Today We’ll Discuss

• The Institution
• Sessions
• Local Bills
• How Laws Are Made
• Navigating the Legislature
What Do You Think?

How many legislators serve in the General Assembly?

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

What Do You Think?

What is a legislator’s annual salary?

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

Bi-Cameral Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presiding Officer</td>
<td>Lt. Governor</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elected Chamber Leader</td>
<td>President Pro Tempore</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Salary</td>
<td>$13,951</td>
<td>$13,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Population</td>
<td>190,710</td>
<td>79,462</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

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

What Do You Think?

The NC Constitution limits the length of a legislative session to:

1. 6 months
2. 9 months
3. No limit
Three Types of Sessions

1. Regular Session
   • “Long Session” - 1st Year of biennium in odd-numbered year
   • “Short Session” - 2nd Year of biennium in even-numbered year

2. Veto Session

3. Extra Session (“Special Session”)

LOCAL BILLS

3 Types of Bills

Public

Local

Resolution
**What is a Local Bill?**

- Fewer than 15 counties (for rules and veto)
- Geographic application less than statewide (for constitutional restrictions)
- Most tax, debt, and annexation bills must be read on separate days in each chamber (“roll call”)
- Sometimes grants special authority or exception to a law: “This act applies to [does not apply to] Moore County”
- Typically (but not always) is not codified
- Method for amending most city charters

**Process for Local Bills**

1. Request from Local Government
2. Consult with ALL Delegation Members (unanimous consent usually required in Short Session)
3. Bill drafted and filed by Chamber deadline
4. Usually referred to government or finance committees

**2019 Local Bills Deadlines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chamber</th>
<th>Request for Drafting</th>
<th>Filed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senate</td>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>March 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>March 28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Crossover Deadline: May 9

In Short Session: Local Bill must be noncontroversial and unanimously supported by the delegation; this rule does not apply in Long Session
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 to 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

HOW LAWS ARE MADE

It may seem like this . . .

It’s really like this . . .
It Starts With an Idea . . .

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
It Starts in One Chamber . . .

Introduction 1st Reading

Committee Hearing

Floor Debate 2nd & 3rd Reading

To other Chamber
Then Goes to the Other Chamber . . .

1. Introduction
2. 1st Reading
3. Committee Hearing
4. Floor Debate
5. 2nd & 3rd Reading
6. If not changed, sent to Governor
7. If changed, return to first chamber

Then Back to the First Chamber . . .

1. Concur
2. or
3. Fail to Concur
4. Conference
5. Conference report adopted by both Chambers
6. Conference report fails in either Chamber

And Finally to the Governor . . .

1. Bill becomes Law!
2. or
3. Receiving Chamber Overrides Veto
4. or
5. Chamber of Origin Overrides Veto

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CONGRATULATIONS!

What Do You Think?
Can the Governor veto any bill?

1. Yes
2. No

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
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. 2019-10

“Session Law” Year Chapter
Know The Place and The People

• Be **aware** of deadlines, process, rules, and ethics laws
• Get to **know** . . .
  • Leadership, chairmen and members of relevant committees
  • Legislative assistants
  • Legislative staff, especially those with key committees
  • Chamber officers and their staff
• **Respect** their time!
Effective Communication

The “3 C’s”:
- Clear - Be specific in making your request
- Concise - Provide short written materials
- Consistent - Avoid changing and conflicting messages

Lobbying and Ethics

- 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

Lobbying and Ethics

- 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