



North Carolina Spirits Association

Legislative Report
December 3, 2021

As there are no voting sessions planned for the remainder of 2021, this will be the last legislative report for the 2021 Legislative Session. If the legislature changes course and holds voting sessions, we will send a report at that time.

The North Carolina General Assembly attempted on Monday to wrap up nearly all of its work for the calendar year, although vetoes, redistricting rulings and other items could bring lawmakers back to Raleigh in the near future. The Republican-controlled legislature, which began the session in January, held House and Senate floor votes on several measures Monday afternoon, and then essentially dismissed its members for the rest of the month.

After Monday, the legislature will hold no-vote sessions until December 10. This will allow Governor Cooper 10 days to sign legislation sent to him Monday, veto the legislation, or let the legislation become law without his signature. The legislature will then return on December 30 for what could be a no-vote session, or could be a session where the legislature considers veto overrides, redistricting issues, or other matters currently pending. House Speaker Moore announced that House members should not expect votes until January 3, 2022.

Regarding redistricting, at least four lawsuits have been filed challenging the U.S. House and legislative districts that the General Assembly enacted in early November or the process by which some boundaries were formed. The legislature may need to rework the boundaries in late December or early 2022 should a court declare that illegal gerrymandering occurred. If that happens, the March 8 primary could be delayed.

This year's session, which began on January 27, 2021, marks the second longest uninterrupted session since at least 1965, when calculated by the number of days that lawmakers hold chamber floor meetings, according to legislative researchers. The longest legislative session was in 2001, when legislators faced a large budget shortfall and performed redistricting based on 2000 census figures. This year, COVID-19 precautions and federal aid to be allocated, a later tax filing deadline, and a massive revenue surplus all combined with redistricting to extend the session into the late fall.

Debate on some high-profile bills that stalled during this legislative session — including those that would authorize sports gambling in North Carolina and legalize marijuana for medical use — could resurface when lawmakers go back to work in the summer of 2022.

The legislature adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday December 6 for a non-voting session.

BILL STATUS

Senate Bill 470, ABC Technical and Other Changes, was not considered in the Senate before the legislature wrapped up its business for the year. It is unclear whether the bill will be considered when the legislature returns to hold possible voting sessions in early January 2022.

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

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