

City of Greensboro Legislative Agenda Update

Thursday, October 26, 2023

2023 Legislative Session Overview

- 160 bills have become law to date
- 6 bills remain in conference committee
- 74 bills signed by the Governor
- 19 bills vetoed – 19 overridden
- 2 awaiting action
- 13 have become law without Governor's Signature
- 896 filed in the House
- 755 filed in the Senate

2023 Legislative Session Overview – Key Issues

- State Budget
- Medicaid Expansion
- Tax Cuts
- Medical Marijuana
- Sports Wagering
- Casinos/VLTs
- School Choice Reform
- Regulatory Reform
- Redistricting

State Budget Highlights

- HB 257 – 2023 Appropriations Act
 - Spends \$60 Billion over the next biennium
 - Average 7% raise for state employees and teachers over two years
 - 4% COLA adjustment for retirees
 - Lowers the personal income tax from 4.75% to 3.99% by 2026
 - \$2 Billion in Water and Sewer Infrastructure grants to local governments
 - Funds Medicaid Expansion
 - Expands the Opportunity Scholarship Program

State Budget Highlights

■ [HB 259 – 2023 Appropriations Act](#)

- Removal of the Governor's appointments to the Community College Board.
- \$61 million to address PFAS
- \$4.7 million to local school boards to address school bus driver shortage
- \$500 Million for NCInnovation
- \$350 Million for the Global Transpark
- \$150 Million for Megasites
- Increased funding for reduced cost and free school lunch program

State Budget Funding for City of Greensboro

- \$11 million for remediation projects (Bingham Park and Downtown sites)
- \$7 million to the City for water and sewer projects
 - \$5,500,000 for water and wastewater improvement for the town of Pleasant Garden
 - \$1,500,000 for water and wastewater service to Peacehaven Community Farm
- \$10 million added to State Housing Trust Fund

City of Greensboro Legislative Agenda

- [HB 140/SB 213 Civilian Traffic Investigators](#) – (Ch. SL 2023-52)
 - Allows the cities of Burlington, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem to conduct a three-year pilot program to hire civilian traffic investigators to investigate car crashes involving only property damage. Civilian traffic investigators would have no power to arrest.
- [HB 857 – Chronic Violators of Ordinances](#)
 - Would allow cities in North Carolina to notify chronic offenders of public nuisance and overgrown vegetation ordinances on a rolling 12-month basis instead of annually, and allocates \$25,000 for educating cities about this change.
- [SB 214 – Inspections/Immediate Threat to Occupants](#)
 - Would enable North Carolina cities to inspect dwelling units if there's a reported immediate safety hazard to the occupants, and provides an appeal process for dwelling unit owners if action is taken against them based on such inspections.
- [HB 468/SB 219/SB 178 – School Zone Cameras](#)
 - Would the City of Greensboro to establish a pilot program for the use of electronic speed-measuring systems (essentially, speed cameras) to detect speed limit violations in school zones.
- [SB 223 – Funds/Bingham Park Remediation](#) – (Ch. SL 2023-134)
 - Would allocate \$20 million for the cleanup and restoration of the Bingham Park landfill in Greensboro, addressing contamination issues and benefiting nearby vulnerable populations.
- [SB 450 – Seized Weapons Security Act](#)
 - Would authorize North Carolina local law enforcement agencies to destroy unclaimed firearms and those confiscated post-conviction, especially if they lack a clear unique identification number or are deemed unsafe due to wear, damage, age, or modifications, with a requirement to maintain destruction records

Other Bills of Interest – Became Law

■ [HB 76 – Access to Healthcare Options](#)

- Expands Medicaid coverage for adults with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level, adjusts hospital assessments and reimbursements, introduces workforce development measures for Medicaid enrollees, and removes specific medical facilities and equipment from certificate of need review.
- Signed into law on 3/27/2023.

■ [HB 40 – Prevent Rioting and Civil Disorder](#)

- Clarifies actions required for riot offense prosecution, adjusts penalties for riot-related crimes, introduces a civil action for damages from rioting or looting, and establishes bail and pretrial stipulations for those charged with such offenses.
- Became law without the Governor's signature on 3/10/2023.

■ [HB 347 – Sports Wagering](#)

- Authorizes, regulates, and taxes sports betting in North Carolina under the oversight of the Lottery Commission, effective January 8, 2024. Additionally, it establishes a fund to support major events in the state and explicitly bans pari-mutuel wagers on horse, dog, and greyhound racing.
- Signed into law on 6/14/2023.

■ [SB 91 – Amend Rule 4/Acceptance of Service/Street Takeovers Illegal](#)

- Makes it an A1 misdemeanor to participate in a street takeover and creates a felony charge for threatening a law enforcement officer while in violation of the statute.

Other Bills of Interest – Became Law

- [HB 332/SB 677 – Streamline Commercial/Multifamily Building Review](#)
 - Mandates local governments to review and decide on building permits for commercial, multifamily, and residential projects within specified timeframes and if they cannot meet these timeframes, third-party reviewers can be utilized, with local governments having limited liability for permits issued based on these third-party reviews.

- [HB 470/ SB 9 – Greensboro/Winston Salem Civil Service Board](#)
 - Amends the Charters of the City of Greensboro and the City of Winston-Salem to establish a Civil Service Board in both cities. This board would oversee certain duties related to classified city services, including the establishment of rules, conducting official investigations, and holding grievance hearings for classified service members affected by specific personnel decisions.
 - Became law on 8/17/2023 (SB9).

- [HB 488 – Code Council Reorganization and Code Amendments](#)
 - Reorganizes the North Carolina Building Code Council to form a new Residential Code Council, introduces amendments to the state building code, modifies land development regulations, and alters General Contractor licensing rules.
 - Key provisions include changes to permitting thresholds, driveway construction regulations, building inspection requirements, residential energy conservation codes, and stormwater control regulations.
 - Governor’s veto was overridden on 8/16/2023.

- [HB 600 – Regulatory Reform Act of 2023](#)
 - Amends state regulations across various sectors, from water protection and agriculture to energy and construction.
 - Governor’s veto was overridden on 10/10/2023.

Other Bills of Interest – Did not become law

- [HB 5 – Local Omnibus Changes – Includes Summerfield Deannexation](#)
 - Addresses a range of local governmental matters, including adjustments to city boundaries, stipulations on revenue use from parking meters and sales taxes, confirmation of county boundaries based on 2020 census data, election method and date alterations for specific locations, a Mecklenburg County meals tax extension, and directives on school district matters in Asheville and Buncombe County.
 - Also would deannex specific parcels of land from the corporate limits of the Town of Summerfield, and preclude those parcels from being subject to extraterritorial jurisdiction of any municipality.

- [SB 290/SB 667 – Regulations of Short Term Rentals](#)
 - Outlines the responsibilities and requirements of landlords and tenants of vacation rental properties, as well as the role and liability of real estate brokers managing these properties.
 - Specifies the need for compliance with local codes and regulations, ensuring the habitability and safety of the rental premises, providing functional smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms, and ensuring accurate representation of property details.

- [SB 317 – Addressing the Workforce Housing Crisis](#)
 - Mandates that developments of “workforce housing” meeting specified criteria, including acreage, percentage of workforce housing, and owner-occupancy conditions, be permitted in any zoning area.
 - Outlines the obligations and limitations of local governments regarding these developments, such as vegetative buffer zones, application approval timelines, and restrictions on utility connections, while also ensuring that certain fees are not imposed on these housing lots.

Other Bills of Interest – Did not become law

- [HB 409/SB 374 – Regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units](#)
 - Mandates local governments to permit at least one accessory dwelling unit (ADU) for every single-family detached dwelling in areas designated for residential use.
 - Sets standards for their construction and placement, and outlines specific restrictions local governments cannot impose on them, while also exempting certain properties and preserving the authority of local governments in other areas.
- [HB 451- Noncontiguous Expansion of MSDs](#)
 - Allows municipalities to extend their service districts to nonadjacent areas, given that all property owners in the area unanimously petition for the annexation and specific conditions are satisfied.

Questions or Comments?