



North Carolina Chapter of the Appraisal Institute

Legislative Report
August 28, 2015

This week legislative leaders adopted a third extension of their deadline to adopt a state budget, which will take them to September 18, 2015. House and Senate budget negotiators are making progress, but their work could not be completed by the August 31 deadline. A week ago, both chambers and Governor Pat McCrory announced that a compromise had been reached on a total spending number of \$21.74 billion. "Within the last 48 hours, we've had more movement than we've had in the last six months," said Senator Tom Apodaca (R-Henderson) on Thursday. He added that the chambers could see a "broad-based guideline budget" as early as Monday night, though House members in a noon Thursday press conference were hesitant to endorse such a quick timeline. Some legislators have raised concerns that the Continuing Budget Resolution (CR) extended through September 18 does not provide targeted spending for teacher assistants and driver's education classes -- a point of debate since the first CR's approval in July. While the CRs do not specify any dollars for those resources, Senate budget negotiators note that schools have been given an additional \$100 million for enrollment growth with flexibility for districts to spend it on various needs, including teacher assistants and driver's education classes.

The Senate approved the third continuing budget resolution on Thursday by a vote of 37-6, and the House concurred shortly thereafter 109-4. The Governor signed the CR by early Thursday afternoon. Recognizing the new deadline for adopting a budget, and the numerous other important legislative issues that have not yet been resolved, it now appears that the legislative session will continue throughout most of September.

The House and Senate adjourned on Thursday and will reconvene on Monday August 31.

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