Executive branch [1]

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Executive Branch

In a move to greatly reduce the number of agencies that had developed in North Carolina government, the Executive Organization Acts [2] of 1971 and 1973 grouped all of the agencies of the Executive Branch into departments plus the Office of the Governor and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Since that time, agencies have been renamed and reorganized numerous times. Effective January 1, 2012, the Departments of Correction, Crime Control and Public Safety, and Juvenile Justice and Delinquency were merged into one Department of Public Safety [3].

Ten members of the executive branch are popularly elected. This includes the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer, and the State Auditor [4]. The departments of the executive branch that have elected department heads are Agriculture, Insurance, Justice, Labor, and Public Instruction. The remaining department heads are appointed by the governor.

Council of State and the Cabinet

Governor [5]: Patrick McCrory

Lieutenant Governor [6]: Dan Forest

Council of State: Elected officials

Attorney General [7]: Roy Cooper

Commissioner of Agriculture [8]: Steven W. Troxler

Commissioner of Insurance [9]: Wayne Goodwin

Secretary of State [10]: Elaine F. Marshall

Secretary of Labor [11]: Cherie K. Berry

State Auditor [12]: Beth A. Wood

State Treasurer [13]: Janet Cowell

Superintendant of Public Instruction: [14] June St. Clair Atkinson

Cabinet: Department Secretaries appointed by the Governor

Administration [15]: Bill Daughtridge

Commerce [16]: Sharon Decker

Cultural Resources [17]: Susan Kluttz

Environment and Natural Resources [18]: John Skvarla

Health and Human Services [19]: Aldona Vos

Public Safety [20]: Kieran Shanahan

Revenue [21]: Lyons Gray

Transportation [22]: Tony Tata

Other Executive Officials and Departments

Budget Director: Art Pope

Chief of Staff: Thomas Stith

Director of the Office of State Personnel [23]: Neal Alexander

President of the NC Community College System [24]: R. Scott Ralls

State Agencies

At the time of the Executive Reorganization Acts, there were over 200 independent agencies in state government. Most of these agencies still exist as subdivisions of the executive departments. The location of some agencies may not be obvious--the Division of Veterans Affairs, for instance, is in the Department of Administration. The State Government Portal [25] provides a comprehensive list of state agencies and subdivisions [26].

In addition to the executive departments, there are three independent executive agencies as well as over 50 licensing boards that provide regulatory control for specific occupations. With the exception of the Office of Administrative Hearings, most of the board members are appointed by the Governor; however, some boards are made up of members chosen by multiple parties, including the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, both houses of the General Assembly, and even Council of State members.

Office of Administrative Hearings [27]

The Office of Administrative Hearings is a quasi-judicial agency that adjudicates administrative law cases (that is, cases in which a plaintiff challenges the application--or lack of application--of a particular agency rule), as well as publishing the NC Administrative Code. The Chief Administrative Law Judge, who serves as Director of the OAH and chooses other Administrative Law Judges, is appointed by the Chief Justice of the NC Supreme Court.

Office of the State Controller [28]

The State Controller is the state's Chief Financial Officer, charged with insuring that State appropriations are expended, accounted for, and reported consistently. The State Controller is appointed by the Governor with the approval of the General Assembly.

State Board of Elections [29]

The State Board of Elections administers the election process and deals with all matters of campaign finance disclosure. Members of the Board are chosen by the Governor.

Occupational Licensing Boards

Occupational Licensing Boards grant certificates of qualification for specific occupations, establish rules of ethics and conduct, and ensure that practitioners adhere to state laws and regulations. Many boards include both practitioners and non-practitioners, who are appointed to represent the public interest.

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[4] http://ncpedia.org/auditor-state
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