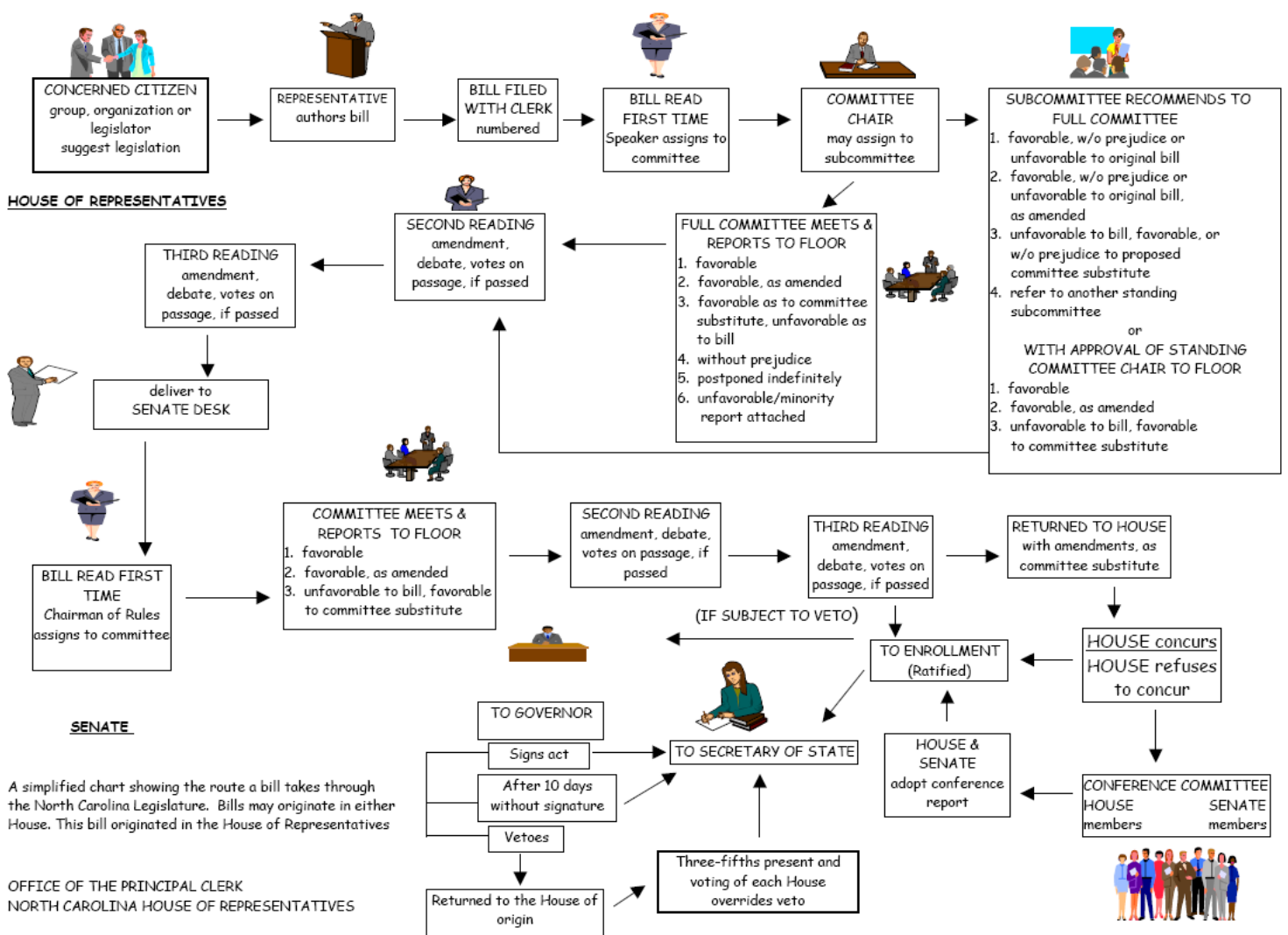


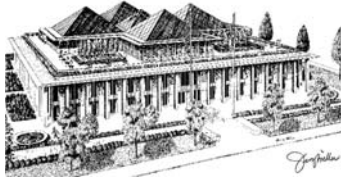
The North Carolina General Assembly

Understanding Our Legislative Process

TRACKING THE PROCESS: HOW AN IDEA BECOMES A LAW



The North Carolina General Assembly Process



Laws passed by the North Carolina General Assembly can have a real impact on how you **operate your business**, how you **hire and compensate your employees**, the **taxes you pay** and the **profits you make**.

The North Carolina General Assembly is divided into two chambers: **the Senate**, with **50 members**, and the **House of Representatives**, with **120 members**. Each citizen is represented by one state Senator and one Representative. All members of the General Assembly **stand for election every two years**. The election is held the first Tuesday in November in even-numbered years and the newly-elected legislators begin their two-year terms the following January.

North Carolina's legislature convenes its **long session** in **January** and usually stays in session until August in odd-numbered years. Legislators return to Raleigh for a **short session in May** of the following even-numbered year and typically are in session for about three months. The short session allows legislators to review and adjust the state's two-year budget that was adopted the previous year. During the short session, lawmakers may only consider new legislation that impacts the budget or bills that passed the "house of origin" in the previous year. If a specific issue needs immediate attention, the Governor may call a special legislative session at any time.

Legislators have a full schedule when the General Assembly is in session, beginning each Monday evening when they convene in Raleigh. Floor proceedings, or "session," where the entire body comes together to vote, comprise only a fraction of legislators' average day. In addition to the time they spend debating and voting on legislation, lawmakers consult with other legislators and state government officials; meet with staff, constituents, and lobbyists; and spend much of the day in committee meetings. House members serve on an average of four committees, while state senators may serve on five or more committees. Legislators return home to their districts each weekend.

State laws may be passed only when the General Assembly is in session, but the process of fact-finding and study continues throughout the year. The House and Senate leadership assign legislators to **interim study committees**, which research, study, and make recommendations on legislation that may be considered during the next session. The General Assembly employs **400 legislative staff members** that research specific topics, draft proposed bills, and provide administrative support.

The leaders of each chamber play a powerful role in the legislative process. The **Speaker of the House** and the **Senate President Pro Tempore** are elected by the members of the majority party on the opening day of the long session. After being elected, they wield considerable power.

The Speaker presides over the House when it is in session, **controlling the calendar** and determining when, or if, a bill will be scheduled for a vote. The Speaker also names committee chairs and determines the make-up of each committee. The Senate President Pro Tem controls the Senate's **calendar, names committee chairs, makes committee assignments**, and otherwise directs Senate activity. In the Senate, the **Lieutenant Governor presides over Senate floor debate and votes only to break a tie**.

The Speaker of the House and the Senate President Pro Tem each exercise real power in **referring bills** to the appropriate House or Senate committee. Each committee has responsibility for studying legislation that falls within certain areas of the law. The committee chair may receive a bill in his committee but, upon the recommendation of the Speaker or President Pro Tem, refuse to schedule the bill for a hearing. As many as 2,000 bills may be introduced during a regular legislative session, but **only about one-third reach a floor vote**. Because legislation must be reported out of a committee in order for the full chamber to vote on it, **committee inaction kills hundreds of bills each year**.

The Lobbyist's Role in the Legislative Process

The legislative process begins when someone believes that a new law is needed or that an old law should be changed. Lobbyists are responsible for making lawmakers aware of **how a bill will impact their principal**. In addition to the role of introducing proactive legislation to help their principal, lobbyists play defense by reading each bill that is introduced, writing a summary of the bill and sending that summary to key member companies asking them to **assess the potential impact** the proposed legislation would have on their principal.

Lobbyists, constituents, advocacy groups and government agencies may make suggestions, but only a legislator can request that a bill be drafted, formally introduce legislation, and vote on a bill.

When a principal makes their lobbyist aware of a problem in North Carolina law, lobbyists must:

1. look at the current statutes;
2. determine possible legislative solutions;
3. find the appropriate bill sponsor in both the House and the Senate;
4. encourage appropriate legislators to co-sponsor;
5. work with bill drafting attorneys;
6. manage the bill through committee and floor votes;
7. manage the bill through committee and floor votes in the second house; and
8. make sure that the bill is veto-proof when the Governor receives it.



Legislative staff attorneys, working closely with the bill's sponsor, **draft appropriate legal language** and **give the bill a descriptive title**. The bill sponsor can direct staff attorneys to allow a lobbyist to work with staff on drafting the bill and a lobbyist can **find co-sponsors** to the bill prior to its introduction. The bill sponsor then sends the bill to the House or Senate **Principal Clerk**, who assigns it a bill number. This is called "first reading."

Following this **first reading**, the bill is **assigned to a committee**. **Standing committees** have a regular **weekly schedule**. Before a bill is heard in committee, lobbyists **visit individually** with **each member of the committee** to explain their principals' perspective on the bill and explain how it would impact that legislator's district and attains an understanding of how the legislator intends to vote.

If it appears there is not strong support in the committee, lobbyists may engage their **grassroots** lobbying network. The lobbyists will then e-mail or call key individuals who are specifically impacted by the bill and **ask that they** contact specific legislators and ask them to support the principals' position. The lobby team will develop and provide members with **talking points or a standard letter** that they may use when communicating with legislators about specific issues.

NOTE: A bill that receives an "unfavorable report" in committee or is defeated on the House or Senate floor is dead for that session and may not be considered for another two years. Therefore, it is important that your lobbyists have the bill sponsor pull a bill back before it receives a negative vote.

Sometimes lobbyists will **assemble a coalition** of other organizations that may be impacted by a particular piece of legislation. Coalitions provide added support, manpower and resources, and show legislators that several **different organizations are united** in their support of or opposition to a bill.



The Committee Process

When the bill is scheduled for a committee hearing, lobbyists present **written and oral testimony** and **respond to questions** from committee members. Committees may debate an issue on several occasions to allow the public to comment before taking action on a bill. In the case of a controversial issue, a committee may schedule a public hearing on the bill. Legislators can **amend the original language** but in Raleigh, unlike in Washington, amendments must be **relevant to the original bill**.

Bills that pass a committee may be sent to a second committee for discussion, or it may move on to the floor. It usually takes one or two days for a bill to pass out of committee before it moves to the floor, during which time the lobbyists will **contact every member** of the chamber to **explain the bill**, talk about the bill's support in committee and ask for each legislator's support.

This is also the time when lobbyists meet with the bill sponsor or committee chairman who will present the bill on the floor. At this meeting, the lobbyists provide the legislator with anticipated floor questions and appropriate answers. The lobbyist gives the floor manager the anticipated **vote count**. It is not unusual for the lobbyists to write a **floor speech** for the bill sponsor or presenter. On this **second reading**, the sponsor or committee chair presents the bill to the full chamber, at which point, citizens and lobbyists are no longer allowed to comment. Legislators can ask questions or offer amendments and their votes are recorded and **made available** to the public.

A controversial bill that had a prolonged debate on second reading may experience even longer debate on third reading. Written **amendments** may be offered both in committee as well as on the floor, which can completely change a bill from the way it was introduced.

A bill that a lobbyist supported when it left committee could be **amended on second reading so that they now oppose it**. In such a case, a lobbyist would want the bill sponsor to object to third reading to allow the lobbyists to have a chance to lobby the full chamber and ask that the members **amend the bill to its original form**, re-refer the bill to committee so that it stays there indefinitely, or amend it to an acceptable compromise. A majority must vote in favor of the bill for it to proceed to its "**third reading**." At third reading, there may be more discussion and additional amendments before legislators take a final vote on the bill.

All bills that are approved by one chamber are then sent to the other chamber and the entire process is then repeated. For example, if a Senate bill passes through its committee and passes second and third readings on the Senate floor, it will be sent to the House. There the bill will be read on the House floor, assigned to a House committee, and if it is voted out of the House committee, it proceeds to second and third readings on the House floor.

If there were any changes made to this Senate bill in the House, the bill must be sent back to the Senate (house of origin) for the Senate to **concur** with the House **amendments**. If the Senate members do not concur, the bill then will be sent to a **Conference Committee** (usually three legislators from each chamber) to work out a compromise. The lobbyists can work with the conference committee members to discuss the proposed compromise language.

Bills that pass both houses of the legislature are sent to the **Governor** for her signature. The Governor has three options: she can **ratify the bill; not sign the bill** but allow the bill to become law **without her signature**; or **veto the bill**. The legislature can override the Governor's veto with a **two-thirds vote** of each chamber. All newly ratified laws are recorded in the North Carolina General Statutes, which are updated after the legislative session has adjourned.

Keeping Track of North Carolina Legislation



North Carolina General Assembly Website

www.ncleg.net

The North Carolina General Assembly's website has current information and several resources to keep you informed about state government actions. You can view a bill's language and status, state statutes, as well as calendars for upcoming meetings and legislative sessions. Additionally, you can view a member's voting history, committee membership, and locate who represents you and your stores in both the state House and state Senate. Finally, you can also listen to **live audio** of House and Senate **sessions**, committee **hearings**, and **press conferences** at the General Assembly while they are in progress.

Bill Status

The Legislative Library provides up-to-minute information on bills. The library is located in **Room 2226** of the legislative building, 16 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601, and can be reached by letter or phone **(919) 733-7770**. Tell them the general topic of the bill you're interested in and they can give you the bill number, bill sponsor and where the bill is moving in the legislative process.

Printed Bills

Printed copies of bills can be obtained from the Printed Bills Office, **Room 2021** of the legislative building. They may be obtained in person, by mail or by phone **(919) 733-5648**. There is **no charge** for this service.

Information on when a particular bill is to be considered can best be obtained from the chairman of the committee or his/her legislative assistant. When the legislature is in session, any member of the House or Senate can be reached through the legislative switchboard at **(919) 733-4111**.

Committee Schedules

Regular committee schedules can be obtained through the **Principal Clerk of the Senate**, Room 2020, Phone **(919) 733-7761** or the **Principal Clerk of the House**, Room 2319, Phone **(919) 733-7760**.

The Insider

The Insider is published daily by *The News and Observer* and provides legislative insight on current issues and calendaring of bills and committees. You can subscribe by calling **(919) 836-2804** or going to www.ncinsider.com.

Visiting the General Assembly

Anyone can visit the North Carolina General Assembly. When the legislature is in session, visitors can watch the action from galleries above each chamber or attend committee meetings. The NCRMA lobbyists are downtown at the General Assembly every day and are happy to schedule appointments for you with your legislators or with other legislative leaders.

North Carolina Public Television broadcasts a weekly report on the General Assembly's activities called "Legislative Week In Review" on Friday night and Sunday afternoon during legislative sessions. If you would like more information about the North Carolina General Assembly, or if you wish to contact your representatives, call the Legislative Building switchboard at (919) 733-4111, or call the NCRMA lobby team at (919) 832-0811.



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When a legislator represents more than one county, he/she is listed with each county.

COUNTY	LEGISLATOR	COUNTY	LEGISLATOR
Alamance	Senate 24 Rick Gunn (R) House 63 Alice Bordsen (D) House 64 Dan Ingle (R)	Caldwell	Senate 44 Warren Daniel (R) House 84 Phillip Frye (R) House 87 Edgar Starnes (R)
Alexander	Senate 45 Dan Soucek (R) House 88 Mark Hollo (R)	Camden	Senate 1 Stan White (D) House 1 Bill Owens (D)
Alleghany	Senate 30 Don East (R) House 90 Sarah Stevens (R)	Carteret	Senate 2 Jean Preston (R) House 13 Pat McElraft (R)
Anson	Senate 25 William Purcell (D) House 69 Pryor Gibson (D)	Caswell	Senate 24 Rick Gunn (R) House 50 Bill Faison (D)
Ashe	Senate 45 Dan Soucek (R) House 93 Jonathan Jordan (R)	Catawba	Senate 42 Austin Allran (R) House 88 Mark Hollo (R) House 89 Mitchell Setzer (R) House 96 Mark Hilton (R)
Avery	Senate 47 Ralph Hise, Jr. (R) House 84 Phillip Frye (R)	Chatham	Senate 18 Bob Atwater (D) House 54 Joe Hackney (D)
Beaufort	Senate 1 Stan White (D) House 6 Bill Cook (R)	Cherokee	Senate 50 Jim Davis (R) House 120 Roger West (R)
Bertie	Senate 4 Ed Jones (D) House 5 Annie Mobley (D)	Chowan	Senate 4 Ed Jones (D) House 2 Tim Spear (D)
Bladen	Senate 19 Wesley Meredith (R) House 22 William Brisson (D)	Clay	Senate 50 Jim Davis (R) House 120 Roger West (R)
Brunswick	Senate 8 Bill Rabon (R) House 17 Frank Iler (R) House 20 Dewey Hill (D)	Cleveland	Senate 46 Debbie Clary (R) House 110 Kelly Hastings (R) House 111 Tim Moore (R) House 112 Mike Hager (R)
Buncombe	Senate 48 Tom Apodaca (R) Senate 49 Martin Nesbitt (D) House 114 Susan Fisher (D) House 115 Patsy Keever (D) House 116 Tim Moffitt (R)	Columbus	Senate 8 Bill Rabon (R) House 20 Dewey Hill (D)
Burke	Senate 44 Warren Daniel (R) House 85 Mitch Gillespie (R) House 86 Hugh Blackwell (R)	Craven	Senate 2 Jean Preston (R) House 3 Norman Sanderson (R) House 12 William Wainwright (D)
Cabarrus	Senate 36 Fletcher Hartsell (R) House 82 Jeff Barnhart (R) House 83 Linda Johnson (R)		

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COUNTY	LEGISLATOR	COUNTY	LEGISLATOR
Cumberland		Gaston	
Senate 19	Wesley Meredith (R)	Senate 41	James Forrester (R)
Senate 21	Eric Mansfield (D)	Senate 43	Kathy Harrington (R)
House 22	William Brisson (D)	House 108	John Torbett (R)
House 42	Marvin Lucas (D)	House 109	William Current (R)
House 43	Elmer Floyd (D)	House 110	Kelly Hastings (R)
House 44	Diane Parfitt (D)		
House 45	Rick Glazier (D)	Gates	
Currituck		Senate 4	Ed Jones (D)
Senate 1	Stan White (D)	House 5	Annie Mobley (D)
House 1	Bill Owens (D)	Graham	
Dare		Senate 50	Jim Davis (R)
Senate 1	Stan White (D)	House 120	Roger West (R)
House 2	Tim Spear (D)	Granville	
Davidson		Senate 7	Doug Berger (D)
Senate 33	Stan Bingham (R)	House 32	Jim Crawford (D)
House 73	Larry Brown (R)	Greene	
House 80	Jerry Dockham (R)	Senate 5	Louis Pate, Jr. (R)
House 81	Rayne Brown (R)	House 10	Stephen LaRoque (R)
Davie		Guilford	
Senate 34	Andrew Brock (R)	Senate 26	Philip Berger (R)
House 79	Julia Howard (R)	Senate 27	Don Vaughan (D)
Duplin		Senate 28	Gladys Robinson (D)
Senate 10	Brent Jackson (R)	Senate 33	Stan Bingham (R)
House 4	Jimmy Dixon (R)	House 57	Pricey Harrison (D)
Durham		House 58	Alma Adams (D)
Senate 18	Bob Atwater (D)	House 59	Maggie Jeffus (D)
Senate 20	Floyd McKissick (D)	House 60	Marcus Brandon (D)
House 29	Larry Hall (D)	House 61	John Faircloth (R)
House 30	Paul Luebke (D)	House 62	John Blust (R)
House 31	Mickey Michaux, Jr. (D)	Halifax	
House 55	Winkie Wilkins (D)	Senate 4	Ed Jones (D)
Edgecombe		House 7	Angela Bryant (D)
Senate 3	Clark Jenkins (D)	House 49	Glen Bradley (R)
House 23	Joe Tolson (D)	Harnett	
House 24	Jean Farmer-Butterfield (D)	Senate 22	Harris Blake (R)
Forsyth		House 51	Michael Stone (R)
Senate 31	Pete Brunstetter (R)	House 53	David Lewis (R)
Senate 32	Linda Garrou (D)	Haywood	
House 71	Larry Womble (D)	Senate 47	Ralph Hise, Jr. (R)
House 72	Earline Parmon (D)	Senate 50	Jim Davis (R)
House 73	Larry Brown (R)	House 118	Ray Rapp (D)
House 74	Dale Folwell (R)	House 119	Phillip Haire (D)
House 75	William McGee (R)	Henderson	
Franklin		Senate 48	Tom Apodaca (R)
Senate 7	Doug Berger (D)	House 113	David Guice (R)
House 49	Glen Bradley (R)	House 117	Chuck McGrady (R)

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COUNTY	LEGISLATOR	COUNTY	LEGISLATOR
Hertford	Senate 4 Ed Jones (D) House 5 Annie Mobley (D)	Martin	Senate 3 Clark Jenkins (D) House 8 Edith Warren (D)
Hoke	Senate 13 Michael Walters (D) House 46 Gaston Pridgen (R) House 48 Garland Pierce (D)	McDowell	Senate 47 Ralph Hise, Jr. (R) House 85 Mitch Gillespie (R)
Hyde	Senate 1 Stan White (D) House 2 Tim Spear (D)	Mecklenburg	Senate 35 Tommy Tucker (R) Senate 37 Daniel Clodfelter (D) Senate 38 Charlie Dannelly (D) Senate 39 Bob Rucho (R) Senate 40 Malcolm Graham (D) House 98 Thom Tillis (R) House 99 Rodney Moore (D) House 100 Tricia Cotham (D) House 101 Beverly Earle (D) House 102 Becky Carney (D) House 103 Bill Brawley (R) House 104 Ruth Samuelson (R) House 105 Ric Killian (R) House 106 Martha Alexander (D) House 107 Kelly Alexander (D)
Iredell	Senate 36 Fletcher Hartsell (R) Senate 41 James Forrester (R) Senate 42 Austin Allran (R) House 79 Julia Howard (R) House 89 Mitchell Setzer (R) House 92 Darrell McCormick (R) House 95 Grey Mills (R)	Mitchell	Senate 47 Ralph Hise, Jr. (R) House 84 Phillip Frye (R)
Jackson	Senate 50 Jim Davis (R) House 119 Phillip Haire (D)	Montgomery	Senate 29 Jerry Tillman (R) House 66 Ken Goodman (D) House 67 Justin Burr (R)
Johnston	Senate 12 David Rouzer (R) House 26 Leo Daughtry (R) House 28 James Langdon (R)	Moore	Senate 22 Harris Blake (R) House 52 Jamie Boles (R) House 54 Joe Hackney (D)
Jones	Senate 6 Harry Brown (R) House 13 Pat McElraft (R)	Nash	Senate 11 E.S. (Buck) Newton (R) House 7 Angela Bryant (D) House 25 Jeffrey Collins (R) House 49 Glen Bradley (R)
Lee	Senate 18 Bob Atwater (D) House 51 Mike Stone (R)	New Hanover	Senate 9 Thom Goolsby (R) House 16 Carolyn Justice (R) House 18 Susi Hamilton (D) House 19 Danny McComas (R)
Lenoir	Senate 10 Brent Jackson (R) House 10 Stephen LaRoque (R) House 12 William Wainwright (D)	Northampton	Senate 4 Ed Jones (D) House 27 Michael Wray (D)
Lincoln	Senate 41 James Forrester (R) House 97 Johnathan Rhyne (R)		
Macon	Senate 50 Jim Davis (R) House 119 Phillip Haire (D) House 120 Roger West (R)		
Madison	Senate 47 Ralph Hise, Jr. (R) House 118 Ray Rapp (D)		

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Onslow		House 48	Garland Pierce (D)
Senate 6	Harry Brown (R)		
House 4	Jimmy Dixon (R)	Rockingham	
House 14	George Cleveland (R)	Senate 26	Philip Berger (R)
House 15	Philip Shepard (R)	House 65	Bert Jones (UNA)
		House 91	Bryan Holloway (R)
Orange		Rowan	
Senate 23	Eleanor Kinnaird (D)	Senate 34	Andrew Brock (R)
House 50	Bill Faison (D)	House 76	Fred Steen (R)
House 54	Joe Hackney (D)	House 77	Harry Warren (R)
House 56	Verla Insko (D)		
Pamlico		Rutherford	
Senate 2	Jean Preston (R)	Senate 46	Debbie Clary (R)
House 3	Norman Sanderson (R)	House 112	Mike Hager (R)
Pasquotank		Sampson	
Senate 1	Stan White (D)	Senate 10	Brent Jackson (R)
House 1	Bill Owens (D)	House 21	Larry Bell (D)
		House 28	James Langdon (R)
Pender		Scotland	
Senate 8	Bill Rabon (R)	Senate 25	William Purcell (D)
House 16	Carolyn Justice (R)	House 46	Gaston Pridgen (R)
House 18	Susi Hamilton (D)	House 48	Garland Pierce (D)
Perquimans		Stanly	
Senate 4	Ed Jones (D)	Senate 25	William Purcell (D)
House 5	Annie Mobley (D)	House 67	Justin Burr (R)
Person		Stokes	
Senate 23	Eleanor Kinnaird (D)	Senate 30	Don East (R)
House 55	Winkie Wilkins (D)	House 91	Bryan Holloway (R)
Pitt		Surry	
Senate 3	Clark Jenkins (D)	Senate 30	Don East (R)
Senate 5	Louis Pate, Jr. (R)	House 90	Sarah Stevens (R)
House 6	Bill Cook (R)	House 92	Darrell McCormick (R)
House 8	Edith Warren (D)		
House 9	Marian McLawhorn (D)	Swain	
Polk		Senate 50	Jim Davis (R)
Senate 48	Tom Apodaca (R)	House 119	Phillip Haire (D)
House 113	David Guice (R)	Transylvania	
Randolph		Senate 50	Jim Davis (R)
Senate 29	Jerry Tillman (R)	House 113	David Guice (R)
House 70	Pat Hurley (R)	Tyrrell	
House 78	Harold Brubaker (R)	Senate 1	Stan White (D)
		House 1	Bill Owens (D)
Richmond		Union	
Senate 25	William Purcell (D)	Senate 35	Tommy Tucker (R)
House 66	Ken Goodman (D)	House 67	Justin Burr (R)
Robeson		House 68	Craig Horn (R)
Senate 13	Michael Walters (D)	House 69	Pryor Gibson, III (D)
House 46	Gaston Pridgen (R)		
House 47	Charles Graham (D)		

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COUNTY	LEGISLATOR
Vance	
Senate 7	Doug Berger (D)
House 27	Michael Wray (D)
House 32	James Crawford, Jr. (D)
Wake	
Senate 14	Dan Blue (D)
Senate 15	Neal Hunt (D)
Senate 16	Josh Stein (D)
Senate 17	Richard Stevens (R)
House 33	Rosa Gill (D)
House 34	Grier Martin (D)
House 35	Jennifer Weiss (D)
House 36	Nelson Dollar (R)
House 37	Paul Stam (R)
House 38	Deborah Ross (D)
House 39	Darren Jackson (D)
House 40	Marilyn Avila (R)
House 41	Tom Murry (R)
Warren	
Senate 7	Doug Berger (D)
House 27	Michael Wray (D)
Washington	
Senate 1	Stan White (D)
House 2	Tim Spear (D)
Watauga	
Senate 45	Dan Soucek (R)
House 93	Jonathan Jordan (R)
Wayne	
Senate 5	Louis Pate, Jr. (R)
Senate 12	David Rouzer (R)
House 10	Stephen LaRoque (R)
House 11	Efton Sager (R)
House 21	Larry Bell (D)
Wilkes	
Senate 45	Dan Soucek (R)
House 94	Shirley Randleman (R)
Wilson	
Senate 11	E.S. (Buck) Newton (R)
House 23	Joe Tolson (D)
House 24	Jean Farmer-Butterfield (D)
Yadkin	
Senate 30	Don East (R)
House 92	Darrell McCormick (R)
Yancey	
Senate 47	Ralph Hise, Jr. (R)
House 84	Phillip Frye (R)
House 118	Ray Rapp (D)

NCPLA

North Carolina Professional Lobbyists Association
P.O. Box 905, Raleigh, NC 27602
(919) 821-6860 | Fax: (919) 834-8880
info@ncpla.org

www.ncpla.org

Find Information on:

- Finding an NCPLA Lobbyist
- NCPLA Member Events
- NCPLA Board and Committees
- Lobbyist Resources
- Ethics Commission Guidance
- Secretary of State Updates



State Government Contacts

In addition to the information you will find on the North Carolina General Assembly website, there is a wealth of information available on the following state and congressional sites.

North Carolina State Government

www.ncgov.com

The North Carolina State Government website provides access to the homepages for each of the Departments and Agencies of State Government. Each homepage includes division breakdowns and employee listings. On the main website, there is a button to quick click for **Business Information**, which is a great resource that includes forms, contracts, and a listing of agencies that businesses would most likely need to contact.

North Carolina's Office of the Governor

www.governor.state.nc.us

The Office of the Governor hosts a website that encourages any citizen to contact the Governor regarding his opinion and views on any subject. Here you can find information on some of the Governor's projects and her key issues. You can access the Governor's speeches, her press office, her cabinet agencies and her staff.



United States Congressional Websites



US Senate

www.senate.gov

The United States Senate website features Legislative Activities, that includes legislation, schedules and rules, and detailed archives on pending legislation or bills dating back to 1994. **Updated daily when the Senate is in session**, you can access the **Congressional Record**, a verbatim record of proceedings and debates where you can conduct a keyword search. The Senate website lists various committees, and includes a membership roster of all committees and subcommittees. You can find roll call votes, nominations, committee actions, committee meetings, hearings, pending business and the Senate legislative calendar. There is a directory of the senators by name, by state, by leadership position and by class membership.

US House

www.house.gov

The US House website offers House Committee member assignments, committee and subcommittee phone directories, an alphabetical list of members with their committee assignments, alphabetical list of members with their state and district information, member phone directory, and members by state. This site includes the rules of the Congress, a brief lesson on **how our laws are made** and links to other House of Representative links, including member and committee web pages. You can also access the weekly schedule for the House floor, the **up-to-date information on floor events** as they happen, and **up-to-the-hour committee hearing schedules**.

US Congress

www.congress.org

This site includes an alphabetical listing of all members, state delegations, house and senate committees and congressional leadership. A special section lists congressional staff, useful tips for effective correspondence with Congress and information on visiting Capitol Hill. The website is updated daily to provide current information.

Thomas

www.thomas.loc.gov

Named for Thomas Jefferson, this website has been designed so that anyone can intuitively find the information on a bill. You can **pull any bill by its number, its topic** or a **popular issue name**. Thomas also provides a listing of all **weekly floor activity** including the schedule of House and Senate committees. The site provides access to **all bills filed since 1989** (including their text, their summaries and their status) and **all public laws from 1973 to present**. All of these can be printed for reference.

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North Carolina Professional Lobbyists Association

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NCPLA CODE OF CONDUCT

The professional lobbyist plays an important role in our system of government by helping to ensure that lawmakers have full and accurate information with which to make decisions.

Members of the North Carolina Professional Lobbyists Association have an obligation to conduct themselves in such a way that they maintain public respect for their profession and for the legislative process

Members of the North Carolina Professional Lobbyists Association:

- Shall conduct with integrity and honesty all relations with public office holders, clients, potential clients, employers, the public and other lobbyists.
- Shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations governing lobbying as well as standards of conduct applying to officials and staff of the North Carolina General Assembly.
- Shall disclose the identity of the person or organization for whom they are acting.
- Shall provide information that is accurate and factual to public office holders, and shall not engage in misrepresentation of any nature.
- Shall not divulge confidential information unless they have obtained the informed consent of their client, employer or organization, or such disclosure is required by law.
- Shall not represent conflicting or competing interests without the informed consent of those whose interests are involved.
- Shall not place public office holders in a conflict of interest by proposing or undertaking any action that would constitute an improper influence on a public office holder.