



NC Spirits Association

Legislative Report
October 22, 2025

This week at the General Assembly was defined by redistricting and a late-breaking stopgap spending deal. The House gave final approval to SB 249 (Realign Congressional Districts 2025) on Wednesday, 66–48, after the Senate’s Monday vote—an elections bill not subject to gubernatorial veto. The mid-cycle map shifts conservative counties into NC-01 and rebalances NC-03, aiming to move the delegation from 10R–4D to 11R–3D. Floor debate stayed white-hot: Democrats framed the plan as carving up the state’s Black Belt and targeting Rep. Don Davis; Republicans said they used no racial data and are “fighting fire with fire” amid national mid-cycle remaps, with some members explicitly casting their votes as support for President Trump. The Senate also cut off debate to force a vote earlier in the week, prompting formal Democratic protests in the Journal.

On spending, leaders still didn’t resolve a full two-year budget or a clean Medicaid fix, but they moved a limited conference report (SB 449) to cover immediate needs—State Highway Patrol equipment, General Assembly police operations, and step-increase raises at select agencies—plus a UNC request tied to NC Promise out-of-state tuition. The House separately passed teacher/LEO raise bills and multiple Medicaid measures (including using reserve funds and changes to providers), though most are contingent on a broader budget and the Senate left town without taking them up. SB 449 also makes a technical correction to Iryna’s Law, staggering key pretrial/mental-health evaluation provisions to roll out across Dec. 2025–Dec. 2026. Meanwhile, the House initiated a process that could lead to Rep. Cecil Brockman’s expulsion following criminal charges.

Also worth watching: the House’s new Blockchain & Digital Assets committee is laying 2026 model-law groundwork to keep NC out front on stablecoins and digital assets; the statewide eCourts rollout is complete but costs and usability are under fresh scrutiny; DMV says added staff and expanded online renewals are shortening lines; and voter rolls show unaffiliated growth continuing, with small weekly GOP net gains over Democrats.

The Senate adjourned for the week Wednesday; the House wrapped after moving additional (contingent) raise and Medicaid bills. Leadership signaled no further floor votes are expected this year, with lawmakers next slated to reconvene on Monday, November 17.

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.

Prepared By: David P. Ferrell, Clark Riemer and Chase Horton – NC Spirits Lobbyists

**MAYNARD NEXSEN PC
4141 Parklake Ave, Suite 200
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612
Telephone: (919) 573-7421
dferrell@maynardnexsen.com
www.maynardnexsen.com**