

Legislators were busy at the NC General Assembly this week, as they rushed to advance their “must have” pieces of legislation before July 4th. While neither the House nor Senate have officially moved to adjourn before the upcoming holiday, legislative leadership have expressed their wishes to quickly wrap things up, with the understanding that further legislative action may be needed in late July, after the latest data on COVID-19 and its economic impact have been released. As a result of this expedited schedule, many bills advanced this week, including [House Bill 1035](#), which would provide schools with additional support in developing their 2020-21 school calendars and utilizing federal emergency child nutrition funds. Specifically, H1035 would remove the current 5-day limit on remote instructional days for the 2020-21 school year, and allow schools to utilize additional remote instruction, including during their first 5 instructional days, if the local board of education determines it necessary to “ensure the health and safety of students.” The bill would also modify the definition of single-track year-round schools and extend the deadline for districts to use emergency school nutrition funds from June 30, 2020 to the federal expenditure deadline of December 30, 2020.

The North Carolina Association of School Administrators (NCASA) worked with legislators and other education advocates to ensure these critical relief items requested by our members were addressed as quickly as possible. H1035 was passed unanimously by members of the House yesterday and was sent to the Senate for additional discussion and voting. Please see below for information on other major education-related bills with action this week:

New Session Laws

- [H1187 \(=S.L. 2020-25\): Raise The Age Funding](#)
 - Provides \$10.44M in nonrecurring funds to the Department of Public Safety for various youth detention/development center renovations and construction.
 - **Signed into law by the Governor on 6/12.**
- [H1199 \(=S.L. 2020-13\): Graduating Senior Numeric Grade](#)
 - Provides the Union County Board of Education with the authority to allow each graduating senior in Union County Public Schools the option to be graded numerically for the spring 2020 semester.
 - **Became law without Governor’s signature on 6/11.**

On The Governor’s Desk

- [H158: COVID-19 New Driver Response](#)
 - Waives the road test requirement for limited provisional licenses and provides accommodations for in-person driver education coursework interrupted by spring 2020 school closures.
 - **Presented to the Governor on 6/16.**
- [H1071: Funds To DPI For ADM Growth](#)
 - Appropriates funds to the Department of Public Instruction for increased average daily membership in public schools.
 - **Presented to Governor on 6/12.**
- [H1218: Salary-Related Contributions/Debt Service Funds](#)

- Reduces the State employer contribution rates for State retirement benefits and State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees benefits, beginning July 1, 2020.
- **Presented to the Governor on 6/18.**
- [S379: Retirement Systems Admin. Changes](#)
 - Amends TSERS creditable service purchases; clarifies that TSERS membership ceases when a member withdraws accumulated contributions, becomes a beneficiary, or dies; sets the date for payment of the contribution-based benefit cap liability for 12 months after the member's effective date of retirement; makes other administrative changes requested by the State Treasurer.
 - **Presented to the Governor on 6/11.**
- [S719: Retirement Technical Changes, Protections, & Other Changes](#)
 - Amends TSERS to increase the age at which a member must begin receiving payments from the retirement system from 70½ to 72, applying to members on or after January 1, 2021; exempts the contribution-based benefit cap factor from rulemaking under the Administrative Procedures Act; makes other retirement changes requested by the State Treasurer.
 - **Presented to the Governor on 6/18.**
- [S818: Compensation of Certain School Employees](#)
 - Implements teacher and principal salary schedules; creates a hold-harmless for principal bonuses; and provides a \$350 bonus to teachers and instructional support personnel. For a more in-depth NCASA summary, click [here](#).
 - **Presented to Governor on 6/17.**

NCGA Action

- [H1050: Program Evaluation Division/Low-Performing School Districts \(=S725\)](#)
 - Requires that plans for improvement and comprehensive needs assessments of low-performing local school administrative units include consideration and examination of early childhood learning.
 - **Re-referred to Senate Rules Committee on 6/17.**
- [H1225: Education & Transportation Bond Act of 2020](#)
 - Authorizes the issuance of \$3.1B in general obligation bonds if approved by a majority of voters in the 2020 general election; provides \$800M for public school capital outlay projects and repairs and renovations.
 - **Added to House Calendar for floor votes on 6/18.**
- [S816: Funds For Community College Enrollment/CIHS Funds](#)
 - Appropriates \$1.88M in non-recurring funds to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to be allocated to certain school districts as supplemental funding for designated cooperative innovative high schools.
 - **Senate voted not to concur 6/16; bill currently in [conference committee](#) to work out House and Senate differences.**