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BPC Announcement: REPRESENTATIVE RODNEY W. MOORE'S RALEIGH REPORT - June 29, 2015

BPC Charlotte-Mecklenburg [blackpoliticalcaucus@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 01, 2015 9:00 PM

Attachments: ; ;



[Representative Rodney W. Moore](#)

N. C. House Of Representatives

Legislative Office Building

Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

[\(919\) 733-5606](tel:(919)733-5606)

Rodney.Moore@ncleg.net

Mecklenburg County



For Immediate Release

June 29, 2015

REPRESENTATIVE RODNEY W. MOORE'S RALEIGH REPORT

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 Finance Committee

The Committee met on Tuesday and Thursday of last week. At both meetings, the Committee heard presentations on the finance portion of [H.97](#), 2015 Appropriations act, as passed by the Senate. No other bills were discussed.

Senate Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources

The Committee met on Wednesday, June 24, to address three bills. [H.255](#), Building Code Regulatory Reform, makes various changes to the laws relating to the State Building Code. H 255 received a favorable report in Committee and was passed on the Senate floor. [H.634](#), Stormwater/Built-Up Area Clarification, clarifies the definition of built-upon area for purposes of stormwater programs. H 255 received a favorable report in Committee and passed a second reading on the Senate floor. [H.705](#), Amend Septic Tank Requirements, would broaden the types of septic tank systems that could serve as a replacement system in case of failure of the original, make management changes for sand line trench systems, and repeal rules for Saprolite system modifications. H 705 received a favorable report in Committee and was given approval on the Senate floor.

Senate Finance Committee

The Committee met on Wednesday and Thursday of last week. On Wednesday, June 24, the Committee approved two bills. [H 307](#), Zebulon Charter/Use of Certain Fees, would amend the charter of the Town of Zebulon to make the several changes for road or drainage project fees, open space project fees, and recreation project fees. [H 356](#), NCUC Reg. Fee Changes, would increase the amount of funding reserves the Utilities Commission and the Public Staff could maintain, set the utility regulatory fee in statute, partially increase the fee for the 2015 fiscal year, and authorize the Commission to raise and lower the fee based on operating expenses.

On Thursday, June 25, the Committee approved the following local bills dealing with annexation or deannexation: [H 266](#) City of Lenoir/Satellite Annexation; [H 400](#), Town of Mint Hill/Annexations; [H 411](#), Town of Angier/Deannexation; [H 412](#), City of Dunn Annexation; [H 426](#), Town of Weldon/Deannexation; [H 493](#), Lake Lure Deannexation; and [H 526](#), Town of Norwood/Deannexation.

In The News

[Supreme Court Upholds Affordable Care Act Subsidies](#)

The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld one of the main tenets of President Barack Obama's health care law, ruling 6-3 that millions of Americans are entitled to keep the tax subsidies that help them afford insurance. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the court's majority opinion and was joined by Justices Anthony Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. The ruling, the second case in which the justices have decided in favor of the Affordable Care Act, preserves benefits for an estimated 6.4 million Americans and deals a crippling blow to the law's Republican opponents, who have attempted to undermine it since its passage in 2010. King v. Burwell centered on whether plaintiffs' arguments that middle- and low-income adults who purchased health insurance through the federally run Healthcare.gov marketplace were entitled to subsidies based on the language of the law that says tax credits are only to be distributed for marketplaces "established by the state."

[House Approves Medicaid Overhaul](#)

The state House voted 105-6 on Tuesday to pass Bill 372, which features a provider-led format for addressing the risk involved in the \$14 billion state Medicaid program. One of the four co-sponsors is Rep. Donny Lambeth, R-Forsyth. Medicaid reform arguably is the biggest sticking point between state Republican leaders and Gov. Pat McCrory, who has said repeatedly he thinks the program is broken. Some health care advocates dispute that assessment, though. Medicaid covers about 1.9 million North Carolinians. It has had a nearly \$2 billion financing gap since the start of the 2009-10 fiscal year.

The House legislation attempts to "modernize and stabilize" the program through a "whole person" strategy of coordinating physical, behavioral, dental, pharmacy and long-term health services. The reform would occur over a five-year period.

[McCrory, Berger at Odds on Confederate Flag](#)

In North Carolina, the debate is centered around the flag being used on specialty license plates. Tuesday, Gov. Pat McCrory said the flag needed to be removed from those specialty plates. "The time is right to change this policy due to the recent Supreme Court ruling and the tragedy in Charleston," McCrory spokesman Josh Ellis said in a release. But other Republican lawmakers don't agree McCrory should be the one to take the lead on the issue. "You know me, if I could do it I'd do it, but I follow the Constitution," McCrory said. Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger said there is a process to make such ideas a reality. "If there are problems with the plate, if folks feel that something needs to be changed, then that should be done through the administrative process," Berger said.

[Budget Negotiations Move to Conference Phase](#)

The House floor vote against the Senate proposal, which was unanimous, was expected. House Republicans got support last month from most Democrats in passing their own two-year spending plan. Senate GOP counterparts, however, rewrote the House proposal dramatically, writing another 179 pages while spending \$21.5 billion, or nearly \$700 million less next year than what the House wants. The rejection sets the stage for a conference committee comprised of House and Senate members to be formed. They will attempt to work out a compromise that seems at least weeks away. It certainly won't be approved before the new fiscal year begins July 1. A stop-gap spending measure will be needed to keep government operating at current levels after that date.

[Talks Likely to be Difficult](#)

Democrats who voted against the Senate's two-year spending plan last week said it favors corporate tax cuts over more public school funding. Even some House Republicans were put off by the measure's size and suggested so many differences with their own 329-page budget bill were all for gamesmanship in upcoming budget talks. The Senate budget is a "mammoth negotiating scheme," said Rep. Nelson Dollar, R-Wake, senior co-chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. But to top Senate Republicans, the approved plan that would spend \$21.5 billion next year is a reflection of core conservative priorities - frugal spending and generous savings, tax reductions to spur business growth, fewer regulations, smaller public school class sizes and fixing hemorrhaging government agencies like Medicaid.

[House GOP Slams Senate Tax Plan](#)

Members in the House of Representatives took full-throated aim Tuesday at a plan that has already cleared the Senate and would fundamentally change how sales tax revenues would be distributed at the county level. The formula now in place directs most of the money to the county where a sale occurred - an approach that favors urban counties where rural residents typically do their shopping. The Senate budget would change that and allocate much of the money based on population, which has the effect of offering a boost to small, rural counties. Urban counties could lose millions - something some House members strongly oppose. "Last night I was reading the Communist Manifesto so I could get a better understanding of redistribution of wealth - so I could be prepared for this bill," said Rep. Charles Jeter, a Mecklenburg County Republican.

[Senate Moves to Tax Pet Care](#)

There's a proposal for a new sales tax beginning this fall that local veterinarians say comes at the expense of pet owners and even livestock farmers. The budget battle is brewing at the North Carolina State Legislature. It's focused on a Senate plan that would not only change the way sales tax revenue is distributed statewide, but also create a new tax on the services Dr. Erin Byrd offers at Paws at Play Animal Hospital in Raleigh. "My biggest concern is not so much any effect that this has on my business," said Byrd. "My biggest concern is families not being able to get the care that they need and we risk different zoonotic diseases that come up."

[Legislature Overreaches with Senate Bill 2](#)

If one supports the Legislature's actions perhaps the outcome trumps other considerations. But our system of government cannot function based solely on whether the outcome meets with our particular desires. Senate Bill 2 is a reactionary law, and the history of reactionary laws is a sketchy one. Often these laws are responding to an event or action and are designed to prevent further acts from reoccurring. In many cases these laws, which tend to be focused on specific issues, are unable to account for the unintended consequences. Reactionary laws can restrict freedoms and at times create additional problems.

[Supreme Court Declares Same-Sex Marriage Legal In All 50 States](#)

States cannot keep same-sex couples from marrying and must recognize their unions, the Supreme Court says in a ruling that for months has been the focus of speculation. The decision was 5-4.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, seen as a pivotal swing vote in the case, wrote the majority opinion. All four justices who voted against the ruling wrote their own dissenting opinions: Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito.

"They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law," Kennedy wrote of same-sex couples in the case. "The Constitution grants them that right."

Comparing the ruling to other landmark decisions, NPR's Nina Totenberg says, "This is probably right up there with *Brown v. Board of Education*, and *Roe v. Wade* — if you like it or hate it — and today, *Obergefell v. Hodges*. This was a historic moment."

[Supreme Court ruling brings stability to NC health insurance market](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court declared Thursday that more than 6 million Americans, including almost 459,000 in North Carolina, can keep the federal subsidies that help them pay for health insurance.

In a 6-3 ruling, the nation's highest court said the 2010 law known as the Affordable Care Act was intended to provide subsidies to all eligible citizens, despite sloppy language in its text.

The long-anticipated ruling resolves a lawsuit challenging the legality of federal subsidies in 34 states that didn't set up their own insurance exchanges under the Affordable Care Act. Those states, including North Carolina, require their residents to rely on the federal exchange to buy health insurance.

Only two states, Florida and Texas, had more residents at risk of losing their subsidies in the King v. Burwell case, where the challenge contended that only state-run exchanges qualify for the federal subsidies. In North Carolina, 92.3 percent of residents who are enrolled in ACA policies are receiving subsidies, averaging \$316 a month.

Ariel Smith, Corresponding Secretary

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