



**Introduction to the Legislative Process**

Norma Houston  
 Legal Basics for Human Resource Directors  
 February 22, 2016

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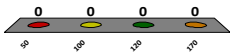
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**What Do You Think?**



How many legislators serve in the General Assembly?

1. 50
2. 100
3. 120
4. 170



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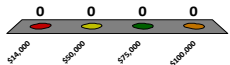
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**What Do You Think?**



What is a legislator's annual salary?

1. \$14,000
2. \$50,000
3. \$75,000
4. \$100,000



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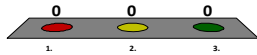
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## What Do You Think?



What happens to most bills?

1. They pass
2. They are voted down
3. They aren't voted on at all



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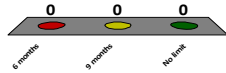
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## What Do You Think?



The NC Constitution limits the length of a session to:

1. 6 months
2. 9 months
3. No limit



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## What Do You Think?



Can the Governor veto any bill?

- a. Yes
- b. No



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## What Do You Think?



Procedurally, the budget is enacted just like any other piece of legislation.

- a. True
- b. False



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## HOW LAWS ARE MADE



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*It may seem like this . . .*



*It's really like this . . .*

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## How A Bill Becomes Law



- Member **introduces**
- **Read three times** in each chamber
- **Approved** by both chambers
- Most public bills must be **signed (or not vetoed) by the Governor** to become law

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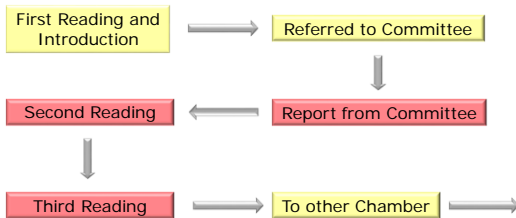
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## The Journey of a Bill

### Bill Action In Chamber of Origin



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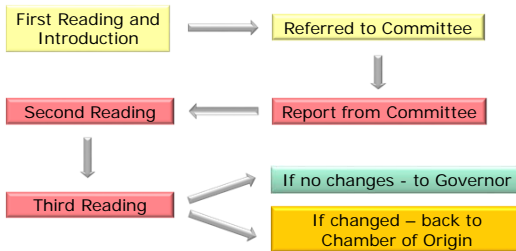
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## The Journey of a Bill

### Bill Action In Receiving Chamber



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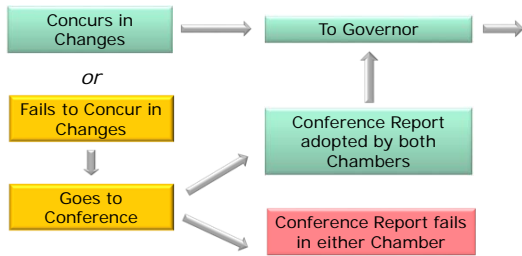
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## The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action In Chamber of Origin



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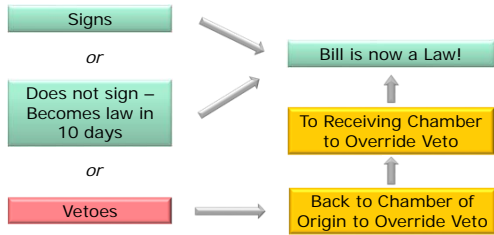
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## The Journey of a Bill

Bill Action By Governor



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## Bills Not Subject to Veto

- **Local bills** (applying in fewer than 15 counties)
- Resolutions
- State and federal constitutional amendments
- Bills *only* making appointments by General Assembly
- Legislative or congressional redistricting

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## From Bill to Session Law

- **Session Laws** – Laws enacted during a particular session of the General Assembly
- Enacted bills assigned a “**Chapter**” number in sequential order of enactment

Example: S.L. 2015-100  
“Session Law”    Year    Chapter

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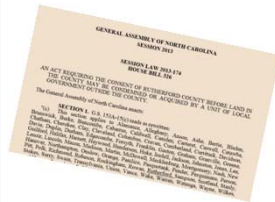
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## LOCAL BILLS



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## What is a Local Bill?

- Fewer than 15 counties (for rules and veto)
- Geographic application less than statewide (for constitutional restrictions)
- Sometimes grants special authority or exception to a law: “*This act applies to/does not apply to Moore County*”
- Most tax, debt, and annexation bills must be read on separate days in each chamber (“roll call”)

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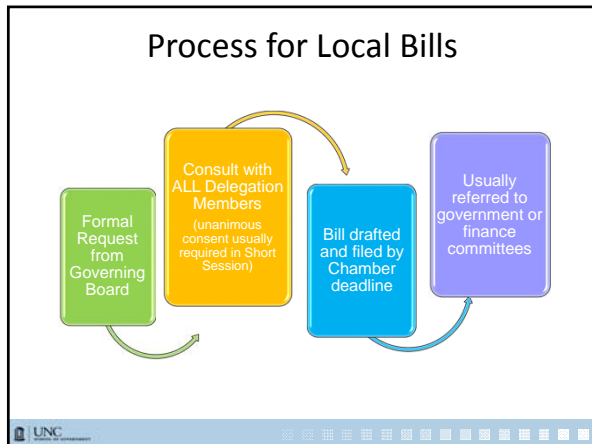
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- ### What Local Bills Can't Do
- N.C. Constitution Art. II, Sec. 24*
- Health, sanitation, and nuisance abatement
  - Changing the names of municipalities
  - Opening or closing specific streets
  - Ferries, bridges, and non-navigable streams
  - Relating Cemeteries
  - Setting the pay of jurors
  - Drawing the lines of school districts
  - Refunding taxes or remitting fines, penalties, and forfeitures
  - Regulating labor, trade, mining, or manufacturing
  - Extending the time for tax collection
  - Ad valorem taxes
  - Giving effect to informal wills and deeds
  - Granting a divorces or legitimizing bastards
  - Changing names or restoring citizenship rights to felons
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

**SESSION LAW 2015-156**  
HOUSE BILL 76

AN ACT PROVIDING THAT A COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MAY CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES FOR THE COUNTY'S DETENTION FACILITY WITHOUT BEING SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF CERTAIN STATE PURCHASE AND CONTRACT LAWS

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. A county sheriff's office may contract for the purchase of food and food services supplies for that county's detention facility without being subject to the requirements of G.S. 143-129 and G.S. 143-131(a).

SECTION 2. This act applies only to the following counties: Alamance, Anson, Caswell, Curran, Cumberland, Davidson, Guilford, Onslow, Pamlico, Randolph, Rockingham, and Wake.

§ 1. This act expires on the 1st day of January 2017.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015:

\* Daniel J. Hooper  
President of the Senate

\* Tim Moore  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

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- ← SL Citation & Bill #
- ← Title
- ← Enacting Clause
- ← Scope of act

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## Effective Communication

The “3 C’s”:

- **C**lear - Be specific in making your request
- **C**oncise - Provide short written materials
- **C**onsistent - Avoid changing and conflicting messages



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## Lobbying and Ethics Laws

- Lawful and ethical lobbying is part of legislative process
- Local officials and employees **are not** lobbyists when lobbying in connection with official duties
- Contractors advocating on behalf of local governments **are** lobbyists and the local government client is a **lobbyist principal**
- Membership in association with a lobbyist does **NOT** make local government a lobbyist principal



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## Lobbying and Ethics Laws

- Local government employee whose primary job duties including lobbying the legislature **is** a local government liaison
- Lobbyists, Lobbyist Principals, and Local Government Liaisons must **register and report** lobbying expenses; **cannot give gifts**
- **Local government** can still give gifts (but their legislative liaison cannot)



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## Legislative Reporting Service

[lrs.sog.unc.edu](http://lrs.sog.unc.edu)

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Welcome to the official web site of the North Carolina General Assembly. Use this web site as a tool to track bills, find and communicate with your state House and Senate members, and to follow chamber activity, meetings and issues before the General Assembly.



- HOUSE:**  
Commencement, Apr 25, 2016 7:00PM
- House Chamber Audio | Archives
- House Calendar
- Chamber Dashboard
- Bills with House Action by Day
- House Bills Filed by Day
- SENATE:**  
Commencement, Apr 25, 2016 7:00PM
- Senate Chamber Audio
- Senate Calendar
- Chamber Dashboard
- Bills with Senate Action by Day
- Senate Bills Filed by Day

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## Local Bills in 2016 Short Session

### Rules:

1. Approved by all delegation members
2. Noncontroversial
3. Cannot require a public hearing

### Deadlines:

- Request to Bill Drafting: May 3, 2016
- Filed: May 19, 2016




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Thank You!



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