

# North Carolina Sheriffs' Association

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Weekly Legislative Report

June 14, 2024

Speaker of the House Tim Moore announced this week that the House expects to present its version of this year's budget bill to the Senate by the end of next week. Up until this week, it seemed that House and Senate members were working together in hopes of presenting one budget bill this year that the legislative leadership could agree upon.

While the talk of a budget bill garnered a lot of attention from members, lobbyists, and others in the legislative building this week, everyone was also very excited about the 124<sup>th</sup> U.S. Open at Pinehurst #2 being played this weekend. Practice rounds began on Monday, with official round play beginning Thursday morning.

The best golfers in the world will be at the tournament as will an expected crowd of over 250,000 people, who will be attending the event or who will be in the area for golf festivities associated with the event. In fact, over 2,000 planes are expected to pass through the Moore County airport for the tournament with some coming from as far away as South Africa and New Zealand.

North Carolina is no stranger to the U.S. Open, having hosted it three times before in 1999, 2005, and 2014. PGA officials plan to bring the tournament back to Pinehurst #2 in 2029, 2035, 2041, and 2047.

North Carolina is not only the best place to live and enjoy college sports, but also the best place to live and enjoy golf. The State is home to over 520 golf courses. So, this weekend put on your seersucker, grab your favorite beverage, a pack of nabs (or if you are fancy, maybe a snack from your favorite charcuterie), and enjoy some world class golf being played right here in the Tarheel State!

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday, June 17, 2024.

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## BILL STATUS

[HOUSE BILL 155](#), Titles for Off-Road Veh./Low Speed Veh. Insp., has been amended to allow a "modified utility vehicle," as defined in Chapter 20 of the North Carolina General Statutes, to be operated on streets or highways having four or more travel lanes and where the posted speed limit is greater than 35 miles per hour. Currently, modified utility vehicles cannot be operated on these types of streets and highways.

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[HOUSE BILL 199](#), [DMV Proposed Legislative Changes.-AB](#), has been amended in the Senate to clarify that an ignition interlock system is required when the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles restores the license of any person convicted of death or serious injury by vehicle, with the exception of misdemeanor death by vehicle, and who was: (1) engaged in driving while impaired and had an alcohol concentration of .08 or more at the time of the offense; or (2) engaged in driving a commercial vehicle while impaired and had an alcohol concentration of .04 or more at the time of the offense.

This bill was introduced last Session and would also authorize the North Carolina Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to issue, upon request, a “mobile drivers license” to a person with an existing valid drivers license. A “mobile drivers license” would be defined as a supplemental digital version of a valid drivers license that can be displayed on a mobile device owned by the person to whom the valid drivers license is issued and it would be treated as the legal equivalent of a valid drivers license.

[HOUSE BILL 237](#), [Unmasking Mobs and Criminals](#), has been amended to rename the bill [Various Criminal and Election Law Changes](#). The bill has been approved by the General Assembly and has been sent to Governor Roy Cooper for his signature. The bill has been amended to allow a person to wear a medical or surgical grade mask for the purpose of preventing the spread of contagious diseases without violating the State’s masking laws.

The bill, as amended, would require a person wearing a medical or surgical mask for the purpose of preventing the spread of contagious disease to remove the mask: (1) upon request by a law enforcement officer, or (2) temporarily to allow identification of the wearer upon request by the owner or occupant of public or private property where the wearer is present.

[HOUSE BILL 250](#), [ME/IDS/Driving Privileges/Xylazine Changes](#), has been amended in the Senate to remove the language creating the offense of “Death by distribution of xylazine” and has been sent back to the House for consideration of the Senate amendment.

[HOUSE BILL 495](#), [Revise Money Laundering/Retail Crime](#), has passed the Senate with amendment and has been sent back to the House for consideration of the Senate amendment. The bill, as amended, would create the new offense of “Money laundering” and expand the offenses of “Concealment of merchandise in mercantile establishments” and “Larceny from a merchant,” as detailed in the bill.

[HOUSE BILL 903](#), [Add Tianeptine to Controlled Substances List](#), has passed the House and has been sent to the Senate for consideration. The bill would add Tianeptine, an antidepressant drug not approved for use in the United States, to Schedule II of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act.

[HOUSE BILL 966](#), [Expedited Removal of Unauthorized Persons](#), has been amended to allow a property owner or authorized representative of a property owner to request removal of an unauthorized person who is unlawfully occupying residential property in an expedited proceeding before a magistrate. The process for the expedited proceeding before the magistrate required by the amended bill would be substantially similar to the expedited eviction process for vacation

rentals contained in Chapter 42A of the North Carolina General Statutes.

[HOUSE BILL 1024](#), Nonconsensual Booting and Towing Reform, has been amended to make it a misdemeanor for a motorist to fail to move their vehicle as close a possible to the right-hand edge or curb of the road and to stop and remain in this position when they are approached by a “public service vehicle” traveling to the scene of a wrecked or disabled vehicle (i.e. tow trucks) and giving a warning signal by appropriate light and sound. The bill, as amended, would require the motorist to remain stopped in this position until the public service vehicle passes unless otherwise directed by law enforcement.

Currently, motorists are required to pull over and stop when approached by law enforcement, fire department, and other emergency vehicles that have their emergency lights and sirens activated, but not when approached by tow trucks with their emergency lights and sirens activated.

The bill, as amended, would also create the Towing and Recovery Commission (Commission) within the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. Two members of the Commission would be required to be representatives of local law enforcement.

[HOUSE BILL 1042](#), Vet Care for Retired Law Enforcement Dogs, has passed the House and has been sent to the Senate for consideration. The bill would allow the owner of a retired law enforcement canine to apply to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety for reimbursement of up to \$1,500 in a calendar year of veterinary care provided to the retired law enforcement canine. The bill would include euthanasia and cremation among the veterinary care that may be reimbursed.

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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.

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