

North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Proudly Serving the Sheriffs and Citizens of North Carolina since 1922



Weekly Legislative Report

June 5, 2020

As the legislature moves toward an anticipated adjournment by the end of this month, numerous committees are meeting and bills are starting to move through the committee process. Once a bill is approved by the relevant committee, it is then moving to the full House or the full Senate for consideration.

While the legislature is attempting to keep the process as open as possible, and to comply with social distancing due to COVID-19, some members are attending meetings in person and others are attending meetings electronically.

During this past week there have been numerous protests in downtown Raleigh. Some remained peaceful and some did not and resulted in extensive property damage. The protests in the vicinity of the State Legislative Building that did not remain peaceful occurred when the legislature was not in session. Nevertheless, the General Assembly Police have been on alert and have, no doubt, been coordinating closely with the State Capitol Police, Raleigh Police, Wake County Sheriff's Office, State Highway Patrol, and others with various responsibilities for law enforcement in and around downtown Raleigh.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday afternoon.

BILL STATUS

[HOUSE BILL 1063](#), Fund VIPER Tower Hardware Upgrades, which is summarized in the May 8, 2020 Weekly Legislative Report, would appropriate \$19 million in nonrecurring funds to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety for the 2020-2021 fiscal year for hardware and software upgrades to the Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER).

The bill has been approved by the General Assembly and sent to Governor Roy Cooper for his signature.

[SENATE BILL 315](#), North Carolina Farm Act of 2019, which was last summarized in the November 1, 2019 Weekly Legislative Report, has been amended in the Senate to remove from the bill all provisions related to the hemp industry, including those provisions related to making smokable hemp unlawful in this State.

The bill has been approved by the General Assembly and sent to Governor Roy Cooper for his signature. **The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association SUPPORTS – HIGH PRIORITY enactment of legislation to clearly make smokable hemp unlawful.**

[SENATE BILL 379](#), Retirement Systems Admin. Changes, has passed the Senate, passed the House with amendment and has been sent back to the Senate for consideration of the House amendment.

The bill, as amended, would make various administrative changes to the laws related to the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System and the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System. Among those, the bill would make permanent the option of sheriffs to transfer their sick leave accrued under the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System to the Sheriffs' Supplemental Pension Fund, so that the sick leave would count towards the sheriffs' eligible service under the Sheriffs' Supplemental Pension Fund.

Currently, this option must be exercised prior to July 1, 2022. The bill would remove this time deadline and allow eligible sheriffs to exercise this option at any time in the future.

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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