

Short Session Education Bills Update

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While many expected COVID-19 relief to be the biggest, if not only, topic to be tackled by legislators during this legislative short session, legislators have continued to file numerous education-related policy bills since reconvening on April 28. Legislators were given until last Thursday at 4PM to file most bills with a statewide impact; however, legislative leadership voted to [extend the May 19th deadline](#) for filing bills “affecting the State budget, including the budget of an occupational licensing board for FY 2020-21,” until Tuesday, May 26. As a result, numerous education-related bills which could affect a potential state budget package have been introduced in the past week. Legislators have introduced bills covering a wide-array of topics, including but not limited to: changes for military students, technology/broadband expansion, Teaching Fellows expansion, hazard pay/paid sick leave for essential workers, teacher development, changes to local boards of education, and bills based on recommendations from the Program Evaluation Division (PED).

Members should also keep an eye on the following bills, which were heard and approved in committee meetings this week:

- [S719: Retirement Protection Act](#), approved by the Senate Pensions, Retirement, and Aging Committee this morning, would make *non-retroactive* changes in existing law in TSERS and LGERS regarding rulemaking for actuarial tables, assumptions, contribution-based benefit cap factors, and other retirement provisions. This bill has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee for further discussion.
- [S733: UNC Capital Projects](#), approved by the Senate Rules Committee this afternoon, would authorize the construction and financing of certain capital improvement projects for constituent institutions of the UNC system. This bill has been placed on the Senate calendar for further discussion and voting on Tuesday, May 26.
- [H1079 \(=S718\): Various Sales Tax Changes](#), approved today by the Senate Rules Committee, would exempt educational institutions from sales tax on digital property used to provide educational services. This bill has been placed on the Senate calendar for further discussion and voting on Tuesday, May 26.

Members can [click here to access a comprehensive list of all education-related bills](#) that have been introduced this short session, as of Thursday morning. NCASA will continue to monitor the progress of these bills and provide relevant updates to members as needed.

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