

<p style="text-align: center;">Transportation/Natural and Economic Resources Governmental Operations Subcommittee Report – September 21, 2004</p>

Senator David Hoyle was the Chairman for the meeting. The Transportation/NER Subcommittee heard three agenda items.

Departmental Reorganization

Clara Gay, Budget Officer for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services reported on organizational changes involving three (3) positions in the Aquaculture Division. The Division Director retired July 1, 2004 and his position has been converted to one specializing in environmental and natural resource issues. The two (2) remaining Aquaculture position duties have not changed and have been transferred to the Marketing Division within the Department. A budget reduction of \$10,000 was associated with this reorganization in the budget bill (2003 Session; HB 1414).

General Assembly Oversight of Agency Fees (G.S. 12-3.1)

David McLeod, General Counsel for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services presented a schedule of increased rental rates for use of facilities at the State Fair approved by the Board of Agriculture on August 17, 2004. These rates were last increased in January 2001. Revenue generated by the increased fees will be used for repairs and renovations and capital improvements. Plans for capital improvement/expansion will be heard in the Full Commission on September 22, 2004.

The Subcommittee also heard details of a proposal to increase Water Treatment Facility Operator certification renewal (current: \$25; proposed: \$30) and examination (current: \$30; proposed: \$50) fees. G.S. 90A-27 grants the authority to increase these fees up to these amounts.

The Subcommittee recommended a favorable report on these fee increases to the Full Commission.

New Receipt-Supported Positions/Consultation Requirement (G.S. 143-34.1)

The departments reported on their proposed receipt-supported positions in the following divisions:

Wildlife Resources Commission – Total of 4
 Wildlife Management – 4

Department of Commerce – Total of 2
 Credit Union – 1
 Finance – 1

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources requested revisions that would reclassify the pay grade of three previously approved receipt-supported positions in the Ecosystem Enhancement Program.

The Subcommittee recommended a favorable report on these receipt-supported positions to the Full Commission, but expressed concern regarding the establishment of permanent positions supported through federal grant funding.