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SUBJECT: JANUARY MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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### **Legislature Still in Session**

With redistricting lawsuits flying all over the place possibly requiring legislation and discussions for additional legislation on issues like election law, GenX and judicial redistricting, the General Assembly is keeping their session open. Usually there are only a handful of people on the floor to handle the proper daily parliamentary requirements.

A U.S. Supreme Court stay a lower courts congressional districts decision gives the legislature a little more breathing room. Still to be settled is a request from the legislature for a stay on the lower courts legislative redistricting maps. The recent Virginia legislative election shows just how important redistricting maps are to result.

Short Session starts May 16<sup>th</sup> at noon. In the interim there are study commissions that are meeting with many of them recommending legislation for the short session.

### **Consumer Rating System Update**

On December 20<sup>th</sup> a group met at the North Carolina Home Builders Association (NCHBA) offices in Raleigh to discuss the building code update and CRS. Attending were: 1) Mike Carpenter, NCHBA Executive Vice President, 2) Hiram Williams, Surf City, 3) Kathleen Riely, NCBIWA, 4) Spencer Rogers, UNCW, 5) Robert Privott, NCHBA Director of Codes and Construction, and 6) Connie Wilson, TISPC lobbyist. Mike Carpenter and Robert Privott had spent many hours before our meeting studying the CRS and FEMA to get a good grasp on the concerns that were raised by Spencer Rogers. The NCHBA pushed the legislation that lengthened the building code update timeframe to six years which is the same as 13 other states. Eighteen states have codes older than North Carolina. After many questions and discussion it was determined that changing the current building code statute was not the best solution, but a coalition of states impacted by the current Building Code Efficiency Grading System (BECGS) ratings was the best. This coalition would approach their congressional delegations for changes to the CRS and FEMA. With flood insurance reform a looming topic it is important to make sure that if the CRS or BECGS is used, that it is accurate and relevant. All attendees committed to have their groups work on the coalition strategy.