

## Senate Overrides Cooper's Veto of State Budget

By Administrator  
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The North Carolina Senate voted to override Gov. Roy Cooper's budget veto. If the House of Representatives overrides the governor's veto, the spending p

lan will become law.

The final budget controls the growth of government spending with a roughly four percent overall increase and, among other highlights:

- Invests close to \$700 million additional dollars in public education.
- Provides an average 6.5 percent pay raise for teachers and a 6.9 percent increase to the principal salary schedule.
- Includes new initiatives to help keep students safe in North Carolina classrooms.
- Sets aside \$241 million in lottery funding to build or upgrade school facilities.
- Directs more than \$200 million toward compensation increases to state employees, including a two percent permanent pay raise for most state workers and larger increases for State Highway Patrol troopers and correctional officers.
- Delivers a \$1.5 billion tax cut that will result in 99 percent of taxpayers either paying less or paying no state personal income taxes at all.
- Allocates an additional \$60 million to help victims of Hurricane Matthew rebuild.
- Establishes the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) program to address broadband needs in the state's rural areas.
- Includes funding to help ensure access to clean water for North Carolinians affected by GenX pollution.
- Makes key changes to economic development programs that are expected to secure thousands of new jobs and billions in new investment to the state.
- Adds \$161 million to the state's rainy day fund, which lawmakers have built to a historic high of \$2 billion to ensure North Carolina is well-prepared for the next natural disaster or economic downturn.