



# LEGISLATIVE *Update*

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

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## **SEANC Thwarts Prison Maintenance Privatization Efforts!**

House Bill 335, which was passed during the regular session of the General Assembly, restricted the Department of Correction from privatizing maintenance at any additional prisons while calling for a study on the cost of state-provided versus privatized maintenance. Currently there are three prisons with privatized maintenance.

The bill was sent to a House-Senate conference committee and the legislature left town in August without resolving the issue.

This week the General Assembly returned to Raleigh and one of the items addressed was the conference report on HB 335. The bill was loaded up with several other items having nothing to do with prisons and therefore was the subject of a lot of discussion.

Nonetheless, at the end of the day, the conference report did pass the House and Senate. The final version calls for the study of state-provided versus privatized maintenance costs and prevents the Department of Correction from privatizing maintenance at any additional prisons prior to and without the approval of the 2013 General Assembly.

SEANC lobbyists worked closely with conference committee members and House and Senate leaders on this issue and would like to thank the legislators involved for working diligently to protect these jobs and continue using taxpayer money wisely. We would particularly like to thank Sen. Bob Rucho, Rep. David Guice, Rep. Mitch Gillespie, Rep. Angela Bryant, Rep. Tim Spear, Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger and House Speaker Thom Tillis.

The bill has now been sent off to Gov. Beverly Perdue for her signature. If the governor vetoes this bill, it will leave Department of Correction personnel in the position of being subject to privatization. SEANC encourages all members to call the governor at 919-733-5811 and ask her to sign this bill and stop the expensive and unsafe practice of privatizing prison maintenance.

The General Assembly adjourned with a resolution bringing them back to Raleigh on Nov. 7 for another special session. As always, SEANC will be covering that session and will make state employees aware of any issues affecting them during that time.