



INTRODUCTION

Every “short session” year the same confident predictions can be heard in the halls and offices of the General Assembly: “We’re going to do the budget, pass a few time-sensitive bills and go home,” “we’ll be home for the fireworks,” “it will truly be a short session,” etc. And, just as predictably, those confident predictions give way to political reality as one issue or another (or, several) creates conflicts between and within the chambers that cause delays, slowdowns, and the occasional total deadlock. While there are certainly issues that could create such conflicts available this session – what, if anything, to do about House Bill 2 and the continued backlash, how to spend the \$330 million surplus the State currently enjoys, etc. – it has been many years since things moved as quickly and as relatively smoothly as they have this year. After the chambers agreed on a spending target, the House appropriations subcommittees met last week to unveil their portions of the budget. The House is expected to pass their full spending plan and send it to the Senate by the end of this week. (We will have a breakdown of the House budget in next week’s report.)

Also lending credence to the hope for a quick end to the session is the fact that no bills that were left over from last session have been taken up by either chamber, and many new bills deemed to be controversial have been sent to their respective chambers’ Rules committees, with little prospect for action during this session. A powerful House Chairman was heard to say, “If it would take more than 10 minutes to debate, it’ll have to wait until 2017.” While there are many well-developed policy proposals held up in each chamber (in many cases for reasons that have little to do with the substance of the bill), there does seem to be an agreement in place to avoid unnecessary conflict if at all possible. That rule will likely be broken for at least a few priorities of the House and Senate leadership; however, it truly does seem that the motivation to finish the session by early July is not only bipartisan but also shared across chambers. We’ll continue to press for action on issues of priority and are (as always) prepared for a long “short” session, but this may be the one year that the prospect of being home for the 4th may just be realistic.



NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Colleen Kochanek
NCCEP Legislative Counsel
P.O. Box 12946
Raleigh, NC 27605
919.747.9988

colleen@kochaneklawgroup.com
www.kochaneklawgroup.com

BILLS OF INTEREST

HOUSE BILL 1054, 10% Teacher Salary Increase, would establish a monthly teacher salary schedule based on years of experience for licensed personnel of the public schools who are classified as teachers and provide for salary supplements for teachers paid on this schedule. The salary would range from \$3,850 for 0-4 years to \$5,500 for 25+ years. The bill also would provide \$494.2 million to the Department of Public Instruction for the 2016-17 fiscal year to implement the increases for teachers and instructional support personnel employed by schools administered by local administrative units, charter schools, and schools operated by State agencies. **Introduced by Representative L. Hall and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1055, State Ethics Commission Revisions, would make various revisions to the State Government Ethics Act and State lobbying laws, including:

- excluding campaign contributions properly received and reported under federal law from the definition of *gift* under the Act;
- changing the title of G.S. 138A-12(k) from *Disposition of Inquiries* to *Post-Hearing Dispositions*;
- amending the statute regarding lobbyist registration to change *registration* to *registration statement*; and
- allowing the State Ethics Commission or the Secretary of State to use the services of a hired investigator when conducting investigations.

Introduced by and referred to the House Ethics Committee.

HOUSE BILL 1059, Prohibit Discriminatory Profiling, would: (1) prohibit the use of discriminatory profiling by law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties; (2) amend the types of information required to be reported by certain law enforcement agencies concerning traffic law enforcement to include whether the officer making the stop attempted to determine the immigration status of the driver or passengers; (3) require certain law enforcement agencies to report certain information concerning homicides; (4) require law enforcement officers to receive annual education and training concerning discriminatory profiling; (5) require that certain training be provided to members of neighborhood crime watch programs established by counties and cities; and (6) provide \$80,000 for a criminal justice coordinator to conduct the training. **Introduced by Representative R. Moore and referred to the House Judiciary I Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1068, CC Tuition Waiver/Military Firefighters & EMS, would allow the State Board of Community Colleges (Board) to waive tuition and registration fees for firefighters, EMS personnel, and rescue and lifesaving personnel whose permanent duty station is within North Carolina and whose departments have mutual aid agreements with one or more surrounding areas, for courses that support their organizations' training needs and are approved for this purpose by the Board. The bill also would provide that federal law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, and rescue and lifesaving personnel whose permanent duty station is within North Carolina and who do not otherwise qualify for tuition waivers are eligible for the State resident community college tuition rate for courses that support their organizations' training needs and are approved for this purpose by the State Board of Community Colleges. **Introduced by Representative Cleveland and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1071, Increase Safety in GA Galleries, would provide \$16,000 in nonrecurring funds and \$200,000 in recurring funds for the 2016-17 fiscal year to the North Carolina General

Assembly. The funds would be used to purchase metal detectors to increase security in the legislative galleries and to establish and support four General Assembly Police Officer positions to operate the same during times either one or both houses are in session. **Introduced by Representatives Catlin, Jeter, and Hager and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1072, Limit Legislative Per Diem, would limit the number of weeks per session that legislative per diem (funds allowed for meals and lodging in addition to legislative salary and travel expenses) would be available – 22 weeks in the even-numbered “long” session years and 8 in the odd-numbered “short” session years. Indications are the bill is unlikely to advance this session but is a statement in response to the unusually long 2015 “long” session. **Introduced by Reps. Jeter and Catlin and referred to the House Rules Committee and, if favorable, the House Appropriations Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1073, Expand Medicaid Eligibility, would:

- repeal Section 3 of S.L. 2013-5, which provides that the State will not expand the State's Medicaid eligibility under the Medicaid expansion provided in the Affordable Care Act, and prohibits any State department, agency, or institution from attempting to expand the Medicaid eligibility standards unless directed to do so by the General Assembly;
- direct the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance, to provide Medicaid coverage to all people under age 65 who have incomes equal to or less than 133% of the federal poverty guidelines effective January 1, 2017;
- provide over \$7 million in each of the next two years to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance, for administrative costs associated with the Medicaid expansion. These funds would provide a State match for an estimated \$21 million in federal funds for the 2016-17 fiscal year. If the amount of federal funds available for this purpose exceeds the amounts set forth in this section, then the expenditure of State funds for this purpose would be reduced by an amount equal to the amount of excess federal funds that are available;
- provide that the expansion of Medicaid services will affect only half of the 2016-17 fiscal year, and provide over \$47.6 million in each of the next two years to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance, as part of the Medicaid rebase. These funds would provide a State match for an estimated over \$1.22 billion in federal funds in the 2016-17 fiscal year, and those federal funds would be appropriated to the Division of Medical Assistance to pay for Medicaid services; and
- make the following reductions due to savings as a result of the Medicaid expansion since the expansion of Medicaid services will affect only half of the 2016-17 fiscal year:
 - the appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, would be reduced by almost \$8.2 million in each of the next two years;
 - the appropriation for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) in the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, would be reduced over \$14.3 million in each of the next two years; and
 - the appropriation for the Inmate Health Care program within the Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction, would be reduced by \$8.5 million in each of the next two years.

Introduced by Representatives Ager, Insko, Harrison, and Fisher and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

HOUSE BILL 1074, Schools Test for Lead/HS Dropout Pilot Program, would require all schools in North Carolina to test each drinking water outlet in the school for the presence of lead. The bill would:

- require schools to:
 - submit the results of the tests for the presence of lead from sampled drinking water outlets to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Division of Public Health, and the Department of Public Instruction on or before December 31, 2016;
 - make the test results available to the public, free of charge; and
 - notify the parents or guardians of the children attending each school of the test results;
- include specific actions a school would have to take if a school drinking water outlet water sample reveals an elevated lead level;
- require DEQ and the Division to jointly develop and adopt technical guidance, provided that the guidance is at least as protective of public health as the technical guidance for reducing lead in drinking water at schools, and to work in consultation with the Department of Public Instruction to develop State-specific guidance for lead testing, including standards and practices for sample collection and handling, and remediation of drinking water in schools;
- provide that this section would not apply to schools that are on a public water system;
- direct DEQ, the Division, and the Department of Public Instruction to report to specified committees by January 15, 2017, on the implementation and test results received;
- direct DEQ and the Division to:
 - study whether the United States Environmental Protection Agency's lead action level is sufficient to protect public health in this State;
 - evaluate: (1) the Long-Term Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule under consideration by the Agency; (2) how other states implement the Lead and Copper Rule in their jurisdictions; and (3) any other information, including input from stakeholders, that the Department and Division deem appropriate; and
 - report their findings, recommendations, and any legislative proposals to the Environmental Review Commission and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by December 1, 2016;
- provide \$10 million to the Department of Public Instruction to reimburse public schools, including charter schools and regional schools, and certain nonpublic schools, for the costs associated with testing drinking water for the presence of lead; and
- allow up to 5% of these funds to be used by specified agencies for administrative costs, and any remaining funds would be used by the Department of Public Instruction to reimburse schools for the costs incurred for the provision of alternative drinking water; identification and removal of drinking water infrastructure that contains lead; and installation of water treatment devices upon receipt of documentation that authenticates the installation of such devices.

The bill also would authorize the Hickory Public Schools, the Newton-Conover City Schools, and the Rutherford County Schools to establish and implement a five-year pilot program to increase the high school dropout age from 16 years of age to the completion of the school year coinciding with the calendar year in which a student reaches 18 years of age, unless the student has previously graduated from high school. The pilot program would begin with the 2016-17 school year and end in the 2020-21 school year. A local school administrative unit that is participating in the pilot program could authorize a principal who determines that a student's

parent, guardian, or custodian, or a student who is 18 years of age, has not made a good-faith effort to comply with the compulsory attendance requirements of the pilot program to notify the district attorney and, if the student is less than 18 years of age, the director of social services of the county where the student resides.

If the principal determines that a parent, guardian, or custodian of a student less than 18 years of age has made a good-faith effort to comply with the law, the principal could file a complaint with the juvenile court counselor that the student is habitually absent from school without a valid excuse. After receiving notification by the principal, the director of social services would determine whether to investigate. A parent, guardian, or other person having charge or control of a student and a student who is 18 years of age enrolled in a school located within a participating local school administrative unit who violates the compulsory attendance provisions of the pilot program without a lawful exception would be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. If the court finds, after careful investigation, that the student or the parents have made or are making a bona fide effort to comply with the compulsory attendance law, and by reason of illness, lack of earning capacity, or any other cause which the court deems valid and sufficient, the student is unable to attend school, then the court would find and state what help is needed for the student or family to enable compliance with the attendance requirements. The bill would allow a school to use any funds available to it to implement the pilot program to: (1) employ up to three additional teachers; (2) fund additional student-related costs, such as transportation and technology costs, including additional computers, to serve a greater number of students; and (3) operate a night school program for students at risk of dropping out of high school. The local school administrative units, in collaboration with the State Board of Education, would report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education with an interim report by January 15, 2018, and a final report by January 15, 2021, on specified information. **Introduced by Representatives Hager, Bryan, Jeter, and Burr and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1079, Up Pay/State Employees/Teachers/Retirees, would provide a 4% salary increase to State employees and public school personnel and a 2½% percent cost of living adjustment for State retirees. **Introduced by Representatives Pendleton, Jordan, Malone, and Blackwell and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1087, Medicaid Eligibility Timeliness/Funds, would require the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance, to report each year on:

- the annual percentage of Medicaid applications processed in a timely manner both statewide and by each county department of social services;
- the average number of days to process Medicaid applications for each month both statewide and by each county department of social services;
- the number of months during the fiscal year that each county department of social services met and failed to meet the timely processing standards;
- a description of all corrective action activities conducted by DHHS and county departments of social services; and
- a description of how DHHS plans to assist county departments of social services in meeting timely processing standards for Medicaid applications, for every county that does not show significant improvement compared to the previous fiscal year;

The bill would enact new statutes regarding Medicaid Eligibility Decision Processing Timeliness to:

- require county departments of social services to render a decision on an individual's application for Medicaid within 45 calendar days from the date of application, or within 90 calendar days from the date of application for applications in which a disability determination has already been made or is needed;
- provide that, if for any three consecutive months or for any five months out of a period of 12 consecutive months, a county department of social services fails to meet either the average processing time standard or the percentage processed timely standard or both standards, DHHS and the county department of social services would enter into a joint corrective action plan to improve the timely processing of applications;
- require DHHS to give the county department of social services, the county manager, and the board of social services or the consolidated human services board at least 90 days' notice that it intends to temporarily assume Medicaid eligibility administration, if the county fails to successfully complete its joint corrective action plan; and
- allow a county that appeals a decision of DHHS to temporarily assume Medicaid eligibility administration to commence a contested case.

Introduced by Representative Horn and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

HOUSE BILL 1093, Retention of Outside Counsel/ General Assembly, would provide a specific process by which the General Assembly would be required to hire outside counsel on behalf of the legislature. The bill goes through the specific process that would be used to solicit bids and the rules regarding which bid to accept. This legislation was clearly filed to stop the Republican majority from hiring the same law firms to represent them in various lawsuits defending legislation approved by the General Assembly. It appears that the bill was filed mainly to make a political point and likely will not gain traction this session. **Introduced by Representatives L. Hall, Micheaux, Harrison, and W. Richardson and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1078, The Equality for All Act, would amend statutory discrimination prohibitions to include protections for the “protected status of a person” (protected status is defined in the bill as “*a person's race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, sex, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military or veteran status, or genetic information*”). The bill would:

- state the public policy of the State is to safeguard the right to seek and hold employment without discrimination or abridgement on the basis of an individual’s protected status if the employer employs more than one employee. It would also remove the preemption clause enacted by HB2 for local ordinances, regulations, resolutions, or policies;
- grant the Human Relations Commission in the Department of Administration the power to investigate charges of discrimination, and if no amicable result can be reached, would allow the Commission to proceed with an enforcement action;
- require that all state departments, agencies, and local political subdivisions to abide by equal opportunity practices for employment and compensation based on the protected status of an individual;
- add the protected status of an individual to the issues that could be heard through the grievance procedure of the Human Resources review (*would add sexual orientation, gender identity marital status, familial status, and military or veteran status to the current statutory list of discriminatory practice*);
- allow a city to require its private contractors to abide by the regulations or controls on that employer’s employment practices;
- change current statutory language that states the public policy of the state to protect individuals from discrimination in places of public accommodation based on race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability marital

status, familial status, military or veteran status, or genetic information. It would remove biological sex from current law. Further, it would state that it is not discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity to provide separate bathrooms based on gender, but would have to provide access to these facilities based on a person's gender identity. It would allow the Human Relations Commission to proceed with an enforcement action if no amicable resolution can be reached;

- add a new statutory section that would prohibit discrimination in lending money on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, sex, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military or veteran status, or genetic information. It would direct an individual who claims to have been injured to file a complaint with the Human Relations Commission, and would direct the Commission to work with parties to reach an amicable resolution, and if a resolution cannot be reached, would allow the Commission to proceed with an enforcement action;
- amend current insurance law to prohibit an insurer from insuring or refusing to insure to an individual, limit the coverage or rate, or charge an individual a different rate for coverage based on race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, military or veteran status, or genetic information of an individual; and
- add functions and duties to the Human Relations Commission for the aforementioned updates in the proposed legislation.

Introduced by Representatives Sgro, Harrison, Fisher, and Alexander and referred to the House Judiciary I Committee.

HOUSE BILL 1107, Automatic Voter Registration/Drivers License, would require the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to offer voter registration as part of the issuing of a drivers license, renewal, or correction. Current law allows DMV to do this, but does not mandate that DMVs offer voter registration. The bill also requires that the applicant attest that he or she meets all voter eligibility requirements, and if the applicant declined to become a registered voter while receiving the new ID or drivers license. **Introduced by Representatives Hanes and Goodman and referred to the House Elections Committee, and if favorable, the House Appropriations Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1112, Living Wage by 2020, would increase the state's minimum wage in phases until 2020 by requiring that the minimum wage be set at \$10/hour in 2017, \$12/hour in 2018, \$14/hour in 2019, and \$15/hour in 2020. The minimum wage after 2020 would be increased based upon the Cost of Living. The bill also includes provisions regarding tipping requirements and would increase retirement allowances. **Introduced by Representatives Harrison, Fisher, L. Hall, and D. Hall and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1114, Equal Pay Act, would require that employers pay both males and females in the same workplace for the same quantity and quality of the same classification of work the same amount. The bill explicitly allows a difference in wages based on seniority, length of service, ability, skills, difference in duties, shift time, hours, or other reasonable differentiations when exercised in good faith. It further allows complaints by employees to be made to the Department of Labor. **Introduced by Representatives Harrison, Fisher, G. Martin, and B. Richardson and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1115, Automatic Expunction/Wrongful Conviction, would provide for the automatic expunction of a person's record if the person is wrongly convicted, incarcerated, and later cleared of the charge or if the charges against a person are dismissed or there is a finding of

not guilty. However, the bill would prohibit the arrest records of a person charged with an offense for rape and other sex offenses or for knowingly committing a felony prohibited by a valid protective order from being expunged even though the case may be dismissed or a finding of not guilty or not responsible is entered on behalf of the defendant. The bill would provide \$10,000 to the Administrative Office of the Courts to implement these provisions. **Introduced by Representatives Hanes and Bryan and referred to the House Judiciary IV Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1117, Innocent Defendant Jailed/DA Wrongdoing, would require the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of prosecutorial misconduct in any case in which (1) a person is wrongly convicted and incarcerated, but later is discharged from prison as a result of a successful appeal, motion for appropriate relief, writ of habeas corpus, or review by the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission, and (2) there is credible evidence of prosecutorial misconduct in the case that may have proximately caused the wrongful conviction. The North Carolina State Bar would initiate an investigation for an attorney admitted to practice law in this State, who is the subject of a finding of prosecutorial misconduct. The bill would provide \$10,000 to the North Carolina State Bar to assist with the costs of investigations into alleged prosecutorial misconduct. **Introduced by Representatives Hanes and Bryan and referred to the House Judiciary IV Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 1118, Provide Protections Against Discrimination, would repeal House Bill 2 (also known as the bathroom bill) and would add a legislative declaration to add veteran status, sexual orientation, and gender identity as protected classes in both employment and public accommodations. It would further provide a private right of action against an employer for discrimination, and would provide funding for the Department of Administration to investigate employment suits. This bill is a direct response to the uproar from House Bill 2 from the Democrats. **Introduced by Reps. W. Richardson, Cotham, Hamilton, and D. Hall and referred to the House Judiciary I Committee, and if favorable, the House Appropriations Committee.**

SENATE BILL 825, Expand Hospital Disclosure Requirements, would require a hospital or ambulatory surgical facility to disclose, as specified, its financial assistance policy or comparable policy; financial assistance costs; total net patient revenue; net operating income and total net income; and total spending for capital assets and improvements. For each hospital or ambulatory surgical facility subject to these disclosure requirements, the Department of Health and Human Services would calculate and post on its website, in one location and in a manner that is searchable by facility, the quotient obtained by dividing the facility's total amount of financial assistance costs by the sum of the facility's total net patient revenue as reported in the facility's financial statements. This posting requirement could not be satisfied by posting links to websites. If a hospital or ambulatory surgical facility does not provide DHHS with the required information, then DHHS would indicate this information on its website. The bill would provide \$150,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Service Regulation, for information technology costs associated with these provisions. **Introduced by Senators Wells and Rucho and referred to the Senate Health Care Committee.**

SENATE BILL 835, Legislator Subsistence/Travel- IRS Rate, would increase legislator subsistence and travel allowances to match the business standard mileage rate set by the IRS. The bill would also change the meal and lodging rate to the rate set in federal statute (this amount has not been updated since 1993). The total appropriation would be \$1.4M for the fiscal year. **Introduced by Senators Hartsell, Waddell, Bryant, and Curtis and referred to the Senate Finance Committee.**

SENATE BILL 837, Prepaid Health Plans Licensing by DOI, is identical to House Bill 967, summarized in the May 2, 2016, Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Hise and referred to the Senate Insurance Committee.**

SENATE BILL 838, Medicaid Transformation Reporting, is identical to House Bill 968, summarized in the May 2, 2016, Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senator Hise and referred to the Senate Health Care Committee.**

SENATE BILL 841, Medicaid Eligibility Timeliness/Funds, is identical to House Bill 1087, summarized above in this Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators Hise, Krawiec, and Foushee and referred to the Senate Health Care Committee.**

SENATE BILL 841, Medicaid Eligibility Timeliness/Funds, is identical to House Bill 1087, summarized above in this Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators Hise, Krawiec, and Foushee and referred to the Senate Health Care Committee.**

SENATE BILL 854, Automatic Voter Registration/Drivers License, is identical to House Bill 1107 as summarized above in this legislative report. **Introduced by Senators Lowe, Smith, Bryant, Foushee, and Waddell, and referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.**

SENATE BILL 863, NC Healthcare Jobs Initiative 2016, would:

- repeal Section 3 of S.L. 2013-5, which provides that the State will not expand the State's Medicaid eligibility under the Medicaid expansion provided in the Affordable Care Act, and prohibits any State department, agency, or institution from attempting to expand the Medicaid eligibility standards unless directed to do so by the General Assembly;
- direct the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance, to provide Medicaid coverage to all people under age 65 who have incomes equal to or less than 133% of the federal poverty guidelines effective January 1, 2017, and provide that, specifically, persons in the expansion group who have access to employer-sponsored insurance will be eligible for assistance with the cost of insurance through the existing North Carolina Health Insurance Premium Payment (NC HIPP) program;
- provide over \$7 million in each of the next two years to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance, for administrative costs associated with the Medicaid expansion. These funds would provide a State match for an estimated over \$21 million in federal funds for the 2016-17 fiscal year. If the amount of federal funds available for this purpose exceeds the amounts set forth in this section, then the expenditure of State funds for this purpose would be reduced by an amount equal to the amount of excess federal funds that are available;
- provide that the expansion of Medicaid services will affect only half of the 2016-17 fiscal year, and provide over \$47.6 million in each of the next two years to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance, as part of the Medicaid rebase. These funds would provide a State match for an estimated over \$1.22 billion in federal funds in the 2016-17 fiscal year, and those federal funds would be appropriated to the Division of Medical Assistance to pay for Medicaid services; and
- make the following reductions due to savings as a result of the Medicaid expansion since the expansion of Medicaid services will affect only half of the 2016-17 fiscal year:
 - the appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, would be reduced by almost \$8.2 million in each of the next two years;

- the appropriation for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) in the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, would be reduced over \$14.3 million in each of the next two years; and
- the appropriation for the Inmate Health Care program within the Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction, would be reduced by \$8.5 million in each of the next two years;

The bill also includes provisions for an additional assessment amount for Medicaid expansion to:

- subject each hospital that is not fully exempt from both the equity assessment and UPL assessment to an additional assessment, in order for the hospital providers of this State to pay for the State share of the service and administrative costs of Medicaid expansion;
- require the Secretary to annually calculate the assessment amount for a hospital by multiplying the total State share of service and administrative costs of Medicaid expansion by the hospital provider's percentage of all Medicaid services billed by all hospitals subject to this section;
- require the Secretary to notify each hospital that is assessed of the following: (1) the total State share of service and administrative costs of Medicaid expansion for the applicable time period; (2) the hospital's share of all Medicaid services billed; and (3) the amount assessed to the hospital;
- provide that the assessment collected under this section is in addition to and has greater priority than any assessment that might be collected from a hospital provider, and also includes a variety of provisions regarding appeals and reductions of assessments.

Introduced by Senator Bryant and referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

SENATE BILL 864, Increase NC Minimum Wage/ Set COLA, would increase the State minimum wage to \$12/hour starting in 2017, and mandate that the Commissioner of Labor calculate an adjusted minimum wage using the Consumer Price Index yearly afterwards. This bill is similar to House Bill 1112, summarized above in this legislative report. **Introduced by Senators Bryant and Waddell, and referred to the Senate Committee on Ways & Means (which has not met in many years).**

- Colleen Kochanek
 NCCEP Legislative Counsel
 P.O. Box 12946
 Raleigh, NC 27605
 919.747.9988
colleen@kochaneklawgroup.com
www.kochaneklawgroup.comⁱ

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