

# North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Proudly Serving the Sheriffs and Citizens of North Carolina since 1922



Weekly Legislative Report

October 6, 2023

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While legislators have not been in town this week to conduct any official business, a few bills still became law. Of particular interest to the criminal justice community is [House Bill 259, 2023 Appropriations Act](#), otherwise known as the state budget. You can access the bill by clicking on the bill number or title above or by clicking [here](#). The bill sets state spending limits, enacts raises for state employees and teachers for the next two years, and allows for Medicaid expansion, among other things.

When the budget bill passes, typically another document is published along with it called the Committee Report. The Committee Report is organized by subject area (ex. justice and public safety, education, etc.). Unlike the text of the state budget bill, which normally contains policy and directives to state agencies among other things, the Committee Report is a “spreadsheet” type document which outlines in detail where every dollar of state money will be spent for the next two years. You can access that report by clicking [here](#). The Association will be publishing our full analysis of House Bill 259 and the Committee Report soon in our Final Legislative Report!

The passage of the State’s budget bill is typically a sign that legislators are nearing the end of the legislative session. Based on comments by Speaker of the House of Representatives Tim Moore this week, it seems that tradition will hold true. Speaker Moore indicated that when legislators return for voting sessions next week, they will take up veto overrides and a few other bills members have been working on.

According to Speaker Moore, aside from those few items, the only “big ticket” bills remaining for consideration this Session will relate to redistricting. Moore indicated that once redistricting votes are cast, the work of the General Assembly would be concluded for the year.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday, October 9, 2023.

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## BILL STATUS

[HOUSE BILL 125](#), NC Health & Human Services Workforce Act, has been signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper with various effective dates set out in the bill. The bill makes various changes to the laws regarding optometry, behavior analyst credentialing, and security in medical facilities.

Of interest to the criminal justice community, the bill requires each public hospital to have one law enforcement officer present in the emergency department unless the hospital adopts a security plan implementing a different level of security with the approval of the sheriff and other public officials. This provision is effective October 1, 2024. Note: The bill does not require a sheriff's office or police department to provide a law enforcement officer to a public hospital to satisfy this requirement.

[HOUSE BILL 142](#), Protect Our Students Act.-AB, has been signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper with various effective dates set out in the bill. The bill increases the penalties for the commission of certain sex crimes against students and modifies certain definitions concerning those sex crimes.

[HOUSE BILL 259](#), 2023 Appropriations Act, has become law without the Governor's signature. The bill contains the budget for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium and makes various appropriations and changes to State law. An in-depth summary of the bill will be included in the Association's Final Legislative Report.

[SENATE BILL 579](#), Prevent Harm to Children, has been signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper with an effective date of December 1, 2023 for most provisions. The bill makes various changes to the laws governing dissemination of obscene material and indecent exposure.

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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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