



INTRODUCTION

This week the operations of the General Assembly were once again brought to a halt by foul weather, with committee hearings cancelled wholesale and House members headed back to their districts by Tuesday afternoon. The Senate remained in town long enough to hold session Wednesday morning and pass a bill allowing some court officials to opt out of marriage duties (a top priority for Senate Leader Phil Berger) before also breaking for the week. Despite the shortened week, some newsworthy pieces of legislation were filed, including one to phase out transfers from the state's Highway Fund to the General Fund by 2021 (part of the ongoing reform of the state's transportation funding) and the long-awaited debut of the House's economic development plan. The proposal includes a doubling (and renaming) of the state's Job Development Incentive Grant (JDIG) program, an extension of the sales tax refund for air carriers, and a change to the way business taxes are calculated (from the existing three-part formula to a single-factor apportionment based on sales). It did not include an expected "crowdfunding" measure nor an extension of the Historic Preservation Tax Credit, despite the statewide barnstorming Gov. McCrory has undertaken in the past several weeks in favor of the credit. Even without these measures, Senate leaders have voiced concerns about the bill, which may slow its progress even further.

The legislative calendar for next week is already filling up, with some committees now two weeks behind in their scheduled presentations and yet to hear a single bill. Despite this delay, the Senate will consider a measure during Monday's session that would move the May 7th "crossover" deadline back a week to April 30th. If the bill passes, it would mean legislators, staff, and advocates will have just two months to get as many of their priorities as possible through each bill's respective chamber of origin. Once the snow clears, the "ramping up" of session so far delayed will finally begin in earnest.



NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS



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BILLS OF INTEREST

HOUSE BILL 102, Utility Vehicles/Law Enforcement, would clarify that fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel and law enforcement officers acting in the course and scope of their duties are authorized to operate motorized all terrain vehicles, including utility vehicles, on specified public highways. **Introduced by Representative Davis and has not yet been referred to a House committee.**

SENATE BILL 118, Naturopathic Doctors Licensing Act, would enact the North Carolina Naturopathic Doctors Licensure Act, which would require a license to practice as a naturopathic doctor. Naturopathic medicine would be defined as a system of natural health care that employs diagnosis and treatment using natural therapies and diagnostic techniques for the promotion, maintenance, and restoration of health and the prevention of disease. The bill provides for the licensing of and qualifications for naturopathic doctors, and defines a naturopathic doctor as a licensed health care provider having the same responsibilities as other licensed doctors regarding public health laws, reportable diseases and conditions, communicable disease control and prevention, and the recording of vital statistics. The bill provides for the creation of an Advisory Council, which would include two licensed physicians appointed by the North Carolina Medical Society, to advise the Board and to develop recommendations to foster coordination and collaboration between naturopathic doctors, medical doctors, and other health care professionals. **Introduced by Senator Bingham and has not yet been referred to a Senate committee.**

SENATE BILL 125, Jim Fulghum Teen Skin Cancer Prevention Act, would prohibit persons under 18 years of age from using tanning equipment. **Introduced by Senators Tucker, Meredith, and Curtis and has not yet been referred to a Senate committee.**

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