Newsletter and Legislative Update:

PENC Members:

I would like to take a moment to introduce you to PENC's updated newsletter and legislative update format.

PENC will be distributing weekly legislative updates while the legislature is in session. And, to take advantage of this opportunity to communicate to our members, we will also be including brief informational topics from PENC.

- PENC’s new lobbyist is Laurie Onorio. Laurie will be coordinating directly working with PENC members, Jim Trogdon and JD Solomon, as she begins to take on the duties of PENC. In addition, Betsy Bailey continues to transition to Laurie through the session. Thanks Betsy!
- The PENC summer conference is June 18-20 at the Marriott Resort and Spa at Grande Dunes in Myrtle Beach. Please go to www.penc.org to register for the conference.
- As of May 1st, Teri Saylor will be PENC’s main office point of contact. Teri will be taking over for Karen Crawford who is pursuing a new professional opportunity. I would like to offer a big “thank you” to Karen for her assistance since starting with PENC and specifically during the last two months of transition in PENC.

Neil Deans, PE
2014-2015 PENC President

Legislative Update:

Last week an average 150 bills per day saw some sort of action taken by members of the North Carolina General Assembly as activity ramps up ahead of the April 30th crossover deadline, by which bills must pass either the House or the Senate in order to remain eligible for consideration the remainder of this legislative biennium (finance and appropriations bills are excluded from crossover).

With 1,652 bills filed this session (941 in the House and 711 in the Senate), there will be a flurry of activity this week as legislators work their bills through the
committee process and through their respective chambers. At the end of last week 303 bills had passed their first chamber, leaving a hefty number of bills for the General Assembly to work through this week.

Of note last week, Governor Pat McCrory, Transportation Secretary Tony Tata and Budget Director Lee Roberts visited members of the House Republican Caucus where they discussed the Governor’s recently proposed $3 billion bond proposals. No action has been taken since the discussion but the Administration is pushing hard and publicly for approval from the General Assembly.

This week committee meetings will be extremely fast-paced and legislative sessions will be long as legislators work their crossover-eligible bills.

Many committee meetings and all legislative sessions are broadcast online should you be interested in tuning in at anytime. The Legislative Calendar is posted online and is updated often as meetings are scheduled and bills are added or removed. And finally, you can follow along with a live Chamber Dashboard during any House or Senate session by visiting NCLEG.net and clicking on the Chamber Dashboard link in the right-hand column.

**Bills with action last week:**

**S372 Renewable Energy Safe Harbor:** AN ACT TO PROVIDE A SAFE HARBOR FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS THAT ARE SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED BY JANUARY 1, 2016, BY EXTENDING THE TAX CREDIT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROPERTY ONE YEAR FOR THOSE PROJECTS

Ratified and sent to the Governor 4/23/15  
Passed the House 88-29 on 4/21/15  
Passed the Senate 37-7 on 4/1/15

**S472 Local Incentives for Historic Rehabilitation:** AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO APPROPRIATE MONEY FOR HISTORIC REHABILITATION AND TO CLARIFY AND STANDARDIZE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Passed the Senate Local Government Committee and will be heard next in the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday 4/28/15.

Fayetteville Observer 4/21/14: [Senate committee approves local grants, loans for historic property rehab](http://www.fayobserver.com)
**H795 SEPA Reform**: AN ACT TO REFORM AND AMEND THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Passed the House Environment Committee on 4/24/15 and is scheduled to be heard on the House floor on Monday 4/27/15

PENC Position: Monitoring

News & Observer 4/23/15: [NC environmental impact law in jeopardy](http://www.newsobserver.com)

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**H630 Alternative WQ Protection for Falls Lake**: AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE MEASURES FOR PROTECTING THE WATER QUALITY OF FALLS LAKE

Passed the House 78-38 on 4/21/15 and was sent to the Senate
Referred to the Senate Rules Committee on 4/22/15

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**S25 Zoning/Design & Aesthetic Controls**: AN ACT TO CLARIFY WHEN A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY MAY ENACT ZONING ORDINANCES RELATED TO DESIGN AND AESTHETIC CONTROLS

Passed the Senate Commerce committee on 4/24/15 and may be heard on the Senate floor this week. This bill also has a House companion bill\(^1\) that has been referred to the House Local Government Committee but has not yet been heard.

PENC Position: FYI

News & Observer 4/23/15: [NC Senate panel votes to limit cities on home designs](http://www.newsobserver.com)

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**S284 Infrastructure Assessments/Extend Sunset**: AN ACT TO EXTEND THE SUNSET PROVISION ON THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO COUNTIES AND CITIES TO USE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS TO ADDRESS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

Passed the Senate 48-0 on 4/22/15

PENC Position: FYI

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**H771 DOT/Utility Relocation Costs**: AN ACT TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR SMALL MUNICIPALITIES FROM THE COSTS OF MUNICIPAL UTILITY RELOCATION RELATED TO STATE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

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\(^1\) Companion bill: an identical bill filed in the other chamber
Passed the House Transportation Committee on 4/22/15 and will be heard next in House Appropriations.

PENC Position: FYI

**H681 NC Energy Ratepayers Protection Act**: AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL STATUTES RELATED TO DISTRIBUTED GENERATION AND TO DIRECT THE ENERGY POLICY COUNCIL TO PERFORM AN ASSESSMENT OF THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

Voted on in House Public Utilities Committee but failed 14-16 in a roll call vote on 4/23/15

PENC Position: FYI

**Federal FYI**

Gov. Pat McCrory, Secretary of Transportation Tony Tata, the U.S. 70 Corridor Commission, and the Wayne County Transportation Committee support the Military Corridor Transportation Improvement Act of 2015 that would make U.S. 70 an interstate from Raleigh to Morehead City, bringing $1 billion in transportation funding that can support 30,000 jobs. The bill was filed in the U.S. Senate by Senator Thom Tillis and co-sponsored by Senators Richard Burr and Congressman G.K. Butterfield and co-sponsor Congressman Walter Jones filed a companion bill in the U.S. House.


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