The House and Senate both passed a compromised COVID 19 Recovery package that allocates $1.7 billion of federal funding. The two bills that were agreed upon by both chambers are below:

SB 704: COVID 19 Recovery Act

HB 1043: 2020 COVID 19 Recovery Act

Both the House and Senate adjourned to reconvene on Monday, May 18th. The next session is expected to pass additional funding where needed, make necessary corrections to the recently passed legislation, address election laws and possibly transportation funding.

Neither the House or Senate conducted any public business today. Negotiations between House and Senate leadership continue as they work toward reaching a consensus on the items in both bills that are in controversy with one another. It was reported that both chambers have agreed on the amount of money the final packages will spend but have not reached an agreement on all of the policy positions.

The House will convene tomorrow, Saturday May 2nd at 11:00am and the Senate will convene tomorrow at 9:00am.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to meet at 9:30am tomorrow morning to discuss and vote on the compromised bill. The House Rules Committee will also meet but has not published a meeting time as of yet.

NC Senate Reconvened at 12 noon.
There was no business before the Senate. Appropriation Committee Chairs are meeting with House Appropriation Committee Chairs on differences between House and Senate bills. Negotiated bills are expected to receive votes tomorrow.

The Senate will convene tomorrow, May 1st at 9:00am.

NC House of Representatives Reconvened at 12 noon
Representatives from each committee delivered comments about respective portions of the bill, before voting.
HB 1043: Pandemic Response Act
- Summary: An act to make various changes to the law related to the COVID-19 public health crisis.
- 3rd edition
- $1.710B
- Non-recurring funds
- Bill includes some of the following (List is not exhaustive):
  - Education
    - School Nutrition: $80M
    - Connectivity, devices for students/staffs, cybersecurity: $73M
    - Community Colleges: $25M
  - Health
    - Testing, tracing, trends: $25M
  - Transportation: $300M
  - Local Government Assistance: $50M
  - State Government Operations: $70M
  - Gold Leaf Program: $75M
- Phase 2 will come in the future as work continues
- Did not want to wait and see the funds that would be received by the federal government.
- Bill passes its third reading with 117-1 vote and will be sent to the Senate.
- Next steps
  - Negotiations of appropriation committee chairs (House and Senate).
  - Once agreement reached, PCS will be done in both Senate and House.
- Speaker informed Representatives that the appointment bill needs to be passed to head to Senate as soon as possible.
- HB 1041: Appointments Bill 2020
  - Summary: An act to appoint persons to various public offices upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
  - Taken from the Rules committee due to limited timeframe.
  - Unanimously passes second and 3rd reading, will be sent to Senate.
  - Recess until 4 p.m.

NC House of Representatives Reconvene – 4 p.m.
- Ongoing discussions between the House/Senate. Won’t reach a vote this evening. Will reconvene 11 am, Friday, May 1. Need at least 61 members in attendance to vote.

North Carolina General Assembly COVID 19 Short Session Update
4/29/20

The Senate Appropriations Committee met at 10:00am and discussed the following bill:
SB 704: COVID 19 Recovery Act

The following amendments were discussed:

The bill passed committee as amended and was referred to the Senate floor.

The Senate convened at 7:00pm and considered the above bill. The legislation passed with unanimous approval.

The Senate adjourned until 9:00am on Thursday, April 29th. There will be no votes held at that time and updates will be given throughout the day.

House Appropriations Committee met at 10am. The following bill was discussed and approved.
House Bill 1038: Omnibus COVID-19 Response Funds

The primary purpose of the Select Committee and each of its constituent working groups was to facilitate a bipartisan and immediately productive response to the COVID-19 outbreak in North Carolina. The four working groups were as follows: Economic Support, Health Care, Education, and Continuity of State Operations. Each working group held numerous public meetings online, received voluminous public comments, and heard testimony from various executive branch officials and others regarding the State of Emergency declared by the Governor on March 10, 2020 in Executive Order Number 116. The purpose of this act is to carryout legislative proposals generated by the Select Committees and to appropriate federal funding under the COVID-19 Recovery Legislation.

- **No funds allocated to transportation in this document.**
- No provision currently in bill for hazard pay or overtime for essential workers.
- Not a specific allocation for NC School of Arts or Science & Math. Can’t use federal funding.
- Hoping for federal funding, but may tap into state funding, if possible, to help community colleges.
- 350 million allocation to counties ineligible to receive direct funding from the federal government. The counties can provide municipalities with funding at their discretion. If provided, must follow federal guidelines
- Amendments
  - RepHorn, v5
    - Approved
  - RepHanig, v2
    - Approved
  - RepDobson, v1
    - Approved
  - Will be referred to rules with the amendments applied
• No opposition, motion passes

**NC House of Representatives Reconvened at 1:00pm**

• The following bills were read into the journal:
  • 1037
  • 1039
  • 1035
  • 1034

• **Next session: Thursday, April 30, 12 noon**
• Speaker Moore informed Representatives that there may be voting on Friday.

**House Rules, Calendar and Operations of the House** met at 3:00pm and discussed the following bills:

• House Bill 1034: Small Business Emergency Loans
• House Bill 1035: Education Omnibus/COVID-19
  • Would provide relief to elementary and secondary school students, postsecondary school students, school personnel, and educational entities related to extraordinary circumstances resulting from COVID-19 during the 2019-2020 school year/academic year. The PCS to House Bill 1035 makes the following changes: (i) adds detailed requirements for the calendars to be adopted by public school units for the 2020-2021 school year, (ii) provides for an extension of school improvement plans, (iii) removes Section 12 addressing waivers from the limitations on the eligibility period for the Children of Wartime Veterans scholarships, (iv) modifies requirements for advanced math placement, (v) changes the date for submission of summer learning plans, and (vi) corrects typographical errors.
  • Would enact several provisions designed to improve North Carolina's response to the COVID-19 emergency and any future pandemics. It would (1) create a state stockpile of personal protective equipment, (2) provide support to health care providers to respond to COVID-19, (3) increase the flexibility of the Department of Health and Human Services to respond to COVID-19, and (4) increase access to health care through telehealth. The bill also contains a severability clause.
  
  The PCS amends the affirmation language in Section 2.1(a), and corrects the following two oversights in the House Health Committee: amends Section 4.4 in the current bill to remove language pertaining to mail-order prescriptions and removes Section 4.8 in the current bill that pertains to administering COVID-19 Tests by pharmacists, then renumbers the sections that follow.

• House Bill 1043: COVID-19 Time Sensitive Matters
• House Bill 1038: COVID-19 Health Care Working Group Funding Recs
  • No changes in this bill. Went to appropriations
• House Rules Committee Amendments
  • Representative Torbett, HB1043
North Carolina General Assembly COVID 19 Short Session Update
4/28/20

April 28th – The NC House and Senate convened short session at 12pm.

The Senate announced that the Republican and Democratic leadership have drafted legislation with bi-partisan support. They are asking all Senators to sign onto the bill as co-sponsors.

The Senate will begin the committee process tomorrow morning, April 29th, at 10am with the proposed legislation being heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee. We will post a copy of the legislation once it’s available to the public.

The Senate will reconvene its session tomorrow, April 29th at 3pm and will proceed with voting on their bill as passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The House announced that all proposed legislation recommended by the House Select Committee on COVID 19 Work Groups will be filed separately and then referred to the appropriate policy committee. Each individual piece of legislation will be referred to the House Rules Committee where all proposals will be drafted into a single piece of legislation before advancing to the House floor for a final vote.

The House Finance Committee considered and unanimously passed 2 pieces of legislation that were both recommendations from the House Select Committee on COVID 19 Economic Support Work Group. Those bills are linked below:

House Bill 1034: Small Business Emergency Loans

https://webservices.ncleg.gov/ViewBillDocument/2019/6987/0/DRH10735-RBfz-20A

Both bills were subsequently referred to the House Committee on Rules for further action.

The House Health Committee met at 1:30pm and discussed the following bill:
• Approved
  • Unanimous
  • Referred to House Committee on Rules

The House Education K-12 Committee met at 3:30pm and discussed the following bill:
HOUSE BILL 1035: Education Omnibus/COVID-19

- Actual draft that came out of the committee
- Approved
  - Unanimous
  - Referred to House Committee on Rules

The House will reconvene its session tomorrow, April 29th at 1pm and will proceed with voting on their bill(s) as passed by the House Rules Committee.