



LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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Post Easter Slow Legislative Week

Taking a Break before April 27 Crossover: Before adjourning state House and Senate sessions last week, legislative leaders reminded their colleagues that the two chambers would not hold floor votes again until Wednesday, April 19. The relative inaction follows the House and Senate working longer than a typical day last Tuesday to clear bills moving out of committee in anticipation of the April 27 crossover date. That self-imposed deadline is the point by which bills not dealing with spending or raising money must pass one chamber or the other to remain eligible for consideration.

Although there are ways around the restriction, the crossover deadline typically results in breakneck-speed lawmaking. "I do not anticipate seeing that crossover date extended," Speaker Tim Moore, R-Cleveland, told his fellow House members last week. Tuesday night.

Some Bills We're Watching

While NCACTE is monitoring dozens of bills, several high on our radar include:

* **CTE Legislation, [House Bill 450](#):** In a 110-0 vote, the N.C. House on April 4th approved and sent to the Senate a bill, the "Future Ready Student Act of 2017," that would expand CTE, award competitive grants of up to \$5 million and broaden CTE to some lower grades.

NCACTE strongly supports the measure. The bill – as noted in a [legislative summary](#) – also would establish business advisory councils as well as:

- Establish the CTE Expansion Program: Effective upon appropriation of funds for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Program would expand CTE by prioritizing the inclusion of students in 6th and 7th grade through grants administered by the NC Education and Workforce Innovation Commission.

-Funding: Used to award competitive grants in a total amount of **up to \$5 million** to be allocated as non-reverting funds to an LEA over seven years. Funds would be used only for employing additional licensed personnel in CTE areas, career development

coordination areas, and support services to **expand CTE to 6th and 7th graders**, and maybe used for multiple schools in an LEA.

- Award of Grants: LEAs must include the in applications (1) a plan for expansion of the CTE program to 6th and 7th graders, including specific programs to be expanded, the significance of CTE in the LEA, and how the grade expansion would enhance the education program and the community; (2) a request for funds description of how the funds would be used, and other sources of funds available for the program and (3) a proposed 7-year budget with details on use of funds to add personnel, increase CTE efforts, and provide support services; (4) a meaningful strategy.

In addition, H450 establishes CTE requirements that such education be available to all students, with priority for students in grades 8-12. The bill – sponsored by **Reps. Horn, Johnson, Dixon, and Williams** – would also make these changes:

- Update CTE statutes to replace “vocational” with “career” to consistently use CTE throughout Chapter 115C.
- Establish work-based opportunities, requiring local boards of education to offer, as part their CTE instruction, at least 2 work-based learning opportunities involving on-the-job training through an internship, cooperative education or apprenticeship program.
- Encourage career awareness program, from students in grades 5 to educate students on available CTE education programs, with local boards of education that adopt such programs required to report student outcomes to the State Board of Education annually by Oct. 1.
- Establish Business Advisory Councils to identify economic and workforce development trends related to training and education needs of the local community and “advocate for strong local CTE programs.”

Teaching Bills: Last week, Sen. Chad Barefoot, R-Wake, presented a handful of bills aimed at hiring and keeping quality teachers in North Carolina classrooms in the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education. Barefoot said the goal was to increase teacher retention, recruitment and better teacher preparation. "We really focused in on hard-to-staff subjects, hard-to-staff geographic areas in the state and some specific challenges that we face," he said.

[Senate Bill 448](#) would allow local boards of education to hire teachers from community colleges or other higher education institutions as adjunct teachers for core academic areas in public schools. Those teachers would not have to obtain a teaching license. Instead, the State Board of Education would establish minimum criteria for those teachers. Barefoot said it was not a long-term solution but that it would benefit the teachers and the school system. **Status:** The bill was approved by the committee and referred to Senate Rules.

[Senate Bill 517](#) would pay “highly qualified” teaching graduates at a higher pay grade by public schools if they meet certain qualifications and establishes funding for the North Carolina New Teacher Support Program. The University of North Carolina Board of Governors would receive recurring funding of \$1 million for the program, including new anchor sites at Appalachian State University and UNC-Wilmington. The bill also appropriates \$245,000 in recurring funds to reimburse teacher licensure application fees for qualifying applicants. **Status:** The bill was approved by the Education/Higher Education Committee and re-referred to Senate Appropriations/Base Budget.

[Senate Bill 598](#) creates the Future Teachers of North Carolina program. The program, Barefoot said, would be geared for high school students to considering education. He said it was similar to the Future Farmers of America program in that it would help garner interest for a career that has in recent years has been on the decline. **Status:** The education committee approved the bill and sent it to Appropriations/Base Budget.

[Senate Bill 447](#) expands the teacher assistant tuition reimbursement pilot program to include 10 more counties (five now). The reimbursement program provides tuition for teacher assistants pursuing college degrees to obtain a full teaching license. The expansion clarifies that the assistants can receive their salary and benefits while student teaching at a time, Barefoot said, when "people are clamoring to get into it and are staying in those districts" thanks to the current pilot program. **Status:** The bill was approved by the Senate education committee and referred to Appropriations/Base Budget.

Quote of the Week

“Well, the most terrible fear that anybody should have is not war, is not a disease, not cancer or heart problems or food poisoning – it’s a man or a woman without a sense of humor.”

- Jonathan Winters

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