



North Carolina Spirits Association

Legislative Report
September 27, 2019

Legislators continued their fall break, with no votes or committee meetings held this week. Lawmakers plan to return to Raleigh next week, where it is expected that we will get more information on the Senate's plans for taking up a vote on the budget veto override, and potentially a plan to wrap up major policy items for the year. Legislators are still waiting for the three judge panel that invalidated their current legislative districts to rule on their redrawn maps.

In a press conference this week, House Minority Leader Darren Jackson claimed that he has been lied to by Republicans, who are being dishonest in their accounts of what happened leading up to the September 11 budget veto override vote. Democrats have called the move a "sneak attack". They claim that they were told that no votes would be taken at a scheduled 8:30 AM session, meaning that their attendance was not needed. This led to the veto being overridden 55 to 15. House leadership has insisted that no message informing the members of no votes at the 8:30 AM session was disseminated. Representative Jackson claims that the vote was a deliberate effort to deceive Democrats, and, given the conflicting stories between Republicans and Democrats, he has called on Speaker Moore, House Rules Chairman Lewis, Representative Saine, and Representative Hardister to all take a polygraph test to judge if they're lying. Speaker Moore called this a "sideshow" and dismissed the call for lie detector tests as a "publicity stunt." Moore insisted that the vote was properly noticed and that no announcement of a non-voting session was given. Representative Jackson further raised concerns that the vote was not properly noticed, and mentioned that legal action may be in store. His concerns stem from what is called the "veto garage," where a motion to consider a veto override is placed on the legislative calendar every day until member absences give the majority party the three-fifths vote margin required to override. The motion to consider the veto override had appeared on the House calendar for around 60 days prior to the vote.

Local county delegations have met to select replacements for two former state legislators who recently won special congressional elections. Former NC House member Rob Bryan will replace Dan Bishop in the State Senate, and Dr. Perrin Jones will replace Dr. Greg Murphy in the State House. Both will have to be formerly appointed by Governor Cooper, who gets ten days to act.

The House and Senate will return to Raleigh Monday September 30.

Prepared By: David P. Ferrell, Esq. - NCSA Lobbyist
NEXSEN PRUET PLLC
150 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1140
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
Telephone: (919) 573-7421
dferrrell@nexsenpruet.com
www.nexsenpruet.com