



Legislative Link

A Publication for the Members of the N.C. Association of School Administrators

July 2, 2009

Key Topics in This Edition:

- 1. State Budget Authority Extended Until July 15**
- 2. Summary Of This Week's Action On Bills Affecting Public Schools**

State Budget Authority Extended Until July 15

The start of the 2009-10 fiscal year came and went this week with no state budget in place to determine the tax structure and spending plan. As a stopgap measure, the Senate accepted the House's proposal to extend the 2008-09 state budget authority through July 15, thus ensuring an additional two weeks for budget negotiators to iron out the differences in their tax and spending proposals.

By a 35-13 margin, the Senate accepted House amendments to Senate Bill 311, Continuing Budget Authority, which also provides tuition increases for community colleges and includes a provision allowing the Department of Health and Human Services to enter into sole source contracts intended to save money. Gov. Beverly Perdue signed the bill into law later in the day on June 30.

The legislation provides for spending across state government at 85 percent of the level approved in the 2008-09 budget. That budget totaled \$21.3 billion.

House and Senate budget negotiators have indicated they hope to reach a state budget compromise by the new deadline, although they continue to have major differences in the components of a new tax package as well as on several spending line items.

Since these budget talks are ongoing and hopefully nearing completion, it is imperative that school administrators stay in contact with your own House and Senate members, especially those who are budget conferees. Key messages to share with lawmakers on state budget issues include:

- **Provide adequate new revenues to prevent devastating cuts to public education.**
- **Protect public school classrooms and jobs.**
- **Avoid deep cuts to school system central office operations**, since these cuts cannot be offset by other state or federal funds, and local funds are inadequate to cover these losses.

Contact information for budget conferees, charts and other information highlighting education budgets approved by the House and Senate, talking points about budget priorities for public schools, and other information is at <http://www.ncasa.net/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=199>. Contact information for all Representatives and Senators is at <http://www.ncasa.net/displaycommon.cfm?an=3>.

Summary Of This Week's Action On Bills Affecting Public Schools

Due to the July 4th holiday, NCASA's "Weekly Bill Action Summary" and status reports on all bills NCASA is tracking for our members will be updated Monday, July 6, at: <http://www.ncasa.net/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=227>.

*For additional information on these or other legislative issues, contact
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