



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Republican Leader Proposes Idea for Ethics Reform**  
*State Employees Taking Illegal Gifts Should Forfeit Pensions*

Raleigh, N.C. – Governor Beverly Perdue signed an executive order yesterday extending the state’s gift ban to all state employees working in the executive branch. Republicans have supported and campaigned for ethics reform legislation in the General Assembly for several sessions. During this year’s session, Senate Republican Leader Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) introduced several bills involving ethics in state government, including Senate Bills [334](#) and [335](#). Although one of these bills would have actually codified an executive order signed by Governor Perdue, her fellow Democrats in control of the General Assembly sent both pieces of legislation to committees where they never received a full hearing.

Senator Berger said, “While I applaud Governor Perdue for taking the first step on this issue, once again she has failed to go far enough in combating the rampant corruption prevalent in recent Democratic Administrations. There must be a zero tolerance policy towards corruption in state government. For too long, as the result of one party rule in state government, ethics reform has been delayed or cast aside as the public has continued to see their elected officials breach the public trust.”

Senator Berger suggested that Republicans will lead the way in taking the next step toward ending the corruption that has plagued state government, “There must be severe consequences for corruption. To that end, I plan to introduce legislation requiring any state employee convicted of taking illegal gifts or other corruption related charges to forfeit their pension, just like elected officials. 99.9 percent of state employees are working hard for the people of this state and they do not deserve to have their reputations ruined by the few who are not doing the right thing. Republicans will continue to push for ethics reform because we understand that rebuilding the public’s confidence in state government requires us to stamp corruption out of state government once and for all.”

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