



# Legislative Update

*Week of September 9, 2019*

Roy Cooper, Governor

Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

This week at the General Assembly, legislators focused primarily on redistricting, following a ruling last week by a three-judge panel that threw out the state's legislative maps as unconstitutional based on partisan gerrymandering. Nonetheless, on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, in a dramatic alignment of events, the House of Representatives voted to override Governor Cooper's veto of the budget. The bill initially passed by a vote of 55 to 9, but Democrats who were on the floor at the time of the vote would be later recorded as voting "no," making the final vote 55-15. With only seventy members present during the vote, Republican members of the House needed only 52 votes to effect an override. The Senate may attempt to take similar action next week, but that remains to be seen.

The activities of this week have mesmerized many, but it is important to note that until the Senate successfully votes to override the Governor's veto, state government operations continue at FY 2018-19 funding levels, unless a mini-budget directs otherwise. Therefore, the mini-budgets discussed in last week's update that contain salary increases for state employees, adult correction personnel, and officers within Alcohol Law Enforcement, State Bureau of Investigation, and State Highway Patrol, are still in effect.

Furthermore, four additional mini-budgets have been acted upon this week. Senate Bill 429, *Disaster Recovery - 2019 Budget Provisions*, moved quickly through the legislative process and will be presented to the Governor for his signature. This bill allocates over \$100 million to address recovery needs from Hurricane Florence and other specified disaster related requirements.

Another bill that sailed through the legislative process is Senate Bill 118, *Prison Safety/TANF State Plan/Clarifications*, which appropriates \$4.47 million for additional stab-resistant vests and exterior carriers, security netting, handheld metal detectors, key lockboxes, and IT upgrades for prison man-down technology and cameras.

The Senate also unanimously passed House Bill 29, *Standing Up for Rape Victims Act of 2019*, which appropriates \$6 million over two years to test the backlog of untested sexual assault kits in North Carolina. It also establishes a process for properly and efficiently testing the kits. This bill has been sent to the House for a concurrence vote.

House Bill 75, *School Safety Funds, Programs, and Reports*, also passed the Senate by unanimous vote. The bill which allocates over \$68 million, over the biennium, to fund grants for additional school resource officers, school safety training, safety equipment, and student mental health services. This bill is also awaiting a concurrence vote in the House.

After several weeks on the calendar in the Senate, House Bill 283, *Conner's Law*, which increased various penalties for assaulting law enforcement officers, probation officers, parole officers, and emergency personnel while also providing an additional death benefit for public safety employees murdered in the line of duty unanimously passed this week. The bill was amended to make technical and clarifying changes; therefore, it must go back to the House chamber for a concurrence vote. Thereafter, the bill will be sent to the Governor for his signature.

*If you have any questions or comments, please contact Susanna Davis at 919-825-2717 or [susanna.davis@ncdps.gov](mailto:susanna.davis@ncdps.gov).*

### **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
Admin	Boles, Belk, C. Smith, and Richardson	H 29	<a href="#">Standing Up for Rape Victims Act of 2019</a>	9/12/2019 House Cal Pursuant 36(b) (placed on the House calendar for a vote no later than the fourth legislative day after submission unless other action is taken)
EM/SBI	Torbett, Lewis, Dobson, and Bell	H 75	<a href="#">School Safety Funds, Programs, and Report</a>	9/12/2019 House Cal Pursuant 36(b) (placed on the House calendar for a vote no later than the fourth legislative day after submission unless other action is taken)

Law Enforcement	Jones, Bell, Moore, and Hastings	H 283	<a href="#">Conner's Law</a>	9/12/2019 House Cal Pursuant 36(b) (placed on the House calendar for a vote no later than the fourth legislative day after submission unless other action is taken)
Department-Wide	Johnson, Lambeth, Saine, and McGrady	H 966	<a href="#">2019 Appropriations Act</a>	9/11/2019 House Veto Overridden; Senate Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
AC	B. Jackson, Krawiec, and Ballard	S 118	<a href="#">Prison Safety/TANF State Plan/Clarifications</a>	9/12/2019 Senate Concurred In H Com Sub
EM	Newton	S 429	<a href="#">Disaster Recovery - 2019 Budget Provisions</a>	9/12/2019 Senate Concurred In H Com Sub