



# Legislative Update

*Week of May 20, 2019*

Roy Cooper, Governor

Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

This week at the General Assembly, Senate lawmakers continued formulating their version of the state budget. Few Senate committee meetings were held, as all activity was focused on releasing the Senate budget by the middle of next week.

The Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee met on Monday to discuss report recommendations and bill draft language regarding 340B pharmaceutical pricing and disaster recovery. Complex and spirited dialogue occurred surrounding the Program Evaluation Division's recommendation requiring expansion of the 340B federal pricing structure to include certain inmate medications. However, stakeholders involved in the process provided information to members about the benefits and challenges of this proposal and discussed next steps towards achieving real cost savings for DPS.

The conversation around disaster recovery was equally multifaceted and educational. The North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) outlined challenges the department faced in the immediate wake of Hurricane Matthew. NCORR also described the current state of recovery and the procedures that must be followed to draw down all available federal funding.

Although the Senate Select Committee on Prison Safety was scheduled to meet Monday, the meeting was cancelled and has yet to be rescheduled. It is anticipated, however, that the committee's recommendations will be released in the coming weeks.

On Thursday, Senate Bill 315, *The 2019 NC Farm Act*, sponsored by Senator Brent Jackson (R-Duplin, Sampson, Johnston), was discussed in the Senate Committee on Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources. Unfortunately, the conversation was cut short due to time limitations. However, Senator Jackson shared the bill summary for the new proposed committee substitute, which better addresses law enforcement concerns relating to hemp and hemp products. In addition, Senator Jackson repeatedly noted during the meeting that this bill does not legalize marijuana. Further commentary from stakeholders will be allowed next Thursday when the bill is heard again.

*If you have any questions or comments, please contact Susanna Davis at 919-825-2717 or [susanna.davis@ncdps.gov](mailto: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
Admin	McNeill and Boles	H 99	<a href="#">Transfer ALE</a>	5/20/2019 Senate Re-ref to Judiciary. If fav, re-ref to State and Local Government. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate
Admin	Davis	H 321	<a href="#">Pilot Project to Treat Opioid Overdose.</a>	5/22/2019 House Re-ref Com On Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety
ABC	Bumgardner	H 476	<a href="#">Reduce ABC Fees Paid by VFW Post</a>	5/21/2019 House Re-ref Com On Finance
SBI/ALE	Warren, Hardister, Saine, and Hunter	H 929	<a href="#">Gaming Commission</a>	5/22/2019 House Re-ref Com On Judiciary
All	Johnson, Lambeth, Saine, and McGrady	H 966	<a href="#">2019 Appropriations Act</a>	5/20/2019 Senate Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Finance. If fav, re-ref to Pensions and Retirement and Aging
ABC	Wells	S 11	<a href="#">ABC Regulation and Reform</a>	5/21/2019 House Re-ref to the Com on Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House