



July 11, 2025 | nclm.org

Where Things Stand: A Look at Bill Actions

When legislators departed from Raleigh on June 26, they did so, sending a bevy of bills to Governor Josh Stein to sign under a ten-day running clock. Without both chambers agreeing to an adjournment resolution, the legislature formally stands in recess, meaning Governor Stein had ten days from the day that the bill was presented to him to either sign the bill, veto the bill, or allow it to become law without his signature. As of July 9, [77 bills](#) have become law, with [67 requiring](#) the Governor's signature. The other ten bills were local bills that became law upon the approval of both chambers of the General Assembly.

Included in the list of bills signed by the Governor are multiple bills that achieve many of the [2025-2026 NCLM Legislative Goals](#). In addition to the eight local "omnibus" bills that included a variety of locally-requested provisions, there are also a few that addressed disaster relief and transportation items. [HB 1012/SL 2025-26 Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 – Part II](#) was the General Assembly's second tranche of monies designated to support those impacted by Hurricane Helene and was the result of months-long negotiations between the House and Senate. The bill appropriates an additional \$500 million to support various projects across the affected areas and received unanimous support in both chambers. On transportation, while [SB 391/SL 2025-47 DOT Omnibus](#) generally includes policy provisions impacting NCDOT, it also includes an authorization for local governments to adopt ordinances regarding using electronic speed-measuring systems to enforce speed limits in school zones.

On the opposite side of the discussion, [fourteen bills](#) have been vetoed during this session. This list includes a variety of bills supported by the legislature's majority, focusing on topics such as immigration, DEI policies, guns, and many others.

Of particular interest to local governments, the Governor vetoed [HB 171 Equality in State Agencies/Prohibition on DEI](#). This bill prohibits the use of public funds to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs in state and local government, including the awarding of contracts, maintaining dedicated staff positions or offices, offering training, and implementing hiring processes. The prohibition extends to the receipt of

funds that require compliance with DEI mandates or policies and would require local government to terminate existing programs with such requirements unless participation is explicitly required by federal law. The legislation also imposes civil penalties for noncompliance and establishes a private right of action, allowing citizens to sue a local government official for violating this measure. The Governor also vetoed [SB 153 North Carolina Border Protection Act](#), a bill that would require state law enforcement agencies to cooperate with federal immigration officials and require the state to certify that noncitizens do not receive benefits such as housing, food, and unemployment support. Important for local governments, the legislation would remove governmental immunity for municipalities that enact “sanctuary city” policies, described as an “incentive” for compliance.

Each of the bills vetoed by the Governor faces challenges in its prospects to be overridden by the legislature. Even though Senate Republicans have a supermajority in their chamber, House Republicans will need at least one vote from a House Democrat to achieve the necessary number of votes.

While the legislature’s calendar for the remainder of the year continues to be unclear, legislators do have multiple priorities remaining incomplete, including an appropriations plan. The NCLM Government Affairs team will remain engaged with legislators throughout the remainder of the year and will provide further updates as legislators return for meetings.

Employment and Human Resources Changes Become Law

Two bills became law this week related to employment and human resources, one that makes changes to law enforcement officer personnel file procedures, and the other adds new requirements for background checks for public employees who work with children.

[SB 710/SL 2025-51 DPS Agency Changes-AB](#) requires North Carolina law enforcement agencies hiring for a sworn law enforcement officer position to access and review the complete personnel file of the applicant that any North Carolina law enforcement agency holds that the applicant worked at during the past 5 years. The previous employer-law enforcement agency must grant the requesting agency access upon receiving a release signed by the officer-applicant. These provisions were requested by the Criminal Justice Education & Training Standards Commission and became effective upon the Governor’s signature on July 2, 2025.

League staff are reviewing these provisions and consulting with the Commission. Additional resources and information are available by contacting Joseph Graziano, Senior Public Safety Risk Management Consultant (jgraziano@nclm.org), or Lou Bunch, Senior Municipal Human Resources Consultant (lbunch@nclm.org).

[HB 612/SL 2025-16 Fostering Care in NC Act](#) requires criminal background checks by the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) for any applicant offered a position with a local government that requires the applicant to work with children in any capacity. This requirement is in addition to the permissive

authority to allow cities to require that any applicant for employment submit to a criminal background check. This new requirement will take effect on October 1, 2025, and applies to offers of employment on or after that date.

Municipal Election Filing Begins

On July 7, 2025, the candidate filing period for the 2025 municipal elections opened, with county boards of elections in 91 counties now accepting filings for incumbents and newcomers alike.

In a recent [blog post](#), Dr. Chris Cooper, the Robert Lee Madison Distinguished Professor and Department Head of Political Science & Public Affairs at Western Carolina University, did a deep dive on the municipal election season, noting a few key facts.

- 1,912 seats are up for election across the state.
- 52% of all voters live within a municipality, but only 39% live in a municipality with an election in 2025.
- Unlike even-year elections, 97% of elections in 2025 will be nonpartisan (although there have been recent moves at the General Assembly to make more municipal elections partisan).

Candidate filing will conclude on Friday, July 18, at noon, with partisan primaries taking place in thirteen municipalities in September, and general elections taking place on either October 7 or November 4, depending on the respective election method.

NCDOT Approves State Transportation Plan for Next 10 Years

During its meeting on July 9, the North Carolina Board of Transportation approved the [2026-2035 State Transportation Improvement Program \(STIP\)](#) plan, the state's long-range transportation plan, which identifies construction funding and outlines a schedule of state transportation projects for the next decade. State law mandates that the NC Department of Transportation conduct ongoing evaluation and improvement of the process through a collaborative approach with engineers and transportation planners from across the state, and the process for creating the STIP typically convenes two years before its intended start date (i.e., the 2026 plan's process began in 2023 to ensure it would be ready for implementation in 2026).

Projects submitted for consideration under the STIP by NCDOT division representatives and local planning organizations are rated according to a formula that balances three key priorities. These priorities are established in [North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 136, Article 14B](#), and are

Statewide Mobility, Regional Impact, and Division Needs. Each of these priorities has specific funding weighting, though slightly more focus is given to projects addressing significant congestion and bottlenecks related to Statewide Mobility.

In total, the 2026-2035 plan includes more than \$36 billion in proposed funding, with \$31 billion directly allocated to projects and \$5 billion reserved to account for future inflation. The inflation withholding is based on the Board of Transportation’s priorities to respond to rising costs of construction projects.

The complete 2026-2035 STIP will be submitted to the US Department of Transportation later this year for approval, as a portion of the money used comes from Federal Highway Administration appropriations to the state.

.....



WORKING AS ONE. ADVANCING ALL.

CONTACT US



Stay Connected with the North Carolina League of Municipalities

{{Companyaddress}}

[Manage Preferences](#)