



CONNIE WILSON CONSULTING

AUGUST 25, 2021

RECENT ACTION BILLS OF INTEREST

HB 735 Minimum Contracts/Coastal Dredging Services was signed by the Governor on 7/22/21 (Ch. SL 2021-92). Rep. Carson Smith (R-Pender) ran this bill for TISPC to eliminate the three competitive bid minimum for dredging services in NC's coastal waters so that dredging projects can be completed in a more timely and cost-efficient manner.

●
HB 121 Clarify EQIP Funding/Dredging Cost-Share was signed by the Governor on 8/16/2021 and contains a provision requested by TISPC that Tier 1 counties not be required to have a local match for dredging grants. The original bill allowed an exemption for all ferry projects.

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HB44 Clarify Terminal Groan Definition and all other similar bills did not meet crossover and are not eligible for the remainder of this term.

●
There was not support from Appropriation leadership for H372 which designated a source of funding the Coastal Storm Mitigation Fund.



TISPC AUGUST 2021 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Earlier this month the House passed it's budget 72 - 41 and the bill is now in conference with the Senate which should last at least another two weeks. To try to avoid a veto, the Republican leadership plans on working budget differences among themselves then bring in the governor's office before a vote on the bill. Many provisions in the House budget were also introduced as separate bills earlier this session. Other House budget highlights include:

- \$40M coastal storm mitigation fund (*page 30, line 34*)
- Instructs Department of Public Safety to provide nearly \$51M of directed grants for individual towns for disaster relief and recovery/mitigation/resiliency projects. (The full list of allocations begins on *page 30, line 44.*) We are working on including Topsail Beach in this list.
- Includes funding for NTB and Surf City for 50-year project, with NTB withdrawing from the project the legislative delegation is working on a revised budget provision for the appropriation
- Gives North Topsail Beach more flexibility for its Shoreline Protection project by allowing funds previously allocated for the project to be used for Phase 1, 2, 3, or 4. (*page 589*)
- Establishes a resilient roof grant program, whereby applicants must provide a match of \$1.00 in non-State funds for \$1.00 provided in State grant funds. No eligible structure could receive more than \$6,000 in State funds under this program (*page 33*)
- \$25M non-recurring for certain flood reduction projects from SERDRF (*page D64 of money report*)
- \$20M to a new Disaster Relief and Mitigation special fund for state agencies, non-profits, and local governments to use for flood mitigation efforts (*page D64 of money report*)
- \$100,000,000 for a new program (DEQ) to provide grants to local governments for stormwater infrastructure, which may be used for projects that address stormwater quality or quantity (*page D55 of money report*)
- Language from HB 496 Property Owners' Rights/Tree Ordinances is included in the House Budget (*page 37, line 48*). The provision would prohibit counties and cities from adopting ordinances regulating the removal of trees from private party without first getting authorization from the NC General Assembly through passing a bill. The stand-alone bill met resistance in the Senate, so including it in the House budget is another attempt by the House to pass it. Legislators and staff are being contacted regarding TISPC's opposition to the provision. Our initial feedback is positive that the provision will not remain in the budget.