



# Legislative Update

*Week of August 31, 2020*

Roy Cooper, Governor

Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

Lawmakers convened mid-week to introduce and approve a third COVID-19 relief package. At the conclusion of the brief two-day session, the House and Senate agreed upon a measure to appropriate nearly \$1 billion in federal Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF). H.B. 1105, *Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0*, if signed into law, will distribute the entire \$3.6 billion in CRF allocated to the state thus far.

The Senate Select Committee on Prison Safety also met this week to receive an update on the department's prison reform efforts. Commissioner Todd Ishee and American Correctional Association President Gary Mohr both gave insightful presentations that were well received by members and stimulated positive discussion.

As expected, the General Assembly adjourned the 2019-20 legislative session *sine die* on Thursday. Simply put, the legislature has no plans to reconvene again this year. However, lawmakers could return to appropriate any additional federal pandemic relief funding that may be received by the state. In addition, members could return to act upon any veto, or if a special session were to be called by the Governor.

The 2021-22 legislative session is scheduled to convene Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

*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).*

## **Highlights of House Bill 1105, Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0**

### **Emergency Management**

#### ***Alleghany County Earthquake Disaster***

- Establishes an Earthquake Disaster Recovery Fund to provide necessary and appropriate relief and assistance from the effects of the earthquake that occurred on August 9, 2020, in Alleghany County, North Carolina.
- The State Controller shall transfer the sum of \$24,000,000 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year from the Savings Reserve in the General Fund to the Earthquake Disaster Recovery Reserve, which is then to be transferred to the Earthquake Disaster Recovery Fund.
- Appropriates from the Earthquake Disaster Recovery Fund the sum of \$24,000,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to allocate as follows:
  - \$600,013 to Alleghany County for repairs and renovations for the county courthouse caused by damages from the earthquake.

- \$160,000 to the Bruce Wayne Osbourne Post No. 7034, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, a nonprofit corporation, to repair damage to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 7034 building located in Alleghany County caused by the earthquake.
- The remainder of the funds appropriated in this section shall be used for short-term housing, short-term rental assistance, demolition for reconstruction, home reconstruction, septic system reconstruction, home repair reimbursements, county and municipal water and sewer repair, other county assistance, other earthquake-related recovery efforts, state and county project management administration, and state match for federal disaster assistance programs.

***Hurricane Disaster Relief***

- *Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund* - The State Controller shall transfer the sum of \$27,796,610 from the Savings Reserve in the General Fund to the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Reserve created in S.L. 2018-136. The State Controller shall then transfer the sum of \$27,796,610 from the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Reserve to the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund created in S.L. 2018-134 for the Department of Public Safety. Those funds are appropriated within the Fund to be used to provide State match for Hurricane Florence federal disaster assistance programs.
  - Of the funds appropriated to the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund the sum of \$300,000 is allocated to the Office of State Budget and Management to provide a grant to the Town of Bladenboro for the demolition, reconstruction, and repair of public infrastructure and public buildings damaged by Hurricane Florence.
- *State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund* – The State Controller shall transfer the sum of \$13,203,390 from the Savings Reserve in the General Fund to the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund and those funds are appropriated for the Division of Emergency Management, to be used as follows:
  - \$10,423,729 to provide State match for federal disaster assistance programs related to Hurricane Matthew.
  - \$2,779,661 to provide State match for federal disaster assistance programs related to Hurricane Dorian.
- *Other Disaster Relief* – The sum of up to \$3,500,000 is reallocated and appropriated from the cash balance of the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund to the Division of Emergency Management, to provide State match for federal disaster assistance programs related to Hurricane Isaias, as approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in EM-3534-NC on August 2, 2020, as a federal disaster.
- *Bertie County Tornado* – In the event the Governor declares a State Type I Individual Assistance Disaster Declaration pursuant to G.S. 166A-19.21(b) for Bertie County and the contiguous counties of Chowan, Halifax, Hertford, Martin, Northampton, and Washington, the sum of \$750,000 is reallocated and appropriated from the cash balance of the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund to provide State level assistance related to the EF-3 tornado in Bertie County as a result of Hurricane Isaias.

- Directs \$300,000 to the Department of Public Safety to be used as follows:
  - \$275,000 as a grant to the Craven County Sheriff's Office for the purchase of Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) radios.
  - \$25,000 as a grant to the Town of Chocowinity for the purchase of VIPER radios.
  - \$100,000 to the Department of Public Safety to provide a grant to the Lenoir County Emergency Services to be used for equipment needed to respond to COVID-19.