



NCRGEA *Government Relations* Update

NCRGEA Governmental Relations Update #21-34 October 22, 2021

Slow progress, but progress nonetheless continues as legislative and executive leadership work toward a 2021 state budget. A counteroffer on the budget was sent Tuesday to Gov. Roy Cooper. All eyes remain on several touchstone items, including Medicaid expansion, funding of the judicial mandate set from the Leandro funding and, of course, money for retirees.

Current revisions of the budget include a one percent bonus for retired teachers and state government employees. A separate bill, [H 583](#), providing a two percent bonus for local government retirees remains in committee and currently is not folded into the latest version of the budget. House budget writers are confident that a final budget will be reached. Rep. Jason Saine, R—Lincoln, told the N.C. Insider “I feel really good about the fact that we are still talking.” Leadership anticipates another two weeks of discussions before finalizing the budget.

Unlike previous years, this year leadership from the two branches seem to be working together to create a compromise budget that the Governor will not veto. Both the Governor, House Speaker Tim Moore, and Senate President Pro Temp Phil Berger have publicly said they want to work together. While moving at a turtle’s pace, a final budget that will address the priorities of both the legislative and executive branches may finally come into focus.

Stay tuned!

Richard Rogers
NCRGEA Executive Director