



# North Carolina Spirits Association

Legislative Report  
June 4, 2021

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The Senate voted 26-20 Thursday to reject the appointment of Dionne Delli-Gatti as the secretary of North Carolina's environmental regulatory agency. This is the first time that the Republican-led Senate has denied the approval of one of Governor Cooper's Cabinet secretaries since creating the approval process at the beginning of Cooper's first term. Later in the day on Thursday, Governor Cooper announced that Delli-Gatti will serve as North Carolina's clean energy director, a new position at DEQ. In this role she will work on clean energy policy and work with the legislature on such matters.

Regarding the state budget, the stalemate continues. Thursday Senator Berger said the Senate is ready to move forward with "mini budgets." Senator Berger said that the week of June 14, the Senate plans to send the House spending measures in smaller bills, not a traditional budget. The Speaker of the House announced Thursday that the week of June 14, the House will move ahead with its own full comprehensive budget, with or without a Senate deal. Apparently, the final Senate budget offer on May 27 is \$25.6 billion for the 2021-22 year and \$26.4 billion for 2022-23. The House's last counteroffer, on June 1, was \$25.9 billion for 2021-22 with no offer for the second year of the biennium. The chambers have been exchanging offers since March. It will be interesting to see how negotiations progress next week, if at all.

On Thursday, the House voted to use \$250 million in American Rescue Plan Act money to subsidize child care for qualifying children – in an effort to help get people back to work. Senate Bill 116 would also remove North Carolina from a federal program that pays \$300 per week to people who lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday June 7.

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For more information about legislation described in the legislative reports, feel free to contact me at [dferrell@nexsenpruet.com](mailto:dferrell@nexsenpruet.com) or (919) 573-7421. Information is also available on the General Assembly's website: [www.ncleg.gov](http://www.ncleg.gov).

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