

North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Proudly Serving the Sheriffs and Citizens of North Carolina since 1922



Weekly Legislative Report

January 15, 2021

Two-hundred and forty-four years after the North Carolina General Assembly met for the first time in New Bern, the members assembled in Raleigh on Tuesday, January 13, 2021 to begin the 2021-2022 Session. Both chambers entered into the business of the Session during the noon hour, but members had to take their oaths of office before any votes could be taken.

Newly elected Chief Justice Paul M. Newby attended the opening of the Session to administer oaths to both the members of the House and to re-elected Speaker of the House, Tim Moore. Twenty-two new House members were sworn-in that represent wide-ranging professions such as retired law enforcement, small business owners, insurance professionals, real estate developers, and attorneys.

Mark Robinson, North Carolina's first African-American Lieutenant Governor, directed the activities of the North Carolina Senate in his role as President of that chamber. Newly elected Supreme Court Justices Philip Berger, Jr. and Tamara Barringer were welcomed to the Senate chamber to assist with the oaths of office for Senate members. Specifically, Justice Berger delivered the oath of office to the re-elected President Pro Tempore, Philip Berger, Sr. who also happens to be his father. In addition to returning members, thirteen new Senate members were sworn in that, like the House, represent wide-ranging professions such as attorneys, insurance professionals, and small business owners.

After the traditional ceremonies and requirements of the opening day of the General Assembly, both chambers quickly began an organizational session. The purpose of the early organizational session is solely to elect officers, adopt rules and to plan for the upcoming Session. It then takes a few weeks for office assignments to be finalized, to provide office space for staff, and to attend to other organizational matters before the General Assembly starts legislative work in earnest.

Finally, the Senate adopted a resolution that contains the 2021 Senate Permanent Rules. These rules will govern the operation of the Senate and govern how legislative bills can be considered and acted upon. Likewise, the House adopted a resolution that contains the temporary rules of the House, which will govern the operation of the House and how legislative bills are considered. Since the House Rules are designated as temporary rules, it is anticipated that later in the Session the House will adopt a set of permanent rules.

At the conclusion of the day's organizational session on Wednesday, the House and Senate adjourned until Wednesday, January 27, 2021. Therefore, we will not be publishing a Weekly Legislative Report next Friday, but will instead publish the next Report on Friday, January 29, 2021.

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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