

February 25, 2009

S 334. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REFORMS. Filed 2/25/09. *TO REQUIRE BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION MEMBERS TO SIGN SWORN STATEMENTS OF INTEREST AT EVERY BOARD MEETING, TO TRANSFER CERTAIN POWERS OF THE BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PROFESSIONAL APPROVAL PROCESS TO BE USED TO APPROVE ALL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.*

Amends GS 143B-350(e) and (k) by providing that Board of Transportation (Board) members are to sign sworn statements at every meeting of the Board detailing the extent to which the member has any financial, professional or other interest in any project under consideration by the Board and upon which the members intend to comment, debate, or cast a vote. Amends GS 143B-350(f) and GS 136-18 by removing the following duties and powers from the Board of Transportation and transferring them to the Department of Transportation: (1) approving a schedule of all major transportation improvement projects and their anticipated costs, (2) approving all highway construction programs, (3) approving all highway construction projects and construction plans, (4) awarding all highway construction contracts, (5) authorizing the acquisition of rights-of-way for highway programs, and (6) promulgating rules and ordinances concerning the Department's transportation functions. Makes a conforming change to GS 136-18(16). Repeals GS 143B-350(g), which authorized the Board to delegate specific authorities to the Secretary of Transportation. Also directs the Secretary of Transportation to develop and implement an approval process for highway construction and maintenance and to report on the plan to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Transportation, and the Fiscal Research Division no later than January 1, 2010.

Intro. by Berger.

GS 136, 143B