



Legislative Update

Week of September 30, 2019

Roy Cooper, Governor

Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

After a week hiatus, both the House and Senate returned to Raleigh on Tuesday to resume activities. Albeit a short week—wrapping up Wednesday afternoon—there are two significant bills with action to highlight.

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives concurred with Senate amendments to House Bill 283, *Conner's Law*. Awaiting the Governor's signature to become law, the provisions would:

- a) Increase the penalty from a Class E felony to a Class D felony for assaulting a law enforcement officer, probation officer, or parole officer with a firearm.
- b) Increase the penalty from a Class H felony to a Class G felony for assaulting emergency personnel and causing serious bodily injury or using a deadly weapon.
- c) Increase the penalty from a Class F felony to a Class E felony for assaulting emergency personnel and using a firearm.
- d) Provide an additional \$100,000 death benefit for public safety employees who are murdered in the line of duty, effective retroactively to qualifying deaths occurring on or after July 1, 2016.

Also, on Wednesday, the House passed House Bill 1001, *Raise the Age Funding*. Originally a bill to provide funds to aid jails with addiction treatment, House Bill 1001 was “gutted” in its entirety. Newly-added language directs funding to cover costs associated with increased staff and other additional resources needed to implement Raise the Age legislation. This mini-budget aims to appropriate \$30,915,431 in FY 2019-20, and \$43,538,704 in FY 2020-21, to the Department. All DPS-related funding provisions for Raise the Age implementation found in House Bill 966, *2019 Appropriations Act*, are included in House Bill 1001.

And finally, there was indication provided by Senate leadership this week as to when the long session may end. On Tuesday, Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) held a press conference to announce that the Senate intends to wrap up its legislative business before October 31st. That notwithstanding, House leadership has yet to show any indication of agreeing to a similar timeline. It's anyone's guess at this point when lawmakers will adjourn sine die.

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
Law Enforcement	Jones, Bell, Moore, and Hastings	H 283	Conner's Law	Pres. To Gov. 10/4/2019
JJ	Boles, Murphy, and C. Smith	H 1001	Raise the Age Funding	10/3/2019 Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
EM	Rabon, Hise, and Blue	S 559	Storm Securitization/Alt. Rates	10/2/2019 House/Senate Conf Report Adopted