

## Donny Lambeth: House District 75

### Forsyth County

“Get in touch with state lawmakers and county commissioners and urge them to support education.”  
– Column written by Donny Lambeth (Winston-Salem Journal, 2/10/11)

In this Real Facts Legislator Profile, we focus on Rep. Donny Lambeth from District 75. Lambeth is a chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the Health Committee, and the Health Care Reform Committee. He is also a member of the Education – K-12 Committee and the Education – Universities Committee. Before being elected to the General Assembly in 2012, Lambeth worked for Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center for 40 years. During his career, Lambeth held 17 different job titles, including president, and saw his compensation package reach \$1.2 million. Lambeth also served as chairman on the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education for 18 years. Lambeth was a “controversial” chairman, characterized as “belligerent” by some parents and teachers.

Rep. Donny Lambeth



#### Summary

**Lambeth voted against expanding Medicaid coverage after earning \$1.2 million working for a medical center**

- Roughly 500,000 low-income North Carolinians were expected to gain coverage through Medicaid expansion

**During his time on the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education, Lambeth criticized the lack of education spending by the General Assembly**

- As a member of the General Assembly, Lambeth has failed to fully fund education

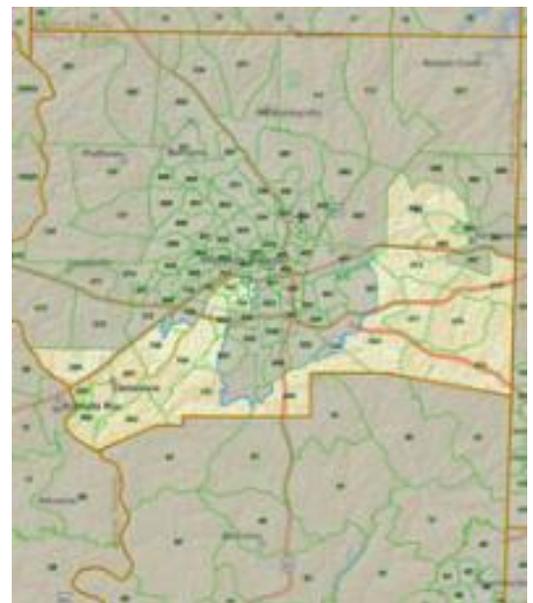
**Lambeth was a “controversial” chairman of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education**

- Parents and teachers complained that Lambeth was “belligerent”, he didn’t listen to opposing views, and he slept during school board meetings

**Lambeth has voted for multiple bills that damage North Carolina’s environment**

- The North Carolina League of Conservation Voters gave Lambeth a lifetime score of 0 when voting on environmental bills

House District 75



**Lambeth voted against expanding Medicaid coverage after earning \$1.2 million working for a medical center**

**In 2013, Lambeth voted against expanding Medicaid coverage to 500,000 North Carolinians**

➤ **NOTE:** Lambeth voted for S4 and for the conference report. (S4, signed by Gov. [3/6/13](#))

**“Medicaid provides health coverage to the state’s poorest women and children as well as the disabled.”** “Medicaid provides health coverage to the state’s poorest women and children as well as the disabled. Health-care reform called for Medicaid to be expanded to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, but states could choose to opt out of that expansion. North Carolina weighed the impact of the Affordable Care Act, but decided against expanding the program. Roughly 500,000 low-income people in North Carolina were expected to gain coverage through Medicaid expansion.” (Charlotte Business Journal, [6/3/13](#))

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**The Medicaid expansion would have narrowed the health outcomes gap between North Carolinians of color and white North Carolinians.** “Latinos, American Indians, and African Americans in North Carolina report much higher uninsured rates than whites. This translates to worse health outcomes for people of color in the state. The Medicaid expansion will drastically close this gap and ensure access to health services for all people.” (NC Justice Center, [2013](#))

**S4 rejected “federal money for Medicaid expansion in NC to 500,000 individuals and working families.”** “On March 6, 2013 NC Governor Pat McCrory signed into law the bill (SB4) rejecting federal money for Medicaid expansion in NC to 500,000 individuals and working families. In the NC General Assembly the week before, every NC Republican Senator and Representative voted to reject the federal Medicaid expansion while every NC Democratic Senator and Representative voted to accept the federal Medicaid expansion.” (NC Justice Center, [2013](#))

**S4 prevented any department, agency, or institution of North Carolina from attempting to expand the Medicaid eligibility standards unless directed to do so by the General Assembly.** “SECTION 3. The State will not expand the State’s Medicaid eligibility under the Medicaid expansion provided in the Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-148, as amended, for which the enforcement was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in National Federation of Independent Business, et al. v. Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, et al., 132 S. Ct. 2566 (2012). No department, agency, or institution of this State shall attempt to expand the Medicaid eligibility standards provided in S.L. 2011-145, as amended, or elsewhere in State law, unless directed to do so by the General Assembly.” (S4, [3/6/13](#))

**The legislature blocked “the state from expanding its Medicaid program or participating in the state health insurance exchanges created by the federal Affordable Care Act.”** “Gov. Pat McCrory is backing a move by the legislature to block the state from expanding its Medicaid program or participating in the state health insurance exchanges created by the federal Affordable Care Act. McCrory has held back his thoughts on the issue during his first weeks in office, although he did express concern that the Medicaid portion of the bill could keep North Carolina from drawing down federal funding to improve a key computer system. That concern seems to have taken a less central role in deliberations as the bill has gained momentum in the legislative process.” (WRAL, [2/12/13](#))

**A study completed in 2013 found that states that did not expand Medicaid coverage, and left people without healthcare, could see an increase in the amount spent on uncompensated care.** “North Carolina should expect increased costs after deciding not to expand Medicaid as part of federal health-care reform, according to a new study by the RAND Corp. That nonprofit research organization looked at 14 states — including North Carolina — that decided against expanding Medicaid in their states. It found that opting out of expansion will leave millions without health insurance. That, in turn, will result in at least a short-term increase in the amount those states spend on uncompensated care, according to the study. “State policymakers should be aware that if they do not expand Medicaid, fewer people will have health insurance, and that will trigger higher state and local spending for uncompensated medical care,” says Carter Price, the study’s lead author and a mathematician at RAND. “Choosing to not expand Medicaid may turn out to be the more-costly path for state and local governments.”” (Charlotte Business Journal, [6/3/13](#))

**In the 2010-11 fiscal year, Lambeth earned \$1.2 million from Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center**

**Lambeth worked for Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center for 40 years.** “After 40 years, Donny Lambeth will retire from Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center June 30. Lambeth has had 17 job titles in his tenure, which began in 1972 as a cost accountant at North Carolina Baptist Hospital. He became president of the Hospital in 2008. A leader in the community, Lambeth has been chair of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School Board since 1994, having been elected to the Board five consecutive times. He is the Republican nominee for the North Carolina House of Representatives, District 75, and has no opposition in the November election. “This transition has been planned for some time,” Lambeth said. “I am honored to have served Wake Forest Baptist for 40 years. Now, I will spend time with my family and then gear up for a new opportunity of service, representing the people of Forsyth County in the General Assembly.” For the past year, Lambeth has been president of Lexington Medical Center and Davie Hospital, leading the integration of those hospitals into the Wake Forest Baptist system at the request of John D. McConnell, M.D., CEO.” (Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, [2012](#))

**In the 2010-11 fiscal year, Lambeth’s compensation package increased to \$1.2 million.** “Many of the medical center’s top executives saw compensation increases during the 2010-11 fiscal year, which ended June 30. Donny Lambeth, formerly the president of N.C. Baptist Hospital who now heads Davie Hospital and Lexington Medical Center, saw his package increase to \$1.2 million from \$849,521 the year before. Dr. Tom Sibert, president and chief operating officer for the medical center, saw his compensation rise from \$974,188 during the 2009-10 fiscal year to \$995,133 last fiscal year.” (Charlotte Business Journal, [5/15/12](#))

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**During his time on the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education, Lambeth criticized state lawmakers for failing to fund education, but as a state lawmaker, he has gone along with the Republican status quo of failing to fund public education**

**As chairman of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education, Lambeth wanted state lawmakers to meet their “obligation” and fund education**

**Lambeth: “Get in touch with state lawmakers and county commissioners and urge them to support education.”** “I’ve served as chairman of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education since 1994, and never before has our board faced budget challenges as in 2011. The state has a \$3.7 billion budget deficit as a result of low tax revenues and the end of federal stimulus and stabilization funding. That cascades down to our students in the form of tens of millions of dollars in budget cuts. Current estimates call for our district to cut about \$38 million or more from our budget. These figures add up to almost 10 percent of our operating budget. Unfortunately, this is not surprising. We’ve cut our budget three straight years even with the addition of federal stimulus and stabilization funds.... We have an experienced school board that works well together and has experience balancing budgets in tough times. We have a staff that cares and understands how to serve students. We have a community that I believe is deeply committed to education. I ask that we come together and bring out our best ideas. Get in touch with state lawmakers and county commissioners and urge them to support education. This is the time to model the innovative thinking we want to see in our students. Our struggles mirror those of families who have dealt with shrinking incomes and job losses in the midst of this financial crisis. But I believe that emphasizing education is the best way to create a long-term solution for the problems of our time. If we don’t value education, the consequences will be felt for years to come. Donny C. Lambeth is the chairman of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education.” (Winston-Salem Journal, 2/10/11)

**Lambeth on state reductions in education funding: “The state needs to meet their obligations.”** “Both Martin and Donny Lambeth, the chairman of the school board, said that the school system would not ask for more money from Forsyth County commissioners to make up for state reductions. “I would not plan to go back to the county,” Lambeth said. “They have been supportive of our schools, but these costs are the responsibility of the state and not the local county government. The state needs to meet their obligations.”” (Winston-Salem Journal, 8/6/09)

**As a state lawmaker, Lambeth has voted for multiple Republican budgets that let education funding fall further behind**

### 2017 Budget

- **NOTE:** Lambeth 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](#))

**The Republican budget spent 30% less on education than the Governor’s proposed budget.** “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](#))

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## **2015 Budget**

- **NOTE:** Lambeth voted for H97 and the conference report. (H97, signed by Gov. [9/18/15](#))

**Budget failed to provide salary increases for teachers, instead offered a one-time \$750 bonus.** “All state employees, including teachers, will get a one-time \$750 bonus to be paid ‘somewhere around the end of the year,’ according to Senate Budget Chairman Harry Brown, R-Onslow, and a summary document released by negotiators. Speaking on WRAL News, Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger likened it to a ‘Christmas bonus.’” (WRAL, [8/27/15](#))

**NC teacher pay ranked in the bottom 10, only beating Mississippi and West Virginia in the Southeast.** According to WRAL, “Despite an effort to raise starting salaries, North Carolina is expected to remain in the bottom 10 states nationally in average teacher pay, according to a report released Wednesday. The [National Education Association estimates](#) the average salary for a North Carolina public school teacher in the 2014-15 school year at \$47,783, which ranks 42nd nationally.” (WRAL, [3/18/15](#))

**When accounting for inflation, education spending has been cut, and “North Carolina K-12 system has roughly 10 percent less buying power at its disposal than it did 10 years ago.”** “So, while the state Senate proposes spending \$8.32 billion on public schools next year, and that is more in raw dollar terms than any other year before, [constant dollars tell a different tale](#). Figures produced by the General Assembly’s nonpartisan Fiscal Research Division show that, in constant 2008 dollars, education spending has dropped from \$8.1 billion in the 2007-08 budget year to \$7.3 billion starting July 1 if the Senate budget were enacted. Put another way, North Carolina K-12 system has roughly 10 percent less buying power at its disposal than it did 10 years ago.” (WRAL, [6/24/15](#))

**Per pupil spending decreased from 2014 to 2015 and NC ranked 46<sup>th</sup>.** WRAL reported, “In terms of per-pupil spending, the NEA report ranks North Carolina 46th in the United States in 2014-15, up from 47th in 2013-14. But spending actually drops from \$8,632 to \$8,620 per student from last year to this year, according to the report.” The News & Observer, reported, “The report put the estimate for per pupil expenditures at \$8,620 this year, lower than Tennessee, South Carolina, Virginia, and other states in the region.” (WRAL, [3/18/15](#); News & Observer, [3/18/15](#))

## **2013 Budget**

- **NOTE:** Lambeth voted for S402 and the conference report. (S402, signed by Gov. [7/26/13](#))

**The Republican 2013 budget cut education spending by \$500 million, increased class size, and kept NC national teacher pay near the bottom of nation.** “Here’s what the Senate and House budget plan, set for a vote this week, does to N.C. schools: It cuts education spending by almost \$500 million in the next two years, including a decrease in net spending for K-12 public schools. It invites bigger and more chaotic classrooms by removing the cap on some classroom sizes and cutting funding for elementary school teacher assistants. School systems can offset those cuts if they somehow find money in their shrinking budgets, but if they don’t, more than 3,850 second- and third-grade teaching assistants will be gone. It phases out extra pay for teachers who earn a master’s degree, removing at least some incentive for teachers to improve themselves and their classrooms. Most critically, it

continues to pay N.C. public school teachers abysmally. The budget doesn't give teachers raises next year, which guarantees that N.C. will continue to rank near the bottom of national rankings in teacher pay." (*Charlotte Observer*, Editorial, [7/23/13](#))

**Poor pay for NC teachers meant they were forced into other jobs, relied on Medicaid if they stayed.** "Lindsay Kosmala Furst loves teaching, but leaving the profession may be a matter of survival for her family. A North Carolina teacher since 2007, Furst's income is so low that her two young daughters, ages 1 and 3, qualify for Medicaid. The Buncombe County high school English teacher sent legislators a letter Monday about her job and her family after learning that the state budget has no raises for teachers. "We never wanted to live in luxury," she wrote. "We did, however, hope to be able to take our little girls out for an ice cream or not wonder where we will find the gas money to visit their grandparents." Teachers on Monday said cuts in the state budget released Sunday amount to the legislators forsaking public education. Teacher pay will remain near the bottom of national rankings. More than 3,850 teacher assistant positions will be gone. The extra pay for teachers who earn master's degrees will be phased out..." (*News & Observer*, [7/22/13](#))

- **"It is genuinely scary. I get the feeling that our legislators have a vendetta against teachers."** "Dov Rosenberg, a teacher at Rogers-Herr Middle School in Durham, said he isn't concerned about losing his job but worries for the teaching profession and the future of public education in the state. "It feels like a slap in the face when they talk about how they want to attract high quality teachers, and this budget seems to do nothing but discourage people from entering the teaching profession," he said. 'It is genuinely scary. I get the feeling that our legislators have a vendetta against teachers.'" (*News & Observer*, [7/22/13](#))

**Charlotte Observer: "Yet somewhere on the way from the campaign trail to their seats in the General Assembly, N.C. Republicans have decided it's OK to weaken the classrooms so many of our children walk into each day."** "It's near impossible, especially during election season, to find public officeholders who don't think that education is critical to the future of North Carolina. Yet somewhere on the way from the campaign trail to their seats in the General Assembly, N.C. Republicans have decided it's OK to weaken the classrooms so many of our children walk into each day." (*Charlotte Observer*, editorial, [7/23/13](#))

**Republicans cut public schools and created voucher program as part of a long-term effort to privatize schools.** "How could legislators possibly think this is a good idea? Here's a clue: The budget also includes a \$10 million program that allows low-income families to use up to \$4,200 for private school tuition. It's the first step in a Republican move toward bigger voucher programs, which will inevitably shift education money from public schools to private schools. And the worse those underfunded public schools get, the easier it is for Republicans to declare them failed instead of fixable." (*Charlotte Observer*, Editorial, [7/23/13](#))

**Lambeth was a "controversial" Chairman of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education, sometimes sleeping through meetings**

**Lambeth was a controversial Chairman of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education.** "Donny Lambeth, controversial Chairman of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education, announced Friday that he would resign his seat effective Dec. 31, after 18 years of service on the Board. In a tenure that saw successes like joining in partnerships to support the School System with non-profits and corporate entities, Mr. Lambeth also saw his share of controversy, including his initial resistance to implementing a State law on school bullying that included LGBT students' rights. Some parents and others in the community have admired Mr. Lambeth's hard-right stands while other parents and teachers have complained that he has been belligerent to them, not listened to their side of issues, and slept during school board meetings." (Camel City Dispatch, [12/7/12](#))

**Some parents and teachers complained that Lambeth was “belligerent” to them, didn’t listen to their side, and “slept during school board meetings.”** “Donny Lambeth, controversial Chairman of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education, announced Friday that he would resign his seat effective Dec. 31, after 18 years of service on the Board. In a tenure that saw successes like joining in partnerships to support the School System with non-profits and corporate entities, Mr. Lambeth also saw his share of controversy, including his initial resistance to implementing a State law on school bullying that included LGBT students’ rights. Some parents and others in the community have admired Mr. Lambeth’s hard-right stands while other parents and teachers have complained that he has been belligerent to them, not listened to their side of issues, and slept during school board meetings.” (Camel City Dispatch, [12/7/12](#))

**Lambeth oversaw the school board replace a retiring Democrat with a Republican.** “Partisanship has marked Mr. Lambeth’s tenure, even when the School Board was supposed to be “non-partisan”. During that time (The School Board does not return to partisan elections until 2014) Mr. Lambeth oversaw the School Board replacing retiring Democrat Geneva Brown with Republican John Davenport and just a week ago declared at a School Board meeting that the Republican Executive committee would be choosing his own replacement. That turned out not to be correct.” (Camel City Dispatch, [12/7/12](#))

**Lambeth had “initial resistance to implementing a State law on school bullying that included LGBT students’ rights.”** “Donny Lambeth, controversial Chairman of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education, announced Friday that he would resign his seat effective Dec. 31, after 18 years of service on the Board. In a tenure that saw successes like joining in partnerships to support the School System with non-profits and corporate entities, Mr. Lambeth also saw his share of controversy, including his initial resistance to implementing a State law on school bullying that included LGBT students’ rights. Some parents and others in the community have admired Mr. Lambeth’s hard-right stands while other parents and teachers have complained that he has been belligerent to them, not listened to their side of issues, and slept during school board meetings.” (Camel City Dispatch, [12/7/12](#))

**Lambeth supported anti-gay A.L. “Buddy” Collins appointment to the state board of education.** “Another one of Gov. Pat McCrory’s appointments from Forsyth County is hitting a roadblock. Equality NC, a gay-rights advocacy group, is calling for McCrory to rescind the appointment of Kernersville lawyer A.L. “Buddy” Collins to the State Board of Education. Collins, a member of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education since 1996, received national attention this week for what’s being called an “anti-gay” record. An article published last week by The Huffington Post cited votes that Collins cast in 2002 and 2003 that have been seen as anti-gay...Rep. Donny Lambeth, R-Forsyth, served on the school board with Collins before stepping down to join the General Assembly this year. Lambeth said he supports Collins’ appointment. “He’s been a strong anti-bullying advocate,” Lambeth said. “He has multiple years on the school board, with really a lot of challenges over the years. “He brings a wealth of experience to the state school board that they could use.”” (Winston-Salem Journal, [4/2/13](#))

#### **Lambeth has voted for multiple bills that damage North Carolina’s environment**

**The North Carolina League of Conservation Voters develop scorecards for each legislator, which “provides a record of the most significant votes cast on bills and amendments with the greatest environmental impact.”** “NCLCV’s Legislative Scorecard records members’ votes on selected bills throughout the 2016 Legislative Session. While it is not a comprehensive list of all session votes, the Scorecard provides a record of the most significant votes cast on bills and amendments with the greatest environmental impact.” (NCLCV, [2016](#))

Lambeth has a lifetime score of 0 when voting on environmental bills. (NCLCV, [2016](#))

## Lambeth (R) House District - 75

2015 Scores %	2013-2014 Average %	Lifetime %
0	0	0

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

- **NOTE:** Lambeth voted for H467, the committee substitute, 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](#))

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

➤ **NOTE:** *Lambeth 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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**Communities of color would have been disproportionately affected by this legislation**

**Communities where over half the residents are people of color are 2.8 more likely to be near a solid waste facility, according to research published in Environmental Health Perspectives.** “The adjusted prevalence odds of a solid waste facility was 2.8 times greater in block groups with ≥50% people of color compared with block groups with < 10% people of color, and 1.5 times greater in block

groups with median house values < \$60,000 compared with block groups with median house values ≥\$100,000. Among block groups that did not have a previously permitted solid waste facility, the adjusted hazard of a new permitted facility was 2.7 times higher in block groups with ≥50% people of color compared with block groups with < 10% people of color.” (Environmental Health Perspectives, [7/9/07](#))

**Scientists: “Solid waste facilities are disproportionately located in communities of color and low wealth”** Solid waste facilities present numerous public health concerns. In North Carolina solid waste facilities are disproportionately located in communities of color and low wealth. In the absence of action to promote environmental justice, the continued need for new facilities could exacerbate this environmental injustice.” (Environmental Health Perspectives, [7/9/07](#))

**Lambeth voted for the veto override of H56, which only allocated \$435,000 to monitor GenX and tied funding to the removal of the coastal ban on plastic bags**

- **NOTE:** *Lambeth had an excused absence when the House voted for the conference report for H56, but he voted for the veto override. (H56, veto overridden [10/4/17](#))*

**Republican legislators tied funding to monitor GenX to a repeal of the coastal ban on plastic bags.** “Republican legislators tied new funding Wednesday to monitor GenX in the Cape Fear River to a long-discussed repeal of North Carolina's coastal ban on plastic bags. The two issues got sewn together in legislation that emerged in the early evening. House Bill 56 also includes provisions to create a new storm damage mitigation fund for the coast, as well as language that takes away some county authority to dictate that garbage collected within county borders also be dumped there.” (WRAL, [8/31/17](#); H56, veto overridden [10/14/17](#))

**Lawmakers repealed an eight-year ban on plastic bags in the Outer Banks despite opposition from Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce.** “North Carolina lawmakers repealed an 8-year-old ban on plastic bags on the Outer Banks. House Bill 56 was ratified Thursday, led by Republicans and presented to Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper to sign, according to the General Assembly website. The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce and many local governments supported the ban on plastic bags and opposed the repeal. The chamber surveyed its 1,100 members earlier this year and all but two of about 500 responses opposed the repeal.” (Virginian-Pilot, [9/1/17](#); H56, veto overridden [10/14/17](#))

**The bill split \$435K between UNCW and the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority to monitor and study GenX.** “The bill includes \$435,000 in new funding to monitor and study GenX, an unregulated chemical used to make Teflon and other products that has been found in the Cape Fear River. [...] The bill directs \$185,000 to the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority to monitor drinking water and to try to remove the chemical from the water. Another \$250,000 is earmarked for the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to measure the concentration of the chemical in river sediments and to otherwise study the chemical.” (WRAL, [8/31/17](#); H56, veto overridden [10/14/17](#))

**After requesting \$2.6 million for DEQ and DHHS to handle monitor and study GenX, Gov. Cooper vetoed H56 which appropriated just \$435K.** “Lawmakers approved \$435,000 to be split between the Wilmington-area water utility and UNC Wilmington for studies. Cooper had requested \$2.6 million for the study. Sauls voted for House Bill 56, which only allocated \$435,000 to monitor GenX and tied funding to the removal of the coastal ban on plastic bags. N.C. Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Health and Human Services to monitor GenX and study the health effects of long-term exposure.” (Outer Banks Voice, [9/21/17](#); H56, veto overridden [10/14/17](#))

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