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## **UPDATES FROM RALEIGH:**

PEACE. As you celebrate Memorial Day this weekend, please keep in mind the true meaning of the day. What we should remember—and honor—on Memorial Day is **heroic sacrifice**. We acknowledge those who nobly gave of themselves, even unto death, for a purpose they believed was greater than themselves.

Since the days just following the end of the Civil War, Americans have gathered in late May to honor those who died in military service to their country. In the spirit of the day, we can also recall, honor, and pray for all those we know who have lived lives of service and sacrifice for the good of others.

As a military veteran, I am honored to have served my country and I am just as honored to now serve my district as your representative in the North Carolina House of Representatives.

I proudly served in the United States Air Force for five years as a Captain and Aircraft Commander of a B-52 Bomber.



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Now that the House has given final approval to its budget proposal, <u>HB 966 (2019 Appropriations Act)</u> was sent to the Senate for further consideration. Senate Majority Leader and lead budget writer Senator Harry Brown (R-Onslow) announced that the goal is to have the budget completed by the end of the month. The Senate plans to vote on their version of the budget the week after Memorial Day.

From there, a conference committee would likely work to resolve differences in the two proposals before an agreed-upon conference budget is passed in both chambers and sent to Governor Roy Cooper for his consideration.

## Important Budget Resources:

- HB 966: 2019 Appropriations Act here.
- Committee "Money" Report 2nd Edition here.
- Education Items in the Governor's budget here.

As a co-sponsor on <u>House Bill 979: High-Quality Teacher Professional Development</u>, I was hoping to see it get out of committee and be heard on the House floor. Unfortunately, it looks like it has stalled in the Committee on Appropriations – Education. This is a good piece of legislation that would help as many teachers as possible with high-quality and cost-effective professional development to increase their effectiveness;

A summary of House Bill 979 is as follows:

- If HB979 becomes law, it would require that the State Board of Education, with consultation from the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission (PEPSC), offer at least five professional development courses for teachers in school systems across the state through the Department of Instruction.
- These courses would satisfy Continuing Education Unit (CEU) requirements and would take the form of one of three proposed models:

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- 1. Online, instructor-led learning. An online, instructor-led course taken and accessed at a predetermined pace. The instructor shall provide individualized feedback, and enrollment shall be limited to between 25 and 35 teachers.
- 2. Blended course. A course taken and accessed at a predetermined pace that is delivered partially online and partially in person.
- 3. Self-paced course. An online, instructor-led course that is taken and accessed at the pace of the participant."

The bill appropriates \$150,000 in recurring funds and \$86,000 in non-recurring funds for 2019-20 and \$274,000 in recurring and \$90,000 in non-recurring funds for 2020-21 for the development of these courses.

While this bill is not specific in naming the topics that will be covered in the course work, it would prompt the Department of Public Instruction to identify some areas of need for the professional development of teachers across the state and offer courses that could help teachers feel more supported in their roles. These courses would most likely not be content specific and would instead focus on topics such classroom management, curriculum development, etc.

## 10 Things to Remember About Memorial Day

You can listen to Daily Sessions on the General Assembly's website at www.ncleg.gov - Once on the site, select either House or Senate, then look for the speaker.



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To those who gave their lives in service to our country. Thank you for your invaluable contribution, renewed hopes, and national aspirations. PEACE.

**GA Glossary** 

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