



North Carolina General Assembly
Senate
State Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

SENATOR JOEL D. M. FORD
38TH DISTRICT

OFFICE ADDRESS: STATE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
16 W. JONES STREET, ROOM 1119
RALEIGH, NC 27601-2808

TELEPHONE: (919) 733-5955
(919) 754-3254 FAX

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS ON DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
APPROPRIATIONS/BASE BUDGET
AGRICULTURE/ENVIRONMENT/NATURAL
RESOURCES
COMMERCE
FINANCE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
INSURANCE
RULES AND OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE
TRANSPORTATION

*****FY 2016-17 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS*****
(H.B. 1030 – Governor signed 7-14-16)

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES

- Provides \$1.2 million for the Tobacco Trust Fund and \$1 million to the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund for military buffers.
- Earmarks \$120,000 of Tobacco Trust funding to support select Future Farmers of American pilot programs.
- Establishes new program to reimburse small retailers for expenses associated with providing nutrient dense food in food deserts.
- Provides an additional \$600,000 for the High Point Furniture Market

EDUCATION

- Creates \$10 million per year increase in scholarships (up to \$144 million in FY 2027-28) for the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

(Public Schools)

- Creates 3rd grade reading teacher performance pilot program (\$10 million) to reward high-performing 3rd grade reading teachers.
- Establishes performance bonuses for teachers in career-tech and advanced placement whose students successfully complete required exam or certification.
- Modifies school performance grades utilizing a 15-point scale over the next three school years.

(Community Colleges)

- Increases funding for equipment by \$6 million for purchases thorough the NC Community College System.



- Funds step increases for eligible assistant/deputy clerks and magistrates.
- Appropriates \$500K to be allocated to State Bureau of Investigation and Alcohol Law Enforcement agents.

STATE HEALTH PLAN

- Keeps the \$70 million reserve for future benefit needs and authorizes state Budget Director to reallocate funds to the State Health Plan in accordance with future growth in state contributions.

TAXES AND FEES

- Increases standard deductions for individual income taxes for 2016 & 2017 calendar years by \$500 (single, married filing separately), \$800 (head of household), \$1,000 (married filing jointly). In 2017, standard deduction will range from \$8,750 to \$17,500.
- Exempts the following from sales tax: self-service car washes, clothing alteration and repair, pest control services, cleaning of real property, moving services, removal of waste from TPP (other than portable toilets), repairs and maintenance to real property (as specified), landscaping, home inspections, service on roads, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots, etc.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Increases recurring funding by \$14.8 million for general aviation airport development.
- Appropriates \$5.0 million to advance and promote DMV modernization initiatives-targeting call center responsiveness, wait time reductions in driver license offices and due process improvements for medical reviews.
- Removes \$500,000 cap on state expenditures for Strategic Transportation Investments (STI)-eligible light rail projects funded by the Highway Trust Fund, requires previously submitted light rail projects to be resubmitted under next round of prioritization, and sets maximum State funding for light rail and commuter rail transit projects at 10% of total project cost.

-MISCELLANEOUS LEGISLATION-

HB 1080, Achievement School Districts- Creates the Achievement School District (ASD), a State-level and statewide school administrative unit for low-performing schools from across the State. It also allows the creation of innovation zones for local school administrative units (LEA) that transfer a qualifying school into the ASD. This bill was ratified and sent to the Governor on 6-30-16.
