North Carolina General Assembly Legislation that may affect City of Asheville Budget						
Bill Name and Number	**Sponsors**	**Description**	**Considerations**	**Fiscal Impact**	**Status**	**Support/ Oppose**
HB 150/SB 139 **Zoning Design & Aesthetic Controls**	**House:** Dollar; W. Brawley; Moffitt; J ordan;(Primary) R. Brawley; Bryan; Ford; Martin; T. Moore; Ramsey; Sa muelson; Setzer; Speciale; Szoka; Warren; Whitmire; **Senate:** Clodfelter; Gunn; Tarte; (Primary) Clark; Daniel; Hise; Hunt; Jenkins; McLaurin; Walters;	Restricts local governments' ability to institute design and aesthetic controls on single-family residential structures - by prohibiting cities and towns from requiring design and aesthetic controls on any structure subject to the North Carolina Residential Code for One and Two-Family Dwellings (with limited exceptions). The bill also disallows cities from applying such standards in zoning districts, special use districts, conditional use districts and conditional districts, unless all of the property owners to which they might potentially be applied issue their specific consent.	While we do not have any general design standards, there is some immediate impact from this law. It would strongly affect our Cottage Development USSR standards, so if it is enacted we should make it a priority to revisit that development option and probably propose a moratorium on its use. An analysis by the NC APA also points out that by implication in some of the language, the bill also removes from local governments the tools necessary to determine what constitutes a single-family house in a single-family zone. By barring any zoning or subdivision standard regarding the number, type and layout of rooms. Therefore multifamily dwellings can be built in any single-family zone in the state if the neighborhood does not have a restricted covenant.		Approved by House; Referred to Senate Com on Commerce	Monitor
HB 488 **Regionalization of Public Utilities**	Moffitt; McGrady; Ramsey	Transfer of water system to MSD.			Passed 1st Reading; Referred to Com. On Finance (4/2)	
HB - 224 **Asheville Extraterritorial Jurisdiction and Annexation**	Moffitt; Ramsey (primary) Ford; Starnes	Remove the extra-territorial jurisdiction and the city's ability to regulate land use activity in these areas. There is a 60 day period from the effective date of the act before all regulation is turned over to Buncombe County.	Regulation in the ETJ is intended to guide development in urbanizing areas to help ensure that development is compatible with that which occurs within the city, and that land use conflicts are minimized	$219,000 in lost revenue	Referred to the Finance Committee; placed on calendar for 4/3.	Neutral

Bill Name and Number	Sponsors	Description	Considerations	Fiscal Impact	Status	Support/ Oppose
SB 363 **Business Tax Reduction & Reforms**	Andrew C. Brock; (Primary) Ralph Hise; Ronald J. Rabin; Bob Rucho	Eliminate the ability of cities to levy privilege license taxes. The elimination would be effective for taxes imposed for fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, and would cost cities and towns a total of more than $60 million a year in revenue.		Loss of $1.4-1.7 million annually	Referred to the Finance Committee (3/20).	Oppose
SB 394 **Lower Tax Rates for a Stronger NC Economy**	Clodfelter; Hartsell, Jr.; Jenkins; Meredith;(PrimaryBingham; Brock; Clark; Ford; Hise; Rabin; Rabon; Rucho; Tarte; Walters	An act to adopt a bipartisan tax reform plan to promote economic development in North Carolina by establishing a sound state tax structure that revises the existing structure on a revenue-neutral basis, lowers all major tax rates, taxes all income at the same rate, and makes the structure simpler, fairer, and consistent with the modern economy, as recommended by past tax studies.	The bill would eliminate at least $320 million in existing municipal revenue while providing an unspecified amount of new revenue through an expanded sales tax base.	Loss of more than $6 million annually in utility franchise tax	Referred to the Finance Committee (3/25).	Oppose
HB 120/SB 108 **Blding Codes: Local Consistency/Exempt Cable**	**HB 120:** Hager; W. Brawley; Cotham; Arp; (Primary) R. Brawley; Faircloth; Ford; Hamilton; Jackson; Jordan; Malone; Martin; Millis; Moffitt; Murry; Pittman; Presnell; Setzer; Shepard; Szoka; Torbett; Warren; Whitmire; Wray; **SB 108:** Apodaca; Hunt; Ford: (Primary) Clark; Walters;	Limits the residential inspections local governments could conduct to the eight specific areas referenced in the Code, and extends the revision cycle for the residential code from three years to six years.	Inspectors across the state have expressed concern that the bill will restrict their ability to conduct needed safety inspections that address local conditions. Any jurisdiction wishing to require local inspections beyond those specified in the Code would have to bring their request before the N.C. Building Code Council and have it individually approved.		Approved by House; Referred to Senate Finance Com. (2/20)	

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HB 252 **Asheville Transfers**	Moffit; Ramsey; McGrady	terminate the City's Authority to use up to 5% of water utility revenues for street and sidewalk repairs done in conjunction with work on underground water lines.		Loss of $1.8+ million annually toward regional infrastructure	referred to the Finance Committee; placed on calendar 4/3.	Oppose
HB 284 **Local Contracts/Local Bidder Preference**	Jordan (Primary); Faircloth; Floyd; Foushee; Hamilton; Hanes; Harrison: McGrady; McManus; Waddell; Whitmire	When bidding/contracting for construction or repair work or bidding for the purchase of apparatus, supplies, materials or equipment (involving expenditure of public money) municipalities may give preference to the lowest responsible, responsive LOCAL bidder if both of the following conditions are met: 1)the lowest responsible, responsive LOCAL bidder is NO GREATER THAN 5% or $10,000, whichever is less, of the bid of the lowest responsive, responsible NONLOCAL bidder AND 2) the lowest responsible, responsive local bidder MATCHES the bid of the lowest responsible, responsive nonlocal bidder		None	Referred to the Com on Government (3/13)	Support
SB 332 **Government Transparency Act**	Goosby (Primary); Meredith	Government Transparency Act would establish as public records general descriptions of promotions, demotions, suspensions, etc., and performance evaluations of public employees.			Referred to Com on Judiciary (3/19)	Oppose
HB 418 **Park Authority**	Ramsey; Moffitt (Primary); Ford	Estabilish a joint City/County Park and Recreation Authority			Passed 1st Reading; Referred to Com. On Gov. (3/26)	Monitor

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SB 346 **Firefighter Benefits**	Hartsel, Jr. (Primary); Apodaca; Jenkins	Would require municipalities to provide retirement benefits for firefighters equivalent to police officers.	Would only change retirement eligible age, not create separation allowance. Might lead to FF's retiring at earlier age, which could mean more people on retiree health plan and for longer period of time.	Possible minor increase in health plan cost	Referred to Com on Pension, Retirement and Aging (3/19)	Oppose
SB 207/HB 238 **Maintaining Water and Sewer Fiscal Health**	**SB:** Tucker (Primary); Davis **HB:** Cleveland; Dockham (Primary); R. Brown; Collins; Moffitt; Stone	HB 238/SB 207 gives the Local Government Commission (LGC is a division of the Department of State Treasurer) the authority to assume full control of a water or sewer enterprise system, regardless of whether the system is ran by a local government or public authority. In order for the LGC to have the authority to assume control, the system must meet one of the following criteria for three consecutive years: I. The system experienced negative working capital (determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles).II. The system experienced a quick ratio of less than 1.0 (the ratio of liquid assets, cash and receivables, to current liabilities is less than 1.0). III. The system experienced a net loss of revenue using modified accrual budgetary basis of accounting.			Passed Senate; Referred to Com on Finance (3/19)	

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HB 48 **Operation of Mopeds**	Shepard (Primary); Faircloth; Floyd; Goodman; C. Graham; Hamilton ; Jones; Jordan; Lambeth; Moffitt; Setzer; Stevens; Waddell; Warren; Whitmire; Wray	Operation of Mopeds would require moped operators to possess a driver's license, register the moped, and carry insurance. Specifically:v(1) prohibits any person under the age of 17 (was, 16) who has not completed the graduated drivers license process from operating a moped (2) prohibits passengers on a moped (3) requires that mopeds be registered with the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and(4) makes it unlawful to operate a moped without proof of financial responsibility.			Ref. to Com on Transportatio n (2/4)	
SB 186 **Notice of Publications by Cities and Counties**	Wade; Brock (Primary); Barringer; Cook; Davis; Hise; Rabin	Notice Publication by Counties and Cities - Under the terms of this bill, cities and towns would be able to publish legally required public notices online rather than paying for advertisement in a print publication.	Streamline the process of public notification by letting cities and towns publish public notices on their government websites, as well as use other techniques to disseminate public information.		Ref. to Com. On Rules and Operations (3/6)	
HB 79 **Annexation**	Pittman; Hardister; Ford (Primary); Cleveland; Presnell; Ramsey; Stone				Ref to Com on Government (2/11)	