

PENC Legislative Update

Senate and House Release Budget

Provides NO Salary Increase, Eliminates Tenure, and Implements Ed Reforms

The conferees on [S402, 2013 Appropriations Act](#), agreed on a final budget. You can read the proposed [legislation](#) and the corresponding [money report](#). PENC is still going through the 400 page budget in detail, but a cursory review has revealed alarming provisions. The bill includes major policy changes to education, including:

- **Repeal of teacher tenure** and replacement with a scheme that puts teachers without tenure on annual contracts and teachers who currently have tenure on one, two, or four year contracts.
- **Creation of "Opportunity Scholarships,"** which amount to vouchers that can be used by families at 133 percent of the federal poverty level to send their children to private schools, draining resources and support for North Carolina's public school system.
- **NO Teacher or State Employee Salary increase.**
- **Phase Out of Master's level pay** for anyone not receiving that supplement by the 2014-2015 school year, unless a Master's degree is required by their job.
- **LEA funding cuts for guaranteed classroom teacher positions** by more than \$286 million in FY 13-14 and by more than \$245 million in FY 14-15.
- Inclusion of the House's **School Safety Provisions, which PENC Supports.**

PENC is deeply disappointed by the budget. PENC Board President Tim Barnsback and Executive Director Carol Vandenberg will hand deliver a [letter](#) today to Gov. Pat McCrory expressing PENC's concerns and ask for his veto on the final bill.

The bill will be voted on by the Senate and House on separate days this week. The General Assembly is likely to adjourn the session shortly thereafter.

PENC will be sending out an [Action Alert](#) shortly with all of the information you will need to communicate your concerns about the budget to your Senator, House Member and to Gov. McCrory.

Please remember that just because a bill is filed or discussions occur, it does not mean that the issue or bill will necessarily make it to the point of becoming a law.
[What do you think?](#)

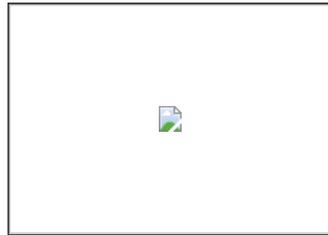
If you have questions or concerns, please share your thoughts and ideas with us.
 Contact us at penc@pencweb.org.

Submitted by Evelyn Hawthorne

For more information about the North Carolina General Assembly, [click here](#).

To identify and contact your legislators, [click here](#).

For information about specific issues, please contact PENC government relations consultant Evelyn Hawthorne at lobbivist@pencweb.org.



Food For Thought

"The only cure for grief is action."

~ [George Henry Lewes \(1817-78\)](#)

Our Mission

Our mission is to promote education reform for the benefit of all North Carolina children while ensuring the recruitment, development and retention of qualified educators.

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