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## Speaker's Father Passes Away; Legislative Calendar Cleared

The death of the father of House Speaker Tim Moore meant a slow week at the North Carolina General Assembly this week. Richard "Rick" Moore, 75, previously served 12 years as a member of the Kings Mountain City Council and was a longtime business owner in the community. He passed away on Monday, at the age of 75, and his funeral was held on Wednesday. You can read a full obituary [here](#).

As a result of his death and legislators' attendance at his funeral, the House calendar was cleared on Wednesday and Thursday. The Senate already had no votes scheduled for this week.

NCLM sends its deepest condolences to Speaker Moore and his family.

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## ADUs, Tiny Houses and Homeowner Preferences

Accessory dwelling units, also known as in-law suites, as well as tiny house communities, continue to be a national focus of addressing housing affordability issues, even as more evidence mounts that they are likely to meet only a small part of housing demand. This week, [Governing online magazine published an article](#) looking at the difficulty that tiny house communities face in gaining traction, whether among private consumers looking for an alternative to traditional homeownership or through public efforts to address homelessness. The article comes after [the Arizona legislature became the latest to pass legislation](#) intended to address housing affordability through a limited ADU mandate.

The Governing article noted that, in addition to a limited demand for tiny houses, an unwillingness of lenders to finance the homes – due to their depreciation rather than increasing in value – is a significant obstacle for potential owners. Meanwhile, the Arizona legislation allows for ADUs to be constructed by right in most single-family zoned areas but only applies to cities with populations above 75,000. As in other states, the legislation has been accompanied by concerns that many new ADUs are likely to be turned into short-term rentals rather than addressing the need for permanent housing. In North Carolina, many cities have already focused on ADUs as one means of addressing housing demand. [A study conducted last year by NCLM and the NC Association of County Commissioners](#) found that 65 percent of the fastest-

growing local jurisdictions in the state now allow ADUs by right on substantial portions of single-family zoned lots.

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## PFAS Remote Meeting

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold a special briefing/discussion call for local officials and others on its recent PFAS rulemaking pertaining to [drinking water regulation](#) and the [CERCLA designation](#). The call will take place on **Wednesday, June 5 at 2 p.m.** EPA officials from various offices will give brief overviews of the two final rules, but substantial time will be dedicated to discussion and Q&A. You can join the Zoom meeting [here](#) and no registration is required.

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## NLC Webinar: OSHA's Proposed Emergency Response Standard

The National League of Cities will be hosting a [webinar](#) to help local government officials understand the newly proposed Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) rule that would modify workplace protection standards for emergency responders. The webinar will take place on **Friday, June 7 at 2 p.m.**

The proposed [new rule](#) would increase protections for emergency responders and provide standard workplace protections for those who respond to emergencies as a part of their regular job duties, which would include those providing emergency medical services and technical search and rescue. Several groups have expressed concern that requirements under the proposal may increase the administrative burden on fire departments; necessitate equipment and facility upgrades; and increase training and certification requirements, putting additional burdens on local taxpayers.

[The proposed rule is published in the Federal Register](#) for view and the deadline for public comment has been extended to July 22, 2024. [NLC](#) has expressed its intention to submit public comment to OSHA and invites local elected officials to share their concerns as well. The webinar link can be found [here](#).

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