



Legislative Update

Week of May 12, 2025

Josh Stein, Governor

Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

This week, the Senate focused its time on confirmations for various cabinet secretaries and commission appointees, while the House reviewed different areas of its proposed budget. The full House budget, including salaries and capital projects, is expected to be released Monday.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice and Public Safety met Thursday to review provisions directly impacting DPS and other justice and public safety agencies. While this budget cycle was widely expected to be lean, DPS fared better than many state agencies, which are facing significant cuts. A breakdown of key provisions affecting DPS is outlined below.

In other news, the Governor signed H 74 – *Budget Technical Corrections* into law this week. The final version did not include the original provisions to transfer filled positions and two occupied floors of the Archdale Building from DPS to the State Highway Patrol.

Next week, the focus will shift to passage of the House budget. Committee hearings on the bill will occur Tuesday, with floor votes likely on Wednesday and Thursday. After passing the House, the bill will go back to the Senate. Typically, the Senate does not concur with the changes made in the House, and the bill will go to a conference committee. Those meetings are not public, and the bill cannot be changed once a final agreement is reached.

DPS Highlights from the House Budget

Administration

- *Motor Fleet Management Rate Increase* – Provides funds to cover the increase in Motor Fleet Management rates effective July 1, 2025. FY25-26: \$959,711 (R); FY26-27: \$959,711 (R).
- *Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) In Jails Program* – Eliminates funding for the MAT Grant Program. FY25-26: (\$2,000,000) (R); FY26-27: (\$2,000,000) (R).

Alcohol Law Enforcement

- *Body Cameras* – Provides funding to support the use of body cameras at ALE. FY25-26: \$102,924 (R), \$166,973 (NR); FY26-27: \$102,924 (R).

State Highway Patrol

- *Cameras* – Provides funding to purchase cameras and to support data storage for those cameras. FY25-26: \$766,650 (R), \$3,900,000 (NR); FY26-27: \$766,650 (R).
- *Data Center Equipment* – Budgets receipts transferred from the Information Technology Reserve to purchase equipment for the data center at the Technical Services Unit (TSU) building scheduled to open in FY 2025-26. FY25-26: \$3,000,000 (NR)
- *Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) Tower Replacements* – Provides funding to replace 4 VIPER towers. FY25-26: \$9,500,000 (NR).
- *VIPER Operational Support* – Provides additional funding for VIPER operations and maintenance and budgets receipts from a transfer of local sales tax revenue to support local government users. FY25-26: (\$7,256,137) (R); FY26-27: (\$10,641,517) (R).

Emergency Management

- *Communication and Disaster IT Systems* – Budgets receipts transferred from the Information Technology Reserve to support NCEM's communication and disaster IT systems. FY25-26: \$2,000,000 (NR).
- *NC 2-1-1* – Provides funding to support the NC 2-1-1 program, which is operated by United Way of North Carolina, a non-profit organization, to improve services for victims of human trafficking, including increasing public awareness of universal signals for help. FY25-26: \$200,000 (NR).
- *FEMA match* – Budgets receipts from the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund for matching funds for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster recovery programs for events that occurred prior to Hurricane Helene. FY25-26: \$40,000,000 (NR).

NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency

- *Positions* – Eliminates three State-funded positions in NCORR's Resiliency office. FY25-26: (\$398,207) (R); FY26-27: (\$398,207). FTE (3).

NC National Guard

- *Joint Enlistment Enhancement Program (JEEP)* – Provides funding to support NCNG's JEEP initiative, which will provide recruitment referral bonuses to current Guardsmen. FY25-26: \$500,000 (R); FY26-27: \$500,000 (R).

- *North Wilkesboro Readiness Center Building Reserves* – Provides funding for furniture, fixtures, equipment, and other needs to support the opening of North Wilkesboro Readiness Center. FY25-26: \$400,000 (NR).
- *McLeansville Readiness Center Building Reserves* – Provides funding to support opening of the McLeansville Readiness Center, scheduled to open in January 2026. Federal receipts are anticipated to begin supporting the recurring expenses for this Readiness Center in FY 2026-27. FY25-26: \$421,544 (R), \$5,266,000 (NR); FY26-27: \$421,544 (R).
- *NCNG Cell Boosters for Readiness Center* – Budgets receipts transferred from the Information Technology Reserve for cell phone reception booster systems and equipment at select National Guard Readiness Centers. FY25-26: \$1,905,864 (NR).
- *VIPER Radios* – Budgets receipts transferred from the Information Technology Reserve for VIPER radio purchases at the NC National Guard. FY25-26: \$1,838,116 (NR).

DPS Bills with Action this Week

(Note: Click on the bill title to view the most current version of the bill)

Division(s) Impacted	Sponsor(s)	Bill #	Short Title	Action
Department-Wide	Lambeth, Arp, Strickland, and K. Hall	H 74	House Budget Technical Corrections.	Signed by Gov. 5/14/2025
Department-Wide	Jackson, Hise, and Lee	S 257	2025 Appropriations Act.	5/15/2025 House Re-ref to the Com on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Appropriations, if favorable, Pensions and Retirement

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Susanna Davis at Susanna.Davis@ncdps.gov.