



North Carolina Chapter of the Appraisal Institute

Legislative Report
May 13, 2016

The North Carolina General Assembly convened the 2016 legislative session on Monday April 25, 2016. The 2016 Session is a continuation of the 2015 Session and is commonly referred to as the “short session.” The main responsibility of this year's General Assembly will be to focus on any adjustments that might be needed to the State Budget. Last year's General Assembly adopted a two-year budget and this year's General Assembly will be making various adjustments and changes to the budget as they determine to be appropriate.

Typically, the “short session” begins the second week in May, but this year the General Assembly decided to convene in late April. The impact of this decision on the ultimate adjournment date remains to be seen. Many legislators have commented that they intend to avoid any controversial issues this session, but whether or not they will be able to do so is unclear. For example, there has been much attention given to the legislature's passage of House Bill 2 during a special legislative session earlier this year. Whether the legislature will make changes to House Bill 2 this session is a hotly debated topic.

Last week the legislature considered budget recommendations from Governor Pat McCrory, and this week the legislature has quickly focused on developing their own version of the budget. It has been reported that revenue is coming in well, so the legislature will have to decide whether to spend the extra money, save the extra money, or a little of both. The House will address the state budget first, and House budget subcommittees met this week to prepare the House version of the state budget bill. It is expected that the House will approve their version of the state budget bill by May 20.

As always, the first few weeks of the Session includes much talk about the General Assembly adopting a budget before the new fiscal year begins on July 1st and then trying to adjourn this “short session” as soon thereafter as possible. Only time will tell whether or not they can meet these two goals.

The legislature adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday, May 16, 2016.

BILLS OF INTEREST

Senate Bill 723, DOT Proposed Legislative Changes, would allow broadband and fiber providers to locate their lines and facilities in North Carolina Department of Transportation right-of-ways without permission or payment to the underlying landowner. **Introduced by Senators Harrington and Rabon and referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.**

House Bill 959, DOT Proposed Legislative Changes, is identical to Senate Bill 723 discussed above. **Introduced by Representatives Iler and Torbett and referred to the House Transportation Committee.**

For more information about legislation described in the legislative reports, feel free to contact me at dferrell@vanblacklaw.com or (919) 754-1171. Information is also available on the General Assembly's website: www.ncga.state.nc.us.

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