

**BASKERVILLE BULLETIN**



Representative Nathan Baskerville

The General Assembly has been in session for  
132 days.



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**General Assembly Schedule**

*We have been in session over 132 days and the budget has been completed. The budget was passed by the Republican majority sometime after midnight on September 18, 2015. State department heads, school administrators, and municipal administrators can finally plan for the next two years.*

## Baskerville's Bills Recap

Each session, bills are drafted and introduced by a sponsor to the House of Representatives (or Senate). Once a bill is introduced to the House (Senate) members it is then sent to a committee. If it receives a favorable vote in committee, the bill is presented the House (Senate) floor for a vote. A bill must go through three separate readings to remain active. If the bill passes in the House of Representatives (Senate), the bill will then be sent to the other chamber where it will go through the same process. If the bill passes, the bill will then be enrolled and sent to the Governor's office for his signature. If the Governor approves a bill it becomes law. If the Governor signs a bill, it is returned to the original house where 3/5 of the present and voting members vote to override the veto.

Representative Baskerville was the primary sponsor of 11 bills - Four of the eleven passed.

**HB 220** School Calendar Flexibility

**HB 224** AOC Omnibus Changes

**Signed by Governor into Law**

**HB 382** Evidence/Amend Rule 411

**HB 486** Law Enforcement officer/Discharge Weapon

**HB 496** Surcharge Transparency

**Passed the House of Representatives**

**HB 529** NC Drivers License Restoration Act

**Signed by Governor into Law**

**HB 566** Amend Eyewitness ID/Show-Up

**Signed by Governor into Law**

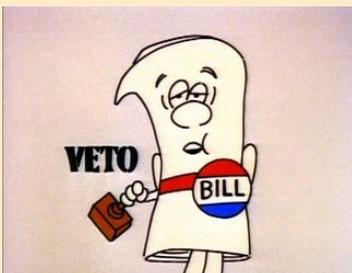
**HB 570** Facilitate Successful Reentry

**Signed by Governor into Law**

**HB 741** Shift Workers' Bill of Rights

**HB 868** Up Minimum Wage/Set Rates/Add COLA

**HB 922** Video Sweepstakes Regulation and Taxation





## HB 97 Appropriations Act of 2015 Highlights

### EDUCATION

The biennium budget for 2015-2016 appropriates over \$8 billion dollars per year for the North Carolina public school system. Within the budget, Teacher Assistants are allotted over \$138 million, and teachers will receive a one-time \$750 bonus instead of a percentage raise. The bonus for educators and administrative staff will not apply towards their salary nor their retirement. Starting teachers' salaries will increase from \$33,000 to \$35,000 and there are no additional dollars appropriated for professional development for educators or the administrative staff. The transportation portion of the budget was reduced by 5% due in part by the drop in fuel cost. The transportation allocation supports transportation personnel, diesel fuel, replacement parts and maintenance of yellow school buses.



### TAXES

The Earned Income Tax Credit was not restored in this biennium budget. The state EITC provides workers earning low wages with a credit to offset their total state and local tax contributions. This would have been an important tool for the state's lower income earners to keep more of their earned dollars. The impact of the tax plan (personal income & sales taxes) provides a savings of an average \$7 for taxpayers with incomes averaging \$12,000, but an average of \$1,800 tax cut for those with \$1 million income.



Another provision of HB 97, is the expansion of the sales tax imposed on labor - which will apply to things such as repairs and the repairing of real property. The tax will apply to repairs on household appliances, clothing, shoes, video programming, lawn mowers, oil changes, watch and jewelry, automobiles, door, fences, roofing - almost everything we use in everyday life. The only exemptions for this tax will be for farm equipment, mill machinery and installation of tangible property to real property by a real property contract (for example add-ons to building or storage buildings on your property).

## HB 97 Appropriations Act of 2015 Highlights

### Estimated Local Sales Tax Distributions

Revenues are collected by the state through sales taxes. These revenues are then distributed to all cities and towns as part of their annual budget. HB 97 Appropriations Act provides the equation of how these sales tax revenues will be distributed throughout North Carolina. The chart below shows the expanded sales tax revenue estimated to be sent to our counties under law current law and the estimates of revenues distributed under the new formula.

#### Vance County

	<u>Current Law 2016/2017</u>	<u>HB 97</u>	<u>% Change</u>
	\$8,186,000	\$8,425,000	2.9%
Henderson	\$2,995,000	\$3,058,000	2.1%
Kittrell	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0%
Middleburg	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	0%

#### Granville County

	<u>Current Law 2016/2017</u>	<u>HB 97</u>	<u>% Change</u>
	\$6,463,000	\$7,617,000	17.9%
Butner	\$1,482,000	\$1,636,000	10.4%
Creedmoor	\$ 820,000	\$ 906,000	10.5%
Oxford	\$1,630,000	\$1,800,000	10.4%
Stem	\$ 98,000	\$ 108,000	10.2%

#### Warren County

	<u>Current Law 2016/2017</u>	<u>HB 97</u>	<u>% Change</u>
	\$2,538,000	\$3,314,000	30.6%
Macon	\$ 24,000	\$ 28,000	16.7%
Norlina	\$ 224,000	\$ 266,000	18.8%
Warrenton	\$ 173,000	\$ 205,000	18.5%

## HB 97 Appropriations Act of 2015 Highlights

### STATE EMPLOYEES

ALL state employees will receive a bonus or an increase in pay. School administrators, Community College/UNC employees, Police Officers - will receive a one-time \$750 payment that will not reflect as salary or be applied towards their retirement dollar amount.



Correctional Officers, Custody Supervisors and Prison Facility Administrators - will receive custody level pay adjustment (Minimum custody level, medium custody level, maximum security custody level). The budget allocates over \$12.7 million for 2015-16 and over \$25.5 million for 2016-2017.

State Highway Patrol/Highway Patrol Troopers –will receive an experience-based salary step increase. Starting pay for entry-level SHP will start at \$36,050 increased from \$35,000. All sworn members of SHP will also receive a 3% increase in their salary. The budget allocates over \$4.5 million for 2015-16 and over \$5.4 million for 2016-17.

Assistant and Deputy Clerks - will receive experienced-based salary step increases (pay that is based on years of relevant service). The budget allocates over \$1.8 million for 2015-16 and over \$1.8 million for 2016-17.

Magistrates - will receive an experience based salary step increase. The budget allocates \$834,970 for 2015-16 and \$834,970 for 2016–17.

Unfortunately, state retirees will not receive any increase to their cost of living adjustment (COLA).

### DRIVER'S EDUCATION

The budget provides a one time payment to Driver's Education of a little over \$24 million in the 2015-16 fiscal year. The NC Division of Motor Vehicles requires all persons under the age of 18 to have a Driver's Certificate along with other requirements to be eligible for a limited learner permit. In order to be eligible for a Driver's Certificate North Carolina DMV requires a minimum of 30 hours in a classroom and at least 6 hours of behind the wheel driving instruction. The cost of a driving program in North Carolina ranges from \$395 to \$600.



### COURT SYSTEM

The Administrative Office of the Courts received an allocation within the budget of \$1.8 million that will assist the courts with better technology as well as additional allocations to hire additional staffing.



## HB 97 Appropriations Act of 2015 Highlights

### LAW ENFORCEMENT BODY CAMERAS

HB 97 provided a matching grant allocation within the budget for local and county law enforcement agencies to purchase and use body-worn video cameras and for training and other related expenses. These are only matching grants, which means each agency must find dollars to match the amounts up to \$100,000. The body camera equipment is designed to protect our law enforcement as well as the public.



### RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT (REITC)

The Renewable Energy Investment Tax Credit is set to expire by December 31, 2015. Current projects can fall into a delayed sunset category if they meet minimum criteria. The delayed sunset provision applies to projects that are not completed by December 31, 2015 and refers to the extension of the end of the tax credit period. This extension only applies to projects that have met the minimum criteria. That criteria is: projects that have incurred at least 80% of the costs, and partially constructed at least 80% of a project with less than 65 megawatts of capacity; or projects that have incurred at least 50% of the costs, and partially constructed at least 50% of a project with 65 megawatts of capacity or more will be able to take advantage of the credit. Applicants also must have filed an application and payment of a \$1000 application fee per megawatt of capacity with a minimum fee of \$5000 with the Secretary of State on or before October 1, 2015. Upon filing the application you must specify the location of the project, total anticipated installed capacity, as well as a good faith estimate of the total cost, and the total credit that is anticipated to be claimed. A granted extension of the credit will expire on January 17, 2017. There are additional guidelines that accompany the application you may [click here](#) to read the bill for the remainder of the guidelines.



# DISTRICT 32

## Voting in District 32

One-Stop Voting (early voting) will start on Thursday, September 24, 2015 and end on Saturday, October 3, 2015. The hours are Thursday, September 24th and Friday, September 25th – 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Monday, September 28th – Friday, October 2nd – 8:30 am to 5:00 pm and on Saturday, October 3, 2015 – 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. The only One-Stop site (early voting) will be at the HENDERSON OPERATIONS CENTER, 900 S. Beckford Drive.

### Vance County:

#### Henderson

Mayor

Edward Ellington

Jim Kearney

Juanita Kelly Somerville

Alderman 1st Ward

Clarence J. Dale

Marion Brodie Williams

Alderman 2nd Ward

Mike Raney

Alderman 3rd Ward

Melissa Elliott

Brenda Peace

Alderman 4th Ward

Jason A. Spriggs

Blakely Lee Bates

George M. Daye

#### Kittrell

Mayor

Jerry C. Joyner

Town of Kittrell Commissioner

Susan M. Pulley

Betsey W. Simpson

#### Middleburg

Mayor

Ray A. Bullock

Dean Dickerson

Town Councilman

Annie R. Fudge

Ruth M. Nance

Gary A. Plummer

# DISTRICT 32 CONTD

## Voting in District 32

Warren County Early Voting will begin on Thursday, October 22, 2015 and end on October 31, 2015. The hours are Thursday, October 22nd–Friday, October 23rd–8:30 am to 5:00 pm; Monday, October 26th–Friday, 8:30 am–5:00 PM and Saturday, October 31st–8:30 am-1:00 pm. The One-Stop site (early voting) will be at the BOARD OF ELECTIONS, 309 N. Main Street, Warrenton, NC.

### Warren County

#### Macon

Mayor	Caroll Harris
Town Commissioner	Wanda C. Thompson

#### Norlina

Mayor	Ricky E. Davis
	Dwight Pearce
Town Commissioner	Claude Ohagen
	Bill Harris
	Lou Stultz
	Dorsey Capps
	James Overby

#### Warrenton

Town Commissioner	Michael Coffman
	Frank Holt
	Deborah Speer

Granville County Early Voting will begin on Thursday, October 22, 2015 and end on October 31, 2015. The hours are Thursday, October 22nd–Friday, October 23rd–8:30 am to 5:00 pm; Monday, October 26th–Friday, 8:30 am–5:00 PM and Saturday, October 31st–8:30 am-1:00 pm. The One-Stop site (early voting) will be at the RICHARD THORNTON LIBRARY AND SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY, 210 Main St., Oxford, NC.

### Granville County

#### Oxford

Mayor	Jackie Sergent
City Commissioner	Frank Strickland
	Ron Bullock
	Larry P. Thomas
	John Tovey
	Al Woodlief
	Eddie McCoy

**NC General**

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**DISTRICT 32 SPOTLIGHT****John R. Hawkins Class of 1965 Celebrates 50 Years**

The high school, located in Warrenton, NC was the first high school for African Americans in the area. John R. Hawkins class of 1965 recently celebrated its 50th class reunion on September 4–6th with 42 class members in attendance. John R. Hawkins High School opened in 1924 for grades eight through eleven. The first graduating class was in 1929 and after a fire destroyed a good portion of the high school it closed its doors in 1969.

*Representative Nathan Baskerville*

*District 32  
 Vance, Warren, Granville Counties*

*Committees*

*Judiciary III, Vice Chairman  
 Appropriations  
 Appropriations - Transportation  
 Environment  
 Insurance*