GOVERNOR ROY COOPER OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

House Bill 264, “AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE EXPIRATION OF A STATEWIDE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND THE EXERCISE OF CERTAIN POWERS UNDER A STATEWIDE STATE OF EMERGENCY, TO CLARIFY THE ABATEMENT OF STATEWIDE IMMINENT HAZARDS, AND TO CLARIFY STATEWIDE QUARANTINES.”

North Carolina is emerging from a global pandemic with lives saved and a strong economy because of effective statewide measures to protect public health under the Emergency Management Act. Critical decisions about stopping deadly diseases, or responding to any other emergency, should stay with experts in public health and safety, not a committee of partisan politicians. We must be able to act quickly and thoroughly when deadly diseases, hurricanes, or any other dangers threaten people’s lives and jobs. An emergency needs decisive, quick and comprehensive action, not bureaucracy and politics.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

Roy Cooper
Governor

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina House of Representatives on this the 15th day of November 2021, at 7:37 pm for reconsideration by that body.
(g) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:
(1) Concurrence of the Council of State. – As defined in G.S. 166A-19.3(2d).
(2) Statewide. – Two-thirds or more of the counties in this State.

SECTION 6. This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to the exercise of power under a state of emergency or declaration of emergency existing on or after that date or any order of abatement issued on or after that date. Any power exercised under a state of emergency or declaration of emergency existing on that date that would require a concurrence of the Council of State under G.S. 166A-19.20 or G.S. 166A-19.30, as amended by this act, shall expire two days after this act becomes law unless a concurrence of the Council of State is sought and received in accordance with G.S. 166A-19.20 or G.S. 166A-19.30, as amended by this act.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 21st day of October, 2021.

Phil Berger
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

Tim Moore
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Roy Cooper
Governor

Approved ___________ m. this __________ day of _______________, 2021

RECEIVED FROM GOVERNOR

11-1-21 mp
7:37 pm