

North Carolina General Assembly Legislation with Potential Impact on the City of Asheville Budget - 2015 Regular Session - Updated 2/24/15

Advocacy Principle: *Municipal Authority*

Like all municipalities in North Carolina, Asheville has unique economic, environmental, and cultural interests. Maintaining municipal authority to promote, regulate, and celebrate these interests is essential to enable local officials to best address local needs.

Policy Issue	Bills	Monitor	Bill Notes	Legislative Agenda	Status
Eminent Domain	H3/ S74 Eminent Domain.		This act amends the Constitution to include prohibition of condemnation of private property except for a public use, to provide for the payment of just compensation with right of trial by jury in all condemnation cases, and to make similar statutory changes.		(House) 2/10/15 Passed 3rd Reading; (Senate) 2/11/15 Passed 1st Reading; Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
Drones	H4 Clarify Unmanned Aircraft System Law.		This law gives agencies and agents of the state or a political subdivision of the state the authority to use unmanned aircraft systems upon the approval of the state Chief Information Officer.		(House) 1/29/15 Passed 1st Reading; Ref to the Com on Local Government, if favorable, Judiciary I

Advocacy Principle: *Municipal Revenue*

The fiscal health and responsibility of municipalities require stable revenue sources that are proportionate to the need for local services. Responsible fiscal management requires the protection of revenue sources both under, and outside of, municipal control.

Policy Issue	Bills	Monitor	Bill Notes	Legislative Agenda	Status
Transportation Funding	S20/ H40 IRC Update/Motor Fuel Tax Changes		The bill will very quickly cut the state motor fuels tax by 2.5 cents per gallon, but subsequently create a new, higher floor for the tax which should provide stability for the transportation revenue stream going forward. Cities and towns maintain the majority of road miles within their borders, and roughly one quarter of the money spent for this purpose comes from state Powell Bill funds. If the gas tax remains unchanged, it is expected to fall by as much as 6 to 8 cents per gallon.		(Senate) 2/12/15 Passed 3rd Reading; Engrossed; (House) 2/18/15 Passed 1st Reading; Ref To Com On Finance; Serial Referral To Appropriations Added

Advocacy Principle: *Economic Vitality*

An economically vital community enables Asheville to provide for opportunity, mobility, and a high quality of life for its residents.

Policy Issue	Bills	Monitor	Bill Notes	Legislative Agenda	Status
Economic Development Programs	H89 Omnibus Economic Development Improvements.			✓	(House) 2/16/15 Passed 1st Reading; Ref to the Com on Commerce and Job Development, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Appropriations

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Advocacy Principle: City Services

The City of Asheville, which provides high quality services to meet the dynamic needs of its residents, requires adequate authority and flexibility to finance, operate, and manage these services.

Policy Issue	Bills	Monitor	Bill Notes	Legislative Agenda	Status
Parking Meters	H43/ S8 Winston-Salem/Parking Meters.		This bill allows parking meters in Winston-Salem to be activated by coins, tokens, cash, credit cards, debit cards, or electronic means. The Asheville City Council requested similar state-wide authority through its Legislative Agenda.	✓	(House) 2/5 Passed 1st Reading; Ref To Com On Local Government; (Senate) 2/2 Passed 1st Reading; Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
	S52 Cities/Mean For Activating Parking Meters.		This bill allows parking meters to be activated by coins, tokens, cash, credit cards, debit cards, or electronic means. The Asheville City Council requested this state-wide authority through its Legislative Agenda.	✓	(Senate) 2/11/15 Passed 1st Reading; Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate; Withdrawn From Com; Re-ref Com On State and Local Government

Advocacy Principle: Community Standards

Asheville, the largest city in Western North Carolina, is nationally known for its natural beauty, rich architectural legacy, and entrepreneurial energy. In order to promote economic vitality in a manner that maintains the unique features that make our community a desirable place to live, work, and play, municipalities and local officials need to be enabled with the tools and authority to make local decisions.

Policy Issue	Bills	Monitor	Bill Notes	Legislative Agenda	Status
Design and Aesthetic Controls	H36/ S25 Zoning/Design and Aesthetic Controls.		This legislation would prevent municipalities from imposing design and aesthetic controls on certain family dwellings, including exterior color, roof style, location of windows and doors, etc. Historic districts are exempted from this bill.	✓	(House) 2/4/15 Passed 1st Reading; Ref To Com On Local Government; (Senate) 2/4/15 Passed 1st Reading; Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
Overgrown Vegetation Notice	H44/ S53 Cities/Overgrown Vegetation Notice.		This bill authorizes cities to provide annual notice to chronic violators of overgrown vegetation ordinances by regular mail and posting.		(House) 2/5 Passed 1st Reading; Ref to the Com on Local Government, if favorable, Regulatory Reform; (Senate) 2/11/15 Passed 1st Reading; Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate; 2/11/15 Withdrawn From Com; 2/11/15 Re-ref Com On Judiciary II

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Advocacy Principle: *Environmental Stewardship*

As a community committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship, Asheville needs adequate regulatory authority in order to maximize its partnership in environmental protection with state and federal agencies. As a city with a proud mountain heritage and identified as a destination for ecotourism and "green" industry, the Blue Ridge mountain region's natural beauty is recognized as a great benefit to the community. Environmental protection is essential to a high quality of life, cultural heritage, and economic development.

Policy Issue	Bills	Monitor	Bill Notes	Legislative Agenda	Status
Hydraulic Fracturing	H76/ S72 Disapprove MEC Oil and Gas Rules.	  	This bill disapproves a rule adopted by the Mining and Energy Commission providing for management of oil or gas exploration and development.		(House) 2/12/15 Passed 1st Reading; Ref to the Com on Commerce and Job Development, if favorable, Regulatory Reform, if favorable, Environment, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House; (Senate) 2/12/15 Passed 1st Reading; Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
 = Consistent with City of Asheville Interests  = Monitor  = Potentially Inconsistent with City of Asheville Interests		 = Consistant with the Asheville City Council's Legislative Agenda  = Inconsistant with the Asheville City Council's Legislative Agenda			