



## As crossover deadline looms, coastal bills get committee hearings

The General Assembly has picked up the pace as it strives to meet a self-imposed deadline requiring bills to “cross over” from one chamber to the other by April 27 in order to remain eligible for consideration this session. Bills that contain taxes, fees or budget appropriations are not subject to crossover.

One bill moving quickly to clear the deadline is environmental legislation that would, among other measures, direct state agencies to work with the federal government on dredged material disposal siting in the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. [SB 434](#) calls for the Division of Coastal Management, the State Property Office and federal agencies to negotiate an agreement for the State to assume responsibility for acquiring dredged material easement sites that are appropriate for maintenance dredging of the Intracoastal between Beaufort Inlet and the Virginia border – in exchange for reductions in size and possible changes in location of dredged material disposal easement sites now held by the federal government. The bill, which authorizes the Shallow Draft Navigation Channel Dredging and Aquatic Weed Fund to be used for siting and acquisition of disposal sites, has been approved by two Senate committees and is headed to the Senate floor for a vote.

In the House, the Finance Committee stopped a bill prohibiting local governments from charging impact fees on developers. [HB 436](#) now freezes impact fees that were in place on June 30, 2016 and calls for a legislative study. The committee did approve HB 406, which repeals impact fees in Orange County only.

### BILL HIGHLIGHTS – LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

[HB 158](#): Special Assessments/Critical Infrastructure. Passed the House 109-8 on 3/1/17. Referred 3/2/17 to Senate Rules.  
[HB 405](#): Homebuilders who are refunded an impact fee because the city or county lacked the authority to charge it will repay homeowners who paid any portion of the fee as part of the home purchase price. Referred 4/4/2017 to Finance, with serial referral to Judiciary I.

[HB 436](#): Prohibits cities and counties from charging impact fees on developers. Approved 4/5/2017 by House State and Local Government and referred to House Finance. Scheduled for Finance Committee discussion 4/20/2017.

[HB 624](#): Provides uniform authority to implement system development fees for public water and sewer systems in North Carolina. Referred 4/10/2017 to House Energy and Public Utilities with serial referral to Finance.

[HB 666](#): A fire department’s primary personnel requirement for certification inspection purposes may be waived under certain circumstances. Approved 4/20/2017 by State and Local Government II; scheduled for House vote 4/24/2017.

[SB 131](#): Regulatory Reform Act of 2016. Includes several measures intended to reduce regulations, including allowing the Coastal Resources Commission to adopt an emergency rule for the use of temporary erosion control structures. A conference committee was named 4/19/17 to work on a compromise between the House and Senate versions of the bill.

[SB 284](#): Property Insurance Fairness. Requires that certain property insurance data be made available to the public; creates the NC Recovery Finance Authority and gives the NC Insurance Underwriting Association the authority to have issued tax-exempt bonds to cover loss-related liabilities; and removes obsolete references to the Coastal Property Insurance Pool. Filed 3/16/17.

[SB 319](#): Confirms Susi Hamilton as Secretary of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Adopted 4/11/2017 by the Senate.

[SB 410](#): Creates a permitting program for marine aquaculture activities; requires the state to request the issuance of federal rules to allow marine aquaculture in federal waters off the N.C. coast. Scheduled for discussion 4/20/17 in Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources.

[SB 432](#): Delays certain decisions by the Marine Fisheries Commission until the collaborative shrimp gear study is completed. Referred 3/29/2017 to Senate Rules.

[SB 434](#): Amend Environmental Laws. Includes provision directing the state to participate in dredge disposal siting negotiations with the federal government. Approved 4/20/2017 by Senate Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources and 4/24/2017 by Senate Rules.

[SB 539](#): Environmental Regulatory Reform Act of 2017. Referred 4/13/2017 to Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources, with serial referral to Senate Rules.

[SB 641](#): Companion bill to HB 624. Referred 4/5/2017 to Senate Rules.