



North Carolina
**Retired
Governmental
Employees'**
Association



**LEGISLATIVE
— REPORT —**

Legislative Update #19-22 - July 25, 2019

No news isn't always good news.

The stalemate between the Governor and legislative leadership doesn't appear to be softening – keeping at bay hundreds of millions of dollars in cost of living adjustments for retirees, pay increases for active employees and teachers, hurricane relief and other matters important to those once or currently serving in the public sector.

Overrides of the Governor's budget veto continue to get calendared but not taken up for a vote making many speculate whether the Republican-led General Assembly can muster the votes to override.

How long will the stalemate continue? Around the legislative building we're hearing the Senate may depart but the House plans to remain in Raleigh for at least two more weeks, meaning the fiscal 2019-2020 budget will remain in limbo.

Has Medicaid hijacked the state budget?

A compromise House bill allowing for a partial Medicaid expansion remains without traction with neither the Senate nor the Governor supporting the measure. House Bill 655 "Healthcare for Working Families Act" does not call for the full 500,000-person expansion the Governor has pushed for. The proposed measure puts work requirements for eligibility which the Governor also opposes.

And then there are hospitals ...

State Treasurer Dale Folwell's Clear Pricing Project continues to have an unclear future. According to the State Health Plan's website only four hospitals to date have signed up: CaroMont Health based out of Gastonia is the latest hospital to sign up; Randolph Hospital in Asheboro; Martin General Hospital in Williamston; and North Carolina Specialty Hospital in Durham. Though the battle between the hospitals and the State Treasurer's office continues to rage more than 27,000 medical providers have signed on. Deadlines have been extended and the State Treasurer has increased reimbursement rates from the low rates he initially proposed in order to compromise with hospitals.