



PERKINSON LAW FIRM

The General Assembly finished its work on redrawing congressional districts last week and adjourned on November 15. Legislators are not scheduled to return to Raleigh until January 14.

Governor Cooper also dealt with some of the last bills sent to his desk. He signed a bill for emergency funding for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Senate Bill 356, and the Storm Recovery Act of 2019, House Bill 200. Cooper also vetoed two bills: House Bill 231, which would have provided raises for UNC System and community college employees, and House Bill 354, which would have provided raises for teachers. In vetoing the bills, Cooper said: “The General Assembly continues to shortchange teachers and non-certified school personnel like cafeteria workers, bus drivers and teacher assistants, despite a robust economy and decent raises for other state employees. Educators deserve more if our schools are to remain competitive with other states and keep good teachers.”

Those vetoes mean that, despite the lengthy legislative session, no pay raises for teachers were passed. As you probably remember, Governor Cooper also vetoed the budget, which included an average 3.9% raise for teachers. While the House over-rode that veto, the Senate never took a vote. “Mini budgets” were passed to keep funding moving for public schools and most state agencies.

While negotiations could continue, it is unlikely that anything will pass before January.

Ashley Perkinson

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