

By
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Has Washington Fever spread to Raleigh? N&O political columnist and reporter Rob Christensen tells Weekly News Review host Barlow Herget that there is a hardening of positions by Democratic Governor Beverly Perdue and the Republican controlled legislature over the budget. Christensen says that the N.C. Constitution, if no continuing resolution is adopted as in the past, does not allow any state spending if there's no budget by July 1. None. SGR Today reporter and blogster Josh Ellis says the current temporary one-cent sales tax expires June 30. The panel also looks at the good news that the Governor and legislature moved forward this week the compromise state employees Health Plan bill that shifts the Plan to State Treasurer Janet Cowell's office and closes a half-billion funding shortfall. Ruffin Poole is sentenced to prison this week and there's serious talk, given budget cutbacks, that the UNC System may impose enrollment caps for the first time.