



# LEGISLATIVE *Update*

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

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May 6, 2011

## **SEANC Members Take Action, See Results in Maintaining SPA Rights *Senate Budget on Fast Track, DOC Personnel Privacy Bill Moves***

The big news of the week was clearly the [passage](#) of the House budget. But as always, the legislature is busy on many issues. The following are areas of interest for SEANC at the moment.

### **UNC System SPA Rights**

[Senate Bill 575](#), which would remove all university employees from the State Personnel Act (SPA) and have them report directly to the UNC Board of Governors, was scheduled for committee Wednesday, May 4. The bill is deliberately vague as it creates a system ripe for political patronage while unnecessarily removing worker protections. The bill was pulled from the calendar the evening before due to the large number of concerns voiced by SEANC members.

This bill was slowed down significantly thanks to the members who made phone calls, sent emails and planned to attend the committee meeting. SEANC lobbyists make your concerns known in the General Assembly every day, but only you can show how much you care about an issue. In this case, your actions made a difference. We greatly appreciate the responsiveness that Senate leaders showed due to these concerns from state employees.

SEANC will continue to watch this legislation closely. Removing employees from the SPA is in direct opposition to [SEANC's No. 2 Policy Platform Objective](#). Stay tuned and we will let you know if there is future movement on this bill because, once again, we will need you to [share your feelings](#) about this with your legislators.

### **Personnel Records**

Earlier this session, SEANC District 8 member [Rep. Shirley Randleman](#) filed [House Bill 348](#), which would prohibit inmates, probationers, parolees and post-release supervisors from accessing public employees' personnel records. This bill would grant additional protection for public employees and their families and was heard in a House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday.

SEANC fully supports Rep. Randleman's efforts and hopes that this issue highlights the reasons why releasing personnel records of public employees holds far greater implications than releasing personnel records for private sector employees. We applaud Rep. Randleman for taking action on behalf of the men and women serving the state.

SEANC's No. 6 Policy Platform Objective is to seek legislation that limits the distribution of state employee and retiree personnel information.

### **Up Next, Senate Budget**

In addition, the Senate is kicking their budget work into high gear, having announced that committee chairs will work through this weekend to keep the budget work on schedule with a goal of completion within the next three weeks. SEANC will keep our members up to date on the progress of Senate budget talks as well as issues that arise in the process for state employees.

### **SEANC Warriors**

Members interested in lobbying legislators alongside SEANC lobbyists about the issues affecting state employees are invited to join us Monday night, May 9.

We will meet in the lobby of the legislative building at 16 West Jones Street at 5:30 p.m. [Tony Booe](#) from the SEANC Legislative Affairs staff will greet SEANC members in the lobby and coordinating the efforts of the evening. We hope you'll join us this Monday!