



North Carolina Spirits Association

Legislative Report
February 24, 2023

This Week at the North Carolina General Assembly

During a week that featured a holiday on Monday and no floor votes on Thursday, the Legislature managed to pack in a great deal of legislative business despite the shortened schedule. On Tuesday, the Consensus Revenue Forecast was presented to the Joint Appropriations Committee, outlining the \$3.25 billion surplus that will guide the Senior House and Senate Appropriation Chairs and Subcommittee Chairs throughout the budget process.

Although the General Assembly had a particular focus on Joint Appropriations Subcommittee meetings this week, they also managed to move a number of bills through each chamber. In particular, the House Education Committee focused on Local School Calendar Flexibility bills, despite Senator Berger's announcement that the Senate would not take action on them. Meanwhile, the House passed their Pistol Purchase Permit Repeal bill and sent it to the Senate for consideration. The vote was along party lines – and a surprise “no” vote by Democrat Co-Sponsor Representative Michael Wray (D-Northampton) has jeopardized the bill's potential to override a veto from the Governor – since the House Republicans need at least one Democrat to vote with them to override a Gubernatorial veto.

Senate Bill 3, the NC Compassionate Care Act, which would legalize medical cannabis for debilitating medical conditions, progressed through the Senate Judiciary, Finance, and Rules Committees this week, and will be voted on by the full Senate next week. Senate Bill 46, Medical Billing Transparency, passed the Senate unanimously, as it did two years ago, and was sent to the House for consideration. Last year the House did not consider the medical billing transparency bill. The Senate bill sponsors are hopeful the result will be different this year.

Looking ahead to next week, we anticipate more Joint Appropriations Committee meetings and more substantive committee meetings, as legislation continues to make its way through each respective legislative chamber. With no holiday on Monday, we anticipate a full week of legislative and appropriation work to occur.

The legislature adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday February 27, 2023.

Bills of Interest

House Bill 153, Use Tribal ID for Alcohol & Tobacco Purchase, is a “companion bill” to Senate Bill 102 that would add tribal enrollment cards issued by a federal recognized tribe to the list of acceptable identification when making alcohol or tobacco purchases. This bill would apply to purchases made on or after July 1, 2023. **Introduced by Representatives Gillespie,**

Clampitt, B. Jones, and Lowery and referred to the House Committee on Federal Relations and American Indian Affairs.

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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