



CONNIE WILSON CONSULTING

Tree Ordinance Provision

Language from HB 496 Property Owners' Rights/Tree Ordinances was included in the House Budget. 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 were contacted regarding TISPC's opposition to the provision. It is unlikely that this provision will be in the conference report effecting Topsail.



TISPC OCTOBER 27, 2021 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

We are now in the third week of negotiations between the Governor, Speaker and President Pro-Term. The budget conference report has been kept confidential so the exact details are unknown, but can be construed from individual staff and legislator conversations. The latest rumors are that the legislature may be in session till the middle of November. Besides passing a budget they need to approve legislative and congressional district maps before filing for office in early December. Medicaid expansion is the big issue that is holding up the Governor's support of the legislature's historic appropriation for infrastructure, health and education needs. Although there is warrant for a cautious optimism, current comments are that neither the Governor nor the legislative leadership are interested in mini-budgets if a comprehensive budget fails. Here's a refresher since it has been several months that we have been waiting for a enacted budget.

- \$40M coastal storm mitigation fund, probably in conference report was in House budget and HB500 Disaster Relief and Mitigation act of 2021
- Department of Public Safety to provide nearly \$51M of directed grants for individual towns for disaster relief and recovery/mitigation/resiliency projects. The number of towns and amount may have been reduced in conference.
- The three years of funding for the Surf City/North Topsail 50 yr project is in the conference report for a total of \$41,574,000. The decision was made to keep the language awaiting a decision from the Corp.
- North Topsail Beach will get 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.
- Good probability the resilient roof grant program in the House budget will be in the conference report. 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.
- \$25M non-recurring for certain flood reduction projects from SERDRF will probably be in the conference report. Originally in the House budget and H500.
- \$20M to a new Disaster Relief and Mitigation special fund for state agencies, non-profits, and local governments to use for flood mitigation efforts will probably be in the conference report. Was in the House budget and H500.
- \$100,000,000 for a new program (DEQ) to provide grants to local governments for stormwater infrastructure probably in conference report. Was in both the House and Senate budget.