



# CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

Legislative, regulatory and grassroots updates for NC Public Power communities

## In This Issue

[State  
Legislative Reception  
Fact of the Week](#)

## Quick Links

[ElectriCities  
NC General Assembly  
NC Public Power](#)

## Contact Us

**Drew Saunders**  
Manager Legislative  
Relations  
(919) 760-6328

**Mia Bailey**  
Legislative Relations  
Specialist  
(919) 760-6322

**Cameron Henley**  
Legislative Relations  
Specialist  
(919) 760-6305

## Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

June 11, 2012

Capitol Connections is ElectriCities' weekly e-newsletter providing up-to-the-minute news on State and Federal legislative issues facing North Carolina's public power communities.

## State

### Electric Fund Transfers

House members moved one step closer to passing a law limiting the amount of money North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency (NCEMPA) members are allowed to transfer out of their electric fund. [HB 1114](#), sponsored by Reps. Jeff Collins (R-Nash) and Bill Brawley (R-Mecklenburg), passed the House Public Utilities Committee on Wednesday by an overwhelming majority. Before passing out of committee, ElectriCities staff worked with the bill sponsors on changes to make it more palatable to NCEMPA members. HB 1114 stipulates that transfers may not exceed the **greater of the following**:

- Three percent (3%) of the gross capital assets of the electric system at the end of the preceding fiscal year.
- Five percent (5%) of the gross annual revenues of the electric system for the preceding fiscal year.

In addition to the change listed above, the effective date was moved from July 1, 2013 to July 1, 2014 in order give NCEMPA members additional time to come into compliance. HB 1114 has been placed on the House calendar for Tuesday, June 12.

### Copper Theft

Across the state, utilities and other industries have seen a sharp rise in copper theft as criminals look for ways to make quick cash. In light of the situation, legislators are looking for ways to strengthen the state's laws regulating the secondary metals market. Sen. Warren Daniel (R-Burke) has introduced a committee substitute for [HB 199](#), titled Metal Theft Prevention Act of 2012, establishing a permitting process and toughening the penalties for metal theft. Most importantly, HB 199 bans metal purchasers from paying customers in cash for copper. HB 199 passed out of a Senate Judiciary Committee last week and is on the calendar for Monday, June 11.

### Move Over Law

Lawmakers gave final approval to legislation requiring drivers to change lanes or slow down when passing utility or road maintenance crews that are doing work on the side of the road. The House concurred with the Senate changes to [HB 345](#) with a near unanimous vote of 113-1. The bill now awaits Gov. Beverly Perdue's signature.

### Legislative Reception

Thank you to all the members who stopped by to support ElectriCities and public power at this year's legislative reception on Wednesday, June 6. The event was a huge success with over 150 attendees. Numerous members from the House and Senate came by to discuss important issues affecting our industry. We could not have done without your support!

### E\*PAC Fact of the Week

#### Short Session

The North Carolina General Assembly meets every other year for what is called the short session. The primary purpose of the short session is to adjust the biennial budget passed during the long session. But this has not always been the case. The General Assembly did not hold its first short session until 1974. Previously legislators came to Raleigh once every two years, set the budget for the state and returned to their districts.

Today, 46 state legislatures meet annually. Only Montana, Nevada, North Dakota and Texas continue to hold session every other year.

Government Relations Division  
ElectriCities of North Carolina, Inc.

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to sbuckley@electricities.org by [chenley@electricities.org](mailto:chenley@electricities.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

ElectriCities of North Carolina | 1427 Meadow Wood Blvd. | Raleigh | NC | 27609