



NC Spirits Association

Legislative Report
September 26, 2025

Lawmakers returned to Raleigh with public safety and health care front and center. The General Assembly moved quickly on “Iryna’s Law” after the Charlotte light-rail stabbing—tightening pretrial release and expanding mental-health evaluations—and, despite a late Senate amendment on alternative execution methods for the death penalty that splintered earlier bipartisan support, the House ultimately sent the bill to Gov. Stein with some Democratic votes. Separately, the House advanced a political-violence package while the Senate pushed raises and bonuses for law enforcement, underscoring the emphasis on crime and community safety. Neither of these bills were enacted but are eligible for consideration during this and next year’s session.

Budget work proceeded in pieces. With a full two-year plan still stalled, a mini-budget cleared both chambers for disaster relief, arena-district infrastructure, Global TransPark projects, a Hertford County industrial package, and RDU’s new air service to Dublin. But the Medicaid rebase remains unresolved as the October 1 provider-rate cliff nears. The Senate plan fully funds the shortfall and includes the children’s hospital and rural-care initiative; the House version omits those items and pares coverage of certain drugs. House and Senate lawmakers left Raleigh this week without a budget deal.

To create the opportunity to keep working on budget and other important issues, the legislature amended their previous adjournment resolution to lengthens each monthly mini-session from one day to four days, and expands the issues that can be considered—shifting to four-day windows on Oct. 20–23, Nov. 17–20, Dec. 15–18, Jan. 12–15, Feb. 9–12, Mar. 9–12, and Apr. 6–9, and extending the conference/concurrence cutoff to Sept. 25. It is to be determined whether the legislature can come together to pass additional legislation this session.

The legislature finished their substantive work on Tuesday and adjourned this September session on Thursday, and will reconvene Monday, October 20, 2025.

BILL STATUS UPDATES

House Bill 926, Regulatory Reform Act of 2025, does the following:

Section 5: Amends G.S. 18B-1001(11) to expand culinary ABC permits to cooking schools, food businesses (off-premises sales), eating establishments (on-premises but not qualifying as restaurants), and catering services for possessing/using fortified wine or spirituous liquor in culinary preparation.

Section 13: Amends G.S. 130A-248(c4) to authorize permitted food establishments to provide off-site food/drink service at designated workplaces for employees/guests, with prior health department notification and compliance requirements.

The bill was reported favorable on the committee substitute in the Senate Judiciary Committee, reported favorable in the Senate Rules Committee, amended once on the Senate floor, passed the full Senate 31-17, sent to the House and concurred with by the full House and was sent to the Governor.

For more information about legislation described in the legislative reports, feel free to contact us at chorton@maynardnexsen.com, dferrell@maynardnexsen.com, criemer@maynardnexsen.com or at (919) 573-7421. Information is also available on the General Assembly's website: www.ncleg.gov.

Prepared By: David P. Ferrell, Clark Riemer and Chase Horton – NC Spirits Lobbyists
MAYNARD NEXSEN PC
4141 Parklake Ave, Suite 200
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612
Telephone: (919) 573-7421
dferrell@maynardnexsen.com
www.maynardnexsen.com