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Legislative Updates from the Office of Rep. Nasif Majeed

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Friday, June 21, 2019 4:04 PM

To: Steve Johnston

June 21, 2019

Representative Nasif Majeed



Representing District 99
Mecklenburg County

Legislative Updates:

PEACE. We're still on budget-watch as an agreement between the House and Senate has yet to happen. Appointed House and Senate conferees are continuing talks over the nearly \$24 billion state spending plan, on which both chambers differed when they came out with their respective drafts.

There's nothing unordinary about the House and Senate having different plans for the state budget. The question is how long it will take to wrap up talks on a compromise version that can be sent to Governor Roy Cooper.

Passing a budget takes several steps.

- Step #1: Governor Cooper introduces his budget proposal.
- Step #2: The House passes its budget proposal.
- Step #3: The Senate passes its budget proposal.
- Step #4: The House and Senate work to agree on a common budget. **[Happening now.]**
- Step #5: The Governor signs the budget or vetoes it. If he signs, it is law.
- Step #6: If the Governor vetoes, the House & Senate will try to override his veto.
- Step #7: If House & Senate override, their budget is law. If not, we start over.

A state budget shows what is important to us and what our priorities are. Always keep that in mind as you hear and learn about the budget.

With just a few days left in the fiscal year, legislative Republicans are simply refusing to come to the negotiating table. Governor Cooper is working in good faith to negotiate a budget compromise, but they're refusing to budge.

The governor has said everything needs to be on the table - including Medicaid expansion – but Republicans have tried to shut down the process because their budget is already done and they don't even want to have a conversation about Medicaid expansion. They have been trying to negotiate a budget by sending piecemeal letters to the governor which is no way to negotiate a \$24 billion budget.

Governor Cooper and Democrats have proposed a reasonable two-track negotiation where one small group works on health care issues and another group works on the larger budget framework. The ball is in the Republicans' court if they will agree to this proposal.

If they are interested in maintaining any credibility in this negotiation process, they need to come to the table in good faith.

Governor Cooper Continues Efforts to Fight the Opioid Crisis

In a series of events and releases, Governor Cooper shared an update on North Carolina's efforts to address opioid use disorder and the progress made since the Opioid Action Plan was announced in 2017.

KEY MESSAGE: Governor Cooper's leadership on the opioid epidemic through the Opioid Action Plan has led to real results across the state, but we know there is more work to do. He continues to push to help North Carolinians struggling with opioid use disorder lead healthier, more productive lives through prevention, harm reduction and access to care. Since announcing the Opioid Action Plan in 2017, North Carolina has made progress in its efforts to stem the tide of this crisis.

- Opioid dispensing has decreased by 24%
- Dispensing of a key medication (buprenorphine) to treat addiction has increased by 15%
- Uninsured and Medicaid beneficiaries that have received opioid use disorder treatment has increased by 20%
- More than \$54 million in federal funding has been used to treat over 12,000 additional people in NC
- More than 3,000 providers have been trained on clinical issues, such as safe prescribing and pain treatment options
- Doctors, other providers and health insurance companies have been a part of the efforts, partnering with the state, the through Enhanced the Controlled Substances Reporting System (CSRS) data sharing program and the Payers Council
- More than 100,000 pounds of medication have been collected and destroyed through Operation Medicine Drop

We know there is more work to do. Governor Cooper and the state Department of Health and Human Services are releasing the Opioid Action Plan 2.0 at the Opioid Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit.

- At the 2019 summit, Opioid Action Plan 2.0 with key updates from lessons learned over the last two years will be announced with a focus on prevention, harm reduction and access to care
- Preventative programs are a part of the plan to achieve a 20% reduction in opioid overdoses in NC in the next 2 years, including promoting non-opioid pain treatment and addressing causes of substance use disorders
- Uninsured individuals and Medicaid beneficiaries that have received opioid use disorder treatment has increased by 20%. By expanding access to Medicaid, we can continue to grow that number through better access to healthcare and grow our economy by \$4 billion and 40,000 jobs
- Medicaid expansion will be one of our most powerful tools to stem the tide of opioid addiction, and we need to move forward immediately

Fishing Bill Passes Divided House

The NC House took up a controversial fishing bill this week that passed in a close vote that left both Republicans and Democratic caucuses divided both for and against. [HB 483](#), with a clever title of "Let Them Spawn," would require that each Fishery Management Plan for certain fish species would include a minimum size limit so that 75% of the juvenile fish of that species reach maturity and have at least one opportunity to spawn.

Supporters of the bill, including recreational fishing advocates, pointed to evidence that fish numbers are way down and argued that state regulators were not properly managing fishing resources. Opponents of the bill, including commercial fishing groups and the Department of Environmental Quality, argued the bill's restrictions were arbitrary and that resource management should be left up to experts and not politicians.

I voted No because politicians have no business micromanaging protections for marine resources. That is a job best left to experts and scientists who need more funding and more resources to do their job correctly after year after year of budget cuts.

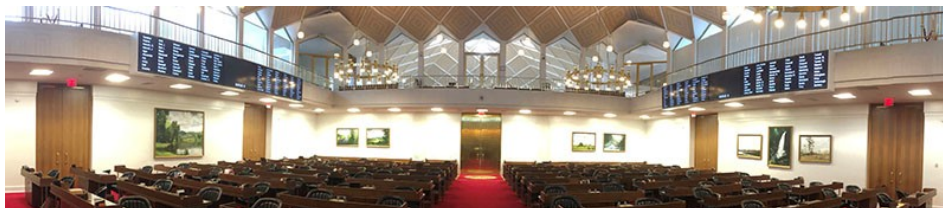
Now the Let Them Spawn bill moves to the NC Senate.

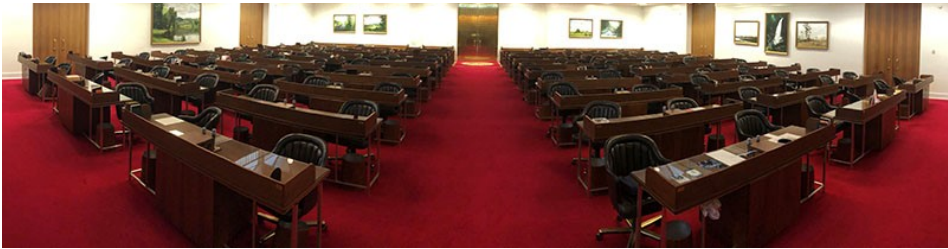


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PEACE,

GA Glossary

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