



## State Lawmakers File Mini Budget Bills, Senior Grading Changes, As Bill Filing Deadline Expires

*Elizabeth Yelverton | NCASA Legal Affairs & Policy Manager*

State lawmakers returned to Raleigh this week, days after the State moved into Phase II of Governor Cooper's three-phase reopening plan. Because the bill filing deadline was set to expire by the end of the day on Tuesday, numerous legislators filed last-minute bills covering items such as state employee retirement, tax changes, broadband expansion, and student health. Senate Republicans filed 18 "mini budget" bills as placeholders, indicating a new strategy to pass a piecemeal budget, rather than a single funding package that the Governor would be more likely to veto.

Legislators in both the House and Senate also proposed companion bills ([H1199/S842](#)) that would make the controversial decision to allow high school seniors to receive numeric grades on their transcripts; the State Board of Education (SBE) recently voted 8-3 reaffirming its March decision to provide graduating seniors with a "Pass or Withdraw" for their final classes as a result of unequitable learning conditions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Certain high-performing seniors and their families have since pushed back against the SBE's March decision, arguing the grading policy prevents students from receiving earned GPA increases, which would have factored into class ranks. While the majority of educators and state policymakers seem to agree with the SBE's initial grading decision, NCASA will continue to follow the progress of these bills and make members aware of any changes.

Members can access NCASA's tracking list of all major K-12 related legislation that received action since last Thursday's newsletter publication by clicking [here](#).

###