



## North Carolina Chapter of the Appraisal Institute

Legislative Report  
July 31, 2015

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Several top Republican lawmakers say they likely will not reach a budget deal by an August 14 deadline -- a delay that will prolong uncertainty for public schools and other agencies that depend on state funding. Since the last fiscal year ended June 30, the state has been operating under a temporary budget that keeps government running at current spending levels. This temporary budget resolution expires August 14. It has been widely reported that negotiations have not yet begun between the House and Senate to finalize the State budget bill. It remains to be seen whether or not an agreement can be reached on the State budget bill by the deadline or if an additional Continuing Resolution will be needed.

The House Appropriations Committee met this week to allow various persons from across the State to appear and speak regarding their thoughts and goals for the State budget bill. Many of the speakers have been school officials from around the State who are concerned that the school year has begun or is about to begin and there is no clear direction on funding for the schools. Many other speakers have been representatives of local government who are interested in the discussion about restructuring the allocation of local sales taxes among the urban and rural counties.

As previously announced by the Senate leadership, Senate committees have discontinued further meetings for this session in anticipation of adjournment. Some House committees have continued to meet, primarily considering Senate bills which are then returned to the Senate for consideration of any changes made in the House. Routine activity at the General Assembly is definitely winding down, except for enactment of the State budget bill.

The legislature adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday August 3.

### **BILL STATUS**

**House Bill 651, Appraisal Bd. Recordkeeping & Bkgrd. Checks**, was considered by the full Senate on Monday evening. Senator Ron Rabin (R-Harnett) explained the bill to the Senate. The bill was approved by the full Senate without any discussion or debate by a vote of 49-0. Before it was approved, the bill was amended to make a technical change to the statutory reference for the background check provision. The bill was returned to the House to vote on the Senate changes to the bill, which include the criminal background check provision.

On Wednesday, the bill was added to the House calendar during session to be considered for concurrence of the Senate changes. Representative Hardister (R-Guilford) explained the bill and asked for the House to support the bill in its current form. Representative Brawley (R-Mecklenburg) stated his object to the bill, stating that real estate appraisers would be the only professionals with a 5-year limitation on liability. Representative Bishop (R-Mecklenburg) objected to the statute of limitations provision as well. Representative Lewis (R-Harnett) spoke

in favor of both provisions of the bill (statute of limitations provision and background check provision). After some discussion and debate, the House voted 69-38 to approve the bill. The bill was ratified and sent to the Governor for his signature.

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