



Legislative Update

Week of October 21, 2019

Roy Cooper, Governor

Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

Following a short recess, lawmakers returned this week to tackle various outstanding items such as teacher pay, board appointments, and tax credits, while also passing additional mini-budgets. Leadership has again indicated that this long session may finally wrap up; however, neither chamber has agreed to an end date.

Senate Bill 579, *Prison Reform Act of 2019*, passed the Senate unanimously this week and currently awaits the Governor's signature. The bill directs the Program Evaluation Division (PED) to study alternative organizational and management structures for the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. PED must submit its findings to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation and Justice and Public Safety Oversight Committees by November 1, 2020.

The Senate Select Committee on Prison Safety also met this week to continue discussions around safety in prison facilities and retention of correctional officers. Commissioner Todd Ishee delivered a thought-provoking presentation to committee members and fielded questions regarding the decision to suspend operations at Hoke, Tyrrell Prison Work Farm, and Odom correctional facilities.

Additionally of note, Governor Copper signed House Bill 1001, *Raise the Age Funding*, into law on October 14, while the legislature was in recess. The bill appropriates \$30,915,431 to the Department for fiscal year 2019-2020, and \$43,538,704 for fiscal year 2020-2021 to implement Raise the Age.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Susanna Davis at 919-825-2717 or susanna.davis@ncdps.gov.

DPS Bills with Action this Week

(Note: Click on the bill title to view the most current version of the bill)

Division(s) Impacted	Sponsor(s)	Bill #	Short Title	Action
EM	Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	H 1023	Storm Recovery Act of 2019	10/22/2019 House Ref To Com On Appropriations
EM	Ford and Bishop	S 312	Relief to Ocracoke School/Hurricane Dorian	Pres. To Gov. 10/25/2019
ACJJ	Steinburg, McKissick, and Sanderson	S 579	Prison Reform Act of 2019	Pres. To Gov. 10/25/2019