



## Talking Points

### **1. CHILD WITNESS TESTIMONY (HB 192)**

This bill would add a new section to Article 73 of Chapter 15A to codify North Carolina law on Child Witness Testimony in Criminal Cases. Remote testimony, a method by which a minor witness testifies outside of the physical presence of the defendant, would be allowed in criminal proceedings where the court has determined that 1) the minor would suffer significant emotional distress by testifying in the defendant's presence and; 2) the minor's ability to communicate would be impaired.

The court shall ensure that the defense counsel is physically present where the minor testifies, has a full and fair opportunity for the cross-examination of the minor witness, and has the ability to communicate privately with the defendant or juvenile during the remote testimony.

### **2. ADD DIVISION OF LESS TO CCPS (SB 139/H 201)**

This bill would clarify that the Division of Law Enforcement Support Services is a division of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. (LESS will be storing rape kits at a centralized warehouse.)

### **3. NC HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION (SB 353)**

This Commission would fund and facilitate quantitative and qualitative research to explore the specific ways trafficking is occurring in North Carolina and the links to international and domestic trafficking, and to assist in creating measurement, assessment and accountability mechanisms. The commission would inform and educate law enforcement personnel, social service providers and the general public about trafficking. Additionally, the Commission would suggest new policies, procedures or legislation to further the work of eradicating trafficking. Further, the Commission would assist in developing regional response teams to counter trafficking at the level of law enforcement, legal services, social services and nonprofits while also identifying gaps in law enforcement or services provision and recommending solutions to those gaps.