



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM
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NC House

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North Carolina is #1

Forbes ranks NC #1 as the Best State for Business

In Forbes annual rankings of states for 2017 NC was rated the best of all the rest. To determine which state is the Best State for Business the analysts at Forbes examined:

- A state’s business costs
- Labor supply
- Regulatory environment
- Economic climate
- Growth prospects
- Quality of life

North Carolina was the only state to place in the top 20 in all 6 categories. Last year NC was #2 but we moved up into first place for 2017. This is more good economic news for everyone living in our state.

This did not happen by accident. It is the result of sound economic policies and fiscal responsibility.

But wait there’s more....

- ❖ North Carolina wins 2017 Prosperity Cup by Site Selection Magazine - formerly known as Top Competitive States award. We were #1 in 2015, 2nd last year and back to #1 again in 2017.
- ❖ North Carolina passes 30 states in 3 years of Tax Foundation rankings - the annual State Business Tax Climate Index shows NC moving from a dismal 41st position to 11th best in the nation.



Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2018

- ❖ North Carolina added over 91,000 jobs during the past year.
- ❖ North Carolina is the best state for starting a business - in a study released this year by Fit Small Business using data from the Federal Labor Dept. and the Small Business Admin. comparing 7 metrics e.g taxes, quality of life, labor market etc.
- ❖ North Carolina ranked #1 for tech job growth in N.C.T.A. 2017 report - we are ranked #1 for IT employment growth and for the percentage of women in the IT sector workforce.

- ❖ North Carolina top-5 for wage growth, says U.S. Census Bureau - measuring household income growth for 2016 - the last year data was available.



Impressive visit to Ft. Bragg hosted by our friend M/Sgt James Boggs

- ❖ North Carolina's 'rainy day' reserve is the only one in the country to meet all of the Pew Charitable Trusts best or good practices. - this puts us in a better position now to survive the next hurricane, fire or other disaster.
- ❖ North Carolina No. 5 for business climate, corporate execs say - according to Development Counsellors International (DCI) survey of business executives.



The ARC of Alamance County meeting last month in Elon. An amazing group of loving parents, their children and friends. Many thanks to Amy Chinnici extraordinary ABSS Teacher for the Visually Impaired for the invitation.

- ❖ North Carolina 5th best state for business in 2017 CNBC rankings.
- ❖ North Carolina 5th best for budget solvency in Mercatus Center study - 7th best for trust fund solvency, 8th best for long run solvency and 15th overall - an improvement from 21st place in their previous report, but still more work to be done here.
- ❖ North Carolina unemployment lowest in 17 years.



Honored to participate in our local Country Inn and Suites Veterans Day program. This local business opened their doors to area Veterans hosting a dinner, dance, free lodging & more.

- ❖ North Carolina among 16 states prepared for economic recession - the Ant and the Grasshopper fable reminds us that winter will come again. Moody's Analytics says NC is well-prepared for the next economic slowdown.
- ❖ North Carolina 1 of only 12 states with a unanimous 'AAA' bond rating.

***"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."
- Isaiah 9:6***

Interim Committee Assignments

Between the long session and the short session various committees are meeting to study different issues and/or to provide oversight to various state agencies budget implementations or initiatives. Here are my current assignments:

Joint Legislative Committee on General Government Co-Chair

House Select Committee on Implementation of Building Code Regulatory Reform Vice Chair

Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee Vice Chair

Joint Legislative Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources Advisory Member



I enjoyed meeting with Casey and Megan recently. These two ladies are nurses currently working on their Master's degrees. We had a far ranging discussion regarding tele-medicine, rural health care needs, Sylvan Health Center (Megan interned there) and budgeting decisions. Good luck on your graduate work ladies.

Joy to the World

Legislation Update

I was primary sponsor of several bills this session. Below is a listing of each and their current status.

HB20 School Calendar Flexibility/Alamance County - local calendar flexibility for ABSS co-sponsored by Rep. Steve Ross and I (for the third time).

Referred to House Committee on Education K-12 (for the third time).

HB258 - Amend Medical Malpractice Health Care Provider Definition - provides the same malpractice protection for Paramedics as is currently enjoyed by physicians, nurses etc.

Passed the House 118-0 3/30/17

Passed the Senate 48-0 6/27/17

Signed by the Governor 7/20/17



I was invited to present some budget/legislative highlights to the PFFPNC Convention (Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics of North Carolina). The chief end of government is to protect our 'life, liberty and estates' as John Locke expressed it. So taking good care of those who take good care of our 'life, liberty and pursuit of happiness' as Jefferson expressed it should be axiomatic. First Responders deserve to have their concerns addressed first. They should be in the top tier of spending priorities for gov't at any level.

HB259 - Got Natural Milk

Referred to Committee on Health.

HB311 - State Auditor/Various Amendments
- A list of several statutory changes requested by our State Auditor's Office
Passed the House 113-1 4/20/17
Referred to Senate Committee on Rules.

HB312 - Clarify Rules Review Commission
Referred to House Committee on State and Local Gov't 3/13/17.

HB379 - Task Force on Regulatory Reform
Passed the House 113-0 3/28/17
Referred to Senate Committee on Rules.

HB516 - Results First Framework
Referred to House Committee on Appropriations. A portion of the bill was included in the budget this year officially launching an evidence-based policy framework in NC. I have been working on this good government initiative for 3 years.



I was invited to attend a NCSL/Pew Charitable Trust Conference last month. I was there with members of our Governor's staff, OSBM staff and Fiscal Research staff. We are working together to bring evidence-based policy making to NC.

HB585 - Extend Statute of Limitations/Child Sexual Abuse - extends statute of limitations for civil suits arising from CSA from the current very limiting 21 yrs. old to 40 yrs. old and provides a one year look back for others.
Passed the House 112-3 4/20/17
Referred to Senate Committee on Rules.

HB590 - Interior Design Profession Act
- Recognizes changes that have taken place in the Interior Design Profession and would permit them greater professional independence and business opportunities.
Passed the House 87-29 6/1/17
Referred to Senate Committee on Rules.

HB635 - Electronic Pawn & Metal Database
- Requested by law enforcement
Referred to House Committee Judiciary III.

HB689 - Occupational Licensing Turnaround Time Program Evaluation Dept to Study
Referred to House Committee on Reg. Reform

HB690 - SUDEP Awareness Week
- Would recognize the 2nd week in November as SUDEP Awareness Week.
Passed House 115-0 4/20/17
Referred to Senate Committee on Rules.

HB826 - Modify Low-Performing School Definition
- Would change the low-performing school definition acknowledging that a school that has achieved "student growth" targets is not a 'low performing' school.
Passed the House 120-0 4/26/17
Referred to Senate Committee on Rules.



Piedmont Rescue Mission's annual Christmas Community Meal. Chapel service, coats, hats and gloves giveaway, Christmas meal served, bikes for kids, gifts, free groceries and more in the name of CHRISTmas.

As always Thank You for the privilege of serving you in the NC House, *Dennis*