



# **MID-SESSION LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Presented to the Mecklenburg Board  
of County Commissioners

May 9, 2017

# THE BIG PICTURE

- 1,500 bills have been filed
- 12 bills have passed (<1%)
- Three gubernatorial vetoes overturned
- Budget season now in full swing



# OVERRIDING THE GOVERNOR

- General Assembly thrice overrode Gov.'s veto
  - Court of Appeals will shrink to 12 judges
  - Board of Elections and State Ethics combined
  - All judicial races in NC now partisan



# SALES TAX REDISTRIBUTION

- Senate Bill 126 (Brown)
- Would organize counties by Tiers 1-3
- Initial impact to Mecklenburg: Revenue increases by \$200,000
- Status: Passed Senate, now in House



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES CHANGES

- Senate Bill 660 (Brown)
- Would cap Mecklenburg and other Tier 3 counties at 50 percent of the state's economic development funds used to incent companies
- HB 795 is the companion bill in the House
- Status: Passed Senate, now in House



# MECKLENBURG POLICE JURISDICTION

- Senate Bill 5 (Tarte, Bishop, Jackson)
- Authorizes Mecklenburg County Commission to contract with towns and city for police in ETJ
- Police jurisdiction would extend to ETJ
- Senate Bill 6, Cornelius annexation, goes hand-in-hand with SB 5 and passed Senate
- Status: Passed Senate, now in House



# EXEMPTING AIRPORT FROM STORMWATER FEES

- House Bill 275 (Torbett, Conrad, Hunter)
- Exempts NC airports, runways, and taxiways from paying stormwater fees
- Estimated \$77,000 annual impact to Meck.
- Status: Passed House, now in Senate Rules



# DISABLED VETERAN HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

- *New House Bill 2 (Dollar, Saine, Hardister)*
- 100% property tax exemption for spouses of emergency personnel killed in action
  - Emergency personnel = fire, police, EMS, search and rescue
- Disabled veterans exemption would increase from \$45,000 to \$100,000 of assessed value
- Make-whole provision from State to counties for lost revenues but requires annual appropriation
- Status: Passed House, now in Senate Rules





# PRIMARY RESIDENCE TAX ASSESSMENT BILL

- Senate Bill 363 (Tarte, Tucker)
- Would have allowed property owners get a private appraisal on their home and automatically substitute the County tax assessor's valuation with the private appraiser's valuation
- Status: Did not get out of the Senate



# ONLINE HANDGUN PERMITTING PROCESS

- Senate Bill 503 (Tarte, Tucker)
- Would have taken NC's pistol permitting process online and required an FBI-based national background check
- NC Sheriffs' Association opposed the bill
- Status: Did not get out of the Senate



# REGIONALIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

- Senate Bill 594 (Harrington, Tucker, Barringer)
- Calls for a study regarding the regionalization of DSS offices across the state
- Goals: Increased accountability over DSS in all parts of the state, enhanced communication, increased adoption placements
- Status: Did not pass the Senate, but still viable because it contains an appropriation



# ALIGN MECKLENBURG DISTRICT & SUPERIOR COURTS

- Senate Bill 306 (Tarte, Bishop)
- Would have subdivided Mecklenburg district courts to align with Mecklenburg superior courts
- Status: Did not get out of the Senate



# MECK. MUNICIPAL CHARTER SCHOOL OPERATION

- House Bill 514 (Brawley)
- Would allow Matthews and Mint Hill to apply for and operate charter schools, and give enrollment preference to students in their respective towns
- Matthews and Mint Hill could legally be the governing boards or choose to delegate that authority to a non-profit organization
- Status: Passed House, now in Senate Rules



# DIVIDE SCHOOL SYSTEMS / STUDY COMMITTEE

- House bill 704 (Brawley, Bradford, Malone)
- Would form a legislative committee to study the feasibility of breaking up some of the larger school districts; GA leadership in House and Senate would each appoint 5 members
- Committee would report back to the General Assembly on topics such as how and whether deconsolidation decisions should be made (i.e. voter referendum on the ballot)
- Status: Passed House, now in Senate Rules



# MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION (MCO) CHANGES

- House Bill 403 (Dollar, Lambeth, Dobson)
- Reduces the local autonomy that MCO boards have in setting executive compensation, including the CEO of Cardinal Health
- Would prohibit MCO's board from paying more than 30 percent over the average salary of other MCO's executive directors, unless DHHS and Office of Human Resources heads sign off
- Essentially makes MCOs a state agency that is regulatory in nature as opposed to contractual – many reporting requirement increases from MCO to DHHS
- Status: Passed House, now in Senate Rules



# ELIMINATE RUNOFFS IN PRIMARY ELECTIONS

- House Bill 843 (Lewis)
- Would eliminate the current requirement of a primary runoff
- Current law → In a race between at least three candidates, the top vote-getter must garner at least 40 percent of the vote to avoid runoff
- Status: Did not get out of the House, but sponsor continues to tweak this legislation





# PROHIBIT SCHOOL BOARDS FROM SUING COUNTIES

- Senate Bill 531 (Tucker, Rabon)
- Would eliminate school boards' legal right to sue counties over counties' local appropriation to schools
- County's funding decision would be final
- Status: Passed Senate, in House Rules



# WHAT'S NEXT?

- County Assembly Day (tomorrow)
- Early childhood education
- Craft brewery legislation
- State Budget
  - Senate proposed budget released this week
  - House proposed budget to follow three weeks after Senate version



# QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS?

Thank you for your time today, Commissioners.

