



NC Spirits Association

Legislative Report
April 20, 2025

Since the legislature is taking an “Easter Break” and will not meet next week, we will not publish a legislative report on April 25. The next legislative report will be published on May 2.

INTRODUCTION

To keep things moving at the legislature in advance of their scheduled spring break next week, the House and Senate both held lengthy committee meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday. The House actually scheduled some of their Judiciary committees for 2-hour time slots, which is a very rare occurrence.

The Senate also released their version of the budget on Monday evening and passed it out of the chamber this week. Senate Bill 257, 2025 Appropriations Act, was heard in multiple Senate committees on Tuesday, before being voted on by the full chamber on Wednesday and Thursday. “We’ve looked at the population growth, the inflation factor, we’ve looked at where we are as far as western North Carolina, and the things that we continue to need to do there ... and I would say it’s a budget that will meet the needs of North Carolina,” Senate leader Phil Berger told reporters Monday. The House will of course have its chance to have input on the 440 page “special provisions” bill and the accompanying 661 page “money report.”

North Carolina’s Supreme Court ruled last Friday that tens of thousands of cast ballots challenged by the trailing candidate in November’s unresolved election for a seat on the Supreme Court must remain in the election in North Carolina’s count. The decision partially overturns the prior ruling by a panel of the intermediate-level Court of Appeals that had favored Republican Jefferson Griffin, who closely trails Democratic Associate Justice Allison Riggs. But a majority of justices let stand the lower court’s determinations that additional ballots from two other categories that Griffin contested were wrongly allowed in the tally. Some of these voters — potentially thousands who serve in the military or live overseas — would still get a chance to turn in a photo identification or an ID exception form for their choice in the race to remain in the count, the court’s prevailing order says. And the high court kept in place the Court of Appeals ruling that those in the third category — potentially hundreds of overseas voters who have never lived in the U.S. — were ineligible based on state residency laws to cast ballots and their choices must be removed from the totals. The Supreme Court’s order does not fully resolve the close race between Griffin and Riggs, who leads Griffin by 734 votes from more than 5.5 million ballots cast in their race. It is unknown whether the outstanding ballots that could ultimately get taken out of the count could flip the result to Griffin. Justice Riggs’ attorneys filed a motion late last Friday in U.S. District Court in Raleigh asking a judge to issue an injunction preventing the state appeals court decisions from being carried out immediately.

This week Speaker of the House of Representatives Destin Hall and his wife had an important announcement to make – they welcomed their first child into their family, a baby boy named Henry.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday, April 28, 2025.

BILL STATUS UPDATES

Senate Bill 710, DPS Agency Changes, was amended in the Senate Judiciary Committee as follows:

-Amends GS 18B-502 by removing the requirement to provide notice to a permit holder within five business days of issuing a citation to an employee of a permitted establishment who is not the named holder of an ABC permit for the establishment for conduct occurring on the premises of the establishment that is a violation of GS Chapters 14 or 18B.

With these changes, the committee approved the bill and it was referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

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.

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