



NCOA Presentation to Medicaid Expansion Commission

NCOA Lobbyist, Connie Wilson, presented to the Joint Legislative Committee on Access to Healthcare and Medicaid Expansion on Telehealth and licensure reciprocity.

This was the last in a series of meetings for the committee leading up to the 2022 legislative session. Each meeting has been devoted to separate issues (Medicaid expansion, APRN independent practice, CON ...). Connie did a good job impressing on the committee the need for licensure reciprocity to help improve patients' access to care. There is a pending bill addressing this - [HB868](#) - which did not move in 2021. We understand that the NC Medical Board has some issues with the bill but hopefully those discrepancies can be resolved. Attached is a copy of Connie's slides.

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NCOA Pre-Primary May Legislative Update

A forecast of state revenue released Monday shows multiple reasons for the promising outlook for the state's finances, including higher-than-expected job growth and higher-than-expected revenue from sales tax and corporate income tax. But while state collections may be exceeding expectations, the outlook "faces significant headwinds," according to the report. The consensus forecast is a joint effort of the nonpartisan Fiscal Research Division in the state legislature and the Office of State Budget and Management, which is part of Gov. Roy Cooper's administration. The forecast reports "an elevated risk of recession during the forecast period given geopolitical uncertainty and evolving monetary policy by the Federal Reserve to address high inflation." It adds that despite the risk, the legislative and executive branch economic experts do not foresee a "near-term" recession. Here's what else the forecast shows:

- Inflation is expected to remain elevated but decelerate during the upcoming fiscal year that starts July 1.
- Consumer spending direction is unclear given the impact of inflation's potential to slow consumer demand for higher prices.
- Revenue for the upcoming fiscal year is estimated to increase by 6.8%, or \$1.9 billion, of the budgeted amount.
- The revenue forecast shows an increase of \$4.2 billion in revenue for this current fiscal year.

The state budget passed in November 2021 is a two-year budget, but there may be new legislative spending passed in the upcoming session that starts May 18. Republicans, who hold majorities in both the House and Senate, don't appear to take the windfall as a plan to spend more.

Cooper and Republican lawmakers had a stalemate over the budget in 2019 and finally came to an agreement for the 2021 budget, with the governor saying he signed it into law because the "good outweighed the bad." While the legislature is back next week the day after the May 17 primary election, no voting sessions are expected before the week of May 25.

[DAWN BAUMGARTNER VAUGHAN, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 5/09/22](#)

On Thursday, May 12, the Pitt County Medical Society had a town hall session. We took that opportunity to schedule a meet-n-greet time with Dr. Tim Reeder, candidate for the NC House and emergency medicine physician at ECU. The NC Orthopaedic Association, through NCOA PAC, is supporting Dr. Reeder, and we were pleased that Dr. Jessica Woodcock could attend the event on behalf of the Association and appreciate her being there. Thanks to all for supporting our NCOA advocacy efforts.

***Alan Skipper
Senior Executive Director
North Carolina Orthopaedic Association***

