



CONNIE WILSON
CONSULTING



Bills of Interest

H600 Regulatory Reform Act 2023

Contains that modifies language for the Shallow Draft Fund. A key 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 was removed in the conference report by House staff. The bill is now law.

With the passage of S671 Additional General Assembly Appointments on 10/25/23 the CRC now has a majority Republican appointed members.

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.

H192: 2023 Wildlife Resources Changes.-AB is now law and the Section appropriating \$400K annually from the Shallow Draft Fund was removed.

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

TISPC 2023 "Close" to End Of Session Updates

H259 2023 Appropriations Act finally became law on 10/3/23. The \$30B was held up for several months over the Senate provisions for casinos and video lottery. There weren't enough Republican votes in the House to pass a bill with those provisions and the Democrat caucus would not provide the needed votes unless changes were made that they wanted. Sen. Berger agreed to move the budget forward without the controversial provisions which broke the log jam. There was an unprecedented amount of funds available for appropriation this year and the legislature has over \$5B left that can be spent in future years. Budget items of interest to the Topsail.

HB259 2023 Appropriation Act

\$20,000,000 Town of Surf City water and wastewater projects
\$20,000,000 Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund non-recurring split \$10,000,000 per year for biennium
\$10,000,000 for Resilient Coastal Communities Program for 20 coastal counties
\$5,000,000 for Stormwater Retrofit Pilot Cost-Share Program administered by the Coastal Federation.
DEQ Express Permitting Revisions

HB259 Money Report

\$500,000 non-recurring Coastal Federation debris and vessel removal
\$2,000,000 non-recurring Coastal Federation Living Shorelines
North Topsail \$34,000 non-recurring for drone, all-terrain vehicle and related equipment
Surf City \$200,000 non-recurring for capital improvements and related equipment at the police department
Topsail Beach \$8,000,000 non-recurring for capital costs and related equipment associated with a new public safety building
Topsail Beach \$55,000 non-recurring for police department equipment
Cape Fear Community College – Surf City \$4,000,000 non-recurring for Surf City campus expansion