

AIANC Bill List (2013)

Bill: [HB4](#)
Sponsors: Howard (R79); Warren, H. (R77); Starnes (R87); Setzer (R89)
Title: UI FUND SOLVENCY & PROGRAM CHANGES
Summary: An Act to Address the Unemployment Insurance Debt and to Focus North Carolina's Unemployment Insurance Program on Putting Claimants Back to Work.
Status: 02/19/2013 - Chaptered Session Laws
Notes: May have impact on firms. Impact on Unemployed architects probably greater. Send to Leg Comm.

Bill: [HB56](#)
Sponsors: Howard (R79)
Title: AMEND STATE CONTRACT REVIEW LAWS
Summary: An Act to Establish the Contract Management Section of the Division of Purchase and Contract, Department of Administration, to Amend the Laws Requiring Negotiation and Review of Certain State Contracts, to Provide Oversight and Reporting of Certain Contract Awards, and to Provide for Contract Management and Administration, as Recommended by the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee.
Status: 07/03/2013 - Chaptered Session Laws
Notes: Looks like large contracts, \$5 mil +, will now have to be reviewed by Attorney General's office.

Bill: [HB74](#)
Sponsors: Murry (R41); Moffitt (R116); Samuelson (R104); Bryan (R88)
Title: REGULATORY REFORM ACT OF 2013
Summary: An Act to Improve and Streamline the Regulatory Process in Order to Stimulate Job Creation, to Eliminate Unnecessary Regulation, to Make Various Other Statutory Changes, and to Amend Certain Environmental and Natural Resources Laws.
Status: 07/26/2013 - Presented to the Governor
Notes: Originally created a sunset for all licensing board rules and would have required re-adoption. We understand that there are some industries at odds with their regulatory agencies. But the vast majority get along just fine. This is like using a hatchet to perform brain surgery. The legislature needs to deal with the problem children and leave the rest of us out of it. This creates an even bigger regulatory burden for agencies than they presume to fix for industry. Don't think it's an issue AIA can oppose but don't need to support either.

Some discussion in first committee hearing about limiting the number of agencies caught up in the current version to only those that really need review. Seems to be an understanding about how much of an administrative burden this will be to some agencies where there is no controversy. A new framework was developed for this and it appears a bit less onerous.

In final conference version of bill they took multiple provisions from various other regulatory relief bills and rolled them into HB 74 creating a uber Reg Reform measure:

- Amendments were added to roll back requirements on pervious pavement that were instituted about 5 years ago. See section 51 of the bill.
- Requires carbon monoxide detectors in lodging establishments.
- Allows B&Bs to serve lunch and dinner.
- New landfill citing and operation regs.
- Allows for clearing of foliage around billboards near highway off ramps.
- Loosens restrictions on coal ash ponds.
- Requires unanimous vote of local elected bodies in order to implement environmental regulations at the local level that may be more restrictive than federal requirements.

Bill: [HB120](#)
Sponsors: Hager (R112); Brawley, W. (R103); Cotham (D100); Arp (R69)
Title: BLDING CODES: LOCAL CONSISTENCY/EXEMPT CABLE
Summary: An Act to Require Approval from the North Carolina Building Code Council Before a Unit of Local Government May Require Building Inspections in Addition to Those Required by the Building Code; to Specify the Frequency and Effective Dates of Code Updates; and to Exempt Cable Television Equipment Installation from Building Code Requirements.

Status: 06/19/2013 - Chaptered Session Laws

Notes: HBA sponsored bill. As is, probably not something AIA wants to get into. However, there seems to be a move to include the whole Building Code in this measure. AIA should have serious concerns about this. While admittedly it can be exhausting to keep up with code changes on a three year cycle, as design professionals architects have a duty to uphold the public's health safety & welfare. This is primarily accomplished through the building code adoption process. The perceived benefit of regulatory relief may not outweigh the professions larger obligation. This issue sets us apart from the home builders and speaks to our industries credibility versus the home builders.

There may be an issue with homeowner insurance rates and this bill. Insurance underwriters use the ISO rating system as one of their rate setting variables. The ISO uses as one of their criteria for rating the municipalities code adoption policies and frequency. Charlotte/Mecklenburg recently received their 5-year ISO rating of 1, the highest achievable. If the state changes to a 6-year code adoption cycle, it's likely that the ISO will downgrade municipalities within the state on this piece of rate setting criteria. Charlotte/Meck reports that had this bill been in place during the last round of ISO review, their 1 rating would have at the very least gone down by 1 point. Charlotte produced more than \$9 billion worth of housing in the last 7 years. The impact on homeowner insurance rates due to this seemingly innocuous code cycle change could be huge.

Bill: [HB150](#)

Sponsors: Dollar (R36); Brawley, W. (R103); Moffitt (R116); Jordan (R93)

Title: ZONING/DESIGN & AESTHETIC CONTROLS

Summary: An Act to Clarify When a County or Municipality May Enact Zoning Ordinances Related to Design and Aesthetic Controls.

Status: 04/24/2013 - Senate Committee On Rules and Operations of the Senate

Notes: Re-introduction of SB 731 from 2012. Last year the bill had major impacts on community design standards. This needs to be looked at by Leg Comm for formal position. Bill amended in House committee to limit to 1 & 2 single-family residential homes. Also does not affect existing community covenants.

Bill: [HB180](#)

Sponsors: Stevens, S. (R90)

Title: MECHANICS LIENS/TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Summary: An Act to Make Various Technical Corrections to the Laws Governing Mechanics Liens.

Status: 03/28/2013 - Chaptered Session Laws

Notes: "design services at the site of the improvements" - Design services don't happen at the site of the improvement. Not sure yet that this is even worth worrying about. Turns out not to be an issue. Bill is strictly clean up with little impact for designers.

Bill: [HB195](#)

Sponsors: Jeter (R92)

Title: CORNELIUS/EXTEND USE OF DESIGNBUILD

Summary: An Act Extending the Authority of the Town of Cornelius to Use DesignBuild Delivery Methods.

Status: 07/25/2013 - Chaptered Session Laws

Notes: Need to check original enabling legislation to see if it included designer protection language. Does not. Because there's no definition of what design-build is in this bill, it's possible that HB 857 will take precedence.

Bill: [HB201](#)

Sponsors: Torbett (R108)

Title: REINSTATE 2009 ENERGY CONSERVATION CODES

Summary: An Act to Reinstate the 2009 North Carolina Energy Conservation Codes for Commercial Buildings and Repeal the Portions of the 2012 North Carolina Energy Conservation Codes that Apply to Commercial Buildings.

Status: 06/24/2013 - Senate Committee On Rules and Operations of the Senate

Notes: Would roll back the Energy Code to 2009. Couple this with a six-year code adoption cycle proposed in HB 120 and NC wouldn't see any new energy savings in buildings until at least 2020. Legislators need to understand the consumer implications of the higher energy costs this would cause. Higher monthly consumer utility bills, more energy that has to be generated by the utilities and added energy generation costs as a result of decreased efficiency. All adds up to huge consumer expenses. Does a slight increase in up-front efficiency cost really mean "relief".

There is a clear long-term savings to building owners with the new energy code. The banking industry

needs to recognize this as part of the loan qualification process.

Bill: [HB222](#)
Sponsors: Moffitt (R116); Ramsey (R115)
Title: BUNCOMBE COUNTY/USE DESIGNBUILD METHODS
Summary: An Act to Allow Buncombe County to Use the DesignBuild Method of Construction.
Status: 04/23/2013 - Chaptered Session Laws
Notes: Same as the HB 133/SB 111. The bill does not contain AIA language used in previous design build bills prohibiting the solicitation of design solutions. Need to get the sponsor to include our language. Will remove AIA opposition. Sponsors refused AIA language. With the passage of HB 857, this bill creates some conflicts in the law. With the stated exemptions from G.S. 143 its possible Buncome could fall outside of the new D-B statute for these projects specified in the bill.

Bill: [HB248](#)
Sponsors: Conrad (R74); Fulghum (R49); Cleveland (R14); Blust (R62)
Title: TAXPAYER DEBT INFORMATION ACT
Summary: An Act to Require Disclosure on the Ballot that Authorization of Indebtedness Includes Interest and that Taxes May be Levied to Repay the Indebtedness.
Status: 06/26/2013 - Chaptered Session Laws
Notes: How about adding a sentence that also states that bond financing is the lowest form of financing available to governments and any other type of loan instrument would cost more.

Bill: [HB284](#)
Sponsors: Jordan (R93)
Title: LOCAL CONTRACTS/LOCAL BIDDER PREFERENCE
Summary: An Act Providing that Counties and Municipalities May, When Contracting for Construction or Repair Work or for the Purchase of Apparatus, Supplies, Materials, or Equipment Involving the Expenditure of Public Money, Give Preference to Local Bidders When Certain Requirements are Met.
Status: 03/13/2013 - First reading in the House
Notes: Local preference for contractors. Looks like it doesn't include designers at this point. Need to offer up amendments that would give government entities more flexibility in choosing to use a preference bonus system rather than a required mandate.

Bill: [HB298](#)
Sponsors: Hager (R112); Collins (R25); Avila (R40); Cleveland (R14)
Title: AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE ENERGY ACT
Summary: An Act to Reduce the Burden of High Energy Costs on the Citizens of North Carolina by Revising the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards; to Provide for Cost Recovery by Public Utilities for Certain Costs of Compliance with Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards; and to Provide a Study of Energy Policy in the State.
Status: 04/22/2013 - House Committee On Public Utilities
Notes: Eliminates the REPS law from 2006. Would destroy the clean energy industry in NC that has developed over the last 5 years. Thousands of jobs would be affected and lost.

Bill was heard in first sub-committee and passed by a 11-10 vote. There appears to be division within the Republican Caucus that may slow the bills progress. Ultimately not enough support within the Republican Caucus to move the bill from the House this year.

Bill: [HB476](#)
Sponsors: Hager (R112); Moffitt (R116); Murry (R41)
Title: REWRITE UNDERGROUND DAMAGE PREVENTION ACT
Summary: An Act Rewriting the Laws Regulating Underground Utility Damage Prevention.
Status: 07/24/2013 - Presented to the Governor
Notes: Mostly related to Civil Engineering, Land Surveying and Contractor issues but need to follow. Should help architects in the early phases of project construction with utility work.

Bill: [HB524](#)
Sponsors: Harrison (D57); Hardister (R59); Adams (D58); Brandon (D60)
Title: GREENSBORO CHARTER AMENDMENTS
Summary: An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Greensboro to Authorize the City to Establish a Small Business Enterprise Program and to Change Certain References from Building Inspector to Compliance Officer.

Status: 04/29/2013 - Senate Committee On State and Local Government
Notes: This is a re-run of the Durham local preference bill. It creates an exclusionary system and will isolate the jurisdiction. The bill is only written for contracting services at this point. A/E services are not included; however Durham has ignored that fact and gone ahead with A/E inclusion in its new ordinance. It would be far simpler to write a law that just gives a government entity the ability to assign a point value to local small businesses in its scoring system. These bills are over kill.

Bill: [HB628](#)
Sponsors: Presnell (R118); Catlin (R20)
Title: PROTECT/PROMOTE LOCALLY SOURCED BLDG. MTRL'S
Summary: An Act to Require Net Savings in Association with Major Facility Construction and Renovation Projects and Protect Use of North Carolina Products in Major Facility Construction and Renovation Projects Under the Sustainable EnergyEfficient Buildings Program.
Status: 07/03/2013 - Chaptered Session Laws
Notes: AIA National polices says, "Because the AIA generally supports building rating systems that promote sustainable communities and high performance buildings, and the AIA acknowledges that LEED is indeed one of those rating systems, any state legislation that impedes architects from using LEED as their tool of choice, should be opposed because it limits the architects choices."

Sponsor claims that a new Forestry Service building was built without using any North Carolina wood and she thought that was wrong. This was the reason for the bill introduction.

Questions about whether the bill would eliminate the use of LEED certification. If FSC wood is used, then yes it does eliminate LEED all together.

Committee staff had no bill analysis prepared for committee members. Rep Luebke asked for bill to be displaced until an analysis is done.

Bill heard in AG Comm for second time. Rep Grady offers amendment to make the bill a study. Nucor testifies that the bill would eliminate LEED. Amendment fails. Bill is passed.

Once the bill reached the Senate a large coalition from designers to green business lobbied to soften the anti-LEED provisions of the bill. In its last committee Senator Tucker inserted a provision requiring a 10-year payback to meet SB 668, 30% energy reduction goals.

Bill: [HB726](#)
Sponsors: Elmore (R94); Burr (R67); Hollo (R73)
Title: WAKE COUNTY COMM. RESP. FOR SCHOOL CONSTR
Summary: An Act Authorizing Wake County to Assume Responsibility for Construction, Improvement, Ownership, and Acquisition of Public School Property.
Status: 07/24/2013 - Returned to House to concur with Senate amendments/substitute
Notes: Bill was hijacked in Senate Rules to insert the Wake County Commissioners take over of school construction, ownership and maintenance from the Wake County School Board. The bill made it out of the Senate but when it went back to the House it was rejected on the floor.

Bill: [HB739](#)
Sponsors: Bryan (R88); Moffitt (R116); Hager (R112); Setzer (R89)
Title: CIVIL PROCEDURE/REQUIRE CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
Summary: An Act Requiring a Certificate of Merit in Civil Actions or Arbitration Proceedings Brought Against a Person or Firm Providing Architecture or Engineering Services in this State.
Status: 05/15/2013 - House Committee On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
Notes: Co-sponsor with ACEC. This is an annual bill to try and secure tort reform for design professional firms. The measure would require a design professional to certify that a case has merit to move forward with a lawsuit against a potential design professional defendant. About 12 other states have this is law now. A core group of Republican trail lawyers in the House have been blocking passage of this bill for many years. 2013 saw no change.

Bill: [HB769](#)
Sponsors: Ramsey (R115); Burr (R67); Wray (D27)
Title: ZONING/LIMIT MANUFACTURED HOME RESTRICTIONS
Summary: An Act Amending the Zoning Laws to Limit When Counties May Restrict the Placement of Manufactured Homes in Areas Zoned for SingleFamily Residential Use.
Status: 05/01/2013 - Senate Committee On State and Local Government

Notes: Really! OMG. This bill seems to take regulatory reform to a whole new level.

Bill: [HB807](#)

Sponsors: Cotham (D100); Hager (R112); Brody (R55)

Title: BUILDING CODE COUNCIL/POST CODE ONLINE

Summary: An Act to Require the NC Building Code Council to Make the North Carolina Building Code Available for Download Online.

Status: 05/07/2013 - Reported by House committee

Notes: This may already be available through ICC. Can get online from ICC already but you can't print. Passed from House Government committee.

Issues with copyright from ICC could be a problem. Rep Cotham had a personal problem with not being able to print two paragraphs for her own use.

ICC testifies that the fees are needed to continue developing a coordinated national code and oppose the bill. NFPA testified against the bill also.

DOI testified that the 5th circuit has ruled in favor of the states on this issue. Members of the committee seem willing to let the courts determine who has legal authority.

Bill was passed without committee opposition but it failed to get traction after that.

Bill: [HB857](#)

Sponsors: Arp (R69); Bryan (R88); Moffitt (R116); Hager (R112)

Title: PUBLIC CONTRACTS/CONSTRUCTION METHODS/DB/P3

Summary: An Act Authorizing Public Contracts to Utilize the DesignBuild Method or PublicPrivate Partnership Construction Contracts.

Status: 07/25/2013 - Presented to the Governor

Notes: AIA sponsored bill. The bill does 4 major things:

- 1) Authorizes the use of qualification based selection design-build by public entities
- 2) Authorizes the use of bridging design-build by public entities
- 3) Authorizes and defines public private partnerships for public entities capital construction projects
- 4) Eliminates the designer qualification based selection exemption public entities have been abusing for years. In exchange the threshold for sole source contracts will be changed from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Additionally the bill calls for a study of the pre-qualification methods and requirements for hiring general contractors; authorizes the use of prototypes designs for public K-12 schools and requires public entities using design-build to report to the State Construction Office the reasons for using this delivery method.

Bill: [HB901](#)

Sponsors: Stevens, S. (R90)

Title: MECHANICS LIENS/LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS

Summary: An Act to Direct the Legislative Research Commission to Study the Need for Legislation to Better Protect the Right of Persons to be Paid for Improvements to Real Property Under a Contract with the Tenant.

Status: 05/16/2013 - Senate Committee On Rules and Operations of the Senate

Notes: This is one of the unresolved issues stemming from the lien re-write in 2012. There's a hole in the law for contractors, including design professionals, when working on a project where the contract is held by the tenant and not the owner of the property.

Bill: [HB998](#)

Sponsors: Lewis (R53); Setzer (R89); Moffitt (R116); Szoka (R45)

Title: TAX SIMPLIFICATION AND REDUCTION ACT

Summary: An Act to Simplify the North Carolina Tax Structure and to Reduce Individual and Business Tax Rates.

Status: 07/23/2013 - Chaptered Session Laws

Notes: House version of tax reform.

Comments: This bill appears to be the version of the much anticipated tax reform package that will be the final bill acted on by the House and Senate.
Provisions Include:

INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX:

- Eliminate the current three-bracket rates of 6, 7 and 7.75 percent with one bracket with a 5.8 percent rate in 2014 and 5.75 percent in 2015.

- Eliminate personal exemptions, but increase standard deduction ó currently ranging from \$3,000 to \$6,000 depending of filing status ó from \$7,500 to \$15,000.
 - Eliminate \$4,000 deduction on government retirement income and \$2,000 private retirement income.
 - Allow the greater of the standard deduction or itemized deductions equal to mortgage interest and property taxes capped at \$20,000, plus all charitable contributions allowed by federal tax law.
 - Raise child tax credit from \$100 per child to \$125 for tax filers with adjusted gross income below \$40,000. The \$100 credit would still be eliminated for people with high incomes.
 - Eliminate in 2014 a \$50,000 deduction on certain business-related income approved in 2011.
- CORPORATE INCOME TAX:**
- Reduce current rate of 6.9 percent to 6 percent in 2014 and 5 percent in 2015. It could fall to 4 percent in 2016 and 3 percent in 2017 if revenue growth targets are met.

SALES TAX:

Effective Jan. 1, 2014:

- Expand to include service contracts.
- Tax manufactured homes (2 percent or \$300 maximum) and modular homes (2.5 percent) at full 4.75 percent state sales tax rate.
- Repeal exemptions for nutritional supplements sold by chiropractors and certain newspaper sales.

Effective July 1, 2014:

- Repeal current 3 percent franchise tax on electricity sales, replacing it with 6.75 percent combined state and local sales tax rate.
- Make piped natural gas subject to combined rate of 7 percent, end excise tax.
- Repeal sales tax holiday weekend in August and Energy Star appliance sales tax holiday weekend in November.
- Cap sales tax refunds for individual nonprofit hospitals, universities and other charities to \$45 million annually.

OTHER TAXES:

- Extend tax credits for research and development, professional motorsports teams and aviation fuel for the teams and passenger air carriers until 2016. Other tax credits would expire as scheduled over time. The film production tax credit, for example, would expire in 2015.
- Repeal estate tax.

REVENUE:

- The plan is projected to result in \$86.6 million less in state revenues during the 2013-14 fiscal year and \$437.8 million less in 2014-15 compared to revenue levels if no tax changes were made. The amount extends to more than \$600 million annually through mid-2018. Local governments combined would receive \$14.6 million in additional revenue in 2013-14 and \$36.2 million in 2014-15.

WHAT'S NOT CHANGED:

- Social Security income won't be taxed differently.
- Other services transactions, such as lawn services, automobile repairs, alterations and many business transactions will continue to be exempt from the sales tax.

(THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 7/15/13).

Bill: [HB999](#)
Title: LRC/STUDY BUILDING CODE ISSUES
Summary: A Joint Resolution Authorizing the Legislative Research Commission to Study Issues Relating to the North Carolina Residential Code for One and TwoFamily Dwellings of the North Carolina Building Code.
Status: 04/22/2013 - House Committee On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
Notes: This is what they're being charged with studying:
 1) Determine the necessity of particular building codes.
 (2) Investigate whether the codes are implemented fairly.
 (3) Conduct a cost/benefit analysis.
 (4) Consider the impact of new products.
 (5) Examine the adoption policy for building codes.
 (6) Compare the relationships between licensing boards of affected trades.
 (7) Study the fees and costs.
 (8) Review engineering design and product changes.
 (9) Any other matters necessary in conducting the study.

The bill never made it out of committee but was looked at being placed in a larger "studies" bill for the end of the year. That bill did not pass out of committee either.

Bill: [SB9](#)
Sponsors: Meredith (R19)
Title: UTILITIES/DESIGN/SURVEY LOCATION SERVICES
Summary: An Act Requiring Utility Owners to Locate and Describe Underground Utilities Upon Written or Oral Request from a Person Who is Responsible for Designing or Surveying Underground Facilities or Requires a General Description and Location of Existing Underground Facilities in an Area.
Status: 06/19/2013 - Chaptered Session Laws
Notes: Should allow designers to get better intelligence on existing utilities before a project begins.

Bill: [SB10](#)
Sponsors: Apodaca (R48); Hunt (R15); Rabon (R8)
Title: GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND EFFICIENCY ACT
Summary: An Act Establishing the Government Reduction and Efficiency Act of 2013.
Status: 07/24/2013 - Conference committee in Senate
Notes: Could be a vehicle for a broader bill on revamp of licensing boards.

House & Senate are currently arguing over the scope of some of the board and commission changes. Both chambers appear to agree on the study commission for looking at combining licensing agencies and analyzing the need for an umbrella agency for the licensing boards. AIA will need to engage with the study commission on this issue.

On its face the concept would be a losing proposition for architects in NC. Other states with this set up report very poor enforcement activity for their licensing laws due to having to compete for investigatory and legal resources with other boards under the umbrella agency.

The efficiency the General Assembly will find is in raiding all the licensing boards reserve funds for transfers to the General Fund.

Bill: [SB75](#)
Sponsors: Brown, H. (R6)
Title: ONSLOW PUBLICPRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
Summary: An Act to Authorize the County of Onslow to Enter into a PublicPrivate Partnership.
Status: 05/01/2013 - Chaptered Session Laws
Notes: Find out more. Looks to have no restrictions on team selection and designer services. Amended in Senate Committee to include a new method of DB team selection for PPPs. QBS language was included that should satisfy AIA's concerns. Bill may now be a good model for other communities and/or state DB/PPP construction delivery processes. Much of the PPP portion of the bill was used as a model for HB 857.

Bill: [SB111](#)
Sponsors: Jackson (R10)
Title: CLINTON/USE DESIGNBUILD METHOD
Summary: An Act to Allow the City of Clinton to Use the DesignBuild Method of Construction.
Status: 06/19/2013 - Chaptered Session Laws
Notes: The bill does not contain AIA language used in previous design build bills prohibiting the solicitation of design solutions. Need to get the sponsor to include our language. Will remove AIA opposition. Sponsor refused AIA amendments. With the passage of HB 857, this bill creates some conflicts in the law. With the stated exemptions from G.S. 143 it's possible Clinton could fall outside of the new D-B statute for these projects specified in the bill.

Bill: [SB129](#)
Sponsors: Tucker (R35)
Title: LIMIT STATE FACILITIES FINANCE ACT DEBT
Summary: An Act to Prohibit Issuance of Debt Under the State Capital Facilities Finance Act.
Status: 06/12/2013 - Chaptered Session Laws
Notes: Clearly a measure to limit the state's indebtedness, but not sure to what extent. Check with State Treasurer's office on impact.
Would do away with a lot of the COPs financing that the Legislature has done.

Bill: [SB239](#)
Sponsors: Clodfelter (D37); Barringer (R17); Brunstetter (R31)
Title: AMEND NC BUSINESS CORPORATION ACT
Summary: An Act to Make Various Revisions to the North Carolina Business Corporation Act.

Status: 06/19/2013 - Chaptered Session Laws
Notes: Some of our larger, multi-office firms, may have an interest in this issue.

Bill: [SB287](#)
Sponsors: Wade (R27); Barringer (R17)
Title: NOTICE PUBLICATION GUILFORD CO. LOCAL GOVS
Summary: An Act to Require Internet Web Site Publication of Legal Notices.
Status: 07/25/2013 - Reported by conference committee
Notes: Might have an impact on advertising for public construction work. Turns out to be a very contentious fight between local governments trying to ease their financial burdens on public notifications and the newspaper industry reliant on the government revenue to keep them in business.

Bill is amended in House Rules to just cover Guilford County. A number of other cities and counties have received this authority over the last 10 years. The newspaper industry is obviously opposing.

Bill: [SB402](#)
Sponsors: Brunstetter (R31); Brown, H. (R6); Hunt (R15)
Title: APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2013
Summary: An Act to Make Base Budget Appropriations for Current Operations of State Departments, Institutions, and Agencies, and for Other Purposes.
Status: 07/26/2013 - Chaptered Session Laws
Notes: This is the primary budget bill. Released on May19.
Comments: Big picture changes include:

- * Reduction in Public Education of \$242.5 mil
- * Increase in Health & Human Services funding of \$369 mil. The big number here is Medicaid increases.
- * Reduction in Justice & Public Safety of \$41.5 mil
- * Increase in Natural & Economic Resources of \$5mil
- * Increase in General Government of \$.5 mil
- * Increases in State Reserve Accounts of \$215.4 mil
- * Increase in Capital Improvements of \$17,000.

As for Design & Construction related issues:

- * Authorizes \$100 mil per year in repair & renovation for state facilities, 46% to UNC, balance to other state agencies. However, it's tied to the budget's debt financing rather than a structural reoccurring amount in the budget. No new square footage is allowed for any R&R projects.
- * Looks to require a 2% reduction in most agency operating expenses giving management flexibility to make the cuts.
- * Moves the entire State Energy Office from the Dept of Commerce to the Dept of Environment & Natural Resources. No loss of FTEs or money though.
- * Only accounts for a direct appropriation of \$12 mil in building construction in FY 13/14 and \$8.25 mil in FY 14/15 tied to 2 small projects.
- * Authorizes \$37.4 mil in construction projects from receipt based projects.
- * \$2 mil in planning funds to App St for new Health Sciences Bldg; \$2 mil to UNC Asheville for land purchase. Both for FY 13/14. Nothing in FY 14/15.
- * Abolishes the Sustainable Communities Task Force and its funding of \$100K.
- * Takes Clean Water and Natural Heritage Trust Funds and roll them into a new Water and Land Conservation Authority. Looks to be an additional \$12 mil and \$14 mil in funding for the biennium.
- * Consolidates all water and wastewater programs into one new Water Infrastructure Authority with what appears to be an additional \$4 mil and \$5.5 mil in funds for the biennium.
- * Abolishes the Rural Economic Development Center that had some responsibility for local infrastructure needs and consolidates some of what the Center was doing into the Dept of Commerce into a new division of Rural Economic Development. Center funds of \$16.6 mil is eliminated and new funds to Dept of Commerce for the new Division appears to be \$10.3 mil. Possible loss of \$6.3 mil in this area.

Bill: [SB480](#)
Sponsors: Apodaca (R48)
Title: UNC CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
Summary: An Act to Authorize the Acquisition or Construction and the Financing, Without Appropriations from the General Fund, of Certain Capital Improvements Projects of the Constituent Institutions of the University of North Carolina.
Status: 07/26/2013 - Ratified in the Senate
Notes: Annual self liquidating construction project list for the campuses of the UNC System. Totals about \$460 mil.

Bill: [SB547](#)
Sponsors: Hunt (R15)
Title: ENERGY SAVINGS CONTRACTING AMENDMENTS
Summary: An Act to Amend the Statutes Governing Guaranteed Energy Savings Contracts for Governmental Units.
Status: 07/26/2013 - Presented to the Governor
Notes: Major changes to the state's Energy Savings Contracts law. Providers must get pre-qualified and a licensed designer now must verify bids from providers.
