

## Soucek Bill Passes Senate

Written by Steve Frank  
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State Senator Dan Soucek's bill eliminating nearly 60 North Carolina commissions and panels of the General Assembly; bill S593, passed a final vote in the Senate with broad, bipartisan support just before noon yesterday, according to an email from the Senator.

Soucek wrote yesterday, "I supported a pair of minor amendments on the Senate Floor, but remain committed to the bill's goals of beginning the discussion of and beginning to take action on reducing the size of government and increasing its effectiveness." He said "I am determined to ensure that the justification for the continued existence of any board be proof of its effectiveness rather than simply the fact that it exists or because 'it's always been done that way.'" The bill would eliminate 57 boards and commissions, but a commission led by Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton that has been working to align public schools with demands of local industries was taken out of the bill, along with the Executive Mansion Fine Arts Committee. The bill would eliminate at least three gubernatorial panels. Soucek said the 57 panels with nearly 800 positions could save \$500,000, and he said some commissions proposed for elimination haven't met for more than a year.