

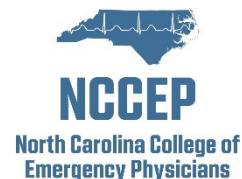


Kochanek
law group
Focusing on Legislative Representation

LEGISLATIVE REPORT July 1, 2025



NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS



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It has been a wild and crazy two weeks and we ended up with 36 bills on the Governor's desk, 19 already signed into law, no full budget, no mini-budgets, and no agreed-upon schedule moving forward. Just to put this in perspective, the General Assembly had only completed 11 bills in the more than 5 months they have been in session before the last week! Both chambers are saying they have wrapped up most of their policy work but with the budget not done, there are always opportunities to move bills. On Thursday, the Senate passed an adjournment resolution outlining monthly return dates through November and limiting the scope of business to items like budget matters, veto overrides, election policy, and select conference reports. But the House didn't take up the resolution, yet another sign of just how far apart the chambers remain going into this break. It reminds me of the MASH show where the negotiations to resolve the war were stuck on whether they would work at a round or square table!

Speaker Hall told members not to expect votes for the next two weeks, with no scheduling commitment beyond that short window. Senate leader Berger, meanwhile, said that without House action on their adjournment resolution, the Senate would shift to holding skeletal sessions indefinitely. This stalemate means North Carolina will enter the new fiscal year without a finalized budget. Agencies will continue operating under current spending levels. Despite 'mini-budget' proposals to address immediate needs passing both chambers this week, the Senate and House couldn't reconcile their differences, and none of the scaled-down budget bills reached the Governor's desk. One notable exception was bipartisan approval of House Bill 1012, which dedicates \$700 million toward Hurricane Helene recovery. But key issues remain unresolved, including the fate of small business grants, which were left out of the final package.

Following a tense and at times contentious week, legislative leaders have faced criticism for what some see as an unproductive session. Berger pushed back on that view: "I'm satisfied that we've gotten done what we could reach agreement on," he said. "Obviously, my preference would have been that we move forward with a full budget. We're unable to do that at this time." Berger attributed the budget impasse to House efforts to revisit previously settled tax cut timelines: "I think the whole thing boils down, in many respects, to an insistence on the part of the House to try to renegotiate agreements that we've made in the past."

The sharpest criticism came from House and Senate Democrats, who took issue not only with the pace of legislative action but also with its substance. House Minority Leader Reives criticized the session's priorities: "We managed to pass five DEI bills, any number of ICE bills... But we couldn't simply pass a budget." Senate Democratic Leader Batch echoed this frustration, calling claims of productivity "the most ridiculous thing that I heard in quite a while." Gov. Stein also weighed in, stating: "While I am gratified that the legislature took action to get more Helene funding out the door, we face many other urgent challenges... that need to be addressed through a fiscally responsible, full budget."

As the chambers left town, Sen. Hise noted, "We're not adjourned yet... I don't think anybody thinks we've done it all."

HELENE RECOVERY FUNDING

The General Assembly reached a bipartisan agreement on another Helene recovery package just in the nick of time, unanimously passing a bill expected to be the final action of the legislative session before the break of unknown length. The legislation now heads to the Governor, who is expected to sign it.

The bill allocates \$700 million for a Helene reserve fund and authorizes \$500 million in spending from it. It also redirects nearly \$300 million within the NC Department of Transportation and appropriates \$695 million in federal disaster funding for related water and sewer projects. "We've got a long way to go," said Sen. Hise, but "I see nothing but support from this body." So far, the General Assembly has approved approximately \$1.6 billion in state funding for Helene-related recovery. The storm caused an estimated \$60 billion in damages. Legislators described the package as a strong start but acknowledged it doesn't cover every need. "We're certainly not addressing all the needs," said Rep. Gillespie. "There will be more to work on later."

The bill provides:

- \$25 million for crop loss
- \$15 million each for streamflow rehabilitation and wildfire preparedness
- \$10 million for dam safety
- \$3 million for landslide hazard mapping
- \$8 million for school infrastructure
- Over \$200 million to Emergency Management, including \$75 million for private roads and bridges
- \$70 million to meet FEMA state match requirements
- \$18 million for nonprofit repair efforts
- \$70 million in local government grants
- \$10 million for the Governor's Western NC Recovery Office
- \$18 million for fire and rescue squad repairs
- \$51+ million in cash-flow loans to local governments

The bill's exclusion of small business grants drew sharp criticism. A \$60 million grant program included in the House's original proposal was stripped from the final version. Small business owners and Democrats had pushed for the funding, with Rep. Turner, warning, "For most of the small businesses that were impacted by the storm, it will come too late." Sen. Hise explained the omission by citing the state constitution's prohibition on private emoluments. He announced plans to introduce a constitutional amendment to allow exceptions for disaster relief; the proposed amendment would be placed on the primary election ballot. Sen. Mayfield questioned why private rail companies could receive funds while small businesses could not. The bill provides \$2 million

each to Great Smoky Mountains Railroad and Blue Ridge Southern Railroad. The compromise avoided tapping funds from NCInnovation, a nonprofit targeted in the House proposal, and instead relied on reserve accounts and unused funds.

While the schedule at the legislature remains unclear, we do know that the General Assembly will not be holding any votes or committees next week. We hope you have a wonderful 4th of July!

BUDGET UPDATE

Though we are nearing the end of the 2025 fiscal year, the House and Senate remain far apart on their proposed budgets. The House and Senate were able to come to an agreement on the latest round of Hurricane Helene relief funding; however, broad disagreements remain in the areas of both tax policies and appropriation priorities. On Monday, the Senate released its proposed mini budget. Key health items included in the proposed Senate mini budget are:

- \$640 million in recurring funds for the Medicaid rebase
- \$12 million to support implementation of the Transitions to Community Living Initiative
- Funding to extend pharmacy reimbursement rates in Medicaid managed care
- \$30 million to support the Healthy Opportunities program.

The House did not concur with the Senate's proposed mini budget and instead offered two bills to outline House leadership's proposed "must do's". The House plan focused largely on teacher salary increases and increases for state employees and retirees. The House spelled out its health funding "must do's" which included \$500 million in recurring funds to support the Medicaid rebase. During the House Appropriations Committee meeting, an amendment was offered to add \$30 million to support the Healthy Opportunities program; however, the amendment was defeated.

GOVERNOR'S VETOES

House Bill 318, The Criminal Illegal Alien Enforcement Act. This bill to modify eligibility for release and require notification of release to Immigration and Customs Enforcement when a prisoner is subject to an immigration detainer and administrative warrant was vetoed by Governor Stein on June 20th. In his veto, the Governor states, "House Bill 318 is unconstitutional. I support the bill's efforts to require sheriffs to contact federal immigration authorities about people in their custody charged with sexual battery, armed robbery, arson, assault on public officials and court personnel, and other dangerous crimes. People who commit these crimes should be held accountable, whether or not they are here without legal authorization, and those charged with serious offenses ought to receive increased scrutiny from federal immigration officials. My oath of office requires that I uphold the Constitution of the United States. Therefore, I cannot sign this bill because it would require sheriffs to unconstitutionally detain people for up to 48 hours after they would otherwise be released. The Fourth Circuit is clear that local law enforcement officers cannot keep people in custody solely based on a suspected immigration violation. But let me be clear: anyone who commits a serious crime in North Carolina must be clear prosecuted and held accountable regardless of their immigration status."

Senate Bill 50, Freedom to Carry NC. This bill, among other provisions, would allow any person who is a citizen of the United States and is at least 18 years old to carry a concealed handgun in this State unless provided otherwise by law was vetoed by Governor Stein on June 20th. In his veto,

the Governor states, “This bill makes North Carolinians less safe and undermines responsible gun ownership. The bill eliminates training requirements associated with concealed carry permits and reduces the age to carry a concealed weapon from 21 to 18 years old. Authorizing teenagers to carry concealed weapon with no training whatsoever is dangerous. The bill would also make the job of a law enforcement officer more difficult and less safe. We can and should protect the right to bear arms without recklessly endangering law enforcement and our people.”

Senate Bill 153, North Carolina Border Protection Act. This bill would seek to protect the borders of the state by (i) requiring cooperation with federal immigration officials, (ii) ensuring state funds are being used for the benefit of persons in the state legally, (iii) creating additional incentives for local governments to comply with state laws related to immigration, and (iv) prohibiting UNC constituent institutions from becoming sanctuary universities. The bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 20th. The Governor states in his veto, “Senate Bill 153 would make us less safe. At a time when our law enforcement is already stretched thin, this bill takes state law enforcement officers away from their existing state duties and forces them to act as federal immigration agents. Furthermore, under current law, people without lawful immigration status already are prevented from receiving Medicaid, SNAP, Section 8, and other benefits.”

BILL UPDATES

House Bill 13, Charges for Credit & Charge Cards, was amended in the House Judiciary 1 Committee to amend the new provisions regarding charges for payments made by certain types of cards to: (1) exclude debit cards from; (2) prohibit a merchant from charging more than 3% of the greater (was, lesser) of the total transaction or the charge (was, actual charge) that the merchant pays to a payment card entity to facilitate or process the payments; and (3) exempt a merchant from the civil penalty for a first violation of the statute if the merchant establishes with the Secretary of Commerce that the merchant complied within 30 days of the citation, remains in compliance, and has compensated affected consumers. **The bill as amended was approved by the House Judiciary 1 Committee and will next be considered by the House Rules Committee.**

House Bill 315, Gift Card Theft & Unlawful Business Entry. The provisions of this bill were removed in the Senate Judiciary Committee and replaced with new provisions that would:

- enact the **Prohibit Litigation Investments Act** to:
 - prohibit non-party investment in legal claims and prevent the transformation of the civil justice system into a market for financial investment so that North Carolinians can avail themselves of their right to access the civil justice system free from improper foreign financial influences;
 - include seven findings on how litigation investment undermines the civil justice system and threatens national security;
 - state the State’s policy that the civil justice system function to resolve disputes on the merits between the parties to the proceeding, redress injured parties for civil wrongs, provide consistent and fair treatment to all parties, and, above all, to mete out justice;
 - define *litigation investment* as the provision of money, whether as a direct payment, advancement, loan, investment, or otherwise, for the fees, costs, and expenses of or related to a pending or potential civil proceeding in exchange for a right to receive repayment or other consideration that is contingent in any respect on the outcome of the pending or potential civil proceeding;
 - exclude nine types of legal assistance from the definition;

- make it unlawful for a person to engage in litigation investment in this State or to furnish litigation investment to a party or counsel of record in a civil proceeding in this State;
- void any contract in violation of the Act;
- give the Attorney General the right to bring a civil action to enjoin violations of the Act and authorize the court to impose a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 for each violation in such proceedings, and give parties injured by violations of the Act the right to bring an action to recover damages, with recovery of statutory damages measured by treble the amount of full potential litigation investment contemplated by the investor;
- specify that the potential defendants in either action have purposefully availed themselves of the privileges of conducting business in the State and is subject to suit here, whether they have transacted business in the State or not.
- **Worker's Compensation** - amend the statute regarding rates and duration of compensation for total incapacity to increase the minimum weekly workers compensation for total disability from \$30 to \$50, and require the Industrial Commission to increase the maximum weekly compensation provided under the statute based on the percentage change of the Consumer Price Index over the previous year, beginning July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter.

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

House Bill 328, Regulate Hemp-Derived Consumables, was amended in the Senate Health Care Committee to include provisions that would regulate the sale, distribution, and possession of hemp-derived consumable products and add kratom as a Schedule VI controlled substance. These provisions would include making it unlawful for any person to give a hemp-derived consumable product to anyone less than 21 years old and for a person less than 21 years old to possess, purchase, or attempt to purchase a hemp-derived consumable product and making it a Class A1 misdemeanor for a person to possess a prohibited hemp-derived consumable product. **The bill as amended was approved by the Senate Health Care, Finance, Judiciary, and Rules Committees and the full Senate. The bill has been sent back to the House to consider the changes made to the bill in the Senate.**

House Bill 388, Amend Business Corporations Act. The new version of the bill extends the sunset date of the emergency video notarization authority to the earlier of 12:01 a.m. July 1, 2026, or the date the Secretary issues the first license in accordance with the licensure pertaining to remote electronic notarization. **The bill was approved by the House and the Senate agreed to the bill as amended. The bill will next be sent to the Governor.**

House Bill 468, Regulate Kratom Products, was amended in the House Finance Committee to:

- amend the prohibition on a kratom manufacturer, distributor, or retail dealer preparing, manufacturing, distributing, or offering a synthesized kratom product for sale by adding that it must be marketed or sold as kratom;
- prohibit the use of kratom products and hemp-derived consumable products by any person in school buildings, in school facilities, on school campuses, and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the school; and
- make it a Class 3 misdemeanor for: (1) any person to knowingly sell or give a hemp-derived consumable product to a person under age 21 (requires the seller to demand proof of age from a prospective purchaser if the person has reasonable grounds to believe that the

prospective purchaser is under 21) or (2) any person who is under age 21 to possess a hemp-derived consumable product.

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

House Bill 480, Medical Board Licensing Efficiency Act. The new version of the bill no longer increases the licensing fees for applicants for a license to practice medicine and surgery, applicants for a limited license to practice in a medical education and training program, and initial and annual licensure of an anesthesiologist assistant. The new version would also remove the proposed fee for the initial licensure of a physician assistant. **The bill was approved by the full House and will next be considered by the Senate Rules Committee.**

House Bill 576, Dept. of Health and Human Services Revisions – AB. The new version of the bill adds the requirement that DHHS and the Administrative Office of the Courts, in collaboration with the NC Sheriff’s Association, Indigent Defense Services, the Conference of District Attorneys, and other necessary stakeholders, study relevant statutes and practices and propose changes to create a permanent process and procedure for capacity restoration that doesn’t require involuntary commitment. **The bill was approved by the House and the Senate and has already been signed into law by the Governor.**

House Bill 590, Patient Safety/Med. Imaging/Radiation Therapy. The amended version of the bill broadens the scope of the defined term, licensed practitioner, to include a person licensed to practice nursing. The new version of the bill also includes a physician assistant performing fluoroscopy as one of the practitioners whose practice is not limited or enlarged by the bill. **The bill was approved by the full House and will next be considered in the Senate Rules Committee.**

House Bill 696, Health Care Practitioner Transparency Act. The new version of the bill adds that nothing in the advertisement and representation requirements would prevent health care practitioners with doctorate-level degrees in their field of practice from holding themselves out or referring to themselves as a doctor. **The bill was approved by the House but the Senate did not agree to the changes made by the House and the bill has been sent to a conference committee to resolve the differences.**

House Bill 805, Prevent Sexual Exploitation/Women and Minors. A variety of changes were made to this bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee including provisions that would:

- modify the definition of *online entity operator* so that it now means a provider for an online entity that qualifies as a sexually oriented business because it publishes or distributes material on a website that contains a substantial portion of material harmful to minors;
- enact provisions regarding an official recognition of two sexes in all administrative rules, regulations, or public policies adopted by the State or its political subdivisions by defining ten terms that must apply to all administrative rules, regulations, or public policies adopted by the State of North Carolina or its political subdivisions, including *biological sex, male, and female*;
- expand the bar on the use of State funds for gender transition procedures to apply to the performance of or in furtherance of surgical gender transition procedures, or providing puberty-blocking drugs or cross-sex hormones to any prisoner incarcerated in the State prison system or the Statewide Misdemeanor Confinement Program or otherwise in the

custody of the Department of Adult Correction, or to support the administration of any governmental health plan or insurance policy offering these services;

- expand the powers and duties of local boards of education to include (1) adopting a policy allowing a student or the student's parent or guardian to request that the student be excused from specific classroom discussions, activities, or assigned readings that the student, parent, or guardian believes would (i) impose a substantial burden on the student's religious beliefs or (ii) invade the student's privacy by calling attention to the student's religion and (2) to adopt policies related to library books consistent with the provisions below; and
- require local boards of education to adopt the following policies concerning library books: (1) that provide ongoing public access through a searchable web-based catalog to the titles of any library books available at each school within the local school administrative unit, including displaying the catalog on its website and (2) that allow a parent or guardian of a student to identify any library books that may not be borrowed by the student.

The bill as amended was approved by the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committees and the full Senate and the amendments were approved by the full House. The bill will next be considered by the Governor.

House Bill 860, Social Media Control in IT Act, was amended in the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee to:

- amend the items that are specifically excluded from the definition of social media platform, covered platform, or platform as include among the exclusions: (1) includes a wireless messaging service provided through a functional equivalent to a short messaging service or multimedia messaging service protocols; (2) video game services primarily designed to serve as a platform to play video games; (3) online shopping or e-commerce services primarily designed for that purpose; and (4) adds in a community forum where the primary purpose is for customer self-service support related to products, sellers, services, events, or places or any combination; and
- require a social media platform annually, beginning in 2026, to provide the Consumer Protection Division of the Department of Justice with a digital copy of the platform's privacy policy and certification that the platform has complied with the statute's requirements, and to give notice of substantive privacy policy changes to the registry. The Division would have to keep a registry of those policies and certifications on its website.

The bill as amended was approved by the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee and will next be considered by the House Appropriations Committee.

House Bill 926, Regulatory Reform Act of 2025, was amended on the House floor to remove provisions that would have allowed physical therapists to evaluate student athlete head injuries during athletic activities.

The bill was further amended on the House floor to amend the statute that governs raffles to exempt 50/50 raffles from the restrictions for raffles that provide for annual caps on the number of raffles, maximum prize amounts, a prohibition against raffles conducted in conjunction with bingo, requirements for raffle proceeds, and limitations on offering real property prizes. The bill would define a *50/50 raffle* as a raffle conducted by a nonprofit organization or any government entity within the State whereby funds collected by the sale of raffle tickets are split evenly between the prize winner(s) and the organization or entity after the raffle drawing. **The bill as amended was approved by the House and will next be considered by the Senate Rules Committee.**

House Bill 958, Election Law Changes. A variety of changes were made to this bill in the House Elections Law Committee, including:

- amending the statute governing the initial counting of early voting official ballots cast;
- requiring that only those voted absentee ballots transmitted to a county BOE in accordance with the statute can be counted;
- allowing any precinct official to be removed from office, including on the day of the election or primary, for incompetency or failure to discharge the duties of office by the county board of elections, and the county BOE to ban a precinct official who has been removed from office from serving as a precinct official in any subsequent election;
- expanding the definition of a public building or facility under GS 14-132 (criminal offense of disorderly conduct in and injuries to public buildings and facilities) to include a building temporarily in use as a voting place during voting hours, and making it a misdemeanor for a person to engage in any disorderly conduct, in or near any public building or facility;
- making it a Class 3 misdemeanor for a person to steal, deface, vandalize, or unlawfully remove political advertising that is lawfully placed;
- banning rank choice voting from being used in any referendum, primary, or other election;
- requiring that any materials containing the vote count and any voting equipment used during early voting be kept secure in a locked location by the county BOE until initial counting begins;
- requiring a covered voter to submit the military-overseas ballot with a form of identification that contains a photograph of the covered voter; and
- directing the State Board of Elections to select ten counties in the State in which to conduct a pilot program during the primary held in 2026 for signature verification on executed absentee ballots, consisting of county election boards using signature verification software to check the signatures of voters noted on all executed absentee ballots received by the county boards in the 2026 primary.

The bill as amended was approved by the House Elections Law Committee and will next be considered by the House Judiciary I Committee.

House Bill 975, EMS Personnel Provisions. The new version of the bill provides that it does not prohibit emergency medical services personnel from providing emergency medical transport or services to an injured K-9 police unit animal or a certified search and rescue dog working with a federal, State, or local agency or department at the scene of an emergency. The bill also prohibits prosecution of EMS personnel for providing emergency medical transport or services to an injured K-9 police unit animal or search and rescue dog if the EMS personnel acted in good faith when providing the transport or service. **The bill was approved by both the full House and full Senate and will next be considered by the Governor.**

Senate Bill 328, Age 21 Hemp-Derived Consumables. The amended version of the bill makes it a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person: (1) to knowingly sell or deliver a hemp-derived consumable product to a person who is under age or (2) who is under age 21 to possess a hemp-derived consumable product. The bill defines hemp-derived consumable product as a hemp product that contains a concentration of any hemp-derived cannabinoid. The bill excludes hemp products intended for topical application or seeds or seed-derived ingredients recognized as safe by the FDA. **The bill passed the full House and will next be considered by the Senate Rules Committee.**

Senate Bill 429, 2025 Public Safety Act, was amended in the House Rules Committee to:

- make it a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person: (1) to knowingly sell or deliver a hemp-derived consumable product to a person who is under age 21 (requires a person selling hemp-derived consumable products to demand proof of age from a prospective purchaser if the person has reasonable grounds to believe that the prospective purchaser is under age 21) or (2) who is under age 21 to possess a hemp-derived consumable product;
- define *hemp-derived consumable product* as a hemp product that is a finished good intended for human ingestion or inhalation that contains a concentration of any hemp-derived cannabinoid; excludes hemp products intended for topical application or seeds or seed-derived ingredients recognized as safe by the FDA;
- require governing bodies of public school units to adopt written policies prohibiting the use of hemp-derived consumable products at all times by any person in school buildings, in school facilities, on school campuses, and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the public school unit; and
- raise the age to access tobacco and vapor products from 18 to 21.

The bill as amended was approved by the full House and the Senate agreed to the changes made by the House. The bill will next be considered by the Governor.

Senate Bill 479, SCRIPT Act. The new version of the bill amends the definition of independent pharmacy to now mean a pharmacy that is part of a group of 10 or fewer pharmacies under common ownership. The bill also excludes those monetary advantages imposed upon a pharmacy located in a pharmacy desert from prohibited monetary advantage practices. The bill also deleted the provision which proposed to prohibit an insurer from imposing upon an insured any copayment, amount of reimbursement, number of days of a drug supply for which reimbursement will be allowed, or any other payment or condition relating to the purchase of pharmacy services or products from any pharmacy that is more costly or more restrictive than that which would be imposed upon the insured if the same services or products were purchased from either a mail-order pharmacy or any other pharmacy willing to provide the same services or products for the same cost and copayment as any mail-order service.

The bill no longer prohibits PBMs from charging an insurer offering a health benefit plan a price for a prescription drug that differs from the amount the pharmacy benefits manager directly or indirectly pays the pharmacy or pharmacist for providing pharmacist services under that same health benefit plan. **The amended bill has been approved by the House and Senate and will next be sent to the Governor for his signature.**

Senate Bill 770, General Assembly Appointment. This bill makes appointments to public offices upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, including:

- Effective immediately, Chief Todd Coring of Brunswick County is appointed to the 911 Board for a term expiring December 31, 2028, to fill the unexpired term of Brandon Medina.
- Effective immediately, Kevin N. Lewis of Nash County is appointed to the State Ethics Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2026, to fill the unexpired term of Francis De Luca. Effective immediately, James E. Sponenberg, III, of Caldwell County is appointed to the Ethics Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2028, to fill the unexpired term of The Honorable Carl J. Stewart of Gaston County.
- William "Bill" W. Nelson of Wake County and Wyatt T. Dixon, III, of Mecklenburg County, Phillip J. Parker, Jr., of Johnston County, Christopher C. Loutit of Wake County,

and Wayne R. Boyles, III, of Moore County are appointed to the Rules Review Commission for terms expiring June 30, 2027.

- The Honorable James Burgin of Harnett County, The Honorable Mark Hollo of Catawba County, The Honorable Benton G. Sawrey of Johnston County, Dr. David Y. Huang of Orange County, Adrienne G. Calhoun of Guilford County, Dr. Lindsey H. Maslow of Orange County, Christy E. Land of Richmond County, and Tara Aker of Randolph County, the Honorable Barbara G. Beatty of Catawba County, Ashley M. Honeycutt of Wake County, Representative Frank Iler of Brunswick County, Representative Becky Carney of Mecklenburg County, Representative Timothy Reeder, MD, of Pitt County, Amanda L. Wilson of Chatham County, Ryan S. Swanson of Wake County, and Joseph E. Propst, Jr., of Wake County are appointed to the Justus Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force for terms expiring June 30, 2027.
- Effective January 1, 2026, Michael W. Shelton of Rockingham County, Charles "Chuck" C. Heald of Durham County, and Jennifer L. Robinson of McDowell County are appointed to the License to Give Trust Fund for terms expiring December 31, 2027.
- Stephen E. Griffin of Durham County, Randall "Randy" S. Burns of Burke County, Richard L. Purcell of Mecklenburg County, Rachelle "Shelley" Wolford of Wake County, and Paul F. Worley of Cherokee County are appointed to the North Carolina Education and Workforce Innovation Commission for terms expiring June 30, 2028.
- Effective January 1, 2026, Charles "Chuck" J. Elledge of Wilkes County is appointed to the North Carolina Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council for a term expiring December 31, 2029.
- Effective January 1, 2026, Richard B. Montague of Mitchell County, Michael N. Tart of Cumberland County, and Andrew N. Kaiser of Catawba County, Timothy Norris of Rowan County, Riteshkumar D. Patel of Wake County, Dr. Christopher T. Grubb of Pitt County, and Dr. Abhijit Roychowdhury of Wake County are appointed to the North Carolina Institute of Medicine for terms expiring December 31, 2029.
- Mason M. James of Rockingham County and Michael Brent Gordon of Cleveland County are appointed to the State Fire and Rescue Commission for terms expiring June 30, 2028.
- Effective November 1, 2025, D. Brandon Greife of Wake County is appointed to the UNC Health Care System Board of Directors for a term expiring October 31, 2029.

This bill was approved by both the House and Senate and will next be sent to the Governor for his signature.

Senate Joint Resolution 772, Adjournment Resolution, would provide that when the House and Senate adjourn on July 1, 2025, they stand adjourned to reconvene on July 29-31, August 26-28, September 23-25, October 7, October 28-30, and November 5, and would set out what issues may be considered in those sessions. **The bill was approved by the Senate and the House did not take the bill up before the end of the session break for July 4th. Although both chambers are taking this week off, it is still unknown what the legislative schedule will be for the rest of the summer and the fall.**

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