



YOU DON'T SAY...

"People are going to say what they're going to say about that. What I'm looking for is people who are driven around the priorities and want to suit up and make this place all that it can be."

UNC President Margaret Spellings, speaking with reporters about her first 100 days in office, on criticism about the conservative leanings of her early hires.

THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 6/20/16

Insider for June 21, 2016

News Summary

Wind Farms

Legislation that would bar wind-energy operations in military training areas across much of North Carolina cleared the state Senate on Monday night after the chamber opposed making changes that would keep the door open for more projects. The bill, which now heads to the House after a 33-14 vote, would prohibit the facilities in large areas of central and eastern North Carolina. The measure got support from senators concerned that allowing tall wind turbines in low-altitude training routes for jets and helicopter would strike a blow against preserving units at military installations. "I can tell you right now that a community, as far as the military is concerned, that is reactive is going to lose their military presence," said Sen. Norm Sanderson, R-Pamlico, whose district includes Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station. "You cannot take a third of your largest economic driver in the state and throw it under the bus." The legislation refers to a map developed for the state's Military Affairs Commission where wind-energy projects would be prohibited, although bill critics contend the boundaries are different compared with what the Department of Defense considers training areas. One wind project already under construction in Perquimans County wouldn't be subject to the new rules, while two projects currently seeking federal approval -- but not yet state permitting through the Department of Environmental Quality -- are at risk of being halted. A proposed amendment by Sen. Fletcher Hartsell, R-Cabarrus, designed to allow the projects in Tyrrell County and between Edenton and Hertford to continue was defeated by a 20-28 vote. The two projects could generate a combined \$700 million in investment.

Sen. Harry Brown, R-Onslow, the bill's chief author, warned colleagues "I don't think anybody knows how many would be grandfathered in" should Hartsell's amendment

pass. The Senate also rejected another amendment by Sen. Erica Smith-Ingram, D-Northampton, that would have reduced significantly prohibited regions. The bill would allow the state's new Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to review permit applications and recommend to the Department of Environmental Quality whether to approve or deny based on how turbines could affect military installations. The state Department of Health and Human Services also would review whether the proposed turbine could affect human health. The House has approved separate legislation that only studies the military department's role in permit applications. Environmental groups say the current permit process created in 2013 allows for give and take from the military while still helping the state's economy and environment. "The proposed legislation adds unnecessary complexity and uncertainty for businesses navigating the wind permitting process," Melissa Dickerson with the state Sierra Club said in a release. (Gary D. Robertson, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 6/20/16).

Senate Action

North Carolina entrepreneurs and small businesses, especially in rural communities, could soon have easier access to cash after the Senate on Monday night unanimously approved a plan to expand "crowdfunding" investments. Senate Bill 481 is known as "NC PACES," which stands for "providing access to capital for entrepreneurs and small business." It would allow entrepreneurs to raise up to \$1 million every 12 months in \$5,000 chunks -- or \$2 million with audited financial statements -- from friends, family, customers or clients that are N.C. residents. The measure also would trim expensive and time-consuming compliance rules. Sen. Tamara Barringer, R-Wake, a bill sponsor, called it "a revolutionary bill which will provide much-needed opportunities for small business to raise capital." Sen. Rick Gunn, R-Alamance, applauded its potential to help smaller, rural companies. At least 30 states and federal regulators permit crowdfunding. The bill also would require the Department of Revenue to post online redacted "private letter rulings," which have stirred controversy recently in the Senate. Broadcasters are paying state income taxes based on a private letter ruling that some Republican senators question as overly favorable to the industry. The bill now goes to the House.

In other business, the Senate:

- Gave final approval to the 2016 NC Farm Act, Senate Bill 770, which contains recommendations from the N.C. Department of Agriculture to provide regulatory relief to farmers and farms across the state. The bill next goes to the House.
- Gave final approval to House Bill 1101, a slate of technical changes to various pension and retirement funds, including the N.C. Firefighters and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund, the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System, the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System, the State Health Plan and the Achieving a Better Life Experience Program.
- Gave final approval to House Bill 1137, which modernizes and updates the state treasurer's office hours and scope of authority for investment programs. The bill also codifies departmental policies and consolidates statutory reporting requirements.
- Gave final approval to Senate Bill 747, which promotes a more vigorous management of state-owned property. The bill next goes to the House.

(Dan Boylan, THE INSIDER, 6/21/16).

Gubernatorial Debates

Gov. Pat McCrory's campaign is pushing for a series of debates and other events with Democratic challenger Attorney General Roy Cooper. The governor's campaign says it has committed to six debates and a seventh could be in the works. The campaign says it's open to additional dates. Last month Cooper's campaign said it had agreed to four events, three of them debates, that it hoped the governor would join. But so far both candidates have committed to debate each other just twice. Both candidates have agreed to a first debate on Friday in Charlotte hosted by the N.C. Bar Association. They have also agreed on a live debate hosted by the N.C. Association of Broadcasters on a date yet to be chosen. The McCrory campaign says it has requested a second debate by the broadcasters, but that hasn't been settled yet. McCrory has committed to debates offered by Time Warner Cable News, ABC 11 in Raleigh and Fox 8 in Greensboro and is in talks with a Charlotte TV station. A spokesman for Cooper's campaign on Monday said the attorney general would stand by the debate schedule he proposed. McCrory is declining to participate in an Oct. 18 debate sponsored by WRAL-TV. The governor's campaign has complained to the station in writing that when it reports on the governor's race it should disclose the fact that owner Jim Goodmon has contributed to Cooper's campaign. McCrory campaign spokesman Ricky Diaz said by email, "The people of North Carolina deserve a robust debate over the most important issues facing families today. That's why Governor McCrory is ready to debate Roy Cooper and contrast his positive record of success to Roy Cooper's failed record in state government over the past 30 years." Cooper campaign spokesman said by email: "We stand by our proposal from last month and hope the governor will join us at all of these events."(Craig Jarvis, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 6/20/16).

Blake Honored

The House on Monday honored former state Sen. Harris Blake, a Moore County Republican who died in June 2014 at age 84. The Senate had passed a resolution in his honor last July, and the House approved the resolution Monday. Blake served in the Senate for 10 years before deciding not to seek re-election in 2012. He established Pinehurst South Realty. Sen. Jerry Tillman, R-Randolph, a former seatmate of Blake, said last year that Blake may have put a greater mark on economic development in the Pinehurst than anyone else. House members remembered him Monday as a welcoming person who was easy to work with. "Harris Blake will be remembered as a true southern gentleman who treated everyone with respect and dignity and went out of his way to help those in need," the resolution stated.(Patrick Gannon, THE INSIDER, 6/21/16).

Innocence Commission

A Senate committee on Tuesday will continue to explore competing visions of methods to investigate complaints of wrongful convictions. Over the past year, the nonprofit N.C. Center on Actual Innocence, and the state's official N.C. Innocence Inquiry Commission, have sparred before lawmakers over how best to reform a slate of procedural issues they disagree about. Christine Mumma, the nonprofit's executive director, has testified with recommendations aimed at improving efficiency and fairness and also been critical of the state agency's techniques and methods. Specifically, Mumma has targeted at what stage defendants use court-appointed attorneys, whether at a case's investigative stage or a later "formal inquiry" stage. Lindsey Guice Smith, the state agency's executive director, has argued that Mumma has mischaracterized her efforts. Smith has defended her staff's record of reducing delays and hearing more cases. The country's

first such statewide agency, the N.C. Innocence Inquiry Commission began reviewing cases in 2007, rooting through old evidence rooms and sometimes identifying items for DNA testing or re-testing. According to its website, the agency has received 1,908 claims, closed 1,781 cases and had nine exonerations. On Tuesday, House Bill 678 and House Bill 1021 are on the Senate Judiciary Committee's agenda. Both bills tackle the "formal inquiry" issue, in addition to amending other Innocence Commission-related statutes.(Dan Boylan, THE INSIDER, 6/21/16).

Pittenger Recount

Republican U.S. Rep. Robert Pittenger prevailed Monday in his tight congressional primary after a recount confirmed his razor-thin victory. Machine recounts were finished around noon in the counties that make up the 9th District, and the totals changed by less than a handful of votes, according to a table of results provided by the State Board of Elections. Pittenger edged challenger Mark Harris by about 130 votes out of the 26,000 ballots cast in the three-way primary. Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, said in an email that he spoke to Pittenger to congratulate him on his win. Under state law, Harris had the right to a recount because he was behind by less than 1 percent of votes cast. "It's no secret that this was a hard-fought campaign, but I hope for his success in November," Harris wrote to his supporters. Pittenger, who faces Democrat Christian Cano in the general election, released a statement saying that he was happy with the results and looking ahead to November. "We had full faith in the election process and are happy our victory was verified," he said. Recent North Carolina history has few instances of an election night outcome being flipped during a recount, largely because of the reliability of modern voting equipment. The race was one of two that were too close to call on election night. The other was resolved without a recount. Court-ordered redistricting in February took Pittenger's largely affluent Charlotte-area district that he first won in 2012 and moved it east toward poorer counties along the South Carolina border.(Jonathan Drew, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 6/20/16).

Moral Monday

A multi-denominational vigil remembering those who died in Orlando last week and the nine churchgoers killed in Charleston a year ago drew about 100 people to the legislative complex Monday to mourn and hear exhortations to reject hate and discrimination. Clergy and others urged the crowd of about 100 to embrace love and nonviolence. At the end of the two-hour vigil, participants stood with portraits of those slain, and four doves were released to fly over Bicentennial Mall across from the Legislative Building. The Rev. William Barber II, head of the state NAACP chapter, said the doves represented Orlando, Charleston, love and justice. Imam Dr. Salahuddin Muhammad of the As-Salaam Islamic Center in Raleigh claimed solidarity between Muslims and the LGBT community. Orlando gunman Omar Mateen "was a monster, not a Muslim," he said. "The true practitioners of the Islamic faith would never kill innocents." This event had a different tenor from other Moral Monday protests held over the years, gatherings that usually center on government policy and sometimes lead to arrests. The anti-Vietnam War anthem "Blowin' in the Wind" played before the vigil, and "We Are the World" played during it.(Lynn Bonner, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 6/20/16).

Foxx Visit

With Wake residents poised to vote on a countywide transit plan this fall, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx visited Raleigh on Monday to tout the importance of treating population growth with an array of transportation options. Foxx

spoke at the Raleigh Convention Center on Monday night during an event for WakeUP Wake County, a local nonprofit that advocates for smart growth and supports the Wake Transit Plan. Without directly endorsing the plan, Foxx suggested Wake residents change the way they commute or prepare to leave the next generation with driving conditions worse than today's. "If you think the last 20-25 years has been like a tsunami, you just wait," Foxx said. "You are at the epicenter of a national crisis in mobility." Foxx, through the U.S. Department of Transportation, has urged communities across the country to adopt more sustainable transportation systems. Charlotte has a rail system that its residents approved through a half-cent sales tax referendum in 1998. Foxx, a former Charlotte mayor, told the crowd that such investments help North Carolina compete for jobs against other major U.S. cities. "If I were mayor of Charlotte, I probably would be giving you a different speech," Foxx said. "I would probably tell you not to do this so that we could compete with you better."(Paul A. Specht, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 6/20/16).

Anti-Trump Vigil

A progressive Jewish organization called Bend the Arc plans to hold a vigil Tuesday evening in Raleigh to oppose presumptive GOP presidential nominee Donald J. Trump. The Raleigh vigil is one of about a half dozen Jewish-led public gatherings planned around the nation opposing Trump's campaign, specifically the comments he made after the Orlando shooting. The vigil comes on the anniversary of the 1964 murder of three civil rights workers in Mississippi, James Chaney, an African-American Christian, and Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, who were Jewish. "Donald Trump has put forth a terrifying anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant, anti-woman and violent agenda," Stosh Cotler, CEO of Bend the Arc Jewish Action, said in a statement. "Jews have seen this before. Many of our relatives fled to the United States to escape violence and discrimination from around the world." The vigil will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Nash Square, 200 S. Dawson St., Raleigh.(Lynn Bonner, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 6/20/16).

Beach Bingo

A bill that would regulate so-called "beach bingo" is headed for the desk of Gov. Pat McCrory after gaining final House approval Monday night. "Beach bingo," for-profit bingo parlors with prizes capped at \$10, are currently not regulated by the state. Games run by non-profits, on the other hand, require a \$200 annual license and are governed by strict rules on jackpots and game frequency. Bill supporters say the outlets are cropping up throughout the state, and the state has no way of tracking them or making sure they're abiding by the state law that allows them to operate. Under House Bill 292, beach bingo operators would be required to obtain a \$300 annual license from the N.C. State Bureau of Investigations, and would be subject to SBI inspection. Operating a parlor without a license or submitting false information on the application would be a misdemeanor. The new law would take effect October 1, 2016. House lawmakers passed the measure 106-7 in May 2015, but the Senate had not taken up the bill until last week. The House voted Monday night without debate to agree to the Senate's change to the measure -- putting the SBI in charge of regulation, rather than the N.C. Dept. of Public Safety -- and send it to Gov. Pat McCrory for his signature.(Laura Leslie, WRAL NEWS, 6/20/16).

Bill Signing

North Carolina becomes the third state to provide unlimited access to a prescription drug that's already saved more than 2,000 people statewide who were overdosing on

heroin, OxyContin or other opium-based drugs. Gov. Pat McCrory signed a law Monday that creates a statewide standing order at all pharmacies to prescribe naloxone to anyone. Supporters say the state health director's order could help friends or family save a drug abuser's life. The injection or nasal-spray is covered by Medicaid and many private insurance plans. The director says the drug has reversed more than 2,000 overdoses since 2013. McCrory has named heroin addiction a top public safety issue. In North Carolina, more than 1,000 people die yearly from prescription opioid and heroin overdoses. Only Maryland and Pennsylvania have similar standing orders.(THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 6/20/16).

Case Consolidation

A federal judge has agreed to further consolidate lawsuits seeking to defend a North Carolina law that limits protections for the LGBT community. Judge Terrence Boyle on Monday allowed a group called North Carolinians for Privacy to combine their lawsuit with cases brought by state leaders. That means legal efforts that started as three separate lawsuits will be heard as one case. Gov. Pat McCrory and state legislative leaders have argued in court that the federal government overreached when it declared the state law was discriminatory. Two other cases challenging the law are being heard in a separate federal court. Those cases were filed by the Department of Justice and the American Civil Liberties Union.(THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 6/20/16).

Charlotte Airport

The Federal Aviation Administration this month updated its policy on disputed management changes at public airports, a move that affirms the city's control of Charlotte Douglas International Airport. In a document published June 6, the FAA says it will accept an application for a management change at an airport "only upon a legally definitive resolution of a dispute." That rules out a change in Charlotte, where city and state officials have been locked in a long-running fight over who should control one of the nation's busiest airports. The battle for the airport emerged in 2013 when the Republican-controlled N.C. General Assembly passed a bill creating a new commission to oversee Charlotte Douglas. Republican-led state legislators said the move was needed to protect the airport from meddling by the city, while city officials, including Democrat mayors, called the move a power grab. The dispute moved to the courts when the city filed a lawsuit to stop the commission from taking over. In October 2014, Judge Robert Ervin issued a permanent injunction blocking the commission from operating Charlotte Douglas, as the city had requested, putting the commission in limbo and leaving the city in charge. "Seeking to change an airport's ownership, sponsorship, governance, or operations is a local decision," the FAA said, when asked about the policy guidance. "The state or local government must file an application for FAA approval of such a change. The clarification provides guidance as to FAA's expectation that all local parties should be in agreement before filing the application."

The FAA is overseen by U.S. Transportation Secretary and former Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx, a Democrat. As mayor, he vigorously opposed efforts to take the airport. The FAA said it published the notice in an effort "to clarify FAA's legal authority and policy regarding changes of sponsorship at federally-obligated, publicly-owned airports." Oversight of the airport can't change without FAA approval, and the agency has told the parties involved that it won't evaluate requests for a change while the issue remains subject to a legal dispute. The FAA has encouraged the parties to work together, the agency said, and has corresponded with the N.C. Attorney General's Office, which is representing the commission. In the meantime, the airport remains

under control of the city of Charlotte. In its last action in the case, the city of Charlotte sent a letter to the FAA in November 2014 asking the agency to make a ruling that would further cement the city's control of the airport. On Monday, city attorney Bob Hagemann said he has not received a formal response to that November 2014 letter and is studying the FAA's new policy. The city has spent about \$732,000 for legal bills and other expenses related to the airport fight, Hagemann said.(Rick Rothhacker, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 6/20/16).

Hired

The N.C. Republican Party has hired Kami Mueller as its new communications director. She joins communications team members Emily Weeks at the state GOP and Kara Carter of the Republican National Committee. Mueller earned bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from the University of Southern Mississippi. She has worked with Lt. Gov. Dan Forest, the Alliance Defending Freedom, Susan B. Anthony List and the N.C. Values Coalition as the spokeswoman for the KeepNCsafe campaign.(NEWS RELEASE, 6/20/16).

Spellings Perspective

Margaret Spellings wrapped up her tour of the 17 UNC campuses recently, ending what has been an eventful first 100 days as UNC president. On Monday, when Spellings sat down for short interviews with reporters to talk about her first few months on the job and what's next for the state's public university system, she had this to say about her working relationship with the legislature: "I enjoy that kind of environment. I've done a lot of legislative work at the state and federal level in my background and I think it's fun. The rough and tumble of it and the drama of it and the deadlines and timelines and the sense of urgency that people have -- it's a lot of fun. I feel like I'm really starting to develop relationships with them. I'm going to work on doing that over the interim. I hope to see people in their home districts, understand what they're thinking, what they're concerned about. But, you know, I think they hear the same thing I hear -- that is, that people get that higher education is the ticket to the American dream and they want and need it affordably and conveniently."(Jane Stancill, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 6/20/16).

Belhaven Clinic

Vidant Health is opening a 24-hour clinic in Belhaven, where it closed a hospital in 2014. The 12,500-square foot clinic opening Monday brings together three medical practices and a 24-hour medical clinic at one location. Vidant closed Pungo Hospital in Belhaven, in part because North Carolina lawmakers refused federal funding to expand Medicaid that would pay bills of poor patients. Vidant CEO Dr. David Herman said the hospital had provided more than \$2 million in unpaid health care since 2011, when Vidant took it over. Belhaven residents protested and Mayor Adam O'Neal went to Washington to complain, saying the town has suffered and people have died while en route to other facilities. While the new clinic does not have the same emergency services that Pungo offered, it will have minor emergency services, but not as much as a full emergency room would. The nearest emergency room is in Washington, North Carolina, about 30 minutes away by car. The clinic also will offer other services such as pre-natal services, rehabilitation and X-rays. It also will have a general family practice, including two full-time doctors, and a full-service lab.(THE DAILY REFLECTOR, 6/20/16).

Tobacco Watch

The U.S. Supreme Court reversed Monday a federal appeals court ruling that would have allowed the European Union and 26 of its member states to sue in U.S. courts under federal racketeering laws. The case was remanded back to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit in New York. "We are certainly pleased with the court's decision," said Jeff Raborn, assistant general counsel for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. "The company has long believed that the EU's claims are legally and factually baseless." The EU and the countries claim Reynolds sponsored cigarette smuggling in Europe as part of a global money-laundering scheme with organized crime groups. Reynolds has argued the appeals court decision "opens the door to a type of civil litigation that will adversely affect important American interests" in a way Congress did not authorize. (Richard Craver, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, 6/20/16).

Rights Pledge

State House lawmakers voted Monday in favor of a resolution pledging to uphold the U.S. Bill of Rights, though some questioned the need for such a resolution. HB 1130 sponsor Rep. Larry Pittman said he was asked by a constituent to advance the proposal. "Whether you think those concerns are valid or not, there are a lot of citizens in this state and across the nation who are concerned," he said. Pittman noted that the resolution highlights the historical role that North Carolina's Declaration of Rights played in the drafting of the of the Bill of Rights, as well as the refusal of North Carolina leaders to sign the Constitution without also signing the Bill of Rights. While most Democrats voted for the measure, some expressed skepticism about the need for it. Rep. Mickey Michaux, D-Durham, said he'd sworn at least 22 times over the course of his career as a lawmaker and US attorney to uphold the US and state constitutions. "I don't have to do it anymore." The resolution passed 96 to 3, and now goes to the Senate. (Laura Leslie, WRAL NEWS, 6/20/16).

Foreign Investment

About three out of 10 manufacturing jobs in North Carolina are supported directly or indirectly by foreign companies, according to a report timed for release on Monday. The Organization for International Investment, a nonprofit business group based in Washington, released its report to coincide with the SelectUSA Investment Summit that works to bring more global investment into the country. The report focused on the importance of foreign investment in manufacturing, and research and development. North Carolina was determined to rank sixth for jobs dependent on direct foreign investment at more than 782,000. The job totals account for employees working directly for a foreign-owned company, employees of suppliers to the foreign companies, and "paycheck-supported," defined as jobs dependent on the economic ripple effect of foreign companies, such as retail and restaurants. The investment also accounts for 16.3 percent of total labor income and 18.5 percent of gross state product. The report was not broken down by metro areas. California, at 2.39 million, was first on the list for total employment dependent of direct foreign investment. When ranked by percentage of total jobs, South Carolina was first at 15.1 percent. The nonprofit said that part of the purpose of its report is alerting consumers to the economic impact of foreign investment on the local, state and national economies. (Richard Craver, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, 6/20/16).

Greensboro Loop

The state Supreme Court's recent decision against the North Carolina Map Act will greatly impact how major Triad-area road projects are planned and built in years to come. But the June 10 ruling probably won't mean much to the majority of property owners along the Greensboro Urban Loop that is moving into its final stages of construction. The ruling found unconstitutional a 1987 law that blocked property owners from developing or subdividing land in the path of a proposed highway once state officials have formally declared their intent to build that particular road. But the Urban Loop already is two-thirds built, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation owns much remaining right-of-way for portions yet to be completed. It would be difficult to reopen past land sales to the DOT for parts of the 44-mile loop around the city that already have been built or for those incomplete sections where highway officials bought land earlier, said Bruce Ashley, a Greensboro lawyer who has represented Urban Loop neighbors in successful claims against the DOT based on other legal issues. "If their property ultimately got purchased or taken by DOT, then there would be some sort of settlement or judgment," Ashley said of property owners who already sold Urban Loop land to the state. Such settlements often include language in which the seller gives up any claims for future payment linked to the land, Ashley said. (Taft Wireback, GREENSBORO NEWS-RECORD, 6/20/16).

Cooper Campaign

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Roy Cooper on Monday accused Republican Gov. Pat McCrory and legislative leaders of "turning their backs on public education." Cooper, the attorney general, made his comments after meeting with a half-dozen area teachers at Amelie's bakery in Charlotte. "Education is more important than ever," he told reporters. "And what you see is Gov. McCrory and the legislative leadership turning their backs on public education, and it's wrong. And we have to make it a priority in North Carolina." Education funding is part of House and Senate negotiations over the state budget. The House has proposed average teacher raises of 4.1 percent. The Senate plan would raise salaries an average of 6.5 percent. McCrory campaign spokesman Ricky Diaz said Cooper shares the blame for years when teachers got few raises under a Democratic-run General Assembly. "I wonder if Roy Cooper told the teachers today how he stood by and did nothing as teacher pay in North Carolina fell behind more than any other state before Gov. McCrory took office," Diaz said. Cooper listened to the Charlotte educators share concerns over pay, classroom size and resources and teacher retention. (Jim Morrill, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 6/20/16).

Handgun Permitting

A new computerized background check will make it much faster for Mecklenburg County residents to legally acquire a handgun or the permit to carry one. A state law that went into place last December made it the job of clerk of court offices around the state to handle the mental health background checks required for the permits to own a handgun and for concealed carry. That led to a surge in applications -- Mecklenburg Clerk Eliza Chinn-Gary says they rose from 150 to 2,000 a month -- and a backlog of four months, instead of the 14-day turn-around the law lays out. Now Chinn-Gary and Sheriff Irwin Carmichael have put in place a computerized system that allows an almost instantaneous check for commitments and other court-ordered hospitalizations. A records search that could take up to an hour for each application now takes a few seconds, Chinn-Gary says. Carmichael came up with the money to digitize all judicial hospitalization records and create a searchable database. The new system marks another first for the state's largest county court system, which also is starved for

technology. The new system makes its public debut at an unusual time. The country is debating putting some limits on gun purchases following last week's massacre of 49 people in a Orlando, Fla., club. The killer, Omar Mateen, had been investigated by the FBI twice for terrorist ties. If Mateen had lived in Charlotte, the new system would not have stopped him from buying a gun. Though he appeared to have anger problems and other psychological issues, the security guard was never the subject of a commitment hearing so his name would not have popped up on the new Mecklenburg system.(Michael Gordon, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 6/20/16).

Discriminatory Posting

When it comes to 'discriminatory' social media posts, does Charlotte treat offenders equally? That's the question being put to city leaders in relation to an ongoing lawsuit brought by a former employee. The city of Charlotte described a Facebook post from former fire investigator Crystal Eschert, who was fired in the fall of 2014, as "Inherently discriminatory." In the post, she described someone as a "thug," "worthless" and a "waste." A year later, at least six other Fire Department employees faced accusations that they were posting racist memes and other offensive comments to social media. They remain on the job. Eschert's attorney says their fate supports her contention that Eschert was fired because she acted as a whistleblower when she told a City Council member that the Fire Department's renovations of a new office were unsafe. The city of Charlotte declined to answer questions about the emails. Eschert is suing the city. Read the full article [here](#).(Steve Harrison, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 6/20/16).

House Bills Filed

Monday, June 20, 2016

No bills filed.

Senate Bills Filed

Monday, June 20, 2016

No bills filed.

What Happened in the House

Monday, June 20, 2016

- Added to Calendar
 - [HB 292](#) (Hurley) BEACH BINGO LICENSES.-AB
 - [HB 952](#) (Hastings) HONOR OUR SERVICE ANIMALS/SHERIFF CONTRACTS
 - [SB 888](#) (Apodaca) BUNCOMBE SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND COMMISSION
- Amendment Adopted A1
 - [HB 1033](#) (Hardister) ID CARD FEE WAIVER/DISABILITY
- Cal Pursuant 36(b)
 - [HB 667](#) (Hager) FACILITY PENALTY & REMEDY/ELECTRON. SUPERVISE
 - [HB 952](#) (Hastings) HONOR OUR SERVICE ANIMALS/SHERIFF CONTRACTS

- [HB 956](#) (McGrady) HENDERSON COUNTY/COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROJECTS
- Calendared pursuant to House Rule 36(b)
 - [HB 292](#) (Hurley) BEACH BINGO LICENSES.-AB
- House concurred in Senate amendment(s) SA1
 - [HB 952](#) (Hastings) HONOR OUR SERVICE ANIMALS/SHERIFF CONTRACTS
- House concurred in Senate committee substitute
 - [HB 292](#) (Hurley) BEACH BINGO LICENSES.-AB
 - [HB 870](#) (Jordan) CERT. OF TITLE/MANUF. HOME CHANGES
- Ordered Engrossed
 - [HB 1033](#) (Hardister) ID CARD FEE WAIVER/DISABILITY
- Ordered Enrolled
 - [HB 292](#) (Hurley) BEACH BINGO LICENSES.-AB
 - [HB 870](#) (Jordan) CERT. OF TITLE/MANUF. HOME CHANGES
 - [HB 952](#) (Hastings) HONOR OUR SERVICE ANIMALS/SHERIFF CONTRACTS
 - [SB 718](#) (Tillman) HONOR HARRIS BLAKE, FORMER SENATOR
 - [SB 888](#) (Apodaca) BUNCOMBE SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND COMMISSION
- Passed 2nd Reading
 - [HB 1033](#) (Hardister) ID CARD FEE WAIVER/DISABILITY
 - [HB 1130](#) (Pittman) PLEDGE TO UPHOLD THE BILL OF RIGHTS
 - [SB 19](#) (Rabon) UNIFORM RECORDING FEES - REGISTER OF DEEDS
 - [SB 600](#) (Meredith) APPRAISER COMPENSATION/JUDGE PERFORM MARRIAGE
 - [SB 718](#) (Tillman) HONOR HARRIS BLAKE, FORMER SENATOR
 - [SB 888](#) (Apodaca) BUNCOMBE SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND COMMISSION
- Passed 3rd Reading
 - [HB 1033](#) (Hardister) ID CARD FEE WAIVER/DISABILITY
 - [HB 1130](#) (Pittman) PLEDGE TO UPHOLD THE BILL OF RIGHTS
 - [SB 19](#) (Rabon) UNIFORM RECORDING FEES - REGISTER OF DEEDS
 - [SB 718](#) (Tillman) HONOR HARRIS BLAKE, FORMER SENATOR
 - [SB 888](#) (Apodaca) BUNCOMBE SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND COMMISSION
- Placed On Calendar For 06/21/2016
 - [HB 242](#) (Faircloth) VARIOUS CHARTER SCHOOL LAW CHANGES
 - [HB 956](#) (McGrady) HENDERSON COUNTY/COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROJECTS
- Ratified
 - [HB 256](#) (Floyd) HANDICAPPED PARKING/VETERANS PLATE
 - [HB 283](#) (Bishop) PREVENT SQUATTING IN FORECLOSED REAL PROPERTY
 - [HB 436](#) (Daughtry) UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW CHANGES
 - [HB 971](#) (Cleveland) MOTOR FLEET CLARIFICATION
 - [HB 978](#) (Lewis) BILL DAUGHTRIDGE/INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION
 - [HB 980](#) (Lewis) LINDA CHEATHAM/INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION
- Re-referred To House Committee On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
 - [HB 1134](#) (McNeill) ADMIN. CHANGES RETIREMENT SYSTEM/TREASURER
 - [SB 89](#) (Randleman) FILING BY CLERK/MAG. AND CLERK PILOT

- Referred To House Committee On Finance
 - [SB 481](#) (Barringer) FUND SMALL BUSINESSES/PUBLISH DOR RULINGS
- Regular Message Received For Concurrence in S Com Sub
 - [HB 19](#) (Graham, C.) MODIFY DEFINITION OF FIREFIGHTER
 - [HB 151](#) (Tine) VACATION RENTALS/ORANGE CO. JAIL CONSTRUCTION
 - [HB 464](#) (Faircloth) REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY REVISIONS
 - [HB 657](#) (Elmore) MATH STANDARD COURSE OF STUDY REVISIONS
 - [HB 959](#) (Iler) DOT PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE CHANGES
- Regular Message Received From Senate
 - [SB 791](#) (Tillman) LPA COMM. CONTRACTOR RATE REVISION & STUDY
- Special Message Received From Senate
 - [SB 481](#) (Barringer) FUND SMALL BUSINESSES/PUBLISH DOR RULINGS
- Special Message Sent To Senate
 - [HB 1130](#) (Pittman) PLEDGE TO UPHOLD THE BILL OF RIGHTS
 - [SB 19](#) (Rabon) UNIFORM RECORDING FEES - REGISTER OF DEEDS
- Withdrawn From Com
 - [HB 1134](#) (McNeill) ADMIN. CHANGES RETIREMENT SYSTEM/TREASURER
- Withdrawn from the Calendar
 - [SB 89](#) (Randleman) FILING BY CLERK/MAG. AND CLERK PILOT
 - [SB 888](#) (Apodaca) BUNCOMBE SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND COMMISSION

What Happened in the Senate

Monday, June 20, 2016

- Amendment Adopted A8
 - [HB 763](#) (Millis) MILITARY OPERATIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2016
- Amendment Adopted A9
 - [HB 763](#) (Millis) MILITARY OPERATIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2016
- Amendment Adopted A7
 - [HB 763](#) (Millis) MILITARY OPERATIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2016
- Amendment Adopted A6
 - [HB 763](#) (Millis) MILITARY OPERATIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2016
- Amendment Adopted A5
 - [HB 763](#) (Millis) MILITARY OPERATIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2016
- Amendment Adopted A3
 - [HB 763](#) (Millis) MILITARY OPERATIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2016
- Amendment Adopted A2
 - [HB 763](#) (Millis) MILITARY OPERATIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2016
- Amendment Adopted A1
 - [HB 763](#) (Millis) MILITARY OPERATIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2016
 - [SB 481](#) (Barringer) FUND SMALL BUSINESSES/PUBLISH DOR RULINGS
 - [SB 747](#) (Gunn) STATE-OWNED REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/PED

- Amendment Failed A10
 - [HB 763](#) (Millis) MILITARY OPERATIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2016
- Amendment Failed A4
 - [HB 763](#) (Millis) MILITARY OPERATIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2016
- Committee substitute adopted
 - [HB 287](#) (Setzer) AMEND INS. LAWS.-AB
 - [HB 960](#) (Turner, R.) RETIREMENT CREDITABLE SERVICE CHARTER SCHOOLS
- Engrossed
 - [HB 763](#) (Millis) MILITARY OPERATIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2016
 - [SB 481](#) (Barringer) FUND SMALL BUSINESSES/PUBLISH DOR RULINGS
 - [SB 747](#) (Gunn) STATE-OWNED REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/PED
 - [SB 770](#) (Jackson, B.) NC FARM ACT OF 2016
- Ordered Enrolled
 - [HB 964](#) (Conrad) COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP WINSTON-SALEM RET. FUND
 - [HB 1011](#) (Ross, S.) RETIREMENT TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2016
 - [HB 1137](#) (Ross, S.) TREASURER'S 2016 INVESTMENT ADMIN. CHANGES.-AB
 - [SB 330](#) (McInnis) CHANGE ORDERS ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
 - [SB 536](#) (Barefoot) STUDENTS KNOW BEFORE YOU GO & CENTRAL RESID
- Passed 1st Reading
 - [HB 976](#) (Horn) ENHANCE OVERSIGHT OF SERVICE CONTRACTS/PED
 - [HB 1007](#) (Jordan) AMEND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS STATUTES
 - [HB 1044](#) (Hager) LAW ENFORCEMENT OMNIBUS BILL
 - [HB 1047](#) (Jones) WELFARE REFORM/FOOD AND NUTRITION BENEFITS
- Passed 2nd Reading
 - [HB 960](#) (Turner, R.) RETIREMENT CREDITABLE SERVICE CHARTER SCHOOLS
 - [HB 964](#) (Conrad) COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP WINSTON-SALEM RET. FUND
 - [HB 1011](#) (Ross, S.) RETIREMENT TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2016
 - [HB 1137](#) (Ross, S.) TREASURER'S 2016 INVESTMENT ADMIN. CHANGES.-AB
 - [SB 481](#) (Barringer) FUND SMALL BUSINESSES/PUBLISH DOR RULINGS
- Passed 3rd Reading
 - [HB 763](#) (Millis) MILITARY OPERATIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2016
 - [HB 964](#) (Conrad) COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP WINSTON-SALEM RET. FUND
 - [HB 1011](#) (Ross, S.) RETIREMENT TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2016
 - [HB 1137](#) (Ross, S.) TREASURER'S 2016 INVESTMENT ADMIN. CHANGES.-AB

- [SB 481](#) (Barringer) FUND SMALL BUSINESSES/PUBLISH DOR RULINGS
- [SB 747](#) (Gunn) STATE-OWNED REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/PED
- [SB 770](#) (Jackson, B.) NC FARM ACT OF 2016
- Placed On Calendar For 06/21/2016
 - [SB 303](#) (Barefoot) REGULATORY REFORM ACT OF 2016
 - [SB 363](#) (Hartsell) WAGE & HOUR/LOCAL GOV'T ASSESSMENTS
 - [SB 778](#) (Wade) PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES/SUBDIVISION STREETS
- Placed on Today's Calendar
 - [HB 960](#) (Turner, R.) RETIREMENT CREDITABLE SERVICE CHARTER SCHOOLS
- Ratified
 - [SB 575](#) (Tucker) NC/SC ORIGINAL BOUNDARY CONFIRMATION
 - [SB 881](#) (Tucker) UNION COUNTY SCHOOL FUNDING
- Re-referred To Senate Committee On Finance
 - [HB 1039](#) (Bell, L.) INCREASE SAMPSON COUNTY OCCUPANCY TAX
 - [HB 1056](#) (Zachary) YADKIN OCCUPANCY TAX MODIFICATION
- Re-referred To Senate Committee On Judiciary II
 - [HB 100](#) (Cleveland) RECORD OF EXCUSALS FROM JURY DUTY
 - [HB 253](#) (Faircloth) JUSTICE REINVESTMENT ACT CHANGES.-AB
 - [HB 287](#) (Setzer) AMEND INS. LAWS.-AB
- Re-referred To Senate Committee On State and Local Government
 - [HB 550](#) (Tine) CLARIFY DEALER PLATE REQUIREMENTS
- Referred To Senate Committee On Judiciary I I. If fav, re-ref to Finance
 - [HB 1044](#) (Hager) LAW ENFORCEMENT OMNIBUS BILL
- Referred To Senate Committee On Rules and Operations of the Senate
 - [HB 976](#) (Horn) ENHANCE OVERSIGHT OF SERVICE CONTRACTS/PED
 - [HB 1007](#) (Jordan) AMEND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS STATUTES
 - [HB 1047](#) (Jones) WELFARE REFORM/FOOD AND NUTRITION BENEFITS
- Regular Message Received For Concurrence in H Com Sub
 - [SB 303](#) (Barefoot) REGULATORY REFORM ACT OF 2016
 - [SB 363](#) (Hartsell) WAGE & HOUR/LOCAL GOV'T ASSESSMENTS
 - [SB 778](#) (Wade) PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES/SUBDIVISION STREETS
- Regular Message Received From House
 - [HB 976](#) (Horn) ENHANCE OVERSIGHT OF SERVICE CONTRACTS/PED
 - [HB 1007](#) (Jordan) AMEND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS STATUTES
 - [HB 1044](#) (Hager) LAW ENFORCEMENT OMNIBUS BILL
 - [HB 1047](#) (Jones) WELFARE REFORM/FOOD AND NUTRITION BENEFITS
- Regular Message Sent To House
 - [HB 19](#) (Graham, C.) MODIFY DEFINITION OF FIREFIGHTER
 - [HB 151](#) (Tine) VACATION RENTALS/ORANGE CO. JAIL CONSTRUCTION
 - [HB 464](#) (Faircloth) REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY REVISIONS
 - [HB 657](#) (Elmore) MATH STANDARD COURSE OF STUDY REVISIONS
 - [HB 959](#) (Iler) DOT PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE CHANGES
 - [SB 791](#) (Tillman) LPA COMM. CONTRACTOR RATE REVISION & STUDY

- Senate concurred in House committee substitute
 - [SB 330](#) (McInnis) CHANGE ORDERS ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
 - [SB 536](#) (Barefoot) STUDENTS KNOW BEFORE YOU GO & CENTRAL RESID
- Sequential Referral To Appropriations/Base Budget Added
 - [HB 884](#) (Brown, B.) REINSTATE SETOFF DEBT COLLECTION/UNC HEALTH
- Sequential Referral To Finance Added
 - [SB 821](#) (Hartsell) GSC TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS 1
 - [SB 822](#) (Hartsell) GSC TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS 2
- Sequential Referral To Finance Stricken
 - [HB 550](#) (Tine) CLARIFY DEALER PLATE REQUIREMENTS
- Sequential Referral To Rules and Operations of the Senate Added
 - [SB 821](#) (Hartsell) GSC TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS 1
 - [SB 822](#) (Hartsell) GSC TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS 2
- Special Message Sent To House
 - [SB 481](#) (Barringer) FUND SMALL BUSINESSES/PUBLISH DOR RULINGS
- Withdrawn From Com
 - [HB 100](#) (Cleveland) RECORD OF EXCUSALS FROM JURY DUTY
 - [HB 253](#) (Faircloth) JUSTICE REINVESTMENT ACT CHANGES.-AB
 - [HB 550](#) (Tine) CLARIFY DEALER PLATE REQUIREMENTS
- Withdrawn from the Calendar
 - [HB 1039](#) (Bell, L.) INCREASE SAMPSON COUNTY OCCUPANCY TAX
 - [HB 1056](#) (Zachary) YADKIN OCCUPANCY TAX MODIFICATION

What Happened in House Committees

Monday, June 20, 2016

- All House Committees

What Happened in Senate Committees

Monday, June 20, 2016

- All Senate Committees
 - Reported favorably by committee substitute
 - [HB 287](#) (Setzer) AMEND INS. LAWS.-AB
 - [HB 960](#) (Turner, R.) RETIREMENT CREDITABLE SERVICE CHARTER SCHOOLS