



PROPOSED HOUSE SCHEDULE

The new Speaker has brought about a change that has received bipartisan praise from his House colleagues: a proposed six-month calendar for the chamber (below). The calendar outlines expected voting days and committee-only sessions for the House. “The Chair intends to stick to that calendar,” Hall said. “My intention is to give you some certainty in your schedule.” This is the first time a schedule has been released for the House. “We’re trying to keep it relatively simple and try to have some consistency in the days that we’re here and also the times that we are doing things while we’re here,” Hall said. “We’re not going to leave with Helene not handled, at least not to the extent that we possibly can at that point, so we may stay in with that,” Hall said. “Most of the other policy issues that are not emergency-related should be done by June I just want to respect the time of the members here who are committing to serve for not huge pay.”



NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE DESTIN HALL

JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
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COMMITTEES ONLY | VOTES EXPECTED | POTENTIAL VOTES | BREAK | RULES AND SELECT COMMITTEES



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Colleen Kochanek
Ashley Matlock Perkinson
Rachel E. Beaulieu
P.O. Box 1038
Wake Forest, NC 27588
919.809.5600

colleen@kochaneklawgroup.com
ashley@perkinsonlawfirm.com
rachel@beaulieuedlaw.com
www.kochaneklawgroup.com

LEGISLATIVE CAUCUSES

Reps. Jennifer Balkcom and Laura Budd extended an open invitation to all women legislators to join the newly forming Joint Legislative Women's Caucus. The group plans to hold its first meeting in mid-to-late February, with Sen. Julie Mayfield and Sen. Dana Jones serving as the Senate leaders. Additionally, Rep. Zack Hawkins announced the revival of two legislative caucuses. The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Caucus will be co-led by Sens. Michael V. Lee and Sydney Batch, along with Rep. Mitchell S. Setzer. The Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Caucus is also being re-established under the leadership of Hawkins, Rep. Bill Ward, Sen. Carl Ford, and Sen. Gladys A. Robinson.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION POLICY

A press conference was held to discuss reforming the state's prior authorization system. Legislators, along with patients and physicians, criticized the system as an outdated, profit-driven practice by insurance companies that delays essential care, calling it both inefficient and harmful.

Amanda Watson, a breast cancer patient, described facing hurdles when an allergic reaction to chemotherapy required a treatment change. "It's astonishing to me and my family how an individual with no medical degree wants the power to tell a doctor who is actively treating a patient what is and is not medically necessary," Watson said. Dr. John Meier IV, NCMS president, accused insurance companies of deliberately using prior authorization to "delay, delay, delay" expensive treatments. "It's not a free market," Meier said. "It's rigged... It's not about care. It's about finance." Studies cited by NCMS and the American Medical Association say that prior authorization costs the healthcare system \$1.8 billion annually and consumes over 13 hours of clinician time each week. Rep. Tim Reeder, an emergency physician, reaffirmed his commitment to solutions after House Bill 649, aimed at reform, stalled in the Senate last session. "We are committed... to making sure that [North Carolinians] get the care that they need," he said. Freshman Rep. Grant Campbell, an OB/GYN and former US Army trauma surgeon, also supported the initiative in the press conference. "This is not about quality of care, this is about delaying care. This is about forcing patients and physicians to settle for cheaper, less effective care, or ultimately hoping the patient gives up and pays out of pocket ... The best solution for all involved is for the insurance companies to come forward and give meaningful solutions to a broken system whose motivation is profit. But rest assured, if that does not happen in good faith, we will address this legislatively."

HELENE RECOVERY COMMITTEE

The House has proposed a \$500 million recovery package for Hurricane Helene, marking an initial step toward addressing the state's rebuilding efforts. This plan covers areas such as \$150 million for home reconstruction in the mountains, alongside funding for agricultural support and repairs to private roads and bridges. The bill also includes \$55 million for an infrastructure grant program. "We know that no matter what appropriation we're able to do, it's never going to be enough," House Rules Chair John Bell, a co-chair of the House Helene Recovery Committee, told colleagues. "But this is a starting point, with multiple bills after this to follow." The Senate will have their own competing spending plan that will figure into this bill, so changes are likely before the next Helene Recovery package hits the Governor's desk. The House is expected to hold a floor vote on this bill next week.

All North Carolina leaders, from the Governor to our Republican legislative leaders, want to get additional Helene funding out early this year to address immediate needs. Additional funds are expected in the two-year state budget that will be worked on throughout this long session, as well. The legislature has appropriated close to \$1 billion since last fall for Helene aid. "This is just the

next step in this process,” Speaker Hall told Tuesday’s committee. “Somebody asked me earlier, ‘How many bills are we going to need to do this?’ And my answer is — and I know you all feel the same — it’s going to be as many as it takes for us to get it done to rebuild western North Carolina.”

GOVT MANDATES INCREASE HEALTHCARE COSTS

Senate Bill 24, a bill to disclose the cost of state health insurance mandates has passed the Senate. Senate Health Chairs Jim Burgin, Amy Galey and Benton Sawrey sponsored the bill in an effort to improve transparency around healthcare costs in the state. The bill requires new health insurance mandates to disclose their financial impact and include provisions to repeal an equal number of existing mandates. Currently, 58 mandates are listed in the bill. Burgin emphasized that the bill encourages the state to be accountable for costs imposed on businesses, saying, “We have to start counting the cost of our legislation.” The proposal also mandates funding allocations to cover the costs of any new requirements for state health plans. As Chairman Burgin emphasized, North Carolina has the highest healthcare expenses in the country, including the second-highest average insurance premiums for families, yet our state is on the bottom half of states for health outcomes, ranking at #30. Supporters, like the Treasurers’ office, commended the bill’s push for clarity, while some noted it may not directly reduce costs. Ardis Watkins from the State Employees Association called for greater transparency in taxpayer-funded healthcare contracts, while Senator Gale Adcock highlighted North Carolina’s low rankings in healthcare outcomes and high costs. Burgin cited Massachusetts, known for its strong health outcomes and cost control measures, as a model state. The bill received favorable support in several committees and has passed the Senate chamber 30-15, with the majority of Senate Democrats voting no.

STUDENT USE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES

A bill to ban student cellphone use during instructional time in public schools, Senate Bill 55, has been filed in the Senate. The legislation, introduced by Republican Senators Michael Lee, Jim Burgin, and Lisa Barnes, would require school boards and charter schools to adopt policies prohibiting students from using, displaying, or turning on wireless devices like phones, laptops, and tablets during class. Exceptions could be made for educational purposes, medical needs, or special-education plans. Schools would also determine disciplinary measures, including device confiscation. Concerns about phones distracting students and contributing to social media addiction have fueled the bill, following similar bans or restrictions in 19 states. Although the State Board of Education has discussed potential cellphone policies, former State Superintendent Catherine Truitt recommended that individual school districts make their own decisions rather than adopting a statewide ban.

AG/RESTRICT CHALLENGE TO PRESIDENTIAL EOS

Sens. Settle, Hanig, and Moffitt have introduced Senate Bill 58, aiming to prevent the state’s Attorney General, currently Democrat Jeff Jackson, from challenging presidential executive orders in court. The bill would bar the attorney general from making any legal arguments to invalidate orders issued by the President. The proposal follows Jackson’s recent legal actions opposing executive orders by former President Donald Trump, including efforts to end birthright citizenship and freeze federal funding. Jackson argued these measures violated constitutional principles and posed significant harm to the state.

REDUCE EARLY VOTING PERIOD

Freshman Rep. Wyatt Gable has introduced a bill, House Bill 66, to significantly reduce early voting in the state. The proposal would cut the early voting period from three weeks to just six days, ending on the Saturday before the election, and eliminate Sunday voting entirely. Early

voting is the most popular voting method in North Carolina, with over 4.1 million of the 5.7 million voters in the 2024 general elections casting their ballots early. Historically, early voting tends to favor Democrats, while Election Day voting skews more Republican. Sunday voting holds particular importance for Black voters, as many churches participate in "souls to the polls" events. A similar Republican-backed attempt to eliminate Sunday voting in 2013 was struck down by the courts for racial discrimination after evidence showed it disproportionately targeted Black voters.

NORTH CAROLINA WORK AND SAVE

Led by Rep. Jarrod Lowery along with Reps. McNeely, Warren, and Wheatley, House Bill 79 intends to help private sector workers who don't have access to employer-sponsored retirement savings accounts. The bill would create a retirement option structured similarly to a 529 college savings plan and allow paycheck deductions for workers. Funds could go into IRAs that, being portable, would follow workers as they change jobs. "You know, I always say that North Carolina is the best place to live, work, worship and raise a family, but it should also be the best place to retire," Lowery said at a press conference announcing the bill.

INCREASE PERMISSIBLE INTERSTATE SPEED LIMIT

Sponsored by Reps. Lowery, Biggs, and Chesser, this bill aims to raise the state's maximum highway speed limit from 70 to 75 miles per hour. House Bill 112 also seeks to increase the threshold for more serious speeding violations on highways, moving it from 80 to 85 mph. If enacted, the bill wouldn't automatically raise speed limits statewide but would allow for increases in certain areas. Likely candidates for the change include major highways where the limit is already 70 mph, such as Interstate 95, I-40, I-87, and U.S. 1.

CREATE COMMITTEE ON MEDICAID SUSTAINABILITY

Sponsored by four House Health Chairs, this bill would establish a 12-member Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid Sustainability, with six Senators and six Representatives, tasked with exploring potential adjustments to the North Carolina Medicaid program in response to any reductions in federal funding, aiming to maintain the current state funding levels. The committee would consider six potential modifications, such as reducing or eliminating optional services or eligibility groups, lowering reimbursement rates, and implementing strategies to improve managed care efficiencies. A final report on the study's findings would be submitted to the General Assembly by April 30, 2026. The committee would be dissolved upon the submission of the final report or by April 30, 2026, whichever comes first.

FORMER GOV. COOPER'S NEXT STEPS

Former Governor Roy Cooper will spend eight weeks at Harvard University, taking on the role of Menschel Senior Leadership Fellow at the T.H. Chan School of Public Health. In this position, he will teach a course examining the intersection of government and public health. Speculation about Cooper's future remains high, with a possible U.S. Senate bid still under consideration. "I want to keep making a difference, and together with my family, we are considering all the options, including elected office," Cooper stated. "As I weigh those options, I look forward to teaching and working with aspiring public servants who, despite everything going on in the world, still care deeply about improving people's health and building bridges."

SEN. BERGER CHALLENGER

Rockingham County Sheriff Sam Page has announced his bid for State Senate in 2026, likely challenging Senate leader Phil Berger, who seldom faces primaries. In fact, Berger has not had a primary opponent since 2012. Page, who previously ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor in the 2024 Republican primary, has a history of clashing with Berger, particularly over the issue of

casino expansion in Rockingham County. Berger supported a plan to allow casinos outside tribal lands, while Page opposed the idea, arguing that residents deserved more transparency and input. A longtime law enforcement officer first elected sheriff in 1998, Page has been a vocal supporter of President Trump, having led Sheriffs for Trump in 2016 and participated in law enforcement discussions on border security. He plans to seek Trump's endorsement for his Senate bid. Page stated he will run regardless of Berger's decision on reelection. Berger, who has led the Senate for over a decade, has not confirmed his plans, saying the filing period does not begin until December and that he continues to enjoy his role.

PROGRESS NOW NC CAUCUS

Described as the "exact opposite" of the Freedom Caucus by one of the founders, Rep. Pricey Harrison, this newly-formed caucus aims to represent progressive causes. "We want to be the voice of the moral opposition to what's going on in our state," Harrison said. "We have a lot of constituents who are really upset about what's happened at the federal level." The caucus has five founding members: Reps. Deb Butler, Maria Cervania, Pricey Harrison, Marcia Morey, and Renee Price. While they hope to aggressively advocate for progressive caucuses, they also recognize that this stance may not be for all North Carolina Democrats. "You have to be very caring about our colleagues in different districts because their areas could be much more conservative than the progressive areas," Cervania said. "So we try to be very respectful."

GENERAL INTEREST BILLS

House Bill 46, Make Healthcare Affordable, is identical to Senate Bill 24, Govt Mandates Increase Healthcare Costs.

House Bill 47, Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I, would provide \$500 million from the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund to the Helene Fund as follows:

- \$140 million to the Department of Commerce (DOC), Division of Community Revitalization, for the Home Reconstruction and Repair Program (Home Program) with certain directives to ensure maximum reimbursement from federal funds when available.
- \$75 million to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS), Division of Soil & Water Conservation for (1) natural restoration projects that enable farmers in the affected area to resume production and protect communities against additional flood damage (specifies what is considered an eligible project) and (2) cost-share, engineering, and technical assistance for eligible projects. Allows using the funds across programs to maximize impact and federal funding.
- \$75 million to DACS for the Hurricane Helene Agricultural Crop Loss Program
- \$100 million to NCEM for the Private Road and Bridge Repair and Replacement
- \$55 million for the Small Business Infrastructure Grant Program (SBIGF)
- \$20 million to the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) to distribute to State agencies and units of local government for debris removal unmet needs. Directs the Governor's Recovery Office for Western North Carolina (GROW-NC) and NCEM to assist OSBM in coordinating the debris removal with relevant State agencies and local stakeholders. Requires OSBM to prioritize using the funds to address gaps in debris cleanup not met by other federal and State programs.
- \$10 million to NCEM to provide grants to Volunteers Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) assisting with disaster response and recovery efforts in the affected area.
- \$10 million to the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to provide funds for repairs of

damage to fire stations and to buildings or vehicles used by rescue squads or EMS providers. Requires OSFM to disburse any remaining funds in equal amounts to all fire departments in the affected area to purchase equipment or make capital improvements to assist with readiness for future emergency response. Authorizes OSFM to use up to \$250,000 for administrative costs related to grant disbursement.

- \$10 million to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services (DSS) to supplemental rental assistance payments
- \$5 million to DOC for the nonprofit corporation with which DOC contracts for targeted media campaigns to encourage both in-state and out-of-state tourists to return to areas impacted by Hurricane Helene in 2025, and for grants to local tourism offices in the affected area for the activities of those offices and for development of a coordinated market strategy.

House Bill 48, Increase UI Max Benefit/2025 UI Tax Credit, would ratify the Governor's action to expand unemployment benefits during the Helene disaster, increase the maximum benefit under the unemployment insurance laws, and provide employers a tax credit for unemployment tax on wages paid in 2025. The bill was amended in the House Finance Committee, including to amend the increase in the unemployment weekly benefit cap from the proposed \$400 (\$350 in current law) to \$450 for claims filed on or after March 2, 2025.

House Bill 49, Filial Debt Fairness Act, would clarify the state's filial responsibility law. (Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a person to be liable or otherwise responsible for a debt contracted for or otherwise incurred by the person's parent or parents).

House Bill 64, Const. Amend. – Gubernatorial Clemency, would change the North Carolina Constitution to limit the Governor's authority to grant clemency.

House Bill 72, AG/Restrict Challenge to Presidential EOs, would limit the Attorney General's participation in litigation advancing any argument that would result in the invalidation of any executive order issued by the President of the United States.

House Bill 75, Pharmaceutical Full Disclosure Act, would require advertisements for prescription drugs to more clearly disclose risks.

House Bill 76, Protect Access to In Vitro Fertilization, would protect the right to access assisted reproductive technology.

House Bill 82, Study Commission for LEA Size, would establish the Study Commission on Large Local School Administrative Units.

House Bill 83, Revise Laws Governing Minors, would: (1) increase the punishment for committing the offense of disseminating harmful material to minors or exhibiting harmful performances to minors; (2) establish the offense of habitual indecent exposure; (3) add the offenses of disseminating harmful material to minors and exhibiting harmful performances to minors to the list of criminal convictions that may require registration under the sex offender and public protection registration program; and (4) prohibit transportation network companies from providing service to unemancipated minors without first obtaining consent from the minor's parent or legal guardian.

House Bill 85, Certain Prohibitions/Working/Voting Process, would prohibit individuals from working in the elections process for failure to exercise due care and diligence while working in any job related to the election process.

House Bill 87, Cell Phone-Free Education, would develop policies to restrict student use of cell phones in public schools.

House Bill 92, NC Digital Assets Investments Act, would authorize the State Treasurer to invest in qualifying digital assets(cryptocurrency).

House Bill 93, Constitutional Amendment/Repeal Literacy Test, would amend the North Carolina Constitution to repeal the literacy test requirement.

House Bill 95, Threaten Elected Official/Increase Punishment, would increase the punishment imposed for a threat against a local elected officer and require the execution of a secured appearance bond for a certain amount for any person charged with making a threat against an executive officer, legislative officer, court officer, local elected officer, or election officer.

House Bill 107, Adopt SUDEP Awareness Week, would establish the second week in November as SUDEP awareness week in the State of North Carolina and recommend awareness training for school personnel responsible for students with epilepsy or otherwise predisposed to seizures.

House Bill 108, The Sober Operator Act of 2025, would allow only sober drivers to operate vehicles and vessels and save lives of operators, passengers, and pedestrians by lowering the alcohol concentration legal limit for operating a vehicle or vessel from 0.08 to 0.05 and making other changes to the DWI laws.

House Bill 109, Strangulation/Increase Punishment, would increase the punishment for committing assault by strangulation.

House Bill 121, SchCalFlex/Statewide/Open Cal., would provide additional flexibility to local boards of education in adopting the school calendar.

House Bill 127, Voter Registration Drive Form, would require the State Board of Elections to develop a sample voter registration form to be used for organized voter registration drives.

House Bill 128, Establish Prostate Cancer Control Program, would appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, to establish and administer a Prostate Cancer Control Program.

House Bill 129, Judge Joe John Nonpartisan Jud. Elections Act, would reenact nonpartisan judicial elections, make conforming statutory changes relating to reenactment of nonpartisan judicial elections, and reestablish public financing for judicial campaigns.

Senate Bill 48, Access to Sports and Extracurriculars for All, would permit students who attend a public school, private school, or home school without an interscholastic athletics program in a given sport or particular extracurricular activity to participate in that activity at a public high school.

Senate Bill 50, Freedom to Carry NC, would protect a person's right to carry a concealed handgun without a permit and to continue allowing persons to acquire a concealed handgun permit for the purposes of reciprocity or for any other reason desired.

Senate Bill 63, Board of Motor Vehicles/Authority Study, would establish the Board of Motor Vehicles and study the creation of the Motor Vehicle Authority.

Senate Bill 81, NC Time Zone/Observe DST All Year, would designate the time zone of North Carolina and adopt daylight saving time year-round if authorized by Congress.

Senate Bill 85, Regulate Body Piercing in North Carolina, would establish a permit requirement for body piercing and require the commission for Public Health to adopt rules establishing requirements for obtaining initial and renewal body piercing permits.

Senate Bill 92, Released Time Education Act, would allow public school students to be released during the instructional day to attend courses in religious moral instruction.

Senate Bill 94, Repeal Death Penalty, would repeal the death penalty and provide that all current prisoners sentenced to death shall be resentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Senate Bill 98, Funds for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, would appropriate funds for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, an early literacy program that mails age-appropriate books to registered children on a monthly basis.

Senate Bill 99, Extended-Year Teacher Contracts, would provide for extended-year contracts for initially licensed teachers, mentor teachers, teachers in low-performing schools, and certain veteran teachers.

Senate Bill 103, Make NC School Calendars Great Again, would provide local boards of education flexibility in adopting the school calendar.

Senate Bill 101, Protect Certain Tax-Advantaged Accounts, would increase protections for funds held in education savings and investment accounts and ABLE accounts from claims of creditors and other judgments.

BILLS OF INTEREST

House Bill 37, Enhance Firefighter Benefits and Representation, would add representation from the North Carolina State Firefighters' Association to the North Carolina Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council. **Introduced by Rep. Howard and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

House Bill 45, GSC Moral Turpitude/Occupational Licensure, would amend various occupational licensing statutes to remove language that refers to denial of licensure based on a crime of moral turpitude. **Introduced by Rep. Davis and referred to the House Judiciary I Committee.**

House Bill 52, Protect Those Who Serve and Protect Act of 2025, would:

- add a new provision to the criminal statutes to provide additional criminal punishments for assault on a public safety officer, law enforcement agency animal, or search and rescue animal by throwing, spraying, or otherwise projecting water or other substances.
- define public safety officer as any of the following: law enforcement officer; probation or parole officer; person who is employed at a detention facility; firefighter or rescue squad worker; **emergency medical services personnel**; hospital employee, medical practice employee, licensed health care provider, individual under contract to provide services at a hospital or medical practice, hospital security personnel, or other emergency health care providers; member of the NC National Guard; member of the Armed Forces of the United States; juvenile court counselor or chief court counselor; or employee or volunteer at a school.

Introduced by Reps. Hastings, Cotham, Miller, Pyrtle and referred to the House Judiciary 2 Committee.

House Bill 60, Modernize Dental Rates, would appropriate \$52 million in recurring funds from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services to be used to increase the Medicaid rates paid for dental services. The bill also requires a State match of \$95 million in recurring federal funds during those years. **Introduced by Reps. Biggs, Lambeth, Potts, Cotham and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.**

House Bill 61, Assaults on First Responders, would increase the punishment for committing an assault with a firearm against certain emergency, medical, and law enforcement personnel. The bill provides that any person who commits an assault with a firearm upon any of the following persons who are in the performance of their duties is guilty of a Class B1 felony: law enforcement officer; probation officer; parole officer; member of the NC National Guard; employee of a detention facility operated under the jurisdiction of the State or a local government; **an emergency medical technician or other emergency health care provider; a medical responder**; a firefighter; or a telecommunicator employed by a law enforcement agency. **Introduced by Reps. Pyrtle, Carson, Smith, Greene, Miller and referred to the House Judiciary 2 Committee.**

House Bill 67, Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, would enact the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and provide licensed physicians the opportunity to apply for issuance of an expedited license to practice in compact states. The bill states that the purpose of the compact is to create another pathway for licensure and not to otherwise change a state's existing medical practice act. The bill also sets out eligibility requirements and states that a physician must designate a member state as the state of principal license for purposes of registration for expedited licensure through the compact. The bill would also allow North Carolina to have representation in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission. **Introduced by Reps. Reeder, Campbell, Potts, and Lambeth and referred to the House Health Committee.**

House Bill 71, Respiratory Care Modernization Act, would create the NC Respiratory Care Board and establish a respiratory care practitioner license. The applicant must submit to the board written evidence that the applicant has successfully completed the postgraduate degree requirements of respiratory care education for the advanced practice respiratory therapist as approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). The bill also provides that individuals who are licensed as advanced respiratory care practitioners may practice advanced respiratory care under the supervision of a physician. **Introduced by Reps. Moss, Huneycutt and referred to the House Health Committee.**

House Bill 78, Prohibit LEO w/ICE Churches/Schools/Hospitals, would prohibit law enforcement agencies and officers from participating in immigration enforcement in places of religious worship, elementary and secondary schools and hospitals. **Introduced by Reps. Price, Butler, Harrison, Cervania and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

House Bill 89, University Vaccination Freedom Act, would repeal immunization requirements for persons who attend a college or university in North Carolina. **Introduced by Reps. Gable, Almond, Kidwell, Tyson and referred to the House Health Committee.**

House Bill 98, Patriotism Expression Act, would allow the sale, possession, and use of certain consumer fireworks. **Introduced by Rep. Gable, Kidwell, Eddins, and Campbell and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

House Bill 99, Reflexologists Right To Work Act, would exempt certified reflexologists from oversight from the NC Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy. **Introduced by Reps. Riddell, Warren, Belk, Brody and referred to the House Health Committee.**

House Bill 122, North Carolina Healing Arts Act, would establish the North Carolina Healing Arts Commission to create licensure for reflexologists and music therapists. Healing arts is defined as the use of allopathic, complementary, or alternative approaches to the art and science of medicine for the prevention, identification, and treatment of human physical or mental conditions, diseases, ailments, illnesses, infirmities, pain, defects, or injuries and the promotion and restoration of health and wellness. Healing arts includes reflexologists and music therapists. **Introduced by Reps. Warren, Riddell and referred to the House Health Committee.**

House Bill 123, Criminal Falsification of Medical Records, would create the offense of willful destruction, alteration, or falsification of medical records. The bill provides that it is unlawful for a health care provider to knowingly and willfully destroy, alter, or falsify a medical record, or to direct any person to knowingly destroy, alter, or falsify a medical record for any of the following purposes: (1) concealing the commission of an error by the health care provider in providing medical services that caused injury to or the death of a patient; (2) unlawfully obtaining money or any other thing of value; (3) concealing any material fact. **Introduced by Rep. Pless and referred to the House Judiciary 2 Committee.**

Senate Bill 82, Compact to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases, would create a compact to award prizes for curing diseases. The bill would also establish a commission to govern the compact that would be focused on establishing the criteria for defining and classifying the diseases for which prizes would be awarded. **Introduced by Sen. Burgin and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

Senate Bill 83, Extend Primary Care Task Force, would extend the NC Primary Care Payment Reform Task Force and provide that the Task Force will collect and compile data and other information related to healthcare spend on primary care services in a manner that is compliant with HIPPA. The bill also provides that DHHS must develop and the Task Force must implement a detailed data security and safeguarding plan. **Introduced by Sen. Hise and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

Senate Bill 89, AEDs and CPR in Schools, would require the placement of automatic external defibrillators in schools and provide training for school personnel on the use of AEDs and CPR. **Introduced by Sen. Hanig and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

Senate Bill 91, Newborn Safety Devices, provides that a qualified establishment may install a newborn safety device to be physically attached to the exterior of a qualified establishment. The device must have a temperature-controlled interior and must be properly ventilated to ensure the safety of infants. A qualified establishment means the physical building of an emergency department, a law enforcement agency, or a fire department. **Introduced by Sens. Hanig, Ford, Alexander and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

- Colleen Kochanek
NCCEP Legislative Counsel
Kochanek Law Group
919.809.5601
colleen@kochaneklawgroup.com
www.kochaneklawgroup.comⁱ

Ashley Matlock Perkinson
Perkinson Law Firm
919.210.8209
ashley@perkinsonlawfirm.com

Rachel E. Beaulieu
Rachel E. Beaulieu Law Office, PLLC
919.896.6296
Rachel@BeaulieuEdLaw.com

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