

North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Proudly Serving the Sheriffs and Citizens of North Carolina since 1922



Weekly Legislative Report

August 30, 2019

As a result of the continuing standoff between the General Assembly and Governor Cooper over the vetoed State budget bill, the legislature has started sending individual funding bills to the Governor that provide pay raises for personnel of the State Highway Patrol, State Bureau of Investigation, Alcohol Law Enforcement and Adult Correction. Other funding bills for State employees and teachers are being considered.

While Governor Cooper ponders whether or not to veto these bills that would provide pay raises to various State employees, he may be speculating on what is to come next from the General Assembly. Nevertheless, the legislature has taken a break. They adjourned on Thursday and will not reconvene again until Monday, September 9, stretching the Labor Day holiday out for the remainder of next week.

Even though the legislators are not in Raleigh, a lot of work goes on by the staff, State agency personnel and lobbyists working on the important bills that are still pending. In addition, many of the most dedicated legislators are working on important bills via telephone, text and remote computer access throughout the entire time they are away from Raleigh.

Note: We will not publish the NCSA Weekly Legislative Report next week due to the legislative break. The next edition of the WLR will be published on Friday, September 13 (hopefully not containing any bad news, on Friday the 13th).

BILL STATUS

[HOUSE BILL 55](#), [Cleveland County/Sheriff Vacancies](#), which is summarized in the August 23, 2019 Weekly Legislative Report, has been approved by the General Assembly and becomes effective August 28, 2019. Since the bill applies to fewer than 15 counties, it is considered a local bill and therefore does not require the signature of the Governor to become law. Rather, this local bill became law when it was approved by the General Assembly.

The bill amends G.S. 162-5.1 to remove Cleveland County from those counties listed in G.S. 162-5.1. G.S. 162-5.1 requires that upon a vacancy in the office of sheriff, such as due to retirement, the board of county commissioners must first consult with the county executive committee of the political party of the outgoing sheriff and must elect the person selected by the executive committee to fill the vacancy.

A vacancy in the office of sheriff in Cleveland County will now be filled by the board of county

commissioners without the input of the county executive committee of the political party of the outgoing sheriff. This bill applies only to Cleveland County.

[HOUSE BILL 99](#), Transfer ALE, which is summarized in the February 22, 2019 Weekly Legislative Report, has been approved by the General Assembly and has been signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper with an effective date of October 1, 2019. **The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association SUPPORTS this bill.**

[HOUSE BILL 126](#), Amend Certificate of Need Laws, has been amended to change the entire content of the bill and to rename the bill "Pay Increases/State Highway Patrol." The bill, as amended, would make appropriations to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS) for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 fiscal years to award annual salary increases to certain qualified law enforcement officers of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. The bill has been approved by the General Assembly and sent to Governor Roy Cooper for his signature.

[HOUSE BILL 449](#), Special Registration Plates, which is summarized in the March 29, 2019 Weekly Legislative Report, has been amended and would allow a non-handicapped registered owner of a motor vehicle to apply for a handicapped license plate or removable handicapped windshield placard if the registered owner certifies that they are the guardian or parent of a handicapped person. The non-handicapped registered owner of the vehicle would be required to recertify every five years that they remain the guardian or parent of the handicapped person. The bill has been approved by the General Assembly and sent to Governor Roy Cooper for his signature.

[HOUSE BILL 609](#), Salary Increases/Adult Correctional Employees, which is summarized in the August 23, 2019 Weekly Legislative Report, has been approved by the General Assembly and sent to Governor Roy Cooper for his signature.

[HOUSE BILL 633](#), Strengthen Criminal Gang Laws, which is summarized in the April 12, 2019 Weekly Legislative Report, has passed the House, passed the Senate with amendment and has been sent back to the House for consideration of the Senate amendment. **The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association SUPPORTS this bill.**

[HOUSE BILL 777](#), Various Retirement Chngs/Wastewater Reform, has been amended to change the entire content of the bill and to rename the bill "Pay Increases/SBI & ALE." The bill, as amended, would make appropriations to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS) for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 fiscal years to award annual salary increases to certain qualified law enforcement officers of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) and the Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) Division of the SBI. The bill has been approved by the General Assembly and sent to Governor Roy Cooper for his signature.

[SENATE BILL 682](#), Implement Crime Victim Rights Amendment, which is summarized in the June 28, 2019 Weekly Legislative Report, has been approved by the General Assembly and sent to Governor Roy Cooper for his signature.

The **Weekly Legislative Report** is provided at no charge as a service to the sheriffs, criminal justice community and citizens of North Carolina.

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