

North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Proudly Serving the Sheriffs and Citizens of North Carolina since 1922



Weekly Legislative Report

April 2, 2021

At the end of last week, the Speaker of the House extended both bill drafting and bill filing deadlines for the House. The new deadlines allow bill drafting additional time to respond to requests of Representatives, but also pushes the bill filing deadline closer to the crossover date of May 13, 2021. The bill drafting deadline for the Senate passed on March 11, 2021 and the Senate has not extended its bill filing deadline of Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

Committee meetings have been numerous this week and their calendars have been full. Members have been seen leaving one committee meeting and going right into the next one and even leaving early to make it to the next meeting. Noticeably, some committee rooms also seemed to be offering more public seating than was offered during the height of the pandemic, but masks were still very prevalent.

With a scheduled one week “break” to begin for the House and Senate on Monday, it is likely to be quiet on Jones and Salisbury streets next week before likely resuming at a rapid pace when everyone returns and the budget discussions continue.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene Monday, April 5, 2021 for what will be a skeletal session. It has been announced that no votes on bills will be taken next week.

BILLS OF INTEREST

[HOUSE BILL 424](#), Juveniles/Eliminate LWOP/Parole Eligibility, would abolish life without parole for juveniles. The bill would instead establish that a defendant who is convicted of first-degree murder and who was under the age of 18 at the time of the offense must be sentenced to life imprisonment with parole and be eligible for parole consideration after serving 25 years imprisonment. Additionally, the bill would establish that a defendant who was convicted of a crime other than first-degree murder and who was under the age of 18 at the time of the offense and sentenced to more than 15 years of imprisonment would be eligible for parole consideration after serving 15 years imprisonment.

Currently, if the sole basis for a juvenile defendant’s first-degree murder conviction is the felony murder rule (applies where death occurs during the commission of certain felonies), the court must sentence the defendant to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole after 25 years. If the juvenile defendant is convicted of first-degree murder under any other theory, then the court must hold a hearing to determine whether the defendant should be sentenced to life without parole or

life with the possibility of parole after 25 years.

Finally, the bill would establish that a prisoner who is sentenced under the Fair Sentencing Act (applies to offenses committed from July 1, 1981 to September 30, 1994) and who was under the age of 18 at the time of the offense is eligible for parole consideration after 20 years of imprisonment. Currently, a prisoner sentenced under the Fair Sentencing Act for what was classified as a Class D through Class J felony is eligible for parole consideration after serving at least 20 years imprisonment, less any credit allowed under the law. **Introduced by Representatives Faircloth, Hardister, Rogers and K. Baker, and assigned to the House Committee on Families, Children, and Aging Policy.**

[HOUSE BILL 429](#), UNC Law Enforcement Ed. Incentive, would authorize the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina (UNC) to provide regulations allowing full-time and part-time campus police officers to enroll in courses at UNC free of tuition. Currently, full-time faculty members of the rank of full-time instructor or above and any full-time staff members of UNC may enroll in up to 3 courses per year at UNC free of tuition. **Introduced by Representatives Boles, Hawkins, R. Smith and Hardister, and assigned to the House Committee on Education - Universities.**

[HOUSE BILL 430](#), Special Olympics NC Special Reg. Plate, would require the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles to produce a “Special Olympics” registration plate. The Special Olympics registration plate would cost an additional \$25 above the regular motor vehicle registration fees. Currently, North Carolina has numerous special registration plates with additional costs that range between \$15 and \$30. **Introduced by Representative Torbett, and assigned to the House Committee on Transportation.**

[HOUSE BILL 432](#), NC Assoc. of Fire Chiefs Special Reg. Plate, would require the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles to produce a “North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs” registration plate. The registration plate would cost an additional \$30 above the regular motor vehicle registration fees. Currently, North Carolina has numerous special registration plates with additional costs that range between \$15 and \$30. **Introduced by Representative Hastings, and assigned to the House Committee on Transportation.**

[HOUSE BILL 435](#), A Pet is Family Special Registration Plate, would require the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles to produce a “A Pet is Family” registration plate. The registration plate would cost an additional \$15 above the regular motor vehicle registration fees. Currently, North Carolina has numerous special registration plates with additional costs that range between \$15 and \$30. **Introduced by Representative Iler, and assigned to the House Committee on Transportation.**

[HOUSE BILL 436](#), Support Law Enforcement Mental Health, would require the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission and the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission (the Commissions) to require psychological screening examinations “prior to certification or employment of law enforcement officers to determine the officer’s mental and emotional suitability to properly fulfill the responsibilities of an officer.”

The bill would further require the minimum educational and training standards for: (1) entry level employment and retention; and (2) in-service training to include education and training to develop knowledge and increase awareness of effective mental health and wellness strategies. The in-service training standards set by the Commissions would be required to include two hours of training on this issue every three years. **Introduced by Representatives K. Baker, Szoka and Hunter, and assigned to the House Committee on Judiciary 4.**

[HOUSE BILL 448](#), Auth. Use of Blue Lights on Fire Apparatus, would allow blue lights to be installed and used on publicly owned fire apparatuses as long as: (1) the blue lights are visible only from the rear of the fire apparatus when the parking brake is engaged; and (2) the on-scene lights are activated. The bill would define “fire apparatus” to mean any of the following: a pumper apparatus, mobile foam apparatus, initial attack apparatus, quint, tanker apparatus, and aerial apparatus.

Currently, it is a Class 1 misdemeanor to possess a blue light or to install, activate, or operate a blue light on any vehicle other than publicly owned vehicles used for law enforcement purposes or any other vehicle used by law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties. **Introduced by Representatives Potts, Boles and Moss, and assigned to the House Committee on Judiciary 2.**

[HOUSE BILL 449](#), Prohibit Defense Based On Sex or Gender, would provide that the discovery of, perception of, or belief about another person’s actual or perceived sex, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation, whether or not accurate, is not a defense to a prosecution for homicides or assaults under the General Statutes. Additionally, the bill would provide that such a discovery, perception, or belief would not be provocation negating malice as an element of murder.

The bill would eliminate what are known as gay and transgender panic defenses, which are legal defenses similar in nature to provocation or heat of passion. Defendants apply these defenses at trial by arguing their violence against the victim was the result of fear from unwanted sexual advances or the shock of finding out the victim was gay or transgender. Currently, the General Statutes explicitly prohibit several defenses, such as consent in the offense of sexual activity with a student, or a victim being legally married to the perpetrator of a rape or sex offense. **Introduced by Representative Autry, Morey, Clemmons and Alston, and assigned to the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.**

[HOUSE BILL 465](#), Home of the Venus Flytrap Special Reg. Plate, would require the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles to produce a “Home of the Venus Flytrap” registration plate. The registration plate would cost an additional \$30 above the regular motor vehicle registration fees. Currently, North Carolina has numerous special registration plates with additional costs that range between \$15 and \$30. **Introduced by Representative Insko, and assigned to the House Committee on Transportation.**

[HOUSE BILL 466](#), Electric Vehicle Special Registration Plate, would require the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles to produce an “Electric Vehicle” registration plate. The registration plate would cost an additional \$10 above the regular motor vehicle registration fees. Currently,

North Carolina has numerous special registration plates with additional costs that range between \$15 and \$30. **Introduced by Representative von Haefen, and assigned to the House Committee on Transportation.**

[HOUSE BILL 473](#), [Revise Laws/Safe Surrender/Infants](#), would make various revisions to the laws governing the safe surrender of infants. The bill would require the following individuals, without a court order, to take into temporary custody an infant reasonably believed to be under 7 days old that is voluntarily delivered to the individual by the infant's parent who does not express an intent to return for the infant: (1) a health care provider who is on duty or at a hospital, local or district health department, or a nonprofit community health center; (2) a first responder, including a law enforcement officer, a certified emergency medical services worker, or a firefighter; (3) a social services worker who is on duty or at a local department of social services.

Currently, (1) firefighters and first responders are not named in this list; (2) an off-duty law enforcement officer must be physically located at a police department or sheriff's office to take custody of the infant; and (3) an off-duty emergency medical services worker must be physically located at a fire or emergency medical services station to take custody of the infant.

The bill would require an individual who takes temporary custody of an infant under the statute to perform any act necessary to protect the physical health and well-being of the infant and to immediately notify the department of social services in the county where the infant was surrendered.

Finally, the bill would authorize the individual taking temporary custody of the infant to inquire as to the parents' identities, the date of birth of the infant, any relevant medical history, and the parents' marital status. The bill would require the individual to notify the parent that the parent is not required to provide the information. If practical, the bill would also require the individual to provide the parent with specified written information created by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services. **Introduced by Representative White, and assigned to the House Committee on Families.**

[HOUSE BILL 483](#), [Pistol Permit/Mental Health Record to Sheriff](#), would eliminate the current requirement that the applicant for a pistol purchase permit provide the sheriff with a signed and notarized release for mental health orders. The bill would instead require any holder of a mental health order (such as clerks of court) to provide such court orders directly to the sheriff upon the sheriff's request.

The bill would also require the pistol purchase permit application to contain a written warning to the applicant that is substantially as follows: "By filing this permit application, I understand that I am giving the sheriff the authority to obtain all criminal and mental health court orders required by State and federal law to determine permit eligibility."

Currently, the pistol purchase permit application must be on a form created by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI), in consultation with the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association. If enacted into law, the SBI (not the sheriff) would need to make this change to the pistol purchase permit application. **Introduced by Representative Greene.**

[SENATE BILL 374](#), Auth. Use of Blue Lights on Fire Apparatus, is identical to [House Bill 448](#), which is summarized above in this Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators Jarvis, Ford and Perry, and assigned to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.**

[SENATE BILL 379](#), Issuance of Unregisterable Cert. of Title, would authorize the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to create and issue an unregisterable certificate of title in the name of a motor vehicle insurance company insuring a vehicle registered in another state that has been declared a total loss due to damage sustained to the vehicle in North Carolina where the vehicle has remained in this State since it sustained the damage and the insurance company, after making a written request, has been unable to obtain the properly endorsed title, certificate of ownership, or other evidence of ownership from the vehicle's owner or lienholder (such as a bank).

Among the criteria for issuance of the certificate, the insurance company would have to provide evidence with its application to the DMV that the owner of the vehicle accepted a settlement payment for the total loss of the vehicle. The bill further provides that unregisterable certificates of title would be distinct in color from other vehicle titles and contain a statement that the certificate is solely intended for proof of ownership and use in transferring the vehicle for parts, destruction, or recycling. **Introduced by Senators B. Jackson and McInnis, and assigned to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.**

[SENATE BILL 381](#), The Sergeant Mickey Hutchens Act, is identical to [House Bill 417](#), which is summarized in the March 26, 2021 Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators Perry, Steinburg and Krawiec, and assigned to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.**

[SENATE BILL 390](#), UNC Law Enforcement Recruitment, is identical to [House Bill 429](#), which is summarized above in this Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators Lee, Ballard and Craven, and assigned to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.**

[SENATE BILL 408](#), Stop Addiction Fraud Ethics Act of 2021, would criminalize the knowing misrepresentation of various aspects of substance use disorder treatment services, treatment facilities, and recovery residences. The bill would make it unlawful for substance use disorder treatment providers, treatment facilities, recovery residences, or third parties serving these providers and entities to do any of the following: (1) make materially false or misleading misrepresentations or provide false or misleading information about the nature, identity and location of the services or facility in advertising materials, including on websites and call lines; (2) make a false or misleading statement about the treatment provider's status as in or out of network, about the experience or qualifications of a person providing treatment, or about the success of providing services.

The bill would also make it unlawful for any person or entity to do any of the following: (1) provide or direct another person or entity to provide false or misleading information about the identity of or contact information for a treatment provider; (2) include false or misleading information about the website of a treatment provider, or direct the reader to another website; (3) suggest that a relationship with a treatment provider exists, unless express written consent from the provider is obtained; (4) make a materially false or misleading statement about substance disorder treatment

services.

Finally, the bill would make it unlawful for any person or entity to offer, pay, accept or receive anything of value, or to engage in a fee-splitting arrangement, for the referral of a patient or patronage to or from a treatment provider or laboratory, healthcare provider or healthcare facility or to aid and abet such activity.

The bill would make every offense listed above a Class G felony and each violation would be punished as a separate offense. **Introduced by Senators Burgin, Krawiec and Perry, and assigned to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.**

[SENATE BILL 409](#), Prohibit Defense Based On Sex or Gender, is identical to [House Bill 449](#), which is summarized above in this Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators Nickel, Mayfield and Murdock, and assigned to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.**

[SENATE BILL 416](#), “Ban the Box”, would prohibit a public employer, such as the State of North Carolina or any city or county agency, from asking about or considering an applicant’s criminal history until after a conditional offer of employment has been made to the applicant. Therefore, no initial application for employment with a public employer would be able to contain a question or inquiry regarding the applicant’s criminal history. This prohibition would not apply law enforcement officers or to any other positions for which a hiring authority is required by law to consider the criminal record of an applicant.

The bill would also provide that a public employer could not deny employment to an applicant based on the person’s criminal history unless the crimes are “substantially related” to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the position.

In addition, the bill would require a public employer who denies employment based on a criminal history to notify the applicant of the denial and allow the applicant the opportunity to contest the accuracy of the criminal record.

Finally, the bill would prohibit a hiring authority from disqualifying an applicant for public employment because the applicant does not have a physical or street address. **Introduced by Senators Mohammed, Batch and deViere, and assigned to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.**

[SENATE BILL 424](#), Private Protective Svcs. Licensing Mods., would make numerous changes to law related to the authority and functioning of the North Carolina Private Protective Services Board (Board). Among those, the bill would require any person, firm, association or corporation that offers protection services for a fee to an elected or appointed public official, business executive or celebrity to first become licensed by the Board.

The bill would also require any person, firm, association or corporation that offers digital forensics examination for a fee to become licensed by the Board. Currently, the provision of digital forensics examination for a fee is exempt from the licensure requirements of the Board. **Introduced by**

Senator Daniel, and assigned to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.

[SENATE BILL 431](#), Permanent DV Protective Orders, would authorize the issuance of a permanent domestic violence protective order (DVPO) that remains in effect for the lifetime of the person subject to the order. The bill would allow a permanent DVPO to be issued if the court finds all of the following: (1) an act of domestic violence has occurred; (2) reasonable grounds exist for the victim to fear future contact with the respondent; (3) process was properly served on the respondent; and (4) the respondent answered the complaint and notice of hearing was given or the respondent failed to answer the complaint and is in default.

The bill would provide several forms of relief that the court may grant in the order, such as ordering the respondent not to harass the victim, abuse or injure the victim, not to be at certain places when the victim is present, and not to contact the victim.

In addition, the bill would allow a permanent DVPO to be issued concurrently with a fixed-time protective order. Finally, the bill would only allow the victim to file a motion to have the lifetime DVPO rescinded. The bill would not authorize the defendant to file a motion to have the lifetime DVPO rescinded.

Currently, a DVPO issued under Chapter 50B must be issued for a fixed period of time not to exceed one year. **Introduced by Senator Edwards, and assigned to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.**

[SENATE BILL 433](#), Prohibit Online Impersonations, would create a new criminal offense of "Online Impersonation." This bill contains some similarities to [House Bill 341](#), which is summarized in the March 26, 2021 Weekly Legislative Report. The bill would make it unlawful to use the name or persona of another person without their consent and with the intent to harm, defraud, intimidate, or threaten any person, to do any of the following: (1) create a webpage on a commercial social networking site, or other website, or (2) post or send one or more messages on or through a commercial social networking site or other website. This would exclude messages posted or sent through email or a message board.

Additionally, the bill would make it unlawful to send an email, instant message, text message, or similar communication that references a name, domain address, phone number, or other identifying item belonging to a person, if: (1) the communication was sent without the person's consent (2) with the intent to cause the recipient to reasonably believe that the person authorized or transmitted the communication, and (3) it was sent with the intent to harm or defraud the person.

The bill would make all these offenses above a Class A1 misdemeanor, which could include up to a \$4,000 fine. However, the bill would make these offenses a Class D felony punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 if the offense was committed with the intent to solicit a response by law enforcement or other emergency personnel.

The bill would also create the crimes of aiding and abetting for these offenses. Specifically, the bill provides that if a person uses information resulting from the commission of these offenses to commit a separate crime against the victim, the perpetrator is also guilty of aiding and abetting the

commission of the separate crime, and will be punished according to the statute governing that separate crime.

Finally, the bill would make it a defense to these crimes that the person is one of the following or that the person's conduct was solely action taken as an employee of a: commercial networking site, internet service provider, interactive computer service, telecommunications service provider, video service provider, or cable services provider.

Currently, it is either a Class 1 or Class 2 misdemeanor to engage in "cyber-bullying," depending on the age of the perpetrator, and to pose as a minor or to build a fake profile or website for the purpose of intimidating or tormenting a minor or the minor's parent or guardian. **Introduced by Senator Perry, and assigned to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.**

[SENATE BILL 434](#), Funds for NC Troopers Assoc. Caisson Unit, would appropriate to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, State Highway Patrol Division, \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to assist the North Carolina Troopers Association Caisson Unit with the upkeep and maintenance of its facilities, vehicles, and teams of horses. **Introduced by Senator Perry, and assigned to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.**

[SENATE BILL 439](#), Hate Crimes Prevention Act, is substantially similar to [House Bill 354](#), which is summarized in the March 26, 2021 Weekly Legislative Report. The bill would: (1) expand the categories under which a crime would be increased to a higher-level offense as a hate crime; (2) expand the categories covering the crime of ethnic intimidation; (3) create the new criminal offense of "felonious assault as a hate crime;" (4) require the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) to establish a Hate Crimes Statistics Database (HCSD) to collect, analyze and disseminate information related to the commission of hate crimes; and (5) require law enforcement training to be developed by the North Carolina Justice Academy on how to identify, respond to and report on a hate crime, in addition to including hate crime training as part of the in-service training and minimum training standards through the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission and the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. **Introduced by Senators Chaudhuri, Foushee and Mohammed, and assigned to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.**

[SENATE BILL 445](#), Domestic Violence Victims' Separation Waiver, would authorize the waiver of the one-year period of separation currently required before absolute divorce may occur if a person in the marriage is a domestic violence victim and the person's spouse is responsible for committing the act(s) of domestic violence. The person applying for divorce before the one-year separation period would be required to include with the divorce application a combination of documents and records, such as law enforcement files and medical records, to support the person's status as a victim of domestic violence.

The bill would also appropriate to the Governor's Crime Commission \$30,000 in nonrecurring funds for 2021-22 fiscal year to implement an awareness campaign about this separation waiver. **Introduced by Senators deViere, Marcus and Sawyer, and assigned to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.**

[SENATE BILL 447](#), [Living Wage for NC Workers](#), would increase the State minimum wage to \$15 per hour in increments over the next five years. The bill would increase the State minimum wage as follows: (1) \$8.80 per hour effective January 1, 2022; (2) \$10.35 per hour effective January 1, 2023; (3) \$12 per hour effective January 1, 2024; (4) \$13.50 per hour effective January 1, 2025; and (5) \$15 per hour effective January 1, 2026. Currently, the State minimum wage is set by statute at \$6.15 per hour. **Introduced by Senators Mohammed, Murdock and Mayfield, and assigned to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.**

[SENATE BILL 454](#), [Arson Law Revisions](#), is identical to [House Bill 315](#), which is summarized in the March 19, 2021 Weekly Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators Britt, Johnson and Sawyer.**

[SENATE BILL 455](#), [Decriminalize Non-Statutory Offenses](#), is identical to Part XIV of [Senate Bill 300](#), which is summarized in the March 19, 2021 Weekly Legislative Report. The bill would make the violation of a local ordinance an infraction instead of a Class 3 misdemeanor. If enacted into law, a law enforcement officer would be prohibited from arresting an offender that engages in repeated conduct that is disruptive to the community (such as continually loitering in an area open to the public for shopping and dining).

In addition, the bill would provide that no person could be convicted of a criminal offense unless that criminal offense is contained in Chapter 14 of our General Statutes, Chapter 20 of our General Statutes (for motor vehicle offenses), or is a common law criminal offense established in case law (such as the crime going armed to the terror of the people). If enacted into law, a person could not be arrested for continuing to violate a local ordinance, which is currently a Class 3 misdemeanor. **Introduced by Senators Britt, Mohammed and Lee.**

[SENATE BILL 484](#), [School-Based Complaint/SROs](#), would require the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission and the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, in collaboration with the Center for Safer Schools of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, to establish initial and continual training requirements for school resource officers (SROs).

The training topics would include mental health, students with disabilities, racial equity, and crisis intervention and de-escalation. The bill would require all SROs to comply with initial training standards within one year of being assigned as an SRO.

The bill would define a school resource officer as any law enforcement officer assigned to one or more public schools at least 20 hours per week for more than 12 weeks per calendar year, whose duties include: (1) school safety; (2) school security; (3) emergency preparedness; (4) emergency response; and (5) any additional responsibilities related to school safety or security assigned to the SRO by the officer's employer while the officer is acting as a SRO.

Finally, the bill would require a school administrator or school social worker to sign a "school-based complaint" before the SRO would be authorized to seek a petition in juvenile court for unlawful conduct by the juvenile. The bill would define school-based complaint as a complaint in which delinquency is alleged to have occurred on school grounds, school property, at a school bus

stop, or at an off-campus school-sanctioned event, or whose victim is identified as a school.

Currently, school officials do not have the legal authority to decide whether or not a law enforcement officer will seek a petition in juvenile court for unlawful activity occurring on school grounds, school property, at a school bus stop, or at an off-campus school-sanctioned event, or whose victim is identified as a school. If enacted into law, a school administrator or school social worker could, for example, decline to sign a school-based complaint where a student was in possession of illegal drugs or a weapon on school grounds and instead issue a verbal warning to the student. **Introduced by Senators Mohammed and Batch.**

[SENATE BILL 487](#), [Expand CJ Fellows/LEO In-Service Training](#), would allow any county within the State to participate in the Criminal Justice Fellows Program (Fellows Program). The Fellows Program was created to increase the recruitment of criminal justice professionals by providing loan forgiveness to qualified individuals that earn an Applied Associate Degree in Criminal Justice.

Currently, applicants must reside in a county with a population less than 125,000 to be eligible to participate in the Fellows Program. The bill would also appropriate \$663,000 in recurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission for the Fellows Program.

Finally, the bill would streamline the process for developing in-service training for criminal justice officers through the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission and the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. **Introduced by Senators Mohammed, Garrett and de Viere.**

BILL STATUS

[HOUSE BILL 46](#), [SHRA/Stronger Whistleblower Protection](#), which is summarized in the February 5, 2021 Weekly Legislative Report, has passed the House and has been sent to the Senate for consideration.

[HOUSE BILL 203](#), [Extend Deadline for Police Telecommunicators](#), which is summarized in the March 5, 2021 Weekly Legislative Report, has passed the House and has been sent to the Senate for consideration.

[HOUSE BILL 296](#), [EV Charging Station/Parking](#), which is summarized in the March 19, 2021 Weekly Legislative Report, has passed the House and has been sent to the Senate for consideration.

[HOUSE BILL 312](#), [Qualifications for Sheriff/Expunction](#), which is summarized in the March 19, 2021 Weekly Legislative Report, has been amended in the House to no longer authorize the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission to charge a fee to cover the cost of the criminal history check for individuals appointed to the Office of Sheriff or filing for candidacy to the Office of Sheriff. The fee language was not needed since the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation does not charge a fee to the Commission for the criminal history check. The bill has passed the House 118 to 1 and has been sent to the Senate for consideration.

[SENATE BILL 301](#), Expand Expunction Eligibility, which is summarized in the March 19, 2021 Weekly Legislative Report, has passed the Senate and has been sent to the House for consideration.

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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