

LEGISLATIVE REPORT March 20, 2019

INTRODUCTION

The past week featured a number of high-profile news stories emanating from the NC political world, while legislative progress was slow by comparison. With the exception of a bill to delay implementation of the State's new Voter ID law (which was introduced in the Senate, passed by both chambers and signed into law in a four-day span), most other notable issues were marked by news of movement (or lack thereof) as opposed to visible progress. A bill to allow small business associations to create health insurance plans was passed by the Senate but is expected to move slowly in the House. An amendment to that bill offered by a Democratic Freshman that would have expanded Medicaid was defeated, which is not surprising. What surprised many is, according to a littlenoticed rule, the amendment's defeat will pre-empt any further consideration of that topic for the rest of session. Senate leadership could vote to waive the rule; however, they are not currently inclined to do so and used the drama to blame Democrats for "killing debate" on the issue.

A compromise in the long-running fight over North Carolina's beer distribution laws was announced, with legislation filed in both chambers representing a settlement of a related lawsuit, while a long-expected bill to modernize the State's ABC system (and allow private retailers to sell liquor) has yet to be unveiled. The budget process continues, with House and Senate leaders meeting to work out issues behind closed doors and Appropriations subcommittees continuing to hear departmental presentations and staff overviews. With House and Senate bill-filing deadlines approaching the pace of committee work is expected to pick up, with the May 9 "crossover" and June 30 budget deadlines looming. In the meantime, several members of the legislature are actively running for Congress in upcoming special elections and several others have announced for statewide office in 2020. As things begin to move faster on Jones Street, the pace of political news, and controversy, is only expected to increase.



NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS



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BILLS OF INTEREST

HOUSE BILL 257, Motorcycles/Face Masks, would allow an individual to wear a mask for the purpose of protecting the person's head and/or face when operating a motorcycle. Introduced by Representative Bumgardner and referred to the House Transportation Committee. We have inquired to make sure there is no impact on the requirement to wear a helmet and have been assured by legislative staff that this is only referring to a mask under a helmet and does keeps the helmet requirement intact.

HOUSE BILL 321, Pilot Project to Treat Opioid Overdose, would direct the Department of Public Safety and the City of Wilmington to continue the development and implementation of the Quick Response Team Pilot Project to address the needs of opiate and heroin overdose victims who are not getting follow-up treatment. The bill would appropriate \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to DPS for the 2020-21 fiscal year for the pilot project. Introduced by Representative Davis and referred to the House State and Local Government Committee.

HOUSE BILL 341, North Carolina Sunshine Act, would seek to increase transparency and predictability regarding the procedures of the General Assembly by:

- requiring all sessions of the Senate and the House and all official meetings of committees (unless specifically exempted) to be broadcast live by streaming video (contemporaneous audio and video content) over the Internet and archived in a manner that makes the video broadcast available for replay by the public;
- prohibiting a bill from receiving either second or third reading in either chamber unless the bill appeared on the calendar published by that chamber's principal clerk's office at least 24 hours in advance of the reading; however, this requirement could be waived by a two-thirds vote of the members of the house present and voting;
- prohibiting a bill from being taken up for consideration in any committee unless the bill appeared on the committee's agenda published by the clerk of the committee at least 24 hours in advance of the committee's scheduled meeting; however, this requirement may be waived by a two-thirds vote of the members of the committee present and voting;
- providing that neither the Senate or the House, nor both meeting in joint session, may hold session before 7:00 A.M. or after 9:00 P.M (unless waived by a two-thirds vote of the members of the house present and voting) and does not apply to first reading of bills;
- providing that no committee may hold an official meeting before 7:00 A.M. or after 7:00 P.M (unless waived by a two-thirds vote of the members of the committee present and voting;
- requiring the long title of each bill to adequately and fairly reflect its subject matter;
- providing that, except by motion approved by two-thirds vote of the members of the Senate or the House present and voting, no public bill other than the Current Operations Appropriations Act may contain more than one subject;
- providing that neither the Senate or the House, nor both houses meeting in joint session, may consider an amendment, a committee substitute, a conference report, or a conference committee substitute that is not germane to the long title of the First Edition of the bill (unless waived by a two-thirds vote of the members of the house present and voting);
- providing that no committee may consider an amendment or a committee substitute that is not germane to the long title of the First Edition of the bill (unless waived);
- requiring every special provision contained in the Current Operations Appropriations Act to indicate the name of the member(s) who requested the provision; and
- providing that these provisions apply to regular sessions and extra sessions and reconvened sessions convened by the Governor.

Introduced by Representatives Russell, Ager, Morey, and Quick and referred to the House Rules Committee.

<u>HOUSE BILL 350</u>, <u>Designate NC Time Zone/Observe DST All Year</u>, would designate the time zone of North Carolina and adopt daylight saving time year-round, if authorized by Congress. **Introduced by Representatives Saine**, **Hastings**, and **Szoka and referred to the House State and Local Government Committee**.

HOUSE BILL 356, Restore Injured Monument/Prosecution, would:

- amend the statute that makes it a Class 2 misdemeanor to deface or injure the walls of a public building or facility or any statue or monument situated in any public place to include moving or removing the statue or monument from its location;
- make the offense a Class A1 misdemeanor if the violation involves a monument subject to the provisions of GS 100-2.1 (Protection of monuments, memorials, and works of art), and provide that a violation, unless the conduct is covered by another provision providing greater punishment, includes a fine of at least \$500, but not to exceed \$1,000, and restitution for the damage caused to the monument and costs incurred by the owner of the monument for its repair or restoration;
- require the State or a political subdivision, in the event an object of remembrance is injured that is subject to the statute's limitations on removal, to restore the object to its original condition and location no later than 90 days from the date of injury;
- require a law enforcement officer or agency with jurisdiction over an object's location to take all necessary measures in responding to a threat or action by any person to unlawfully injure the object and arrest the person for prosecution; and
- require the State or political subdivision with custody of the object to pursue civil action, if necessary, against any person responsible for injury to the object for the cost of its repair or restoration.

Introduced by Representatives Speciale, Kidwell, Pittman, and Brody and referred to the House Education – Universities Committee.

HOUSE BILL 358, Community Paramedicine Program/Funds, would:

- create a Community Paramedicine Program within the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the role of paramedics in community-based care initiatives that improve individual and community health, reduce healthcare costs, improve patient satisfaction and reduce unnecessary hospitalizations;
- require the program's implementation in at least four different sites throughout the state, with preference to counties with existing community paramedic programs;
- appropriate \$700,000 in recurring funds for 2019-20 and \$700,000 in recurring funds for 2020-21 from the General Fund for the program; and
- allocate specified amounts to the McDowell County Emergency Medical Services program site, the New Hanover Regional Emergency Medical Services, the Wake Emergency Medical Services program site, and to a program site selected by DHHS.

Introduced by Representatives Dobson, Grange, Blackwell, and B. Turner and referred to the House Health Committee.

HOUSE BILL 360, Guilford County Mental Health Facility/Funds, would appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services to be used to provide a grant-in-aid to Guilford County to construct a facility-based mental health crisis center to serve adults. The funding includes: \$3.85 million in nonrecurring funds for the 2019-20 fiscal year and the 2020-21 fiscal year from the General Fund and \$2.3 million in nonrecurring funds for the 2019-20 fiscal year from the Dorothea

Dix Hospital Property Fund. Guilford County is restricted from using the funds for any other purpose. Introduced by Representatives Hardister, Faircloth, Lambeth and Harrison and referred to the House Health Committee.

HOUSE BILL 366, Raising Wages for NC Workers, would: (1) increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour over five years and then adjusting the minimum wage automatically each year by increases in the cost of living; (2) end the subminimum wage for persons with disabilities; (3) phase out the subminimum wage for tipped employees over eight years; and (4) end the exemption for agricultural and domestic workers. Introduced by Representatives Fisher, Farmer-Butterfield, Black, and Harrison and referred to the House Finance Committee.

<u>HOUSE BILL 369</u>, <u>Election Observer Bill of Rights</u>, would provide that election observers have the explicit right to:

- begin observation duties from the time the judge enters the polling location until all ballot containers are officially sealed and the voting enclosure is secured for the day;
- hear the name and address of each voter when the voter first announces the voter's name at
 the initial check-in table and ask any election official to repeat the name or address of the
 voter if the observer was unable to hear the voter's name or address when it was initially
 announced;
- observe curbside voting and hear the name or address of the voter as it is announced and to ask any election official to repeat the name or address of the voter if the observer is unable to hear the voter's name or address when initially announced;
- traverse freely between the curbside voting area and the voting enclosure throughout the curbside voting process;
- observe curbside voting at such a distance as to enable the observer to hear any instruction or verbal communication between the election assistant and the curbside voter. However, the election observer could not stand within five feet of the curbside voter's vehicle;
- keep in view any and all ballot boxes until after the ballot boxes are sealed at the end of the day; and
- only be expelled by a chief judge for cause, in writing. The written notice of expulsion would be signed by the chief judge and at least one other judge assigned to that precinct before the expulsion notice could be lawfully served on the observer.

Introduced by Representative Speciale and referred to the House Elections and Ethics Law Committee.

HOUSE BILL 370, Require Sheriff Cooperation with ICE, would:

- require, when a person charged with a *criminal offense* (currently, felony) or an impaired driving offense is confined for any period in a county jail, local confinement facility, district confinement facility, or satellite jail/work release unit, the administrator or other person in charge of the facility to attempt to determine if the prisoner is a legal US resident by an inquiry of the prisoner, or by examination of any relevant documents, or both;
- require a facility, if the prisoner is subject to an immigration detainer request issued by the United States Department of Homeland Security, to: (1) comply with, honor, and fulfill any request made in the detainer request provided by the federal government; and (2) inform the prisoner that the prisoner is being held pursuant to an immigration detainer request issued by the United States Department of Homeland Security;
- provide that the administrator or other person in charge of the facility is not required to comply with this section with respect to a person who is a victim of or witness to a criminal offense, is reporting a criminal offense, or has provided proof that the person is a US citizen or that the person has lawful immigration status in the United States;

- provide that no city or county may, related to information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual, prohibit federal law enforcement officers from entering and conducting enforcement activities at a county jail, local confinement facility, district confinement facility, or satellite jail/work release unit;
- allow any person who resides within the jurisdiction of a city, county, or local law enforcement agency that the person believes is not in compliance with a State law related to immigration to bring an action for declaratory and injunctive relief, and require the court to impose a civil penalty against any city, county, or law enforcement agency that fails to comply with an order issued as a result of such an action; and
- allow chiefs of police and sheriffs to adopt a written policy requiring the agency to perform community outreach activities to educate the public that a law enforcement officer may not inquire into the immigration status of a victim of or witness to an alleged criminal offense unless the officer determines that the inquiry is necessary to investigate the offense or provide the victim or witness with information about federal visas designated to protect individuals providing assistance to law enforcement, and require the policy to include outreach to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Introduced by Representatives D. Hall, Jones, Saine, and C. Smith and referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

SENATE BILL 180, Additional Funds/ECU Brody School of Medicine, would appropriate \$15 million in additional recurring funds for 2019-20 from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, to be allocated to East Carolina University to support the operation of the Brody School of Medicine at ECU. Introduced by Senators D. Davis, Horner and Perry and referred to the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee.

SENATE BILL 183, Planning Funds/ECU Brody School of Medicine, would appropriate \$14.3 million for 2019-20 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors to develop plans for the construction of a new medical education building at the Brody School of Medicine. Introduced by Senators D. Davis, Horner and Perry and referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget.

<u>SENATE BILL 211</u>, <u>Insurance Technical Changes. – AB</u>, is identical to <u>House Bill 220</u>, summarized in the March 5, 2019, Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators Edwards, Gunn, and J. Alexander and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 220, Removal of Political Signs by Citizens, would allow any citizen to remove a political sign that remains in a public right-of-way after 30 days from the date political signs are required to be removed by law, and deliver the sign to the county board of elections office in the county in which the sign was located within 72 hours of removing the sign. If the person fails to deliver the sign to the county board of elections within the time frame required, he/she would be subject to penalties for unlawful removal of signs. After receiving the sign, the director of the county board of elections would attempt to notify and return the sign to the candidate, committee, or organization's campaign, but could dispose of the sign as it deems appropriate, if after 15 days attempts to notify the campaign are unsuccessful. Introduced by Senators D. Davis, Tillman, and Hise and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILL 221, Restrict Certain Absentee Ballot Notary Acts, would prohibit notaries public who are elected public officials or candidates for public office from notarizing absentee ballots. Introduced by Senators D. Davis, Daniel, and Hise and referred to the Senate Redistricting and Elections Committee.

SENATE BILL 234, Healthy Families & Workplaces/Paid Sick Days, would enact the Healthy Families and Healthy Workplaces Act to provide that any employee who works in this State and who must be absent from work for the following reasons is entitled to paid sick time: (1) to care for the employee's immediate family member who is suffering from a physical or mental illness, injury, or medical condition that requires home care, professional medical diagnosis or care, preventative medical care, or a routine medical appointment, or that is covered under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act; (2) to care for the employee's own physical or mental illness, injury, or medical condition that requires home care, professional medical diagnosis or care, preventative medical care, or a routine medical appointment, or that is covered under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act; or (3) to allow an employee to address the psychological, physical, or legal effects on himself or herself, or an immediate family member, of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Exemptions would be provided for bona fide volunteers in an organization where an employer-employee relationship does not exist, and for specified persons exempted from the Wage and Hour Act.

Paid sick time would begin to accrue at the commencement of employment at the rate of one hour of pay for every 30 hours worked. Paid sick time could be used as accrued, or be loaned by the employer, at its discretion, to the employee in advance of accrual. There would be a limit of 32 hours of accrued paid time in a calendar year for employees of small businesses and 56 hours for other employees. Accrued paid sick time for employees would be carried over from year to year, subject to certain limits. An employer could require documentation of the qualifying illness, injury, health condition, or violence when a paid sick time period covers more than three consecutive workdays. Any reasonable documentation signed by a health care provider involved in following or treating the illness, injury, or health condition, and indicating the need for the amount of sick days taken, would be an acceptable certification. Acceptable certification of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking could include: (i) law enforcement, court or federal agency records or files; (ii) documentation from a domestic violence or sexual assault program; or (iii) documentation from a religious, medical, or other professional from whom assistance was sought in dealing with the alleged domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. However, an employer could not require certification from a health care provider employed by the employer. An employer could not require disclosure of details relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking or the details of an employee's medical condition as a condition of providing paid sick time. In addition, if an employer possesses health information or information pertaining to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking about an employee or employee's immediate family member, such information would be treated as confidential and could not be disclosed except to or with the permission of the affected employee. When the use of sick time is foreseeable, the employee would be required to make a good faith effort to provide notice to the employer in advance of the use of the sick time and to make a reasonable effort to schedule the use of sick time in a manner that does not unduly disrupt the operations of the employer. An employer could not require the employee to search for or find a replacement worker to cover the hours during which he or she is on paid sick time as a condition of providing sick time.

An employer would not be required to provide financial or other reimbursement to an employee upon the employee's termination, resignation, retirement, or other separation from employment for accrued paid sick days that have not been used. In addition, the bill would not discourage employers from adopting or retaining paid sick time policies more generous than policies that comply with the requirements of this section, and would not diminish the obligation of an employer to comply with any contract, collective bargaining agreement, or any employment benefit program or plan that provides greater sick time leave rights to employees than the rights established under this section. Employers who have a paid time off leave policy would not be required to modify

that policy, if that policy offers an employee the option, at the employee's discretion, to take paid sick time that is at least equivalent to the amounts and for the same purposes and under the same conditions as provided under this section. Employers would be required to post notice to employees that they are entitled to paid sick time, the amount of paid sick time, and the terms of its use; that retaliation against employees who request or use paid sick time is prohibited; and that each employee has the right to file a complaint with the Commissioner of Labor or in the General Court of Justice if sick time as required by this Act is denied by the employer or the employee is retaliated against for requesting or taking paid sick time. Introduced by Senators Robinson, Foushee, and Garrett and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILL 236, Reenact Child Care Tax Credit, would reenact the tax credit for child care and certain employment-related expenses. Introduced by Senators Mohammed and Foushee and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILL 240, NC Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Fund, would create the North Carolina Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Fund in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to provide financial assistance to veterans for hyperbaric oxygen therapy. The fund would consist of appropriations made by the NCGA, donations, gifts, devises, and earned revenue, and the Secretary of Military and Veterans Affairs would have sole authority in approving the use of the Fund. Introduced by Senators D. Davis, Krawiec and Perry and referred to the Senate Health Care Committee.

SENATE BILL 241, Concussion Protocol/County Recreation, would give counties and cities the authority to require precautions to ensure the safety and well-being of county and municipal recreation program participants, including concussion awareness information and a response protocol in case of a suspected concussion. The information and response protocol would be required to be consistent with the State Board of Education's rules for interscholastic athletic activities. Introduced by Senators D. Davis, Hise and Krawiec and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILL 247, Charter School Study/Moratorium on Growth, would establish a 10-member Joint Legislative Study Committee on the Impact of Charter Schools on Local School Administrative Units to: (1) study and make recommendations on the impact of charter schools on local school administrative units and on student performance; and (2) report the results of its study, including recommendations and any proposed legislation, to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on or before March 1, 2021. The bill also would place a moratorium on charter school growth pending further legislation based on the Committee's report and recommendations. Introduced by Senators Blue, Chaudhuri, and Mohammed and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILL 249, Allow LMFTs to Conduct First-Level IVC Exams, would update the clinicians certified to perform the first commitment examinations for involuntary commitment of individuals with mental illness or substance use disorders to include licensed professional counselors, such as a licensed marriage and family therapist. The bill would clarify that certification of a licensed marriage and family therapist under the statute does not authorize the therapist to expand the therapist's scope of practice. Introduced by Senators Krawiec, Hise and Bishop and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILL 252, Dental Bill of Rights, would:

- prohibit agreements between insurers or other entities and dental service providers from requiring payments to the provider as a credit card payment;
- prohibit an insurer who provides a health benefit plan for dental services from using more than 25% of its prepaid charges or premiums for marketing and administrative expenses;
- prohibit insurers who provide health benefit plans for dental services from providing a third-party access to a dental provider network contract or information pertaining to discounts for services pursuant to that dental provider network contract; and
- remove dental plans from the kinds of insurance not included in the definition of health benefit plan.

Introduced by Senator J. Davis and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILL 271, Durham Speed Device Pilot/School Zones, would allow the City of Durham to establish and implement a pilot program to use electronic speed-measuring systems to detect violations of the speed limit set in school zones. The City would issue to the registered owner of a motor vehicle cited for a speeding violation detected by an electronic speed-measuring system a notice of the violation that contains:

- the recorded image of the vehicle speeding;
- the vehicle registration number and state of issuance;
- the date, time, and location of the violation;
- the recorded speed; and
- the process for paying the civil penalty (\$250) or contesting the owner's responsibility for the violation.

The notice would be delivered by first-class United States mail at the address on the current registration of the vehicle's owner and deemed served on the registered owner five days after the mailing. If the registered owner fails to pay the civil penalty, or fails to respond to the notice, within 30 days of service of the notification of violation, the owner would waive the right to contest responsibility for the violation and would be subject to an additional civil penalty of \$125. No later than three years after implementing the pilot program, the City would report the results of the pilot program, including legislative proposals for expanding the use of electronic speed-measuring systems in school zones, to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety. Introduced by Senators McKissick and Woodard and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILL 277, Huntersville Ocular Melanoma Study Funds, would appropriate \$100,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to the Town of Huntersville for the 2019-20 fiscal year to study and abate the cause of frequent cases of ocular melanoma in the area. Introduced by Senator Marcus and referred to the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee.

BILL UPDATES

HOUSE BILL 70, Delay NC HealthConnex for Certain Providers, was heard in the House Health Committee, where a modified version of the bill, a committee substitute, was approved. The new version would:

- modify the deadlines given to certain providers to begin participation in North Carolina's Health Information Exchange (HIE) Network;
- extend the mandatory deadline to begin submitting demographic data from June 1, 2019, to June 1, 2020

- extend the deadline for licensed physicians whose primary area of practice is psychiatry to begin submitting demographic and clinical data to June 1, 2021, instead of June 1, 2018;
- clarify that the June 1, 2018, start date for providing demographic and clinical data applies to the specified providers of Medicaid services licensed to operate in the State that have an electronic health record system;
- add that, upon implementation of an electronic health record system or other technology solution enabling connectivity to the HIE Network, State healthcare facilities and the State Laboratory of Public Health must begin submitting demographic and clinical data by June 1st of the following fiscal year;
- prohibit granting an extension for connecting to the network that would result in connecting to the HIE Network and commencing data submission later than June 1, 2021;
- require DHHS to establish a process to grant exemptions to Medicaid providers and other State-funded health care services for whom acquiring and implementing an electronic health record system and connection to the HIE network would be an undue hardship;
- add that ten specified categories of providers who provide services to Medicaid and other State-funded health care program beneficiaries who receive Medicaid or other State funds, including IDD providers, are not required to connect to the HIE Network or submit data, but may do so voluntarily;
- make all data submitted to or through the HIE Network containing protected health information or personally identifying information that is in the possession of a State agency confidential and not a public record; and
- increase the membership of the North Carolina Health Information Exchange Advisory Board from 12 to 14 members with an additional member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House.

The bill as amended was approved by the House Health Committee and will next be heard in the House Rules Committee.

HOUSE BILL 144, Hands Free NC, was amended in the House Transportation Committee to:

- specify that *texting* refers to *manually* entering text into, or reading text from, a wireless communication device;
- prohibit people under age 18 from operating a vehicle while using a wireless communication device except to follow the route recommend by a navigation system, if the address information is entered before operating the vehicle and to communicate an emergency under very specific conditions;
- add an exception for the use of a wireless communication device by (1) the operator of a vehicle registered to a public utility or communications service provider when the operator is employed by the utility or service provider using the device to carry out official duties or (2) an amateur radio operator responding to an emergency situation;
- **remove the exception** for instances when the device is affixed, mounted, or installed in the vehicle and used to handle a call by touching a single button if the person is 18 years or older or used to follow an electronic navigation system when the address information is entered before operation of the vehicle;
- provide that nothing in the statute prohibits the use of equipment installed by the manufacturer and integrated into the vehicle by any person while operating a motor vehicle;
- make it a Class 2 misdemeanor instead of an infraction for a person to commit a violation while operating a school bus;
- prohibit limited learner's permit holders and limited provisional license holders from using a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle.

The bill as amended was approved by the House Transportation Committee and will next be considered by the House Insurance Committee.

<u>SENATE BILL 144</u>, <u>Gross Premium Tax/PHPs</u>, was heard in the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Rules Committee, where a new version, a Committee Substitute, was approved. The new version, which was approved by the Senate, would:

- extend the intended date of enactment of legislation to ensure premium tax levied against capitation payments received by Prepaid Health Plans (PHPs) are treated in the same manner as or all other health care plans and contracts of insurance, from March 15, 2019, to June 30, 2019;
- maintain the requirement for the Department of Health and Human Services to plan for the implementation of Medicaid transformation with the assumption of the enactment of the described legislation until March 15, 2019; and
- direct the Department of Health and Human Services to plan for the implementation of Medicaid transformation under the assumption that the legislation will not be enacted if the General Assembly fails to ratify the legislation by June 30, 2019, and to correct all actions taken in reliance on the presumption of legislative enactment.

The bill as amended was approved by the full Senate and will next be considered by the House Rules Committee.

LEGISLATION ENACTED

SENATE BILL 214, Ensure Orderly 2019 Elections, delays the requirements of the State's new Voter ID law until 2020, meaning the special elections in Congressional districts 03 and 09 will proceed later this year without a Voter ID requirement in place. Details of the Voter ID law are still being worked out, for example which College and University ID cards will be accepted at the polls. Introduced by Senators Hise and Daniel, approved by the Senate and the House and signed into law by Gov. Cooper in a four-day span. Effective: March 14, 2019.

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