



North Carolina Spirits Association

Legislative Report
October 4, 2019

This year appears to be the first time that the term “mini-budget” has been used to describe a legislative bill, and it certainly is the first time that the term has been used frequently.

Because the Governor vetoed this year’s State budget bill and the General Assembly has, so far, not overridden the Governor’s veto, there is no State budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year that began on July 1. Therefore, funding for State operations continues at the same level as it was for last year. In response to this situation, the General Assembly has been considering various “mini-budget” bills that would provide funding increases and other changes to various parts of the State budget.

The “mini-budget” bills are designed to be about programs and topics which the Governor and the General Assembly are in agreement, with the expectation that the Governor will sign those bills into law. It remains to be seen how many “mini-budget” bills will actually be approved by the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor.

The Senate’s top leader, President Pro Tempore Phil Berger, announced that the Senate would adjourn this year’s Session on or before October 31. The top House leader, Speaker Tim Moore, has not yet announced an official Session ending date for the House. There are a number of significant legislative bills still under discussion so there is likely to be a flurry of activity during the final weeks of October.

The General Assembly concluded their formal work for this week on Wednesday and will return early next week, with activity not expected to begin until Tuesday.

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.

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