

North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

Proudly Serving the Sheriffs and Citizens of North Carolina since 1922



Weekly Legislative Report

May 24, 2024

Committee meetings and voting sessions have been taking place at a leisurely summer pace so far this session. Legislators have been in town attending to their duties, attending committee meetings, and meeting with individuals interested in various legislation.

In fact, while most legislators had already returned home for the long Memorial Day weekend, the House Committee on State Government met on Thursday to make sure “every dog has its day,” even at the General Assembly. The committee considered a bill that would provide veterinary care to retired law enforcement canines.

Two special guests and their handlers attended the committee meeting and were very well behaved: retired North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement K9 “Jip,” a black Labrador retriever trained in drug detection and article searches and her handler, as well as North Carolina State Highway Patrol K9 “Zeus,” a Belgian Malinois trained in drug detection and his handler.

Whether you head to the beach or to the mountains or just stay at home to enjoy this holiday weekend, remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to keep our country safe, as well as those law enforcement officers who will be working 24/7 this weekend to keep our roads and communities safe.

The House and Senate adjourned on Friday and will reconvene next week after observing the Memorial Day holiday.

BILLS OF INTEREST

[HOUSE BILL 1072](#), Require Disclaimer/Use of AI in Political Ads, would require any political advertisement created in whole or in part using artificial intelligence (AI) to include a disclaimer that it was created using AI and would make it a Class 1 misdemeanor to fail to include the required disclaimer. **Introduced by Representatives Cleveland and Riddell, and assigned to the House Committee on Election Law.**

BILL STATUS

[HOUSE BILL 198](#), DOT Legislative Changes.-AB, has been vetoed by Governor Roy Cooper and has been returned to the General Assembly to see whether or not there are sufficient votes to override the Governor's veto.

If the General Assembly overrides the veto and the bill becomes law, the bill would name several bridges in Bladen County after deputies of the Bladen County Sheriff who died in the line-of-duty and a detention officer of the Bladen County Sheriff who died in the line-of-duty.

The bill would also expand the railroad lines in the State that may sell alcoholic beverages on their trains.

[HOUSE BILL 909](#), Town of Fuquay-Varina/Deannexation, has been amended in the House to rename the bill Fuquay-Varina/Deannex, Wake/ID Bureau Update. The bill, as amended, would: (1) provide that the Director of the Bureau of Identification for Wake County (Bureau) would be appointed to a term of four years; (2) make Wake County solely responsible for providing suitable office space and equipment for the Bureau and for paying the salaries of the employees of the Bureau; and (3) no longer classify employees of the Bureau as deputies of the Sheriff of Wake County.

Currently, an identification expert and assistants for the expert are appointed to two-year terms and Wake County and the City of Raleigh share in the costs of providing suitable office space and equipment for the Bureau and in paying the salaries of employees of the Bureau. Currently, employees of the Bureau are also considered deputies of the Sheriff of Wake County.

This bill would apply only to Wake County. Since the bill applies to fewer than 15 counties, it is considered a local bill. Local bills do not require the signature of the Governor and become law if approved by the General Assembly.

[HOUSE BILL 956](#), Town of Pineville/Compensate Auxiliary Police, has been amended in the House to rename the bill Town of Pineville/Reserve Police. The bill, as amended, would authorize the Town of Pineville to establish a reserve police division, in addition to an auxiliary police division. This bill would apply only to the Town of Pineville. Since the bill applies to fewer than 15 counties, it is considered a local bill. Local bills do not require the signature of the Governor and become law if approved by the General Assembly.

[HOUSE BILL 971](#), Hotel Operation and Personnel Education Act, has been amended in the House to clarify that a person who is engaging in prostitution cannot be guilty of "Solicitation of prostitution" under G.S. 14-205.1.

In addition, the bill, as amended, would expand the category of persons and entities required to take human trafficking awareness training and required to implement a procedure to report suspected human trafficking to the National Human Trafficking Hotline or to a local law enforcement agency, as detailed in the bill.

[SENATE BILL 565](#), Removing Barriers to Jobs and Housing, has been amended in the House to rename the bill Amend Expunction. The bill, as amended, would repeal the Second Chance Act, which provided for the automatic expunction by operation of law of criminal charges that were dismissed without leave, that were dismissed by the court, or which resulted in a finding of not guilty or not responsible.

This would restore the law to how it existed prior to December 1, 2021. This would require a person with a criminal charge that resulted in a dismissal or a verdict of not guilty or not responsible to petition the court for an order expunging the charge.

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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