

North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Proudly Serving the Sheriffs and Citizens of North Carolina since 1922



Weekly Legislative Report

June 18, 2021

Budget, budget, budget . . . it is the one topic on every mind and on the tip of every tongue this week at the General Assembly. If the talk around the legislative complex this week is to be believed, the Senate is expected to reveal their version of the State budget bill next week. This is good news for State agencies and groups expecting funding from the General Assembly, as they can see if their budget requests were partially granted, fully granted, or completely ignored.

The two chambers at the General Assembly take turns every two years on who puts out its version of the State budget bill first. This time around, the Senate is up first. If filed next week, the Senate's version of the State budget bill will be the first giant leap forward in the budget process this Session.

Of course, like other legislation, the Senate's forthcoming budget bill could be "taken up" by the House and significant amendments could be made to the bill. Alternatively, the House could generate its own competing State budget bill and send it to the Senate for consideration. Members from both the House and Senate would then be appointed to a conference committee to work out the differences between the two differing versions of the State budget bill.

Will the budget process this summer at the General Assembly result in a State budget bill being signed into law this Session? While no one knows for sure what will happen, there is always the potential of a budget stalemate. If history were to repeat itself, there could be a drawn-out State budget battle over the coming weeks that extends into the fall and that results in numerous "mini" budget bills being filed and enacted into law instead of the traditional State budget bill that we are accustomed to seeing signed into law.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday, June 21.

BILL STATUS

[HOUSE BILL 386](#), Sunny Point Rail ROW Firearm Discharge Ban, which is summarized in the May 7, 2021 Weekly Legislative Report, has been approved by the General Assembly and becomes effective October 1, 2021. 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.

[HOUSE BILL 743](#), Remove ID Mark/Increase Punishment, which is summarized in the April 30, 2021 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 December 1, 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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