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Building Code Omnibus Bill Clears House

House legislators advanced an omnibus bill this week that would reorganize the state Building Code Council, make several changes to the building code and also change some land development regulations. [SB 166 2024 Bldg. Code Regulatory Reform](#) moved quickly through the House committee process, as it was heard by the House Finance Committee on Wednesday before bypassing the House Rules Committee to head straight to the House floor. It passed without significant debate.

Despite its fast track, League members and the NCLM Government Affairs team worked with legislators to make critical changes that preserve municipal authority and protect local revenue streams. They include:

- **Removal of Section 1.9**, which prohibited local regulations requiring the addition of “supplemental remote parking facilities” within subdivision developments.
- **Removal of Sections 6.1-6.5**, which eliminated the extraterritorial jurisdiction of cities and towns within Moore County.
- **Changes to Section 1.4**, which imposed a refund for a portion of permit application fees for building permits not initially reviewed within 15 business days. The change worked on by the League pushes the refund shot clock back to 20 business days.

Some other provisions of concern to cities remain in the bill. They include:

- **Section 1.12**: Clarifies performance guarantees must only be used for completion of required improvements and not for repairs and maintenance after completion. Requires local government to inspect improvements within 30 days of the developer’s request and allow a developer to obtain certification from a licensed engineer that required improvements are complete if the developer and local government disagree. Also requires the return or release of a performance guarantee within 30 days upon acknowledgement or certification that required improvements are complete.
- **Section 3.6**: Clarifies that local governments reviewing plans shall not make administrative decisions based on the appropriateness of the scope of work covered by seals of design.

With passage in the House this week, the bill now moves to the state Senate, where it awaits a concurrence vote. Please continue to provide feedback regarding this

legislation to NCLM Government Affairs Associate Derrick Applewhite, dapplewhite@nclm.org.



NCBEMO Meets with Legislative Black Caucus

In the first formal meeting of its kind, members of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus met with members of the North Carolina Black Elected Municipal Officials (NCBEMO) at a reception on Tuesday, providing an opportunity to discuss issues before the legislature and member municipalities. The reception, held in Raleigh, was hosted by the League of Municipalities as part of its affiliate work with NCBEMO.

The event allowed NCBEMO members and caucus members to connect and discuss the importance of education, collaboration, and communication between the two groups and their constituents. Doing so, the strengthening of those relationships can help in policy decisions ameliorating challenges that disproportionately affect minority communities. The event was attended by dozens of BEMO members from municipalities across the state.

[MORE PHOTOS HERE](#)

Towing Reform Bill Introduced

Legislation introduced this week would reform rules for towing and booting operators, including requiring permits for the businesses to operate, creating an industry database and establishing a new Towing and Recovery Commission. [HB 1024 Nonconsensual Booting and Towing Reform](#) was introduced by Rep. Laura Budd (D-Mecklenburg), Rep. Carson Smith (R-Onslow and Pender), Rep. Pyrtle (R-Rockingham), and Rep. Carolyn Logan (D-Mecklenburg). Under the legislation, the creation of a database would allow the public to lodge complaints against towing operators and search the database to locate a towed vehicle. Further, the bill would require towing operators and the private property owners who contract with them to follow rules on signage, payment and storage. Finally, the bill would establish a new Towing and Recovery Commission that would be empowered to set maximum towing and booting fees. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary II, with a serial referral to the House Finance Committee. A date for committee consideration has not been announced.

OSHA Proposes New Rule for Emergency Responder Protections

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has proposed a [new rule](#) to increase protections for emergency responders and provide standard workplace protections for those who respond to emergencies as a part of their regular job duties. [The additional protections](#) would require medical screening and behavioral health services, written emergency response plans, hazard vulnerability assessments, training and other measures. These proposed changes have the potential to create additional budgetary strains on fire departments and other emergency response groups.

[The proposed rule is published in the Federal Register](#) for view and the deadline for public comment has been extended to **June 21, 2024**. [The National League of Cities](#) has expressed its intention to submit public comment to OSHA and invites local elected officials to share their concerns as well.

Legislative Policy Committee Deadline Approaches

NCLM President Mark-Anthony Middleton seeks to appoint interested city officials as new members of the NCLM Legislative Policy Committee. Those interested in applying can [sign up now](#).

The Legislative Policy Committee is an internal group of city officials that helps form the League's policy positions in each legislative biennium. Committee members also serve as advocates on municipal legislation and are an integral part of the organization's advocacy efforts. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please fill out [this form](#) no later than **May 22**.

Please direct questions to Grassroots Associate Abbie Britt at abritt@nclm.org.

Bill Tracking Tool

As the legislative Short Session continues, we hope you find [our new bill tracking tool](#) helpful in tracking legislation affecting cities and towns. This tool will be continually updated each week so that the information is pertinent to what is happening the North Carolina General Assembly as of now.

You will note that the tool places bills in three categories, with those designated as "Active" requiring the most attention. Users are able to scroll through each category, finding information about each bill, and links taking users to bill pages at the NCGA website. Not all categories may include legislation at all times, based on the General Assembly's schedule and activity, and the consideration of legislation.

Be sure to utilize [this resource](#) throughout the legislative session.



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