

2019 Legislative Business Ratings



NCFREE
NORTH CAROLINA FREE
ENTERPRISE FOUNDATION



The North Carolina FreeEnterprise Foundation (NCFREE) is the premier research organization in the state providing non-partisan analysis of the political landscape and its impact on North Carolina’s business environment.

Overview of the Legislative Business Ratings

The NCFREE Legislative Business Ratings (LBR) is a report produced at the conclusion of the NC General Assembly session that occurs in the odd-numbered year (what’s commonly referred to as the “Long Session”).

This analytical assessment of the business disposition of all state House and Senate members is based on confidential input from a group of more than 300 business leaders, business trade association executives and government affairs professionals.

This survey pool represents a diverse cross-section of business interests, with geographic diversity as well as and an appropriate array relative to company size and scope, and industry sectors.

The rating contains two parts:

- 1 An Objective evaluation consisting of recorded votes taken where the subject presented a clear philosophical division on key issues of interest and concern to the business community. The vote could for a bill, an amendment, concurrence, or to override a veto.
- 2 A Subjective assessment in which survey respondents rated every legislator based on the respondent’s personal experience as to the percentage of time that legislator was supportive on issues important to the overall business climate of North Carolina. Those surveyed were asked to consider factors such as legislators making themselves accessible for information sharing and discussion and maintaining a business-like approach to the conduct of legislative duties. Respondents made this assessment using a 100-point scale (in 10-point increments) and were asked to rate only those legislators they knew and interacted with during session.

Understanding the NCFREE LBR

The NCFREE LBR is the 2:1 weighted average of the Objective and Subjective ratings with a .25 “bonus” credit for each primary sponsorship of legislation selected added to the average.

$$\frac{[(\text{Objective} * 2) + (\text{Subjective})]}{3} + (\# \text{ of Key Bill Primary Sponsorships} * .25) = \text{LBR}$$

The final rating provides a straightforward metric: the closer the rating is to 100, the more aligned with the principles of free enterprise that legislator was during the 2019 Long Session of the NC General Assembly.

NCFREE determined that a rating of 70 or higher indicates that a legislator can be counted on – both in votes cast as well as general disposition on business issues and in their approach to legislative duties – to consistently exhibit strong support of free enterprise and comprise the solid base of business-minded legislators. Those with a rating between 70 and 55 are considered to be occasional in their support of free enterprise principles.

For additional information on our methodology and key votes, please refer to page 10.

Senate LBR Table

Member	District	Home County	2019 LBR
Paul Newton	36	Cabarrus	99.3
Tom McInnis	25	Richmond	98.3
Rick Gunn	24	Alamance	97.9
Joyce Krawiec	31	Forsyth	97.6
Norman Sanderson	2	Pamlico	97.2
Phillip (Phil) Berger	30	Rockingham	96.9
Dan Bishop* (Resigned 9.17.19)	39	Mecklenburg	96.9
Harry Brown	6	Onslow	96.7
Brent Jackson	10	Sampson	96.7
James (Jim) Davis	50	Macon	96.7
Ralph Hise	47	Mitchell	96.3
Chuck Edwards	48	Henderson	95.8
Danny Earl Britt	13	Robeson	95.8
Jim Perry	7	Lenoir	95.7
John Alexander	18	Wake	95.6
Kathy Harrington	43	Gaston	95.6
William (Bill) Rabon	8	Brunswick	95.2
Andy Wells	42	Catawba	94.7
Carl Ford	33	Rowan	94.5
Jim Burgin	12	Harnett	94.2
Warren Daniel	46	Burke	94.2
Vickie Sawyer	34	Iredell	94.0
Bob Steinburg	1	Chowan	93.9
Ted Alexander	44	Cleveland	92.9
Deanna Ballard	45	Watauga	92.8

Member	District	Home County	2019 LBR
Rick Horner	11	Wilson	91.7
Jerry Tillman	26	Randolph	90.5
Don Davis	5	Greene	90.4
Todd Johnson	35	Union	90.1
Eddie Gallimore	29	Davidson	87.2
Daniel (Dan) Blue	14	Wake	75.4
Paul Lowe	32	Forsyth	74.0
Sam Searcy	17	Wake	73.6
Mike Woodard	22	Durham	70.8
Robert B. (Ben) Clark	21	Hoke	70.5
Erica Smith	3	Northampton	63.7
Wiley Nickel	16	Wake	61.5
Milton F. (Toby) Fitch	4	Wilson	58.7
Floyd McKissick	20	Durham	58.3
Jay Chaudhuri	15	Wake	49.7
Terry Van Duyn	49	Buncombe	48.5
Kirk deViere	19	Cumberland	45.8
Harper Peterson	9	New Hanover	44.7
Michael Garrett	27	Guilford	44.7
Jeff Jackson	37	Mecklenburg	44.4
Valerie Foushee	23	Orange	44.3
Joyce Waddell	40	Mecklenburg	41.7
Mujtaba Mohammed	38	Mecklenburg	41.6
Gladys Robinson	28	Guilford	32.9
Natasha Marcus	41	Mecklenburg	26.2

*Rob Bryan (SD39) was not present for any selected votes and therefore was not included in the LBR.

House LBR Table

Member	District	Home County	2019 LBR
John Bell	10	Wayne	99.1
Larry Potts	81	Davidson	99.1
David Lewis	53	Harnett	98.4
Chris Humphrey	12	Lenoir	97.6
Jerry Carter	65	Rockingham	97.5
Mark Brody	55	Union	97.3
Brenden Jones	46	Columbus	97.0
Kevin Corbin	120	Macon	96.7
Julia Howard	77	Davie	96.7
Wayne Sasser	67	Stanly	96.7
Carson Smith	16	Pender	96.7
Jimmy Dixon	4	Duplin	96.6
Jason Saine	97	Lincoln	96.4
Allen McNeill	78	Randolph	96.3
John Szoka	45	Cumberland	96.1
Destin Hall	87	Caldwell	95.7
Tim Moore	111	Cleveland	95.6
Bobby Hanig	6	Currituck	95.6
John Fraley	95	Iredell	95.5
Ted Davis	19	New Hanover	95.3
Larry Strickland	28	Johnston	95.3
Kyle Hall	91	Stokes	95.3
Holly Grange	20	New Hanover	95.0
Edward "Ed" Goodwin	1	Chowan	94.8
Steve Jarvis	80	Davidson	94.2

Member	District	Home County	2019 LBR
Donny Lambeth	75	Forsyth	94.2
Jeffrey McNeely <small>(Appointed 7.5.19)</small>	84	Iredell	93.8
Jon Hardister	59	Guilford	93.7
Patricia (Pat) McElraft	13	Carteret	92.1
John Sauls	51	Lee	92.0
Dana Bumgardner	109	Gaston	91.9
James (Jamie) Boles	52	Moore	91.8
William Brisson	22	Bladen	91.8
Dean Arp	69	Union	91.8
Jake Johnson <small>(Appointed 8.2.19)</small>	113	Polk	91.5
John Torbett	108	Gaston	91.3
Frank Iler	17	Brunswick	91.2
Donna McDowell White	26	Johnston	90.7
Rena Turner <small>(Resigned 6.27.19)</small>	84	Iredell	90.6
Lisa Stone Barnes	7	Nash	90.5
Patricia (Pat) Hurley	70	Randolph	89.4
Mitchell Setzer	89	Catawba	88.5
Ken Goodman <small>(Resigned 4.18.19)</small>	66	Richmond	87.9
Dennis Riddell	64	Alamance	86.7
John Faircloth	62	Guilford	86.4
Stephen Ross	63	Alamance	86.1
Michele Presnell	118	Yancey	85.7
Larry Yarborough	2	Person	85.4
Michael H. Wray	27	Northampton	84.9
Keith Kidwell	79	Beaufort	84.7

House LBR Table

Member	District	Home County	2019 LBR
David Rogers	112	Rutherford	84.5
Michael Speciale	3	Craven	84.2
Cody Henson <small>(Resigned 7.26.19)</small>	113	Transylvania	83.6
D. Craig Horn	68	Union	83.4
Jay Adams	96	Catawba	80.9
Walter L. (Lee) Zachary	73	Yadkin	80.5
Jeffrey Elmore	94	Wilkes	80.4
Kelly Hastings	110	Gaston	80.1
Harry Warren	76	Rowan	79.4
Debra Conrad	74	Cabarrus	78.3
Linda Johnson	82	Forsyth	78.2
Larry Pittman	83	Cabarrus	77.7
Brian Turner	116	Buncombe	77.5
Nasif Majeed	99	Mecklenburg	77.1
Garland Pierce	48	Scotland	76.8
Scott Brewer <small>(Appointed 5.1.19)</small>	66	Richmond	76.3
Gregory Murphy <small>(Resigned 9.16.19)</small>	9	Pitt	75.6
Cecil Brockman	60	Guilford	75.6
George Cleveland	14	Onslow	74.6
Elmer Floyd	43	Cumberland	74.6
Kelly Alexander	107	Mecklenburg	73.5
Hugh Blackwell	86	Burke	73.2
Sarah Stevens	90	Surry	71.7
Josh Dobson	85	McDowell	71.0
Howard Hunter	5	Hertford	70.9

Member	District	Home County	2019 LBR
Charles Graham	47	Robeson	70.2
Terry Garrison	32	Vance	70.0
C. Ray Russell	93	Watauga	69.9
Philip (Phil) Shepard	15	Onslow	69.5
Brandon Lofton	104	Mecklenburg	69.5
Graig Meyer	50	Orange	69.4
Charles (Chuck) McGrady	117	Henderson	67.6
Evelyn Terry	71	Forsyth	67.1
Becky Carney	102	Mecklenburg	67.0
Shelly Willingham	23	Edgecombe	66.5
William (Billy) Richardson	44	Cumberland	66.4
John Ager	115	Buncombe	66.2
Wesley Harris	105	Mecklenburg	66.2
Joe Johns	40	Wake	64.5
Marvin Lucas	42	Cumberland	64.5
James Gailliard	25	Nash	64.4
Carolyn G. Logan	101	Mecklenburg	62.7
Ashton Wheeler Clemmons	57	Guilford	62.6
Christy Clark	98	Mecklenburg	62.1
Chaz Beasley	92	Mecklenburg	61.4
Raymond Smith	21	Wayne	61.2
Robert Reives	54	Lee	60.9
Terence Everitt	35	Wake	60.4
Mary Belk	88	Mecklenburg	60.2
Carla Cunningham	106	Mecklenburg	59.7

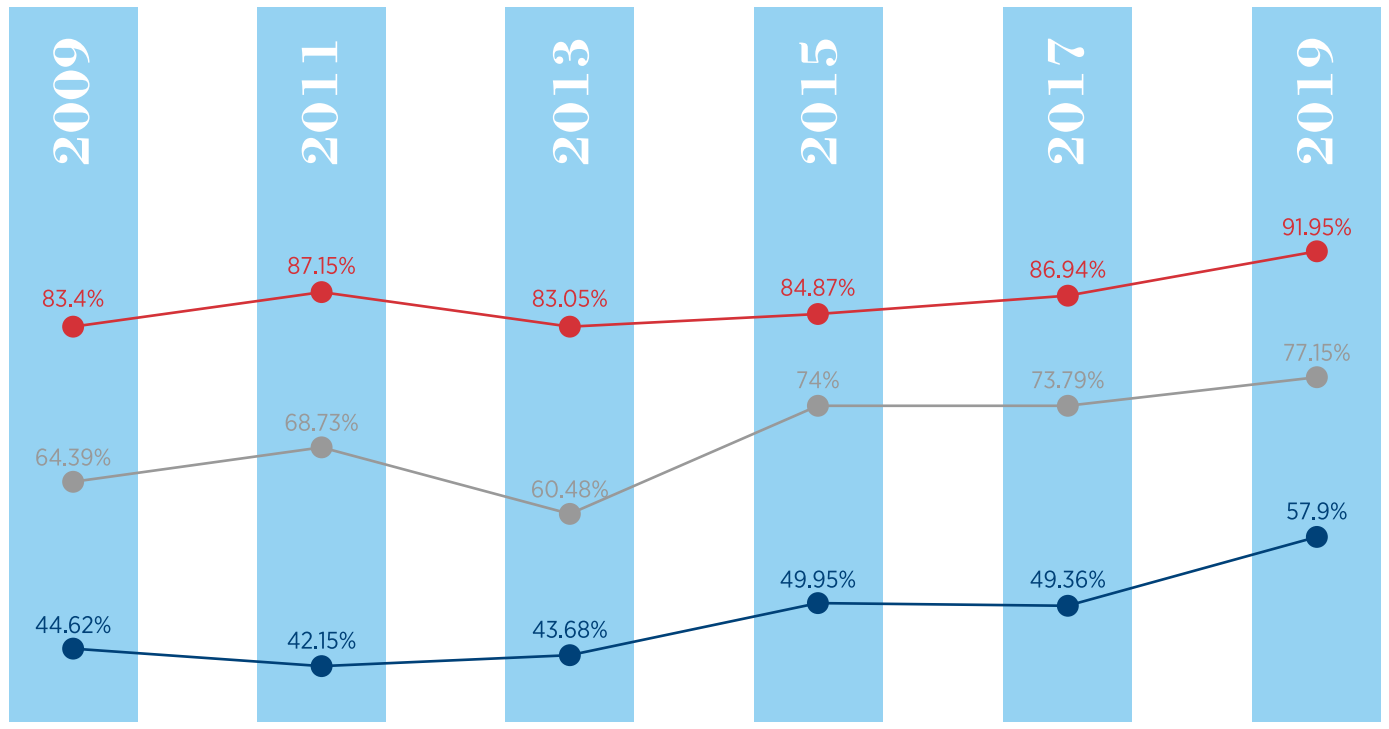
*Perrin Jones (HD9) was not present for any selected votes and therefore was not included in the LBR.



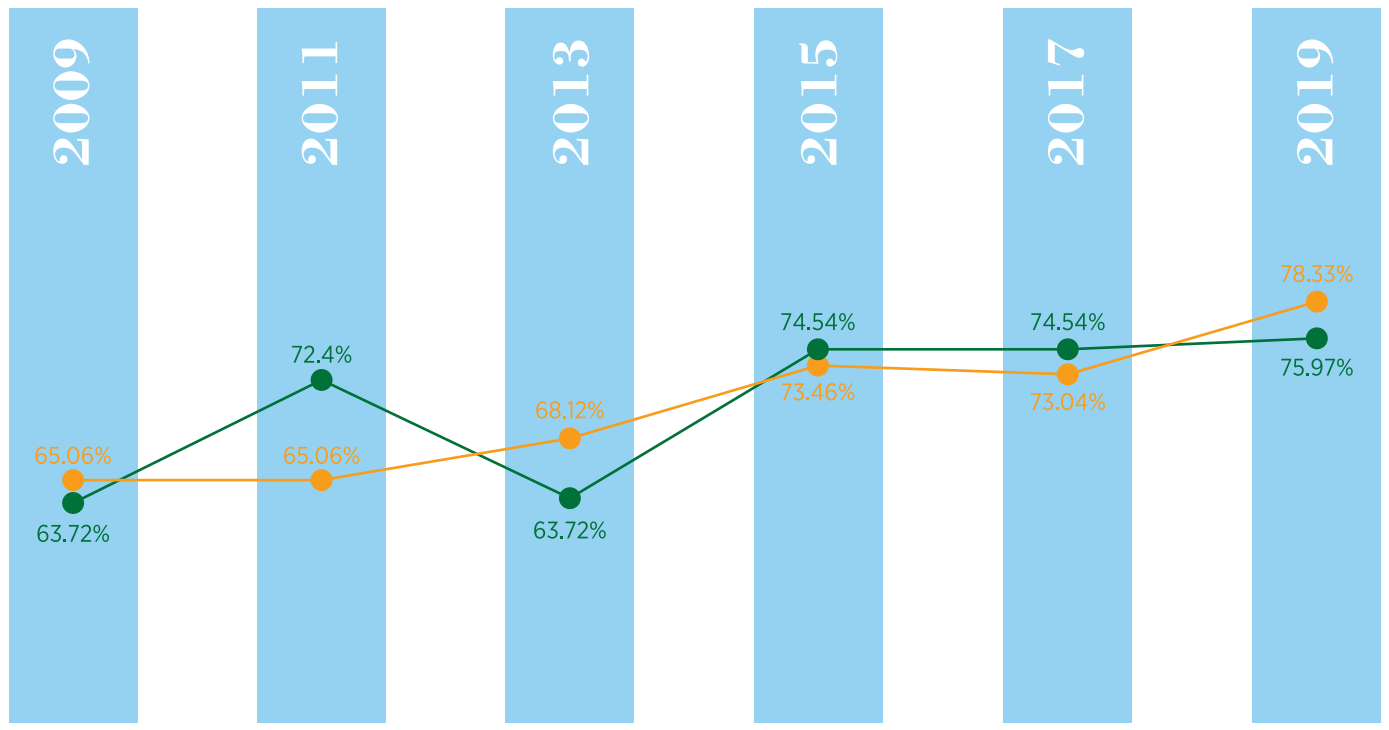
Member	District	Home County	2019 LBR
Joe Sam Queen	119	Haywood	59.4
Yvonne Lewis Holley	38	Wake	58.8
John Autry	100	Mecklenburg	58.0
Gale Adcock	41	Wake	57.6
Cynthia Ball	49	Wake	56.3
Darren Jackson	39	Wake	55.7
Julie von Haefen	36	Wake	55.3
Jean Farmer-Butterfield	24	Wilson	55.0
Amos L. Quick	58	Guilford	52.4
MaryAnn Black	29	Durham	50.1
Rachel Hunt	103	Mecklenburg	50.0
Sydney Batch	37	Wake	49.5
Zack Hawkins	31	Durham	49.2
Deb Butler	18	New Hanover	48.9
Allison Dahle	11	Wake	45.9
Rosa Gill	33	Wake	44.5
Grier Martin	34	Wake	42.7
Verla Insko	56	Orange	41.8
Marcia Morey	30	Durham	41.7
Susan Fisher	114	Buncombe	40.4
Derwin Montgomery	72	Forsyth	36.6
Kandie Smith	8	Pitt	35.6
Pricy Harrison	61	Guilford	33.5



NCGA LBR HISTORICAL AVERAGES



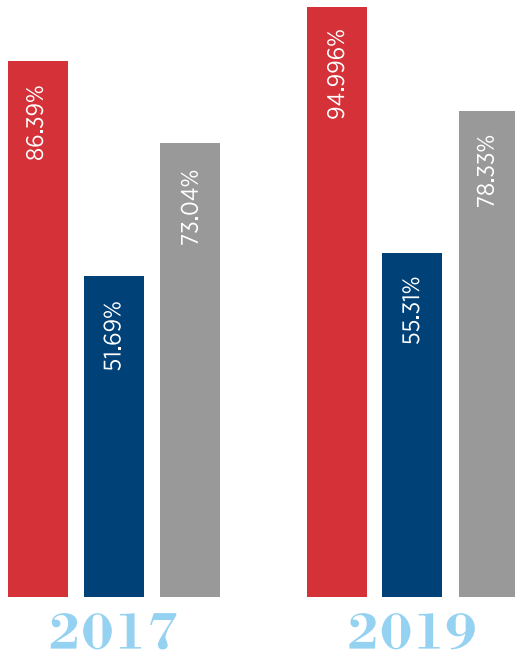
NCGA LBR HISTORICAL AVERAGES by CHAMBER



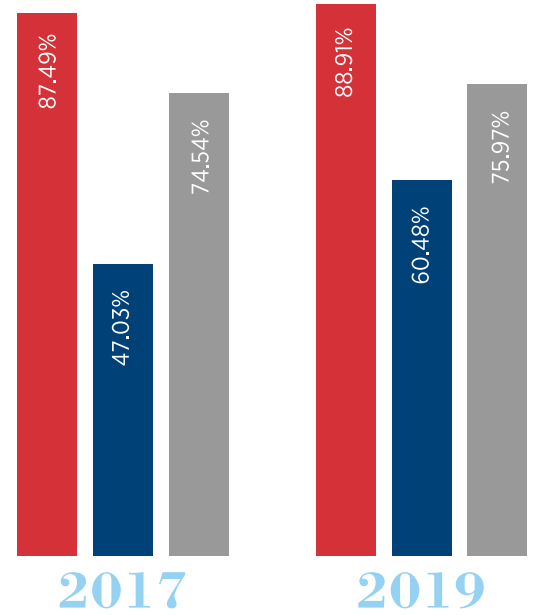
AVERAGE LBR by CHAMBER, 2017 vs. 2019

■ Republicans ■ Democrats ■ Chamber

HOUSE

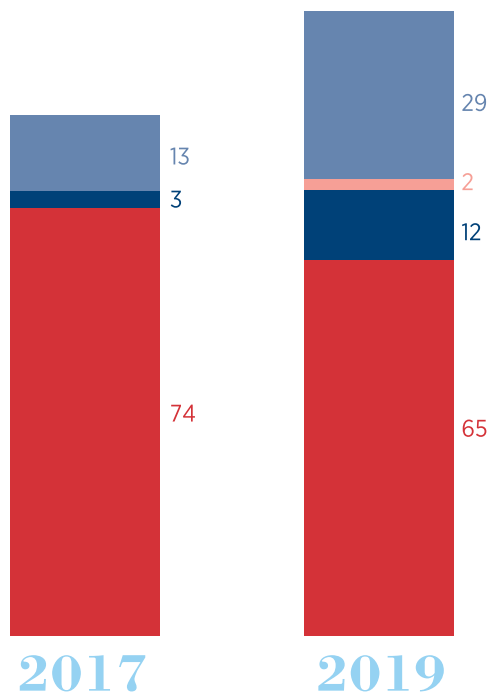


SENATE



SOLID AND OCCASIONAL SUPPORT by CHAMBER, 2017 vs. 2019

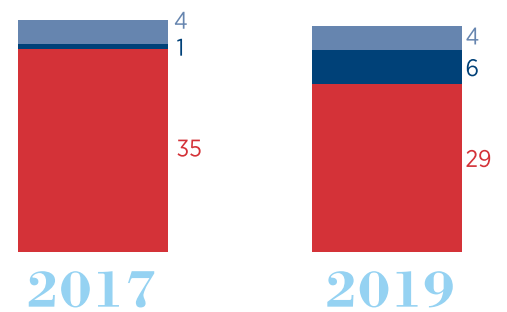
HOUSE



SENATE



Solid = LBR ≥ 70
Occasional = 70 > LBR ≥ 55



Methodology

The NCFREE Research Committee reviewed all Objective evaluation recommendations made by those surveyed and selected the votes reflecting an appropriately diverse array, which represent:

- Meaningful issues to the business community;
- Matters in which free enterprise principles were distinctly involved; and
- A clear distinction of legislative perspectives on business issues.

Voting histories were secured from the NC General Assembly website and matched against the preferred position on the selected vote to produce an Objective score. The objective score represents that percentage of time a legislator voted the preferred position.

Any excused vote was not included in the calculations, but a recorded “not voting” was considered and calculated as having not taken the preferred free enterprise position.

In terms of the votes selected for this analysis, finding absolute unanimity within the business community for any piece of legislation, let alone a single vote, is a challenge regardless of subject matter or constituency impacted.

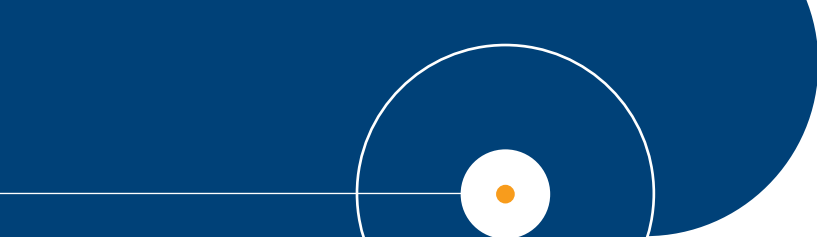
Because the NCFREE LBR utilizes input from a large number of individuals within the business community familiar with what transpired during the legislative session, it is a broad-based approach that avoids being simply a characterization of lobbying successes or failures. This assures the NCFREE LBR is an impartial and unbiased evaluation of disposition and not

simply a scorecard measuring a singular legislative agenda.

For calculation of Objective and Subjective scores to form an overall Legislative Business Rating for each legislator, the NCFREE Research Committee considered the overall tone and tenor of the current legislative environment, the partisan balance in both chambers, and the volume of significant and important issues that came to an actual vote during the session.

Consequently, the NCFREE Research Committee decided to utilize a 2:1 weighted calculation of Objective to Subjective ratings to form the overall rating. This year the NCFREE Research committee added another dimension to the overall rating of legislators: if a legislator was a primary sponsor of a bill among those selected for the Objective rating, they received a “bonus” credit of .25 added to their overall rating.

In effect, weighting the Objective twice as much as the Subjective and adding a “bonus” credit for primary sponsorship, prioritizes a legislator’s voting record while highlighting those who champion legislation that positively impacts the business community.



	Bill	Short Title	Primary Sponsors	Vote	Preferred Vote
Selected Senate Votes	HB 645	Revisions to Outdoor Advertising Laws	Saine, Dixon, Jones, Wray	Senate 2nd Reading	Aye
	SB 355	Land-Use Regulatory Changes	Bishop, Newton, Searcy	Senate 2nd Reading	Aye
	SB 553	Regulatory Reform Act of 2019	Sanderson, Wells	Senate 2nd Reading	Aye
	SB 622	Tax Reduction Act of 2019	Tillman, Hise, Newton	Senate 2nd Reading	Aye
	SB 86	Small Business Healthcare Act	Bishop, Krawiec, Edwards	Senate 2nd Reading	Aye
	SB 315	NC Farm Act	B. Jackson, Sanderson, Johnson	Senate 2nd reading	Aye
	SB 529	Fees/Returned Checks	Gunn, D. Davis	Senate 2nd Reading	Aye
	HJR 253	Confirm James Gilles/Industrial Commission	Lewis	Senate 2nd	Aye
	HJR 254	Confirm Ken Goodman/Industrial Commission	Lewis	Senate 2nd	Aye
	HJR 255	Confirm Louis Bledsoe/Sp. Superior Ct. Judge	Lewis	Senate 2nd	Aye
Selected House Votes	HB 131	Map Act	Conrad, Lambeth, Potts, Torbett	Senate 2nd Reading	Aye
	SB 310	Electric Co-Op Rural Broadband Services	Brown, Newton, Woodward	Senate 2nd reading	Aye
	SB 529	Fees/Returned Checks	Gunn, D. Davis	House 2nd Reading	Aye
	SB 86	Small Business Healthcare Act	Bishop, Krawiec, Edwards	House 2nd Reading	Aye
	SB 86	Small Business Healthcare Act	Bishop, Krawiec, Edwards	Second Reading	Nay
	SB 553	Regulatory Reform Act of 2019	Sanderson, Wells	House 3rd Reading	Aye
	HB 645	Revisions to Outdoor Advertising Laws	Saine, Dixon, Jones, Wray	House 2nd Reading	Aye
	HB 645	Revisions to Outdoor Advertising Laws	Saine, Dixon, Jones, Wray	M11 Concur	Aye
	HB 675	2019 Building Code Regulatory Reform	Brody, Riddell, Hardister, Richardson	House 2nd Reading	Aye
	SB 315	NC Farm Act	B. Jackson, Sanderson, Johnson	House 2nd Reading	Aye
HJR 253	Confirm James Gilles/Industrial Commission	Lewis	House 2nd Reading	Aye	
HJR 254	Confirm Ken Goodman/Industrial Commission	Lewis	House 2nd Reading	Aye	
HJR 255	Confirm Louis Bledsoe/Sp. Superior Ct. Judge	Lewis	House 2nd Reading	Aye	
HB 131	Map Act	Conrad, Lambeth, Potts, Torbett	House 2nd Reading	Aye	
SB 310	Electric Co-Op Rural Broadband Services	Brown, Newton, Woodard	House 2nd reading	Aye	

For additional information on legislation and votes referred to in this report, visit the NC General Assembly website at www.ncleg.gov.

About the North Carolina Free Enterprise Foundation



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