

North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Proudly Serving the Sheriffs and Citizens of North Carolina since 1922



Weekly Legislative Report

August 11, 2023

This has indeed been a slow summer for everyone interested in the work on Jones and Salisbury Streets. As expected, neither the House nor the Senate has held any committee meetings or voting sessions for the past several weeks.

While everyone is hoping for an agreement on the budget sooner rather than later, it seems there are still key items which remain undecided. So, the waiting continues. If rumors are to be believed, legislative leadership hopes to have a vote on the budget by mid-September.

There will likely be no Weekly Legislative Report published next week due to no scheduled committee meetings for next week at the General Assembly. The next edition of the Weekly Legislative Report will be published when legislation of interest to the criminal justice community is considered again this Session.

BILL STATUS

[HOUSE BILL 193](#), [AOC Ct Changes/Amd Expunction](#), has been signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper with various effective dates set out in the bill. The bill clarifies that the board of county commissioners (board) can take and approve the official bond of the sheriff on or before the first Monday in December after the election and that, upon taking and approving the official bond of the sheriff, the board must register the bond with the register of deeds and file the bond with the clerk of superior court.

The bill also freezes, until July 1, 2024, the automatic expunction by operation of law of dismissed charges and not guilty verdicts under the [Second Chance Act](#) (SL 2020-35).

[HOUSE BILL 378](#), [Firefighters Criminal History Record Checks](#), has been signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper with an effective date of July 21, 2023. The bill provides that the criminal history record check required by [Session Law 2022-8](#), [Arson Law Revisions](#), for applicants for paid or volunteer positions providing fire-fighting or prevention services can be conducted through the office of the clerk of superior court or a third-party vendor if the applicant has been a resident of North Carolina for 5 years or more and did not report any charges or convictions on their application.

The bill also requires fire marshals and fire chiefs to obtain a criminal history record check on an applicant for a paid or volunteer position prior to offering that applicant the position.

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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