

# Legislative Report: Mid-Session 2013



Prepared by North Carolina State AFL-CIO  
James Andrews, President

May 2013  
MaryBe McMillan, Secretary-Treasurer

*Since the deadline for the filing of most bills in the North Carolina General Assembly has just passed, we thought this might be a good opportunity to offer a very brief review of what has happened to date.*

## **An uphill battle for working families**

Over 1700 bills have been filed. We have identified well over 250 that we will be keeping an eye on. As examples, there are over a dozen bills on workers' compensation, almost as many on unemployment, over three dozen bills on election issues, a half dozen aimed just at unions, as well as bills on education, taxes, consumer issues and some bills of importance to those working in specific industries. Most of these bills have not yet been considered; some may never be.

In our legislative agenda prepared before this legislative session began, we indicated that it would be challenging to garner support for our positions given the current make-up of the legislature, and that has certainly been the case to date.

## **Disdain for workers**

The legislature showed its disdain for workers immediately in the important area of unemployment benefits. Our state's trust fund, from which benefits are paid, is not solvent, primarily because employers were given substantial reductions in contribution rates when the economy was sound. One of the first bills filed, drafted in large part by the Chamber of Commerce, and without any input from those representing workers or the unemployed, proposed to solve the problem almost entirely on the backs of workers. The bill slashed benefits, cutting the maximum that one can receive, cutting the number of weeks that one can draw, and changing the formula by which benefits are calculated so that many would receive less. The bill also made it more difficult for unemployed workers to be eligible to receive any benefits at all. No state has ever cut benefits so drastically. More, passage of the bill meant that the State rejected \$780 million in federal money for those eligible for federal extended benefits. The tax increase on employers in comparison to the benefit cuts was miniscule. Amendments were proposed both in committee and on the floor to soften the impact of the bill or to delay it so that extended benefits could continue. All amendments were defeated, almost entirely on party lines.

## **Disdain for unions**

The disdain for unions has been equally clear. In his remarks opening the session, Speaker Tillis indicated that his goal was to keep North Carolina the least organized state in the union. True to his word, on the first day he introduced legislation (HB 6) to put onto the 2014 ballot 3 anti-union constitutional amendments. If passed, these amendments would enshrine in our constitution our current so-called right to work law and the state's current prohibition on collective bargaining agreements for any public employees. In addition, there is an amendment that would require that no union can be certified without a so-called secret ballot election. The Raleigh News & Observer called the legislation, given the current state of the law, "positively ridiculous." It was the just first of a number of anti-union bills, including another on the same subject (HB 53), three on project labor agreements and government contracts (HB 110, H611 and HB 872) and one prohibiting local governments from authorizing employer deductions of union dues (HB 677).

## **Many areas of concern**

There are many, many other areas of concern. As a few examples, the majority passed legislation denying federal Medicaid benefits for 500,000 needy North Carolinians and allowed the Earned Income Tax Credit to expire. The majority has also proposed legislation undermining public education while endorsing use of public money to support private schools, is pushing legislation to suppress voting by requiring voter photo ids, shortening early voting and eliminating same day registration and is sponsoring legislation to allow payday lending back in our state.

To be sure, bills that would help working families have been introduced by some of our friends in the legislature. These have included bills to allow for paid sick days, increase the minimum wage with inflation, address wage theft, give assistance to displaced workers, offer protections for farm workers, and provide presumptive workers' comp benefits for firefighters. All, unfortunately, face uphill battles.

We have a presence at the General Assembly almost every day and have tried to keep locals informed of particular bills that might affect their members or their industries specifically. If you have any questions or want more information about those bills or anything else pertaining to the legislature, please let us know.

## Contacting Your Legislators

Use this information to reach out to your elected lawmakers in Raleigh and Washington, DC, and press them to adopt an agenda that works for working people.

## N.C. Senators

<u>Phone (all 919)</u>	<u>Senator</u>	<u>Office</u>
733-5876	Allran	625 LOB
733-5745	Apodaca	2010 LB
715-3036	Barefoot	623 LOB
733-5653	Barringer	411 LOB
733-5708	Berger	2008 LB
733-5665	Bingham	2117 LB
733-5752	Blue	1117 LB
715-0690	Brock	521 LOB
715-3034	Brown	300-B LOB
733-7850	Brunstetter	2022 LB
733-5878	Bryant	520 LOB
733-9349	Clark	1121 LB
715-8331	Clodfelter	620 LOB
715-8293	Cook	525 LOB
715-3038	Curtis	410 LOB
715-7823	Daniel	1127 LB
715-8363	Davis (Don)	518 LOB
733-5875	Davis (James)	2111 LB
733-5955	Ford	1119 LB
733-5190	Forest	2104 LB
715-2525	Goolsby	406 LOB
733-5650	Graham	622 LOB
301-1446	Gunn	312 LOB
733-5734	Harrington	2113 LB
733-7223	Hartsell	300-C LOB
733-3460	Hise	1026 LB
733-5850	Hunt	309 LOB
733-5705	Jackson	523 LOB
715-3040	Jenkins	621 LOB
733-5804	Kinnaid	628 LOB
733-4599	McKissick	516 LOB
733-5953	McLaurin	1118 LB
733-5776	Meredith	314 LOB
715-3001	Nesbitt	1129 LB
715-3030	Newton	408 LOB
733-5620	Parmon	519 LOB
733-5621	Pate	1028 LB
733-5748	Rabin	526 LOB
733-5963	Rabon	2108 LB
733-5743	Randleman	308 LOB
715-3042	Robinson	1120 LB
733-5655	Rucho	300-A LOB
733-5706	Sanderson	629 LOB
733-5742	Soucek	310 LOB
715-6400	Stein	1113 LB
715-3050	Tarte	2115 LB
733-5870	Tillman	627 LOB
733-7659	Tucker	311 LOB
733-5856	Wade	2106 LB
733-5651	Walters	517 LOB
733-4809	Woodard	515 LOB

More information online at <http://www.ncleg.net/>

## N.C. Representatives

<u>Phone (all 919)</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Office</u>
733-5902	Adams	1219 LB
733-5778	Alexander, Jr.	404 LOB
715-3007	Arp, Jr.	531 LOB
733-5530	Avila	2217 LB
733-5824	Baskerville	1315 LB
733-5863	Bell (Larry)	508 LOB
715-3017	Bell (John)	418A LOB
733-5805	Blackwell	541 LOB
733-5781	Blust	2208 LB
733-5903	Boles, Jr.	528 LOB
733-5825	Brandon, Jr.	1217 LB
733-5741	Brawley (Robert)	303 LOB
733-5800	Brawley, Jr. (William)	534 LOB
733-5772	Brisson	405 LOB
715-3029	Brody	2219 LB
715-0873	Brown (Rayne)	633 LOB
733-5757	Brown (Brian)	604 LOB
733-5607	Bryan, III	536 LOB
733-5809	Bumgardner	608 LOB
733-5908	Burr	307A LOB
733-5827	Carney	1221 LB
733-5830	Catlin	638 LOB
715-6707	Cleveland	417A LOB
733-5802	Collins	1106 LB
733-5787	Conrad	606 LOB
715-0706	Cotham	403 LOB
733-5807	Cunningham	1109 LB
733-5605	Daughtry	2207 LB
733-5786	Davis, Jr.	418B LOB
715-3021	Dixon	416B LOB
715-2526	Dockham	2204 LB
715-0795	Dollar	307B1 LOB
715-2530	Earle	514 LOB
733-5935	Elmore	306A3 LOB
733-5877	Faircloth, Jr.	613 LOB
733-5898	Farmer-Butterfield	1220 LB
715-2013	Fisher	504 LOB
733-5959	Floyd	1325 LB
733-5881	Ford	607 LOB
715-3019	Foushee	1111 LB
733-5860	Fulghum, III M.D.	602 LOB
733-5880	Gill	1303 LB
733-5601	Glazier	1021 LB
733-5823	Goodman	542 LOB
715-0875	Graham (Charles)	1309 LB
733-5995	Graham, Jr. (George)	1317 LB
733-5749	Hager	304 LOB
733-5872	Hall (Larry)	506 LOB
733-5755	Hall (Duane)	1019 LB
733-5754	Hamilton	1313 LB
733-5829	Hanes, Jr.	1305 LB
733-5191	Hardister	632 LOB
733-5771	Harrison	1218 LB
715-2002	Hastings	2123 LB
733-5758	Holley	1211 LB
715-8361	Hollo	639 LOB
733-5609	Holloway	305 LOB

<u>Phone (all 919)</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Phone (all 919)</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Office</u>
733-2406	Horn	419A LOB	715-4466	Whitmire	537 LOB
733-5904	Howard	302 LOB	715-0850	Wilkins, Jr.	1301 LB
733-5865	Hurley	532 LOB	733-5662	Wray	503 LOB
301-1450	Iler	637 LOB	Check the N.C. General Assembly website for more information: <a href="http://www.ncleg.net/">http://www.ncleg.net/</a>		
733-7208	Insko	502 LOB	<b>U.S. Senators</b>		
733-5974	Jackson	1013 LB	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Office</b>
733-5654	Jeter, Jr.	1002 LB	202-224-3154	Hon. Richard BURR (R)	217-R
733-5861	Johnson	301D LOB	800-685-8916		Winston-Salem
733-5779	Jones, Jr.	416A LOB	202-224-6342	Hon. Kay HAGAN (D)	521-D
733-7727	Jordan	420 LOB	336-333-5311		Greensboro
733-5747	Lambeth	610 LOB	Check the U.S. Senate website for more information: <a href="http://www.senate.gov/">http://www.senate.gov/</a>		
733-5849	Langdon, Jr.	417B LOB	<b>U.S. Representatives</b>		
715-3015	Lewis	1326 LB	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>District</b>
733-5775	Lucas	509 LOB	202-225-3101	Butterfield, G.K. (D)	1
733-7663	Luebke	513 LOB	202-225-4531	Ellmers, Renee (R)	2
715-3010	Malone	603 LOB	202-225-3415	Jones, Walter B. (R)	3
715-3023	Martin	306C LOB	202-225-1784	Price, David (D)	4
733-6275	McElraft	634 LOB	202-225-2071	Foxx, Virginia (R)	5
733-5956	McGrady	419B LOB	202-225-2071	Coble, Howard (R)	6
733-0057	McManus	1319 LB	202-225-3065	McIntyre, Mike (D)	7
715-4946	McNeill	418C LOB	202-225-2731	Hudson, Richard (R)	8
715-2528	Michaux, Jr.	1227 LB	202-225-3715	Pittenger, Robert (R)	9
715-9664	Millis	609 LOB	202-225-1976	McHenry, Patrick T. (R)	10
733-5780	Mobley	501 LOB	202-225-2576	Meadows, Mark (R)	11
715-3012	Moffitt	2119 LB	202-225-6401	Watt, Mel (D)	12
733-4838	Moore (Timothy)	2301 LB	202-225-1510	Watt, Mel (D)	12
733-5606	Moore (Rodney)	1213 LB	202-225-3032	Holding, George (R)	13
733-5602	Murry	2121 LB	Check the U.S. House website for more information: <a href="http://www.house.gov/">http://www.house.gov/</a>		
733-5803	Pierce	1204 LB	<b>Office Legend</b>		
715-2009	Pittman	1321 LB	LB=Legislative Building (16 W. Jones St, Raleigh, NC)		
733-5732	Presnell	1025 LB	LOB=Legislative Office Building (300 N. Salisbury St, Raleigh, NC)		
715-3005	Queen	1017 LB	D=Senate Dirksen Building		
733-5746	Ramsey	1004 LB	R=Senate Russell Building		
733-5878	Richardson	1209 LB	R=Rayburn House Building		
733-5905	Riddell	533 LOB	L=Longworth House Building		
733-5773	Ross (Deborah)	1023 LB	C=Cannon House Building		
733-5820	Ross (Stephen)	1010 LB	<b>Contacting the N.C. State AFL-CIO</b>		
733-5782	Saine	402 LOB	By Phone: 919-833-6678 (Office)		
715-3009	Samuelson	2226 LB	919-880-2265 (President Andrews)		
733-5886	Schaffer	1323 LB	919-523-2835 (Secretary-Treasurer McMillan)		
733-4948	Setzer	1206 LB	By Fax: 919-828-2102		
715-9644	Shepard	530 LOB	By Email: <a href="mailto:info@afcionc.org">info@afcionc.org</a>		
733-5853	Speciale	1008 LB	On the Web: <b>afcionc.org</b>		
733-2962	Stam	612 LOB	Facebook: <b>facebook.com/ncstateafcio</b>		
733-5931	Starnes	301F LOB	Twitter: <b>twitter.com/@ncstateafcio</b>		
733-0010	Steinburg, Sr.	306A2 LOB	By Mail: NC State AFL-CIO		
715-1883	Stevens	635 LOB	P.O. Box 10805		
715-3026	Stone	529 LOB	Raleigh, NC 27605		
733-9892	Szoka	2223 LB	In Person: 1408 Hillsborough St		
733-5777	Terry	1015 LB	Raleigh, NC 27605		
733-3451	Tillis	2304 LB			
733-5906	Tine	1307 LB			
715-3024	Tolson	510 LOB			
733-5868	Torbett	538 LOB			
733-5661	Turner	1104 LB			
733-5821	Waddell	1311 LB			
733-5784	Warren	611 LOB			
733-5988	Wells	2221 LB			
733-5859	West	1229 LB			