

Legislative Updates



From Representative Nasif Majeed <majeedla-ncleg.net@shared1.ccsend.com>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <majeedla@ncleg.net>
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Representative Nasif Majeed
NC House of Representatives - District 99



Serving Mecklenburg County



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

**HOUSE PASSES BUDGET WITH BIPARTISAN
SUPPORT**

PEACE! The North Carolina House passed its budget proposal with bipartisan support, 93-20. Every budget that comes before the House or Senate is full of provisions and spending that some will oppose. No budget is perfect. But the House proposal was far better than the Senate's budget passed earlier this year. Now, the two Chambers will go to conference and iron out details for a compromise, if there is one to be made. Whatever final document does come together will have to be approved again by both Chambers and will then be sent to Governor Stein for his signature or veto. He could also let it become law without signing it.

Governor Stein [weighed](#) in on the House proposal, contrasting it with the Senate budget: "The Senate's fiscally irresponsible revenue scheme will result in fewer teachers and law enforcement officers and diminished services that would harm our people."

As with every budget, there were positives and negatives. Some of the highlights of the House proposal include:

- Additional tax cuts to working families.
- Revising the tax triggers so that the State will take in enough revenue to fund basic services and pay teachers and law enforcement.
- Increasing teacher pay to be among the highest in the region, and restoring Master's pay.
- Investing in child care, including higher subsidy rates, copay reductions for families and supporting the work force.
- Providing raises for law enforcement officers to make communities safer and retain talented officers and correctional officers.

Some of the lowlights include:

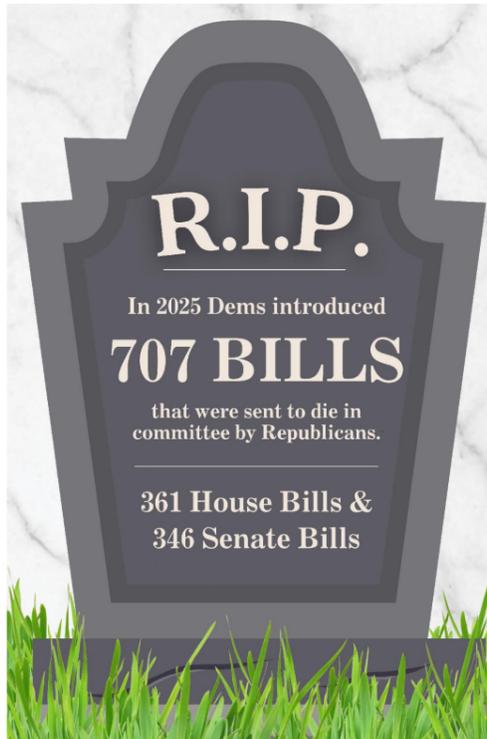
- Continued funding of the voucher scheme, subsidizing private school education for wealthy families at the expense of our public schools.
- No change to the corporate tax cuts that are set to continue plummeting toward zero by the end of the decade.
- Cuts to agencies across the state, specifically vacant positions. Agencies need more investment to recruit and retain talent instead of sacrificing positions that need to be filled.
- Takes money from the Medicaid Contingency Reserve at a time where federal cuts could impact Medicaid in our state.
- Targeted cuts to programs that benefit low-income / marginalized communities like the Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses.
- Consolidating more political power into the State Auditor and giving the now-Republican State Board of Elections new, political positions instead of career civil servants.

House Democrats offered a number of amendments that would improve this budget, including more substantial teacher pay raises, accountability measures for the voucher program, universal meals for school children and more. Republicans rejected nearly all of them.

Now, the focus is on whether the House and Senate Republicans can come to an agreement on a compromise. The competing proposals are as far apart from one another as we have seen in many years. Due to a legislative change a few years ago, if the House and Senate fail to reach an agreement that is enacted, the state will continue to operate under the last enacted budget. That ensures the state continues to operate, but it could also be a hurdle to compromise since the process could drag out for months.

I voted for the budget knowing that this is not the final product and that there is always room for improvement. A number of troubling provisions should be removed in conference for it to be acceptable as a final budget proposal. But the House budget took more seriously the challenges facing North Carolina right now. It appreciably increases teacher pay. It acknowledges the reality of dwindling revenue because of irresponsible tax cuts enacted by Republican majorities. Democrats are here to govern for the people of North Carolina and this proposal gets the final product closer to where it needs to be.

NC DEMOCRATS HOLD 'BILL FUNERAL' for LEGISLATION THAT DIED



House and Senate Democratic Leaders hosted a press conference to mark the end of crossover and to highlight some of the great Democratic policies that failed to make it through the respective Rules Committees in both Chambers.

Democrats introduced 707 bills that "died" in committee this year following the crossover deadline.

The crossover deadline is the last day for legislation to remain viable by passing through at least one chamber. Legislators file hundreds of bills during the first few months of the long session, but most end up "dead" because they don't make it through committees and onto the House or Senate floor for a full chamber vote.

SECOND HELENE RELIEF PACKAGE APPROVED BY HOUSE

After approving the budget on its third reading Thursday, the House quickly passed another major package of relief money for Western North Carolina. The House voted unanimously to approve an additional \$450 million for Hurricane Helene aid. So far the state has passed \$1.6 billion in spending to help support the region's efforts to rebuild.

In comparison, the Senate last month proposed a \$700 million package and the Governor proposed \$891 million. So there are now three competing proposals, two from the General Assembly and one from the Governor. Negotiations about how to proceed on additional relief funding will move forward in tandem with the budget negotiations.

Importantly, the House package includes \$60 million for grants and \$50 million for local governments to rebuild infrastructure. [House Democrats from Buncombe County](#), which was hard hit by Helene, supported the bill and contributed ideas during its development.

STATE TREASURER OVERSEES SHIFT TO STATE HEALTH PLAN

Changes to the State Health Plan are on the way this year. The State Health Plan has remained relatively inexpensive for years, but the plan is facing increasing shortfalls in funding. Due to various factors, the State Health Plan has a \$500 million shortfall. The State Legislature has proposed some increase in funding, but not nearly enough to fill the gap.

State Treasurer Brad Briner took over for Dale Folwell after the latter did not run for re-election. Both are Republicans.

The basic health plan is the 70/30 plan, but it will soon be renamed to "Standard." Under the proposal, premiums would increase from \$25 per month to as much as \$70 depending on the employee's salary. Deductibles for single members would double to \$3,000 and for families it would double to \$9,000.

The 80/20 plan would be renamed "Plus." Those premiums would rise from \$50 a month to as much as \$130, again dependent on salary. Deductibles for single members would go from \$1,250 to \$1,500. For families, deductibles would rise from \$3,750 to \$4,500.

Employees who are on the state Medicare advantage plan would see little change to their annual cost. There would be large increases for those on the Medicare 70/30 plan, an effort to push people toward Medicare advantage, [WRAL reports](#).

The State Employees Association and the NCAE oppose the changes, advocating for more funding from the General Assembly to ensure that state employees do not have to pay higher costs. Low health care costs are a hallmark of state employment and one of the reasons people may choose to take lower overall salaries in the public sector.

2025 GRADUATE EDUCATION DAY



On Tuesday, May 20th, the North Carolina Council of Graduate Schools (NCCGS) hosted the 2025 Graduate Education Day. I was pleased to be able to join N.C. A&T's, Dr. Oliver Thomas, along with several graduate students and Graduate College administrators that came to Raleigh to participate in this awesome event.

NC COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER ASSOCIATION ADVOCACY DAY



I met with Community Health Workers from Charlotte that attended the North Carolina Community Health Worker Association (NCCHWA) and Partners In Health's Advocacy Day.

This organization came to Raleigh to discuss how CHWs are promoting healthy communities in their counties and how the General Assembly can support this vital workforce.

Enjoy your weekend...PEACE!



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Representative Nasif Majeed, District 99 | Legislative Building 16 W. Jones Street, Room 1008 | Raleigh, NC 27601 US

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