



North Carolina Spirits Association

Legislative Report
February 19, 2021

Thursday's icy forecast forced some changes in the legislature's schedule for the end of the week. While the House typically holds sessions on Thursdays, a no-vote session was held on Friday. House Speaker Tim Moore said the Legislative Services Office has activated the "ice protocol," which means limited staffing at the Legislative Building. The Friday skeletal session means there will be no need for a Monday House session, so the next voting sessions in the House will likely be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week. The Senate held a brief session on Thursday, but no votes or committee meetings occurred. The next committee meeting on the Senate calendar is 10 a.m. next Tuesday, when the Senate Health Committee will hold a question-and-answer session with Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mandy Cohen regarding COVID testing and vaccine-related issues.

The legislature sent Governor Cooper a bill this week that would require the state's K-12 public school districts to offer some in-person learning again, after nearly a year of remote learning for some students. Earlier versions of the bill passed both the Senate and House with bipartisan support, but differences between the House and Senate versions had to be resolved in a Conference Committee. Republican lawmakers urged colleagues to support it given the impact of remote-only instruction on some children's mental health as well as taking into account the latest guidance and studies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The bill includes a provision requiring local school districts to create plans to address alternative work assignments for teachers at high risk for COVID-19 and give the same options for those who are caretakers of children at higher risk. Both chambers passed the bill with enough votes to override a veto if Governor Cooper vetoes the bill.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday. The Senate will return on Monday, February 22, and the House will return on Tuesday, February 23.

BILLS OF INTEREST

Senate Bill 104, Align PPP Tax Treatment to Federal Treatment, would eliminate the addback for business expenses deducted to the extent the payment results in forgiveness of a covered loan under the Federal Cares Act. **Introduced by Senators Edwards, Perry and Craven and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

BILL STATUS

House Bill 4, Extend ABC Permit Renewal Fee Deferral, was approved by the Senate Rules Committee, the full Senate, and returned to the House to consider the Senate amendments to the bill. The House voted Wednesday to approve the bill. So the bill was ratified and sent to

Governor Cooper for his consideration. Governor Cooper has 10 days, until February 27, 2021, to either sign the bill, veto the bill, or allow it to become law without his signature.

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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