



# North Carolina Spirits Association

Legislative Report  
August 27, 2021

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Not much progress was made this week on the State Budget Bill. The subcommittees have not met yet to begin negotiating the specific subject matter areas of the budget. At one point, House and Senate budget staff thought a compromise budget could be voted on by September 10. Now it seems the time line has been pushed to at least Sept 17 as the earliest the budget could be voted on and sent to the Governor. Hopefully some progress will be made next week.

The North Carolina legislature finalized a package of criminal justice reforms Tuesday, creating a new duty to intervene for law enforcement officers who see another officer use excessive force and raising the state's threshold age for juvenile prosecutions. The measures had wide bipartisan support, including support from law enforcement. The bills won final passage Tuesday on unanimous votes in the Senate, and they now head to Governor Cooper for consideration.

Senate Republicans on Thursday passed a bill to limit how teachers can discuss certain racial concepts inside the classroom. The proposal seeks to bar educators from compelling students to personally adopt any ideas from a list of 13 beliefs, including the views that one particular race or sex is inherently superior and that students should feel guilty because of their race or sex. The measure that passed along party lines by a 25-17 vote is now one step away from clearing the General Assembly and would make its way to the Governor if the House signs off on the latest version. Consideration of this type of legislation follows a national trend of Republican-controlled legislatures looking to combat certain ideas they associate with "critical race theory."

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday, August 30.

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