



Bills of Interest

S344 PA - Team Based - Practice After 2 years or negotiations on this bill it was pulled from the Senate calendar and was not ratified.

Negotiations are expected to resume after a break following the session adjournment on **H149 Expanding Access to Healthcare** (Senate version or Medicaid expansion) and **S408 Rural Access & Savings Plan** (House Version of Medicaid expansion)

Governor Cooper is optimistic that there will be a Medicaid compromise



June Podcast with Dr. Claude Jarrett

NCOA Legislative Update July 15, 2022

The General Assembly promised and delivered on a very short session which adjourned July 1st. Budget writers this session had a **surplus of roughly \$6.5 billion** on their hands as revenue collections continued to out-perform expectations through the pandemic and beyond. The spending plan approved by the General Assembly largely directs the surplus funds to continue padding the state's savings reserves and **preparing for economic downturn**. It also makes several adjustments to 2021 spending levels and includes a number of other spending provisions that ultimately resulted in the bill garnering bipartisan support among legislators. **Governor Cooper signed the bill** July 11th. He is still optimistic that there will be a Medicaid Expansion compromise in the next few weeks. A few healthcare highlights of the **2022 Appropriations Act** include:

- \$646.1M for Medicaid Rebase providing funding for increased enrollment and other items
- \$230M for additional funding for Medicaid contracts, projects and programs that support the transition to managed care
- \$8M to the UNC School of Medicine for Class Size Expansion
- \$1M Surry Community Nursing Educators
- \$6M of opioid settlement funds to purchase all forms of medications approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of opioid use disorder and distribute them free of charge to jails located in their respective catchment areas
- A provision that puts in law the waiver of hospital, adult care home, hospice and nursing home CON bed limits during a state of emergency

The **Governor announced this week that he would be lifting the COVID Emergency Order** effective August 15th. It is estimated that over 500,000 people who are enrolled in Medicaid due to the executive order will now fall off the rolls. This loss of health coverage will probably be used politically to encourage negotiations on Medicaid expansion between the House and Senate.