

Food For Thought

"Spread love everyw here you go. Let no one ever come to you w without leaving happier."

~ Mother Teresa (1910-97)

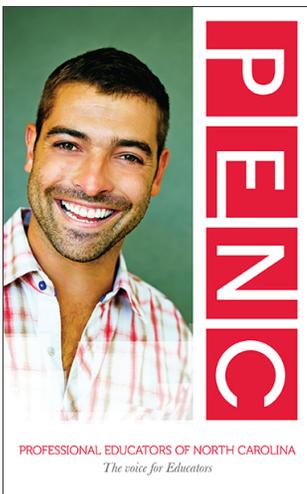
Our Mission

Our mission is to promote education reform for the benefit of all North Carolina children while ensuring the recruitment, development and retention of qualified educators.

Join or Renew

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Check out PENC's brochure:



Membership Form

Click [here](#) for a printable Membership Form.

Who We Are

To learn more about PENC, click [here](#).

Contact PENC

For a listing of PENC Staff, click [here](#).

PENC Legislative Update

Budget Conference at a Standstill; Tax Reform Inches Ahead

Little progress was made in resolving the differences between the Senate and House versions of [S402, Appropriations Act of 2013](#). Both chambers appointed members to a Conference Committee, but reportedly little, if any, progress was made because intra-Chamber bickering over tax reform and other priorities – mostly political – continued.

No agreement has yet been reached between the Senate and House on tax reform. The Senate rewrote the House Plan, [H998](#), and calendared it for a vote multiple times. During that time, backroom negotiations were clearly not progressing, which became evident when Senate Rules Chairman Tom Apodaca (R-Henderson) removed dozens of House bills that accumulated on the Senate calendar. The House responded by announcing that it would not hold any votes during the week of July 1, while the Senate was in session.

On July 1, the Senate unveiled its latest version of [H998, Tax Reform](#). The latest version included many provisions included in the House Plan. This version was approved by the Senate on July 3 and was seen as a significant breakthrough toward a budget resolution and ultimately, adjournment. A comparison of the different version, compiled by Legislative Fiscal Staff can be seen [here](#).

PENC Asks Budget Conferees to Find Money for Teacher Raises and to Reconsider Reforms

PENC Executive Director Carol Vandenberg communicated with Senate and House Budget conferees on July 2 and **asked them to please find a way to provide educators with a cost of living increase in 2013**. Ms. Vandenberg also expressed support for the House's school safety proposal and concern about several reform items, including the Master's supplement and the Advanced Placement/Career Technical Education "per head" bonus.

Ms. Vandenberg's memorandum to budget conferees can be seen [here](#).

Please remember that just because a bill is filed or discussions occur, it does not mean that the issue or bill will necessarily make it to the point of becoming a law.
[What do you think?](#)

If you have questions or concerns, please share your thoughts and ideas with us.
 Contact us at penc@pencweb.org.

Submitted by Evelyn Hawthorne

For more information about the North Carolina General Assembly, [click here](#).

To identify and contact your legislators, [click here](#).

For information about specific issues, please contact PENC government relations consultant Evelyn Hawthorne at lobbyist@pencweb.org.