



North Carolina Spirits Association

Legislative Report
March 29, 2019

This has been an exceptionally busy week at the General Assembly. Much of the activity has been generated by the upcoming filing deadlines for public bills, which is April 2 in the Senate and April 16 in the House. Legislators are also busy working on bills in anticipation of the looming May 9 crossover deadline. This is the date by which all bills, except finance and appropriations bills, must be passed out of one chamber or the bill will technically not be eligible for any further consideration this year or next year.

The House appropriations chairs have also been very busy behind closed doors crafting the House's initial version of the State budget bill. It is anticipated that the budget proposal of the House should be released by the end of April, which would place the budget process a couple of weeks ahead of previous long sessions. Appropriations subcommittees have been meeting frequently in recent weeks, and budget chairs have encouraged lawmakers to file bills with their budget requests.

After the House's proposed budget is introduced, it is anticipated that the Senate will work quickly towards putting together its own version of the budget bill. The House and Senate will then spend a few weeks reconciling the differences between the two versions, with a goal of getting a budget adopted in late June prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1st. The final budget will need the backing of Governor Roy Cooper or a substantial number of legislative Democrats. Because of this, discussions have already begun about collaboration in the weeks to come as legislative leadership and the Governor's Office work towards the adoption of this year's State budget bill.

A controversial ban on wind energy construction re-emerged this week with Senator Harry Brown (R-Onslow) indicating that he intends to extend the ban after a report showed that wind energy installations could potentially threaten some military installations. The original ban was controversial among renewable energy advocates and many House members.

The North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) has announced that they plan to hold another teacher rally in Raleigh this year on May 1st. The NCAE held a rally last year that brought over 19,000 people to Raleigh. The rally drew criticism as it resulted in school closures and over 1 million children missing school.

A group of House Democrats are proposing that all judicial elections revert back to being nonpartisan and reestablishing the North Carolina Public Campaign Fund. The effort, led by two former judges, is "critical to the independence of the judicial branch of government," they said in a news conference Thursday. Representative Joe John (D-Wake), said judges in the state are not partisan politicians. It is unclear if House leadership will move the bill forward after making the elections partisan during the previous legislative session.

On Tuesday April 2, 2019, the House ABC Committee will meet to consider legislation to allow the sale of beer and wine at public college and university stadiums, and legislation regarding the craft beer self-distribution cap. The Program Evaluation Division (PED) legislation that contains the local option Sunday sales and tastings at ABC store provisions will not be considered at this meeting.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene Monday afternoon.

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

Prepared By: David P. Ferrell, Esq. - NCSA Lobbyist

***NEXSEN PRUET PLLC
150 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1140
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
Telephone: (919) 573-7421
dferrell@nexsenpruet.com
www.nexsenpruet.com***