

## 2017-18 Session of the NC General Assembly Bills of Importance to *Rural Counts* Strategies

### 1) Education and Workforce Development

Bill #	Title	Description	Sponsors	Status
<b>H6 S9</b>	<b>Education Finance Reform Task Force</b>	Creates 18-member task force to study weighted formula funding models for elementary & secondary schools. Task force to develop a model for the state & report by 7/1/18.	<b>House:</b> Horn; Lucas; Johnson; McGrady <b>Senate:</b> Foushee; McInnis; Krawiec	<b>House:</b> <a href="#">Passed 2/23</a> <b>Senate:</b> Rules 1/26
<b>H132</b>	<b>High Achieving Tuition Scholarship</b>	Establishes a new scholarship program for 2018-19 to aid in tuition costs for students in community colleges. Appropriates \$2 million to award scholarships to students who graduate with at least a 3.5 average and who apply for the program	<b>House:</b> Elmore, Howard, McNeill	<b>House:</b> Ed K-12, then Comm. College, then Appropriations, 3/20

### 2) Rural Health

Bill #	Title	Description	Sponsors	Status
<b>S42</b>	<b>Reduce Cost &amp; Regulatory Burden / Hospital Construction</b>	Directs Medical Care Commission to adopt recommendations of American Society of Healthcare Engineering Facility Guidelines Institute; Repeals hospital facility rules & directs adoption of new rules	<b>Senate:</b> Hise; Krawiec; Pate	<b>Senate:</b> Rules 2/8, Health Care 2/9
<b>H88 S73</b>	<b>Modernize Nursing Practice Act</b>	Makes changes to definitions of nursing and practice and also makes changes to the licensing board	<b>House:</b> Dobson, Lambeth, Stevens, Adcock <b>Senate:</b> Hise, Pate, Krawiec	<b>House:</b> Health, then Insurance & Finance, 2/14 <b>Senate:</b> Rules, 2/14

H243 S175	<b>Strengthen Opioid Misuse Prevention (STOP) Act</b>	Extends standing orders for opioid antagonist to community health groups, improves opioid prescribing practices, strengthens controlled substances reporting system, and appropriates \$10 million for each year of biennium to increase availability of community-based treatment and recovery services.	<b>House:</b> Murphy, Davis, Malone, Horn <b>Senate:</b> J. Davis, McInnis, Rabon	<b>House:</b> Filed 3/2 <b>Senate:</b> Filed 3/2
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### 3) Accessible, Affordable High-Speed Fiber Broadband

Bill #	Title	Description	Sponsors	Status
H68 S65	<b>BRIGHT Futures Act</b>	Creates an emphasis on digital infrastructure within state aid programs that address economic development infrastructure. Adds emphasis on rural areas.	<b>House:</b> Szoka; Saine; S. Martin; Brenden Jones <b>Senate:</b> Meredith	<b>House:</b> Energy & Public Utilities, then Commerce & Job Development 2/9 <b>Senate:</b> Rules, 2/13

### 4) Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Bill #	Title	Description	Sponsors	Status
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### 5) Transportation and Natural Gas Infrastructure

Bill #	Title	Description	Sponsors	Status
H81	<b>STI/Regional &amp; Division Weighting</b>	Adjusts weighting under the transportation Investment Strategy Formula to give weight to division engineers, MPOs and RPOs when selecting regional impact and division need projects.	<b>House:</b> Torbett	<b>House:</b> <a href="#">Passed 3/1</a> <b>Senate:</b> Rule 3/2

H92	<b>Blue Ribbon Committee / Transportation Funding</b>	Establishes a committee on transportation infrastructure funding. Committee includes 20 members, 12 are legislators, 4 represent the public, 2 represent small business, & 2 represent large business. Members are to look at options to increase funding for transportation infrastructure needs and report to the 2018 and 2019 sessions.	<b>House:</b> Torbett	<b>House:</b> <a href="#">Passed 3/1</a> <b>Senate:</b> Rules 2/3
H219	<b>Transportation Megaproject Funding</b>	Establishes a fund in the Highway Trust Fund to fund higher cost and larger scale transportation projects. Eligible projects to be selected by a workgroup established in the bill.	<b>House:</b> Torbett	<b>Senate:</b> Trans., then Finance 3/2
H220	<b>State Infrastructure Bank Revisions</b>	Authorizes NCDOT to use federal funds for a transportation infrastructure banking program and establishes an oversight board.	<b>House:</b> Torbett	<b>House:</b> Trans., then Finance 3/2

## 6) Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development

Bill #	Title	Description	Sponsors	Status
H61	<b>Small Business Income Tax Relief</b>	Up to \$50,000 net business income not subject to tax for small (less than \$1 million receipts/year) business, begins 1/1/17	<b>House:</b> K. Hall; Saine; Brendan Jones; Boswell	<b>House:</b> Finance, 2/9

## 7) Homegrown Manufacturing

Bill #	Title	Description	Sponsors	Status
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## 8) Agriculture & Natural Resources

Bill #	Title	Description	Sponsors	Status
S131	<b>Regulatory Reform Act of 2016</b>	Amends certain environmental, natural resources, and other laws. Generally, would reduce the number of reports required and change reporting dates. Also creates a new committee to coordinate land use near military installations. <i>[Note: This bill title is correct. Sponsor indicates this bill comes from 2016 and is separate from a bill to be introduced in 2017.]</i>	<b>Senate:</b> Wells, Cook, Sanderson	<b>Senate:</b> Ag/Env/Nat Resources 2/27; Favorable Report 3/2; Referred to Rules 3/2

## 9) Regional Collaboration and Partnerships

Bill #	Title	Description	Sponsors	Status
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## 10) Rural Development Funding & Technical Assistance

Bill #	Title	Description	Sponsors	Status
S69	<b>Local Government Commission / Finance Officer</b>	Directs the LGC to notify local finance officers when they are required to participate in training & requires employer of finance officer to notify LGC when training is completed.	<b>Senate:</b> D. Davis; Tarte	<b>Senate:</b> Rules, 2/13; State & Local Gov't 2/16
S143	<b>CBDG: Modify Uses to Include Scattered Sites</b>	Appropriates \$10 million for FY 17-18 from Community Development Block Grant funds for scattered site housing. [Money would come from reducing either economic development or water infrastructure funding.]	<b>Senate:</b> Clark, Bryant	<b>Senate:</b> Rules 3/1
H232	<b>Main Street Funding for Poorest Counties</b>	Allocates \$1 million (non-recurring) to Commerce for FY '17-'18 for Main Street Solutions Fund. Money can only be used for projects in 15 named counties (Alleghany, Avery, Bladen, Columbus, Edgecombe,	<b>House:</b> Pierce	<b>House:</b> Filed 3/1

		Graham, Halifax, Hoke, Northampton, Robeson, Scotland, Tyrrell, Warren, Watauga, Yancey).		
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## Other Bills of Interest

Bill #	Title	Description	Sponsors	Status
<b>S70</b>	<b>RLSC Study Sales Tax: Nonprofits</b>	Directs Revenue Laws Study Committee to study replacing, with an exemption, the requirement for tax-exempt nonprofits to pay and seek refunds for sales tax on taxable sales. To recommend to 2018 session	<b>Senate:</b> D. Davis; Pate	<b>Senate:</b> Rules 2/13
<b>S126</b>	<b>Change the L(ocal) O(option) S(ales) T(ax) Adjustment Factor</b>	Would change the adjustment factor applied to distribution of local option sales tax receipts to use a specific factor according to the economic development tier of the county	<b>Senate:</b> Brown	<b>Senate:</b> Finance 2/23

Updated: Friday, March 3, 2017