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CONSULTING

January 2019 Legislative Update

State legislators returned to Raleigh January 9th to begin the 2019 session. This year's long session is expected to last through the summer as members enact a two-year budget and consider hundreds of bills. They have taken a much-needed break and will return for the regular long session January 30th.

At their January 9th organization session, both chambers elected many of the same leaders as the past session. The Senate reelected Senator Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) as President Pro Tem and Senator Ralph Hise (R-Mitchell) as Deputy President Pro Tem. Senator Dan Blue (D-Wake) was reelected as Democratic leader. Sen. Harry Brown, Sr. Chair Appropriations and Majority Leader. Sen. Bill Rabon remains Rules Chair. The House reelected Representative Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) as Speaker and Representative Sarah Stevens (R-Surry) as Speaker Pro Tem. Representative Darren Jackson (D-Wake) was reelected as Democratic leader. House Chairs have only been announced for full Appropriation Chairs and Finance. Announcements for other House chairs and committee assignments will be made next week.

Issues that are of high priority for the session are: a school bond package, adopting a budget that can withstand a veto, additional Florence recovery help and continued election reforms. Republicans continue to hold majorities in both houses but after the 2018 election, their majorities are no longer veto proof. They hold a 29-21 majority in the Senate and 65-55 in the House. A number of seats are held by newcomers—13 Senators and 26 Representatives. For a bill to become law will take the support of the Governor or Democrats who are willing to vote for a veto override.

Bills of Interest from December 2018 Session

<https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2017/Bills/Senate/PDF/S823v5.pdf>

S 823 Hurricane Florence/Supplemental Act

<https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2017/Bills/Senate/PDF/S469v8.pdf>

S469 Technical Corrections Bill – Veto Over Ride 12/27/18

- Section 17 - DERELICT AND ABANDONED VESSELS STUDY
- Section 26.(a) AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN VEGETATIVE BUFFERS AND FOR STORMWATER CONTROLS FOR REDEVELOPMENT

Proposed 17.4% Property Insurance Increase <http://www.islandgazette.net/news-18/index.php/en/top-stories/item/8306-n-c-rate-bureau-asks-for-17-4-percent-rate-increase-for-homeowners-insurance>

The North Carolina Rate Bureau has requested the N.C. Department of Insurance increase homeowners' insurance rates 17.4 percent effective Oct. 1, 2019. The N.C. Rate Bureau represents the state's insurance companies and is a separate entity from the N.C. Department of Insurance.

A public comment period is required by law to give the public time to address the Rate Bureau's proposed rate increase. There are three ways to provide comment:

- A Public Comment forum will be held to listen to public input on the Rate Bureau's rate increase request at the N.C. Department of Insurance's Second Floor Hearing room on February 26, 2019 starting at 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The Department of Insurance is located in the Albemarle Building, 325 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, N.C.
- Emailed public comments should be sent by February 26, 2019, to: 2018Homeowners@ncdoi.gov.
- Written public comments should be mailed to Tricia Ford, Paralegal Administrator to be received by February 26, 2019, and addressed to 1201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1201.