



INTRODUCTION

It's been a quiet stretch at the legislature, with no signs of picking up soon. Given delayed budget negotiations and travel plans, the legislature has announced a pause on all votes and committee meetings until August 7th when the Republicans will have all their members present. We expect the various veto override votes to be taken that week (Republicans need all their members present and voting to override a veto). The expectation is that a budget will soon follow, as well. "We are prepared to come in and take votes when there are substantive things, and enough for us to call everybody back," Berger said. Once they have returned to town, we expect a much faster pace, with priority legislation moving quickly before the adjournment deadline. "I suspect that just like you get, into in the final weeks of session, that there'll be a lot of other bills that have been parked in both chambers that start moving very rapidly," Speaker Moore said. Of course, the expectation was that they would complete the budget and be out of session by now, so we really don't know!

SPEAKER MOORE ANNOUNCEMENT

Speaker Moore has announced that he will not run for Speaker of the House again. Rep. Jason Saine told reporters that Speaker Moore told the caucus on Friday morning. While the official announcement was made then, the caucus was already aware that this would be his final session as Speaker of the House. With that in mind, Saine said there has been little chatter amongst the caucus over the Speaker's lawsuit that has since been resolved. "You know, the speaker has announced this is his last time seeking to run for speaker," Saine said, "so I don't think anybody's sitting here going, 'Well, you know, keeping him around is going to be all that problematic,' because we know he's leaving."

Moore has been the longest serving Speaker of the House in North Carolina history. He is currently serving his fifth two-year term. While rumors of a congressional run have circulated for some time, the Speaker has said he is still determining what comes next for him. Regarding who replaces him, that depends on who you ask. There are several legislators who appear to be frontrunners for the position.



NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS



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CASINO PROPOSAL

Draft language has now been shared between chambers over building casinos throughout the state. This has been an ongoing discussion this session, especially with Virginia opening casinos so close to North Carolina. Speaker Moore told reporters that the casinos would specifically be built in Anson, Nash, and Rockingham counties. It would appear that the bill would award a single developer the right to build these casinos, with a minimum investment of \$1.5 billion to the project. The bill would further require that the owning company would need to add at least 5,250 steady jobs along with the properties. "It wouldn't be just a standalone casino," Senate leader Berger told reporters. "The idea would be that there would be a district that would include a casino, a hotel, possibly residential, commercial, office-industrial and it would be sort of a package that would be developed. That's at least the concept." While Speaker Moore has not seen a full vote count on this issue, he believes there "is more support for this proposal than there was for some of the sports betting." While there is still opposition from legislators, as well as outside groups, leaders have suggested that this proposal could move forward before adjournment.

LABOR COMMISSIONER RACE

Rep. Ben Moss has announced that he will not run for Labor Commissioner as announced last December. Instead, Moss will seek re-election to the state House for a third term. "I've got a daughter going off to college and a son in middle school — my time is best spent focusing on being present with my family and continuing my service to the people of HD-52," Moss said in his announcement. This leaves two in the open-seat race: Rep. Jon Hardister (R) and Charlotte city council member and mayor pro-tem Braxton Winston (D). Unless another Republican throws their hat in the ring when formal candidate filing begins in December, Moss's change of plans will help his Republican House colleague avoid a tough Republican primary.

CONGRESSMAN BISHOP

Current House Freedom Caucus Leader Rep. Scott Perry will be term-limited out at the end of the year. There are a number of Freedom Caucus members already vying for the position, including North Carolina's own Rep. Dan Bishop. Bishop said he wasn't "ruling it out" when asked about the position in an interview, but this isn't the only position Bishop is eyeing. The former state Senator is also considering a run for North Carolina Attorney General. In fact, Bishop told reporters that he's "more likely" to run for Attorney General than to become the next Freedom Caucus leader, adding that he still had "hurdles to clear" before determining if he'll run statewide back in his home state.

GOVERNOR'S VETOES

So far this session, Governor Cooper has vetoed 14 bills. See the list, including status of override, below:

Bill No.	Short Title	Veto Date	Overridden		Last Action
			House	Senate	
S41	Guarantee 2nd Amendment Freedom and Protections.	03/24/2023	Yes 03/29/2023	Yes 03/28/2023	Overridden.
S20	Care for Women, Children, and Families Act.	05/14/2023	Yes 05/16/2023	Yes 05/16/2023	Overridden.
S364	Nondiscrimination & Dignity in State Work.	06/16/2023	Yes 06/27/2023	Yes 06/20/2023	Overridden.
S299	Reimburse Late Audit Costs with Sales Tax Revenue.	06/19/2023	Yes 06/27/2023	Yes 06/20/2023	Overridden.
S329	Retail Installment Sales Act Amendments.	06/19/2023	Yes 06/27/2023	Yes 06/20/2023	Overridden.
S331	Consumer Finance Act Amendments.	06/19/2023	Yes 06/27/2023	Yes 06/20/2023	Overridden.
H750	Address Environmental, Social and Governance Factors.	06/23/2023	Yes 06/27/2023	Yes 06/27/2023	Overridden.
S582	North Carolina Farm Act of 2023.	06/23/2023	Yes 06/27/2023	Yes 06/26/2023	Overridden.

S49	Parents' Bill of Rights.	07/05/2023			Referred To Committee On Rules and Operations of the Senate on 7/6/2023.
H574	Fairness in Women's Sports Act.	07/05/2023			Placed On House Calendar For 08/07/2023.
H808	Gender Transition/Minors.	07/05/2023			Placed On House Calendar For 08/07/2023.
H488	Code Council Reorganization and Various Code Amendments.	07/07/2023			Placed On House Calendar For 08/07/2023.
H618	Charter School Review Board.	07/07/2023			Placed On House Calendar For 08/07/2023.
H219	Charter School Omnibus.	07/21/2023			Vetoed on 7/21/2023.

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