



INTRODUCTION

The 2019 Long Session is continuing its slow start despite a steady stream of newly introduced bills and important health policy developments. On the health front, Medicaid continues to take center stage. Gov. Roy Cooper has been pushing expansion, but some Senate leaders remain opposed to the idea, citing concerns that costs would ultimately be shifted from the federal government to the state. Rep. Donny Lambeth, R-Forsyth, has indicated he plans to reintroduce his "Carolina Cares" bill. "Carolina Cares" would expand Medicaid in exchange for work requirements for some recipients to access benefits.

At the same time, North Carolina's shift to Medicaid managed care continues to move forward. Just last week, the Department of Health and Human Services announced the five managed care groups that will receive Medicaid contracts. The managed care companies will be paid a per person, monthly rate to cover all of an individuals' needs. Four companies will receive statewide contracts:

- AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina
- UnitedHealthcare of North Carolina
- WellCare of North Carolina

Carolina Complete Health, a provider-led group backed by the NC Medical Society, was added to the mix in Regions 3 and 5, which include counties surrounding Charlotte and in the southeastern corner of the state.

We can expect to hear more on Medicaid expansion and the shift to managed care in the coming weeks and months.

On the education policy front, a bill to bring back master's degree pay for certain teachers was introduced by Sen. Danny Britt and Sen. Rick Horner. The bill has received a number of additional bipartisan co-sponsors. Masters pay was cut by the General Assembly in 2013.



NORTH CAROLINA ELECTRONIC SECURITY ASSOCIATION



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Colleen Kochanek
NCESA Legislative Counsel
P.O. Box 1038
Wake Forest, NC 27588
919.747.9988

colleen@kochaneklawgroup.com
www.kochaneklawgroup.com

In other news, the General Assembly has finalized its appointments to the revived State Ethics Commission. Both the House and Senate approved the selection of former Speaker Carl Stewart, recent Sen. Shirley Randleman, ex-Rep. Roger West, and former Shaw University President Clarence Newsome. Governor Cooper will choose the other four commissioners.

BILLS OF INTEREST

HOUSE BILL 20, Remove Silent Sam/UNC-Chapel Hill, would direct the chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to: (1) permanently remove from the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill the monument, including the pedestal and statue, that is an object of remembrance depicting a Confederate soldier, commonly identified as "Silent Sam"; and (2) transfer the entire monument into the custody of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Department would move the monument to a new site in a cemetery located in the State that is the burial location of a significant number of Confederate soldiers of the Civil War. The bill would further prohibit the UNC Board of Governors from directing the relocation of the monument unless it is in accordance with these provisions. **Introduced by Representative Alexander and referred to the House State and Local Government Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 28, Prohibit Abortions After 13 Weeks, would make it lawful to advise, procure, or cause a miscarriage or abortion during the first 13 weeks of a woman's pregnancy (currently, during the first 20 weeks), or after the thirteenth week (currently, after the 20th week) if there is a medical emergency, when the procedure is performed by a qualified, licensed physician in a licensed hospital. **Introduced by Representatives Kidwell, Speciale, and Presnell and referred to the House Judiciary Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 30, Official State Frozen Treat, would adopt ice cream as the official frozen treat of the State of North Carolina. **Introduced by Representative Torbett and referred to the House State and Local Government Committee.**

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 36, Invite Governor/State of State, would require the appointment of a committee of six Representatives and six Senators by the presiding officers of the respective houses to invite Governor Roy Cooper to address a joint session of the House and Senate at 7:00 P.M. on February 18, 2019, and would invite Governor Cooper's cabinet nominees to attend the joint session. **Introduced by Representative Lewis. The resolution was approved by the House and will next be considered by the Senate.**

SENATE BILL 19, Repeal 2015 Law Relating to Monuments, is identical to House Bill 10, summarized in the February 4, 2019, Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators Lowe and Foushee and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 27, Eminent Domain, is identical to House Bill 3, summarized in the February 4, 2019, Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators B. Jackson, Britt, Sanderson and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 29, Move Over Law/Increase Penalties, would amend the current law which contains penalties for failing to move over upon approach of law enforcement, fire department, or rescue squad vehicles or ambulances; driving over a fire hose or blocking fire-fighting equipment; and parking near a law enforcement, fire department, or rescue squad vehicle or ambulance by increasing the penalties for various offenses. **Introduced by Senators Brit and McInnis and referred to the Committee on Judiciary and, if favorable, Rules and Operations of the Senate.**

- Colleen Kochanek
NCESA Legislative Counsel
P.O. Box 1038
Wake Forest, NC 27588
919.747.9988
colleen@kochaneklawgroup.com
www.kochaneklawgroup.comⁱ

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