

2011 General Assembly Session Updates

DATE: April 22, 2011

2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION MEMO #12

On Monday, the House and Senate slowly returned to Raleigh after tornados tore across the State on Saturday killing as many as 24 people and causing millions of dollars worth of damage. On Saturday night the Governor vetoed [HB 383](#) Extend UI Benefits/Continuing Resolution. The bill was an attempt to tie the unemployment insurance benefits for more than 36,000 North Carolinians to a Continuing Resolution that would have funded the State at 87 percent for 2011-2012. The Governor would not have any part of this bill, which would have tied her hands in the budget process. The Senate has the votes to override the veto, but the House has not been able to get enough votes to override earlier vetoes so it is unlikely things will be different this time either.

On Tuesday, House Insurance met to hear several bills. The House took a Senate bill and added the State Health Plan legislation that had passed earlier (SB 265), but that the Governor had vetoed previously. The primary difference was language that would allow the Treasurer to try and find the resources to reduce any possible premiums for retirees or employees.

On Wednesday, the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee met to receive an updated copy of the House education budget and special provisions. They also passed several amendments, most of which were not controversial, until Majority leader Stam proposed to take the Teaching Fellows program and transfer it to the General Administration of the University. This proposal had the possibly of saving \$810,000 in administrative costs, which if realized would be given back to DPI to reduce the cut to the assistant principals allotment. Though the Democrats opposed the amendment, they did not have the votes to defeat it. The following is a link to the documents provided at the Wednesday meeting.

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/DocumentSites/browseDocSite.asp?nID=101&sFolderName=\2011%20Session\2011-04-20%20Meeting>

The Committee was supposed to meet Wednesday afternoon after Session, which got very long, and the meeting was finally cancelled. Members were advised by Chairman Holloway, they would be able to complete their work on Thursday morning.

On Thursday morning, the House Appropriations Education Subcommittee met again to vote on amendments and finish the proposed House education bill section. The following is a link to the education subcommittee amendments from the meeting on Thursday.

http://www.ncleg.net/documentsites/Committees/HouseAppropriationsEducation/2011%20Session/2011-04-21%20Meeting/FRD_EducationAmendments_2011-04-21.PDF

The Committee heard more than twenty amendments. Most of them passed. Many of these moved amounts of funds, \$5 million or less from one line item to another and most of the amendments were in the public schools section. ***The first amendment, on Thursday, was sponsored by Representative Parmon who took \$3.45 million from Instructional Supplies and Materials, and added those funds to the Teacher Assistant allotment to reduce their cut. Representative Parmon said she expected the funds to provide 115 TAs to LEAs across the State. The average cost to employ a teacher assistant with benefits is \$29,750.***

Several amendments failed, including two to fund personnel in the NC Professional Teaching and Standards Commission and Teacher Academy.

Of major note, the Teaching Fellows program, which was moved on Wednesday morning, was moved back to the Public School Forum and the amendment went on to cut the administrative costs by \$210,000 for the Forum to manage the program. Some of the other changes included a move of \$5 million to Instructional Support Personnel reducing that cut from \$22.9 million to \$17.9 million. The funds were cut from the textbook line item. Many of the amendments cut either Textbooks on Instructional Supplies and Materials to provide funding to programs such as NCCAT and AIG.

A complete list of all the changes will be available early next week when the education document is updated. Further amendments, to the complete House budget proposal, will be heard in Finance and Appropriations next week. So we are not done yet.

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/DocumentSites/browseDocSite.asp?nID=101&sFolderName=\2011%20Session\2011-04-20%20Meeting>

The Governor held a press conference this week to deal with the tornado damage that occurred last weekend. She promised to find the resources to match Federal funding to help the disaster areas affected by the tornados.

The House and Senate calendars will be full of bills the next three weeks as members try and get their bills passed prior to the crossover deadline of May 12. Bills not affecting the budget or with financial implications must meet the crossover deadline (pass one house or the other) to be eligible for consideration in the Short Session.

State Budget Status. The House plans to meet Tuesday in Finance and then Wednesday and Thursday in House Full Appropriations with the budget bill. They will then have the budget printed so members will have access to the full bill over the weekend. Then on Monday, May 2 and Tuesday, May 3 the bill will be on the House floor for a vote.

To view entire Bill, click on Bill number and follow directions:

House Education

[HB 466 Spend 65% of Funds in the Classroom](#) **Pulled.**

[HB 736 Amend Law Re: School Discipline](#) **Favorable Report** to Proposed Committee Substitute.

[HB 769 High School to Work Partnership](#) **Favorable Report** to Proposed Committee Substitute.

[HB 792 Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act](#) **Favorable Report** to Proposed Committee Substitute.

[HB 829 Streamline Education Planning Responsibility](#) **Favorable Report** to Proposed Committee Substitute.

House Insurance

[HB 115 Health Benefit Exchange](#) **No Vote Taken.**

[SB 323 Insurance amendments](#) Name changed to [State Health Plan/Appropriations Transfer II](#) **Favorable Report** to Proposed Committee Substitute.

House Floor

[SB 323 State Health Plan/Appropriations Transfer II](#) **Passed** second and third reading

Senate Health

[SB 450 Direct Care Worker Wage and Benefit Study](#) **Favorable Report** to Proposed Committee Substitute.

Senate Floor

[SB 33 Medical Liability Reforms](#) **Calendared for 4/26/11**

[SB 323 State Health Plan/Appropriations Transfer II](#) **Failed to Concur** and Conferees were appointed by Senate and House.

[SB 450 Direct Care Worker Wage and Benefit Study](#) **Calendared for 4/26/11**

[SB 466 Modify Teacher Career Status Law](#) **Passed** second and third reading and sent to the House.

[SB 498 Modify Law Re: Corporal Punishment](#) **Calendared for 4/26/11**

Bills Introduced:

Senate Bills

[SB 604 \(East\) NC Illegal Immigration Enforcement Act](#)

[SB 633 \(Brock\) State Health Plan/Limited Abortion Coverage](#)

[SB 641 \(Hartsell\) Education Governance Amendment](#)

[SB 648 \(Preston\) Amend Law Re: School Discipline](#)

[SB 666 \(Forrester\) Cap Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax at Current Rate](#)

[SB 682 \(Hunt\) Tax Deduction for Sharing Health Care Costs](#)

[SB 687 \(Apodaca\) State Retirement Changes](#)

[SB 689 \(Soucek\) Mountain Snow Days](#)

[SB 707 \(Tucker\) School Violence Prevention Act](#)

[SB 724 \(Stein\) An Act to Improve Public Education](#)

[SB 726 \(Hise\) Multiple Birth Sibling Classroom Placement](#)

[SB 727 \(Hise\) No Dues CheckOff for School Employees](#)

[SB 733 \(Davis\) Modify Small School Provisions](#)

[SB 744 \(Goolsby\) Transparency in the Cost of Health Care](#)

[SB 751 \(Rouzer\) Statutory Cap for Motor Fuel Excise Tax Rate](#)

[SB 755 \(Tucker\) Ed. Employees Ass'n/Equal Access Act](#)

[SB 757 \(Graham\) Interscholastic Sports/Concussions](#)

[SB 759 \(Graham\) Equal Education Opportunity Tax Credit](#)

[SB 767 \(Brock\) Public Contracts/Multiple Award](#)

Major Bill Deadlines: House Resolution 1 Rules

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2011/Bills/House/PDF/H19v3.pdf>

Major Bill Deadlines: Senate Resolution 1 Permanent Rules

<http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2011/Bills/Senate/PDF/S1v3.pdf>

Crossover Deadline for House and Senate Bills: Thursday, May 12, 2011.

What's Up Next Week

HB 197 School Calendar Flexibility/Inclement Weather.

HB 344 Tax Credits for Children with Disabilities.

HB 546 Alternative Salary Plans/Charlotte-Meck. School

SB 169 Study Innovations/Incentives

SB 575 Higher Education Efficiency and flexibility

SB 576 Changes to Fees for Teacher Certification