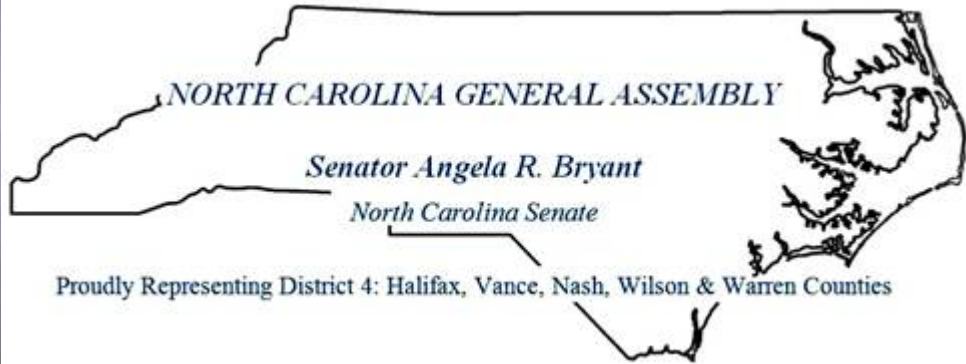


Fri, Mar 15, 2013



Volume I, Issue 2

March 12, 2013



NEWS FROM RALEIGH...

I always welcome your comments, project updates, suggestions, and visits. My office door and electronic door is always open to you! As always, thank you for your support!

AROUND THE DISTRICT AND MORE

Sylvan Heights Bird Park Events

· For more information on the following events please call (252) 826-3186 or e-mail info@shwpark.com

Chili Cook-Off <ul style="list-style-type: none">· March 16· 6:00pm-9:00pm· Tickets \$15	Landing Zone Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">· March 23
Landing Zone Talk <ul style="list-style-type: none">· April 6	A Time For Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">· April 13
Raptors Rule <ul style="list-style-type: none">· April 20	Earth Day <ul style="list-style-type: none">· April 21-27
Endangered Species Day <ul style="list-style-type: none">· May 17-19· Info & Checklist available	Duckling Day <ul style="list-style-type: none">· May 18· Breakfast and Tour
Waterfowl Reunion <ul style="list-style-type: none">· June 15· All members· Hands on with birds· Snacks	Take a Child OUTSIDE <ul style="list-style-type: none">· September 24-29· ½ price for children

Trick or Tweet

- October 31

Moonlight in the Park

- November 2
- Dinner & Auction

12 Birds of Christmas

- December 1-31

- **UNCF Governor’s Luncheon**, March 20, 2013 at 12:00pm-1:30pm. St. Augustine’s University (Martin Luther King Conference Center) Raleigh, NC. Scholarship Opportunities. Benefiting UNCF-United Negro College Fund. For more information contact Marilyn Richards, at (704) 377-8625, ncinfo@unconf.org

- **Sustaining Services in Tight Times: Saving Dollars Saving Lives**, May 3, 2013 at 9:30am-4:00pm, William Friday Center, 100 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27599. They will be discussing strategies for sustaining community-based services needed at each stage of the criminal justice system and will also be focusing on the community collaborations required to sustain - or develop - critical services. For more information contact Lao Rubert at (919) 682-1149, lrupert@justicepolicycenter.org.

- **20th Annual Teen Fest**, The Young Women’s Outreach Center of Kinston NC, May 11, 2013 at 8:00am-4:00pm, Lenoir Community College, Highway 70 East, Kinston, North Carolina 28504. Educational and Prevention Sessions regarding self-esteem, communication skills, decision-making skills and other wonderful presentations will be provided for the participants. For more information contact the YWOC at (252) 527-7844, ywoc@suddenlinkmail.com.

Take It To Raleigh: Make Your Voice Heard!

- Roanoke Valley Chamber takes the Legislative Issues to Raleigh. The Roanoke Valley Chamber of Commerce will travel to Raleigh to meet with legislators and elected officials to discuss the Valley’s most pressing issues in Raleigh on **Wednesday, March 20**. Chamber members will meet with the local legislators and discuss issues ranging from taxation to health care with leaders of the State. In the past, the Chamber has heard from the Governor’s Chief of Staff, Lieutenant Governor, the Department of Administration, Secretary of Agriculture, State Auditor and many more. Dinner will be served at one of Raleigh’s finest restaurants. For the first 19 registrants, a bus will be provided. Meet at the Chamber at 9:30am. March 20, Wednesday, ride the bus and leave the Chamber at 9:30am, or meet in Raleigh at 11:30am and return by 9:30pm. Sponsored by **Halifax Horizons and Halifax Linen Service** To register click through

[Raleigh Trip](#) to register. For more information, please contact Allen Purser at apurser@rvchamber.com or 252-519-2611

Affordable Care Act Roundtable

· **Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 11:30am - 01:00pm.** This roundtable will review health care reform compliance requirements for employers that sponsor group plans. Discussion will revolve around the responsibility requirement that becomes effective in 2014. Bryon Dewitt, Partner with Williams Mullen will lead the discussion and has been named one of the top up and coming lawyers by Virginia Super Lawyers. Mr. Dewitt's practice focuses on all areas of employee benefits. The roundtable will be held on **April 17 from 11:30am - 1pm** at Logan's Roadhouse at 200 Premier Boulevard in Roanoke Rapids. Lunch is dutch treat. For more information contact Allen Purser at [252-519-2611](tel:252-519-2611) or apurser@rvchamber.com

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

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Ethics Tips

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A legislator shall not use confidential information gained in the course of official activities or by reason of the legislator's official position for financial gain of the legislator or any other person. G.S. 120-87

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Introduced Bills

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To find out more details about any bill listed – Go to <http://www.ncleg.net/> enter the bill number in the upper right hand corner and click “go”.

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House Bills

Bill	Short Title	Latest Action	Date
H 147	Amend Adoption Laws	Passed 3 rd Reading	03/07/2013
H 149	Caylee’s Law/ Report Missing Children	Passed 3 rd Reading	03/07/2013

H 150	Zoning/Design & Aesthetic Controls	Assigned to Regulatory Reform Subcommittee on Local Government	03/07/2013
H 151	Root Out Poverty/Task Force Funds	Ref to Com on Appropriations	02/27/2013
H 152	Extend Sunset for Earned Income Tax Credit	Ref to Com on Finance, if favorable Appropriations, Commerce and Job Development, Government, Rules Calendar, and Operations of the House	02/27/2013
H 154	Home Birth Freedom Act	Ref to the Com on Health and Human Services, if favorable, Finance	02/27/2013
H 155	Decriminalize Direct Entry Midwifery	Ref to Com on Health and Human Services, if favorable, Judiciary Subcommittee C	02/27/2013
H 156	Honest Lottery Act	Ref to Com on Judiciary Sub. B, if favorable, Education and Appropriations	02/27/2013
H 157	Limit Use of Highway Fund Credit Balance	Ref to Com on Transportation, if favorable, Appropriations	02/27/2013
H 159	Public Infrastructure Oversight Commission	Ref to Com on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	02/28/2013

H 160	Public Contracts/Illegal Immigrants	Ref to Com on Gov	02/28/2013
H 161	Mandatory Retirement Age for Magistrates	Ref to Com on Judiciary Subcommittee B	02/28/2013
H 162	Lengthen Replacement Cycle for School Buses	Ref to the Com on Transportation, if favorable, Education	02/28/2013
H 163	WC/Taxi Driver/Independent Contractor	Ref to Com on Commerce and Job Development	02/28/2013
H 164	Eliminate Obsolete Boards and Commissions	Ref to Com on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	02/28/2013
H 165	Administrative Procedure Act Technical/Clarifying Chges	Ref to Com on Judiciary Sub. A	02/28/2013
H 166	PED Study OCC. Lic Bd. Agency	Ref to Com on Finance	02/28/2013
H 167	Use of Criminal History records by Lic. Bds.	Ref to Com on Judiciary Sub. A	02/28/2013
H 168	Develop Rules for Release of Path Materials	Ref to Com on Health and Human Services	02/28/2013
H 170	Dept. of Insurance/Public Health Service Act	Ref to the Com on Insurance, if favorable, Judiciary Sub A	02/28/2013
H 171	Citizens United Response	Ref to the Com on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House, if favorable, Elections	02/28/2013
H 172	Clarify LEC Procedures/TC	Ref to Com on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	02/28/2013

H 173	Revise Controlled Substances Reporting	Ref to the Com on Health and Human Services, if favorable, Judiciary Sub. B	02/28/2013
H 174	NC Railroad Company Reporting and Dividends	Ref to Com on Finance	02/28/2013
H 175	HOA's/No Home Foreclosures	Ref to the Com on Judiciary Sub A, if favorable, Regualtory Reform, and Finance	02/28/2013
H 176	Charter School Election	Ref to the Com on Education, if favorable, Finance	02/28/2013
H 177	Amend Certificate of Need Laws	Ref to the Com on Health and Human Services, if favorable, Appropriations	02/28/2013
H 178	Study Savings for Administration of Claims	Ref to the Com on Gov't, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	02/28/2013
H 179	Joint Agencies Sales & Excise Tax exemptions	Ref to the Com on Finance, if favorable, Gov't	02/28/2013
H 180	Mechanics Liens/Technical Corrections	Ref to the Com on Judiciary Sub C	02/28/2013
H 181	Physician Suprvsn. Required/Nurse Anesthetist	Filed	02/27/2013
H 182	Est. Efficiency & Cost-Savings Commn.	Filed	02/27/2013
H 183	Allow Hospitals to Test Blood for DWI	Filed	02/27/2013

H 184	Allow Drivers Licenses for DACA Beneficiaries	Filed	02/28/2013
H 185	Ballot Reform Act of 2013	Filed	02/28/2013
H 188	Early Voting on Weekends	Filed	02/28/2013
H 189	Amend Info Prov./Non-Cust. Parent/Child Supp.	Filed	02/28/2013
H 192	Allow ROW Usage in Central Business Districts	Filed	02/28/2013
H 194	Allow PAVE Certification/Veterinary License	Filed	02/28/2013
H 199	Increase Jurisdictional Amount/District Ct.	Filed	02/28/2013

Senate Bills

Bill	Short Title	Latest Action	Date
S 129	Limit State Facilities Finance Act Debt	Ref to Com on Finance	02/26/2013
S 130	Teachers/Isolated K-12 Schools	Ref to Education/Higher Education. If favorable, re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget	02/26/2013
S 131	State Hwy. patrol/Retention Bonuses	Ref to Com on Approp/Base Budget	02/26/2013
S 132	Health Curriculum/Preterm Birth	Ref to Com on Health Care	02/26/2013
S 135	Modify Habitual Impaired Driving Statute	Ref to Com on Judicairy I	02/27/2013
S 137	Prohibit Co-pay Waiver/Medicaid	Ref to Com on Health Care	02/27/2013

	Providers		
S 138	Bible Study Elective	Ref to Com on Rules and Operations of the Senate	02/27/2013
S 139	Zoning/Design & Aesthetic Controls	Ref to Com on Commerce	02/27/2013
S 140	Financial Exploitation of Older Adults	Ref to Com on Health Care	02/28/2013
S 143	NC FIRST Robotics Special Plate	Ref to Com on Finance	02/28/2013
S 144	Nonprofit Grants/Increase Accountability	Ref to Com on Program Evaluation	02/28/2013
S 145	Reform Oversight of State-Owned Vehicles	Ref to Com on Transportation	02/28/2013
S 146	Private Schools/Firearms Amendments	Ref to Com on Judiciary I	02/28/2013
S 147	Reform Workforce Development	Ref to Com on Commerce	02/28/2013
S 148	Exempt Certain Steel Tubing/Electrical K'ors	Ref to Com on Commerce	02/28/2013
S 150	Study State-Owned Banks	Filed	02/28/2013
S 151	Coastal Policy Reform Act of 2013	Filed	02/28/2013
S 154	Automobile Insurance Regulatory Modernization	Filed	02/28/2013
S 155	Horton Independent Redistricting Commission	Filed	02/28/2013
S 156	Clarify LEC Procedures/TC	Filed	02/28/2013
S 158	Accountability for Taxpayer Investment Board	Filed	02/28/2013

Update from the General Assembly

From: Mary Bethel and Helen Savage, AARP North Carolina

Senate Bill 4 (No N.C. Exchange/No Medicaid Expansion) - The House and Senate both voted this week to pass the conference report (consensus agreement that addressed a few technical differences in what was passed initially by the House and Senate) for this bill. The vote was 74 to 40 in the House and 31 to 6 in the Senate to approve the bill. With the passage of this legislation, Medicaid expansion will not go forward in North Carolina at this time and the state will rely on a federal health insurance exchange, an online marketplace where consumers can shop for insurance. This legislation does not prevent the issue of Medicaid expansion being revisited at a later date, so contact all the Republican Senators and Representatives pushing for Medicaid expansion--see reasons below.

AARP North Carolina will continue our efforts to advocate on behalf of Medicaid expansion for the reasons we have previously stated: expansion provides health care coverage for over 500,000 North Carolinians (over 100,000 who are between the ages of 50 and 65), expansion supports the financial viability of hospitals in the state, and expansion stimulates the economy and job development in our state with the creation of an anticipated 23,000 jobs.

House Bill 5 (Temporary Funding/Group Homes and Special Care Units) – The bill provides short-term financial assistance to ensure that residents of group homes and Alzheimer’s/dementia special care units who have been receiving Medicaid personal care services continue to get temporary assistance through June 30 of this year to help cover the cost of their care. The House on Tuesday agreed to the Senate’s version of the bill (which was passed earlier in the session) that stipulated that \$40 million which was set aside to supplement Medicaid payments to adult care home residents could also be used to help residents in these specific facilities. The state’s criteria for Medicaid personal care services was made more stringent effective January 1, 2013, and this resulted in numerous residents no longer meeting program criteria.

House Bill 82 (Internal Revenue Code Update – Provision on Earned Income Tax Credit) – Under the provisions of the bill, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) would be reduced from 5% to 4.5% of the federal credit for tax year 2013 and the credit would not be extended when it sunsets in December of 2013. The EITC provides workers earning low-wages with a credit to offset their total state and local tax contributions. Nearly 907,000 North Carolinians, approximately 136,000 of whom are projected to be 55 years of age and older, claimed the credit in 2011.

Senate Bill 152 (Extend Sunset on Earned Income Tax Credit) - This bill would extend the sunset on the EITC to January 1, 2019 and would continue the credit at 5% of the federal credit.

Senate Bill 89 (Deferred Presentment Services) – This bill more commonly referred to as the “Payday Lending” bill would allow lenders to loan as much as \$500 for up to 35 days. The fees charged for these loans could amount to an annual interest rate of over 300%. AARP North Carolina sent out an action alert about this bill last Friday. The bill has been referred to the Senate Commerce Committee, but no action has been taken on it to date. Governor Pat McCrory has stated he does not support this legislation.

Senate Bill 140 (Financial Exploitation of Older Adults) – This bill which was introduced by Sen. Stan Bingham (Davidson) would increase the recognition, reporting and prosecution of those who would defraud or financially exploit older adults and would continue the Task Force on Fraud Against Older Adult as recommended by the Task Force on Fraud Against Older Adults. The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health Care.

Senate Bill 154 (Automobile Insurance Regulatory Modernization) – This legislation would revise the way the state regulates automobile insurance rates. Among other things, the proposed legislation would remove a 1975 provision in the law that prohibits discrimination in rate setting based on age or sex of the person insured. AARP North Carolina opposes the elimination of this provision. There is concern that this

legislation would allow insurance rates to rise by 12% a year in the aggregate. North Carolina currently has the lowest insurance rates in the South and the seventh lowest in the country.

HEAR AND SEE LEGISLATURE LIVE DAILY

You don't have to miss the Legislative Session. WRAL will live stream legislative sessions daily on their website.-www.wral.com. Also, please remember that you can listen to some committee meetings and press conferences on the General Assembly's website at 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. You can also view the bills I sponsor and co-sponsor from this website address.

Contact: *Senator Angela R. Bryant, North Carolina Senate • District 4•*

*North Carolina General Assembly • State Legislative Office Building • 300 N. Salisbury Street,
Room 520, Raleigh, NC 27603 • 919-733-5878-P • 919-754-3289-F*

•Angela.Bryant@ncleg.net or

Karon Hardy, Legislative Assistant at bryantla@ncleg.net.
