



Legislative Update

Week of June 27, 2022

Roy Cooper, Governor

Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

There was a flurry of activity in the General Assembly this week as legislators largely wrapped up the short session. House and Senate leaders held a joint press conference Tuesday evening to announce highlights of a spending plan agreement. Shortly thereafter (to the delight of many), details of the revised budget proposal, House Bill 103, were publicly released. After quickly moving through appropriations, finance, and pensions committees on Wednesday, the revised budget bill headed to the House and Senate for floor votes Thursday and Friday. Once the dust had settled, House Bill 103, *2022 Appropriations Act*, passed both chambers with bipartisan support. The measure was approved by the Senate on a 41-7 margin. Within a couple of hours, the House of Representatives passed House Bill 103 on an 101-10 vote. The budget now awaits approval by Governor Cooper. If the Governor decides to veto the bill, the margins are enough to override the veto.

Beyond the budget, on Wednesday, the Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution 760 which confirmed Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., as Secretary of DPS. During that same session, the Senate unanimously approved House Bill 560, *Public Safety Reform*, which includes provisions that impact several DPS divisions and sections. The DPS omnibus bill was a priority in the short session and now awaits Governor Cooper's signature. And last, but not least, the House unanimously passed Senate Bill 424, *Private Protective Svcs. Licensing Mods.*, on Thursday. A day later the Senate concurred with the House changes, and the bill now awaits the Governor's signature.

Both chambers passed an adjournment resolution, Senate Joint Resolution 917. The resolution adjourns both chambers to a date certain (July 26th) and limits what matters can be considered upon reconvening. The resolution states that the General Assembly may convene each month for the remainder of the calendar year, however, it is expected that there will be skeletal sessions with no votes until at least December. As a result, there will not be a *Legislative Update* for the foreseeable future.

DPS Highlights from the House Bill 103, 2022 Appropriations Act

Department-wide

- *Compensation Increase* - Provides funding for an additional 1% across-the-board salary increase for most employees, or an additional 2% across-the board salary increase if the employee is paid based on an experience-based salary schedule or has a salary set in law.

These increases are in addition to the 2.5% across-the-board salary increase already appropriated in last year's budget.

- *Labor Market Adjustment Salary Reserve* - Provides \$8.1 million recurring for labor market salary adjustments to positions that are not paid based on an experience-based salary schedule or have a salary set in law. The funds will help address specific staffing issues by providing targeted salary increases to recruit and retain employees.
- *Retiree Bonus* – Provides an additional one-time cost-of-living supplement for retirees of 1%. This supplement is in addition to the 3% supplement already appropriated in last year's budget.

Administration

- *Information Technology Rates* - Appropriates almost \$4.5 million to address the impact of changes in Department of Information Technology (DIT) subscription rates and service delivery rates.

Adult Correction

- *Specialty Probation and Parole Officers* - Provides \$1.8 million recurring for 9 mental health PPOs, 9 reentry PPOs, and 1 Chief PPO. These specialized PPOs will help reduce recidivism by addressing the needs of offenders on community supervision with persistent mental health and substance abuse issues, and will facilitate access to services and programs that support successful reentry.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

- *Electronic Health Records* - Provides \$1 million non-recurring to digitize paper-based juvenile health records.
- *Perquimans Detention Center* - Provides a net appropriation of \$1.7 million to staff and operate the Perquimans Detention Center, scheduled to open in 2023. Funding is effective January 1, 2023, and will support 39 positions. The annualized cost of this item is \$2.8 million.
- *Rockingham Youth Development Center* - Provides a net appropriation of almost \$4 million to staff and operate the Rockingham YDC, scheduled to open in 2023. Three positions, a Youth Development Facility Director, a Youth Development Program Manager, and a Business Officer are effective August 1, 2022. Funding for the remaining 77 positions is effective January 1, 2023. The annualized cost of this item is \$5.5 million.

State Bureau of Investigation

- *Salary Adjustments* - Provides \$500,000 recurring for additional salary adjustments. Funds shall be awarded to Assistant Special Agents in Charge, Special Agents in Charge, and Assistant Directors.

- *Equipment and IT Needs* - Provides \$282,000 recurring, and almost \$2 million recurring, for several equipment and IT needs, including establishing multifactor authentication, server cloud migration, Fusion Center connectivity workstations across the State, replacing network servers at end-of-life, and equipment and related training costs for the new human trafficking agents provided in last year's budget.
- *Non-Sworn Mental Health Professionals* - Provides \$205,000 recurring for two non-sworn mental health professionals to assist with the increasing number of case referrals from School Resource Officers and local law enforcement to assess persons exhibiting concerning behaviors.

State Capitol Police

- *Communications Center* - Provides \$50,000 for upgraded radio and technology equipment to centralize the agency's dispatch and communications activities.

State Highway Patrol

- *Salary Adjustments* - Provides \$500,000 recurring for additional salary adjustments. Funds shall be awarded to Sergeants and First Sergeants.
- *Tasers* - Provides \$4.5 million non-recurring to purchase new tasers, replacing outdated and out-of-warranty equipment. Funding is also provided for related ancillary needs.

Emergency Management

Disaster-related funding

- *Matching Funds* - Budgets \$15 million in receipts from the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund (SERDRF) to the State Match Fund to provide the State's share of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance for expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- *Private Roads and Bridges* - Budgets \$5 million in receipts from the SERDRF to provide repairs to private roads and bridges in response to Tropical Storm Fred (TS Fred). These projects are not eligible for federal disaster recovery assistance.
- *Debris Removal and Public Infrastructure Repairs* - Budgets \$5 million in receipts from the SERDRF to support debris and public infrastructure repairs in counties impacted by TS Fred
- *Portable Emergency Communications Assets* - Budgets \$600,000 in receipts from the SERDRF to NC Emergency Management for purchasing portable deployable emergency communications assets. Up to \$100,000 of these funds shall be used to provide emergency communications assets to the NC Search and Rescue Program.

Capital Improvements

- *Capital Project Inflationary Reserve* - Reserves \$250 million in the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund (SCIF) for cost escalation of authorized State agency and UNC System capital projects. The reserve would make funds available for State agency capital improvement projects that have been authorized by the General Assembly and have received an allocation from the SCIF.

DPS Bills with Action this Week

(Note: Click on the bill title to view the most current version of the bill)

Division(s) Impacted	Sponsor(s)	Bill #	Short Title	Action
Department-Wide	Stevens	H 103	2022 Appropriations Act.	Pres. To Gov. 7/1/2022
ABC/ALE	Moffitt, Setzer, Mills, and Zenger	H 211	Social District/Common Area Clarifications.	Pres. To Gov. 7/1/2022
Legal	Moffitt, Riddell, Stevens, and Yarborough	H 327	Various Administrative Law Changes.	6/29/2022 House Ref To Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
Department-Wide	Boles	H 560	Public Safety Reform.	Pres. To Gov. 7/1/2022
ABC/ALE	Moffitt, Pless Miller, and Gillespie	H 661	AgeReq.Mod's/CapProj.Oversight/BEAD correct.	Pres. To Gov. 7/1/2022
Victim Services	Richardson, Szoka, and Wheatley	H 674	Require DNA Various Convict'ns/Other Matters.	Pres. To Gov. 7/1/2022
ABC	Moffitt	H 768	2022 ABC Omnibus.	Pres. To Gov. 6/30/2022
JJ	Boles Davis, McNeill, and C. Smith	H 1007	Authorize Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction.	6/27/2022 Senate Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
AC	Boles, Davis, McNeill, and C. Smith	H 1008	Clarify Sex Offender Registration.	7/1/2022 House/Senate Conf Com Appointed

PPSB/Boxing Commission	D. Hall	H 1175	2022 Speaker & PPT Appointments	Ch. SL 2022-42
PPSB	Daniel	S 424	Private Protective Srvs. Licensing Mods.	Pres. To Gov. 7/1/2022
EM	Edwards	S 435	Terminations of States of Emergency.	Pres. To Gov. 7/1/2022
Law Enforcement	Britt, Mohammed, and Lee	S 455	Conform Hemp with Federal Law.	Signed by Gov. 6/30/2022
ABC	Johnson and Hise	S 470	ABC Technical and Other Changes.	Pres. To Gov. 7/1/2022
Department-Wide	Rabon	S 760	Confirm Eddie Buffaloe/Secretary of DPS.	6/29/2022 Senate Adopted
Law Enforcement	B. Jackson, Sanderson, and Woodard	S 762	North Carolina Farm Act of 2022.	Pres. To Gov. 6/30/2022
Department-Wide	Rabon	S 917	Adjournment Resolution.	Ch. Res 2022-6

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Susanna Davis at Susanna.Davis@ncdps.gov.