



# LEGISLATIVE *Update*

State Employees Association of North Carolina • [www.seanc.org](http://www.seanc.org)

P.O. Drawer 27727 • Raleigh, NC 27611 • 888-732-6242/919-833-1616 (Press 1)

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## **Budget, Privatization, SPA – Oh My!** ***SEANC Representatives Work Hard to Keep You Updated***

### **Budget**

Next week is expected to bring budget news as the House Appropriations subcommittees should begin releasing more information. This week SEANC lobbyists attended numerous meetings foreshadowing events, but no numbers from the various budgets have been released. Stay tuned for the latest on agency budgets.

### **Privatization**

SEANC sent several updates this week regarding [House Bill 335 \(HB 335\)](#) to privatize prison maintenance. SEANC fought back the privatization of these jobs last year and is prepared to do so again.

HB 335 is scheduled for a floor vote this Monday, April 11. SEANC lobbyists have been actively lobbying the legislature to beat back this bill which puts the very safety of our correctional officers and other prison personnel on the line.

SEANC members who work in the prisons have been doing a great job contacting legislators to let them know how dangerous HB 335 is. All SEANC members should call their legislators and ask them to oppose the privatization of prison maintenance.

### **UNC System**

SEANC has received a number of questions from members about a proposal to change UNC system employees from State Personnel Act (SPA). There have been numerous emails and meetings across campuses referring to a plan that would change the reporting structure for employees. Here is the latest information:

SEANC Chief of Staff/General Counsel Tom Harris and Legislative Affairs Director Ardis Watkins met with UNC system representatives this week to discuss the proposal that would remove 22,000 of the UNC system's SPA-covered employees from the protection of the SPA. This proposal runs contrary to the [No. 2 legislative priority](#) chosen by the delegates of the 2010 SEANC convention – to oppose any law that would remove state employees from SPA protection.

The UNC system representatives contend that given the flexibility allowed by their proposal, the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) would almost assuredly adopt personnel policies that would be better for employees than the SPA policies. SEANC disagrees.

We encouraged the UNC system representatives to add to their proposal a guarantee of at least some SPA protections. They indicated they could not bind the BOG in that way.

At present, we see no reason for considering a change in SEANC members' stated priority to oppose legislation such as this proposal. Our understanding is that this proposal would, if adopted, be a part of the education budget plan. As this week's budget details emerge, we will keep you updated and continue to fight for your legislative priorities.