



LEGISLATIVE *Update*

State Employees Association of North Carolina • www.seanc.org

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March 11, 2011

Party Politics Gone Wild Get In the Game with “Take Pride in Carolina” Lobby Days

You didn't have to be at Mardi Gras this week to see a wild show. Politicians in Raleigh put on quite a display!

Gov. Bev Perdue is growing fonder by the day of her veto stamp and Republicans who control the legislature are digging in their heels on their priorities. The political tug-of-war is on!

This week, Perdue vetoed House Bill 2. The measure would gut one of the major provisions of the federal insurance reform bill that requires citizens to buy health insurance or face a fine—much like the way the state mandates citizens who drive cars to purchase auto insurance.

Republicans then had to decide if they had the votes to override Perdue's veto. In the Senate, Republicans had the three-fifths majority needed for an override of her veto without having to move any Democratic votes. This was not the case in the House however, where Republicans needed four Democrats to vote with them.

That's where we were this week. Republicans in the Senate voted to override Perdue's veto. The House Republicans then saw a chance to vote for an override when eight Democrats left session early, thinking nothing huge was coming up. House Speaker Thom Tillis said he did not call for the override vote despite a sure victory, and instead accepted a motion from Democratic leader Joe Hackney to change House rules requiring such votes to happen within one day. Suspending the rule will allow Republicans to bring back House Bill 2 anytime this session and not within the one day framework current rules allow. It will also mean that any veto from the governor could be subject to an override at any time.

There is quite a power struggle going on right now between the governor and the General Assembly. Perdue's spokesperson is throwing bombs at the Republicans, saying that they need to be focused on jobs instead of other agenda items. Republicans counter that they are trying to make a point to the governor so she doesn't get overly fond of the veto stamp. One Democrat even changed his position on the bill because, as he told reporters, he felt it was his "duty" to support the governor. It seems that more than ever before, legislators on both sides of the aisle are focused more on party politics than real issues.

As a state employee or retiree, what can you do to get legislators back on track? First, sign up to participate in a lobby day event! This is your chance to stand face-to-face with elected representatives – telling them to “Take Pride in Carolina” and pass a budget that continues to make North Carolina a great place to live. Legislators need to recognize that cuts to vital public services will wreak havoc on North Carolinians, denying them the basic services on which they rely. By attending a lobby day event, you can speak directly with legislators about the \$10 billion in budget savings that SEANC members collected and released last month – showing them how to make government smarter by implementing common-sense budget solutions.

If you want to be heard over the noise of political power struggles, you must take action! Come to a lobby day event and make your case for quality public services!

[Eastern Lobby Day](#) – Wednesday, March 16, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

[Central Lobby Day](#) – Wednesday, March 23, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

[Western Lobby Day](#) – Wednesday, March 30, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.