



Today We'll Discuss

- The Institution
- Sessions
- Local Bills
- How Laws Are Made
- Navigating the Legislature





THE INSTITUTION



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



Senate



House

	Senate	House
Members	50	120
Presiding Officer	Lt. Governor	Speaker
Elected Chamber Leader	President <i>Pro Tempore</i>	Speaker
Term	2 years	2 years
Annual Salary	\$13,951	\$13,951
District Population	190,710	79,462

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

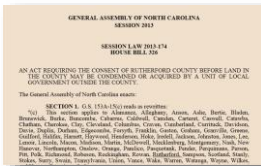
- "Long Session" - 1st Year of biennium in odd-numbered year
- "Short Session" - 2nd Year of biennium in even-numbered year

2. Veto Session

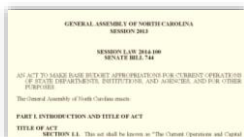
3. Extra Session ("Special Session")



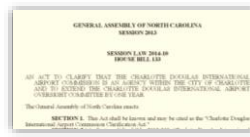
LOCAL BILLS



3 Types of Bills

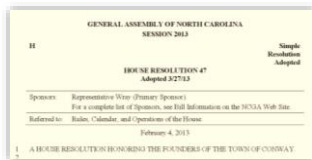


Public



Local

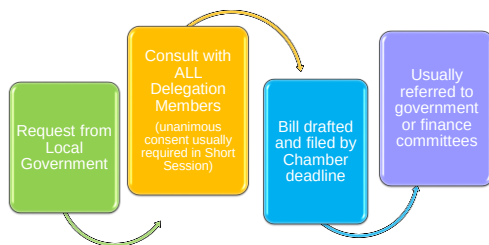
Resolution



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



2019 Local Bills Deadlines

Chamber	Request for Drafting	Filed
Senate	February 27	March 14
House	March 6	March 28
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

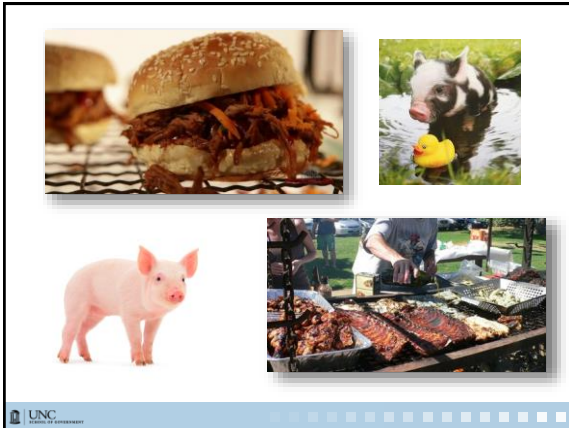
HOW LAWS ARE MADE



It may seem like this . . .



It's really like this . . .



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019**

S **1**

SENATE BILL 100

Short Title: State Food. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Trey (Primary Sponsor).

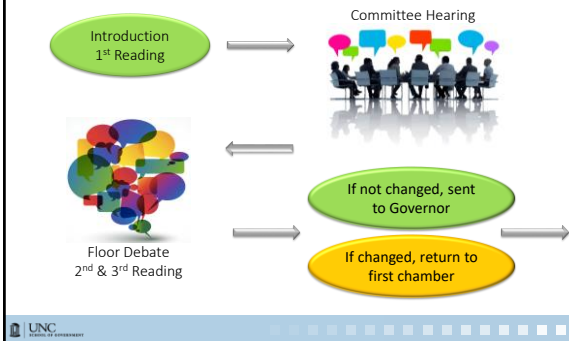
Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

February 1, 2019

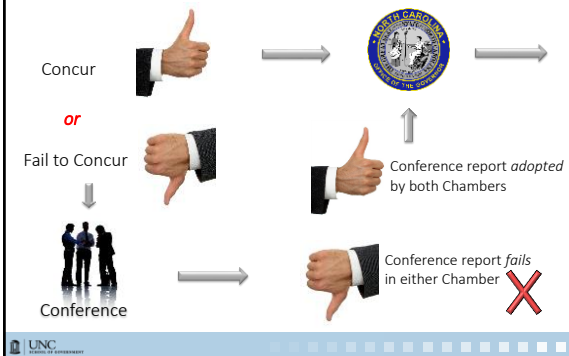
1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ADOPT BARBECUE AS THE OFFICIAL FOOD OF NORTH CAROLINA.
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
4 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
5 section to read:
6 "**§ 145-48. State food.**
7 Barbecue is adopted as the official food of the State of North Carolina."
8 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.



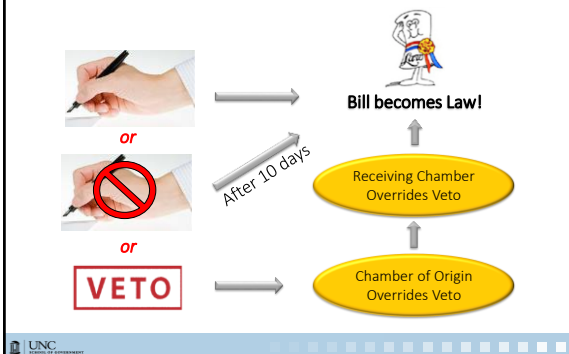
Then Goes to the Other Chamber. . .



Then Back to the First Chamber . . .



And Finally to the Governor . . .



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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2019

SESSION LAW 2019-10 SENATE BILL 100

AN ACT TO ADOPT BARBECUE AS THE OFFICIAL FOOD OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

“§ 145-48. State food.

Barbecue is adopted as the official food of the State of North Carolina.”

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 13th day of February, 2019.

s/ Philip E. Berger
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

s/ Tim Moore
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Roy Cooper
Governor

Approved 3:12 p.m. this 13th day of February, 2019.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 1999

SESSION LAW 1999-34 SENATE BILL 199

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE FORCE ACCOUNT LIMIT FOR CARRARENS COUNTY AND THE CITY OF CONCORD

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 143-131 reads as rewritten:

“§ 143-131. Limitation of application of Article.

Except for the provisions of G.S. 143-129 requiring bids for the purchase of apparatus, supplies, materials or equipment, this Article shall not apply to construction or repair work undertaken by the State or by subdivisions of the State of North Carolina (i) when the work is performed by duly elected officers or agents using force account qualified labor on the permanent payroll of the agency concerned and (ii) when either the total cost of the project, including without limitation all direct and indirect costs of labor, services, materials, supplies and equipment, does not exceed one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) or the total cost of labor on the project does not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). This force account work shall be subject to the approval of the Director of the Budget in the case of subdivisions of the State. Complete and accurate records of the state cost of such work, including without limitation, all direct and indirect costs of labor, services, materials, supplies and equipment performed and furnished in the prosecution and completion thereof, shall be maintained by such agency, commission, council or board for the inspection by the general public. Construction or repair work undertaken pursuant to this section shall not be divided for the purposes of evading the provisions of this Article.”

Section 2. This act applies only to Cabarrus County and the City of Concord.

Section 3. This act is effective when it becomes law and expires June 30, 2000.

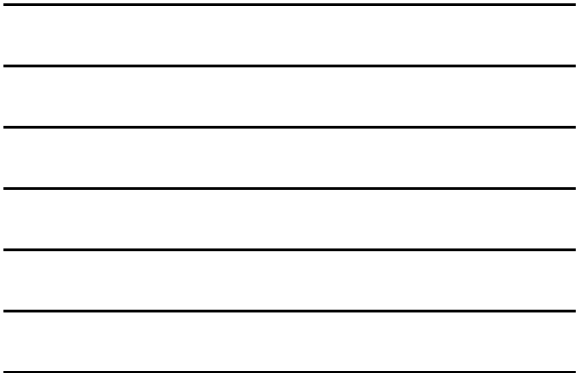
In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 10th day of May, 1999.

Session law citation & bill #

Title

Amended statute
(uncodified)

Uncodified application of
act and sunset provision



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



Lobbying and Ethics

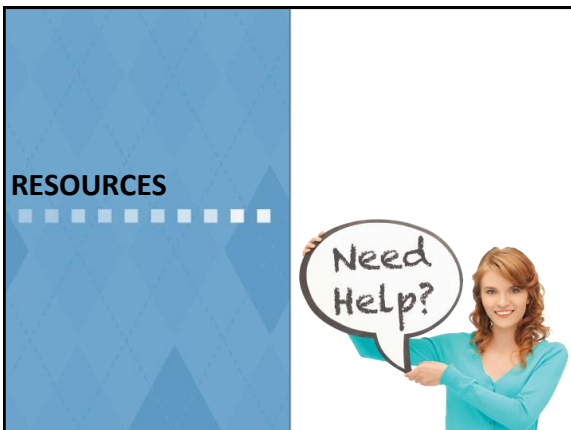
- Lawful and ethical lobbying is part of legislative process
- Local officials and employees **are not** lobbyists when lobbying in connection with official duties
- Contractors advocating on behalf of local governments **are** lobbyists and the local government client is a **lobbyist principal**



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**





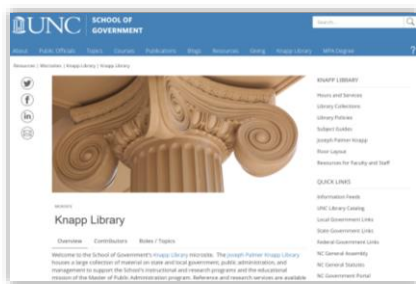
Legislative Library Resources

www.ncleg.net/leglibrary



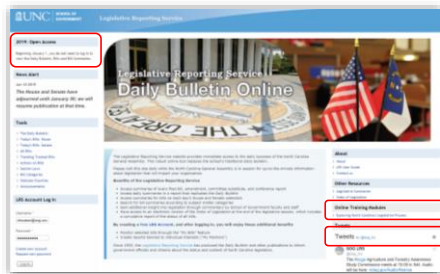
SOG Library Resources

www.sog.unc.edu



Legislative Reporting Service

lrs.sog.unc.edu



Check out
Learning
Modules

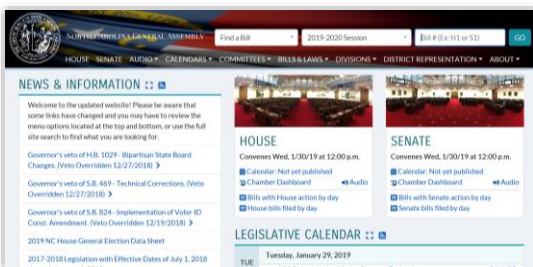
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General Assembly

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Thank You!



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