

North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Proudly Serving the Sheriffs and Citizens of North Carolina since 1922



Weekly Legislative Report

September 10, 2021

This was a short legislative week with members not returning from the Labor Day break until Tuesday evening. Many members then left early on Wednesday and headed to Caldwell County in western North Carolina to attend the first of thirteen redistricting meetings to be held across the State.

The legislative buildings have once again been quiet and free of the hustle and bustle everyone expects to see when the end of Session is near. It seems that everyone is waiting with much anticipation to see if and when the budget process will begin to move along. With indications this week that leadership has given the various subcommittees the go-ahead to initiate efforts to finalize their portions of the budget, hopes are high that along with a budget any bills of importance left in committees will begin to move and work their way towards becoming law.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday, September 13th.

BILL STATUS

[HOUSE BILL 143](#), Swain County Sheriff Vacancies, which is summarized in the August 27, 2021 Weekly Legislative Report, has been approved by the General Assembly and becomes effective September 9, 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.

The bill amends G.S. § 162-5.1 to add Swain County to 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 death or 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 if the executive committee of the political party makes a recommendation within 30 days of the occurrence of the vacancy.

This bill applies only to Swain County.

[HOUSE BILL 608](#), Dignity for Women Who are Incarcerated, which is summarized in the August 20, 2021 Weekly Legislative Report, has been signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper with an effective date of December 1, 2021 and applies to inmates and prisoners in custody on or after that date.

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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