



COVID-19/Legislative Update 6-26-2020

NC General Assembly Adjournment Plans

Despite Senate leader Phil Berger's stated desire for a sine die adjournment this week, the legislature didn't end up ending the current session late Thursday night or early Friday morning. Now the plan is to hold skeletal sessions until July 11 while awaiting Gov. Roy Cooper's action on pending bills, then take a full break from then until Wednesday, Sept. 2. A voting session might be held before July 11 to take care of veto overrides or other pressing matters, Senate leader Phil Berger said. The adjournment resolution limits the activity in the September session to COVID-19 funding issues, appointments and veto overrides.

Transportation Bills Status

HB 77 – DOT 2020-2021 Budget/Governance Bill passed both the House and the Senate and has been sent to Governor Cooper for signature. There were minor changes made in conference Committee to address the Governor's concerns, particularly regarding appointments to the Board of Transportation. . ([Click here for the final version of the Bill](#)).

HB 1225 – Education and Bond Act of 2020 was not acted upon by the Senate, after having passed the House. It is doubtful this Bond measure will make it to the ballot in November. Thank you to everyone who contacted their representatives about the importance of Transportation and Education Funding.

SB 553 – Regulatory Reform

Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 6/26/20

After languishing on the House calendar for days, the annual regulatory reform bill shed its original bill number and reappeared as a conference report. And unlike many regulatory reform bills, its grab-bag of provisions managed to get a unanimous House vote and pass the Senate. Some of the provisions were the non-controversial ones in last year's regulatory reform bill, but lawmakers avoided including the provisions that prompted Gov. Roy Cooper to veto the 2019 effort. Other provisions came from two other regulatory bills that have been moving this session. The House Bill 308 conference report would allow for online payments at the Division of Coastal Management, give the Department of Environmental Quality emergency powers over solid waste issues, extend the vehicle mercury switch program for 10 years, and allow the N.C. Policy Collaboratory at UNC-Chapel Hill to fund research projects at private universities.

The bill would stop N.C. Building Code Council rules that "would allow certain large plastic pipes to be used in drain, waste and vent conductors in buildings in which the top occupied floor exceeds 75 feet in height." It would make some securities documents in Secretary of State investigations exempt from public records. And it would allow for larger commercial projects to

House Bill 2 “Moving Forward Act”, Moves Forward in US Congress

As you may know, the House of Representatives will be taking up major infrastructure legislation next week -- the *Moving Forward Act* (H.R. 2). While this legislation will not be considered as a whole in the Senate – it represents the House Democratic leadership’s vision for an infrastructure-based recovery agenda – it does enable the House to enter into negotiations with the Senate on a new multi-year surface transportation program to replace the FAST Act – should the Senate proceed with passage of its own legislation -- and creates the possibility of including additional initiatives that have bipartisan support in the context of those negotiations. HR 2 would authorize transportation, energy, water, brownfields, broadband, public housing, health care facilities, and public school construction programs and funding over five years. The bill totals approximately \$1.5 trillion in investment from FY 2021-25.

- Text of the *Moving Forward Act* is [here](#).
- The Section by Section summary is [here](#).
- A Five-Page Fact Sheet is [here](#).

ACEC staff compiled the a summary of key elements of HR 2– ([click here for the summary](#))
Urge your Congressional Representatives to support this important legislation!
Thanks for all your support, and we will keep fighting for the engineering industry,

James A. Smith, Jr., PE, Executive Director **American Council of Engineering Companies of North Carolina**

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