



# Legislative Wrap Up

*July 1, 2020*

Roy Cooper, Governor

Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

On Friday morning, in the frenzied hours between twilight and dawn, the legislature effectively completed the short session. Skeletal sessions will be held until July 11, at which time lawmakers will adjourn once again to reconvene on September 2 to take up COVID-19 related matters and make necessary appointments. The legislature plans to adjourn sine die no later than the following day.

Although this session was overshadowed by pressures of the pandemic, racial justice concerns, and re-election anxiety, lawmakers worked to approve numerous pieces of legislation. During Friday's marathon evening, members voted to clarify JCPC and detention statutes, modify the Bingo Licensing Statute, and direct funds to DPS in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, among over 40 other bills. Below are highlights from this session.

*If you have any questions or comments, please contact Legislative Affairs Director Susanna Davis at 919-825-2717 or [Susanna.Davis@ncdps.gov](mailto:Susanna.Davis@ncdps.gov).*

## Continuation Budget Highlights

**House Bill 966, 2019 Appropriations Act**, was vetoed by Governor Cooper, then overridden in the House. The Senate did not address this bill during the short session. As a result, the mini budgets passed by lawmakers in the long session are still in effect.

**Session Law 2019-242 (House Bill 111), Supplemental Appropriations Act**, enacts a base budget for certain State agencies, departments, and institutions for the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium, unless House Bill 966, 2019 Appropriations Act becomes law. It includes a provision for Raise the Age legislation in the sum of \$39,646,310 for fiscal year 2020-2021.

## *Salary Increases*

### **State Employee Raises – Session Law 2019-209 (House Bill 226)**

- An additional 2.5% increase in fiscal year 2020-2021.

### **Correctional Officer Raises – Session Law 2019-208 (House Bill 609)**

- 2.5% increase in the 2020-2021 fiscal year for state employees who are based in one or more State adult correctional facilities, and were employed in a state-funded position on June 30, 2020.
- Part-time employees will receive increases on a prorated basis.
- Continues custody based pay differential.
- Provides high-need facility salary supplements.

### **Alcohol Law Enforcement & State Bureau of Investigation Raises – Session Law 2019-211 (House Bill 777)**

- 2.5% increase in the 2020-2021 fiscal year for state employees who are employed as a law enforcement officer of the State Bureau of Investigation or Alcohol Law Enforcement, and were employed in a state-funded position on June 30, 2020.
- Part-time employees will receive increases on a prorated basis.
- Codifies a step pay plan:
  - o Increases Entry Level Salary of agents and officers to \$45,100 in fiscal year 2019-2020.
  - o Increases Entry Level Salary of agents and officers to \$46,228 in fiscal year 2020-2021.
  - o Sets a stepped progression of 6.5% per year until reaching \$65,807.

### **State Highway Patrol Raises – Session Law 2019-126 (House Bill 126)**

- 2.5% increase in the 2020-2021 fiscal year for state employees who are employed as a law enforcement officer of the State Highway Patrol, and were employed in a state-funded position on June 30, 2020.
- Modifies the beginning step of pay plan:
  - o Increases Entry Level Salary of officers to \$45,100 in fiscal year 2019-2020.
  - o Increases Entry Level Salary of officers to \$46,228 in fiscal year 2020-2021.

## **DPS-Related Bills that Passed**

### **ALCOHOL LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**House Bill 1064, *GSC Clarifying Bingo License Statute***, explicitly states that an exempt organization must obtain a license in order to operate a bingo game. Additionally, various technical changes are made to the bingo license statute, including replacing State Bureau of Investigation with Alcohol Law Enforcement Division.

### **ADULT CORRECTION**

**Session Law 2020-54 (House Bill 463), *Education in Prisons***, restores FTEs for basic skills courses in community colleges to FY 2008-2009 level, and enables prison inmates to obtain Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of General Education degrees.

**House Bill 593, *JCPC/Detention/CAA and Other Fees***, makes conforming changes to current law related to inmates held in the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program and transferred for medical treatment.

**House Bill 902, *P&C Changes/Glob. Transp./Prison Pilot***, transfers \$1.8M to ACJJ to develop and administer a Prison Software Management Pilot Program at Bertie Correctional Institution and Pasquotank Correction Institution.

**Senate Bill 681, *Agency Policy Directives/2019-2020***, authorizes the State Construction Office to utilize the Inmate Construction Program for repair and renovation of State-owned facilities, with priority given to DPS projects. Additionally, the bill ensures priority to the B.R.I.D.G.E. Youthful Offenders Program when assigning youthful offenders from the Foothills Correctional Institution to work programs.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**House Bill 1023, *Coronavirus Relief Fund/Additions & Revisions***, transfers \$120M to Emergency Management to use as the State match for any Federal Emergency Management Agency public assistance funds in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**House Bill 593, *JCPC/Detention/CAA and Other Fees***, modifies deadlines related to the payment of radiological emergency planning fees, and provides additional direction to local governments regarding the publication of declaration information.

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

**House Bill 593, *JCPC/Detention/CAA and Other Fees***, makes certain modifications, as recommended by the Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee, to current law related to Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils. This bill also makes modifications to current law ensuring that persons under 18 are not detained in adult jails/lockups and are held in a juvenile detention facility (effective August 1, 2020).

**House Bill 1163, *Guilford Funds/Cabarrus Land/Brunsw Shellfish***, transfers specifically identified portions of the Stonewall Jackson Manual Training and Industrial School Property to the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners.

**Senate Bill 681, *Agency Policy Directives/2019-2020***, expands the composition of the Child Fatality Task Force to include the Director of Juvenile Justice.

## **NATIONAL GUARD**

**House Bill 1053, *PED/Military OL & Audiology Interstate Compct.***, makes North Carolina a member of the Interstate Compact for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Additionally, improvements are made to the occupational licensing process for military-trained applicants and military spouses.

**Senate Bill 681, *Agency Policy Directives/2019-2020***, adds and clarifies that if a PSAP is party to an intergovernmental support agreement which includes a PSAP operated by a major military installation, the 911 Board must treat the installation's population as part of the PSAP's population and treat the agreement as an interlocal agreement.

## **NC OFFICE OF RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY**

**Senate Bill 681, *Agency Policy Directives/2019-2020***, removes the cap on the number of new three-year time-limited positions that can be created.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

**House Bill 425, *Implement Conner's Law***, transfers \$1,200,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal year from the Statewide Misdemeanant Funds to the Department of State Treasurer for public safety employees murdered in the line of duty. These funds apply retroactively to qualifying deaths occurring on or after July 1, 2016.

**House Bill 652, *2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Protection Act***, will:

- Allow a person with a valid concealed carry handgun permit to possess and carry a handgun at a religious place of worship located on educational property if certain conditions apply.
- Allow a person with a concealed carry permit to possess or carry a concealed handgun in a law enforcement facility if the person is employed by a law enforcement agency and:
  - Is not a law enforcement officer sworn and certified;
  - Has been designated in writing by the head of the law enforcement agency in charge of the facility;
  - Has in the person's possession written proof of the designation; and
  - Has not had the designation rescinded.
- Allow certain Emergency Medical Services personnel to possess and carry a concealed handgun, after completion of an approved tactical medical assistance course, while on duty, and deployed as part of their official duties providing tactical medical assistance to law enforcement in emergency situations.

**Session Law 2020-14 (House Bill 1063), *Fund VIPER Tower Hardware Upgrades***, allocates \$19,800,530 to the Department of Public Safety to be used for tower hardware upgrades to the Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) network.

**Senate Bill 681, *Agency Policy Directives/2019-2020***, expands uses of PSAP funds to include any costs incurred by a city or county that operates a PSAP to comply with the terms of an intergovernmental support agreement if all of the following apply:

- a) The city or county, or both, have an intergovernmental support agreement under 10 U.S. Code Section 2679, with a major military installation as defined in G.S. 143-215.115 that operates a PSAP.
- b) The intergovernmental support agreement permits the parties to serve as a back-up PSAP or secondary PSAP for each other's 911 system.
- c) The costs aid the PSAP operated by the city or county to establish and maintain the maximum amount of next generation 911 system compatibility with the PSAP operated by the major military installation.

## VICTIM SERVICES

**Senate Bill 681, *Agency Policy Directives/2019-2020***, provides a \$3.5M grant to Fund Caitlyn's Courage, Inc. The funds will be used to conduct domestic violence prevention pilot programs in at least nine judicial districts.