



Legislative Update

Week of May 25, 2020

Roy Cooper, Governor

Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

This week on Jones Street the COVID-19 pandemic hung over the General Assembly like a huge rain cloud in an uncertain background. The week began with legislators receiving a revised revenue forecast for the 2019-2021 Biennium, which described the factors that pushed the economy into a recession. Latest projections estimate a revenue shortfall of \$4.2 billion for the biennium. Although lawmakers generated a number of bipartisan bills to help North Carolinians during this critical time, members also continued to battle Governor Cooper over the best way to reopen the state.

On Thursday, the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget committee heard Senate Bill 836, *State Operations/Increase Federal Funds Use*, which provides a \$300 million increase to the original appropriation of \$70 million for the continuity of operations needs across state government. Specifically, this provision applies to overtime costs at prisons, community corrections, juvenile facilities, and veterans homes, to name a few uses.

Moreover, in the House chamber on Thursday, House Bill 1187, *Raise the Age Funding*, which provides funding for additional bed space needed to accommodate the anticipated increase in juveniles resulting from Raise the Age Implementation, unanimously passed the House. It has been sent to the Senate and will be heard in the Appropriations/Base Budget committee. The bill provides an appropriation of \$10,440,000 for renovations at Perquimans Youth Detention Center and C.A. Dillion Youth Development Center and for construction of the new Rockingham County Youth Development Center. Unfortunately, the bill as written directs the funds for these items to be transferred from the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Fund.

House Bill 1063, *Fund VIPER Tower Hardware Upgrades*, which directs \$19,800,530 non-recurring to upgrade remaining Quantar base stations to GTR base stations was unanimously passed during Thursday's voting session. These upgrades are critical to ensuring future interoperable communication between public safety officials and other first responders. Now the bill has been sent to the Senate and will be heard in the Appropriations/Base Budget committee.

Also of note, the 2.5% raises to employees from the various mini budgets passed last year will go into effect on July 1, 2020. Additionally, the Senate Select Committee on Prison Reform will meet next week, on June 2 at 11:00 am. The meeting will feature presentations from vendors who have experience in prison safety technology.

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
AC	Rogers, Brody, Hardister, and John	H 463	Education/Job Readiness in Prisons & Jails	5/27/2020 Senate Re-ref to Education/Higher Education. If fav, re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate
ABC	McGrady, Boles, Fisher, and Hardister	H 536	Temp Outdoor Restaurants for Outdoor Seating	Presented to the Governor 5/28/2020
ABC	Grange and Bell	H 902	Temp Open Clubs & Similar Establishes/Outdoor	5/28/2020 Senate Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
Law Enforcement	McNeill, Boles, and Davis	H 1063	Fund VIPER Tower Hardware Upgrades	5/28/2020 Senate Ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate
ACJJ	Saine, Lambeth, and McGrady	H 1187	Raise the Age Funding	5/28/2020 Senate Ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate
NCNG	Bryan, Wells, and D. Davis	S 717	PED/Military Occupational Licensure	Senate Placed on Calendar for 6/1/2020
ACJJ	Brown, Harrington, and B. Jackson	S 836	State Operations/Increase Federal Funds Use	5/28/2020 Senate Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

AC	Steinburg and Britt	S 852	Fund Prison Software Mgmt. Pilot Program	5/27/2020 Senate Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Judiciary. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate
ABC	Garrett	S 858	Expand Mixed Beverage Sale During Pandemic	5/27/2020 Senate Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
ACJJ	Smith and Foushee	S 860	Support Inmate/Juvenile Release to Community	5/27/2020 Senate Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Judiciary. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate