



North Carolina Spirits Association

Legislative Report
October 8, 2021

Governor Roy Cooper is still pushing for his priorities as budget negotiations with Republican state legislative leaders continue. “I continue to go into this effort wanting to expand Medicaid, to invest more in a sound basic education for our children and getting our teachers paid more, and we look forward to continuing to talk on that,” Cooper told reporters after Tuesday morning’s Council of State. Governor Cooper said right now the main work is at the staff level, “working to determine where everybody is.” The Governor said he did not want to get into details at this point about what is in the budget proposal. Cooper, Senator Berger and House Speaker Tim Moore met later this week to continue their budget negotiations.

This week the legislature approved comprehensive energy legislation that puts Duke Energy on a path to achieve a 70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and a net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Through a joint press release, the Governor, Senator Berger, Senator Blue (the Senate Minority Leader), Speaker Moore, and Representative Robert Reives (the House Minority Leader) announced a bi-partisan, compromise bill to enact a number of energy reforms in North Carolina. Tuesday, the Senate Agricultural, Energy and Environment Committee approved a revised version of House Bill 951, followed a short time later by the Senate Finance Committee. The bill was approved by the Senate Rules Committee Wednesday morning, and the full Senate on Wednesday afternoon by a vote of 42 to 7. The bill was sent by special message to the House, and the House voted to approve the bill on Thursday by a vote of 90 to 20. The Governor is expected to sign the bill.

The bill establishes greenhouse gas reductions from the power sector as state law, with the North Carolina Utilities Commission overseeing the energy transition via reviews of Duke Energy’s plans to reduce carbon once every two years. The bill also allows Duke Energy to request to rates two or three years at a time, with maximum rate increases of 4% after the first year in each of the following years.

Redistricting in North Carolina started in earnest this week. State lawmakers started drawing new political maps for North Carolina to use in elections for Congress and the North Carolina General Assembly for the next decade. Whatever districts are drawn in the coming days will be used through the 2030 elections. Legislation on new maps is not subject to the gubernatorial veto. That process began Tuesday, with meetings in which legislators addressed some preliminary questions. Drafting of district maps continued on Wednesday and Thursday. Republican redistricting leaders said lawmakers of either party can draw maps for consideration as long as they do so at a public computer at the legislature. Then the legislature will vote on the new maps in approximately two weeks, or possibly a little longer. Those public computers will likely be open

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until the vote, said Senator Ralph Hise (R-Mitchell) who leads the Senate's redistricting committee.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday October 11.

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.

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*