



# LEGISLATIVE *Update*

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## **Gov. Perdue's Recommendations Are Only the Start of Budget Process**

Last night SEANC lobbyists were joined by several SEANC Warriors to lobby their legislators. A big thank you goes out from your lobbying staff to these grassroots volunteers – fighting for themselves and their fellow SEANC members. You are doing an awesome job.

Since Gov. Perdue's budget recommendations are less than a week old, this is a good time to approach House members who will now have the budget in their hands. The House plans to have a budget out of the Appropriations Committee no later than April 22. House Appropriations subcommittees are already hard at work in dealing with their "pieces" of the overall budget.

Last week SEANC unveiled the Take Pride in Carolina report compiled from member suggestions on how to save money or enhance revenue in order to fill the estimated \$2.4 billion budget hole. In total, SEANC members identified over \$10 billion in savings.

Some legislators are responding to the report by saying there are too many "tax increases" in it. This is not true. It is important that you understand that only two of the 27 suggestions SEANC put forward in the report increased a tax: 1) keeping the 2009 sales/upper income tax, and 2) proposing an addition to the cigarette tax.

By some legislators incorrectly calling SEANC's suggestions "tax increases," they are considering our proposals to end corporate welfare an actual increase in their taxes. For example, why should a retailer of alcohol or cigarettes get a 2 percent discount from their tax bill just for filing on time? Do other businesses get a discount for following the rules and filing their taxes on time? No. Do YOU get a discount for filing your taxes on time? Certainly not.

A shared financial crisis demands shared sacrifice. And yes, that means that wealthy corporations should sacrifice as well. So to be clear – SEANC doesn't want new taxes on corporations. We just want them to pay the taxes that everyone else has all along.

Go to the SEANC website to view the full [Take Pride in Carolina](#) report.