



# LCA Legislative Report

"Reporting The Latest News and Actions from The North Carolina Legislature"



Issue 1, Vol. 4

2013. Published by Lancaster Craig & Associates, Raleigh, NC 27601 | Managing Editor: Henry M. Lancaster, II | Publication Editor: Tom M. Jones | Senior Writer: Kerra Bolton

Week of: JAN. 28 - FEB. 1, 2013



Happy New Year. LCA is pleased to once again bring you its brand of legislative coverage.

For the 2013 session, I'm happy to announce that we have expanded our services to include additional detailed reports, analysis, bill-tracking, bill monitoring and commentary. To do this effectively and professionally, we are introducing a comprehensive subscription-based package.

As a subscriber, you will receive timely information directly by e-mail. Not only will you get this weekly legislative report, but expect a new daily blog that covers deliberations of key committees and pronouncements from the Legislative and Executive branches on issues of interest. And there's a lot more. (Click below in the blue box to get details and subscription cost for the entire package).

The North Carolina General Assembly has started in historic fashion with a separate organization day session. Governor McCrory graced the halls with his presence promising to be personally visible and engaged in the process. You can expect to see legislation introduced and acted upon that will truly take the State in a new direction. These are challenging economic and social times that warrant innovative and comprehensive solutions. Your informed involvement is essential.

**Lancaster Craig and Associates is committed to bringing you real-time daily and weekly reports of key legislative committees, in addition to our core government relations services. Subscribers also can get "bill-tracking" and special action alerts.**

[Click here](#) to find out more and to subscribe to our suite of reports today.



Pat McCrory  
Governor

[Governor's website.](#)

## NC Links

[Department of Administration](#)

[Department of Commerce](#)

[Department of Cultural Resources](#)

[Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#)

[Department of Health and Human Services](#)

[Department of Public Safety](#)

[Department of Revenue](#)

[Department of Transportation](#)

[North Carolina General Assembly](#)

[North Carolina General Assembly Committees](#)

[North Carolina House of Representatives](#)

[NC House Leadership](#)

[North Carolina Senate](#)

[NC Senate Leadership](#)

[Find Your Representative](#)

[North Carolina General Assembly Audio](#)

## SENATE BILLS

## HOUSE BILLS

Access complete bills by clicking on blue SB or HB.

### **SB 4: No N.C. Exchange/No Medicaid Expansion**

Allows the state to opt out of participating in a state-run and/or state-federal partnership in a health insurance exchange. It also rejects expansion of the Medicaid program. Both measures are allowable under the federal Affordable Care Act.

### **SB 10: Eliminate Obsolete Boards and Commissions**

Repeals the Small Business Contractor Act and the Board of Corrections. Eliminates the Small Business Contractor Authority, Committee on Drop-out Prevention, State Education Commission, National Heritage Area Designation Commission, Governor's Management Council, and Board of Directors of the North Carolina Center for Nursing.

### **SB 12: Appoint Superintendent of Public Instruction**

Amends the state constitution to allow the Governor to appoint the Superintendent of Public Instruction, currently an elected position.

### **SB 27: Public School Protection/Firearm Amendments**

Designates a "school safety marshal" to carry firearms on school grounds

### **SB 28: Gun Information/No Publication**

Makes list of concealed handgun permit owners and pistol purchases confidential.

### **SB 39: Restore Partisan Judicial Elections**

Allows candidates vying for state Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Superior and District Courts seats to run in partisan elections.

### **HB 4: UI Fund Solvency & Program Changes**

Makes substantial changes the state's unemployment insurance system including lowering the maximum weekly benefit and reducing the benefit year.

### **HB 6: NC Right to Work/Secret Ballot Amendments**

Calls for an amendment to the state constitution to ban public employees from engaging in collective bargaining and allows voting in secret ballots for union elections.

### **HB 7: Eugenics Compensation Program**

Provides a \$50,000, lump-sum compensation to victims who were forcibly sterilized through state-sponsored eugenics programs from 1933 to 1974.

### **HB 8: Eminent Domain**

Amends the state constitution to prohibit the condemnation of private property for public use and provides compensation for seized land with right of trial by jury for all condemnation cases.

### **HB 17: Gun Permits/Restaurants & Confidentiality**

Allows concealed weapons in restaurants if no sign is posted banning guns and keeps the names of people who have concealed gun permits and/or bought pistols to be kept confidential.

### **HB 34: Clarifies Indecent Exposure Law**

Amends the indecent exposure law to include the nipple and all parts of the female breast

### **HB 44: Transition to Digital Learning in Schools**

States the intent of the General Assembly to transition from funding textbooks to funding digital learning in public schools.

### **HB 58: Nonprofit grants/Increase Accountability**

Improve the oversight of state grants to non-profits and to increase accountability to those who receive state grants.

## LCA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Henry Lancaster II, Managing Editor  
Kerra Bolton, Senior Writer  
Format by: [Falcon Blu Marketing](#)  
Copyright 2013.

Lancaster Craig & Associates  
5 West Hargett St., Suite 310,  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
email: [hlanc@lancastercraig.com](mailto:hlanc@lancastercraig.com)  
Office: 919-834-1211  
[www.lancastercraig.com](http://www.lancastercraig.com)



## TOPIC: REFORM

“Reform” is the latest buzzword circling the halls of the General Assembly during the first weeks of the 2013 legislative session.

Emboldened by strong majorities in the General Assembly and Governor’s mansion, Republicans are working to distance themselves from the past, fix problems in the system, and make government more effective and efficient.

Consider the following statements made within recent weeks:

“...I commend in the highest terms Gov. Pat McCrory and Secretary Aldona Wos for their commitment to reforming DHHS and cleaning up the mess they inherited from the Perdue administration.” – Senate President Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, in response to a state audit that found hundreds of millions of dollars in Medicaid cost overruns.

“The audit is further proof of inefficiencies and mismanagement at many levels of the Medicaid system that cannot be tolerated. It is apparent that improvements must be made to ensure that individuals dependent on Medicaid are adequately served by the system.” – House Speaker Thom Tillis, R-Mecklenburg, also in response to the Medicaid findings.

“This is an existing problem that is really here because of our failure to respond to recessions appropriately in 2001 and 2007. Had that happened, we wouldn’t be in the situation today.” – Rep. Harry Warren, R-Rowan, said in the House Finance Committee while debating a bill to revamp the state’s unemployment insurance system.

“Right now I’m going to work with my legislature and figure out what the best way is to get tax reform.” – Governor Pat McCrory said to WSOC-TV in Charlotte.

This isn’t to say there weren’t problems in the existing system. However, today’s legislative leaders are here to let the public know that they are here to fix them and today is a new day. Just within the first full days of session, state lawmakers have:

- Given preliminary approval to reform the state’s unemployment benefits system. If passed, it will reduce the maximum benefit and number of weeks unemployed workers can get assistance.
- Allocated nearly \$40 million through June to help group homes and adult care homes serving residents who lost Medicaid-covered personal care services while state lawmakers look to improve the system.
- Introduced legislation to opt out of state-run and/or state-federal partnership health insurance exchanges as provided for by the federal Affordable Care Act.
- Rejected the notion of expanding the existing Medicaid program, as allowed by Obamacare.
- Announced proposals to significantly reduce or eradicate the state’s personal income and corporate taxes. These measures would be offset by sales and service tax increases.
- Filed legislation that allows the Governor appoint, rather than the public elect the Superintendent of Public Instruction, which oversees the state’s K-12 public schools.
- Proposed amending the state’s constitution to ban state employees from using collective bargaining.

*The best way to navigate and understand how these changes affect your business, organization and community is to stay informed about the people, process and issues, develop a strategy, and get involved.*

## What’s On Tap?

The General Assembly is flush this week with newly introduced bills covering everything from education to amending the state’s indecency laws to include the showing of any parts of a woman’s breasts.

Here’s what we can expect this week on Jones Street:

- **The House** will continue its debate on reforming the state’s unemployment insurance benefits system. A House Finance Committee where the bill was initially heard got testy as lawmakers traded barbs about who was responsible for the state owing the federal government \$2.5 billion in back payments for benefits and whether businesses or the jobless would bear the greatest responsibility.
- The words “heartless” and “reprehensible” were used, as well as some parliamentary maneuvers to prevent Democratic-backed amendments from being heard in committee. Expect similar fireworks on the House floor.
- **The Senate** is likely to continue its march against Obamacare. A bill rejecting key provisions of the federal health care overhaul was heard in the Senate Insurance Committee on Thursday and should go to the Senate floor this week.
- **Both chambers** will meet in a special joint session to approve Governor Pat McCrory’s appointments for the State Board of Education. The appointees include: Rebecca H. Taylor, Gregory M. Alcorn, and Bill Cobey Jr.

Taylor owns Sylvan Learning Centers franchises in the Greenville area. Alcorn is the CEO and owner of Global Contract Services in Salisbury. Cobey is a former state Republican Party chairman and the current vice chairman of the Jesse Helms Center in Wingate.