



The General Assembly kicked off the 2021-2022 biennial session on Wednesday, January 13th with opening day speeches, organizing and the approval of the rules that will be used throughout the session. Just like everything else in our world, this day was unlike previous first days as family and friends were not present and the usual celebratory mood was muted. The legislative complex is open to the public, but social distancing rules are in effect and temperature checks are required before entering the building. Masks are not required but were more common among legislators than in the spring and it appears that the leadership of both chambers are highly encouraging members to wear them.

Session was gaveled in for just one day and the next two weeks will be used to assign offices, organize committees and generally get all the procedural and housekeeping items taken care of before the real work begins. House Speaker Tim Moore also announced committee chairs as part of the opening day festivities. Notable shifts include Rep. Dean Arp's (R-Union) promotion as a one of the House's senior appropriation chairs, along with Reps. Donny Lambeth (R-Forsyth) and Jason Saine (R-Lincoln). In addition, Rep. John Torbett (R-Gaston) is shifting away from his long-time transportation leadership roles to co-chair the Education K-12 Committee with Rep. Hugh Blackwell (R-Burke). Rep. Kristin Baker (R-Cabarrus) and Rep. Wayne Sasser (R-Cabarrus, Rowan, Stanly) joined Rep. Larry Potts (R-Davidson) and Rep. Donna White (R-Johnston) as House Health Chairs. The Senate announced their committees and Chairs last week and Sen. Jim Perry (R-Lenoir, Wayne) and Sen. Jim Burgin (R-Harnett, Johnston, Lee) join Sen. Joyce Krawiec (R-Forsyth) as Senate Health chairs. The make-up of all the committees and the Chairs of each committee are listed below.

Legislators will return to start business on January 27th. Key dates on the legislative calendar include:

- March 11: Local bill filing deadline in the Senate
- March 25: Local bill filing deadline in the House
- April 6: Bill filing deadline in Senate for most bills
- April 20: House filing deadline for non-budget, non-finance bills
- April 27: House filing deadline for budget and finance-related bills
- May 13: Crossover deadline for bills to have passed either the House or Senate for consideration during the remainder of session



NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS



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As they look forward to session, legislators noted that addressing the effects from COVID-19 will be a major focus, concentrating initially on federal relief funds passed at the end of last year. Lingering disagreements over Governor Cooper's use of emergency authority during the pandemic are likely to be another topic of discussion.

Legislative leaders have already stressed the importance of continuing supports for schools and to support student learning that has been impacted by COVID-19. Senator Berger has indicated his renewed commitment to changing the way North Carolina students learn to read. With a new State Superintendent of Public Instruction who appears committed to working with the State Board of Education, those efforts could gain traction. Speaker Moore and Senator Berger also gave a nod to the importance of early education and child care in a [recent article](#). A new bipartisan, bicameral early childhood legislative caucus could boost those efforts.

Medicaid transformation will also be an important topic this year. Dave Richard, the state's deputy secretary for Medicaid, told legislators this week that NCDHHS is on schedule for the July 1st launch, saying "our commitment to you is that we're going to do everything possible." An online tool will launch January 25th that lists providers and the four pre-paid health plans (PHPs). Open enrollment will formally begin March 15th.

The closest race in North Carolina this election was for the position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Paul Newby was elected by just over 400 votes and is our new Chief Justice. Upon being sworn into the position, Chief Justice Newby has made a number of changes at the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Newby named Andrew Heath as the new director of AOC and has also made numerous staff changes. Justice Newby feels strongly that the Court system should be open and has issued a new [order](#) allowing courts to reopen.

And finally, I hope you will allow me a moment of personal privilege as I would be remiss if I did not mention the shocking and sad events that occurred in our Nation's capital last week. I am still in shock that this was happening in my country. A country that I love to my very core and a country of laws and due process that I am proud to support as an attorney. My hope is that these terrible scenes will serve to remind all of us not to take our democracy for granted and to remember that it is fragile and must be protected. It is our duty to educate ourselves and support those who will not only represent us but serve with integrity and a sense of duty to our country and the ideals of our founding fathers.

See below for a list of House and Senate committee appointments for the 2021-2022 biennium. The House has named committee Chairs, full committee membership assignments are forthcoming.

HOUSE COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Agriculture: Rep. Jimmy Dixon (Senior Chair); Rep. Jeffrey McNeely

Alcohol Beverage Control: Rep. Timothy Moffit

Appropriations: Senior Chairs: Reps. Donny Lambeth; Jason Saine; Dean Arp
Chairs: Reps. William Brisson; Dana Bumgardner; Jeffrey Elmore; John Faircloth; Kyle Hall; Larry Strickland

Appropriations, AGNER: Reps. Jimmy Dixon (Senior Chair); Ed Goodwin; Pat McElraft

Appropriations, Capital: Rep. Kelly Hastings

Appropriations, Education: Reps. Jon Hardister; John Torbett; Pat Hurley

Appropriations, General Government: Reps. George Cleveland; Dennis Riddell

Appropriations, HHS: Reps. Larry Potts; Wayne Sasser; Donna White; Kristin Baker

Appropriations, IT: Rep. Jake Johnson

Appropriations, JPS: Reps. James Boles (Senior Chair); Allen McNeil; Carson Smith

Appropriations, Transportation: Reps. Brenden Jones (Senior Chair); Frank Iler; Phil Shepard

Banking: Rep. Keith Kidwell

Commerce: Rep. John Sauls

Education – Community Colleges: Rep. Pat Hurley

Education – K12: Reps. Hugh Blackwell; John Torbett

Education- Universities: Rep. Jon Hardister

Elections Law and Campaign Finance: Rep. Grey Mills

Energy and Public Utilities: Reps. Dean Arp; John Szoka

Environment: Reps. Pat McElraft; Larry Yarborough

Ethics: Reps. John Sauls; Michael Wray

Families, Children, and Aging Policy: Reps. Jerry Carter; Howard Hunter

Federal Relations and American Indian Affairs: Reps. Mike Clampitt; Charles Graham

Finance: Senior Chairs: Reps. Julia Howard, Mitchell Setzer, John Szoka, John Bradford
Chairs: Reps. Keith Kidwell; Michael Wray

Health: Reps. Donny Lambeth; Larry Potts; Wayne Sasser; Donna White; Kristin Baker

Homeland Security, Military and Veterans Affairs: Rep. Edward Goodwin

Insurance: Rep. Chris Humphrey

Judiciary 1: Rep. Ted Davis

Judiciary 2: Reps. Sarah Stevens; William (Billy) Richardson

Judiciary 3: Reps. Lee Zachary; David Rogers

Judiciary 4: Rep. Hugh Blackwell

Local Government; Land Use Planning and Development: Rep. Mark Brody

Local Government: Reps. Bobby Hanig; Sam Watford

Marine Resources and Aqua Culture: Rep. Bobby Hanig

Pensions and Retirement: Rep. Allen McNeill

Redistricting: Rep. Destin Hall

Regulatory Reform: Rep. Dennis Riddell

Rules: Rep. Destin Hall

State Government: Rep. John Torbett

State Personnel: Rep. Harry Warren

Transportation: Reps. Brenden Jones; Frank Iler; Phil Shepard

UNC BOG Nominations: Rep. Kelly Hastings

Wildlife Resources: Reps. Jay Adams; Larry Yarborough

NC SENATE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Agriculture, Energy, and Environment: Chairs: Sens. Norman Sanderson, Brent Jackson; Chuck Edwards; Co-Chair: Sen. Lisa Stone Barnes; Members: Sens. Jim Burgin, David Craven, Steve Jarvis, Tom McInnis, Paul Newton, Dean Proctor, Bob Steinburg, Don Davis, Toby Fitch, Michael Garrett, Jeff Jackson, Natalie Murdock, and DeAndrea Salvador

Base Budget: Sens. Brent Jackson (chair), Kathy Harrington (chair), Ralph Hise (chair), Ted Alexander, Deanna Ballard, Danny Earl Britt, Jr., Warren Daniel, Carl Ford, Joyce Krawiec, Michael Lee, Tom McInnis, Jim Perry, Bill Rabon, Norman Sanderson, Vickie Sawyer, Dan Blue, Jay Chaudhuri, Ben Clark, Kirk deViere, Natasha Marcus, Mujtaba Mohammed, Gladys Robinson, and Mike Woodard

Commerce and Insurance: Sens. Tom McInnis (chair), Todd Johnson (chair), Chuck Edwards (chair), Ted Alexander, Danny Earl Britt, Jr., Jim Burgin, Kevin Corbin, David Craven, Brent Jackson, Paul Newton, Vickie Sawyer, Bob Steinburg, Ben Clark, Kirk deViere, Valerie Foushee, Michael Garrett, Paul Lowe, and Gladys Robinson

Education/Higher Education: Sens. Deanna Ballard (chair), Michael Lee (chair), Lisa Stone Barnes, Kevin Corbin, David Craven, Amy Scott Galey, Michael Lazarra, Tom McInnis, Dean Proctor, Norman Sanderson, Vickie Sawyer, Jay Chaudhuri, Don Davis, Valerie Foushee, Gladys Robinson, and Joyce Waddell

Finance: Sens. Paul Newton (chair), Bill Rabon (chair), Warren Daniel (chair), Ted Alexander, Deanna Ballard, Danny Earl Britt, Jr., Chuck Edwards, Kathy Harrington, Ralph Hise, Brent Jackson, Todd Johnson, Joyce Krawiec, Michael Lee, Jim Perry, Vickie Sawyer, Dan Blue, Ben Clark, Toby Fitch, Valerie Foushee, Paul Lowe, Gladys Robinson, Joyce Waddell, and Mike Woodard

Health Care: Sens. Joyce Krawiec (chair), Jim Burgin (chair), Jim Perry (chair), Deanna Ballard, Lisa Stone Barnes, Danny Earl Britt, Jr., Ralph Hise, Steve Jarvis, Todd Johnson, Michael Lee, Sarah Crawford, Don Davis, Mujtaba Mohammed, Gladys Robinson, and Mike Woodard

Judiciary: Sens. Danny Earl Britt, Jr., (chair), Norman Sanderson (chair), Warren Daniel, Chuck Edwards, Amy Scott Galey, Kathy Harrington, Michael Lazarra, Michael Lee, Paul Newton, Bob Steinburg, Dan Blue, Toby Fitch, Jeff Jackson, Natasha Marcus, Mujtaba Mohammed, and Wiley Nickel

Pensions: Sens. Deanna Ballard (chair), Kathy Harrington (chair), Joyce Krawiec (chair), Ted Alexander, Jim Burgin, Carl Ford, Ralph Hise, Jim Perry, Bill Rabon, Bob Steinburg, Ernestine Bazemore, Jay Chaudhuri, Wiley Nickel, and Joyce Waddell

Redistricting: Sens. Warren Daniel (chair), Ralph Hise (chair), Paul Newton (chair), Chuck Edwards, Carl Ford, Kathy Harrington, Brent Jackson, Joyce Krawiec, Jim Perry, Bill Rabon, Dan Blue, Don Davis, Valerie Foushee, Paul Lowe, and Wiley Nickel

Rules: Sen. Bill Rabon (chair), Deanna Ballard, Warren Daniel, Chuck Edwards, Kathy Harrington, Ralph Hise, Brent Jackson, Todd Johnson, Joyce Krawiec, Tom McInnis, Paul Newton, Jim Perry, Norman Sanderson, Dan Blue, Jay Chaudhuri, Ben Clark, Don Davis, Paul Lowe, Joyce Waddell, and Mike Woodard

State and Local Government: Sens. Ted Alexander (chair), Carl Ford (chair), Bob Steinburg (chair), Kevin Corbin, David Craven, Amy Scott Galey, Steve Jarvis, Michael Lazarra, Dean Proctor, Norman Sanderson, Ernestine Bazemore, Sarah Crawford, Jeff Jackson, Natasha Marcus, Julie Mayfield, and DeAndrea Salvador

Transportation: Sens. Tom McInnis (chair), Vickie Sawyer (chair), Danny Earl Britt, Jr. (chair), Jim Burgin, Warren Daniel, Carl Ford, Kathy Harrington, Todd Johnson, Dean Proctor, Bill Rabon, Kirk deViere, Toby Fitch, Michael Garrett, Jeff Jackson, Julie Mayfield, and Natalie Murdock

Select Committee on Nominations: Sens. Bill Rabon (chair), Deanna Ballard, Kathy Harrington, Ralph Hise, Brent Jackson, Joyce Krawiec, Norman Sanderson, Dan Blue, Don Davis, Valerie Foushee, and Gladys Robinson

Select Committee on Prison Safety: Sens. Bob Steinburg (chair), Danny Earl Britt, Jr., Jim Burgin, Warren Daniel, Kathy Harrington, Ralph Hise, Tom McInnis, Norman Sanderson, Toby Fitch, Mujtaba Mohammed, Natalie Murdock, and Joyce Waddell

Appropriations on Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources: Sens. Norman Sanderson (chair), Todd Johnson (chair), Chuck Edwards (chair), Lisa Stone Barnes, Tom McInnis, Paul Newton, Natasha Marcus, Julie Mayfield, Mujtaba Mohammed, and DeAndrea Salvador

Appropriations on Education: Sens. Deanna Ballard (chair), Michael Lee (chair), Ted Alexander, Kevin Corbin, David Craven, Norman Sanderson, Jay Chaudhuri, Don Davis, and Valerie Foushee

Appropriations on General Government: Sens. Ted Alexander (chair), Carl Ford (chair), Bob Steinburg (chair), Michael Lazarra, Ernestine Bazemore, Sarah Crawford, and Wiley Nickel

Appropriations on Health and Human Services: Sens. Joyce Krawiec (chair), Jim Burgin (chair), Jim Perry (chair), Deanna Ballard, Steve Jarvis, Paul Lowe, Natalie Murdock, Gladys Robinson, and Joyce Waddell

Appropriations on Justice and Public Safety: Sens. Danny Earl Britt, Jr. (chair), Warren Daniel (chair), Amy Scott Galey, Bob Steinburg, Dan Blue, Toby Fitch, and Jeff Jackson

Appropriations on Transportation: Sens. Tom McInnis (chair), Vickie Sawyer (chair), Dean Proctor, Bill Rabon, Kirk deViere, Michael Garrett, and Mike Woodard

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