



Representative Nathan Baskerville

## BASKERVILLE BULLETIN

### Long Session Commences

The 152nd long session kicked off on January 14, 2015. The 2015 year began with 13 new members and new leadership. The House of Representatives hosts 74 Republicans and 46 Democrats.



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### General Assembly Schedule

The General Assembly in North Carolina operates on a biennial (2-year) schedule. Regular (or "long") sessions begin in odd years, typically starting in January, and lasting several months. This is when the budget is created. The budget affects all 31 state govern-

ment departments. Short sessions are held in even years and typically start in May or June and last from a few weeks to a few months. The short session is a continuation of the long session, primarily addressing and adjusting budget matters and unfinished business.

An extra session (or "special session") may be held if three-fifths of the legislators or the governor calls for one. In an extra session, the Session Laws follow the organization of the previous session.

## North Carolina's Economy

A “Prosperity Watch” study from the NC Justice Center has shown that the national economy, and other state economies have strengthened considerably within the past five years, but North Carolina still lags behind regarding our citizen's economic well being. NC is ranked 41 in terms of overall finances, employment, housing, health care and education. Nationally, 14.7% of households live below the poverty line, but in NC that number is 16.3% and 31.5 % of jobs are considered “low-wage” in NC. This study gives North Carolinians an accurate picture of the so-called “Carolina Come-back.”

## Education

With Common Core voted out last session, House and Senate members must decide what the new North Carolina education standards will be. The



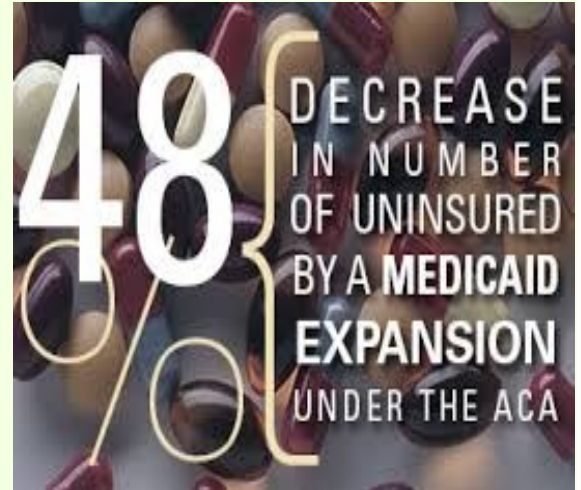
state requires that all public schools in North Carolina use the same standards throughout all K-12 schools.

## Ethics Reforms (*making lawmakers more transparent*)

House and Senate Democratic leaders are calling for ethics reform due to the growing concerns raised after Governor McCrory received a six-figured payout of accelerated stocks. Current law does not require additional disclosure from the Governor. Tighter ethics will allow for more transparency for all lawmakers and public figures.

## Medicaid Expansion

The majority has no current plans to expand the Medicaid Program here in North Carolina. This means that over 500,000 North Carolinians continue to have no health care coverage, and get health care in the most expensive and inefficient way: the emergency room. As a result of this legislative failure, rural hospitals are struggling to remain viable. This is evidenced by the recent closure of Vident Health, the only hospital within 100 miles of Bellhaven. Is your community next?



## Affordable Care Act

The Affordable Care Act reached great strides in North Carolina. By the February 15th deadline approximately 560,000 North Carolinians have signed up for the healthcare act. Vance County accounted for over 2000, Warren County over 600, and Granville County over 1800 residents that are now a part of the healthcare reform.



## Teacher Pay

NC School superintendents met on the eve of the 2015 legislative session to give a priority list to lawmakers, and teacher raises top educators' Legislative wish list.



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**District 32 Spotlight**

Congratulations to Henderson Collegiate Charter School for scoring the highest EVAAS Growth score of all North Carolina Charter School in the recent NC Department of Public Instruction school performance rating system. Henderson Collegiate not only scored the highest of all charter schools but received a perfect score of 100% and exceeded the EVAAS growth status. In addition to receiving the highest EVAAS Growth Score they received B's in the other categories of reading, math.

EVAAS is the assessment system that NCDPI uses to rate all public and charter schools in the state. This assessment scores everything from math, reading, for the lower grades and English, Science, and Biology for the higher grades.

Henderson Collegiate Charter school opened in the Summer of 2010 with just a 4th grade and is adding a new grade level with each new academic year. The school was founded by Eric and Carice Sanchez.

***Representative Nathan Baskerville***

*District 32*

*Vance, Warren, Granville Counties*

***Committees***

*Appropriations*

*Appropriations - Transportation*

*Environment*

*Insurance*

*Judiciary III*