

North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Proudly Serving the Sheriffs and Citizens of North Carolina since 1922



Weekly Legislative Report

September 24, 2021

Most activity at the General Assembly was related to the budget again this week. Budget chairs from both chambers continued to meet behind closed doors, with many of their calendars reflecting meeting times extending into the evening hours. The Senate outpaced the House in the number of committee meetings held this week, but both were still moving bills through the committee process.

Speaker Tim Moore and President Pro Tempore Phil Berger both stated that they are hopeful a budget will be presented to them sometime over the weekend or early next week for final input. Both men have indicated they intend to present the proposed budget to Governor Roy Cooper before calling the bill for a vote, perhaps in hopes of working out any issues which would cause the Governor to veto the budget after such a tremendous amount of work has gone into one of the largest budget bills in State history.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday, September 27th.

BILL STATUS

[HOUSE BILL 776, Remote Notarization/Gov't Transparency](#), which is summarized in the May 7, 2021 Weekly Legislative Report, has been amended in the Senate and would make the reasons for each promotion, demotion, dismissal, transfer, suspension, or separation of a State or local government employee a public record.

The bill, as amended, would require all departments, agencies, institutions, commissions, and bureaus of the State, local boards of education, community colleges, Local Management Entities – Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCOs), public health authorities, public hospitals, local governments, and water and sewer authorities to record a general description of the reasons for taking any of the above listed personnel actions.

The general description of the personnel action would not become public record until the later of: (1) the expiration of the time to file an administrative appeal; or (2) the entry of a final decision in that administrative appeals process. The bill, as amended, would require every applicable employer, by November 30, 2021, to adopt personnel policies allowing employees to challenge the wording of the general description given for any promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or dismissal occurring on or after December 1, 2021.

Currently, only the date and type of each dismissal, suspension, and demotion for disciplinary reasons is public record.

Finally, the bill would clarify that the privacy protections for employee personnel files contained in G.S. 153A-98 apply to employees of sheriff's offices and registers of deeds.

The **Weekly Legislative Report** is provided at no charge as a service to the sheriffs, criminal justice community and citizens of North Carolina.

North Carolina Sheriffs' Association, Inc.

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