



NCRGEA *Government Relations* Update

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Legislative House and Senate leaders have spent the better part of the past three weeks redrawing maps for the next decade, while also engaging in continued budget deliberation with Gov. Roy Cooper. While both “corner offices,” namely House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger, and Cooper have committed to completing a compromised budget, such conversations have stymied over conflicting legislative priorities.

As has been in previous years under the Cooper administration, Medicaid expansion remains the sticky wicket. While the senate, in an unexpected turn, agreed to include Medicaid expansion in its version of the budget, the House has vehement opposition.

Insiders shared that they thought a budget conference report would come to fruition next week, with the House and Senate approving their compromised budget and sending it to the Governor for his signature. The status of retiree benefit enhancements remains the same. Local government retirees’ 2% bonus, [H 583](#), remains in committee and is currently not folded into the latest version of the budget. For state retirees, the House and Senate continue to support a bonus and the Governor still supports a COLA.

Stay tuned!

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