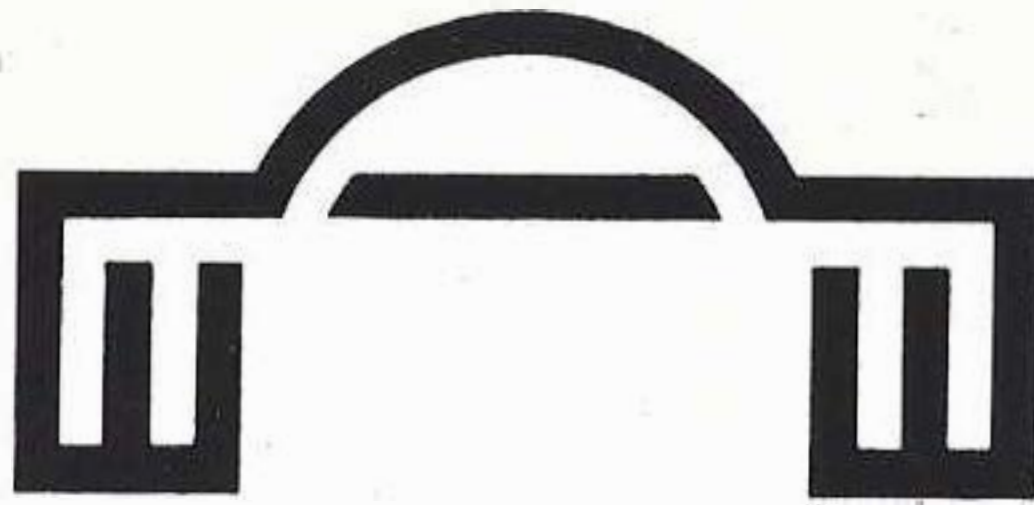




NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR
PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH INC.

NEWS RELEASE

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N.C. GOVERNORS AMONG LEAST POWERFUL IN U.S.

North Carolina has a weak governor's office in comparison with other states. This is the finding of an article just published by the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research. The article is entitled "How Powerful Is the North Carolina Governor?" and is written by the Chairman of the Center's Board of Directors, Thad Beyle.

Beyle examined five formal powers of the governors in all 50 states. He looked at whether a governor has veto power, his ability to serve successive terms, control over the budget, powers of appointment, and organizational powers.

Beyle's findings in these areas are:

. Veto -- The N.C. governor is the only one in the U.S. without some type of veto power.

. Tenure -- The recent amendment to the state constitution allowing Gov. Hunt to succeed himself for a second four-year term has significantly strengthened the office of governor in N.C. Only those states which allow unlimited terms have more power in this category. For example, Governor William Milliken of Michigan is now already serving his third straight four-year term.

. Control over the budget -- The existence of the Advisory Budget Commission significantly weakens the budget powers of N.C. governors, compared with other states. The 12-member group includes eight legislators and helps prepare the budget submitted to the legislature. The Center for Public Policy Research has questioned the constitutionality of this group in a previous report issued in 1980.

. Appointive powers -- N.C. governors have more control over appointments than many states. Beyle found that in North Carolina, governors are relatively free to name the heads of various state agencies. A governor has power to make certain appointments to the judiciary and to approximately 400 boards, commissions, and councils in the executive branch. A report on these groups is currently underway at the research center.

. Organization power -- Twenty-one states have "team" elections where the governor and lieutenant governor run on the same ticket. Along with the power to reorganize state agencies, team elections strengthen the hand of a governor. The fact that lieutenant governors in North Carolina are separately elected officials significantly weakens the N.C. governors, says Beyle. There are also seven other separately elected officials in addition to the governor and lieutenant governor.

Beyle's article is contained in N.C. Insight, the quarterly magazine published by the Center for Public Policy Research in Raleigh. He is a professor of political science at UNC-Chapel Hill and has written extensively in the field of state government.

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