



# NCRGEA Government Relations Update

## NCRGEA Government Relations Update #21-03 February 9, 2021

The General Assembly returns to work this week with a focus on getting kids back to school and getting federal COVID funds allocated to address K-12 school needs, vaccine preparedness and care of COVID patient care in hospitals.

### Bills

[HB 52 – Equal Tax Treatment of Government Retirees](#) was filed by Rep. Cleveland, who represents Onslow County. The other primary sponsors include: Rep. Blackwell representing Burke County; Rep. Hurley representing Randolph County; and Rep. Clampitt representing Haywood, Jackson and Swain Counties.

HB 52 expands to all state and local retirees a tax exemption on their retirement income. The bill phases in non-exempt retirees over a ten-year period beginning in 2021. Below is the schedule for phasing in the exemption for all retirees.

<b>Taxpayer Vested in the Plan on or Before</b>	<b>Income Years Beginning</b>
August 1992	In 2021
August 1995	In 2022
August 1998	In 2023
August 2001	In 2024
August 2004	In 2025
August 2007	In 2026
August 2010	In 2027
August 2013	In 2028
August 2017	In 2029
August 2021	In 2030

A big thanks to Rep. Cleveland and the other sponsors for their support. We will have more information on this bill in the coming days and weeks as it moves through the House.

All local and state leaders agree that children need to physically attend school. With low transmission rates of COVID in schools that are currently open and an increase in children's mental health visits to emergency rooms the General Assembly and the Governor agree that kids need to be back in school.

[Senate Bill 37 In-Person Learning Choices for Families](#), passed its second reading in the Senate last Thursday. The bill requires school districts to offer a full-time, in-person instruction to students with an individual education program. The bill also requires schools to offer an option for all students to attend school in person. This bill does not include charter schools.

SB 37 passed second reading 29-16. While several amendments were filed each amendment was tabled by the majority. The amendments offered to delay the return date of students and provided local boards more flexibility on the return to in-person learning. Third reading, which is usually a formality, without more debate, is on the calendar for Tuesday, February 9. After its third reading in the Senate SB 37 will move on to the House.

[Senate Bill 36 2020 COVID Relief Bill Modifications](#) is largely technical in nature and is just the first of a series of COVID bills this session. The bill allocates \$2.24 billion in federal dollars toward school reopening needs, vaccine distribution and COVID patient care passed unanimously through the House and Senate last week.

The bulk of the money (\$1.6 billion) in SB 36 is allocated to the Department of Public Instruction for public schools. SB 36 is currently on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature.

Please view our update video to hear our update from Jackson and learn more about how a bill becomes law in the North Carolina General Assembly.

Click here to watch report by video: <https://youtu.be/r-Kc7zacq-E>

Stay Tuned!!

Richard Rogers  
NCRGEA Executive Director