



Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Special Session Legislative Update

The latest special session started November 27th with broad authority to take up whatever issues the legislative leadership could reach agreement. Rumors were that the loss of super majorities in both chambers by the Republicans would encourage this session to take up many controversial bills that might not pass next year. The leadership in both chambers has shown restraint, which doesn't mean there aren't feathers flying. The voter ID bill that is in response to the voters approving a constitutional amendment has been time consuming with lawsuit threats. The Governor will veto, but it will be overridden. Republicans have been losing lawsuits on boards and commissions legislation they enacted. H1117 was filed to deal with those lawsuit and there are actually negotiations going on between the legislative leadership and Governor on the bill. H1117 may be a forecast of how the two government entities may start working together better.

The legislature will be in session the week of December 10th for veto overrides. Many study commissions are meeting to wrap up their work before the long session starts in January.

Bills of Interest to TISPC

S823 Hurricane Florence/Supplemental Act passed both chambers with bipartisan support and has been signed by the governor. \$18.5M has been allocated for the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund, which requires a 50% match for the nonfederal share. Also in the bill is \$5M for the Golden L.E.A.F. foundation. It is assumed that this is the money that in the short session was allocated to the Resource Center and now will be used for other projects. Sen. Brown mentioned in committee that some of the money would be used for North Topsail. With questions regarding how to deal with abandoned vessels the bill also directs a study of the issue. Here is a link to the bill <https://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2017/Bills/Senate/PDF/S823v3.pdf>

H1025 GSC Technical Corrections 2018 passed the House in June and the Senate December 4th. It contains a provision on page 23 Multiyear beach management and restoration strategy and plan <https://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2017/Bills/House/PDF/H1025v3.pdf>

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers this past fall. I am recovering well and have started back to work, with a strong need to pace myself.

Have a wonderful Christmas Season,

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