

John Faircloth: House District 61

Guilford County

“It would be wonderful if, when God put this Earth together, he had given us rivers for clean drinking water and other rivers to dispose of our waste, but unfortunately, he didn’t give us that option.” – [John Faircloth](#), speaking about the pollution in Jordan Lake

In this Real Facts Legislator Profile, we focus on Rep. John Faircloth, the Republican Representative from House District 61. Faircloth is currently serving his fourth term in the House. Before being elected to the General Assembly, Faircloth spent seven years on the High Point City Council and served as police chief of the city for 16 years. In his time in the legislature, Faircloth voted for the unconstitutional racial gerrymander of his own district, Rep. Faircloth has used his position to bring unconstitutional gerrymanders to local districts in his home county. He has also supported and sponsored a number of bills that gutted protections on drinking water and has failed to prioritize public schools.

Rep. John Faircloth



House District 61



Summary

- ***Faircloth voted to protect his own district with an unconstitutional racial gerrymander and meddled with local elections in Guilford county.***
 - *Faircloth voted for the 2011 election maps, which have been ruled unconstitutional because they contain racial gerrymanders.*
 - *Faircloth supported redistricting for the Greensboro City Council, later ruled unconstitutional.*
 - *Faircloth was the sponsor of a bill that redrew Guilford County Commissioner Districts, which resulted in a law suit.*
- ***Faircloth has voted for multiple bills that damage the environment, including sponsoring one that allowed the continued pollution of Jordan Lake.***
- ***Faircloth voted for budgets which saw per pupil spending go down in our public schools.***

While supporting an unconstitutional racial gerrymander of his own district, Rep. Faircloth has also used his position to bring unconstitutional gerrymanders to local districts in his home county.

Faircloth voted for the 2011 election maps that have since been ruled unconstitutional because they contain racial gerrymanders.

➤ *Note: Faircloth voted for H937. (H937, ratified [7/28/11](#))*

The courts ruled that the 2011 election maps included unconstitutional racial gerrymanders. “The proposed map comes after courts ruled that 2011 election maps for the state House and Senate included unconstitutional racial gerrymanders. State Rep. David Lewis, a Harnett County Republican who co-chairs the legislature’s joint redistricting committee, said new Senate maps will likely be released on Sunday.” (News & Observer, [8/19/17](#))

Three federal judges ruled the 2011 maps included 28 racial gerrymanders. “Three federal judges ruled the maps from 2011 included 28 racial gerrymanders – 19 state House and nine state Senate districts – that weakened the overall influence of black voters. The judges ordered new maps drawn, approved and delivered to the court by Sept. 1.” (News & Observer, [8/19/17](#))

The US Supreme Court affirmed the ruling that found 28 districts to be illegal racial gerrymanders. “The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday affirmed a lower court ruling that found 28 North Carolina legislative districts to be illegal racial gerrymanders that diluted the overall impact of black voters.” (News & Observer, [6/6/17](#))

Faircloth supported redistricting for the Greensboro City Council, despite local opposition; the districts were ruled unconstitutional.

➤ *Note: Faircloth voted for H263, the committee substitute, and the conference reports. (H263, ratified [7/2/15](#))*

H263 would have overhauled Greensboro’s City Council despite “overwhelming local opposition.” “Earlier in this session, Blust stood fast in his defiance of House Bill 263, which would overhaul Greensboro’s City Council despite overwhelming local opposition. The council has gone to court to challenge the bill, which would change the makeup of the council and strip the mayor of her vote. Among local Republicans, High Point’s John Faircloth supported the bill, even though he had demanded a referendum for earlier changes to the High Point City Council. Hardister staunchly opposed the bill before wearily giving in. But Blust never budged.” (Greensboro News & Record, 10/4/15)

H263 would have changed the makeup of the Greensboro City Council and would have stripped the mayor of her vote. “Earlier in this session, Blust stood fast in his defiance of House Bill 263, which would overhaul Greensboro’s City Council despite overwhelming local opposition. The council has gone to court to challenge the bill, which would change the makeup of the council and strip the mayor of her vote. Among local Republicans, High Point’s John Faircloth supported the bill, even though he had demanded a referendum for earlier changes to the High Point City Council. Hardister staunchly opposed the bill before wearily giving in. But Blust never budged.” (Greensboro News & Record, 10/4/15)

H263 “eliminated the council’s three at-large members, those elected by all city voters.” “The matter stems from something that happened in mid-2015 in Raleigh. The state legislature passed a law that drew eight new voting districts for the Greensboro City Council. It eliminated the council’s three at-large members, those elected by all city voters. This new-look council would have eight members elected from those newly drawn districts and a mayor, elected by all city voters but unable to vote on proceedings except in the case of a tie. The city and six local residents soon filed a lawsuit in U.S.

District Court in Greensboro, saying that the redistricting plan "substantially impairs the city of Greensboro and its citizens' rights to self-governance"... In other news related to the lawsuit, a judge also on Wednesday scolded state legislators for not complying with his order to give him a detailed description of documents they say are too privileged for even him to see. U.S. Magistrate Judge Joe Webster said the descriptions, called privilege logs, are "woefully inadequate for the court to properly assess whether the privileges asserted are applicable." The legislators, all Republicans, include members of the Guilford County delegation: state Reps. John Faircloth and Jon Hardister, and state Sen. Trudy Wade. The plaintiffs had demanded to see the documents that Wade, Faircloth, Hardister and other legislators used to redraw the lines, including drafts of the bill, the rationale for filing it, information on voting patterns, maps and emails." (News & Record, 11/26/16)

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- **The city council went to court to challenge the bill.** “Earlier in this session, Blust stood fast in his defiance of House Bill 263, which would overhaul Greensboro's City Council despite overwhelming local opposition. The council has gone to court to challenge the bill, which would change the makeup of the council and strip the mayor of her vote. Among local Republicans, High Point's John Faircloth supported the bill, even though he had demanded a referendum for earlier changes to the High Point City Council. Hardister staunchly opposed the bill before wearily giving in. But Blust never budged.” (Greensboro News & Record, 10/4/15)

- **Faircloth added an amendment into H263, which “was intended to undercut the city’s legal challenge of the bill.”** “And Rep. John Faircloth (R-Guilford) sneaked a provision into SB 119, the “technical corrections” bill, that changes House Bill 263, which dictates Greensboro City Council redistricting. It amends the part of the bill that Judge Catherine Eagles cited in granting the city’s request for an injunction. This amendment clearly was intended to undercut the city’s legal challenge of the bill, which is expected to be heard early next year.” (Greensboro News & Record, Editorial, 10/2/15)

A judge scolded legislators, including Faircloth, “for not complying with his order to give him a detailed description of documents they say are too privileged for even him to see.” “The matter stems from something that happened in mid-2015 in Raleigh. The state legislature passed a law that drew eight new voting districts for the Greensboro City Council. It eliminated the council’s three at-large members, those elected by all city voters. This new-look council would have eight members elected from those newly drawn districts and a mayor, elected by all city voters but unable to vote on proceedings except in the case of a tie. The city and six local residents soon filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Greensboro, saying that the redistricting plan “substantially impairs the city of Greensboro and its citizens’ rights to self-governance”... In other news related to the lawsuit, a judge also on Wednesday scolded state legislators for not complying with his order to give him a detailed description of documents they say are too privileged for even him to see. U.S. Magistrate Judge Joe Webster said the descriptions, called privilege logs, are “woefully inadequate for the court to properly assess whether the privileges asserted are applicable.” The legislators, all Republicans, include members of the Guilford County delegation: state Reps. John Faircloth and Jon Hardister, and state Sen. Trudy Wade. The plaintiffs had demanded to see the documents that Wade, Faircloth, Hardister and other legislators used to redraw the lines, including drafts of the bill, the rationale for filing it, information on voting patterns, maps and emails.” (News & Record, 11/26/16)

Faircloth was among legislators who fought subpoenas from a group of residents suing to stop the redistricting because they said it was unfair to black voters. “The court picked that date earlier this year. But part of the pretrial process ground to a halt as the two sides argued about documents members of the N.C. General Assembly used to draw the new district lines. The legislators fought subpoenas from a group of local residents suing to stop the redistricting because they say it’s unfair to black voters. The legislators, all Republicans, include members of the Guilford County delegation: state Reps. John Faircloth and Jon Hardister and state Sen. Trudy Wade. U.S. Magistrate Judge Joe Webster ordered the legislators to provide a “privilege log” - a list of documents they want to keep private and to describe the documents and explain why they should be withheld. Webster received that log this week.” (News & Record, 11/19/16)

The legislators’ attorneys said that they had provided all of the information that was not covered by legislative privilege. “On Tuesday, U.S. Magistrate Judge Joe Webster told the legislators to show him the list by Nov. 15. The legislators, all Republicans, include members of the Guilford County delegation: state Reps. John Faircloth and Jon Hardister, and state Sen. Trudy Wade. The legislators are fighting subpoenas from a group of local residents suing to stop the redistricting because they say it’s unfair to black voters. The subpoenas demand documents Wade, Faircloth, Hardister and other legislators used to redraw the City Council’s voting lines last year. Their attorneys say the legislators have provided all the information that’s not covered by legislative privilege.” (News & Record, 11/3/16)

These districts were ruled unconstitutional because “lawmakers had redrawn those districts to dilute the Democratic vote and give Republican candidates an advantage.” “When voters in Greensboro consider City Council candidates this fall, they will do so with the same district makeup they used in 2015. U.S. Middle District Judge Catherine Eagles ruled Monday that the N.C. General Assembly unconstitutionally redistricted the council in 2015 and that all future elections would be held with the same district map — unless there’s a public referendum to change it. Lawmakers in a bill introduced by state Sen. Trudy Wade (R-Greensboro) had changed the council from five districts and three at-large

seats to eight newly drawn districts and limited the mayor to a vote only in the event of a tie. But Eagles ruled that lawmakers had redrawn those districts to dilute the Democratic vote and give Republican candidates an advantage.” (Greensboro News & Record, [4/3/17](#))

Faircloth was a sponsor of the bill that redrew Guilford county commissioner districts, which resulted in a law suit.

➤ **Note:** Faircloth was a sponsor of H719 and voted for the bill. (H719, ratified [7/28/11](#))

H719 redrew county commissioner districts in Guilford and Mecklenburg, both counties were in the process of redrawing their own districts at the time. “On their way out of town yesterday, Republican House and Senate leaders pushed through one final piece of legislation - House Bill 719, redrawing county commissioner districts in Guilford and Mecklenburg counties. Both counties were in the process of redrawing their own districts without help from Raleigh. Guilford commissioners had scheduled a meeting last night to review maps prepared by a redistricting subcommittee, while Mecklenburg commissioners had arranged a public hearing next week for comments on map options generated by an independent citizens’ commission.” (WRAL, [7/29/11](#))

H719 barred “Guilford from redrawing its commission maps for seven years; Mecklenburg is barred for ten.” “Those meetings are now moot. And if the new law stands, citizens of those counties won’t be allowed to change those maps any time soon. The law bars Guilford from redrawing its commission maps for seven years; Mecklenburg is barred for ten.” (WRAL, [7/29/11](#))

Democrats from Guilford said the legislative maps gave Republicans more power than they would have had under locally-generated maps. “H719’s sponsor, Rep. Bill Brawley, R-Mecklenburg, said the legislature had to step in to redraw the maps to protect the interests of small towns and suburban areas he says are being run over roughshod by urban interests. But Democrats from Guilford and Mecklenburg say the legislative maps give Republicans more power on the county commissions than they would have had under locally-generated maps.” (WRAL, [7/29/11](#))

County commissioners did not know about the new districts before the bill was passed. “You might expect such changes would have drawn protests from the counties affected. But commissioners didn’t have time to react to the new law – they didn’t even know about it. When it passed the House back in April, H719 was a bill dealing with expunging records for teen driving offenses. That’s how it was listed on the public notice for the Senate Judiciary 2 committee meeting Wednesday, too. But the bill that emerged in committee had nothing to do with drivers’ licenses. It had been gutted and amended to become “Omnibus local election laws.”” (WRAL, [7/29/11](#))

The Guilford County Board of Commissioners complained that the legislature did not hold public hearings and they forbade a public referendum. “Among commissioners’ complaints about the plan: The legislature didn’t allow public hearings. It “stacks” black voters in Districts 7 and 8, each of which has more than 60 percent black voters. That would mean fewer black voters in the remaining districts. None of the districts directly represent the city of High Point, which is split among three districts that all include portions of Greensboro. It explicitly forbids a public referendum on the plan, which Republican commissioners insisted upon when Democrats changed the structure of the board 20 years ago. It doesn’t allow for the election of at-large commissioners until 2014.” (Greensboro News & Record, [9/2/11](#))

The Guilford County Board of Commissioners complained the plan stacked black voters into two districts, each of which had more than 60 percent black voters. “Among commissioners’ complaints about the plan: The legislature didn’t allow public hearings. It “stacks” black voters in Districts 7 and 8, each of which has more than 60 percent black voters. That would mean fewer black voters in the remaining districts. None of the districts directly represent the city of High Point, which is split among three districts that all include portions of Greensboro. It explicitly forbids a public referendum on the plan, which Republican commissioners insisted upon when Democrats changed the structure of the board 20

years ago. It doesn't allow for the election of at-large commissioners until 2014." (Greensboro News & Record, [9/2/11](#))

Faircloth had a role in drawing controversial maps for the Guilford County commissioners. "The controversial map drawn by Republican lawmakers frustrated the Guilford County commissioners who wanted local control of the redistricting process, confused voters, sparked a lawsuit, and led a judge to temporarily halt election filings while he sorted out the matter...Rucho credited Berger, the Senate's top leader, for trying to address the map's flaws. Berger and Reps. John Blust and John Faircloth, all of whom represent Guilford County, were heavily criticized for their roles in redrawing the lines." (Greensboro News & Record, 5/17/12)

Faircloth voted for a redistricting plan for the Guilford County commissioners, which left his district zero representation. "That's the difference between a dead skunk and the Guilford County commissioners' redistricting plan delivered by the state legislature last summer. It was drawn by the Republican majority to wrest partisan control of the board away from Democrats. That happens in politics. The Democrats did it to Republicans 20 years ago when their positions were reversed. After such blatant gerrymandering, as noxious as it may be, the air clears eventually and the business of governing goes on...State Rep. John Faircloth, R-Guilford, voted for this plan but said Wednesday he doesn't like it. He shouldn't: He lives in District 6 and denied representation to himself along with his neighbors." (Greensboro News & Record, 1/19/12)

NAACP officials filed a law suit against the new maps because they left over 40,000 residents without representation on the Guilford County Board of Commissioners. "NAACP officials and two Guilford County voters filed a federal lawsuit Thursday to overturn a new redistricting law that leaves almost 43,000 county residents without representation on the county Board of Commissioners. The state and Greensboro chapters of the NAACP, Greensboro lawyer R. Steve Bowden and county resident Myra Ann Slone want a federal judge to rule the plan "violates the equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution" and similar provisions of the state constitution." (Greensboro News & Record, [2/2/12](#))

Rep. Faircloth supported the Republican budget, which spent 30 percent less on education than Gov. Cooper's budget.

Faircloth voted for a budget that let education in North Carolina fall further behind.

- **Note:** Faircloth voted for S257, the conference report, and the veto override. (S257, veto overridden [6/28/17](#))

Under the Republican budget, starting teachers will receive little to no raise. "Most public school teachers will receive a pay hike of 9.6 percent over the next two years, which is a significant jump. However, starting teachers and our most experienced teachers receive little or no raises. Total education spending came in about 30% less than Gov. Cooper's proposed spending. (\$755m to \$520m) and per pupil spending is still 6.7% below pre-Recession level. In the spring of 2016, Senator Phil Berger unveiled a plan to bring average teacher pay to \$54,224 in the 17-18 school year. This budget fails to meet Senator Berger's promise." (Stronger NC, [6/26/17](#))

Gov. Cooper's proposed budget would have increased education spending by \$755 million. "Cooper increased education spending in the coming year by \$755 million; the House and Senate weakly approved half that much." (News & Observer, Editorial, [6/3/17](#))

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Teacher pay still almost \$10K less than the national average

North Carolina’s average teacher salary for 2017 is \$9,543 less than the national average. (NEA Rankings & Estimates, [2016-17](#))

Headline: “Average teacher pay in NC falls short of \$50,000 mark.” “Average teacher pay in North Carolina this school year falls short of the \$50,000 mark touted by state lawmakers and former Gov. Pat McCrory last fall, according to data released this week by the Department of Public Instruction. The actual figure is \$49,837, which is hardly a huge miss at less than \$200 off the mark, but critics say that gap points to deeper problems with how state and local governments pay educators.” (WRAL, [2/3/17](#))

2015 Average Salary of Teachers	2015 Rank	2016 Average Salary of Teachers	2016 Rank	2017 Estimated Average Salary of Teachers	2017 Estimated Rank
\$47,497	40	\$47,941	41	\$49,407	36

(NEA Rankings & Estimates, [2016-17](#))

North Carolina projected to spend less per student in 2017 than 2016

Dropped ranking from 42 to 43 from 2016 to 2017

North Carolina was ranked 42nd in per pupil spending in 2016. (NEA Rankings & Estimates, [2016-17](#))

North Carolina was projected to rank 43rd in per pupil spending in 2017. (NEA Rankings & Estimates, [2016-17](#))

North Carolina decreased per pupil spending from 2016 to 2017

- **NOTE:** NEA rankings include federal funding in per pupil spending totals, chart below breaks down per pupil expenditure by government entity.

North Carolina’s per pupil spending in fall enrollment in 2016 was \$8,887.56. (NC Public Schools, accessed, [5/17/2017](#))

North Carolina’s per pupil spending in fall enrollment projected for 2017 was \$8,940. (NEA Rankings & Estimates, [2016-17](#))

North Carolina only ahead of Mississippi in the Southeast in per pupil spending

North Carolina only beats Mississippi for per pupil spending in the Southeast. (NEA Rankings & Estimates, [2016-17](#))

Faircloth has voted for multiple bills that damage the environment.

The NC League of Conservation Voters gave Faircloth a score of five out of 100 on environmental issues. “This litany of wanton destruction can only be stopped if voters reject the members of the General Assembly who are tearing down the state's environmental protections. Wade has been one of the leaders, with a stunning lifetime score of 0 on environmental issues from the N.C. League of Conservation Voters. That's zero out of 100. A check of that group's 2015 Legislative Scorecard on environmental issues finds Guilford County Republican Reps. Jon Hardister and John Faircloth with lifetime scores of 3 and 5, respectively.” (News & Record, 8/13/16)

Faircloth voted for H467, which would limit the amount of compensation people could receive in lawsuits filed against agricultural operations for disturbances.

- **Note:** Faircloth voted for H467, the conference report, and the veto override. (H467, veto overridden [5/11/17](#))

About 500 rural neighbors of massive hog farms say that clouds of flies and intense smells remain a problem, causing headaches and infusing households. “The 2014 lawsuits by about 500 rural neighbors of massive hog farms allege that clouds of flies and intense smells remain a problem nearly a quarter-century since industrial-scale hog farming took off. The smells can spark headaches and infuse households, they complain. Wind-driven spray has been known to coat a home's exterior in liquefied excrement, some said. The smell clings to clothes.” (WRAL, [4/9/2017](#))

Former NC hog farmer Don Webb: “an American should not have to smell someone else's feces and urine. And that's what they want to force with this bill.” “Don Webb, a former hog farmer from eastern North Carolina, was livid as he addressed the room. “When I found out what I was doing to my neighbors, I got out of the hog industry,” he fumed. “It was a feces and urine factory, and not a waste factory. I'm a human being. I'm an *American*. And an American should not have to smell someone else's feces and urine. And that's what they want to force with this bill. You want to play with my constitutional rights to not be able to sue. You want to take away because I'm not a millionaire. You want to take that right away from me, and other people. You've got no right to do it, and you know it. I'm telling the truth! You know you're wrong.” (IndyWeek, [4/5/2017](#))

H467 would limit the amount of money people could receive in lawsuits filed against agricultural operations for disturbances. “The bill would limit the amount of money people could collect in lawsuits filed against agricultural operations for disturbances such as odors and pollution. Under the bill, the person suing could be compensated only for the decrease in rental income the property could generate because of the smells and gases coming from hog farms, as opposed to being compensated more generously for the loss of quality of life as a jury sees fit.” (News & Observer, [4/5/2017](#))

H467 would limit the damages that could be awarded to a property owner to no more than the actual market value of the property. “Under House Bill 467, the damages that a court could award to a property owner who claims nuisance damage by a nearby agricultural or forestry operation to no more than the actual market value of that property.” (WRAL, [5/5/2017](#))

Under H467, North Carolina property owners would receive significantly lower payouts than those in other states. “The legislation would not affect those lawsuits, but would curtail financial payouts in any similar lawsuits filed in the future. In other states, jurors have awarded residents hundreds of thousands of dollars in similar cases. North Carolina's legislation would limit the financial payments to several thousand dollars per household, according to some estimates.” (News & Observer, [5/5/2017](#))

Faircloth voted for H576, which would have allowed the spraying of “garbage juices” without a permit.

➤ **Note:** Faircloth voted for H576. (H576, re-referred to House Rules Committee [10/11/17](#))

H576 would allow landfill operators to use aerosolization to dispose of leachate by “spraying it into the air over their property” without a permit. “House leaders are pushing ahead with a proposal to require state environmental regulators to allow the disposal of landfill wastewater and fluids that leak out by spraying it into the air over their property without a permit. The process, called aerosolization, is favored by the waste industry and by other industries that deal with large quantities of wastewater. As amended Thursday, however, it would not apply to dewatering coal ash.” (WRAL, [4/20/17](#))

Leachate refers to the “garbage juices” that percolate and react beneath waste that typically contain dangerous materials such as lead, mercury, and other toxic materials. “Beneath the 5.5 million cubic yards of “airspace” — the amount of trash mounded above ground — garbage juices percolate inside the landfill liner. That liquid then drains into a giant holding tank, where it mixes and percolates and chemically reacts. Although the landfill is permitted to accept only “non-hazardous” waste, no one is opening every bag and checking for pesticide containers or cleaning solvents. The leachate — or landfill juice, to be inelegant for a moment — often contains lead from electronics, mercury from batteries, bacteria and viruses from dirty diapers; antibiotics, hormones and other toxics from routine prescription and specialized chemotherapy drugs; volatile organic compounds from plastics, toner cartridges, glues and cleansers.” (NC Policy Watch, [5/2/17](#))

Former lobbyist and Republican campaign donor Kelly Houston invented leachate aerosolization. “The technology is known as leachate aerosolization, invented by Kelly Houston of Cornelius, a former lobbyist and a Republican campaign donor. The theory behind the system is that the contaminants in the mist will fall to the ground, ostensibly on top of the landfill, allegedly leaving uncontaminated tiny particles to drift away.” (NC Policy Watch, [5/2/17](#))

The aeration of leachate drives the harmful chemicals into the air, creating a hazard for workers at the landfill and citizens downwind. “A scientist at USEPA responded to our request for comment with several studies showing that landfill leachates and wastewater treatment plant effluents contain large amounts of volatile perfluoroalkyl sulfonic acids (PFAs), and other harmful chemicals. The aeration of these liquid streams drives the volatiles into the air, which then presents an exposure hazard to workers at these plants and citizens downwind. The scientist stated ‘I wouldn’t want to be anywhere near a leachate aeration basin. The downwind emissions would very likely contain a very wide range of toxic materials.’” (Southern Environmental Law Center, Retrieved [5/5/2017](#))

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Faircloth voted for S16, which included multiple deregulation policies and loosened water quality rules

➤ **Note:** Faircloth voted for S16, the conference report, and the veto override. (S16, veto overridden [10/5/17](#))

Senate Bill 16 is a “16-page grab bag of deregulation provisions. It loosens water quality rules and imposes limitations on local governments power over landfill permits, changes that the Democratic governor called dangerous in his veto message.” “SB 16, titled "Business Regulatory Reform Act of 2017," is a 16-page grab bag of deregulation provisions. It loosens water quality rules and imposes limitations on local governments power over landfill permits, changes that the Democratic governor called dangerous in his veto message.” (News & Observer, [9/29/17](#))

Senate Bill 16 was the regulatory omnibus bill of the 2017 session that addressed “an array of regulations that lawmakers want to change, from vehicle safety inspections to staffing levels at so-called "doggie day cares.” “In what's become an annual hallmark of the approaching end of session, House lawmakers rolled out this year's regulatory reform omnibus in committee Wednesday. Senate Bill 16, as most omnibus bills do, addresses an array of regulations that lawmakers want to change, from vehicle safety inspections to staffing levels at so-called "doggie day cares.” (WRAL, [6/14/17](#))

Senate Bill 16 included proposals to allow the “quick-take” process to acquire land.—“That includes a proposal to allow private pipeline companies to use eminent domain to condemn land for their right-of-way, but only for public use, and another provision requiring companies that offer automatically renewing contracts to notify consumers in advance of the renewal date.” (WRAL, [6/14/17](#))

Senate Bill 16 also required the Department of Transportation and Department of Environmental Quality to “examine whether vehicle safety and emissions inspections should be required less frequently than once a year.” “Another provision adds back-up lights to the list of lights covered by the state vehicle safety inspection, but it also requires the Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Quality to examine whether vehicle safety and emissions inspections should be required less frequently than once a year.” (WRAL, [6/14/17](#))

In 2011 Faircloth sponsored a bill that would delay deadlines for anti-pollution regulations at Jordan Lake.

- **Note:** Faircloth was a primary sponsor for H873. (H873, referred to House Committee on Environment [5/2/11](#))

Faircloth sponsored a bill that would delay the deadlines for some of the anti-pollution regulations in place at Jordan Lake. “Prodded by Greensboro officials, four N.C. House members are sponsoring a bill that would change the deadlines for meeting some of the anti-pollution regulations in place for the Jordan Lake watershed. Introduced Thursday, the bill would give sewage treatment plant operators an additional four years to meet the limits on deposits of nitrogen into the lake and its headwaters. The deadline, now 2016, would move to 2020. The bill would also move to 2020 what is now a 2017 deadline for state regulators to decide whether Greensboro and other communities near the Haw River -- the larger of Jordan Lake's two major tributaries -- will need to tighten curbs on nutrient emissions from existing development. It would leave untouched a 2014 deadline for a similar decision for Durham and other communities along New Hope Creek, the lake's other major tributary. The bill's introduction caught at least some local officials by surprise, as it seemed the General Assembly had settled debate on the pollution issue in 2009 when it approved the existing rules package...The new bill, however, is the work of Reps. John Blust, R-Guilford, John Faircloth, R-Guilford, Dan Ingle, R-Alamance, and Bert Jones, an unaffiliated House member from Rockingham County.” (The Herald-Sun, 4/30/11)

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Jordan Lake provides drinking water to about 300,000 people and has had pollution problems since the 1970s. “Jordan Lake, which provides drinking water to about 300,000 people in the Triangle, has had pollution problems since construction finished in the 1970s. Runoff from farms, homes and businesses upstream in the Triad area has dumped tons of nitrogen and phosphorous into the lake.” (WRAL, [4/16/14](#))

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