



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
H6 S9	Education Finance Reform Task Force	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.	House: Horn; Lucas; Johnson; McGrady Senate: Foushee; McClinnis; Krawiec	House: Passed 2/23 Senate: Rules 1/26
H132	High Achieving Tuition Scholarship	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	House: Elmore, Howard, McNeill	House: Ed K-12, then Comm. College, then Appropriations, 3/20

2) Rural Health

Bill #	Title	Description	Sponsors	Status
S42	Reduce Cost & Regulatory Burden / Hospital Construction	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	Senate: Hise; Krawiec; Pate	Senate: Rules 2/8, Health Care 2/9
H88 S73	Modernize Nursing Practice Act	Makes changes to definitions of nursing and practice and also makes changes to the licensing board	House: Dobson, Lambeth, Stevens, Adcock Senate: Hise, Pate, Krawiec	House: Health, then Insurance & Finance, 2/14 Senate: Rules, 2/14

H243 S175	Strengthen Opioid Misuse Prevention (STOP) Act	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.	House: Murphy, Davis, Malone, Horn Senate: J. Davis, McInnis, Rabon	House: Filed 3/2 Senate: Filed 3/2
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3) Accessible, Affordable High-Speed Fiber Broadband

Bill #	Title	Description	Sponsors	Status
H68 S65	BRIGHT Futures Act	Creates an emphasis on digital infrastructure within state aid programs that address economic development infrastructure. Adds emphasis on rural areas.	House: Szoka; Saine; S. Martin; Brenden Jones Senate: Meredith	House: Energy & Public Utilities, then Commerce & Job Development 2/9 Senate: 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	STI/Regional & Division Weighting	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.	House: Torbett	House: Passed 3/1 Senate: Rule 3/2

H92	Blue Ribbon Committee / Transportation Funding	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.	House: Torbett	House: Passed 3/1 Senate: Rules 2/3
H219	Transportation Megaproject Funding	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.	House: Torbett	Senate: Trans., then Finance 3/2
H220	State Infrastructure Bank Revisions	Authorizes NCDOT to use federal funds for a transportation infrastructure banking program and establishes an oversight board.	House: Torbett	House: Trans., then Finance 3/2

6) Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development

Bill #	Title	Description	Sponsors	Status
H61	Small Business Income Tax Relief	Up to \$50,000 net business income not subject to tax for small (less than \$1 million receipts/year) business, begins 1/1/17	House: K. Hall; Saine; Brendan Jones; Boswell	House: 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	Regulatory Reform Act of 2016	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>	Senate: Wells, Cook, Sanderson	Senate: 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	Local Government Commission / Finance Officer	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.	Senate: D. Davis; Tarte	Senate: Rules, 2/13; State & Local Gov't 2/16
S143	CBDG: Modify Uses to Include Scattered Sites	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.]	Senate: Clark, Bryant	Senate: Rules 3/1
H232	Main Street Funding for Poorest Counties	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,	House: Pierce	House: 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
S70	RLSC Study Sales Tax: Nonprofits	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	Senate: D. Davis; Pate	Senate: Rules 2/13
S126	Change the Local Option Sales Tax Adjustment Factor	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	Senate: Brown	Senate: Finance 2/23

Updated: Friday, March 3, 2017