



# LEGISLATIVE *Update*

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May 10, 2013

## **SEANC Takes Center Stage at SPA Overhaul Hearing**

On Wednesday, SEANC Executive Director Dana Cope spoke to a packed house of SEANC members, lawmakers and media in opposition to House Bill 834, a bill that would rewrite the State Personnel Act, a law that has governed state employment since 1948. The measure, sponsored by the chairman of the House State Personnel Committee Chairman Jeff Collins (R-Nash), passed by a vote of 18-8 and heads next to the House Appropriations Committee. The hearing was covered extensively by the media and you can read about it in [SEANC in the News](#).

Since the hearing the Director of State Personnel Neal Alexander and the Chairman Collins have met extensively with SEANC's Legislative Affairs Director Ardis Watkins and Chief of Staff General Counsel Tom Harris in the hopes that the bill can be changed prior to its advancement. SEANC appreciates the open dialogue and is committed to making the state personnel system as efficient as possible without sacrificing employee protections.

Due to the length of time spent on HB 834, another bill of interest to state employees on the calendar was not heard by the House State Personnel Committee at Wednesday's meeting. That bill would allow the public access to state employees' personnel files, including performance reviews which may contain false or misleading information.

### **SEANC Testifies for Health Care Transparency**

SEANC Lobbyist Chuck Stone spoke out on Wednesday at a Senate Finance Committee meeting in favor of a bill that will create more competition for health care services by providing patients with more information about prices and billing.

Stone said SEANC hopes the legislation will save individual employees and the State Health Plan up to \$300 million a year collectively because of overbilling practices. The committee agreed with Stone and approved Senate Bill 473, the "Health Care Cost Reduction and Transparency" bill. The measure went on to receive a unanimous vote in the Senate.

### **Hospitals Attempt to CON Lawmakers by Crying Poor**

This week the House Health and Human Services Committee was scheduled to hear House Bill 177, a bill to allow physicians to compete with hospitals by opening same-day surgery centers. Hospitals object to the measure, which would save patients and taxpayers an average of 33 percent on certain surgical procedures. The bill never came up for a vote.

Instead hospital representatives, who have hired every available lobbyist in town, walked the halls of the General Assembly telling lawmakers they are "struggling." Poor hospitals, indeed! One only has to look at hospitals' assets, the legions of lobbyists hired to fight this bill and salaries of their top dogs to know that this simply isn't true.

The truth is the consumers need a “yes” vote on HB 177, it’s time for a free-market solution and competition in the health care industry that will save taxpayers and the State Health Plan millions of dollars. HB 177 achieves that, which is why the hospitals are spending money like it’s going out of style to fight it.

## North Carolina’s “Poor” Hospital Million Dollar Salaries and Billion Dollar Assets

Hospital Name	Executive	Title	Compensation	Net Assets
Carolinas HealthCare Center	Michael Tarwater	CEO	\$4.76 million	
Carolinas HealthCare Center	Joseph Piedmont	President and CEO	\$2.88 million	
Novant Health	Arthur Patefield	Chief Medical Officer	\$2.81 million	
Duke University Health System	Victor Dzau	CEO	\$2.79 million	\$2 billion
North Carolina Baptist Hospital	John McConnell	CEO	\$2.49 million	\$961 million
Pitt County Memorial Hospital	Diane Poole	Executive Vice President	\$2.35 million	\$317 million
Carolinas HealthCare Center	Greg Gombar	Chief Financial Officer	\$1.89 million	
Carolinas HealthCare Center	Laurance Hinsdale	Executive Vice President	\$1.84 million	
Carolinas HealthCare Center	Paul Franz	Executive Vice President	\$1.70 million	
Wake Med	William Atkinson	President and CEO	\$1.63 million	\$93 million
Forsyth Memorial Hospital	Lawrence McGee	Senior Vice President	\$1.51 million	\$842 million
Carolinas HealthCare Center	Dennis Phillips	Executive Vice President	\$1.42 million	
Carolinas HealthCare Center	Roger Ray	Chief Medical Officer	\$1.31 million	
Carolinas HealthCare Center	John Knox	Chief Administrative Officer	\$1.29 million	
Moses H Cone Memorial	R Timothy Rice	President and CEO	\$1.17 million	\$586 million
Carolinas HealthCare Center	Debra Moore	Executive Vice President	\$1.14 million	
Carolinas HealthCare Center	Russell Guerin	Executive Vice President	\$1.14 million	
Gaston Memorial Hospital	Valinda Rutledge	CEO	\$1.11 million	\$25 million
Presbyterian Hospital	Derrick Billings	Pres-Presby/COO-CHLT/Trust	\$1.11 million	\$629 million
Forsyth Memorial Hospital	Jeffrey Lindsay		\$1.10 million	\$842 million
Duke University Health System	William Fulkerson, Jr.	Executive Vice President	\$1.08 million	\$2 billion
Data obtained from latest IRS 990 filings				

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*The SEANC Legislative Update is published when the N.C. General Assembly is in session by SEANC’s Legislative Affairs Department. For more information, contact Legislative Affairs Director Ardis Watkins at [awatkins@seanc.org](mailto:awatkins@seanc.org).*