



**CONNIE WILSON**  
CONSULTING



## **Bills of Interest**

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### H600 Regulatory Reform Act 2023

Contains a provision requiring DEQ to disregard a current rule and adopt a new rule that does not exempt the Army Corps of Engineers from having the Shallow Draft Rules apply to them. There is also a provision in process that would prohibit DEQ from having more stringent permitting requirements for dredging the the federal government. (Pages 9, 10,

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S465: Cities/Remove & Dispose of Abandoned Vessels. Is now law. Thank you Senator Lazarra!

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### S332: Modify Beach Plan Policy Limits

has passed the Senate and is waiting for a hearing in the House. It would increase the maximum amount of insurance issued by the Association for habitational properties from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000. For commercial properties, the increase would be from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 on any freestanding structure or building unit within multiple firewall divisions. The aggregate insurance on structures with multiple firewall divisions, previously capped at \$6,000,000, could not exceed \$10,000,000 on all interest at one risk.

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### H192: 2023 Wildlife Resources Changes.-AB

Section appropriating \$400K annually from the Shallow Draft Fund removed.

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HB 413 - Topsail Beach Special Registration Plate has passed the House and is waiting for a hearing in the Senate.

## **TISPC June 2023 Legislative Update**

The House and Senate have both passed their budget bill version and the budget conferees have been meeting for the past two weeks to hammer out a compromise. Earlier in the session the plan was to have a budget adopted by the middle of June, but that goal has evaporated. It now looks like a final budget may come some time in July. Although the state is flush with funds from a growing economy, good fiscal management, leftover federal COVID dollars and incentive money for the expansion of Medicaid, there is still a recurring revenue challenge major policy initiatives.

The Senate budget contained several appropriations that are important to the coast. Senator Brent Jackson and Senator Michael Lee are both Appropriation Chairs and have been advocates for their coastal districts.

- \$10M non-recurring for the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund for each year of the biennium for a total of \$20M (page 51)
- \$5M for the Resilient Coastal Communities Program (Page 51)
- \$2.5M for the North Carolina Coastal Federation of which \$2M is for living shoreline projects and \$500K is for the fishery debris removal and derelict vessel disposal (Page 51)
- Surf City provision for Discharges of Highly Treated Wastewater (page 251)
- \$5M Great Trails State Program (Page 269)
- \$25M to the Golden L.E.A.F. to provide \$2M local government grants for flood mitigation and recovery projects. (Page 50)
- \$3M to provide matching grants to local government to implement water resource development projects (Page D 63)
- \$8.3M and \$3M in first and second budget years for Water Resources Development Projects to match federal funds for projects including navigation, water management, flood mitigation and beach renourishment.
- \$20M to Division of Emergency Management for long-term recovery and mitigation grants (Page 50)