Wednesday, May 6, and approved [S 105](#), Include No. Veterans Employed/Annual Report. The bill would require corporations and limited liability companies to include information on the number of veterans they employ in annual reports to the Secretary of State.

## House Finance Committee

The Committee met on Thursday, May 7, and approved three bills. [H 182](#), Property Insurance Fairness, would a) make certain property insurance data public; b) create the North Carolina Recovery Finance Authority (Authority) as a new public agency; c) authorize the Authority to finance deficits of the North Carolina Insurance Underwriting Association related to catastrophic events, including the authority to issue tax-exempt revenue bonds as a municipality; d) require notice when seeking consent to rate policies; e) modify the catastrophe modeling used for property rate-making purposes; and f) create the Joint Legislative Study Committee on Property Insurance Rate Making. [H 289](#), NC Money Transmitters Act.-AB, would enact a new Money Transmitters Act (MTA) as requested by the Office of the North Carolina Commissioner of Banks. [H 430](#), County Omnibus Legislation, would reestablish the State Payment in Lieu of Taxes Study Commission, direct the Environmental Review Commission to study statewide approaches to control invasive aquatic noxious weeds, direct the Revenue Laws Study Committee to study the financial impacts on local governments of exempting previously taxable properties from the property tax base when acquired by nonprofits, and explicitly authorize counties to establish residential recyclable materials collection programs.

## Senate Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources Committee

The Committee met on Wednesday, May 6, and approved three bills. [H 65](#), Wilkes Fox Trapping, seeks to establish a season for trapping foxes in Wilkes, Cherokee and New Hanover Counties. [H 601](#), Sale of Deer Skins, would provide for the lawful sale of deer skins subject to tagging and reporting requirements and season limits. [H 706](#), Building Code/Rustic Cabins, would require the Building Code Council to amend the North Carolina building code to exempt open air camp cabins from certain requirements of the code.

## Senate Education/Higher Education Committee

The Senate Education/Higher Education Committee approved two bills on Wednesday, May 6. [H 358](#), School Performance Grade Scale, would extend the use of the fifteen-point scale for assignment of school performance grades for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years only. [H 393](#), Tri-County CC/Bd. Of Trustees, seeks to change the manner of selection of members of the Tri-County Community College Board of Trustees.

## In The News

### [Speaker Says House Budget Will be Released May 18](#)

The speaker said House appropriations committee chairs are meeting privately “all day” this week to hash out the budget. Until the talks move to budget subcommittees – which meet in public – expect little news out of the House this week. “While we do have some bills, we’re going to try to maintain relatively light committee calendars and session calendars” to make time for budget meetings, Moore said. Once the House passes the budget, the Senate will get a crack at the proposal.

### [Be Careful with the Surplus](#)

Between cutting that unemployment debt on the backs of the jobless and now putting up a budget surplus projection of \$400 million, Senate president pro tem Phil Berger is positively glowing with self-praise. And with the surplus, Republicans in the General Assembly are even letting Gov. Pat McCrory take some credit after basically ignoring him for two years...this surplus may reflect one-time adjustments in the new tax code more than a revenue surge from a healthier economy. Some of the extra revenue comes from the loss of the medical expenses deduction for seniors, which may be restored. And some comes from small-business owners who paid more income tax this year but now will narrow their tax exposure. It's also notable that the legislature has taken automatic public school enrollment growth out of how it calculates baseline expenses. When that cost is put back in, revenue could still come up short.

## [Groups Urge Governor to Veto Abortion Legislation](#)

A coalition of progressive groups Monday began rolling a billboard around North Carolina urging Gov. Pat McCrory to veto a bill that would extend the waiting period for an abortion. The coalition kicked off the weeklong tour with a news conference near uptown Charlotte. The groups are urging the governor to veto HB 465. Last month, the House passed the bill that would make North Carolina the fourth state in the nation requiring women to wait three days before getting an abortion. There's now a 24-hour wait. The bill is in a Senate committee. "We find this to be medically unnecessary, we find this to be bad medicine, we find this to be bad law and bad for the people of North Carolina," said Shoshannah Sayers, interim executive director of NARAL Pro Choice North Carolina.

## [Bills that Survived Crossover](#)

The curtain has fallen on Act One of the state legislature's long session. The following ideas gained approval in the House or the Senate by a key crossover deadline Thursday. That means they remain eligible to be considered for passage this year and next and will get plenty of attention in the coming weeks and months. Bills dealing with spending or collecting money, mainly budget and tax bills, were not subject to crossover's deadline. Indeed, the state budget starts in Act Two, which will play out over the next two months. The House puts a budget proposal out first this year. It's likely to appear in a few weeks, launching work that will lead to a budget this summer. Roughly 500 bills have passed one chamber or the other. Here's a glance at some key bills still alive.

## [Questions Abound on Governor's Bond Proposal](#)

State legislators will wrestle with those questions as they debate Gov. Pat McCrory's request that a \$1.4 billion highway bond issue and another \$1.4 billion bond issue for buildings and other types of infrastructure be put on the ballot for the state's voters to consider later this year. Environmental groups say the proposals shortchange alternative modes of transportation. One summary says about \$1.35 billion would go to roads and \$200 million for state ports, \$50 million for rail and \$50 million for bicycle, pedestrian and aviation projects. Some legislators and others may have trouble supporting a bond proposal that allocates about a third of highway spending to Forsyth County and funds no major projects in three of the state Department of Transportation's 14 divisions. The only large Western North Carolina projects the bonds would fund are two in McDowell County. Those would widen 3.6 miles of U.S. 221 south of Marion to four lanes and build a new Interstate 40/U.S. 221 interchange there.

## [Film Spent \\$240M in NC Last Year](#)

The film industry spent just over \$240 million on productions filmed in North Carolina last year, according to an audit released Thursday by the state Department of Revenue. The numbers show that the industry employed about 8,400 people and will receive tax credits of about \$60 million for productions filmed during 2014. The figures show 35 productions were filmed in the state – a number that includes commercials, television series and feature films. The television series "Sleepy Hollow" spent the most, at almost \$44 million. The series "Under the Dome" was next, with spending of just over \$35 million.

## [Lawmakers Talk About Road Funding that "Spreads the Pain Around"](#)

A proposal to narrow North Carolina's long-term transportation funding shortfall by relying less on gasoline taxes and more on driver's fees and taxes on car sales won mostly favorable reviews Tuesday from lawmakers and road-funding advocates. Although part of the measure to place a new premiums tax on all automobile insurance policies got panned by the industry and may get pulled by its sponsor, speakers at a House Transportation Committee meeting were pleased such a tough discussion was taking place. "I want to commend the bill's sponsors for having the political fortitude or guts to introduce this bill," said Berry Jenkins representing NC GO!, a coalition of local governments and road-building trade groups. "I like the fact that you've tried to spread the pain around."

## [Protestors Target Gun Bill](#)

Nearly three-dozen moms lobbied North Carolina lawmakers Tuesday against a bill they say would eliminate background checks on nearly half of all handgun buyers in North Carolina. Led by members of a group called Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, they took aim at a bill that would repeal required background checks by county sheriffs. "Repealing background checks would definitely be disastrous for our public safety," said Moms spokeswoman Sarah Green of Winston-Salem. Democratic Rep. Rick Glazier of Fayetteville said House Bill 562, named the "Second Amendment Affirmation Act," should be called the "Second Amendment Insanity Act."

## [Winston-Salem Will be Site for Public Voter ID Hearing](#)

Winston-Salem is one of nine locations selected to be host to a public comment hearing on the State Board of Elections' proposed rules for implementing photo identification requirements. In 2013, the N.C. General Assembly passed legislation requiring people who vote in person to present a photo ID starting in 2016. The State Board of Elections is tasked with adopting rules to administer the law and is inviting the public to comment.

## [DENR: Don't Drink Duke's Water](#)

North Carolina officials are warning more residents living near Duke Energy's coal ash pits that it's not safe to drink or cook with their well water after tests showed contamination levels that is raising health concerns. The state Department of Environment and Natural Resources said Tuesday that 152 wells tested near Duke's dumps failed to meet state groundwater standards. That represents more than 93 percent of the 163 wells for which tests have been completed so far.

## **CALENDAR**

### **Mon, May 11, 2015**

4:00 PM **Session Convenes (House)**

 [House](#)

7:00 PM **Session Convenes (Senate)**

 [Senate](#)

### **Tue, May 12, 2015**

8:30 AM **[Finance \(House\)](#)**

 [544 LOB](#)

Sheriffs' Supp. Pension Fund Changes. ([H385](#))  
Beach Bingo Licenses.-AB ([H292](#))  
Allow Overnight Respite/Adult Day Facilities. ([H910](#))  
Modify PUV Exceptions to Disqualification. ([H533](#))

10:00 AM **[Pensions and Retirement \(House\)](#)**

 [415 LOB](#)

Retirement System COLAs. ([H759](#))

10:00 AM [Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources \(Senate\)](#) [544 LOB](#)

North Carolina Farm Act of 2015. ([S513](#))

11:00 AM [Education - Universities \(House\)](#) [643 LOB](#)

Recruit CC Students to Teach/Pilot. ([H602](#))  
STEM Teacher Forgivable Loan Program. ([H844](#))

12:00 PM [State and Local Government -- CORRECTED \(Senate\)](#) 423 LOB

Clarify County Comm Oath Filing. ([H71](#))  
Cherokee/Rutherford Bds. of Ed. Elections. ([H110](#))  
Caswell Beach/Quick Take Eminent Domain. ([H204](#))  
Certain Counties/Purchasing Exemption. ([H236](#))  
Local Mod: Economic Development Commissions. ([H243](#))  
Yanceyville Annexation. ([S93](#))  
Waynesville Annexation/Referendum. ([S141](#))  
Cary Annexation. ([H73](#))  
Stanly Co. Bd. of Ed. Recall. ([H111](#))  
Stanly Co Bd of Ed Election Method. ([H112](#))

12:00 PM [Transportation \(House\)](#) [643 LOB](#)

Required Number of Operating Brake Lights. ([S90](#))  
Handicapped Parking Windshield Placard. ([S116](#))  
Motor Vehicle Service Agreement Amendments. ([S195](#))  
DOT/Purchase of Contaminated Land.-AB ([S301](#))

1:00 PM [Judiciary II \(House\)](#) 421 LOB

Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act. ([S123](#))

### **Wed, May 13, 2015**

10:00 AM [Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources \(Senate\)](#) [544 LOB](#)

Opossum Exclusion From Wildlife Laws. ([H574](#))  
Strengthen Oyster Industry. ([S573](#))

12:30 PM [Judiciary I \(House\)](#) [415 LOB](#)

Probation Violation Court Costs. ([H615](#))

### **Mon, May 18, 2015**

**Tue, May 19, 2015**

11:15 AM **Senator Brown Press Conference**

[Press Room LB](#)

*Please remember that you can listen to committee meetings and press conferences on the General Assembly's website at [www.ncleg.net](http://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

