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House Appropriators Unveil Components of Budget Proposal

On Thursday, House Appropriations subcommittees released and discussed their respective budget components, paving the way for the release of the House's complete budget plan on Monday afternoon. These plans will be synthesized into a new version of [SB 257 2025 Appropriations Act](#). House members are expected to review and approve their appropriations proposal in committee on Tuesday, with votes of the full chamber occurring that afternoon and Wednesday. The House budget proposal follows the Senate's proposal, which that chamber approved almost a month ago. Once approved by the House, the conference committee process will commence with leaders of both chambers negotiating the differences between the two proposals in hopes of reaching a consensus.

Below are a few of the items included in the House subcommittee proposals of interest to cities.

Aid to Municipalities (Powell Bill)

Unlike the Senate, which proposed a \$50 million cut to Powell Bill funds, along with funding restrictions for municipalities with populations greater than 150,000, House appropriators recommended keeping the funding for the program at \$185 million for the next fiscal year. They did include the provision capping the funds for Raleigh and Charlotte at the levels those cities received in 2020-2021 which has been in place for multiple budget cycles.

Abolish the Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses

In their General Government package, House appropriators propose abolishing the Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) in the Department of Administration. This office has worked to advocate for HUB firms, certify them, and monitor compliance with state regulations requiring that various government entities engage with HUB firms in their contracting. Because this provision is almost identical to what was proposed by the Senate, it is deemed to not be in controversy and would be added to any final budget proposal without needing negotiation by the conference committee.

Water/Wastewater Provisions

Included in the budget's Agriculture, Natural, and Economic Resources section, House lawmakers propose spending the state's matching funds required to draw down federal funds under the clean drinking water and clean water programs. The funding for these critical infrastructure programs is not in controversy between the House and Senate and is likely to make it into the final version of the state budget as proposed.

Cabarrus County Municipal Elections Bill Amended, Passes House Floor Vote

[HB 271 Cabarrus Co Local Omnibus](#), which addresses the structure of municipal elections in Cabarrus County, passed the House this week following significant amendments. The bill originally would have required partisan elections in Concord, Harrisburg, Midland, and Mount Pleasant. However, under the amended version unveiled in the [House Election Law committee](#) on Tuesday, the shift to partisan elections would only occur if approved by voters in each municipality through referendums placed on the November ballot. Kannapolis, which extends into multiple counties, is specifically not included in the legislation.

HB 271 now awaits consideration in the Senate.

Municipal officials support protecting the ability to determine election formats, districts, and other election matters currently under their purview. Learn more about the League's member-driven Legislative Goals at [NCLM's Legislative Hub](#).

Metro Mayors Gather in Raleigh



Members of the NC Metropolitan Mayors Coalition gathered in Raleigh on Wednesday for their Annual Summer Meeting. Attendees heard from a panel featuring Secretary of Commerce Lee Lilley, focused on the future of North Carolina, and a panel of leading lobbyists who discussed everything going on at the General Assembly. The group also held their annual lunch at the Executive Mansion, where Governor Josh Stein joined them.

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