



Legislative Update

Week of January 11, 2021

Roy Cooper, Governor

Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

The 2021-22 biennium session of the North Carolina General Assembly got underway this Wednesday, January 13th as lawmakers gathered to be sworn in. Wednesday's gathering was mostly ceremonial with no legislation acted upon beyond the adoption of rules for the upcoming session. Lawmakers also re-elected their leadership, with Representative Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) resuming duties as Speaker of the House of Representatives and Senator Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) continuing as President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Republicans now hold a 28-22 majority in the Senate and a 69-51 advantage in the House. However, like last session, there remains no veto-proof majority in either chamber.

Legislators will be coming back to Raleigh on Wednesday, January 27th. Upon their return, the bill filing period begins.

Filing deadlines are as follows:

House

- Local bills must be submitted to the Legislative Drafting Division by 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, and must be introduced not later than 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 25, 2021.
- Public bills or resolutions recommended by commissions or standing committees authorized or directed by act or resolution of the General Assembly (i) to report to the 2021 Regular Session of the General Assembly, or to report prior to the convening of that session, or (ii) which are recommended to the 2021 Regular Session of the General Assembly by a commission or committee established directly by Chapter 120 of the General Statutes, must be submitted to the Legislative Drafting Division or the Legislative Analysis Division of the Legislative Services Office by 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, and must be introduced not later than 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 18, 2021.
- All bills prepared to be introduced for departments, agencies, or institutions of the State must be submitted to the Legislative Drafting Division or the Legislative Analysis Division of the Legislative Services Office by 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, and must be introduced not later than 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 25, 2021. A bill introduced under this subsection shall be identified as an Agency Bill after its short title or in the drafting code.
- All public bills that would not be required to be re-referred to the Appropriations or Finance Committees under Rule 38 and all joint resolutions and House resolutions must be submitted to the Legislative Drafting Division or the Legislative Analysis Division of the Legislative Services Office by 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, and must be introduced not later than 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

Senate

- Local bills must be submitted to either the Legislative Drafting Division or the Legislative Analysis Division of the Legislative Services Office by 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 25, 2021, and must be filed for introduction in the Senate before 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 11, 2021.
- Public bills and resolutions must be submitted to either the Legislative Drafting Division or the Legislative Analysis Division of the Legislative Services Office by 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 11, 2021, and must be filed for introduction in the Senate before 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

Crossover (i.e. when bills must pass one chamber to be eligible for the short session) is May 13th.

Initially, it is expected the General Assembly will primarily focus on COVID-19 and the effects of the pandemic. Thereafter, the focus will likely shift to crafting the budget for the upcoming biennium, and redrawing legislative and congressional maps to be used for the next decade. The goal for passing a budget is June 30th, prior to the start of the upcoming fiscal year. However, the “long” session generally runs through much of the summer and, at times, beyond into the fall. Regardless of how long session endures, the DPS Legislative Affairs team will continue to provide updates each week the legislature is in town.

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