

Anthony Solari

Solari Government Solutions

Legislative Accomplishments

Over the last 24 years I have served as a lobbyist for non-profit organizations, for-profit companies and governmental agencies. I have brought legislation before or lobbied the N.C. General Assembly on a wide range of issues. These include but are not limited to: pharmacy-related policy, policy related to audiology and audiological care, firearms, safe storage and Community Violence Intervention programs, health care transformation, digital and precision health development, health care management and health care costs, health care access, public pension plans, public sector investments, local and state government debt, comprehensive energy legislation, and bills regulating the insurance industry. This record of success was achieved under both Republican and Democratic control of government.

In addition to the legislation I have worked to enact, I have successfully defended against over 150 pieces of legislation deemed hostile to the vision and mission of the organizations I represented. In 2012 I was named one of the most influential lobbyists at the General Assembly by the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research and was one of the only liaisons ever to make this list. I have excellent relationships with both Republican and Democratic members of the General Assembly. A brief overview of the legislation I worked to have enacted appears below.

Major Public Policy Legislation

- Passage of H 125 which included the biggest change in the statutes governing the practice of Audiology since 1978. (2023)
- Passage of two bills increasing the scope of pharmacy practice in North Carolina. (2023)
- I worked to ensure the defeat of a bill that would have eliminated the “Concealed Carry Permitting System.” (2023)
- Secured the renewal of funding for a “safe storage” website housed on the DHHS website. (2023)
- Secured an increase in pay for school-based audiologists.(2022, 2023)
- Secured an appropriation of \$29.5 million for the North Carolina Trails Coalition. This was the first time the group had ever received public funds. (2021)
- Passage of Senate 257 a bill that regulates the activities of Pharmacy Benefits Manager Organizations. (2021)
- Passage of House 96 a bill expanding the scope of practice for Pharmacists. (2021)
- Passage of House 1053 (2020) Creating an Interstate Compact for Audiologists.
- \$1 million in funding for Digital Health Institute for Transformation to create the “Community Confidence Project” that helped government officials track the development of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- \$5 million appropriation for the “Community Innovation Fund” economic development program (2019)
- “Competitive Energy Solutions for North Carolina” A comprehensive overall of North Carolina’s energy infrastructure. (H.B. 589, 2017)
- “State Health Plan Administrative Changes” (H.B. 299, 2017)
- “The Pensions Integrity Act of 2017” (H.B. 176, 2017)
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- “Transfer of the State Health Plan to oversight and management by the Department. (2011)
- Creation of the North Carolina Venture Capital Multiplier Fund (2016)
- Three bills making statutory changes relating to the State Health Plan

- Three Bills Regulating the State’s Investment Allocation for its \$100 billion portfolio. (2009, 2011, 2013) These were very controversial bills resulting in tough legislative battles.
- Worked with stakeholder groups to raise the State’s cap on energy performance contracts.
- Legislation authorizing the creation of the “*Innovation Fund*.” \$500 million devoted to investments in innovative energy, bio-tech and other technologies.
- Legislation authorizing the creation of the “*Venture Multiplier Fund*.” \$40 million designed to leverage private sector investments including “angel” and “venture capital” investments in cutting edge technologies.
- Four Bills affecting the State’s Unclaimed Property Program including a nationally recognized piece of consumer protection legislation regulating “property finder” organizations. (2009, 2011, 2013, 2014)
- A Bill creating a 403(b) supplemental retirement plan for teachers. This passed despite significant opposition from the insurance industry. (2011)
- Six major bills impacting the Teachers and State Employees Retirement and Local Government Employees Retirement Systems. These bills created 5 year vesting for state employees, revised the fire and rescue squad pension system, prevented pension spiking and helped to stop waste, fraud and abuse of the retirement systems. (2010, 2012, 2013, 2014)

Additional Public Policy Legislation

- Eight bills making technical corrections to General Statutes governing the Retirement Systems.
- Six bills making significant administrative changes to the Retirement Systems.
- A bill allowing officers and directors of the Retirement plans to take out liability insurance.
- A bill conforming NC bond Statutes to the post 2008 recession recovery act.
- A bill maintaining the confidentiality of Unclaimed Property records.
- A bill allowing business holders of unclaimed property to make electronic reports and which also lessened administrative and regulatory burdens on businesses holding unclaimed property.
- Two bills improving the ability of State Agencies to share information, improving efficiency.

Budgetary Appropriations to Department of State Treasurer

An important part of my work was to secure resources for the Department in support of its mission. Despite the severe recession of 2008-2009 and significant cutbacks to all state agency budgets the Department was able to secure significant new resources in both personnel and funds. The Department’s certified general fund budget in 2008 was \$43.3 million. For 2015 it was over \$49 million.