North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Proudly Serving the Sheriffs and Citizens of North Carolina since 1922



Weekly Legislative Report

October 13, 2023

The General Assembly came to town on Tuesday primarily to hold veto override votes on bills that Governor Roy Cooper vetoed in the last few weeks. There were also caucus meetings in both the House and the Senate where members likely talked about technical corrections needed for bills which have already been enacted into law and made decisions about what remaining bills or issues should be addressed in the waning days of the session.

No committee meetings or voting sessions are expected next week according to the announcement given by Speaker of the House of Representatives Tim Moore at the conclusion of the House session on Tuesday. The next voting session is expected to be on Tuesday, October 24th, when both chambers are expected to take up any remaining bills of interest and consider redistricting legislation.

Speaker Moore indicated that, if necessary, members would be asked to return the week of October 30th to finish any additional work before adjourning the 2023 Long Session. While no similar announcement was made by Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger, everyone expects the Senate to keep the same schedule.

Unless the General Assembly reconvenes earlier than expected, the next edition of the Weekly Legislative Report will be published on Friday, October 27th.

BILL STATUS

HOUSE BILL 415, Stop Addiction Fraud Ethics Act of 2023, has been approved by the General Assembly and has been sent to Governor Roy Cooper for his signature. The bill would enact various laws governing the advertising of substance use disorder treatment service providers and facilities.

<u>SENATE BILL 512</u>, <u>Greater Accountability for Boards/Commissions</u>, has been enacted into law by the General Assembly with various effective dates set out in the bill. The bill was vetoed by Governor Roy Cooper on August 24, 2023. On October 10, 2023, the Governor's veto was overridden by the General Assembly.

The bill increases the number of appointees to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission) that the General Assembly can appoint from 8 to 10. The bill allows 5 appointments upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House and 5 appointments upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

The bill also reduces the number of at-large appointments the Governor can make to the Commission to one and allows the North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture to appoint one atlarge member to the Commission.

SENATE BILL 747, Elections Law Changes, has been enacted into law by the General Assembly with various effective dates set out in the bill. The bill was vetoed by Governor Roy Cooper on August 24, 2023. On October 10, 2023, the Governor's veto was overridden by the General Assembly.

The bill makes it a misdemeanor for any person other than the North Carolina State Board of Elections or a county board of elections, or their employees, to affix or print a barcode on any absentee ballot request form.

The bill also makes it a misdemeanor to impersonate a chief judge, judge of election, or other precinct official who is in the discharge of duties in the registration of voters or conducting any primary or election.

The bill requires that the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation be involved in any investigation involving the commission or attempted commission of a crime under Chapter 163 (Elections and Election Laws) of the General Statutes.

Finally, the bill provides that retirement allowance payments would not be suspended if a retired law enforcement officer is employed by a local government in service to a county board of elections <u>during the hours of early voting</u>. Currently, retirement allowance payments are not suspended when a retired law enforcement officer works in service to a county board of elections <u>on election day</u>.

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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