



## LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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### Short Session History but Legislature Back in Raleigh Soon

**2 a.m. Adjournment with Sessions Set for August and October:** The N.C. General Assembly adjourned its so-called short session early Friday after tempers flared at times and the GOP-run legislature easily overturned a budget veto by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper.

The good news for CTE is that the budget compromise stayed intact, following a legislative override mostly on partisan lines, that includes **\$4.2 million in CTE grants** for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades for the new fiscal which began Saturday. The budget also includes **\$700,000** in FY 2018-19. The budget language, as reported last week, says in part:

*Sixth and Seventh Grade Career and Technical Education Grant Program Provides funds for the Sixth and Seventh Grade Career and Technical Education (CTE) Grade Expansion Grant Program, which will be administered by the Education and Workforce Innovation Commission. This program awards competitive grants to school districts over a seven-year grant period to expand CTE programs to sixth and seventh grade students. The revised net appropriation for this program is \$4.2 million in FY 2017-18 and \$700,000 in FY 2018-19*

Passage of the CTE provision was a top goal of NCACTE and should go a long way to promoting and expanding CTE across the state.

**They'll be back at Least Twice this Year:** Normally, lawmakers stay home after the long session, which this year lasted about six months. Before adjournment well into the night late last week, legislators approved an adjournment resolution adding two more legislative sessions, one beginning **Aug. 3rd** and another starting **Sept. 6th**. A news release from the Senate touted the long session adjournment as the "second quickest" since 1973.

**What to Expect Next:** The **August session** could involve many issues such as anymore vetoes from Cooper, making appointments and resolving bills currently involving negotiations (such as House Bill 90, see below for more information) as well as redistricting and other matters. The **September session** could involve those issues, too, at a time when the adjournment resolution includes a final deadline for court-ordered legislative redistricting to be done by Nov. 15.

**Pay Hikes Picture:** The \$23 billion budget approved by lawmakers includes giving teachers an average pay increase of 3.3 percent -- weighted toward experienced teachers -- in this new fiscal year and will raise most other state employees' pay by a flat \$1,000. Teacher pay raises are expected to average 9.6 percent over two years, with the goal of having average salaries reach \$55,000 by 2020.

Retired state employees will receive a 1 percent, permanent cost-of-living increase in their pension checks -- a provision higher than what was in the original budget proposals from the House, Senate and governor. The pay increases amounted to \$1 billion, according to Rep. Nelson Dollar, R-Wake, the House's senior budget writer.

### [Some Legislation We're Watching](#)

With the short session now over, here is the status of some top bills NCACTE has been monitoring:

[Senate Bill 599:](#) The bill was ratified and sent to the Governor's desk. Some concerns had been expressed to NCACTE about how the bill, as initially written, could mean that a teacher could get a license if not affiliated with an educator preparation program. The ratified bill has eased some concerns in that the amended bill directs the State Board of Education to receive recommendations from the 18-member Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission concerning educator preparation programs and minimum admissions requirements. One provision of the ratified bill says that for a program leading to CTE licensure, the student must have at least five years of relevant experience.

[HB 90:](#) The bill is entitled "NC Truth in Education. "The bill is still alive and a [House and Senate conferees have been appointed.](#)

[HB 751:](#) The bill, which on April 26<sup>th</sup> cleared the House, is titled "Career and College Ready/High School Grads." It would require all students to demonstrate a certain level of reading achievement to accompany high school diplomas. Primary sponsors are Reps.

[Blackwell;](#) [Horn;](#) [Johnson.](#) The bill, after adjournment, remains parked in Senate Rules.

[HB 600:](#) "School Construction Flexibility" passed the House on April 26<sup>th</sup> and still sits in Senate Education/Higher Education. Concerns remain on this bill concerning CTE funding. Primary sponsors are Reps. [J. Bell;](#) [Lewis;](#) [Brenden Jones;](#) [Goodman.](#)

[SB 169](#): The bill, involving teaching excellence bonus expansion, has been ratified, signed by the governor and now is [chaptered](#).

### Quote of the Week

*"Being in the GA is kind of like college. Do nothing all semester then cram like crazy at the end."*

- Rep. Ken Goodman, D-Richmond, in a tweet on the high-octane pace of legislative activity (The Insider, 6/30/17)



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Editor - Dave Simpson, P. O. Box 30998, Raleigh, N.C. 27609  
Phone: (919) 781-3270, #5724; Email: [dsimpson@carolinasagc.org](mailto:dsimpson@carolinasagc.org)